

To David Richards, Sydney

Hobart Town 24/7 Mo 1844.

To David Richards,

It is long since we met in N.S.W. & I entertain a lively remembrance of the religious sensibility thou then evinced, & thy concern to be found walking in the way of Truth. Doubtless thy recollection will enable thee to recur to the period alluded to, when our dear Friend Ja^s. Backhouse was likewise present; & I trust the feelings of tenderness, humility & contrition that then seemed to prevail, will continue to be regarded by thee as worthy to be prized beyond any thing that the world or its enjoyments can afford, being the work and effect of that Almighty power & goodness which visits man in his fallen state, seeking to save that which was lost, & which nothing short of Infinite & Redeeming love can restore.

While thus recurring to the past, I our first & final interview with thee, the important query seems to arise—“How fares it with thee now? Art thou in health, my Brother?” If an answer can be rendered in the affirmative, then will there be ^{felt} a growing love to the Saviour, & to all who are allied to him by faith; a disposition will be known that seeks to avoid occasions of offence, & that would undergo much inconvenience, & submit even to wrong, rather than that the peace & harmony which ought to prevail among Chr. brethren should be interrupted. If these symptoms of spiritual health, & of assimilation to our meek & lowly Head, Christ Jesus,

be found in thee, my Brother, then the immediate cause of my thus addressing thee will speedily be removed. For there will be a willingness to seek not in the first place "our own" things; - our own will & imaginary interests, but "the things that are Jesus Christ's". Our chief aim & concern will be the glory of God, the edification of our own souls, and the Church's welfare.

I have learned with pain that a misunderstanding has arisen between thee & our friends in Sydney relative to the mode of occupying the cottage on the Burial Ground belonging to Friends; which it appears has been sub-let to persons who can scarcely be expected to feel that concern that the place should be kept decently & in order (as essentially becomes a place of the kind) which I feel assured thou wouldst thyself acknowledge should be observed in reference to it wast thou thyself the occupying tenant. Friends might bear with much that affected only their own convenience or comfort, as individuals, but the circumstances now referred to have brought, it is to be feared, a public reproach on the Society; & as one of the Trustees, I am bound to call thy attention to the facts. I understand that Grave-stones with carved devices of various kinds may be seen strewed about the ground, also portions of furniture, in different stages of completion; along with sundry planks, shavings, & all the common accompaniments of a Cabinet-maker's, or Carpenter's workshop! which with the addition of clothes spread out to dry on the grass, present altogether a motley exhibition of disorder & neglect that is highly discreditably to the Society, which, in the eye of the public, is very properly

held responsible for the arrangements connected with its
own Burial Ground. So long as the Tenement erected on
the ground is occupied by persons (whether thyself or others)
who pay a becoming regard to the character of the place,
which requires that nothing sh^d. be seen offensive to the
eye, or that presents an obstruction to the free ingress and
egress of persons on foot, or of carriages, &c: & especially
nothing involving inconsistency with Friends known principles,
either in the conduct of the Tenants, or in their occupations;
so long, I say, as the tenement is occupied by persons having
regard to these points, Friends, I believe will be disposed
to place every facility in the way of thy continued occupation
as the formal tenant; but should the nuisances referred
to not be removed & avoided for the future, it would become
the duty of the Trustees, (did Friends on behalf of the Trustees,
not do their duty in the matter,) to see that decorum was
observed, & that nothing meet the eye on entering the
ground that does not strictly harmonize with the original
& sole purpose for which it was given to the Society by
the Colonial Government. Otherwise we might be justly
called to account as not properly discharging our duty.

This matter having been referred to Hobart Town
Friends by the Sydney Monthly Meeting, I have undertaken
on behalf of the Friends appointed to take steps thereupon,
to communicate with thee, confidently believing that thy
own sense & good-feeling will induce thee promptly to
remove the causes of offence, & to prevent their recurrence
for the future. I remain thy sincere friend
G.W.W.

P.S. I heard from our dear fr^d W. Buckhouse lately, who was in usual
health. I suppose thou art aware of the decease of dear W. Smallen thy
honoured relative.