

Tuesday even. 12 o'clock. —

My ever dear & much beloved sister,

Having so favourable an opportunity of sending a few lines, I cannot forbear, altho' quite wearied & fatigued at this late hour; I rec^d your letter to day, & one from M^r M. yesterday, containing a list of the various things you wished to have, I have sent you by M^r M. the stuff drops for John wh^{ch} Miss M. was kind as to make, & also the Black Linen for Penafors, wh^{ch} I am sorry we could not possibly find time to make; Sister Hob has sent a cake for the dear children, wh^{ch} you will find in the box, together with some thing Bro^r Jos. has sent, dont blame us for not send them in canisters as we had not time to get them this evening & we wished as there will be so many packages to get something sent, & we can send a canister by the other yet I was with M^r M. yesterday, who has indeed interested herself in your behalf & has succeeded beyond our most sanguine expectations, several friends have subscribed very handsomely, she wrote to M^r Holy of Shefford, who sent her ten pounds for you, & from what I can learn they have got altogether about 50 p^o out of wh^{ch} they have bought a quantity of baby linen &c I acquainted M^r M. with what things you thought necessary, she thought it was highly proper that you should the things you specify, but was desirous that part of the money sh^d be reserved in order that you might have some for any exigencies on the voyage

A letter from Sarah Benson to her sister Ann Mather who was at Ramsgate, into which the disabled "Hope" had sailed, after narrowly escaping shipwreck in October, 1821.

The Mathers sailed for Van Diemen's Land on the barque "Heroine" on the 28th April, 1822.

The letter details the ordering of extra rations including 1 gal. brandy, 2 of gin, 1 gal vinegar, forty pounds each preserved meat

Sarah Benson to Mrs. Robert Mather

3 Mar. 1822.

or for your landing if you should be shored; I have been with Mr Magain
this evening & we have agreed upon ordering for you the following articles, ten lb
of tea, 1 cwt of sugar, some rice, various preserves &c. 1 cwt of macks 6 cwt of Potatoes
1 Gal Brandy, 2 of Gin, 1 ^{doz} Vinegar, 1/2 lb of each preserved meat, 12 lb of Groats
some flour, & oatmeal, & all the other things you mention; which altogether we
calculate will come to between thirty & forty pounds; we think it would not be
desirable to take butter as we understand it will not keep on board the ship, but
if you wish it you can doubtless get it at Ramsgate; from good authority we
are assured that the ship provision will be of a very excellent quality, that there
will be plenty of good biscuit, & oatmeal, tea sugar, for the ladies, ^{& children} porridge
& grog &c for the Gentlemen; is it not a pity for you to take a servant, cannot
Sarah find what is necessary for you, I should think you would not be able
to bear the expense of taking one, Mary Combs is comfortably settled in a place,
& it would be a pity to unsettle her, Mr Drury has a great desire to go out & would
I should think go for nothing, could you get her out, she & her husband have been
here repeatedly about it, he has tried hard to get a place on board the ship, but
has not succeeded, he would no doubt find his way out if she went; & now my
very dear sister be assured it would give us great pleasure were it in our
power to do more for you, & to supply you with every thing in abundance, & so assure
it gives us great pain that we were not in such a situation, as to supply your wants
without being obliged to friends for assistance: the obligation is indeed great &
I hope we shall all be duly sensible of it, & especially grateful to God who has no
doubt thus inclined them cheerfully to come forward to your help. It is thought
to be most advisable to send all things to you by the Ramsgate Packet, &
Mr M & some other friends, think that it would not be proper to send them

& the dollars, as they hope to have a few left to send you after purchasing
the various articles, without some one to take care of them, they strongly
propose me to go to you, but I have not yet determined, if I should it will
most probably be by the next weeks Packet, but I will write again
positively about it. Samuel is gone to Cambridge, I wrote to him to day
With love to Mr M & the children.

We shall pay for what we get for you
we do not wish to apply to Christmas as
Mr M. hinted for particular reasons.

Believe me to remain
your ever affect Sister
Sarah Benson

The fire & candle are both out Adieu

Sarah & Mr M send love to all