To Francis and Anna Maria Cotton.

My dear friends,
Francis and Anna Maria Cotton.

Lest I should again give offense, I feel disposed to make a brief reply to your communications respectively. I must be brief, for I have neither time nor strength to expend on such truly unprofitable disquisitions.

Let me in the first place assure you that I felt nothing but sincere love towards you both, personally, when I penned the note that, to my astonishment, has occasioned such offense;—a love that I am determined, by best help, shall not even now be interrupted. Yet, neither then, nor now, do I feel bound to approve of any weakness, prejudice, or fault, that I may observe in my friends (I do not approve of such in myself, when conscious of them,) that kind of blind attachment would not be Christian love.

I fully hoped that the instruction to get white gloves, would prove an error on my part. I regret that the supposition should have occasioned uneasiness; for this sincerely ask your forgiveness. But, my dear friends, let me entreat you not to let this uneasy feeling put by, as uncalled
called for, the gentle intimation which it afforded the
occasion, was the reason for conveying; and which still
rests with one as a needful caution—to avoid any thing
that tends to neutralize our testimony in respect of plain-
ness and simplicity of attire, as being incumbent on Chris-
rians. I am still of the judgment, that wearing gloves at all,
in a room, unless under bodily infirmity, and especially
when the persons we are amongst, as well as our own habits
of manner of living, are simple and unostentatious, is, to say
the least, out of place. If my dear friend A. M. Cotton's
mind does not feel condemned in this respect, I am
quite ready to leave it; having discharged the little debt
of love due to one whom I have long regarded as a Christ-
ian sister: but if it does, then own convictions accord
with mine on this subject, let her not again "rise above"
the reproof of a friend.

With respect to J. B. Mathew's affair, I sought to
correct, remedy some defect of judgment, either in him
or my friends at Keldedon. I thought that if it were
in the former, he allowed himself to be imposed upon
by others in the trade, it was high time he was put upon
his guard. With reference to you, my dear friends, I assure
you I did not view it in that important light in which
you seem to regard it. Nor I believe does Joseph: he well
knows that my intention was to do the concern a kindness,
as a matter of business, to guard them against imposition.
While on the other hand, should he not be in fault, I
considered that if your judgment was so far decided, as
not to be convinced that you had been in the wrong, in
thinking the things he had got out for you (that is, from
other ships) "very dear," which you stated was your im-
pression; it would be well, in future, that you should
be spared the mortification, and he the trouble I desire-
dit, of making such purchases. If however I have ex-
pressed these views in a needlessly abrupt manner, which
I really do not perceive in re-perusing them—yet if I
have been so understood: I willingly retract them, if my
they be forgotten. I acted with an upright intention,
and I told you what I had done, not knowing that
Joseph intended himself writing on the subject. I did
not suppose that from what I had said any importance
would be attached to it, save as a matter of business, in
which light I viewed it, in which light, I believe,
J.R.W. exclusively regards it: and I referred merely
to matter of fact—that such was your impression.

As for those parts of my dear friends' letters which deal
in recrimination treated. I can only say that I deeply regret that any thing from any pen or quarter, should have elicited: I leave them to pass their own judgment upon these, in their cool, retired moments, taken apart from each other.

And now, my beloved friends, let us all renewedly seek for ability to obey the injunction of an inspired Apostle, "to love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." If I have in any way infringed upon this precept, I ask your forgiveness. And in whatever degree you may have infringed upon it (which I do not undertake to decide) I desire sincerely to add, I forgive you, as I hope to be forgiven.

With love, I remain,

Your friend—your sincere friend.

George W. Walker.