

Whitby Feb 25th/43

Dear cousin,

I must first beg of you to pardon the brevity of this epistle, also the neglect, of/if neglect, I am [?], a chain of circumstances one in which I had no controal (sic), which prevented me doing what my inclination fronted me to do, that I was not able to write to you last spring, I hope you received the box in safety and found the contents useful, I fear I shall not be able to procure another supply this spring. There is such a depression in trade so many fair [?], and familys (sic) having the [?] - however I hope to send you something, you will see by the signiture (sic) of my [?] that I have changed my name. I am thankful to say that I am most comfortable settled we [?] reside with mother at her age I could not think of leaving her, —

I [?] received your last letter it gave me pleasure to learn of your labours being crowned with the divine blessing. I fear that is not much good going on in the church here it appears to be divided into to partyies(sic) the new church is not yet commenced building, [?] the [?] is enlarged so that they have a communion table and the sacrament is dust administered in the middle of the month.

Respecting the [?] I earned give you much information. Mary is lately married to a ship master the old man is in a very [?] stock [?] appears as usual, but alas I fear they continue [?][?] - - Mother is as well as can be expected at her age I am blessed with a most affectionate husband - one low will [?] and instruct me in the way to the Kingdom, he presents his kind respects to you and will be happy to hear from you. Mother writes her love to you.

I remain yours affectionately,  
Mary Hodgson

Mr John Hodgson  
Mrs [?]  
Flowergate Whitby

Rev'd John Smithurst