

DX 19/68 (A)

Melbourne About North Adelaide
17th of 4th month 1868

My dear Anna Maria

On my return from Adelaide May

I received. (that is, two days after) the welcome letter, also an nice Letter from dear Henry, and one from dear Rachel - and a Letter from dear J. K. Scatter - so that I became quite rich all at once.

A Letter was awaiting me from Saml J. Sewitt, informing me that Edw. Payne and himself were to proceed in about three weeks to Sydney under certificate from Melbourne desirably electing for religious service: - for this I felt very thankful. On the arrival of J. J. Weaver and W. Robson in Sydney, they telegraphed to H. W. Phillips - "where is Francis Cotton, - when will he reach Sydney" - this was a few days after my arrival from Sydney. I returned reply - "In Adelaide, - leaves in about six weeks, - all well" -

Since then I have had a letter from S. J. Sewitt. My telegram did away with the hope of a conference, and they have proceeded with the work that they had believed assigned to them at Sydney. it is an arduous work, requiring super-human wisdom in its performance - My prayer is - May they be kept close to the leading of the divine Spirit - May human wisdom be

kept wholly in the dust, and may they be
instrumental in removing all the rubbish, and
kindling a spirit of love and humility among
the scattered ones there, and be favoured to return
with the reward of peace. The exercises into
which these dear friends will be introduced will
I trust under the divine blessing tend to their
further refinement and growth in the Truth.

I am still going on with my work, but I feel
that it is nearly completed. It has taken more
time than I expected. I must have proofs
this evening - proceed to Gawler tomorrow by train
when Joseph Barrett is to meet me. Spend first
day at Lyndoch Valley, where just now there are
a few visitors besides the family - and return on
second-day. All is a clean taking of the family -
but it seems laid on me to be there a first day.
I have a few more debts to pay in Town, but they
must be left as way may open. Some time next
week I propose to go to Mr Barker - and to the Revener
and stay till a vessel offers for Sydney - and to
leave allery in time to complete all - I trust.

The command has again been issued in my
ears to go forward - but I don't expect to make
a long stay in Sydney, and look forward with
happiness and joy of being once more united
to my dear family. - But it would be very

Joseph Barrett has recommended me to take back
with me some Cape Oats to sow for Hay. They
are a long, lean, oat. I never heard of them in Tasmania
and Mr Phillips has recommended me to obtain
some "Portico Peas", which are said not to be
on the ground from ripeness. I am also enquiring
after V.R. Phytolites - Mr Phytolites can
be obtained in Adelaide. I think of packing
them in other bushel sacks, with Cape Oats and
a bushel of Peas, and a few odd sorts - such as a
pair of Boots, made for me, but which hardly
seem fit to wear here - some specimens of
Copper ore. &c. The "Bella Maria" is expected
daily from Hobart Town - I suppose to return the

What a dreadful affair - that attempt to as-
sassinate the Duke of Edinburgh - and how
providential that the Prince's life was preserved.
May he never forget the goodness of God to him!
It is a sad finish of the Prince's visit to these
Colonies, and his not going to New Zealand will
be a great disappointment to those countries.
I am inclined to believe that the spirit of Fran-
casion is crushed, and if the Parliament now
in session in London, legislates judiciously for
Ireland, it will never revive. John Bright's
notions as to the Church and property seems
to be both good, and feasible - Sir Denham
begins to educate his party - dearer views

of Government seem to have obtained. The
abolition of Church Rates Bill seems likely to
pass into Law, and I was very thankful to
read - that - an unanimous Resolution in favour
of religious equality had passed the House of
Commons. If the news be true what cause
for rejoicing - Friends, who alone saw these
things clearly, and who had strenuously upheld them,
under divine support, will indeed have to
bless the name of the Lord. "A little leaven
leaveneth the whole lump" - It may occupy
a long time - but it will effectually work in
the Lord's time. May Friends be ever more
devoted to the Lord's service, and faithful to all
the testimonies, He has, in His divine wisdom,
laid upon them.

Henry Peacock, who was staying for some weeks
in the West Indies for his health, got back to Melbourne
but the Drs would not allow him to proceed to Perth,
and telegraphed to the Parents - They sent down
their daughter, ^{with a} ~~Dr~~ ^{Dr} ~~Lawton~~, ^{Dr} ~~Lawton~~, now separated from her husband, who
was a great drunkard; but a Telegram of his
death came the day after his embarkation.

Ebenezer, the youngest son of the first family
is at Gawler, ill of consumption - Death looked
for daily - The early calling away of them and
Joseph also, is attributed by all who knew them
to indulgence in drink - The one that they wrote

us to take died some years ago in Melbourne
- Now there are two daughters of the first family
living - and the only child - (a fine stout man) by
the second marriage (Calib).

Wm Peacock is 7th - and looks well - and has the
possession of his faculties - though he indulges
in the excite, that he shall come to want, which
makes him keep the power straps rather close.

The Kurra Mine no longer brings any thing in -
he has 160 shares and some cost him 150 £

His son Calib - it is said managed to get £12,000
from his Father - but whether absolutely - or only
by tying up (liable to total loss) I know not.

He no doubt has money invested in mortgages,
shares in Banks - & in offices, &c - and Keats of
Houses - yet his expenditure lately must have
been great, and he is now engaged in building
five Houses at Kensington on ground adjoining
his own. He seems now to have very much
recovered the effects of the severe fall down stairs.

Perhaps Joseph informed you of the incidents of
my voyage from Strachan Bay - but I will give no
particulars. I could not get a vessel to call in for
me so had to embark as I could - and did so
on board the Suez Co Tons - bound onward to
London's Bay - I had staid with Sidney some
7 days. It took us 3 days to Fowler's Bay -

which we staid 3 days. after our days sail
of sail ahead set in which obliged us to reef
canvas, and stow light sails - during the fore
I remembered the 2^d. birthday - 21st of 0^o mo
as I lay in my berth - wished myself at home
to dance, or rather to express my desire, that
every recurrence of the day to the end of the
race may be marked with increased happiness.
at length we reached Venus Bay - outward
to get into, and bad to get out of - except
with fair winds - we were wind bound
four days, and three days after getting out
reached Adelaide - having been nearly 10 days
on the passage. There are incidents to relate
which if I had leisure have not given I hope to do,
viva voce

A few hours after my return the second son
of John & Mary Bastin died, after an illness of
not two days duration. much to the trial of
his Parents who now had but two left. son
and Daughter. The disease, tubercles in the brain,
the Dr. said - The child was buried
at the Public Cemetery. I attended the Funeral.
I think that they would be much pleased with
these dear friends - Geo Cornish is he lives
They are from Cornwall - (the British Friar)
Pleas to thank dear Rachel & Henry for
their letters to me. If the sojourn of the Woodmill
was not pleasant in some respects - I hope that at
least, it will be ^{generally} useful to themselves.

21st. Returned safely from Lyndoch valley -
yesterday afternoon - spent the evening with John
Sainsbury & Lloyd. The "Georgi" has arrived, and
of the same brought me a letter. I regret that it
has gone to the death. I intend for Mr. Barker by
tomorrow evening's conveyance, to spend the whole day
with Mr. & Mrs. J. & Elizabeth Sainsbury at Yaffin road
each town and others in seventh day
Joseph Barrett was suffering from Lumbago -
which I was away to Straker Bay. - Maria
Phillips had a severe attack of illness, which al-
most carried her off - they had a difficulty to keep
life when, and she was reduced to very great weakness.
She is progressing towards recovery - and tomorrow
it is intended to send her to the Bay - for change of
air, and Sophy P. (George's daughter) accompanies
her. In consequence of her illness, I was transferred
to Margaret Phillips's care, and had found my new
quarters pleasant. - the kindness of the Phillips's
is very great. - Here I have used the Glycerine
Soap - first time. I thought that the Soap I
washed with was very superior yellow soap, but
a few days ago - J. P. brought me parcel of Soap and
cut it up. (with a knife) ~~into~~ each bar into four pieces.
I saw Glycerine stamped on it - and learned that its
qualities are excellent. - would it not be well
to get some and try it? I think that they would
like it very much.

~~My dear Mother~~
~~I have just received your letter~~
~~of the 10th inst. and was glad to hear~~
~~from you and to hear that you were~~
~~well and happy. I am well and~~
~~hope these few lines will find you~~
~~the same. I am ever your affectionate~~
~~son~~

How
caring. how anxious to the soul is it. later
thus proved - to joy with God, to rejoice in
the God of our salvation: may we all be more
and more given up to the service of our glorious
God. and may the dear child be all brought
near by the blood of Christ - and become faithful
labourers with God's vineyard - and receive
when the days work is finished, the divine
reward. ^{May the} ^{Heavenly} That the things of time, and those of
eternity have each their right place in the heart:
"Godliness is profitable to all things, having
promise of the life that now is, and that which
is to come".

I was much interested in the various items
of news sent by thee. I can't account for
the missing letter - the cont^d Dis and Joseph's
letters - it has never turned up -

Poor Joseph. I was sorry to hear of his fall
from Miss Pope - and hope that he has quite
recovered. as thus. - His illness has been
a nice recovery from her confinement etc. and has

'a beautiful boy'. We may pass over the
trying labour, with thankfulness that she was
helped through. No doubt that her heart and that
of her husband, had been exercised in prayer and
praise to the Lord - in memory of his great
goodness. - elongated Helen also - how weak
she must have been after her confinement.
I am thankful to hear that she has become
a good degree restored to her family and to
health. Budget appears to remain nearly
stationary - Perhaps she may rally -
The new habitation will prove beneficial.

The account of the sunset to Schenck's Star
was interesting - I hope that dear Edward
was able to make a satisfactory arrangement
with Geo. Whitcomb - I think that G. W. would
be much pleased with Edw^d.

Sheep farming prospects don't seem likely to
be so profitable as they have been - but what
of that? can't be brought nothing into the world,
and it is quite certain we can't do nothing
out. And having food and raiment let us be
there with content. I think that John Snow
was far happier in his humble abode, when
he started in life, than he is now - and
would gladly change back, if he could.
The divine blessing maketh truly rich,
and addeth no sorrow - and as the Kingdom

^{of heaven}
is the chief thing sought, all needful things
shall be added thereto. I hope that Robert
Walker has laid aside his (apparent) apathy,
and entered heartily into the young people's
prospects - and doubtless: perhaps my absence
may have proved useful in this respect.

I gather that we shall have from Valermond
the large set of notes of text this season
thence ever clipped before, and of better
quality - and 2000 sales or nearly so, more
than the two previous seasons - besides the
surplus sheep - I hope that dear Edward will
get a good start.

Wheat here is 9/4 a bushel to 9/8 - buyers
would gladly pay 9/4, but no one will sell, it
is said, at that price, or I suppose that the
grain in Tasmania will sell at a fair price also.
J. Barnitt sold his Cape hats at 4/6 a bushel
tho' Wellington. I have in town -

In looking over this sheet I have thought that I
may have wronged Mr. A. C. what I have said - if not
put it out. My dear love is to all, as of sacred -
and especially so, to my beloved wife -

thy affectionate husband
Francis Cotton

P.S. My health continues good. was weeped yesterday
Colley - J. Barnitt 12000 lbs. L.C. 13.5. only 800 more. I
in below my standard - but no more to it - F.C.

wrong for me to imply that I had neither joy
nor happiness now. If exercises of mind abound,
the consolations of the Sacrament more than abound.
I have been mercifully dealt with - I don't seem
to have done severely any thing - and yet I have
been so rewarded from day to day, with the
inflowing of divine love, the sweet peace of the
Sacrament - and have had songs of praise written
in the night seasons. Blessed be the name of
Israel's God, that I have been enabled to rejoice.
I wrote to J. B. C. after my return from Strachan
Bay, and requested him to communicate the bulk
(to Valermond) of what I had said, as I could not
then write to them. Now I write regarding them
to communicate to Joseph any thing interesting.
I intend writing to him at the time of my leaving
N. Australia, and to them when I land at Sydney,
if favoured so to do.

I rec'd a letter from Selmy on the 15th - He reports
Edward as having recovered nicely, but that
Charles was suffering from cold and stiff, sore
neck, which would probably soon pass off. He
apprehended nothing serious. The rest, well.

Dear dear, and Lucy Coleman and their little
ones (under the protection of William) have been
staying at the Bay (six miles from Adelaide) for
a fortnight in charge of air - and returned to

Mr Barker on the 14th - William came upon
the 15th for a Sewing Machine for Mary (Charles
and William) - They went down ^{to the bay} thinking that the
change would benefit the children - all of whom had
(the remains of) the Hooping Cough. The weather
has been occasionally cold - and wet - and William
says he thinks that they cough worse than they did,
yet that he cannot doubt, the change will prove
benificial, and show itself shortly - They have
bathed constantly, almost, in the sea, even to change
from little women. I went down one afternoon
and took the children 12 lbs of Gropes. (6 lbs at 2^o
and 6 at 1^o - fine large grapes, which the children
much enjoyed) and came back at 9 next morning
while then the children all coughed more or less -
and amongst them the dear little babe - whose tiny
mouth seemed not big enough for the cough. I
begged of Mary - not to cause ^{him} in the sea any more.
Mary showed me the three in bed, and fast asleep:
all four slept on a large four Poster - cross wise
according to seniority. - All lay on their backs,
and were in a sound, placid, sleep and looking
so well - and so innocent. How I did wish that
thou couldst have been present to see all these
dear interesting treasures. - They made me up
abed - or we mustered under our roof, 10 children
Mary, William, Lucy, myself, and a female servant.