

To Rob<sup>t</sup> Andrew Mather, Sydney.

Philippolis, Bechuana Land. 27/6 Mo; 1839.

My dear Robert Andrew:

I have deeply participated with my dear friend Jas. Backhouse in the feeling of concern for the cause of the blessed Truth in Sydney, & for such of you as are committed with it; & especially for thee & Abraham Davy who have been so closely identified therewith. I am fully aware that thou must have <sup>had</sup> a difficult part to act amid many temptations to err, on the right hand & on the left: & even when an honest exercise might be prevalent in thy mind that the right thing should be done, it would need not only the simplicity of the dove but the caution of the serpent to enable thee in all thy movements to promote it by example, & <sup>by</sup> influence of a yet more direct kind.

My dear Companion has informed thee that we are aware of the leading events that have transpired, some of which have given us occasion to mourn; especially the precipitate step that Abraham Davy has taken. We are indeed reminded, each of us, that "he who thinketh he standeth; should take heed lest he fall."

On the whole review of thy conduct under the trying circumstances, whilst I fully agree with J. Backhouse in the apprehension, that in those points to which he has adverted, some error in judgment has been committed, I acknowledge I feel thankful that things are not worse, & that thy Christian integrity has, I trust, remained unimpeached. In regard to Ab<sup>m</sup>. Davy, the circumstances that have occurred will be apt to lessen the feeling of intimate union that might previously have existed between you; but beware, my dear friend, that no feeling of bitterness be allowed to dwell in thy heart against any. And with respect to A. Davy there will be a more special

special call on thy forbearance, & sympathy, not merely as knowing thyself what it is to be tempted; but as having, in the early stages of the affair, not seen the dangerous ground on which he was treading, & therefore having indirectly, or tacitly, if not formally, encouraged him, to a certain extent, in the formation of a connection that has in the end terminated, - or rather, been consummated, in a way that, I am sure, will have afforded thee grief. - As every wrong step, - every deviation from the path of Christian rectitude (which consists in following the leadings of Christ, & adhering to all his commands) brings with it weakness proportioned to the nature and extent of the degression, A. Davy will the more need thy help, so far as thou art enabled, to strengthen the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees, that that which is lame may not be <sup>altogether</sup> turned out of the way (which the enemy will strive to effect) but rather that it may be healed. This may be done under the guidance of "the Wisdom that is from above," without in any way compromising right principle, or countenancing what is evil. This "Wisdom" must be sought for, & the Lord is willing to give it to such as ask in sincerity, having no confidence in themselves; - he will give it them for Christ's sake; & enable such to follow our great Exemplar, obeying the injunction he has imparted through his Apostle: "If any be overtaken with a fault, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness." There is a special need that we all guard against doing, even right things in a wrong spirit, - a spirit not strictly conformable to the meekness & gentleness of Christ.

I hope thou wilt see it thy duty to continue to extend a new hand of Christian help, in any way thou mayest be enabled, to Geo: & Sarah Bell. I will not depend his supineness, <sup>he</sup> who has himself, in some measure, confessed; & <sup>he</sup> who perhaps arose in great degree through shrinking from the cross. Still there is much, I trust,

that is upright about them both. I would fain believe, nay I may say, I trust, they are among Christ's "little ones"; and if this be the case, remember, my dear Robert; "Whatsoever is done unto them for the great Master's sake, is done unto Himself." Consider what a powerful motive is here to overlook the failings, the inconsistencies, yea the sins, that may casually overtake even these: Yet while He follows them with his love, we are bound to do so too - but without, at the same time, failing to discountenance & reprove, if needful, the wrong. Geo. & S. Bell are in the furnace of adversity. I hope they may come forth as gold which is tried in the fire. And mayst thou remember such as suffer adversity as thyself also in the body."

I desire thy happiness in thy proposed marriage; and that of the object of thy choice. If you keep close to the Lord, he can, and will, I trust, make it subservient to your present & eternal welfare. May you both be blessed, and kept of him, unto eternal life. is the prayer of,

Thy affectionate friend,  
Geo. Washington Walker.

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I would wish to be associated with JB in messages of remembrance to all.