

To George Bell.

Robert Town 4 Mo? 1841

My dear friend  
George Bell.

I am truly concerned to learn that thy anticipations regarding the future, in connection with the School, have so soon become realized; for though it may not be the very best kind of employ, in some respects, the difficulty is, where is a better to be had? However, if our trials are made subservient to our souls' advancement, by bringing us to the Divine footstool, and inducing us more abidingly to dwell under the feeling of, "thy will be done," they will not only prove blessings in disguise; but in due time, we may humbly trust, a way will open for deliverance. The assurance of the dear Redeemer is positive, & unequivocal: "Seek first the kingdom of heaven, & the righteousness thereof, & all things needful shall be added."

Far be it from me to add, unnecessarily, one thought of uneasiness to thy dear Sarah's mind or thy own. Rather would I lessen your cares & sorrows, & as far as I might be enabled, fulfil the injunction of one of our Lord's disciples: "Bear ye one another's burdens, & so fulfill the law of Christ." Therefore I would not have thee or Sarah think that the remark which has caused pain, was made in the spirit of "judging," or fault-finding. No, far from it, it was made for your own sakes, & in the hope that being put a little upon your guard, you might not afford discouragement on your account to those of your friends who are solicitous for your welfare, & who may have felt similar impressions with myself,



but thro' delicacy or other motives, may not have been equally explicit with myself. I know that ill health has a great effect on the spirits & physical energies, — from my own experience I know it; — yet even under these circumstances, it may be a duty to ourselves, to our families, to our friends, & to God, not to yield readily to an influence that may be counteracted, or encouraged, & which certainly ought to be struggled against (in the strength that God can & will graciously impart) so far as it may be required at our hands. But if your own consciences acquit you of having furnished ground for needing the counsel, I would say, take not any portion of it to yourselves. But remember, my dear friends, that yourselves & your dear children may be greatly sufferers should you err in the estimate of the exertion required at your hands; whilst such an error would at the same time have a tendency to shut up the way with even your sincerest friends. I mean, that where a defect is thought to exist, & in love is pointed out, & the parties it may concern are blind to such defect, it operates as a discouragement to those who would be disposed to lend a helping hand, if they knew how.

Thou hast not said much on the nature of the situation thou wouldst like to engage in, or would feel equal to. What kind of shop-keeping art thou most conversant with? I might happen to hear of something for thee, & should like to know a little of thy previous pursuits. If I mistake not, the Grocery line was what thou wast brought up to. It might be well to put thy friends here in possession of such



information as might enable them to use any influence they may have, in obtaining for thee a situation, by stating thy qualifications, expectations, &c.

I should have been glad could I have afforded you both matter that would have been more consolatory & helpful in your trials. But what I have penned, believe me, is dictated by the sincerest regard for you both. And be assured that,

I remain,

thy aff<sup>te</sup> friend

Glo. W. Walker.

My Sarah unites with me in love to you both.