

To Joseph Procter, Willington, N^o. Shields, Engl?

District of Tullagh S^o. Africa 1/4 Mo. 1840.

To Joseph Procter.

My dear friend.

The time has now very nearly arrived that my religious engagements in this country will terminate; & in looking towards a return direct to V. D. Land, I have naturally been led to consider by what means I shall be most likely to provide an honest livelihood, not merely for myself but for those who may shortly be dependent on my exertions. The subject, as thou wilt believe, has occasioned me much anxious thought, & the desire, I may say, fervent exercise of heart has prevailed, that I may be preserved in the line of Divine ordering, & may know my steps in so important a matter to be directed aright.

Under these feelings I have come to the deliberate conclusion of investing a portion of the Capital that is at my disposal, — indeed the whole of it, with a trifling reservation, — in Linen-drapery Goods of a plain description, & wh, from my knowledge of the state of the demand for such things in V. D. L. I have every reason to believe will meet with a ready market there, whether they be sold in bulk, or by retail. I have therefore commissioned my kind friend Chas. Bragg to purchase for me goods of the kind referred to, when he visits the Markets in the Autumn; and should he comply with my request, they will be likely to meet me in V. D. L. about the beginning of the following year, '841.

Through the generous consideration of some of my friends,

whom I may not name, the losses I have sustained through my connection with L. G. Bragg & my Uncles Macleod & McElvie, will be very nearly made up to me, so that I shall have about £600 to begin the world with - for to me it is like a commencement anew, & it is quite my intention, unless unforeseen circumstances on my arrival in V. D. L. induce me to alter my views, to endeavour to establish a retail Drapery business in Hobart Town.

I shall not be under any necessity to commit myself, however, in this undertaking, until I arrive on the spot, & have reason to feel additionally confirmed in my views of its propriety: as the goods I have sought to obtain, I could, there is hardly a doubt, immediately dispose of to a dvantage. But as the first-mentioned measure is the ulterior one I have in view, it is needful that I make some preliminary arrangt: to enable me to carry my project into effect in the most satisfactory manner, should I be permitted to commence it; & it is in reference to these that I am induced to solicit thy friendly aid, either directly, or as I think maybe quite as likely, through mediation with some of thy wealthier friends to whom I also may be known.

I find that to make the necessary subsequent additions to my stock in trade, when a little more experience gained on the spot enables me to determine what these should be; & also to prevent my being materially cramped in my financial resources & arrangt:, it will be absolutely imperative that I should have a few hundred pounds more at command.

I should not have readily made up my mind to ask my friends to lend me such a sum, unless I had been possessed of an equal amount, at least, to risk along with theirs: But with
the

the stake I now have in the undertaking, wh^{ch} will exceed what I propose to borrow, I feel somewhat less delicacy on the subject.

Neither do I think it proper to submit my wants in this respect to those who have so generously befriended me already, in making me the possessor of a sum amounting to £600.

I have therefore ventured to ask thy kind aid in endeavoring to raise me the amount (namely £500) among such of our mutual friends as w^d be willing to entrust me with a little of their capital at an interest of 5 per cent; & who shrink not from running the degrees of risk that attends all business concerns, jointly with myself. It may not be needful to refer to many; if so, the fewer the better; but I trust there are two or three who might incline to come forward with a portion of the amount - perhaps thy Cousins John & Edw^d. Richardson for instance; & if thou hadst an opp^{ty}. of communicating with my old friend & shopmate, Geo. Benington, of Wakefield, I believe he would be one, if his circumstances enable him.

I might have written to the parties named myself, but the distance is so great, & the time consequently occupied ^{in the} interchange of correspondence is such, that I have concluded it best to address thee alone on the subject; making thee my medium of communication in order to simplify the transaction.

I sh^d. have entered into particulars as to the grounds on wh^{ch} I promise myself success in V. D. L. & other matters in wh^{ch} the friends who lend me their help might naturally wish to be informed; but having written at some length to my fr^d. C. Bragg on these subjects, I must beg to refer thee to him for further information. And shall likewise feel greatly obliged by thy apprising him as quickly as thou conveniently canst of the result of thy negotiations, because his purchases

will in some degree be dependant thereon.

The conviction of thy good-will, & friendly feeling toward me, induces the belief that thou wilt excuse me putting thee to so much trouble as this commission may involve, & tho' I fear may be somewhat of an ungrateful office to thy feelings; my present circumstances however, in a manner compel me to throw myself on the kindness of my friends.

I shall be glad to hear from thee against my arrival in V. D. L. though I am not without hope of a letter somewhat earlier, wh^{ch} may now be on the way. With love to thy relations of my acquaint^{ce}, especially those of thy own household, in wh^{ch} my friend J. Backhouse also unites, & the assurance of the same to thyself,

I remain,

thy affectionate friend
Geo. W. Walker.

[A. B. The above enclosed to C. Bragg.]
