

Adelaide 19/2/68

My dear Anna Maria

I wrote and posted a letter to
 thee on the 17th. and after doing so. I
 had the gratification of receiving thy very
 kind letter of the 25th. of last month.
 also a nice letter from dear Edward and
 a kind letter from Dr. Henry -

It is very pleasant indeed to get these
 nice reminders of home, and some
 friends - of our dear ones and their move-
 ments - though there is some alloy too in
 hearing of the griefs and troubles which
 attend this chequered scene.

It is now - 1-30. at 3-30 I start per
 rail to the Port - to embark at 5 - on the
 Schooner "Tommy" - for Strakey Bay - and
 Fowler Bay - Perhaps the time taken to
 go to Strakey Bay will give me a week
 or ten days with Johnny and his Family -
 Margaret Phillips recd a letter yesterday
 from Annie - by which we learn that she
 has had word of her mother's decease
 Johnny arrived in Daphne a few days
 ago and I take in evening up -
 I enclose letter from dear Mary which
 accompanied the letter from Melbourne -

I expect to be about four weeks to three weeks - and on my return to finish my work on Adair's account - then there ^{are} a few friends in the country to look up, and then I think of spending a week with dear Eliza, before I leave; - and then - may I be permitted once more to visit with dear ones at Kelowna?

It has appeared to me that I shall be required to return by way of Sydney. The subject was brought before me last night - and renewed this morning - and a willingness beyond all in me to go there - or any where - if I was sure such was the will of our Heavenly Father.

I think that I can say from the heart that I am now resigned to His Holy will: - but dear Maria what sayest thou to this? what say our dear children? -

Will you all try to enter into feeling and sympathy with me, and let me know your decision: - It may be that our good Master may accept the resignation of the will, and not regard the carrying out of the prospect. His Holy will be done

To be taken further from home is trying to the affectionate part: but we can only work whilst the day lasts - "the night cometh - wherein no man can work" -

A division of a painful kind has taken place among friends of Sydney - and when at Melbourne friends there wished me to go up to Sydney - but I told them that my services lay in the opposite direction.

Since then I have had much talk on the subject with F. Mackie, and read many letters and documents - and have had to write to the portion of friends there - Perhaps this letter will what F. M. and Y. J. W. and perhaps others have done - may be blessed of the great Head of the Church - and a desire to do what is right may have done a good deal under the divine hand - toward the healing of the breach - and if the Lord should lay it upon me to go up: - under his blessing the visit might prove useful - Thus let all things be of God - and

nothing of the creature.

So I desire thy prayers and thy
sympathy and the prayers of my dear
children in their mother and the
prayers of the Church also.

I do not know that I need to lay the
subject before Friends - probably
because I may be released from the
need of jury - and if not - to whom
could a certificate be addressed in
the present state of that society?
Dear Edward has given a very graphic
account of the proceedings with them
which is very interesting. Whether
new is yet published very firm - have
you the rest?

In opening apple boxes at Melburn
I Johnson told me they always took
off one side - not the top or bottom.

I am very thankful that our Heavenly
Father has no care for temporal
things. - Not at all sorry that John
was not elected a member at
Spring Bay. Hope that Margaret & Helen
has nicely recovered, and that you are
all doing well - we for which
God with his birds will

Dear love well, not forgetting thyself.
In thy affectionate Mother
Francis Cotton