

Mrs. Mather,
Deptford.

My dearly beloved Sister,

You will, I doubt not, excuse my coming again to see you, as Sister Isab. is gone, together with Mr. N. to stay a few days at Mr. Woods at Norwood, and was necessitated to take the servant with them to attend upon her, she being still much afflicted, therefore I cannot leave the house: and, besides, I really think the parting would be too much for us both. Be assured, my dear Sister, that you lie near my heart, and the concern I have for your welfare is inexpressible.

It is painful to be thus separated, but, I would fain indulge a hope, that, we shall again meet in the body, if not, I trust we shall all meet to spend a never ending eternity in those blessed regions, where pain and parting shall be no more.

Oh, that we may all be fully prepared for that date: of how little importance will it then be what has been our lot in this world, whether our path has been rough and thorny, or smooth and easy, only as far as Holiness and usefulness has been promoted.

Though absent in body, still we are present in spirit, and I most sincerely intreat you to remember me at the throne of grace, as I hope ever to do you,

beseeching the Lord, who alone is able to support, comfort, direct, and help you thro' all that you may have to pass thro' in your pilgrimage.

I had a letter from Sam^e today, wherein he expresses great solicitude for you and yours, and begs me to let you know, that, as a family, we have thought it desirable to set apart a day for fasting and prayer, to entreat the Lord that, if consistent with his will, he may remove from us as a family those various afflictions, under which many of us at present labour, and, particularly, in behalf of you and family, that the helping blessing of God may rest upon you.

We have appointed Friday next, as a suitable day. We have also proposed, that, from 6 to 7 on the evening of that day should be particularly set apart by each of us, so that our united prayers may ascend as incense before God.

Isab. begs me to say she is sorry, that it has been out of her power to see you, desires her very kind love to you, and Mr. M.

I have enclosed an account of the money collected by Mrs. M., from which you will perceive, that I ^{have} still in my hands £7-3-5 with which I have to pay Mr. Witt for porter etc. What may remain, which will not be much, I will give to Miss Mather toward paying for the various things she has bought for you. One thing I do request, and, that is, that

is that you will write, or get some one to let us know, as often as possible, go on, you may be sure we shall be to hear how you get on, and I only wish to bear all your burdens, but I must commit into the hands of Him who is ever the refuge and strength of those who trust in Him, that you may at all times, and, in all seasons, be favoured with the consolations of his Spirit - is the ardent prayer of your ever ~~ever~~ affectionate Sister

Sarah Benson -

April 9th 1822.

If you have any thing to say to me, tell Miss M., who, I doubt not, will deliver it faithfully. Adieu -

Give my very kind love to Mr. M., and tell I have confidence in him, that, to the utmost of his power, he will take care of you, and the dear children.