Hobart Town, 25th Nov. 1847

Dear Friend,

A. F. Flower,

I have heard with pain that the intimate connection with the Rheebaliot has been a source of sorrow to thy friends. It is known in religious profusion, from a conviction that such connection is calculated to injure thy own mind. Yet we are advancement in a religious course, and that thy Christian profession is highly esteemed. I could not be easy to omit expressing my sentiments in this way, should they have the slightest influence in inducing thee to act in accordance with the wishes of thy friends, by breaking off the connection with the Rheebaliot. I say frankly that this is my own feeling on the subject, having had the matter brought clearly home to me several years ago when solicited to become a Rheebaliot. I then saw, 67th one of the mind, that it
nolidays preach, intercourses with errorious, mean, not strictly compatible with our religious profession, & the nothing of the occupation of time which might be more profitably employed. Such a connexion is, I am satisfied, calculated to lower the standard of christian conduct both in our own practice, & in the estimation of others. Evil communions corrupt good manners: Vice cannot expose ourselves unnecessarily to the former without becoming the parent employed in the latter. And what is the benefit we promised to ourselves by such a connexion as that alluded to? Nehemiah speaks of intercourses with those of other religious denominations, holding a lower standard of faith & practice, is not likely to help us in a religious sense, or alone such persons may be sincere? But such intercourses voluntarily maintained, with those who, at my fear, hold two views in common with us on religious subjects, can serve a great to be brought to injury: its tendency will be to narrow our attachment to what they conceptionally will hold in contempt. As for the limited periods which such a connexion enables us to make for doing the exigencies of trials of life, it is a broken method to trust to, in place of that humble, trust in a gracious Providence, whose mercies we have tasted.