

DX 19/98(2)

Pleasant Grove 1/4/1882

My Dear Friend

Francis Cotton

As James was reading thy letter last evening, I felt as though I wanted to write thee a few lines, if nothing more to let thee know that it is a comfort to feel that thou canst help to hold up the hands of the faithful, though far away.

There are few fathers now, but blindness & hardness of heart seems to prevail instead of a clear vision; so that the servants feel much alone. & also that I remember with feelings of thankfulness the time spent so pleasantly (though in sickness) when in your care & as far as is in our power, we will do all that we can to make thy son comfortable, as long as in our power. Human sympathy cannot shield, altogether

from the wrath of the enemy, & James  
 has had to feel something of this  
<sup>account</sup> of his faithfulness in the land  
 against the Spirit of Anti-Christ,  
 which would prevail against the  
 true disciples. I would willingly stand  
 between him & the people if I could  
 but it is most often the reverse &  
 his example serves as a little incentive  
 when feeling ready to halt by the way.  
 His gifts in the ministry increase, there  
 is One who gives the increase) & he appears  
 before the people without fear. You may  
 have confidence, that he will return with  
 sheaves of peace. I am glad that thy wife  
 keeps so well, & that you have another  
 daughter to cheer you in declining years & day  
 I would be glad to step in & see you & if I  
 could, I would soon visit your room,  
 this is for you both. Tell her that her son is  
 looking well & is cheerful, & we are all glad  
 to have him. Papson (my son) misses him  
 much when away. We may be pretty well  
 through our Southern ~~visit~~ when this reaches  
 you. The fear of the Lord (which is only the beginning  
 of wisdom), removes the fear of man, & in his fear  
 we go forth as well as love, in which we feel  
 secure. My love to Rachel & her husband also  
 Dr. Gray. In that love which distance cannot change  
 your friend H. Amos. 1. 1862