

Matlock Bath May 8th 1849

My dear Sir,

I was very sorry not to write to you at the usual time viz 25th Feb, but I am sure you will excuse me when I tell you the cause. My very dear & valued friend M^r Beaumont, who had been resident in our family for upwards of Twenty Five years died, on the 26th of Feb^{ry}. He like ourselves was one of the fruits of dear M^r Gells ministry, when he first took up his abode with us, he was a man of the world, but it pleased our Heavenly Father in the course of a year or two, after his coming to Matlock to lead him to see his own sinfulness in the sight of God, & to believe in Christ to the saving of his soul. I think I never saw any one under greater distress of mind, on account of sin, & deeper humility in the sight of God than my dear friend seemed to be, when first his eyes were opened to see the plague of his own heart, he seemed to sink into the very dust, & ever after he lived a consistent believer, adoring the doctrine of God his Saviour. M^r Beaumont was the largest contributor to the building of the Matlock Bath Church, he gave £200 in money, he also gave the Communion Plate, & Lamps to light the Church, Twenty Guineas towards the organ, & paved the Church yard walk, he afterwards gave £50 towards the Parsonage & £50 towards building Schools. He was an annual subscriber to the Bible Soc^{ty} Church Miss^{ry} Soc^{ty}, Jews Soc^{ty}, & Pastoral Aid Soc^{ty}, & was very kind & liberal to the poor. I am glad to tell you that he has left in his will £200 to the Bible Soc^{ty} £100 to the Ch.M.Soc^{ty} £100 to the Jews Soc^{ty} & £50 each to four different charities in Dublin. M^r B has been an invalid ever since he came to Matlock suffering much at times from asthma, & having an affection of the heart, but he always appeared to strangers to be in good health. He took cold about ten days before his death which brought on an attack of bronchitis, & he suffered much from difficulty of breathing, he only kept his bed three days. A few days before my dear friend died, he said to me I feel myself a great sinner, but my whole trust is in the Lord Jesus Christ. I can say as the poor half witted man said, (attending to a tract he had ready) 'I am a poor sinner & nothing at all'

But Jesus Christ is my all in all.

I was very thankful to be with him, when he breathed

Page Two

his last, & to commend his soul in prayer into the hands of his Heavenly Father. He got out of bed just before he died, & was dressed, & sat in an easy chair, he asked me for his Hymn Book, (one of M^r Gells' collection) which he put into my hands, evidently wishing me to keep it, this next to his Bible, was much valued by him, & bore marks of being well used, many very striking hymns were marked in pencil. While sitting by the bed, he suddenly rose from his chair & fell upon his knees in prayer, & I thought he w^d have died in that posture, but we got him up & got his clothes off, & laid him upon the bed, & in a few minutes his soul, left the body, without a sigh, or groan, or convulsive struggle, that I c^d perceive. His end was peace, he fell asleep in Jesus, and as my dear friend M^r Rob^t Gell expressed in a letter to me, "our late dear fainting, coughing, suffering brother is for ever freed from all infirmity, & pain, & is rejoicing with joy unspeakable & full of glory amid the blissful throng of the spirits of the just made perfect." M^r Beaumont is interred in Bakewell Church Yard by the side of his Brother, who died at that place in the year 1836. - I must now tell you something of our proceedings here, we had last month our annual Miss^{ry} Meeting held in our dining room, which was very respectable attended, the Rev Cha^s Hodgson from Barton-le-Street in Yorkshire was the deputation & he gave us a most interesting

speech, many of those present said they thought it was one of the most interesting meetings that they had ever attended the collection at the door was £13-10- you will be glad to hear your old friend M^{rs} Allen takes a very warm interest in the Soc^{ty} & has been the means of establishing a working so^{ty} amongst the ladies in the peace, & they send a miss^{ry} Basket of work round amongst the Visitors, & last year they received £11-10 clear for the Soc^{ty} & we hope it will be likely more this year. I am very thankful that you are likely soon to have a good Bishop sent out, M^r Anderson he has been Vicar for a short time, of All Saints at Derby. I rejoice also at the appointment of Rev D^r Smith to the Bishoprick of Victoria, Hong Kong, China I know him personally & I esteem him very highly in love for his works sake. D^r Smith promises to spend a day with us before he leaves England, & I hope he will be able to do so. He spent a few days with us, along with

Page Three

his sister just before he went to China the last time. I took tea with Mr & Mrs Allen last night, they are pretty well Mrs A is very lame & suffers much from rheumatism, Mrs Wass also appears lame, she has gone very little out this winter I have a great regard for the Allens I consider them both to be true Xtians. You will be glad to hear that one of the Miss Walkers at the Lea is become decidedly serious & is a communicant at Cromford Church & that she & her sisters & Brothers attend M^r James ministry. You will also be pleased to learn that M^{rs} John Smedley, whom I think I told you in my last letter was a daughter of the Vicar of Wirksworth is become, since her marriage, a really experimental Xtion & I hope will be a great blessing to her husband, she is very useful amongst the people at Lea. I have not been at Dethick lately, but I drank tea with M^r John Wathey at M^r Smedleys a very short time ago. I often hear of the Watheys. I hope the family at Willersley are going on well, religion I trust is gaining ground amongst the young people. Archdeacon Wigram is paying them a visit at the Castle he married one of the daughters of M^r Peter Arkwright I believe he is become a faithful minister of Christ. I wish I c^d send you some of the publications of the Rev John Ryles, he is nephew to M^{rs} P. Arkwright, he is a very useful man, & his publications I am sure must be greatly blessed, for they are so plain & full of gospel matter; his last yearly address to his flock, is entitled "Living or Dead." Showing very plainly mans state by nature, is a state of death that he is dead in tresspasses & sins, & it is only thro' Christ he can be quickened, & made alive. - I thank you for your letter dated Aug 2 1849, which I received in Octob^r I have not seen M^r P. Gell since I heard from you, but I sent him your kind message, & I have heard several times from him, he is I am sorry to say not very strong, he is still at Clifton. M^r Bell I saw not long since & c I delivered to him likewise your message. He & his wife & little boy were all well. when I last heard from him, they are still living at Ruddington. - The railway from Amber Gate to Rousley is nearly finished & it is expected to be opened about the 4th of next month. You will see great alterations in the neighbourhood if you are spared to visit again your native land. You w^d have little thought as we did that a railway w^d have been taken through the High Tor. I walked a few days since, thro the tunnells

Page Four

under the High Tor, & they were quite finished, the double line of rails laid down, we do not see the line from our house as it tunnells through the Rocks under Willersley grounds, & comes out just opposite to a large field which you will I think recollect, (we rented it for many years) & the Station for Matlock Bath will be there. I do not recollect any thing very particular just now that may interest you. I shall be very glad to hear from you I much fear this may not reach you, in time for your writing, so (?) I can get the letter in Oct^r and now my dear Sir, I assure you that you have our prayers, & best wishes that your soul

may prosper & be in health, & that you may be strengthened with strength from on high, & that a blessing may rest upon your work. I trust you ever seek to set Christ Jesus, before your people, as the only way of salvation, may you ever like the apostle Paul be determined to know nothing among your flock but Jesus Christ & Him crucified. I remain my dear Sir,

Your faithful friend

And brother in Christ

Geo. W. Saxton

To Rev John Smithurst