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To Mary Dubeye.

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Sydney Cove N.S.W. 6/1 Mo. 1835.

Dear Sister Dubeye.

Thy letter of the "10<sup>th</sup> May 1834" reached me when on the eve of departure from V. D. Land. My Companion J. Backhouse and myself left that Island in company with our friends Daniel and Charles Wheeler in their snug little vessel the "Henry Freeling" (engaged to convey them to the Islands of the Pacific and from thence home again) on the 12<sup>th</sup> of last month. We arrived in safety at this place on the 20<sup>th</sup> and are still living on board the vessel, intending in a few days to proceed with our friends to Norfolk Island, one of the Penal Settlements of this Colony, where they allow us to debark, and proceed on their Mission to the Islands of the South Pacific; while we, after spending a few weeks among the poor Prisoners, of whom there are near a thousand on Norfolk Island, shall ultimately return to Sydney for the purpose of engaging in similar religious duties (as Divine Goodness may be pleased to open the way) to those that have devolved upon us in V. D. Land.

With respect to thy remarks relative to our sister Decan, thou didst perfectly right in speaking thy undisguised sentiments: and did I consider them altogether just, and thy conclusions well-founded

in reference to my conduct towards my sister, I trust I should still be enabled to receive them in good part — knowing that "faithful are the wounds of a friend." Thy comments however appear to me in several respects to be founded either on erroneous data, or want of complete information, and as such they do not apply to me.

In the first place; the money left me by my Grandmother I embarked, shortly after it came into my possession, in business, which being unsuccessful, through want of unanimity among the partners, by which it became necessary to dispose of the concern, the capital employed in it was nearly all swallowed up. The little that remained to me my Uncle M. appropriated to his own use without consulting me; and though he accounted to me for it, and gave me promissory notes for the sum, these have never been paid, and I dare say never will. Yet having the Notes in my possession, and a possibility existing that he might some day have it in his power and inclination to pay me, I thought it right to dispose of these notes by Will, that, in case any thing happened to me during my absence from England, those whom I considered to have claims on me, might receive the benefit. My sister Decan was among the foremost of these. To her I left as much as to any one, yet thou seem'st to infer that I left her altogether out, which was not the fact. Neither did I "deceive myself" in attaching much, if any value, to such bequest, for the reasons I have stated; and

having made the arrangement with regard to their disposal a matter of conscience at the time, with a view to act properly and equitably, - were it even to be made clear to my understanding (which it is not) that I had erred in judgment, I should not now reproach myself, having acted at the time for the best.

From a variety of circumstances which I could explain, if necessary, (one reason was, my Uncle did not pay me all my arrears of interest on the legacy of my Grandmother which he held for some years in his hands, not by £40.) I never had more than a few pounds to command beyond my necessary and indispensable wants. Of this I was willing to communicate, and did communicate to my sister, when I had the power and the opportunity, and when she was in want of money she well knew she had a friend who would have put himself to much inconvenience rather than have refused the aid required. Ask sister D. if I ever refused to contribute to her wants when they were made known to me by letter. At one time I proposed making her an allowance by the quarter, when I had a regular, though small salary (the allowance was therefore only small) and so long as I had any certainty that these sums were received I remitted them; but when my letters were never replied to, time after time, even when they contained such remittances; and my sister lived in obscure parts of London, and was frequently changing her place of abode;

it could not be expected that I would continue such remittances at a  
 venture, not knowing that they ever reached their destination. It was  
 not long indeed that I should have had it in my power, had the com-  
 munication with her been more regular and satisfactory; still the will  
 was present while I had the ability. Nor, before God, or man, can I  
 charge myself with wilful neglect, up to the time of my last visit to  
 London. Then I fully intended to have visited my sister, and to have  
 ascertained her situation more particularly, for I had heard little of her  
 for some time previous. I think it was W<sup>m</sup> who gave me an old ad-  
 dress, by which I hoped to trace her out. I set out one day in parti-  
 cular, for the purpose, the last time I was in London. J.B. was with  
 me, & remembers the circumstance well; but something put my pur-  
 pose aside, having a variety of cares and concerns connected with our  
 important undertaking (upon which I was then just entering) to en-  
 gross my mind, to the exclusion of almost every thing else. The pro-  
 jected interview did not in short take place. Many considerations, in-  
 deed, made it appear formidable in prospect. I had not the means  
 to relieve my Sister; she was not then, I have reason to believe, acting  
 on those principles which now, I trust, actuate her. I say this not by  
 way of reproach, far from it; but when allusion was to be made to the  
 past, with the views I entertained, I could not have done so without  
 expressing sentiments of disapproval - I mean with reference to the

jewellery, which I dare say thou art well acquainted with. Would it not have had the appearance of calling to visit my sister, perhaps for the last time, to give her pain, without conferring in her estimation, probably, any equivalent good? These things I dare say had their influence in letting me more easily be induced to waive a visit for that time, under the immediate pressure, also, of hindering circumstances.

Yet I am willing to acknowledge I have not felt easy in having omitted to do so, but have condemned myself for allowing such considerations to operate. In this respect I am willing to take blame to myself; and, so far, thy censure may be just. But I would recommend thee in future, before making such sweeping charges as are inferred, or rather preferred in thy letter, to be sure, my dear sister, that the grounds on which such charges are made, be correct; for Christian duty requires, that we carefully examine the data, before we conclusively draw the inference that dictates counsel, and, especially, reproof.

I am truly glad that the kindness of some of my dear friends in religious profession has placed my dear sister beyond the reach of want. I receive it immediately from the hand of God, on whom I have been cast from the womb, as a fresh instance of his goodness and mercy, in causing that to be done through the medium of others which I was unable to do by myself. For He knows, that I am not possessed of this

world's goods," otherwise I could not "shut up my bowels of compassion" from any fellow creature, let alone one to whom I have been so greatly indebted in childhood. As for thy remarks, my dear sister, with respect to making a provision for my sister D. during my life-time, as being more proper, and better than a bequest such as I have made.

Doubtless such provision would be better, and far more in accordance with my wishes. But I cannot effect impossibilities. And the inference thou hast drawn that I am able to do so by making her a regular allowance, implies utter ignorance of my circumstances.

Admitting however that I was able, and had not others dependent upon me whose claims were absolutely paramount to those of my sister, doubtless it would be my duty to make such provision. I fully concur in the view thou hast expressed. But if we were to suppose that I looked towards forming a connection in marriage, and I even was possessed of a something beyond my actual necessities, individually, (these being at present furnished by the Society with whose sanction I am now travelling in the service of the Gospel) wouldst thou consider that the nature of my obligations to my sister required me to sacrifice every thing to this claim? Has not thy very commendable affection towards thy sister, led thee to make too sweeping conclusions & remarks?

There are some obligations which are laid upon us through the immediate orderings of Divine providence, which it is not in our power

to repay. Hitherto I have considered that I owe to my sister D. as one; and yet the goodness of my Heavenly Father is such that he has condescended, in mercy, to repay it in degree with his own hand: and my soul feels grateful to him for it, as well as to my friends who have been the instruments. And what is of incomparably more value, if I am correctly informed, He has given my sister to see, in her declining years, the importance of having her peace made with Him, and is thus causing the evening of her days to be as it were gilded with the rays of the Sun of righteousness — He "who is mighty to save."

In this I can sincerely and thankfully rejoice, even more than in the other case, great as is that blessing also; inasmuch as "the things that are seen are but temporal," while "those that are not seen are eternal." I intend writing to my sister herself, and shall say what I deem needful on this interesting occasion.

I shall be glad, my dear sister, to hear of thy prosperity, so far as it may conduce to thy best welfare. I congratulate thee on having R. P. for a friend: She is one of no ordinary character. I should have been glad to have heard a few more particulars of B. & of W. & of thyself. Whenever these, or other subjects afford thee sufficient inducement to write, a few lines from thee will be acceptable.

I remain, thy friend & brother.  
Geo. W. Walker.

P.S. I have written to W. twice since I left England, once from V.D.L. I do not now know where to address him. My love to him & Bessy.