

Andros Island
20th January 1845

My dear Sir

I am in receipt of your esteemed favour of the 25th of the 10th Month of the past year, and altho I feel very imperfect at the present moment enter upon a correspondence, I feel that it would not be the path of duty to remain in Silence and permit this opportunity of writing to pass away.

My dear Son has been removed from us on the Morning of the 18th Inst. He had recovered of his wound to a very great degree, was able to walk without his Crutches, and to accompany me in my daily visits to the Aborigines & to assist in their instruction, in which he took a lively & warm interest. About 2 or 3 Months ago he began to complain of weakness, a fulness in the abdomen & Stomach & loss of appetite, Doct. Milligan kindly attended him, and administered such Medicines as he conceived would afford relief, the Doct. at first imagined it was a severe liver attack, but his increasing debility & freedom from pain led the Doct. to suppose that some other portion of the viscera were also attacked, about 6 weeks ago I informed my dear boy that in all probability he would not recover, this intimation he received with much Calmness, his own mind appeared to have been prepared for it, he had been given to much thoughtfulness & meditation for some time previous, and this together with reading the Scriptures & conversation with his Mother & myself produced an increasing tone of spiritual-mindedness and resignation to all the will of his Heavenly Father in
 W. Geo. W. Walker his dealings

Robert Capel
1845

his dealings with him, his Saviour became more & more
precious and in mental prayer he appeared to hold much
communion and spiritual intercourse with the Lord. in this state
his mind unclouded & his understanding clear his body
continued to waste until about 2 o'clock in the morning of
the 18th he sank into the arms of his Redeemer, on the
same Evening we committed his remains to the grave, where
it lies surrounded with the graves of the strangers whom
he dearly loved, & to whom he frequently addressed those
of them who are still alive upon them visiting him, to
prepare for eternity. His mother and myself are thankful
and much supported in spirit by the consideration of his
being so long spared, and mind and hope so firmly fixed
upon the atonement and mediation of His Lord & Saviour.

I hope we truly say with respect to his separation "the Lord gave
& the Lord has taken away blessed be the Name of the Lord"
I find that I have occupied too much space in this account of
my dear boy, but the event has been so recent that the mind
dwells upon, probably more than it should.

It affords me much gratification to hear of the success
of your Dear Partner, family & self, that your spirit may
be much lifted up to the Lord for his goodness & simplicity
of every thing but sin - It is to empty us of self & the world,
that his Spirit stoops to teach us, and when we are not receiving
and dwelling upon his internal admonitions and instructions but leaning
upon self & the world, with our minds unnecessarily engaged in
in earthly things, the Father is pleased to teach us by a way
we looked not for - & by providential & mental afflictions
we should thankfully kiss the hand that does not afflict us
willingly & remember in deep humility that it is written
of Gods people of old in his merciful dispensation, "These things
will I do unto them & not forsake them" (!!!)

I will afford you much satisfaction to hear of the improvement
of the Aborigines, both in Civilization, industry, and Education
and I hope that the minds of some of them are engaged in
Spiritual matters, the questions which they put to me
are often interesting and evince reflection. I commenced book
instruction in June on the arrival of a supply of Elementary
books, and at an examination held on the 15th Inst there
appeared - 1 Learning Arithmetic 3 Writing - 3 Reading -
& attempting to write & Read, & the Remainder Spel-
ling, Doct^r Milligan was gratified at their improvement.
Several of them are able to write their names, and
With the Divine blessing I hope that 10 or twelve of
the Males will be able to read the Word of Life.
Their general industry and management of their Gardens
has also been very gratifying, they have raised a
quantity of Potatoes & enclosed a large tract of land
for Cultivation, & their persons & houses are clean
& comfortable. I cannot now enter more in detail
the circumstances under which I write & the unex-
pected departure of the vessel precludes my doing
so. Doct^r Milligan is going from this settle-
ment on a visit to Lancaster - upon his return
I hope to be enabled to write you more fully
so as to enable you to communicate to Doct^r
Hodgekin some interesting matter connected
with my poor people. Doct^r Milligan
informs me that he intends to leave this
Settlement very shortly probably for England

as you will tell him in Hobarttown about the
time you receive this communication he will inform
you particularly of the present ~~state~~ circumstances
of the Aborigines. His final departure will be
a very great loss to the poor Natives, for since the
death of his wife, he has paid them the most devoted
attention & care, and under his fostering hand very
much of their advances in improvement have taken
place - there is a judiciousness of manner, and
an interest in promoting every little thing
that may improve them that very few but
himself would attend to. Indeed he has been the
only person in charge of this people who has
managed the Establishment for the benefit of the
Gov^t & the welfare & prosperity of the Aborigines
I hope you will be able to get up a Society such
as you say, succeeding Superintendents may not
be like Doct. Mulligan, and it would be well
for the poor people to have avowed friends -
They all request of me to tell you and Doct^r
Officer how much they love you & wish there
a direct conveyance, before this they would have
sent both the Doct^r & you as expressions of their
esteem - Some Mariner's & Crystals - and ^{offering} the first
Mrs. Black writes with me in kind remembrance to
you and Mr. W. I do not forget of father & mother
& his Sons - my respects to them all & believe me
Yrs. Sincerely
Robt. Clark.