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To Dorothy Decan.

My dear Sister

It has afforded me no little comfort to hear through the medium of my friends in the north of England (who continue to evince a lively interest in all that nearly concerns me) that a few charitable persons, chiefly of the same religious profession with myself, in the spirit of christian philanthropy have administered to thy necessities, and placed thee in a situation beyond the reach of want or distress. Little as I have been able permanently to relieve thee, thy situation, my dear sister, has often been to me a source of deep solitude: especially some years ago, when thy circumstances were better known to me than for some time past, prior to my leaving England. This interruption to my continued knowledge of thy affairs, can only be attributed to the extreme reluctance thou hast continually displayed, to maintain correspondence through the only medium our circumstances would permit, which was by letter; the conviction of which induced me some years ago to propose a periodical correspondence, when I hoped at the same time to have been able to remit thee a small sum, at least to convince thee of my interest in thy temporal welfare, however short such aid might be to secure it. But this correspondence had not been very long maintained, before on thy part it was suffered to drop, so that had I not, about

that period, had an opportunity of handing thee in person a part of my willing contributions to thy necessities, they would have been less even than they were, from the cause alluded to: as I was rendered doubtful, in making my ^{communications} ~~calculations~~, at a time also when thou wast moving about from one place to another, whether they reached thee at all. I could not therefore go on in this sort of uncertainty. The issue of my concerns in the Pottery was so ruinous to my finances, causing the entire loss of my property (for I have little hope of ever realizing a penny of it again) that I was but a short time in a situation to render thee even the trifling aid I did. Whilst I had the power, I believe thou art aware I did it most cheerfully; but when the power no longer existed, & our correspondence by letter was not maintained, our intercourse necessarily ceased for a time. Subsequently I became acquainted with the circumstance of thy having become largely indebted to the Jeweller, through whose kindness thou hadst long earned a subsistence. To my great regret I found that thou hadst changed thy residence in order to elude, as he supposed, enquiry; which I could not but decidedly disapprove - nay condemn. — When in London towards the end of 1831, and about to leave for this part of the world, I had an old address of thine, from which I hoped to have traced thee out, and to have ascertained thy precise situation; and even set out one day for the purpose. But some circumstances then occurred to frustrate my design; and a sudden call to

prepare, at a very short notice, for going on board, caused the thing that had been deferred to be ultimately given up. That the consideration that I was not in a situation to relieve thee, and that I should have to advert to the circumstance I have above referred to, - which must have been a source of pain to us both, - contributed to induce procrastination, by which my intention of seeing thee was eventually frustrated; I am willing to admit; and often have I regretted it since, and blamed myself for it. But though this was the case, I was far from being indifferent to thy situation, but commissioned my valued friend Ann B. (now no more) to make enquiry about thee, and endeavour to ascertain thy exact circumstances; and I have since ascertained, through my sister Dubeye, that a small sum, a part of that I had appropriated for the purpose, should it be absolutely necessary, was handed thee through the medium of thy late cousin Rich^d. Brown's widow. Thou mayst readily suppose how welcome the news has been to me, that thou art now released from the pressure of pecuniary difficulty. I feel truly grateful to those kind friends who have thus generously interested themselves in thy behalf. I feel it as a kindness done to myself, as well as to thee. Especially, however, I am bound to feel gratitude towards that ever-watchful Providence who has graciously presided over my career through life, and has often opened a way for me where there seemed to human appearance to be no way; and who, in this instance, has made that needful provision for thy

wants, which I would gladly have done long since, had it been the will of Heaven to make me the humble instrument. But more peculiarly it is cause for gratitude, that the Lord has been pleased to incline thy heart more fully to bow to his dispensations of love and mercy, and to seek for his pardon and acceptance, now in thy declining years.

These great and incomparable blessings we know can only be obtained through the efficacious, and atoning sacrifice of Christ; the application of whose healing virtue to the conscience can only be experienced through the operation of the Holy Spirit regenerating the heart; even that Spirit which our blessed Redeemer declared, he would send into the world, 'to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and through which, by Him, we have access unto the Father. If I am not mis-informed, these great truths have become increasingly the subjects of thy devout contemplation; I hope to thy greatly increased comfort and consolation. I suppose that in this respect the views of both of us have materially changed since we had much personal intercourse: and I trust we may now lay claim to a relationship nearer, even, than the ties of consanguinity; and that we may humbly rank ourselves as seeking to walk worthily as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. I shall be glad to receive information on this interesting subject from thy own pen, as well as on any other thou mayst feel a liberty to touch upon - especially as regards the change in thy

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circumstances; and who the kind friends are to whom we are both so much indebted. Please to direct to G. W. W. (of the Society of Friends) Post Office, Sydney, New South Wales. If I should be left they will forward it after me.

Thou art perhaps aware that I am associated as Companion with a devoted servant of the Lord Jesus, in religious labour for the spread of the Gospel, and such service of a moral and religious nature as may be called for at our hands. We have completed for the present our visit to V. D. Land, where we have met with so much to interest us that we have been detained there for nearly three years. We have also met with much to encourage us in the prosecution of our important mission. A few persons have adopted the peculiar views entertained by the Society of Friends, and are now associated as an organized Body. The subject of Prison Discipline, in connection with the state of the Convicts consigned to these Colonies, has also gained a measure of our attention, much of our labour having been directed to this unhappy class of men. Some pleasing instances of reformation from among these, have come under our notice. The Governor of V. D. Land is a man actuated by Christian principle, and has done what he could to facilitate our endeavours to promote the moral and religious welfare of the Prisoners, in which he is himself deeply interested. Thus the Lord has been pleased

to make way for us, and own, in some degree, our labours; for which we desire to return him the tribute of praise, under the feeling that of ourselves we are unprofitable servants, having done only that which was our duty to do, and only through the aid of his Grace when this was effected: but also deeply sensible, for my own part more particularly, that in many things I have far fallen short of my duty, for which I have need of his forgiveness, for my dear Redeemer's sake, who, as a compassionate Saviour can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities.

We are shortly to sail for Norfolk Island, one of the Penal Settlements of New South Wales, where there are nearly a thousand Prisoners under charge of Government, and who are among the worst class of offenders.

Let me hear from thee soon, my dear Sister; and, meanwhile,

I remain,

thy aff. friend & brother

George W. Walker

On board the "Henry Freeling,"
 Sydney Cove, New So. Wales.
 14/1 Mo. 1835.