

Dear Ann

M. John's Coer. Dec 22<sup>d</sup>  
1809.

I am sorry your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> is still laying by me unanswered when I rec<sup>d</sup> it I was much hurt at the <sup>fact</sup> that you <sup>were</sup> obliged to deprive yourself of sleep in order to accomplish this piece of kindness.

I had really determined to write a full letter to my Father on the cruelty of confining you so much - This however circumstances conspired to deter, till my Vacation was somewhat abated, if I may say that my Passions were any way affected: so that I drop my Purpose - to answer your letter I thought w<sup>d</sup> more irritate my Father's Averice, than give you Pleasure -

'Tis not freedom, Dear Sister, to transmit the feeling of your mind. Do it, be sure you do it constantly - I wish I were going home that I might urge you to do it, or rather, to converse more intimately with these imperfect mediums. I am grieved you ever should have hesitated. Take courage Ann & do not limit your views

Letter from John Benson to his sister Ann referring to her work as her father's amanuensis for his well known "Commentary on the Bible" to which he gave 9 years continuous labour.

John Benson was the second son of the Revd. Joseph Benson. He took Orders and became the Rector of Nordon-sub-Hamdon, Somerset.

to the Past. Look forth!

"When all forsakes the fearful guilty Mind.  
Still Hope, the charmer, lingers e'er behind"

Remember Pandora's Box. there is no condition  
of hope with: ~~hope~~ consolation of hope; and  
it may add - as hope that has foundation.

You have every Reason to be happy - the most happy -  
you are not unacquainted with every motive  
for encouragement - every Reason to animate the

Mind above the fear of what is sublimary.

I know not how it is, I ever live under

the weight of this Body & cannot raise the thought  
above the present Day - 'I must be true'

some what of a debased view of things. some letter-  
-gic forgetfulness, surrounded as I am with  
with carnal pursuits. May I be divested

of this torpor. be somewhat enlarged & enter  
that new state of Life. in which I may grow

to the stature of a man & be a fit inhabitant  
of the Kingdom <sup>together with those I know in flesh</sup> of the King. Believe me

Dear Sister. Your most affect. Bro.

John P. Norton

I hope <sup>to hear</sup> many times from you during these next weeks  
as I shall not go home as w<sup>l</sup>. perhaps have no  
good tendency. & my Father does not seem

to wish it. I send Bella a most excellent  
Poem. w<sup>ch</sup> I hope you will read. I send  
also I think a useful little present to Sarah  
in the ~~stead~~ of seeing her, who I am conscious  
she will feel the Disappointment.