

12 Charles Place, Thorton

My Dear Children

In that Love that reaches our souls & our
 & nearly cemented & nearly united, the Living Members &
 Branches of the Lords Spiritual Household or Family
 do I most affectionately salute you, earnestly desiring
 that the God of all consolation who hath begun a good
 work in you may be pleased to carry it on & in his own
 time perfect it to his own praise & the satisfaction of all of
 our souls that so we may meet again where unions are
 indivisible; — I return you my most hearty thanks
 for your last extraordinary Letter which is as manna
 to our bones at our advanced period of life; I do not
 expect to have behind me an account
 of the Lords dealings with me in my early life;

I remember being afraid of Death before I was
 seven years of Age, because I had disobeyed my parent
 not in coming home quietly school was done; so quiet &
 powerful did I feel & experience the witness for God or
 Light of Christ's spirit in my heart

Some many years before I was twelve years old
 that I might not be cast off, or lost at that general assen-
 or day of righteous tribulation. — I did not know
 which Religious persuasion to follow, the unmanifested
 lies of the Clergy & their hearers were a great trouble to
 me & disagree to themselves; there was a Man in our Village
 who was apparently at the point of Death, the Parson was
 sent for & administered the Sacrament; the Man said he

had accepted, and the Sacrament, & should be happy if
pleas'd his Master in great Mercy to raise him up again
or we did not perceive any alteration in his former life's
conversation; so little had notes & Harmonies & reviv^d. done
for him, plainly pointing to the serious attention mind
nothing of an outward & visible sign can possibly effect
inward or spiritual grace; — I then gave the preference to
the Methodists but the leniety of my Master & one of the
Pastors, ^{was} ~~was~~ both Preachers in that Sect; turn'd me out
of that leniety of disposition being quite incompatible
with real vital Religion; coming up to this large City
where Religion is so much professed, so much talk'd of, so
little understood, & considerably less practis'd no wonder
having many enemies without, & without, & bad examples
where I ought to have had good advisers ~~as usual~~ ^{as usual} I fell in
and came up to the Grand Advancer of Mans Happiness
being guilty of resisting the holy Spirit or Light within
which if persisted ⁱⁿ it is that Sin which is not to be forgiven &c.

I afterwards went among the Baptists, Independants
& Presbyterians & it was but no Sermons, brought forth by the
Wisdom of Man did us much good as what comes
from the head can reach no further, but what comes
from the Heart will to the attentive hearer reach the Heart &c.

It was my lot to be generally among the enemies of
Friends; altho' my Master receiv'd the Sacrament at their inde-
pendent Meeting, yet I had reason to believe he was a
superlatively wicked man, a common Swearer &c. &c.
he was continually railing against Friends saying they
were no Christians, they did not believe the Scriptures

not the Resurrection &c. &c. so that all the ^{Meeting} Friends
to please my Mother, yet my mind being poisoned or set
against Friends it was with a full determination
of not being one; nor going to their M. when I was of Age

But it pleased him whose mercies are over all
his works to bring good out of evil; the very means, the
Enemies of Truth took to turn me out of the way of Truth
were the means of turning me into the way; for a laudable
curiosity or desire was raised in me to ~~know~~ ^{know}

principles & to see what they could say for such Tenets as
was reported they professed; a Valuable Friend & a Mother in
Israel was so kind as to lend me ^{Mr} Penn's ^{the} Cross or
Crown, before I got through the Preface Charly
perceived the Society was barely believ'd; myself
greatly deceiv'd & a great Fool not to have
found it out soon &c. &c.; then found it my
place & Duty to be one let it cost what it would

but such was my difficulties arising partly from poverty
& variety of other circumstances that it was Months if
not years perhaps 7 Years before I got to be a Member
& then was oblig'd to go to Monthly meeting & plead my
own Cause; altho I ought to have been considered a
Member, my Mother not having been disowned for
marrying out of the S. for about 9 or 10 Years & I was
about 17 Years old at the time; from your affectionate Parent

Thos. M. Mayle Cotton

28th of 9th month 1834

Thos. M. Mayle Cotton
Booth Street

Dear Mr Gurney paid us a Family Visit last winter
 took Tea with us; & was concerned earnestly to Pray
 for you & yours; & that we might be favoured when it
 pleased Divine Providence to call us hence to depart
 in peace & never want a Man who might stand in
 my place as an Advocate for Truth & straightness
 When I consider the Integrity of my Grandfather
 as a Man's Friend; that my Father attended Friends

with 6 newspapers to Mr Wilson.

Francis Weston

Grandfather Wilson

for Robert Town

Wm J. Moore



of meeting & have pretty well convinced
 Friends & Friends; their own as well as God's
 Friends try to do it with us; they know they own a
 new Idea of a thorough & true sense of mind & the
 Friends meet & hear of referring Father and Friends