

DX 19/68 (2)

Mount Barker. 25/12/67

My dear Anna Maria

Here I am at last,
The Annual meeting was not over till last
fifth day evening, and the Alderger sailed on
seventh day, arrived at Port Adelaide on eighth
day about 4 P.M. - a passage of 49 hours. I went
by train to Adelaide to H. W. & Maria Phillips,
and left by Coach to Mt Barker yesterday afternoon
found Fredk. Macken waiting for me and arrived
here about six o'clock, and found all well.

The meetings increased in interest as we went
on, and I was thankful to see much earnestness
manifested in many, so that the Addresses issued
were really the mind of the meeting, under the
direction and blessing of our Holy Head.

I had some close service in meetings, and had to
look for a youths meeting, which was indeed well,
and these were the putting forth of Israels Shepherds.
I had to plead with the dear youth on the necessity
of an entire surrender of themselves to the service
of our Divinity: very close and searching was
the testimony, and particularly to dress and address.
To what the Lord led Friends into, at their first
gathering; to what our early friends suffered for
their Christian Testimony, - even unto death,
to what many of the present day felt themselves

and the Lord led Friends into

acquired to adopt, being evidently the will
of God concerning them, who requires childlike
obedience, and the taking up the cross daily
and following Christ: the leader of his people; -
the necessity of simplicity of dress - quoting
the words of both Paul and Peter. I referred
them ^{also} to the words of the dear Saviour spoken to
Nicodemus "Ye must be born again", and was
graciously helped in my ministrations, praised
be the name of the Lord. I craved for them that
they might all be the Lord's children, in whose
presence is fullness of joy, and whose right hand
pleasures for ever more. Telling them that
there were no joys like unto the joys of God's
salvation &c &c - and afterwards I was permitted
very near access to the throne of the Eternal, and
to extort the Almighty on their behalf, finishing
with the words - that they ^{serve them} might dwell "day and
night in His temple". - After which, one of the
deepest solemnities I ever witnessed spread over
us, and continued along time, and though two
persons in the body of the assembly said something
that did not ^{improve} ~~improve~~ the service - and under it
we broke up. Oh! it was an almost intolerable
for all my travails. To the Lord I have committed
the seed sown, under his pulling forth - May He
cause it to grow, and spring up, and bear fruit.

to the praise of his ever excellent name, and
to the joy of those who receive his word in truth
whose anthem is continually "Thy Holy will, O
Lord, be done!"
I visited Betty Thistlewaite twice, to much satis-
faction; she seems retaining her usual health
So, after all I was able to wind up in Melbourn
with a Song of Praise "Sing Praises to the Lord -
Sing Praises - Sing Praises to the Lord that dwelleth
in Zion. Sing Praises &c. Oh! it has been so
comforting to leave with the reward of Peace, and
to feel that I have strength enough, not shunned
to declare the whole counsel of God, so far as the
invaluable wisdom was pleased to lay it upon me.
The now the first part of my mission has been
accomplished, and I have the latter part before me.
The Lord only fully knows what he requires of me.
In the night watches, something of a beginning passed
before me: but the Lord is good, and will suffer me
to recruit my exhausted strength by a little repose
before he again sets me to work in his vineyard
Dear little Susanna is at Ford's Collyer - she has seen
her grandfather first, and doubtless is disappointed
in him, she is of fine healthy girl, with sweet and
dear blue eye. I expect to go forward with me
on worth day. Dear Mary expects to increase
her family almost daily. Felicity is expected

every day of the Port with his wood, so I may
see him shortly too.

I called on Mr Pearce & wife yesterday - He
is nicely recovered from the fall he had down stairs
12 feet high - which broke his collar bone, and caused
other injuries. He did not recognize me, but his wife
did - She is suffering from spinal affection.

Friends in Melbourne secured Coathe to part with
me: the Lord has given me a place in the hearts of
many. I feel it - I know it. Ah! his own works
praise him - to him be all the glory.

I met with Samuel Way, in Adelaide. Edward May's
old employer. He knew ^{me} by report, and was pleased to
see me - and so with others - all seem pleased to
meet with Francis Cotton - whose name and fame
somewhat seem to be largely spread - by some means.
S. Way is leaving for Tasmania - F. Clarkingair
has letters to T. J. Crout & R. G. Clatter - He does
not know a person in Tasmania. H. W. Phillips
has succeeded Wm. May in his employ.

I met with two youths named Woodcock with
them Tutor Joseph Bell in Melbourne. They are from
Manchester, and are travelling for their health - They
have been out 12 mos. and Dr Howitt has given them
another year. They are coming into Tasmania -
about October: and doubt not that they will make
their way to Swan Port. You will be much pleased
with them. I hope that their journey will be blessed
with an increase of health, and that consumption
will be warded off. With much affection, my
dearest, I remain thine. Francis Cotton