

To Isaac Sherwin, Launceston.

Fremantle. 3^d of 2nd Mo. 1838.

My dear friend
Isaac Sherwin.

I am aware that thou hast taken an interest, as well as myself, in the case of an unfortunat young woman, named Anna Dyer, from Swan River; who, when Jas. Backhouse & myself were last in Launⁿ, was an inmate of the ward appropriated to invalids in the Female Factory; & with the particulars of whose history I believe thou art already in some degree acquainted. During our temporary sojourn here, having become personally intimate with the Father of the infant to which A.D. gave birth, & who is W^m. McBride Brown, brother to the G^o. Secy. & who fills the office of Gov^t. Resident at this place, I felt it to be my duty to communicate with him in the most explicit manner on this painful subject;—an interference wh^{ch} he has been pleased to acknowledge, in very grateful terms, as a kindness. I have rec^d. from himself a full explanation of all the circumstances of the case, & have every reason to believe, from his own solemn assurances, & also from collateral proof, that the arrangements made by himself, in reference to the unhappy young woman, were designed to secure to her a permanent provision for herself, (& infant, when born,) to the extent she might need such aid; but that through some unforeseen

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contingencies, his intentions, very much to his grief, have been frustrated. A rumour had reached R. M. Brown respecting A. D's ^{present} situation; upon wh he wrote to a person in Laun^m, authorizing him imj. to renew the allowance wh, through an unaccountable misunderstanding on his part, he had discontinued; & also to discharge any debts that she might have contracted. But the first authentic information he has received on this melancholy subject has been furnished by myself; & I believe he feels intensely on the occasion. Under the impulse of his feelings, he would at once have used his influence to have induced the mother of the young woman, & a younger daughter, if necessary, (the mother being advanced in years) to have made a voyage to Launceston at his expense, for the express purpose of seeing after their unfortunate relative, & restoring her to the bosom of her family: And even now I believe he will feel best satisfied to make such a proposal to the family, leaving it optional with them whether they will act upon it or not. But on a little reflection it appeared to my Companion & myself, & also to R. M. Brown, when it was suggested to him; that a little friendly assistance on thy part, which I feel assured thou wilt cheerfully afford, would render this unnecessary. For, should Anna Dyer still labour under mental derangement, she removed to ^{the} New Norfolk

Hospital (which we indulge the hope is by this time effected) no place in the Australian dominions is more suitable for a person under her circumstances — none is to be found where she would be more likely to receive proper attention.

But if, happily, she should be recovered, & be desirous to return to her family, R. M. B. would readily promote it, & bear the expences attendant upon such a step.

Or, should she prefer remaining in V. D. Land, he would also be disposed to make such provision for the supply of her necessaries, as might seem to those who are on the spot & can form a judgment, to be requisite. At the same time it should be observed, that R. M. Brown's income is but limited, & that he has other imperative claims upon his pecuniary resources; economy would therefore be absolutely necessary. I make this remark on my own responsibility; having reason to suppose that his intentions are liberal, to the extent of his means.

Having said thus much, I now beg to introduce R. M. Brown to thy acquaintance, as one who keenly deplores what has transpired, & is anxious to make all the amends in his power; & whose desire I believe has been to mitigate, but by no means to augment the suffering which, he is deeply conscious, he has been the means of

of inflicting on a fellow-creature. This is my own conviction at least, now that I am in possession of all the circumstances; though appearances may have been somewhat against him in this respect.

If, therefore, thou wilt kindly lend thy aid in promoting one or the other of the arrangements referred to, I may say on R. M. Brown's behalf, and on that of his Wife, who is an amiable young person, and is acquainted with all the facts, it will be most gratefully received.

To enable thee to do this, R. M. Brown will transmit thee the pecuniary means, at the same time that he himself addresses thee on the subject. I have therefore only to second his urgent request, that thou wilt take the matter in charge, should further intervention still be needed. And should Anna Dyer be removed to New Norfolk, let me request of thee to communicate with Dr. Officer on the subject; who, I am sure, if the names of Jas. Backhouse & myself are mentioned (independently of the strong claim which the case in itself furnishes on the sympathy of a benevolent mind) would make the young Woman a special object of his attention & care. The result of thy mediation thou wilt have the goodness to make known to R. M. Brown by the earliest

opportunity, who anxiously awaits the result of thy kind
offices.

With kindest remembrances to Catherine Sherwin,
Ann Taylor, & thyself (not forgetting dear little Alice
and the baby, who I hope are doing well;)

I remain,

thy sincere friend,

George Washington Walker.

A.B. My dear Companion wishes to be included in
the message of remembrance.
