

York 10mo. 15. 1854.

My dear J. B. Walker.

By this mail I send  
thee a copy of a memoir of  
Thos. Pumphrey, which I think  
will interest thee, for though  
thou wast not an Act with  
scholar I think thou wilt re-  
member T. Pumphrey. There is  
much instructive counsel in  
his letters, for persons of all  
ages; and there are delightful  
notices of his dear old father -  
in-law, Geo. Richardson, of  
Newcastle; and there is affec-  
tionate mention of others, some  
of whom thou hadst a know-  
ledge of. And moreover the  
book is edited by our excellent  
friend John Ford, which will  
render it still more interest-  
ing to thee. I have no doubt but



many of the Transumanian rela-  
tives & friends will also like to  
read it. — "The memory of the just  
is blessed," is a true proverb, in a  
double sense: it is blessed to those  
who reflect upon it with the ad-  
vantage of personal recollection,  
and to those under whose notice  
it is brought by written records.  
May it thus be doubly blessed to  
thee, in this case, as well as in  
that of thy dear Father, and in  
many other cases. —

Time produces many changes, &  
if thou couldst again visit York,  
I have no doubt but thou wouldst  
see many evidences of this. Our  
dear old Mr. Wm Richardson is  
near his end: he is confined to his  
bed & very weak; but in a comfort-  
able state of mind, resting on his  
Saviour, in the feeling of his love  
& mercy. W Richardson is 84. His  
aged sister-in-law Mary Austler,  
who is 86, is still active & kind;

but her memory fails gradually.  
She seldom speaks in our meetings,  
but when she does, is quite collected.  
My own health has given way,  
a little within the last half year.  
I have no feeling of languor or weak-  
ness, but frequent attacks of pain  
in my hands & arms, culminating  
in a sort of spasms, high up in  
my breast, & which, tho' not affect-  
ing my breathing, require me to  
stop in walking, to let them pass  
off. They affect me little in the early  
part of the day, but so much in the  
latter part that I do not go out much  
in an afternoon or evening, unless  
in a cab; & they keep me wholesome-  
ly alive to the uncertainty of my  
continuance here, which, as I have  
passed three score & ten, cannot  
now be long. But I feel that herein  
I have much more cause to give  
thanks than to complain, for the  
love of Christ is very precious to  
me, and I am blessed with an  
abiding sense of his presence.  
In this there is absence of the portion  
of past sin, a capacity to bless and



praise God, and an assured hope  
of eternal life. What therefore can  
I ask more for myself, except that  
this may continue to the end? And  
I feel no doubt but this also will be  
granted in the unmerited mercy  
of my Heavenly Father, for Jesus'  
sake. —

My sister Elizabeth continues nicely,  
but she looks older & thinner since  
her illness in spring. She will prob-  
ably have told thee that our sister  
Sarah & niece Sarah Jane Pack have  
have left Darlington & returned to  
live with us at Dolgate. It is very  
pleasant to us to have them again  
as part of our household family. —

I was pleased to learn by thy letter  
to my sister, that thou wast taking  
part, under a feeling of duty, with  
some other young men, in in-  
structing in doctrine to some of  
your class favoured neighbours.  
I pray the divine blessing rest on  
your labours, & on your selves  
in them.

My love to your circle & to my  
Presbyterian friends generally.  
Thine affectionately,  
James Backhouse