

Cape Town, 5/8 Mo: 1840.

My dear Friend
 Dr. Cotton:

Altho' I wrote to thee on the 26/5 Mo: or about that period, I am disposed to avail myself of a mail to Pauneston, and again to address thee, in order to acknowledge thy kind letter of the 17th of 12th Mo: which contained many notices of interest, and to make a few remarks upon some of the sentiments expressed in it. By some means, no letters from our friends the clergymen have reached us since some time prior to the date of thine, so that we are without information respecting your little yearly meeting; which it would have been pleasant to have been made acquainted with, being ~~pro-~~ ^{pro-} ~~posed~~, as I trust we are, at least in those things that belong to the Church, as well as those that concern your families, prepared to rejoice with them that do rejoice, and to weep with them that weep." -

To the first paragraph of thy letter, mine of the 3rd Mo: may be something of a reply; or, at least, of a continuation of the summary of our proceedings, up to the period of our arrival in Cape Town. Since that time we have been diligently pursuing our work, chiefly with the pen. We have a tract in English printed, entitled "Observations, &c. of Christian Counsel to the white Inhabitants of South Africa" (but, as this is to thee an unknown tongue, & I have not time to transcribe the interpretation, it must be left at present. Another in Dutch addressed to the Col^d. People is in the translator's hands. An edition of "Salvation by Jesus Christ," in the Lusutu language (spoken by the Basuto Bechuana's) is printed; and a translation of the same into Caffer is in progress. Added to these, a school for children of the lower class (chiefly coloured: many of them Mahomedan) has been opened by the liberality of our English Friends, in purchased premises, under the charge of thy old school fellow R^d. Jennings, and in the same place, our meetings are held: but nothing yet appears to afford expectation of a settled congregation of Friends. R^d. is strongly attached to the principles of our Society, and his mind is under a precious visitation, and retains a religious concern to devote himself to the instruction of children in Africa; but, to be thoroughly a Friend in practice, he has yet some steps to retrace: his wife is a pious Wesleyan with a predilection for Friends: she also came to this land under an apprehension that it was her religious duty to engage in teaching children: they have three little daughters (having lately lost their eldest) and a little black, who with many others, was rescued from slavery by a ship of war. These, with two young men who came from England as Juvenile Emigrants, and who are servants in the town, and frequently attend our meeting, constitute our congregation; which, occasionally, has the addition of a few others. - We have ~~also~~ ^{lately} visited a few coloured congregations in the town (of which, as well as of schools, there are several) and have attended a few Military Temperance Meetings, as well as visited the Convict Establishment of this Colony, on Robben Island, distant about 9 miles, in the Bay. - We shall still have work for a few weeks, but it is yet probable my dear Companion may have time to sail for Wardian's Land in 12 Mo: and we hope he may reach Hobart Town in time for the Yearly Meeting. It seems ^{likely} ~~probable~~ I may be here a few weeks later; but if that should ^{be} ~~be~~ ^{erroneous} right, I have no objection. I may see the school a little further in progress, & reach England at a less inclement season. -

The next subject in course, is, that of Captain Machonochie's views of Penal Discipline: and, though I hope to be preserved from hurting his feelings, I must nevertheless express different sentiments in some points to those contained in thine. I quite agree with thee, that Norfolk Island is not the place to give his plan a fair trial: never theless, a great improvement may take place there by the adoption of a system so rational, & so consistent with Christianity: the improvements that of late years have taken place on Norfolk Island, and which have had a very ameliorating effect on the morals of the prisoners, have been approximations toward Machonochie's views. I am glad thou givest the Capt credit for wishing to improve the state of the prisoners: but I cannot say I ~~think~~ think, because he has suggested, that it would be advisable to appoint a person in a Penal Colony, to have the chief controul of the prisoners, independent of the Governor; for certain substantial reasons ^{which} he has given, that it is consistent with the precept of Him who has said "Judge not that ye be not judged"; and to whom, as "his own master, he must stand or fall"; to prejudge his motives as selfish. - Nor do I think his conduct so evidently dishonourable, as some seem to make it. I am aware that he was under an engagement not to correspond with the Prison Discipline Society, except thro' the medium of the Lieut. Gov. & the Sec. of State for the Colonies, but not that he was under any limitation in regard to private correspondence. Probably at the time he left England, the question of private correspondence had neither suggested itself to his own mind nor to the minds of ^{the officers here} ~~those~~ interested in the subject. If so, "where there is no law there is no transgression." - I am not a little surprised that any one should bring this as an argument, in the smallest degree, against his views, (as it is evidently without weight in this respect; or, that any one should try to justify the hasty conduct of Sir Jⁿ Franklin in displacing Captain Machonochie. Under any circumstances such precipitancy was imprudent, without undervaluing the general character of the Lieut. Gov. - this was an act arising out of circumstances in which Sir John was evidently put off his guard, and which, I have not the least idea, his own calmer judgment approved, or would have justified, had he not been bolstered up in it, by those unfriendly to Machonochie. The attempt to make out Captain Machonochie to be nobody - all but unknown in England, savours so much of the blindness of prejudice, such as catches at straws to fortify itself, that I can only wonder that any one should in-
jure his cause, however weak, by making it. - I must say upon the following question, that I doubt whether my friend has read Captain Machonochie's essays as at all clearly to understand them; or, if so, surely he must have forgotten their drift. "So it possible that eight bad men, destitute of moral principle can by association, make even one good man, by any moral restraint they may have one over another?" Captain Machonochie would ^{say} ~~say~~ ^{say} No. The very purpose for which he has proposed his views, is to obviate the sure influence they have in corrupting one another; and to place against this, such tangible motives and influence, as shall work upon them, and in some measure through them, to restrain them from evil, and to teach them under the influence of their common interest to practice self-denial. The question should stand thus: whether will eight men, as now associated in the huts of prisoners, without moral motives or previous discipline, or the same number after having been subjected to several years moral training, be likely to conduct themselves best? The question of Captain Machonochie's association, & agency, has nothing to do with his views of Penal Discipline: these views are not submitted to any one, either on the weight of Captain Machonochie's own character, or that of his friends, but on their own intrinsic weight. But, with regard to his association with Col. Arthur's enemies, these were not treated as the enemies by Sir Jⁿ Franklin before. Capt. Machonochie left him: at least, not while we were in N. D. L. Sir John wisely let no man be his enemy simply because he had opposed his predecessor. With regard to the plan of separation of prisoners as practised in America, and which Tho. Edly took pains to promote; the result has not proved favourable. It has failed in the point in which Col. Arthur always said it would. By imposing restraint physically instead of morally, it would not promote the habit of self-denial in the midst of temptation. The religious care bestowed in connection with the Auburn System, as it is called, may have produced some impression

religious care. ^{as} has in some instances, in the system pursued by Col. Arthur (not projected by him) but this is to be considered a part from either system, and applicable to both, and also to that of Macouckie. Col. Arthur expressed to us a conviction that the system of Penal Discipline used in Sean Diemen's Land was not satisfactory: and when we went to Sydney, he enjoined upon us, to be on the look out, to see if we could get any hints for its alteration. But what we found there was an inferior edition of the same system; and even more defective in regard to moral motives or improvement. - An intelligent officer in charge of the Convict Establishment on Hobben Island, has perused Captain Macouckie's papers; and he says, the plan he projected is just what himself has been wanting; that, though he is aware there will be a host of prejudice to contend against, he is sure the plan will in the end prevail, because it is so rational, being founded on sound Principles. - In regard to the aspersions cast upon the Colonists, I apprehend they have themselves much to blame for them, in conjunction with the system of Penal Discipline with which they have been involved: and the unreasonable prejudices they too generally exhibited against Col. Arthur, and which seem to have been transferred to Captain Macouckie; and of which many of their Public Prints bear strong testimony before the British Nation; confirm the Inhabitants of Great Britain in the conviction that they are not undeserved, possibly even more strongly than the case warrants. - If those sentiments should prove at all wounding, or should in any measure irritate any old sore (and most of us have tender places) I would gladly apply a healing plaster. And on considering what it must be made of, I can only think of this ingredient: - Poce. And, in the slowing of this, I would extend a caution against allowing thy mind to be ruffled by the sentiments of those who have not come to that state of submission to spiritual discipline, in which "judgment is laid to the line" of righteousness; and whose judgment is, therefore, often, not according to truth, but biased by self interest, party spirit, and other unworthy motives. Let us endeavour to possess our souls in patience; and to have our strength in quietness and confidence, keeping so close to the Great Physician that our eyes may often be reanointed with that eye salve which we may buy ^{from} of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; by the entire submission and dedication of our hearts unto him; who also gave himself for us, to whom be glory for ever, Amen.

I shall be glad to hear of an increased measure of temporal prosperity, if the Lord see that best for you. With respect to the Port Phillip project, I do not seem to have a sentiment different from thy own. Truly in such matters it is most important, to be assured that the steps taken are right steps. Wrong ones are difficult indeed to retrace: and in taking right ones watchfulness and prayer are perpetually needful on every hand; lest the unwearied enemy should in any way pervert them.

Greatly do I wish that the changes and troubles of thy weathers may lead them, to seek with diligence for heavenly treasure. So long as the heart is set on earthly things, how perpetually is it torn with disappointments and vexations! Should N. Barrett be removed she will be a great loss, both to her own family & to the community; but there is comfort in the prospect on her own account. We spent a few days very pleasantly under the roof of her brother-in-law Edw. Edwards: the individual I perhaps mentioned, rising at midnight with his wife, at Stellenbosch, to ~~submit~~ receive & welcome us, when we could gain no admission at D'Orban: his first wife was Hannah Barrett's sister. he has several children, is very useful as a Missionary, and keeps very

clear of the party questions in which too many good people in this land have suffered themselves to be involved, to their injury. - Poor W. H. Redler is to be felt for: his mental peculiarity exposes him to some more than common degree of temptation to be unstable in spiritual things; and, listening to the suggestion of his coals enemy (perhaps transformed as an angel of light) he has indeed become involved in great darkness: nevertheless, from thy last, I entertain a hope, that some rays from the Sun of righteousness are penetrating his gloom. - I do not understand W. H. R.'s charge of not fulfilling a promise to write to him; not being aware of having ever made such a promise. Indeed I have not promised so much to my nearest friends; nor have I made a point of writing to them unless I had something upon my mind to communicate. I remember gratefully his hospitality & trust, ever shall: and had he seen how closely our time has been occupied, I do not think he would have thought we treated

Geo Backhouse - 8th Dec
1840

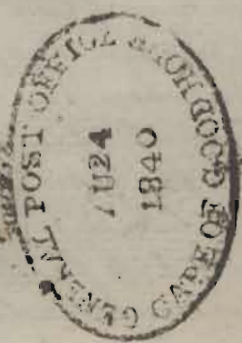
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Francis Cotton

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Geo Backhouse

Nelvedon near

Spring Bay

N. S. Wales

him with neglect; I have not written to some of my Brothers since I saw him; but have trusted to their hearing of me through other channels. Glover is also far behind with his writing: he is now only making up our accounts for two years past, to transmit to England & he is about a year behind in the transcript of his Journal. I also am nine months in arrears, and we work early & late, & rarely go out but for needful exercise. - On this account I w^{ould} hope you will excuse his ^{not} writing: all he can manage in the direction of W. H. R. is (of course) a few lines to B. & C. Remember us both however to W. H. R. and others of whose hospitality we have partaken. Accept the salutation of our Brotherly love thyself and present it also to thy wife & children & the D^r. I remain very affectionately
thy friend
Geo Backhouse