

My Dear Son

Thomas writing so frequently, & so circumstantially, acquainting the Sr. Maria with the happy strides Death has made with the circle of our acquaintance & Relatives I did not conceive it necessary (as I have little time to spare) to write to thee; especially as I have but little good news to communicate; I am obliged to thee for thy last letter & was pleased to learn that by patience & perseverance with permission or blessing of Divine Providence thou had surmount<sup>ed</sup> most of thy difficulties; & it is my earnest wish & desire that the Almighty may so prosper all thy just & honest undertakings, in providing for thee & thine, that thou may have or enjoy more comfortable prospects than thy Parents at present have; perhaps, no life has greater opportunities

of contemplating the Mercies of divine Providence  
I most humbly acknowledging his Beneficent favour,

Thomas has no doubt inform thee we have  
removed to N<sup>o</sup> 12 Charles Place Charles Square, thee  
can judge when the House is when I inform thee  
we can look from our back windows to our old garden  
at N<sup>o</sup> 21 Raven Street, the House has Rooms  
Wash house & Good Garden for 21<sup>st</sup> it has let for 25<sup>th</sup>  
there are capital fixtures a Range with Oven & Bricks  
Stone Sink, Stove &c; & the Taxes were a part will  
be above 12<sup>th</sup> L we shall have difficulty to discharge  
them from the few Orders Thomas is able to get the.

My Master although he has not entered into  
Articles of Partnership with Stevens, yet according  
to Late Lord Mansfield high opinion has made  
virtually made him a Partner by giving him  
Twenty percent out of the Profit, & his Wife & Children  
earn a great deal, John is out of his time & works  
for Evans & Daniel is Apprentice to him & the.

As to myself he has not taken the least notice of  
raising my Wages & Salary after 34 Years & half.  
Receiving from 100 L to 1000 a day for the Flourish & how  
too much spirit to ask him  
I am L<sup>td</sup> 11. 6<sup>th</sup> Week for 4 days; 21 from 1<sup>st</sup> 10. 8. about  
105 from Gardiners

As I was favoured with a Divine Visitation  
before I was 7<sup>th</sup> of Age & was sadly afraid of  
Death & tho the chiefest or only thing that  
troubled me was "Disobedience to my Mother"

I shed many tears before I was 12 Years of Age  
that my Soul might rest on the "day of trouble" or  
in the after scene that is approaching.

I could wish thee to inform thy Dear Children  
that there is a Principle of Universal or Divine  
light in every Man & Woman, although not of  
Man but come by Jesus Christ, which never  
consented to evil of any kind, no notion thought  
that it is obeyed gives life to the Soul & if pursued  
in will hereafter give Immortal life to the Soul  
I am an Obducent to this that in a bad man to turn from

the Church of England to the Methodists at 12 Years of  
Age whilst at School; & at the principles I brought  
up against the Principles of Friends to become one  
about the 20 years of my Age; having been convinced by

Sep 1831

Mr. Methuena

No. 6. Lenox St. to the Br. 26

Francis Cotton

St. Leonard

Waterloo Point

Highway of Hobart Town

V L L

Mr. Methuena.

Dear Friends  
Arriving Ministry & from reading the Report of Progress  
of Friends; Penns no Crown no Crown &c. &c.  
Although I had a Business to learn at 18 & great  
Opposition from my own Mother to contend with my  
health continues pretty good; except troubled with Worms  
Mother writes with much Love to Maria & Children & they say  
Thy affectionate Father Tho Cotton, 26 of 9<sup>th</sup> Mo 1831