

Holdgate 12ms. 17-63

My dear James

Had I been of ability I should have acknowledged the receipt of thy very welcome letter which reached me just before the last mail, but I was prevented at that time from writing more than I could help, from a severe attack of inflammation in my eyes, I am thankful to say they are much better tho' my sight is still very defective especially after dark, so that I have some difficulty in finding employment for the long winter evenings, without taxing my power of vision. The sight is said to be very good but from a rheumatic affection there is a want of power to dilate the pupils & a mistiness

The doctors say this would  
probably be removed by an  
operation, but I have not  
made up my mind on this  
point yet, & after seeing various  
means God has blessed  
I and now telling them quietly  
yet - I am sorry to find that  
thou hast so early been attacked  
with rheumatism, it is certainly  
a trying complaint, I have con-  
siderable enlargements from it  
of several of my finger joints,  
& at times have some difficulty  
to bear without flinching a  
very heavy shake of the hand.  
However I do not doubt but  
all these weaknesses are sent  
in love to draw us more closely  
to our Heavenly Father. ~~Let~~ teach  
us what poor feeble creatures  
we are, & I earnestly desire both

God thee & God myself that thou  
lestow intended every way he lov-  
eth he made conducive to our  
everlasting well being -  
Thou wilt probably have seen  
in The Friend the death of our  
dear Julia Kountze, it has been  
very deeply felt in our meeting  
& all her family have deeply  
& keenly felt the bereavement,  
which certainly caused very con-  
siderable weakness in the want of  
power in the eyelids was one  
of the first symptoms of want  
of nervous energy, & they went  
immediately to Parker, hoping  
that sea air might produce  
a bracing effect, but this was  
not the case, & they returned  
home, her strength having so  
decreased that she was carried  
up stairs on her arrival at home  
& never again came down.

Others see how news soon heard, &  
all that nursing & medical skill  
could do, was done, but the power  
continued to wane, tho' her mind  
was bright, & her prospects un-  
clouded, no simple pleasure for  
her saviour, she was enabled to  
look forward without fear, &  
to the leness of her beloved ones,  
B Seehorn had been into Germany  
& did not arrive until the im-  
mortal spirit had fled, it was  
been a crushing blow to him,  
his own health not being good  
of late, but the last accounts  
of him are improved ones; good  
God! thought I some meeting with  
his friends, so that I should never  
come into contact with him since  
Julius' death, partly from my  
being from home, & from my  
own indisposition. — I was at  
Burlington in the 1<sup>th</sup> mo, my dear

Sister Ann has a feeble summer  
getting very little out, but I  
hope is rather better just now.  
Sarah Jane has been very busy  
fitting up her Boston house,  
attending his marriage & he  
lives at Middlebro', his busi-  
ness and Iron Ship builder, he  
has a partner who understands  
the business thoroughly, & so far  
they have got on very suc-  
cessfully, then with reference  
Middlebro', a very smoky  
place, on the river, opposite  
Smoke point, it is a very flow-  
riching place, Iron works,  
& Ship yards in abundance.  
The river just in the outskirts  
of the town, the water, out of its  
smoke, I should think, but they  
suits him, the state is subject  
to fits of asthma, especially

in a high situation, with a  
very clear atmosphere, two of  
the worst attacks he has had  
have been at Munich, both  
times he has been on the Continent.  
I have been trying to see his  
leaving friends, his wife is an  
agreeable young woman, & seems  
desirous of being friendly with  
the family, but we cannot but  
feel more different it would  
have been had Thomas married  
one whose views were in unison  
with ours, however we much  
hope for the best — My nephew  
James Stile continues far from  
strong, tho' better than he was,  
his wife is a great comfort to  
us, we feel her quite like a  
daughter, they have two sweet  
children, who are very fond of  
coming to visit us — I have

been much reminded of my  
School days of late, first by  
my nephews leaving two of  
them to come to be raised in the  
Chickenshop, & next by J. W.  
Chapfield holding the same  
position as thou did at school,  
& today he has left us to re-  
turn here, but to go for one year  
to Tottenham & then to business  
I have felt his leaving greatly,  
tho' now having Albert as well  
as Theodore makes up a little  
they have all left today for  
the vacation — John Ford Stile  
continues as Superintendent, &  
Fielding Hoop as Head Master,  
Silvanus Thompson also one of  
the Teachers, & two of his boys  
pupils — How our meetings  
must be altered since thou left.  
It has become much larger

I think we must have 250  
members, besides a large num-  
ber of attendees, our meetings are  
often highly favoured ones & we  
are privileged with much Gospel  
ministry. — Has Mary Ellis  
and wife, did they ever get a  
letter from T. A.? I think he told  
me he had written to them, they  
wished me to give their dear love  
to them when I wrote, & my cousin  
& Williams & family also. — Fanny  
still continues good from well,  
Mary Anna a most useful evan-  
gelic person — We were very  
glad to hear that, my salary was  
raised, as it gives proof of their  
services being satisfactory, &  
while thus being diligent in  
business, may they be fervent  
in spirit, serving the Lord is the  
sincere prayer of they truly attached  
Friend Eliz<sup>th</sup> — Dear Mother  
My Mother is well & desires his dear love