SARAH BENSON to Mrs. ROBERT MATHER

3 Mar 1822

Tuesday even. 12 o'clock.

My ever dear Ann Mather,

Having an opportunity of sending a few lines; I cannot forbear, after your kind answers and kindness at this last time; I see your letter to-day, is one from Mr. B. yesterday, containing a list of the various things you wished to have. I have sent you by Mr. P. the

blue silk for John's frock. It is one I had to make a whole Black Union

for thunder, as I am very sure we could not right the small time to make clothes that

had not a cake for the dear children, as you will find in the letter otherwise very

come through. But for the rest, don't blame us for not sending them in2, as we will not have to get them this month, as we wish; as there will be so

many perhaps to get something sent. You can send a canister to the other

part with Mrs. P., or yesterday, who has indeed interestred herself in your behalf.

When succeeded beyond our most reasonable expectations, several friends have addressed very handsomely, the wife to & the son of Mr. P., who sent her two

horses for you. I am sure, from what I can learn, they have got altogether about 5

pounds of corn; they have bought a quantity of bread from us. According to Mr. P.

with some things you thought necessary. The thought it was kindly offered that

you should, the thing you specified, but was informed that part of the money will

be reserved in order that you might have some for any expenses on the voyage.

A letter from Sarah Benson to her sister Ann Mather, who was at Ramsgate, into which the disabled 'Hope' had sailed, after narrowly escaping shipwreck in October, 1821.

The Mathers sailed for Van Diemen's Land on the bark 'Heroine' on the 23 April, 1822.

The letter details the ordering of extra rations, including 1 gal. brandy,
1 oz. of gin, 1 gal. vinegar, 140 lbs. each preserved meat......
or for your kindness if you should please; I have been with Mrs. Baggins
this week & we have agreed upon sending you the following articles, to
be had, &c. of course, some more various parcels, the list of which
was of necessity quite short, partly from the great pressed need of
some cloth, &c. you mention, which allowance we calculate will come in between those already promised; we think it would not be
remiss to take better as we understand it will not keep round the holidays, &
you wish it not to be hurried. If you can, don't get it at Cambridge from good authority we
are assured that the cloth provision will be of a very excellent quality, that there
will be plenty of good treated meat, too, and for the wines, however
for the gentlemen, it is not a duty for you to take a decanter cannot
stand still, but what is necessary for you. I should think you would not be able
the expense of lying one. Many comme is comfortably settled in place;
I would be a pity to unsettle her. Mrs. Darby has a great deal to ground round
I should think go for nothing; how can you get two acres &c. & her husband has been
very often asked to get a place on board the ship, but
has not succeeded. He would not have paid his way out of the debt, unless very
eyear four years or be allowed it would give me a great pleasure were it in our
hands to do more for you, & to supply you with every thing in abundance, & that
it gives me great pain that we cannot be in such a situation as to supply your wants
without being obliged to spend for ourselves: the obligation is indeed great &
I hope we shall all be duly sensible of it, & especially grateful to God for how we
would have wished them cheerfully to come forward to your help. It is thought
be most advisable to send all things to you by the steamgate packet, &
Mrs. W. & some other friends, think that it would not be proper to send them
x the parcels, as they hope to have a few left to send you after purchasing
the various articles, without some one to take care of them, they strongly
hope we will go see you, but I have not yet determined if I should it will
most probably be by the next week's packet, but I will write again
positively about it. Seasoned at pace to Cambridge. Present to her to day
With love to Mrs. W. & the children.
Sarah Benson

The fare we can do are both out done.

God & Mrs. W. send love & &