

Matlock Bath Feb^{ry} 21st 1851

My dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter dated 8th Augst 1850 which I received about the 10th of Octob^r. I was very glad to find that both my letters came safe to hand, & also to hear that you was enjoying the blessing of health, which I pray may be continued to you, so that you may have grace & strength to work in the Lords vineyard, & that your labours may not be in vain in the Lord. I hope you will receive with this, a letter from my friend M^r Allen as I told him, he would be able to give you more information respecting your old friends than I could do. I was much pleased with the account of your new Bishop & his proceedings. I trust he will prove a great blessing – I saw, his Lordships successor at All Saints Derby soon after I received your letter, (M^r. Foley) & he was much gratified with your account of the Bishop. I often see M^r Foley, he is a very excellent man, & much liked at Derby, & I hope is doing much good. - M^r Peter Arkwright who is living at Willersley with his wife & family, have lately experienced some severe trials. They lost a son M^r Edw^d Arkwright who married a Miss Sitwell, he died about two months ago, & in a about a fortnight after M^r Cha^s Arkwright died at Dunston Hall, n^r Burton on Trent, he was ill only about a week, he left a wife but no family, and soon after M^r Rich^d Hurt of Wirksworth brother to M^{rs} P Arkwright died very suddenly, he was playing at chests with a friend, when he complained of feeling faint, & asked for a glass of water, said he felt better, made another move & immediately fell back in his chair, & was dead in three minutes. his complaint was an affection of the heart (ossification). We are continually reminded that in “the midst of life we are in death.” But if we have an interest in Christ, & can say with the apostle Paul, “For me to

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live is Christ,” than to die will be unspeakable gain & sudden death, w^d only be sudden glory. I am sure you will be very glad to hear that M^r John Smedly of Lea Bridge is become a real child of God, he has been brought through deep waters, having suffered great depression of spirits for a year or more, not being able to take any comfort from the promisses & invitations of Gods word. But the Lord has been pleased in His great mercy, to give him joy & peace in believing, & he seems now to be very desirous in every way he can to promote the glory of God. M^{rs} Smedly is a very experienced Christian, having been taught by the Holy Spirit. I spent a week with them last Nov^r at Cheltenham, where they had taken a home for six months; & I enjoyed much sweet xtian communion & fellowship, & I felt my own soul much refreshed. They have now returned to Lea Bridge I dined with them last week & found them going on in their xtian course, & I hope they will be kept by “the mighty power of God through faith unto salvation.” M^r Smedly has a service in his mill every morning at ½ past 8 Oclock, when about 120 of his work people assemble for singing, prayer, & a short exposition of the Scriptures. He has published a very nice address to his Workpeople, & I hope he may be a great blessing to the people in his neighbourhood. You will be glad to hear that two of the Miss Walkers at the Lea, are become I hope true Christians, & communicants at Cromford Church. I am thankful to say the Unitarian Chapel at Lea continues shut up, no service on the Sundays as they cannot support a minister & I hope it will continue closed. You w^d hear of M^r John Wathey being married to Miss Miller, sister to M^{rs} Joseph Wass. I saw them about a month ago, also M^r W^m Wathey & his Sister, & M^{rs} Walker I saw

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about a week ago. I am glad to tell you that our funds for the C. Miss^{ry} Soci^{ty} last year was very good, the collection after a meeting held in our dining room, was £16-1-0, after two sermons preached by the Rev R.C. Savage in the Matlock Bath Church £21.15.3. Produce of Missionary Basket £29-0.0 annual subscriptions £8..9.6 Boxes £33-17-9- Juvenile Fund £10.4.0. Total after deducting £1..3.6 for expences £88-4..0- The sum was very small from Matlock Village only £2.16..8 I hope they may do better this year. M^{rs} Allen is very active respecting the Miss^{ry} Basket- - Rev. W.G. Barker is still our Clergyman he takes a lively interest in the Miss^{ry} cause. Rev W.R. Melville, is the Rector at Matlock. Rev ES Greville Bonsall. Rev NM Jones, Cromford. Rev M Holmes, Tansley Rev D. Vandery Darley, & Rev N. Hubbersty, Dethick - I shall hope to hear from you at the usual time & it will rejoice my heart to hear that God is blessing your labours, & that souls are saved, by the preaching of His word to the poor heathen. We have th[missing] promise that "Gods word, shall not return [missing] void, but shall accomplish the thing where to He sends it." "I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto me." The Apostles "daily in the temple, & in every house ceased not to teach, & to preach Christ." Philip went down to the city of Samaria & preached Christ into them Paul when converted preached Christ in the Synagogue how often, & how clearly, & how boldly, does the great Apostle declare his duty, & his holy resolution "to know nothing," & to preach nothing but Jesus Christ & Him crucified - How delightful to the Minister of Christ must it be, to proclaim, the freeness, & fullness of His pardoning mercy & the all sufficiency of His grace to receive pardon & save the guilty sinner of every character & of every clime. To declare Him to be "the only name under heaven, given among men whereby they can be saved. Jesus has promised to be with His Ministers who go into the world to preach His gospel

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"Lo I am with you always, says the Saviour, even unto the end of the world." May you ever enjoy the presence & blessing of our gracious God & Saviour, & may the Holy Spirit be poured upon you in rich abundance, & may He give you many souls for your fire, & many seals to your ministry. May you be blessed with health of body, peace of mind, prosperity of soul, & an assured hope of eternal life, & when the great Shepherd of his sheep shall appear may you appear with Him in glory & shine as the stars for ever, having been a means in His hands of turning many souls to righteousness. this is the earnest prayer of your affectionate Brother in Christ

Geo. W. Saxton.

P.S.

I am still residing with my two sisters at the New Bath & I hope we are in the path of duty, & that we may be useful in the station in which God has placed us. My two eldest sisters are still in lodgings at the post office, & my Brother left Darley Dale, he has four children living, three girls & one boy. I saw M^r Gell in Oct^r he said he had recieved your letter. M^r Bell I have not seen lately, he resides at Nottingham & preaches at St James Church in that town.