

To George and Sarah Bell.

Sydney, N.S.W. 1/3 Mo: 1837.

To Geo: & Sarah Bell.

I take up the pen in the first place to apprise you that my dear Companion, J Backhouse, & myself have ventured to put up a parcel to our friend George Bell's care, containing a number of small packages addressed to various individuals in the neighbourhood, which we will thank him to forward to the respective owners according as he may have convenient opportunity.

It will be seen by the superscriptions, to whom we have forwarded the "Addresses", which may help to guide you in the distribution of those enclosed to yourselves; as we shall have to trust chiefly to your kind aid for giving them more extended circulation in the immediate neighbourhood of Maitland. We shall pay the freight of the parcel by the Steamer; which I trust will be the means of preventing you from being subjected to any expense in connexion with what may seem a somewhat troublesome commission. But I believe your hearts are sufficiently interested in the welfare of your many benighted fellow-creatures in that part of the Colony,

Colony, to make you render this little service cheerfully.

Whilst extending information on this subject, with the prospect also before me of leaving this Colony for Van Diemen's Land; the salutation of Christian Love seemed to arise in my heart towards you both, accompanied, likewise, with fervent desires that you may be strengthened by the great Head of the Church to hold on your way in the path he may see meet to prescribe for you, and that you may indeed know the Lord to be your God.

My mind recurs to the period when we personally visited you in your own habitation. Though the interview was but of short duration, the recollection of the tendering sense of the Lord's presence which at that period awaited some, if not all of us, is yet with me. I then indulged the belief, that the good-will of Him who is the God of all the families of the earth, but in an especial manner of those who are concerned to walk in his counsel & fear, was towards you; & this conviction has been rather confirmed than weakened, since I have been made acquainted with your determination to wait upon the Lord, as in the silence of all flesh; that you may know him to arise in the temple of your hearts, and by his Divine power subdue every earthly desire & thought, until "all the earth," as it

were, "keep silence before him." O, my friends! Wait upon the Lord, be of good courage, & he will strengthen your heart. Wait, I say, upon the Lord." For assuredly, if your expectation be from him alone, he will not disappoint your hopes. Yea, "blessed are all they that wait for him!" My own soul (however short it may have attained of the mark of perfection) has reason to bless his ever worthy Name, that I was myself convinced, after having arrived at mature years, of the importance of being weaned from all mere human teaching, & of having my dependence placed upon the Lord alone; according to the privilege that awaits the enjoyment of the members of Christ's Church, under what name soever they may pass among men, — to be taught immediately of the Lord: "All thy children shall be taught of the Lord, & great shall be the peace of thy children." I believe it is only as we are brought to sit as at the feet of Jesus, & to be led by his Spirit, by which he continues to teach as never man taught, that the true fellowship is known, — even fellowship with the Father, & with the Son, & one with another; & that unity in faith & practice is the result.

For the Lord Most High is one, & his Name one. His holy will & requirements are never at variance, seeing that

"that with Him is neither variableness nor shadow of turning;" but as mankind yield obedience to the dictates and guidance of the blessed Spirit of truth, who "leadeth into all truth", a sweet harmony pervades their movements; and, as in the case of the various members of the human frame, which though diverse as to position & office, yet act in concert, being knit together in a mutual relation to the head & to one another; so among the living members of the Church, Christ's mystical body, there exists a like admirable concord & harmony: no jarring divisions, no conflicting opinions, or opposing practices obtain among these whilst united to the Head, in any matters that essentially concern the glory of God and the welfare of immortal souls.

For, "walking in the light as God is in the light, they have fellowship one with another, & the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth them from all sin," consequently from every thing that obstructs the clear spiritual vision; for sin it is that brings a cloud, or veil over the mind, and "this veil is done away in Christ." It is for want therefore of practically believing & "walking in the light of the Lord," which the nations that are saved "must walk in," that so many contradictory things are advocated & practised among professing Christians. But as these are brought

into a state of willingness to follow the Shepherd of Israel,  
whithersoever he leads, & by attending to the gentle intima-  
tions of his Spirit learn to distinguish his voice from that  
of the stranger which leads the mind away from Christ,  
these are turned into the successive footsteps of the flock  
of his tribulated companions followers, & maintain the unity  
of the Spirit in the bond of peace: And they reap the  
blessed reward thereof in the enjoyment of a measure of  
that soul-sustaining peace & lively faith, according to their  
day & need, & respective measures of advancement, which  
bears up the soul through many tribulations, enables them  
to endure as seeing Him who is invisible, & renders them  
finally victorious, nay, more than conquerors, through  
Him who hath loved them. Well, my dear friends, you  
have been brought at least to aspire, if I may so speak,  
to sit under Divine teaching; nay more, you have been  
made willing, I trust, in the day of the Lord's power, alrea-  
dy to give up in some things that may have seemed hard  
to flesh & blood, but wherein the way of duty was made  
plain before you: the language of my heart towards you,  
in that love which desires your everlasting welfare, is,  
Go forward! As the Lord condescends to "go before you",  
designing to lead you forth out of every practice, or custom,  
irrecon-

irreconcilable with his pure will, though generally received, or even applauded among men; may you follow whithersoever he leadeth, not looking to man whose breath is in his nostrils; and assuredly you will know the same Divine Leader & Commander, who has ever been a Guide, as well as a Comforter to his people in all ages, to be also yours: You will know him not only to go before you, but also to be your reward"; and, during your journey through the wilderness of life, as well as at the end, He will be your Shield, & your exceeding great reward."

James Callaghan, a young man resident at Bathurst, & much respected for his Christian integrity of character, objected to take an oath last week, when subpoenaed as evidence in the Supreme Court of Sydney, on the conscientious ground of Christ having forbidden all swearing. Judge Burton committed him, but discharged him before the Court broke up, telling him he believed his objection to be a conscientious one. A person named Gilmore made a similar objection, some time since, before the Master of the Court of Requests, at Bathurst, but suffered his judgment to be misled & overruled by the sophistry of some of his friends, who persuaded him that the oath was merely a solemn asseveration of the truth in the presence of Almighty

God! Few it is who are willing to suffer for the testimony  
of a good conscience.

Our dear friends Daniel & Charles Wheeler, having  
accomplished their arduous engagement among the islands  
of the South Pacific, satisfactorily, are returned to  
Sydney, in safety: Their subsequent movements are not  
determined upon; yet I encourage a hope that they  
may visit your part of the country, in the event of which  
I should be glad.

James Backhouse joins in the salutation of Chris-  
tian regard with,

Your sincere friend,  
George W. Walker.

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P.S. We shall be glad to hear from you when disposed  
to write. For a month to come address, Post Office, Hobart  
Town - after that, to us at the Post Office, Cape Town, So-  
Africa, whither we expect to proceed.

G.W.W.

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