

To John Allen Manton.

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Sydney. 21/8 Mo: 1835.

To J. A. Manton.

I write at this time to inform thee, that I have paid into the hands of our mutual friend Joseph Orton, of this place, the sum of £9.19.3, of which he intends to advise thee by the same vessel as will probably convey this to Launceston. I have deposited this sum as described, in part payment of John Leach's debt, he having entrusted the remittance to thy care; and so soon as it is available to thee, please place it to his credit. I am about to write to our friend Isaac Sherwin, who, I have no doubt, will hand thee the balance remaining of thy account with J. Leach, which, if I mistake not, is between one and two pounds. J. Leach desired me to request thee to have the kindness to forward a statement of the account between you, at the same time acknowledging its discharge, - addressed to me, at the Post Office, Sydney. I shall transmit it to him by the earliest opportunity I can conveniently command.

Thou hast probably heard of J. L's. appointment to the office of religious Instructor, at Norfolk Island. It was a very providential opening; & relieved him & his wife from
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some perplexity, at a juncture when their pecuniary resources
 had failed them; & nothing seemed in prospect but a state
 of trying dependence on their friends. The Governor acted
 with much humanity & consideration in the affair. He was
 well aware that the life of our friend was a very precarious
 one; & though a sea-voyage & residence in a mild climate,
 were the most likely means, under Providence, to restore his
 health, that there was no room for sanguine hope that even
 these means would be completely successful: yet he feelingly
 concurred in the suggestion that the trial was worth making,
 with a view to the prolongation, at least, of so useful a life;—
 especially as he was so peculiarly qualified for usefulness
 among the Prisoners at Norfolk Island. — I am sorry to
 say, that the accounts we have just received from thence are
 far from being favourable: they were a fortnight on the way—
 & the weather very rough—yet landed at a favourable moment,
 so as not to meet with detention;— for it is sometimes many
 days, & even weeks together, at certain seasons of the year, that
 a boat cannot approach the shore. J. Leach has, however,
 continued to decline; & it is the opinion of the two medical
 men on the island that his continuance in this state of being
 cannot be long— that the frail tenement is, in fact, fast sinking.
 I trust the exhibition of the fruits of faith, in connection, even,

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with the expiring energies of this devoted Christian, will not be without its end; but that some of those who surround his sick-bed, may be constrained in witnessing his good works, - the fruit of a living, practical faith, - to glorify our Father which is in heaven. A very agreeable impression has evidently been produced on the minds of some who have been his associates during the short period he had been on the island. Both the Military Surgeon & the Commandant allude to his worth in feeling & discriminating terms. Major Anderson (the Commandant) in his letter to me remarks; "Would we were all equally well prepared for the awful change from which none can escape!" - Julia Leach speaks in grateful terms of the kindness & attention they have met with. Nothing but the defective health of her husband seems to operate as a bar to their complete comfort; for was this but obviated, & he enabled to resume his Christian labours, it is the very field above all others, for which he is adapted, & which would be congenial to his wishes. But we are poor finite creatures, who see not the end from the beginning. This is the exclusive prerogative of Him "who determineth the times before appointed, & the bounds of mens habitation; & He doeth all things well. The issue may be confided to the all-wise disposal of our Omnipotent Lord.

Whilst

96) Whilst I have the pen in my hand I feel, my friend, that I should be wanting in Christian candour were I to withhold the expression of my sentiments with regard to thy manner of acting on an occasion of not very recent occurrence; in which thou seemedst to reject the friendly, though plainly expressed counsel of my friend James Backhouse. Thou didst not condescend to offer a line of explanation when thou returnedst his letter! Yet the meaning of such a procedure is not equivocal. What are we to understand by it? That John Allen Manton, for whom we had always cherished a feeling of Christian esteem & affectionate regard, is above receiving the counsel of his friends: that he is beyond the need of a friendly hint, even from a Christian brother with whom he had often taken sweet & intimate counsel. Ah, my friend! this would not have surprised me had it been the language conveyed through the conduct of a mere man of the world; as the mortified feelings of an unregenerate heart would naturally dictate such conduct as a suitable offering at the shrine of offended dignity, & of wounded pride. But how does it comport with the humility that should form a component part of the Christian character? Is it in accordance with "the meekness & gentleness of Christ," our holy Exemplar? I have not a doubt conscience, the faithful & unflattering Witness for God in thy own conscience, has

answered this question long ago; and not in a way that affords (97)
thee peace in the retrospect of thy conduct on this occasion.

Excuse my plainness, by which I fear I also am in danger of
offending thee. But faithful are the wounds of a friend.
And I assure thee, if I could express myself in other terms
that would convey what I really feel, & is my deliberate con-
viction on the matter in question, I would shrink from
saying one word that might excite uneasiness in the breast
of another. I may with truth add that I felt pained on
thy account. I could hardly bring myself to believe, and I
think it yet needs thy own assurance to convince me, that
thou actedst from the spontaneous suggestion of thy own mind—
at least of thy own best feelings, in this affair. And if it was
in deference to another, I regard it in no other light than as
counsel not of the Lord. And I assure thee it has not tended
to raise thee in the estimation of those in profession with thee, seve-
ral of whom have seen the returned letter. It does not pre-
sent even an extenuation to my mind, that the letter was
couched in plain, admit that they were even blunt terms.
The motives which dictated them, & which ought to have been
appreciated by one who so intimately knew my Companion,
should have ensured its courteous reception, to say the least.
But he had no other object in writing it than thy good, and
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a desire to enhance thy usefulness as a Christian Minister; & having discharged a debt of Christian love, the retrospect to him is peaceful, having performed his duty. It is for thee we mourn, as for one who has done himself an injury: for I cannot suppose, if thou art honest with thyself, that thy conduct in this matter bears the stamp of Divine approbation. Enough, however, on so painful a subject. — As I before remarked, I propose writing to our friend Isaac Sherwin. If it yet remain a source of interest to thee to hear of our movements, I must refer thee to him for information, as I may probably touch upon such subjects in my communication. I have not room to add more than the expression of my Christian regard for thy valued partner; & that I still remain,

thy friend & well-wisher

Geo: W. Walker.
