

To Robert Taylor.

Sydney N.S. Wales 29/8 Mo. 1835

To Rob^t. Taylor,
Norfolk Island.

I am desirous of writing a few lines on behalf of my friend James Backhouse & myself, both to acknowledge the receipt of thy communication, and to express the satisfaction it affords us to hear of the continued good conduct of the men generally on Norfolk Island. I have received a pleasing letter from the Commandant in which he bestows a very high encomium on the conduct of the Prisoners in connection with the wreck of the Schooner 'Friendship'. I trust that this, & every other faithful discharge of duty, will meet with its due reward; first in opening the hearts of those in whose hands is placed the ^{immediate} controul of the Prisoners, to allow them every indulgence their correct conduct may entitle them to, consistent with the maintenance of that discipline, which all are interested in upholding, for the promotion of individual comfort both among the governing and the governed; and secondly, in ensuring to everyone, thus concerned to act a becoming part, the experience of that

peace which is the certain result of an honest endeavour to keep a conscience void of offence towards God & man, whether it be displayed in the avoiding of what is obviously wrong, or in the performance of what is known to be right.

It is satisfactory also to hear that the School prospers. We have offered a few suggestions which if adopted, I have little doubt will enhance the usefulness of this Institution. May many more avail themselves of the advantages which through this medium are placed within their reach, so that the numbers who attend may be greatly augmented, & greater good be effected thereby.

The Books will be found to be of an interesting character; & exhibit in the Biographical details, more particularly, the fruits of circumspect conduct; & that a course of life regulated by the Divine fear is the shortest way to prosperity & peace. I hope the men will be induced frequently to read them; & in due time some accession to their number from other quarters will very probably be realized, so as to add to the variety. It is important that the Librarian be one himself favourable to reading, & disposed to afford the easiest possible access to the Books; and at the same time that he exerts a becoming vigilance that

the privilege be not abused, he should not be swift to mark those little injuries which the Books will from time to time unavoidably sustain, or it may discourage many from applying for them. Shouldst thou be appointed to the office, I would have thee bear these hints in remembrance. But when I consider the nature of thy present duties, I think it probable that the office will be made to devolve on some one else.

We have not forgotten the position in which thou art placed, as Catechist, & the manner in which we have reason to believe the duties of the office have been discharged. We have had occasion to refer to thy labours, & those of thy Colleague, in terms favourable to both where it may be of service. But ever be sensible, that it is perseverance in well-doing - the exhibition of a good example, in conjunction with sound principle, that must make way for you both with your superiors, without which the passing sentiment of individual approbation will speedily be neutralized by more palpable, & counteracting evidence. It remains a truth - the testimony of Him who cannot lie, & whose decrees are immutable. - "they that honour Me I will honour, but they who despise me shall be lightly esteemed."

We shall

We shall be glad to be remembered to the Prisoners, generally, for whom we continue to feel a warm Christian interest, which extends to their present, as well as eternal welfare.

May they be more and more deeply sensible that, as it is their chief concern to walk acceptably in the sight of God, they will also grow in favour with man; and thus way will be made, either for the mitigation of, or release from their outward bonds: but even liberty itself, with all its seeming advantages, will fail to confer happiness, unless the mind is redeemed from the bondage of Satan, — the Prince of the power of the air, the spirit who worketh in the hearts of the children of disobedience." I say not this lightly, but I know it from heart-felt experience to be true. Would that all were convinced of the important truth. We should then seek our enjoyment less in any particular condition of life, than in having our hearts made right before God, by the exercise of faith in his gracious offers of mercy through Christ, & obedience to the dictates of his Holy Spirit. We should then come to know for ourselves, the very Kingdom of God to be within us, which no outward trial could essentially disturb or interrupt.

I remain, thy friend

G. W. Walker.

Thou wilt oblige J. Backhouse & myself by remembering us to W.^m Percival, Edw. Smith, H. Marlston, Chas. Banfield, Henry Wheeler, also to Daniel Shea & W. Comstee.