

Mrs. Mather,  
Hobart Town,  
Van Diemens Land.

London, Nov<sup>r</sup>. 11<sup>th</sup>, - 1828.

My very dear Sister,

When your very kind letter arrived, I was in Somersetshire spending a few weeks with Brother John and family. We were all rejoiced, once more, to see your handwriting, as well as to hear of your welfare & comfort, but we were much pained to hear of your continued affliction. We do truly sympathise with you, and pray that the God of all comfort may support and help you at all times, and under whatever your Heavenly Father may see good to call you to pass through in this vale of tears. I especially thank you for the very sweet letter you sent me. It did me good to read it, and to behold the power of divine grace manifested to you. Truly, the Lord is good to his people, and none shall trust in him & be confounded.

You have long walked in the way of righteousness. The Lord has kept your feet, that they have not slipped, and he will still keep you, & bring you at last to your Father's house in peace.



It is a great privation not to be able to attend the public ordinances of God, but, when providentially prevented, this is made up to us. God by his Spirit teaches us & leads into all truth. Oh! let us more earnestly seek his influences. Let us live in the Spirit & may the Spirit dwell in us. I feel nothing else is worth living for. I want to be more actively devoted to God; to set my affections on things above. How soon may we be called hence? May we be ready to go forth and meet the Bridegroom. What a world of disquiet is this. How sweet will be the haven of rest.

We are, here, toiling & fighting & contending with various enemies. But, if at last, we are crowned with victory, it will make us simple amends. Did not our Blessed Saviour for the joy set before him endure the cross, despising the shame: and may not we? Let us be encouraged to look to the hope set before us, the anchor of our soul, sure & steadfast, untiring within the veil, wither Jesus, our forerunner, has for us entered. We all need help from God, but you in an especial manner. How thankful I felt to God on your account, that you are able to testify that you feel God is present with you. Yea, always very precious to you in your little solitary chamber. He is faithful to his promise. He will meet with us, & make up every loss & privation. May you still find him to be a strong rock, a place of defence, "May you prove his utmost salvation, his fulness of love".



I often feel with you in spirit, though we may never meet in body, we shall meet, where parting will be no more. What shall we then say to each other? Surely, we shall greet each other, where all the Ships Company meet, who sailed with their Master beneath.

Mrs. Mortimer desires to be kindly remembered to you, & says she thinks she shall be home first. Indeed, she is much broken, & will not be much longer with us.

Miss Wesley is gone. She died at Bristol, very triumphantly, about August. I went with my Brother John to Bristol & Bath & Clifton, & had a very pleasant excursion, & found it very beneficial to my health, which had been very indifferent.

I went, the beginning of June, and returned, the beginning of August, to be present at the conference held in London ..... year.

We still live where we did, & by the goodness of God enjoy every temporal blessing & might ..... spiritual one.

My Brother is fully occupied indeed ..... of such an active turn of mind, that he would be truly wise and able, if he were not. I also find employment - what, with my class, which I meet at Southwark, on Monday evening, & with a charity, of a very extensive nature for relieving lying-in women & the sick & destitute, to which I am secretary, besides a Visitor, & my household concerns, - you will see, I have quite enough to do, & all the



attention I can give is required by the two little children our dear Sister left.

Poor Whytall goes on as usual, much tried, & in great difficulties. Mrs. W. is a pious, amiable woman, has one little one of her own, & is in the way again.

Isabella & Sarah-ann improve & are sweet children. They are very delicate. Sarah is so weakly as not yet to be able to run away. They are often with us. I trust God will preserve them & bless them.

Our dear Sister is happily escaped from this scene of suffering. What reason have we to be thankful on her account.

I am glad to hear that you have success in business, & are likely to obtain the bread that perisheth.

You have no doubt had great trials to pass thro', many harassing doubts, & fears. But God has hitherto helped you. Still have faith in God & he will deliver you.

I am very much delighted to hear so favourable an account of the children. I earnestly hope they will be a great comfort to you & their dear Father, & will lessen your cares, & bear your burdens, & soothe your sorrows, & in short, be all to you that dutiful & affectionate children would be. I hope they fear & love God. Then I can answer for the rest, for every bliss of the new covenant will be theirs. Commit them to God in much prayer.



The seed of the righteous shall be blessed. It seems to us very distressing that you should be separated from your family. Could not Sarah be with you? Surely she would be able at her age to be a great help to you.

Give my kind love to Mr. Mather & tell him I shall ever affectionately remember him. How glad should I be to see you, & if you were within any distance of Land, I should make an attempt, but the formidable sea rolls between us, & I have such a dread of it, that I could not venture. But the time may come. We may see each others face in the flesh.

I love you more than ever, & I am anxiously concerned for your welfare & that of the dear children. I pray that God may preserve them & make them useful & ornamental to his religion, & that they may be devoted to his service & glory.

Let us often hear from you. It gives us unspeakable satisfaction. Write often, & at large. Tell us minutely how you get on. Let us unite in prayer for each other. Remember, as we need your prayers, many are our exercises, weaknesses, doubts & fears. Oh! pray that God may ever direct us, guide us in the path of duty, support & uphold us.

I often feel great depression of spirit, & am prone to look at difficulties which may present themselves, but, I endeavour to trust in the Lord, who has hitherto opened our way, & placed us in spheres of usefulness, & has granted us favours in both the Parishes



in which my Brother labours. I believe he is generally beloved, & we have many kind friends, both in the Church & among the Methodists. I often go to see Miss Mather, & sometimes sleep there.

Many friends enquire after you & feel interested for you. Bro<sup>r</sup>. John has five children and expects another any day. He is about placing John at Bristol, as apprentice to a surgeon.

Bro<sup>r</sup>. Jos<sup>h</sup> & family are as usual, live where did, & I believe go on somewhat better in temporal things, but I fear, as to better things, they have little care or concern. It is very sad considering the many calls they had. But the world has their hearts.

I must conclude with very kind love to you all. God Almighty bless you - adieu -

Believe me, your ever  
affectionate Sister,

Barah Benson.

It is to be lamented that Mr. Mather does not send a remittance. Mr. Richard Smith is very much grieved & thinks Mr. M. does not use him well. Certainly the least Mr. M. could do was to have written & explained the reasons, which I hope he will do as early as possible.