

York 6 mo. 14. 1859.

My dear Fr.

Fr. Cotton

I am not sure whether I have written to thee since our Y. M. but I think not. My sister Eliz^h & self with our niece Sarah Jane Packhouse attended it, and were well satisfied in doing so. As on the occasion when there two years since, I did not attend the committees nor any of the interesting meetings for benevolent purposes, which were held in the young week, not thinking I had strength for more than the Y. M. itself. This I managed pretty comfortably, taking the first days with my son-in-law Jos^h Crossfield, at Reigate, where thou wilt perhaps remember I have four grand-children, their ages range from 7 to 12. They are comfortably cared for by their father's second wife, who has also a daughter and a son, and whose health, I am sorry to say

has not been good for a year past. Regate is now a considerable mg. and is well accommodated in the new meeting house, which is on the site of the old one. —

The G. Mg. was large, very interesting, and I think presented signs of increasing vitality. The folly, gaiety and levity of many young people who attended the Yearly Meeting, has gone quite out of sight, and the steady attention paid to the business is striking, also the interest & part the younger men took in it. —

The subject of transfer of membership between this country and the Australian Colonies was again deferred, the whole question of Settlement being under consideration. But as thou wilt be likely to see notices of the proceedings of the G. Mg. in the Friend or the British Friend, in both of which there is a fair account of it, and in the printed minutes, I will not enter into further detail. — We missed several of our dear friends, both from the general G. Mg. and from that of Ministers,

and Elders; but this is one of the constant lessons on the fleeting character of human life, and truly it is cause for thankfulness when we can believe that those who are gone from us are united to the church of the first born in heaven. Many of those we missed had given unmistakable evidence of their love to their Saviour by their zeal in his cause. And it is comforting to see so many coming up in their places.

I saw thy Brother several times and was comforted in the evidence which I thought I could perceive of his growth in grace. He told me he often got to two or three weekday meetings in the course of a week, and that he would not be likely to do if he did not find in them good congenial to his soul.

I had a little conversation with Rickman Godlee on the transfer of the Dobart Town My. House Property, & hope it may be effected before long. I do not however yet see the object of it. I think I stated before that when I consulted

with John Hodgkin about it (if he is considered the great authority in regard to titles) he said that as there was no Mortmain Act in Tasmania, a clause in my will would convey it to trustees just as well as a transfer deed. I am however quite aware that "a testament is of no force at all, so long as the testator liveth". — By the decease of our valued G. W. Walker I became sole grantee of the Sydney Friends Burial Ground. I consequently proprietor of whatever has been erected on it. — This I have also provided for in the same way, but it will require further attention. — The removal of our beloved friend G. W. Walker will be keenly felt by you all, but how unspeakably great is the comfort of being satisfied that he was prepared for the change. — The little tract which accompanies this is the last published by our York & P. Tract Association. The little boy mentioned in it was myself when probably about six years old. — With much love to thyself, thy dear wife & Story, & the younger branches of your circle I remain thy friend,
James Backhouse