

2219/69(2)
93 Liverpool Street

21st of 3rd Mo 1871

My dear Anna Maria

This is thy natal day, and I am not with thee - to wish thee "many happy returns of it", which I do, in all sincerity; may it, on each return, mark an advance in the Christian path, even to the mark for the prize of our high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Alas! thou art favoured to drink plentifully of the stream of that River which gladdens the Lord's people. Thou hast many and great trials, and sometimes sore perplexities; yet these have been alleviated, and in some cases removed by a power higher than mine own. Continue my beloved, to trust in His power. Doubtless there is much that thou canst not understand now, which will be made known hereafter, and thou wilt see that all things are made to work together for good to them who love the Lord. Poor John cleaved with I am sorry both for him and for his family: I wonder does he ever think of our poor George - and of my employing him to err - if he did err in his judgments - on the side of mercy - ~~giving~~ - ~~bliss~~ with the merciful - but

in two letters of the same nature. I
felt a restraint from adding - "they shall
obtain mercy". I think that he must reflect
on his past conduct as far as George is con-
cerned with respect. but he himself is now
an object of sympathy. May God in his goodness
if his love be more merciful to him than he
has been to others.

The Commissioner of the Goldfields is L.D.
Chapman's son, and from what other sources
I take it, that George is to get some public
employment. I have not been to the Public
Office much yet - and I was the first of going
to see the Premier or George's account. but have
not yet seen any way to do so. I might do more
harm and good - and if not mistaken, I think
that I have seen some blessings in store for
poor George. I just been was at the Market
Place and said (to Ben decker) there needed a
school here - 40 children - as also a place of
worship. He had a public meeting there in
the open air.

I am writing to John - to get it abruptly to
send. they are thinking to leave on Friday
afternoon. full of joy. then onto Caroline
I have Thomas Pelland James and
Edward. If so - they will have a meeting
with John's household on Friday day - but how
long a stay they may make I know not.

I cannot leave till Tuesday or the
morning, but hope to say when - by next
days post.

As to the bill - Martha Martin consents
to an equal division of the proceeds of
sale if made: it is uncertain whether
the Galatians will exist: I hope that all
will end well.

Our meetings are progressing well, indeed
a meeting after the meeting for worship to
morrow evening, it is expected will finish
them. we have no meeting this evening,
but a meeting of elders and Overseers
is appointed at 4 this afternoon. The
intermediate times between the meetings
have scarcely sufficed to draw up the
various documents &c. It has been to
some close application.

John Lyon has called and hindered
me wants me to go into the House.
I do make some reference to my health
in my last - look to it again, allow
the letter. I do this in dear
Franklin - and of no other affair
of debts - deplorable indeed.
I hope that you and all are well.

all with in individual
to the National Society of Dryers

My official duties

Francis Cotton

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. It appears to be a long, multi-paragraph letter or report.]