

Mrs. Mather.

Vandiemans Land.

London, June 29th, 1822.

My very dear & much beloved Sister,

Being persuaded that it would afford you unspeakable pleasure & delight to hear of our welfare, & to receive any intelligence from our highly favoured country, the remembrance of which will ever be dear to you, I cannot forbear, embracing this opportunity, of writing to you - that, if it should have pleased the Almighty to have preserved you to reach in safety the place of your destination, I may have the happiness of administering some consolation to sooth your mind; it may be in much affliction and sorrow.

How often, when you were near us, have I felt happy in being able in any degree to assist you. Shall I not still assist you by my feeble prayers & intercessions on your behalf. How may we rejoice that we have been taught to believe & trust in that God who is the unchangeable, eternal, self-existent, almighty Jehovah! who is omniscient, omnipotent & omnipresent, whose wisdom is unsearchable, power infinite, & love eternal, who is a Being of inflexible justice, & of boundless mercy, shall we not rejoice in having such a God for ours. Does he not require our unbounded confidence & love, our highest adoration & most devout praise:

especially, when we behold Him in the face of Jesus Christ, when we look at His amazing love, in gift of His Son, to redeem a lost & ruined world. How wondrous is the scheme of redemption, which angels desire to look into. Shall we not praise Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit, by whose influence & assistance we may be brought to eternal life, & Oh! my dear Sister, shall we not, above all, rejoice that life & immortality are brought to light, by the Gospel, & that we are spared, when this short, transitory, uncertain, & changeable life is ended - (which is so full of labours, affliction & sorrow & trial - whereas, our Poet observes we have: "Drops of good with draughts of ill between").

We have before us a state of unutterable felicity & glory beyond what our finite minds can conceive; when our bodies cease, which are, now to us, such a source of misery, & so often depress & weigh down our spirit, shall be quick as lightning & brighter than the sun. Where, we shall for ever dwell in the full fruition & enjoyment of God, in the company of angels & glorified spirits, where, we shall meet all our beloved relatives & friends, who will no doubt welcome us on that happy shore - our little bark having safely crossed the troublesome ocean of life, having weathered all its storms, arrives at the harbour of eternal repose & the haven of rest.

Oh! that you, your dear Husband, & children, may all be preserved to eternal life. May you be made the happy partakers of salvation, may you live in the enjoyment & comfort of religion yourselves, & be instrumental

of great good to others. May you ever keep in view, that, we are not to live to ourselves, but to the honor & glory of God, our Saviour.

You will probably meet with many things to try your faith & patience, but keep the eye of your mind fixed on Jesus, who, as our example, was in all points tempted as we are, who, for the joy set before him, endured the cross, despised the shame, & as captain of our salvation, was made perfect thro' suffering, & by this grace you shall prove victorious over your enemies.

Oh! that you, my beloved sister, in all seasons, may realise the presence of the Almighty, rest on his power, & confide in his faithfulness & prove all the promises of his word to be verified to you.

God is a refuge & strength, a rock, to which his people resort, and are safe from all evil.

You are perfectly acquainted with all these truths, & it is a species of presumption in me to attempt to instruct you, but pardon this liberty, & pray for us, that, we all together, with you, may be the saved of the Lord, clothed with his righteousness, & meet for his kingdom.

We feel anxious to hear of your arrival, which we hope to do ere you receive this. Many friends are continually enquiring after you, & are truly interested in your welfare. We expect often to hear from you, and, that you will be particular in describing how you are situated, & minutely detail every particular circumstance. Do not deceive us, but let things be represented in a true light. Let us

know how to direct to you, & also always tell us, when you write, if the letters we may send come to hand, which we will do in return.

I am still residing with Isabella, who is thro' the goodness of the Lord much better in health. She has been brought back from the borders of Death. On the 1st of May, she was delivered of a still born child, & was in imminent danger, both at the time & for some days after. She has been reduced very low, but beyond the expectation of all. She has been raised up again, a fresh instance of the Lord's mercy. As it appeared necessary ^[new paragraph] for her to go in the country for change of air,

Mr. Whytall has taken her down to Hull by the steam packet to see his sister who resides there, where I expect her to stay a few weeks. They do better in business than formerly.

Bro^r. Samuel has been in town last week is now gone to weeks with Bro^r. John during the Cambridge vacation that they may together the life which Mr. McDonald has written of my Father.

As far as they have read it, they like it much. They think his remarks very just & excellent & that the extracts from the Diary & papers are well chosen. They expect to put it to the Press in the beginning of August. The tomb is erected, but the inscription is not yet done. If all is well Sam^l expects to take his degree & leave college next January, & then take orders & enter into the Ministry. May he be fully prepared for this sacred office, & become a

useful minister of Christ. It is uncertain where his lot will be cast. It is probable that I may reside with him for a season.

Bro^r. Joseph & family are well, as also Bro^r. John. Had they known of this opportunity, probably they would have written, & would all beg to be remembered to you, Mr. M., & the dear children.

Give them a thousand kisses for us & never let them forget us. Oh! how I long to see you all, but this hope I dare not indulge.

I trust, thro' the mercy of God, we shall have good tidings of you all, & that your way will be made prosperous.

Give my very kind love to Mr. M. I shall ever respect & love him for the great affection & kindness manifested to you & to all our family. I often think of the many happy hours I spent under your roof in Sun Street, but, they are gone, never to return.

I hope Mr. M. has, before this, quite recovered from his fall & will feel no bad effect from it. May it please God to preserve you, to each other, many years, & to grant you both every spiritual & temporal blessing.

I must draw to a conclusion as the paper is full. I could in this way still continue to hold converse with you, who ever lay near my heart, & are never absent from my mind, tho' separated in body, one in spirit we are; & can hold communion with each other. Spirit may with spirit blend. Remember me to Mr & Mrs Siddleston, Hopkins, Dunn etc. etc. to Miss Reed & Mary Combs, & tell her Fanny has left Mr. Gilberts & has got a comfortable place.

in Holborn, is very well, sends her love to her. Miss M. & Adam send their kind love to you, Mr. M., & the children. They are very well & seem to do very well in business.

And now, adieu, my dear Sister. May the God of all hope & consolation be yours to assist, I wist, support & help you in your journey thro' this vale of Tears & woe, & that we may all meet in glory—is the ardent prayer of your unworthy but truly affectionate Sister,

Sarah Benson.