

York 26/10 mo. 1848

My dear Friend
Fr^s Cotton

Thy welcome letter of the 22/1 mo. reached me on the 25/5 mo. when attending our Yearly Meeting in London. Letters from A. Daby to myself & from J. B. Mather to ~~Fr^s Pierce~~ & from G. L. Walker to Geo. Bennington, were rec^d. about the same time. These with the Ans^{rs} to the Queries & Epistle to the Meeting for sufferings, seemed to bring our Australian Friends very near to us, and truly some of us seldom have you long out of our minds. There is a feeling of Brotherly interest toward you in the minds of many in this land; with desires that grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ may be multiplied unto you. We were sorry to find that you had been under trial, and the more so in learning who had been the occasion of suffering to you. There is great need of forbearance when we see how great the weakness of some is, and of long suffering and forgiveness when we remember how we ourselves have been borne with and forgiven. To labour with patience and weakness to bring the erring to repentance, requires no small amount of humility on our own part; and I believe, a frequent reference to what we ourselves owe unto our Lord, is of great advantage, in regard to keeping us in a right state of mind for such service. —
 Thy notice of your dear children and their prospects

Fr^s Pierce & his eldest daughter were at the Yearly Meeting and were both looking well.

Business is in a depressed state in consequence of political alarms, & the
relations in the continent many in consequence of the distress
was deeply interesting, and I felt something of
a concern upon my mind in relation to those
who may be about to marry to persons, not having
come amongst Friends, but who nevertheless may
be the most suitable companions for them that
your country affords. - I doubt greatly the pro-
priety of disowning such as marry in this way
under such circumstances, if they do not trau-
ple upon our testimony against a hiring min-
ister by going to such a one to be married. I even
think that in your case, Friends might make
way for such marriages being celebrated in
their meetings, as our early Friends did before the
Society assumed a completely organized char-
acter. ^{but not with regard to persons of dissimilar faith} I see the danger of opening too wide a
door, but I think that Friends might allow
such intentions of marriage to be laid before
them, and make an appointment to inquire
into their suitability as well as their clearness
from all other similar engagements, and being
satisfied that in point of character the par-
ties were suitable for companions, so far as
circumstances seemed to admit, might allow
such marriages to be solemnized in their meet-
ings. Taking care at the same time that the
party not a member did not become a mem-
ber by such marriage, and that the children
of such parties should not be considered as
having membership by birthright, unless
born after the party not a member before.

our crops are looking well and our last harvest was productive. I had some corn from some parts of Ireland. It is difficult to get from some parts of Ireland.

marriage had become one by admission into membership. I believe, by keeping hold of the party who was a member by this means, his best welfare would be promoted, and his partner would often be drawn closer to friends, and would in many instances settle down with them and bring the children along with them. — I had some conversation with our mutual friend P. Bedford on this. When he went into it he united with us and was favoured with a comfortable home. As long as we remained together we were cemented together. The cementing influence of our Heavenly Father was such that whatever little differences of opinion might have appeared on some subject did not disturb Christian harmony, but we were able to feel in a precious degree, that we were baptized into ^{that} one body of the glorified and ever living head. — I paid the Rev. Mr. a pleasant little visit in his cabin-like sitting room in Newcastle St. Since I wrote last I have been promoted to a rank which thou hast for some time occupied, — that of Grandfather, my daughter Elizabeth Grosfield having become the mother of a little boy, whom they have named James Backhouse. — My Report had married my son & held too soon. We are both single & have no present prospect of changing our condition, for my own part, having reached a greater age than any of my Brothers or Sisters, deceased, attained

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I think more about being buried than married.
 This brings me to the subject of death, and I may just
 notice that this day I have rec^d. tidings of the decease
 of Daniel Wheeler of Bristol, very peacefully, after
 a protracted illness: his sister Sarah is now the
 only survivor of the family of our valued D. Wheeler
 with whom you were acquainted. The deceased has
 left a widow but no family.

NEW YORK
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My dear sister to the big neighborly
 of you, I hope you are interested in
 having of them

How wonderful are the overturnings in Europe. The period
 of the "sea and the waves roaring" seems to have arrived,
 and "men's hearts" are "failing them for fear"; but the true
 disciples of Christ may "lift up their heads."
 With much love to thyself, thy wife, & thy
 children I remain
 thy aff^d fr^d
 Jas. Backhouse