

To William Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne.

My dear Brother William.

I am reminded by the date that it is exactly nine years to day since I sailed out of St. Catherine's dock in the Science for distant lands. Many & eventful have been the changes that have taken place since that period, calculated to impress upon the minds of such as have survived it, that this is a world of vicissitude & trial, that must soon pass away. Every one capable of reflection must in so long a period have had sufficient mementos that this is indeed not the place of our rest; and that the main object of true wisdom is to labour to secure an entrance into that fixed & better state that will never have an end. This indeed is "the one thing needful," that ought to be the uppermost in every mind - the most engrossing subject of our thoughts. But alas! it is in general very far otherwise. It may be said with many - perhaps with most, to be one of the last things that is laid to heart, until the Most High, in the exercise of that infinite compassion which would have all men come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved, is pleased to lay his Almighty Hand upon us individually, & arrest us in our downward course to destruction. This He sometimes effects through one medium, sometimes by another, though very generally through demonstrating to us by his providential dispensations the uncertainty & fleeting nature of earthly happiness, that we may be concerned to seek it where it is to be permanently found. For this end I doubt not it is, and in conformity with this gracious design, that we are afflicted in so many ways, & are so often subjected

2
to a discipline that is painful and crucifying to our human nature. Yet should the object only be accomplished in the salvation of our souls, surely we shall have reason to adore the Hand that has smitten us, & to acknowledge that it is indeed "good for us that we have been afflicted."

There are none without their trials, some of a secret kind, others more manifest. And in recurring to those that have awaited thee through life's journey, so far as I am acquainted with them; & in often thinking of thee with feelings of deep interest, I have been led to hope that, whatever may be thy own sense of short coming, and thy real occasion of humiliation before the Lord, who "telleth all our wanderings,"— still thy trials and afflictions have been so far blessed to thee as to have kept alive a desire in thy heart to be walking in the Divine fear. This has often afforded me comfort whilst thinking of thee. And when I heard of thy more recent bodily affliction, and that it was even doubtful whether at the time I received the tidings thou mightst not already have been removed from ^{a state of} mutability, a degree of cheering hope was entertained that thou wouldst not be taken altogether by surprise at the appearance of the pale messenger. Earnestly have I desired that in thy latter days, whether longer or shorter, thou mightst be favoured with a sense of Redeeming Mercy & Love, and that casting thyself as at the feet of an Almighty & infinitely compassionate Saviour, thou mightst know the efficacy of his precious blood to cleanse from all sin! "For the oppression of the poor, & the sighing of the needy," the Lord has promised "he will arise,"— such as have nothing of their own to trust in, — who feel their need of a Saviour such as Jesus Christ, — & who are willing through
Divine

3 help to give up that wh^{ch} is for the fire to the fire, & that wh^{ch} is for the sword to the sword, & that wh^{ch} is for the hammer to the hammer; solicitous above all things that they may be made conformable to the Divine will, at whatever cost.

O my brother! If thy past or present afflictions should only work together for this great good, how blessed will be thy lot. Should thy life therefore be prolonged though in a state of much suffering, believe that the design of the Lord in so visiting thee is one of mercy, — as I am encouraged to believe is the case. Let patience have its perfect work. And “though affliction is not joyous but grievous,” whilst we are under actual suffering, yet afterward it assuredly yields the peaceable fruits of righteousness to them that are exercised thereby. If we but put our trust in the Lord, & cast not away our confidence, — however poor, or low, or despised, in our own estimation, or that of others, He will assuredly be our merciful Helper, & ultimately our gracious Deliverer out of all our troubles for his dear Son's sake, if our faith be but steadfast in Him. Be encouraged therefore to cast thy burden, in whatever it may consist, upon Him who can sustain thee.

I have written to thee several times since I left England, & have rec^d one letter from thee; but I have not addressed any comman^t to thee since I heard of thy leaving the north, & going up to London to see after some of thy children: nor have I heard from thee for many years. Had I known ^{earlier} where thou wast, I think I sh^d have written long since. But the accounts lately have been such respecting thy health that I scarcely expected thee to live, & even now I feel very uncertain whether thou art not already numbered with the silent dead! I should like to know a little respecting thy children. Does William continue to

conduct himself as a worthy member of the Wesleyan Church? ⁴
wh I think thy letter informed me he had joined. There are some
excellent people among them, though many that are but very super-
ficial Christians. I hope he is one more in substance than in show.
I understand one of thy daughters is exemplary in attending upon
thee now when in affliction. This is proper & commendable. Give my
Christian remembrance to her, whichever of them it may be.

I trust the blessing of the Most High will be hers, if she
in this respect proves her dutiful affection for her aged father.
I feel glad that our dear friend Geo. Richardson has found
thee out. His sympathy & aid, as he may be able to help
thee by counsel or otherwise, is greatly to be valued. The ex-
cellence of pure & undefiled religion is conspicuously manifest
in him. Would that many more of us were like him - bear-
ing a nearer resemblance to our all-perfect Exemplar, &
his & our Master. - I say little about my own movements be-
cause thou wilt hear thro' some of our Friends, in a few minutes,
more than I could say were I to fill my sheet respecting them.

[My dear Companion, J. Backhouse & myself have very nearly
done our apprehended work in Africa; & I expect to leave for
Robart Town in a week or two, where thou wilt have heard
I propose to settle. We have visited every Missⁿ. Station, amountg
to about 80, within, & beyond the Colony] of those in operation
when we were on our travels. [also, every town & village in the
Colony of S^o. Africa. In the course of this extended journey,
performed partly in a tent, or covered wagon, & partly on horse-
back, more than 6000 miles have been traversed,] over-land.
[Many indeed are the merciful proofs of a Divine, protecting,
& special Providence, we have received in the progress of this
& former engagements; & great occasion have we to say, with
feelings]

5 feelings of reverent gratitude; "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us." He has also given us to see much good doing in various parts of his universal Vineyard; wh has often been the means of gladdening our hearts.

I have sent by my friend James Backhouse, a great Coat that I think may be useful to thee in the cold weather, now that thou canst probably take but little exercise; also four white, & four coloured Shirts.

If able to write, let me hear from thee soon. Address, Geo. W. Walker, care of R. Mathew & Sons, Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land. Farewell, my dear brother, and

Believe me to remain,

Thine affectionately,

Geo. W. Walker.

Cape Town.

South Africa

3/9 Mo: 1840.
