

Holdgate House 23 - 1862

My dear James

Thy very acceptable letter of 22nd of Pth mo. I received on the 20th of this month, this gives so good an opportunity of answering by the mail, that, I feel inclined at once to commence a letter. Thou need not apologize for writing about thyself, as this is a subject most interesting to me. Thou wilt be surprised to find that I have not yet got thy prospect, I have been continually expecting it, last week my Brother had a note from the young man stating that, he did not expect to be in York & wishing to know how he was to send it, my Brother replied that, he had better send it by passenger train, but it has not yet arrived, which is rather disappointing as I should have liked to have received it before writing. When my Brother was in London a few weeks ago, he heard that the young man

who has it in charge near in Birmingham
hand, however of it does not arrive
soon I think he will write again
& request it may be sent, to my brother
Joseph Crookfield, Five 3 Great,
Tower Street, where my Brother can
get it when he is again in London
which he expects to be in about three
weeks. I am interested in hearing
of thy different employments, and
sources of interest, whilst, these seem
to be very laudable ones, I would
give a caution that, they do not in-
terfere with thy home duties, there
is a danger in this day of the time
being so closely occupied as to give
us opportunity for social intercourse
in the domestic circle, I do not know
that this may be thy case, but in
some places in this land there is a
tendency of this kind, which is not
good. I have been interested in
reading the book thou mentioned
'The Near & Heavenly Horizon', there
is much that is beautiful & practical
in it, but there is a want of depth
of the acknowledgment of Gospel
Truth in all its fullness, however
after all I like the book. I am

just now much interested in reading
Stanley's Essays on the History of
the Eastern Church, the account
of the Council of Nicea & of the Em-
perors Constantine, shows the state
of the Christian world in that early
period in a very striking manner.
In this day when there is so
much written it is very necessary
to be very careful in our selection
of real good books, we find that
in the Book Society, but are pe-
ticular not to admit controversial
works, or such as are likely to give
false views of Christian Doctrine.
The of course there are sentiments
in a large number that, one cannot
write with. The Bible readings
have been again commenced, they
were suspended during the summer
months, they are held in the small
meeting house once a fortnight, &
are generally well attended & prove
interesting & profitable to many.
I do not regularly attend, indeed
the distance rather too great, &
not being partial to being out
in the dark, my Brother goes

regularly when at home. There are
generally a considerable number
take part in them - We have a
large number of persons who attend
our meetings, who are not members,
the two were received last month
one of these John Mac Moran thou
will remember as my Brother's best
he is a deeply experienced Christian,
& is particularly helpful in the
Reading Meetings - The other is a
young man of the name of Harrod
who is connected with Friends that
been for some time in W. Briggs
shop - I do rather fear whether
thy attendance at the Independent
Chapel may not weaken thy at-
tachment to what we believe the
more simple & scriptural views
held by Friends. There is something
very taking to the young mind in
listening to what is called good preach-
ing, but is not this likely to draw
the mind from that deep inward
detachment of soul which leads
unto Christ, & looks to Him as the
minister of ministers. We have
just now a striking example in

my Cousin Fanny Williams, she
had been for some time very kind
in the Ministry, particularly when
from home of attending other
places of worship, & now seems
very likely to leave Friends, & yet
does not give the evidence of that
real baptism which can alone
profit the soul, indeed she seems
to have got into a state of heathen
dormancy, & one can only earnestly
desire for her that she may be
enabled to see where she really is,
& in simple obedience be willing
to follow the leadings of her spirit. I
have not had an opportunity of
giving my response of love since
receiving thy letter, just now we
have very stormy weather, and
wrecks upon the coast - Our Queen
is detained at Brimsford not being
able to get home as she had intended
on second day, & the storm signals
are still out, the gardens are quite
robbed of their summer beauty,
& are looking very forlorn -
I should need my dear sister
very much here for nearly three

months, it has been very pleasant to
us being together, especially as my
dear Mother has been much from
home. Now that Thomas has his
business at Ruddlethorpe, & lodgings
at Redens, it becomes a question
as to where my Sister should live,
there not being the same motive for
her continuing at Darlington, however
she returned with the feeling that, it
was best for her to remain there at
present. Sarah Jane has been very
busy officiating as bridesmaid to
her cousin Jane Eliza, who charged
me on the wedding day to mind &
send their best cards, they live at Gain
ford about six miles from Darlington,
having a railway to very near the house
makes it acceptable & much pleasanter
than living in the town.

We are all much interested in the
prospects of Russell Jeffery going on a
religious visit to India particularly
as our friend Henry Hipsley is liberated
to be his companion in the service,
we had a very interesting monthly
meeting, wherein the cordial unity
& sympathy of his friends, was

most fully expressed - Mr. Reem
is also to go as helper & caretaker
it is a very interesting service, we
hope to meet with Mr. Hipsley, but
so far as we learn their concern
is a much more extensive one than
his. Mr. Hipsley has now gone to take
leave of his aged Parents, who give
him up freely tho' at their very
advanced age there seems little
probability of their seeing him
again - We were very glad to
find the card of books had at last
reached you, but sorry to find
they were in so damp a state
probably from being so long in
London before being shipped.
I hope the Memoirs of my dear
Father will arrive in better
condition, my Brother sent one
try post to insure at least one
copy reaching you soon, probably
ere this they will all have
been received. It is a comfort to
find that the book is so well
received in this land, & there is
a general appreciation of interest,

A pleasure by those who have perused
it, — My Stephen James has not
been very well of late from an
affection of the liver, but I hope
he is improving, Mary & the children
are well. I hope James will write
himself next mail if he wants
plants or seeds, I have not had
the opportunity of asking him, &
it is so stormy I shall hardly get
to West Point today — I am
expecting to go to Newark on ^{the} day
that the Committee, and shall all feel
the great blank Thomas Sampson's
death has made, tho' from his long
season of poor health, it might have
been expected, his end was indeed
one of perfect peace. His son George
has not long survived, leaving
a young widow & baby —

I must now conclude this long
epistle with much love in which
my dear Brother writes believe
me to be thy truly attached friend
Ely ^{the} Backhouse.
Dear love to thy Mother &c —