

Robert Town 22/6 Mo. 1847.

Dear friend
A. C. Flower.

I have heard with ~~much surprise~~ ^{some} the decision that has been come to in thy case by the Launceston Monthly Meeting, & it has appeared to me right to address a few lines to thee on the occasion. I have learned through W^m Horton, that thou considerest that the visits paid thee by the Friends appointed by the Mo. Meeting to labour with thee in reference to thy continued connection with the Rhecabite Tent, are considered by thee not to have been performed in a Christian spirit or manner, as the Rules of ^{our} ~~the~~ Society, & Christian propriety enjoin. It is not for me to pass a sentiment either one way or the other, in a matter wherein I can only judge from indirect & imperfect evidence. but I may observe that if the letter or spirit of our Rules ~~have~~ ^{in thy view} been departed from, ~~thou hast~~ ^{it is in} the power ^{to} of appealing from the decision of the Mo. Meeting to that of the Yearly Meeting. I may add, ~~however~~ ^{quite} that although I consider the Monthly Meeting would be right in proceeding to disown any of its members who, ~~being considered by it~~ ^{as having} departing from the line of rectitude, (either by maintaining ~~a~~ ^{an} connection ^{unlawfully} with any Society, or ~~in any~~ ^{otherwise} ~~other way~~), pertinaciously rejecting ^{ed} the counsel of ~~Friends~~ ^{his brethren}; yet I am also decidedly of the judgment that patient Christian labour & due forbearance should be exercised

^{toward such member} ~~before extreme measures should be resorted to, and as~~
~~an individual~~. ^{are resorted to.} For one, should feel extremely grieved ^{been}
if such patient labour & forbearance have not exercised
towards thee. ^{The omission of which nothing will justify} I believe G. W. Yates has already shown
thee a letter I addressed to him in reference to this subject, in
which ~~I believe~~ ^{these} ~~then~~ sentiments are expressed more at length.
I need not therefore further dilate upon ~~them~~.

But to revert again to the fact to which I referred in
the commencement of my letter - viz: that thou hast ceased
to be a member of our religious Society! Little did I once
entertain the idea that such would ever be the case. I can
never forget the period of our first acquaintance, may I
not say of our religious fellowship. "I remember thee -
the love of thine espousals." ^{while} dwelling under & moving in
the strength of ~~that~~ ^{of Jesus} love, how were the hearts of thy brethren
in religious profession attracted towards ^{thee}. How many times
has my own soul been refreshed in contemplating thy
Christian deportment, & feeling the influence of thy fervent,
~~single-minded~~ ^{which} exercise on behalf of others, which was
I have no doubt blessed to the edification of ~~others~~ ^{many} as well
as myself. How was my soul knitted to thine in the
bonds I trust of the everlasting Gospel. Alas, my dear
friend! what is it that has ~~estranged~~ ^{alienated} thee from thy brethren?
For I am persuaded that a measure of estrangement
has long since taken place. I fear that hard thoughts
have been let ⁱⁿ against the brethren - ~~thoughts which are~~
~~unwise~~, that ought not ^{in truth} ~~justly~~ to have had a place, ^{in thy mind} & that
the enemy of souls has made use of ~~this~~ to estrange thee also
in measure from the precious life of religion, in which only
true unity ^{can be maintained} ~~exists~~. And now that thou art ^{formally} separated from
outward communion with us, unless the Lord in mercy
preserve thee from ^{being} yielding to a wrong spirit, thou wilt

he very likely to sustain further loss. & that thou
mightst be favoured to dwell low before ^{the Lord} ~~him~~. I humble myself
under his hand that ^{might} ~~He~~ ^{in due time} may lift thee up. Look not outward,
~~nor~~ at instruments. Consider not who has been the cause of thy
disourment, even should it be so, that any ^{one} individual has
been ^{more} prominent ^{than others} in bringing this about, & in seeking to effect it
has ^{himself} exhibited a wrong spirit. ~~himself~~. Even taking this
for granted - consider rather, whether in the sight of the
Lord thou art not verily guilty of having departed in heart
from him - of having "left thy first love." Dear with many
kind, when I say to thee, of this I am jealous, I trust with
a godly jealousy, not in the disposition that ^{desires to} ~~would~~ cast
a ~~the~~ stone at an erring brother. Be zealous then, & repent,
& do thy first works - & prove ^{this} in thy own experience that
the Lord is slow to anger & plenteous in mercy. And in
being restored to the full measure of ~~this~~ ^{thy} favour, mayst
thou also be reinstated in membership with us, & be restored
to ^{full} unity with thy friends, who, be assured, ~~no more~~
~~I believe than myself~~ ^{still} cherish a warm interest in thy
~~present & eternal welfare~~ ^{I can speak at least in all sincerity for myself} - have often sympathized
with thee under ^{thy} trials ~~peculiar~~ ^{which have been} & not a few; ^{in some respects very peculiar}
~~as that~~ ^{to be} ~~(so especially~~ ^{Especially in that so} painful to the Christian) ^{mind} that thy
"house is not so with God" as thy heart ~~has~~ ^{could have} often desired,
but let not this either be the means, in the enemy's hand,
of militating against thy own soul's welfare, but rather
use redoubled diligence ^{by God's help} to make thy own calling & selection
sure, that thou mayst know Him to make with thee an
everlasting covenant, ordered in all things & sure. Yea let
this be all thy ^{in comparison with every other} salvation & all thy desire, ~~even should he~~
~~not make thy house to grow~~. "By this means increase."
^{In the way} thou wilt be ~~in the~~ most likely way to ensure thy best welfare
& to gain them over to the Lord - & great indeed will be thy
own peace & eternal gain. In conclusion, ^{affectionate} ~~To~~ the Grace of
our Lord Jesus Christ, I would commend thee, which is able

to build thee up & give thee an inheritance among all them
~~that~~ that are sanctified. *amens*.

My Wife joins me in the feelings of Christian interest
& in desires for thy everlasting welfare. *I remain,*
Thy sincere friend
Geo. W. Walker

Worth the top letter
to Mr. Flower on
a question of his dissonance.
22d Nov 1847

near Lancaster.

Mr. Geo. Flower
Millifaddy

Paid