

To George Bell, Bothwell.

Hobart Town 30/3 Mo. 1841

To George Bell.

My dear friend.

Thine of the 27th inst. has just come to hand, & I sincerely sympathize with thee & thy Sarah in your present exercises & trials. Do not however give way, my dear friends, to gloomy anticipations, but look unto the Lord in faith, discharging your daily duties as unto Him, & not merely unto men, & trust in him for the future, & he will not fail you in the hour of need. I would earnestly recommend you to spare no exertion on your part to retain your present situation, for I greatly fear it would be very difficult to procure one elsewhere that would more readily or effectually yield you a subsistence. I think you are both of you, perhaps, constitutionally prone to yield to discouragement, which has the effect of paralyzing your exertions on behalf of yourselves & family. This tendency must be battled with in the Lord's name, or it will cripple your energies, & sink your spirits below hope as to outward affairs, unless it be overcome. I fear having yielded to it in measure has paved the way for the present apparently impending evil, especially on the part of thy dear Wife, who must hear with me if I seek to arouse her to a little more exertion, which I do believe she wd find beneficial to both mind & body. Let her not suppose I am less her friend for speaking thus plainly, but rather remember, that 'faithful are the wounds of a friend.'

Though you are not either of you in robust health,
yet if you do your best to discharge the duties that
have devolved upon you, I cannot but still hope you
may retain the situation. Sarah Bell's assistance
will however be expected, & is, I sh^d apprehend,
indispensable. — Thy concern respecting thy debts is
commendable. My own feeling on this subject is, that
I w^d submit to much privation before I w^d fail in
the payment of my debts, & for this cause I have hitherto
made it ^{in general} a rule, in household matters or personal ex-
pences to pay for things before I use them. Though this
may not have been always practicable in your very
trying circumstances, I w^d seriously recommend it
as much as possible for thy future adoption. It cuts
of much anxiety & painful reflection. — I did not
forget to speak to McKellup & Anderson, according to
thy request, when in Launceston. I think it was An-
derson whom I saw: he said he did not doubt thou
wouldst pay him when thou wast able, & spoke in a
very friendly way concerning thee, apparently quite satis-
fied of thy integrity. — I have not yet fixed upon
a residence, having to await the arrival of my goods
wh^{ch} have been longer on the way than I anticipated.
My wife & myself are still guests of my Father-in-law.
I look forward to a period of close application to
business for some time to come, wh^{ch} however I believe
to be in the line of Divine appointment, & though in
some respects uncongenial to my inclinations, I
have tried to bend my mind to circumstances, & have
been graciously helped to do so. I crave that I may

not become unduly engrossed by worldly cares; yet I feel it a pressing duty to provide things honest before all men; & provide for my own house, as becomes a Christian, my own hands administering to my necessities, & the necessities of those whom Providence has made to depend upon me. I fear it will be a considerable time before my Sarah could ask to be entrusted with so responsible a charge as your sweet little girl, however pleasant (it might be in some respects) to have her. At present it is altogether impracticable. For some time to come we shall be involved in numerous cares & responsibilities, that we shall need Divine help to meet with becoming assiduity & to discharge faithfully. The outward difficulties & inward conflicts permitted to await us, respectively, are no doubt designed to make us resort continually to the footstool of our never-failing Helper & Deliverer. He sympathizes with the least of his dependent children in their afflictions, & is touched with the feeling of their infirmities. What encouragement is there, my dear friend, to cast our care upon Him, who careth for us. 'Yea, as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth those who fear him.' Let us not cast away our confidence, but in times of trial, like the variously afflicted Psalmist, let us 'encourage ourselves in the Lord our God: for none that trust in him shall be confounded. — Thou wilt perhaps be surpris'd at not hearing from the Com^{ee}. appoint^d to correspond with thee & thy wife relative to y^r application. It originates in the absence of S. Crouch, one of the parties. But be assur'd you are not forgotten by y^r. fr^s who are concerned for y^r welfare in every way. My wife unites with me in love to you both, as well as to y^r d^r. little ones. Believe me, their sincere fr^d Geo^l. Walker.