

THE LOCKED JOURNAL

By

Joseph Ryder





Windsor. South Australia.
October 8th 1881.

I purpose under the blessing of
my Heavenly Father, to write in
this book the Story of my life for
the information and I trust the
benefit of my dear children, who
may read it after my decease.

I wish it to be the property
of my eldest daughter Mary-
Ann Hughes, if she is living at
the time of my death, and if
not, or at her death, it shall
descend to the custody of my
next eldest living child, and
so on, down to the youngest.

But I do desire that whoever
may be the possessor of it -
that he or she shall allow it

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to be loaned for a reasonable time, to any other of my children who may desire to read it, and that it ^{may} be returned to the custody of the proper custodian.

It is my prayer to my Heavenly Father, that in thus giving the narrative of my earthly history, I may be preserved from all desire to glorify myself. It will be a record of many sins and frailties, many errors and mistakes, but I trust it will also be a record of the marvellous goodness and mercy of my gracious God and Saviour, who has delivered me in many troubles, and in whom I trust that he will yet deliver me. To Him be the glory
I Ryder.

I was born in the village of Chalvey in the parish of Upton cum Chalvey, Buckinghamshire England, on the 31st day of July 1816. That village is about one mile from Eton College, and nearly two miles from Windsor Bridge, over the Thames which divides Eton from Windsor.

My father, William Ryder was a shoemaker; My mother, whose maiden name was Bond, was I believe a native of Devonshire but removed to the neighborhood of Windsor at an early age.

I was the youngest of a family of 7 or 8 children, of whom four are still left, viz. Mrs Tilley, now 73 years old and living in this colony. Mrs Hatton, over 70 living at Birmingham England and my Brother Thomas Ryder

69 years. living in London.

Of my dear old Father. I may say. That his father was only a farm laborer, and that he was brought up to the same occupation.

I have heard him say, the only schooling he received was a single week at a dame school. when he was a big boy. but that in that week he thoroughly mastered the alphabet. When he got into his teens he was for a year or two. a pot-boy in a Public House in London. near Drury Lane Theatre. but he left there for fear of the press-gang. as England was then at war with France.

I should have said that he was born in 1770. How he learned Shoemaking I know not.

He married my dear Mother in 1800. so that he was then

30 years of age. My mother being some years younger.

My mother was a servant in the household of H. R. H. Princess Amelia at the Lower Lodge Windsor for 9 years. She was the favorite daughter of King George III. and of course the Aunt of Her present Majesty Queen Victoria.

I have heard that the Princess was very fond of my Mother. and my Brother has a water colored portrait of our Mother taken by a noted French Artist of the period by command of the Princess. and afterwards presented to her.

I have heard from my father and mother the tale of their marriage how they went quietly one morning she from Buckingham Palace, and he from his lodgings, met at St James's Church Piccadilly

and were quietly married, each going
back straight to their respective homes.
Nor did they formally come together
until the usual circumstances obliged
them.

My father was an exceedingly healthy
man, but my mother was very delicate,
free from illness, or weakness, and
I used to think while a child that
he was scarcely so considerate of her
weakness as he should have been.
But there was never any unpleasantness
in our household - both
father and mother were true
Christians, and brought us up
in the nurture and fear of the
Lord.

We must have removed from
Chalvey to Windsor when I
was between 2 & 3 years old
for I have no remembrance

whatever of living in Chalvey.

The first thing that I can distinctly
call to mind was the tolling of the
great bell of the Castle, one Saturday
at midnight - We had been washed
and stowed away in bed that night
and about midnight were awoken
by the loud booming of the bell,
which is never tolled except for
the Royal Family. I know I
was in a great fright, but my
father came up and told us the
reason of it, viz. the King was
dead - I think that occurred
in December 1820 - so that I
must have been about 3 1/2 years
old.

We lived in Bier Lane
running out of Thames St. to the
river Thames which flowed at
the bottom of the Street.

At that time it was inhabited

by fairly respectable working people and the Wesleyan Chapel was in it - but now I am informed it is peopled by fallen women and their associates alone.

When about 5 years old I was entered as a Scholar in the Independent Sunday School, High Street, my father and mother being members of that church the Pastor being the Rev Alexander Redford, father of Mr Redford of Worcester, and Grandfather of the Rev R. W. Redford M.A. now of London.

About the same time too, I was taken with my brother and sisters who attended the School, by my mother, to the National School. - The master placed me on a form - put a Bible into my hands, and I read

with fluency a chapter before the entire School. The master was very pleased, and would gladly have taken me into the School but the Rules did not allow admission under the age of 7 - So I had to be kept at home two years, when I got admitted and was there until 12-

Now, how, where, or when I learned to read I cannot tell. - I never went to School, except for a very short time to my Aunt, who had a small pension from Govt - and kept a cake shop, and school, but I am sure I did not learn anything there. for she had no books - only two or three small cards of the Alphabet and small words. Nor did any one teach me at home that I know of, at least not in a formal

manner. But it was a fact that from my earliest remembrance I could read the Bible, Hymn Book, and the Pilgrims Progress, which books were the chief books in my father's library. I forget however that he had a large folio edition of Foxe's Book of Martyrs ^{the picture being} upon which I was allowed to glaze my eyes, upon particular occasions as when I had been a very good boy &c. - He had also I remember an abstruse theological work called Boston's Fourfold State, which he and my mother valued very highly. It was a high Calvinistic Book which was in accordance with my parents views - but without in the least understanding it. I read it through more than once. These, together with a large folio edition of Brown's Compendium

Family Bible, adorned (or disfigured) by large engravings - formed, I think the greater part of the mental pabulum of my earliest years.

One thing more with regard to the reading of my youngest youth. - My father could not afford (or would not) to take a newspaper - but was very anxious to hear the news - So, we used to borrow from the Public House, Bell's Weekly Messenger. My Brothers, William and Thomas, were the readers, as father was at work - but it was permitted to me, at times when they were employed, to take the place of reader, and a high honor I thought it. The style of a Newspaper is so entirely different from other reading, that I found it very difficult, and father often blamed me up, for making mistakes, or for not being able to make any sense

of what I read, which I think
was rather hard upon a little
fellow like me. However, there
is no doubt it was good exercise
and prepared me in after years for
the reading of Milton, Cowper, Annals,
Moore and others. All this time
I had not been to any School.

At 7 years of age I was admitted
into the School, and was at once put
into a good position. There were
200 Boys, and the same number
of Girls, in a distinct School room.
Our Master was Mr Robertson
a Scotchman, of whom I shall
have more to say anon.

The School was decidedly a
Church School, and the Catechism
Collects &c were duly taught to all
the children, but as some of the
wealthy Dissenters subscribed to

the School, the children of bona fide
Dissenters were allowed attend their
parents place of Worship on the
Sundays, as all the rest of the School
were duly marched from School to
church every Sunday twice. I was
however compelled to attend church
with the School twice a year, viz.,
on Ash Wednesday & Good Friday,
and as a curious reminiscence, I
may state, that I remember that
on I think every Good Friday, the
Vicar, the Rev^d Isaac Gossett, preached
the same sermon, or at least, took
the same text.

The curriculum of the School was
not very high, and comprised
the three R's - the two former chiefly
from the Bible, and the Arithmetic
consisting of the first four rules,
simple and compound, nothing

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further. No Geography. no Grammar
no History. no attempt to open up
the mind to the wonders of the world
in which we lived. but Bible reading
and explanation the year through.

Nor were we very much indebted
to our Teacher for this. but to the
numerous Clergy men of Windsor
& Eton, of whom it may be said
that their number was Legion.
comprising as they did. the Canon
& Minor Canons of St George's
Chapel Windsor, the parochial
clergy men, and the Fellows &
tutors of Eton College.

We were very seldom a day
without a Clerical visit, and I
here bear grateful testimony to
the great interest taken by many
of them, in our Biblical instruction,
especially those in the highest

class, in which I very soon obtained
a place. The clergyman who took
the greatest interest in our progress
was the Revd Mr Short, a private
tutor at Eton College and who. I was
afterwards informed was made a
Bishop. Many a sixpence have
I got from him - His custom was.
to put a sixpence on his knee at the
commencement of the lesson, and
whoever was the first boy, at the
close, won the prize.

O! what struggling and excitement
there was, in our endeavour to answer
his questions on the facts & history
of the Bible. and truly I have
been often very thankful to the
Lord for the scriptural knowledge
I thus obtained. It has been of
great benefit to me.

At that time I knew by heart

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every Old Testament prophecy relating to Christ. the life and history of all the prominent characters in the Bible and as regards the New Testament every miracle Our Lord performed, which I had committed to memory, almost all the Gospels. I ever bless God for the Bible knowledge I obtained in the National School Windsor.

I have often thought whether the Mr Short to whom above all others of the Clergy I was thus indebted, is identical with our respected Bishop of Adelaide. The age of Mr Short is about right for the supposition. I should like to know. Once I was in an Omnibus with him for a few minutes, and had made up my mind to address him. but the Bus stopped and he got out.

Our Schoolmaster was a cruel, harsh and unfeeling man, ruling entirely by the power of the cane. and we all I believe cordially hated him. As an instance of his cruelty I will remember that he had an orphan boy, a Scotch lad, to bring up as his ward. I have seen him strip that boy naked and flog him round the School with a Soldier's belt cut into tails at the end, and have seen the boy afterwards bleeding from all parts of his body. and all for a very trivial offence, or none at all. He was a very tiger for cruelty.

When I was twelve years old I left the School on account of his cruelty - He used for the most trifling offence to order a boy to strip down his trousers lay him over a form, and flog

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his naked posterior till the blood came. But somehow, I had never been subjected to this indignity - But my time was now come.

I was teacher of the 3rd Class, and one of our rules was, that if any boy in our class had made use of any bad language, the teacher was to write it on a slate and present it to the master.

A boy in my class, named Tommy Angelo (I remember his name because he afterwards became a noted prize fighter) had made use of dreadful language, which I wrote on a slate and put the slate into the Class Box while I went to do my Copy Book writing - My assistant finding these words on my slate in my absence, took it to the master, who knowing it was my writing

summoned me into his awful presence. He asked me if that was my writing - I answered Yes - but explained the matter as I have detailed -

Tommy Angelo was called, and sworn by all that was good, that he didn't say the words, but that I wrote them down, and showed them to him and then put the slate in the Box.

The Master then said, Go away boys - Ryder alone is guilty, and then with a fierce scowl upon his features which I shall never forget - he turned to me, and said savagely, Strip -

I refused, little and puny as I was, I defied him.

He said to the boys, "Strip him" I resisted still, but with the grip of a tiger he held me, while the boys, who would have befriended

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me I know had they dared,
let down my sether garments
and throwing me across a form
the wretch flogged me and flayed
me, till I was unconscious -

When I came to myself. I pulled
up my garments round my
tortured flesh. and School was
dismissed. The children sang
as usual before dismissal.

Glorv to Thee My God this night
but my poor little heart was filled
with malice and hatred against
the inhuman perpetrator of such
cruelty. and I then resolved. Come
what would. I would never
enter that School again.

If my parents forced me - I
would run away, go to sea.
do any thing. say die; before
I would go back.

I dragged my aching & bleeding
body home. There was no need
for me to tell my father. He saw
I was really ill - and pointing
myself to my back. he pulled down
my trousers. and knew all.

I remained at home till Monday
really ill. but on that day my father
took me to School, and severely
rebuked the Schoolmaster, shewed
the wales on my back, & threatened
to take me to some of the Governors
of the School, at which the Master
was really frightened, and abjectly
begged him not to do so - and
promised how very good he would
be to me in future. but my father
would not allow me to stay any
longer in the School, so he sent^W
me the same day, to a middle^X
class School, kept by a Gentleman^Y
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named Binfield, a distant relative
of my future wife. There I improved
very much in Arithmetic, Grammar
& History. I stayed there about a
year, and drank in knowledge.

I may as well say here, that
Robertson, a few years later committed
suicide by hanging himself from his
bed post.

When I was about
13 years of age, I left School, and
became a sort of monitor in my
brother William's School at Chalvey,
my native village. The people there
had started a British School, and
chose my brother as teacher, and sent
him to the Boro' Road Training School
to be qualified. I was there nearly a
year, but my poor brother's health
was very bad, in fact he was in
a consumption, and died about
3 or 4 years later. He was

one of the most inoffensive, meekest
and most pious young men I ever
knew, not fit for this world, but
ripe for glory.

And now the time was come when
it behoved me to go out into life.

I was 14 - very thin and short
and pale, with but indifferent
health. My parents used to say
I should never be fit for hard work,
and so they apprenticed me to a
tailor, a great mistake, for a puny
mortal like me to be condemned
to be penned up in a close shop
amid the stifling heat of hot irons,
abominable smells. However
so it was. I was apprenticed to Mr
Richard Cobden Tailor, Thames
St Windsor, out of doors - till the
day I was 21 - My master was
a very respectable man. He was

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first cousin to the famous Richard Cobden the father and founder of Free Trade, and the Repeal of the Corn Laws, but whose greatness had not yet begun to dawn.

He employed from 8 to 12 men according to the season, and I was placed under the care of his brother Ben, who worked for him. I soon began to pick up a knowledge of the trade, and liked it pretty well having the first and second year a great deal of out door employment in taking clothes home, running errands &c. Afterwards as I became more useful at the trade, I was kept at work, and he took another apprentice.

Having now narrated the principal events of my life up to the age of 14. I will say a little

as to some matters that I may have hitherto overlooked, and which belong to the period of my boyhood.

I have already recorded that from my earliest childhood I was a great reader, but I was also in my way from the same period a great singer. I remember well when not more than five years old. I was very often sent for to the house of my father's landlord a Mr Haines who indeed owned nearly all the houses in the lane, to sing to the lady. Mrs Haines, a kind old lady as I remember her, who was obliged as I was told to do good by stealth, if she did it at all, as her husband, a bleared eyed wicked looking old man, was reputed to be a miser, and terribly hard and unfeeling to his tenants.

They had no children of their own but the old man had a nephew, a Captain — in the army, and a most disreputable Captain he was as many a poor young girl living in the lane could testify. He certainly could not boast of his good looks, for he was the ugliest man out.

His nose was entirely eaten away by some foul disease, so that there was quite a depression where there should have been a prominence, and the two great orifices of the nose, made his face appear like ^{that of} some monstrous lion or tiger. We children had a private opinion among ourselves that he was not a man at all, but the Devil incarnated. But the name of Captain, and his showy regimentals

rendered him powerful for evil. And of course so far as he could, he made ducks and drakes of his father's money.

Sometimes the old man hired a trap from the livery stables, and his hopeful nephew had to drive him out for an airing, and whenever that occurred, the old lady would be sure to send to my mother requesting that she would send "Little Joe" to her, to sing to her. Accordingly "Little Joe" had to be scrubbed and washed and made presentable with a clean pinafore on, and, armed with his little book of Songs for Children was marched by the servant into the presence of the kind old lady.

Seated on a footstool at the lady's feet, "Little Joe" would carol

forth in his best (or worst) style
numerous little ditties from his book
interspersed occasionally with Hymns.
Such as were sung in Chapels, always
finishing with "Glory to Thee my God
this night". The performance being
finished, "Little Joe," was regaled with
plum cake buns and sweetmeats to
his heart's content, with sometimes a
small glass of gooseberry wine added
and a bright sixpence having been
given him, which he was cautioning
not to spend on any account, and
which he stoutly protested he would
never think of doing ~~on any account~~.
Little Joe was taken home by the ser-
vant. I forget what became of
the sixpences, but I have an im-
pression that my mother put

them into her pocket — But I
know that such events were red-
letter days in my Calendar.

I was as a child, always a
weak puny mortal, very often poorly,
and a victim to every disease, such
as measles, croup &c. that came round.
The typhus fever which I had when
about nine years old, nearly finished
me, but somehow I struggled through
after lying in bed somewhere about
six months.

I think I was about 16 years
old, when I was admitted as a
Junior Teacher into the Congregational
Sunday School, at Windsor. I had left
the School as a Scholar some two
years before and afterwards used
sometimes to accompany a Mr. Doherty

away to a branch School at Cadding
Green about 4 miles off - but at 16
I was regularly admitted into the
main School at Windsor. of which
I was not a little proud.

About the date of my apprentice-
ship. our old Minister Mr Redford
who had been for more than 40 years
our Pastor, was assisted by a young
man from Highbury College named
John Stoughton. and was chosen
by the Church as Co-Pastor.

His beautiful preaching room filled
our old Chapel in High St. which might
have held 500 people - to overflowing.
and speedily a grand new Chapel
was built in William St. holding
more than double. with spacious
School rooms under one half - and

strange to say. A Mausoleum for the
dead under the other half -

This large School room was divided
by panels and moveable shutters into
Boys & Girls Departments, the shutters
being down at opening. closing. and
address. and up during School work.

The Superintendent was Mr John
Hetherington. an earnest worker
for Christ - and the Lady Superintendent
was Miss Gearing. like minded
as to Christ's service, and also as
to mutual regard. for those
two speedily got married, and
were made one - In the girl's
department there was a young
woman teacher admitted about
the same time as myself though
a few months younger. who

was destined to play a very important part in my history, as my beloved wife during the long term of 41 years. At the time of which I write however, neither of us knew any thing about the future.

About the same time I was made a member of the Choir of the Chapel, first as a Treble, and when my voice broke, as an Alto, and altho' I had then very little knowledge of Music, having a good ear I could speedily acquire the alto of a tune, and thought myself no mean singer.

When a little over 17 years of age the Rev^d James Sherman, then of Reading, but afterwards for many years the Successor of Rowland

Hill, at Surrey Chapel, and one of the most eloquent, faithful and successful preachers I ever knew, came to Windsor on a week night to preach to the S. S. Teachers. His text was Isaiah 44th Chap 3rd 4th & 5th verses. "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty &c" and while he most affectionately pleaded for God with the Teachers for personal and immediate consecration to Christ, with eyes swimming with tears, my heart was broken into tenderness, and I trust I then yielded myself fully and entirely into my Saviour's hands - for Him to live and die.

Peace, love & unutterable joy came into my soul, and I felt

that Jesus was mine. and I His-

Notwithstanding. I kept it to myself for some time. fearing to speak of it either to my parents, or to my pastor. Dreading lest I should afterwards bring disgrace upon the profession of religion by falling away.

This, however, was a suggestion of the enemy, and had well nigh lost me my happiness - but one Sunday night in our Teachers prayer meeting after service. I broke through the reserve and being called on to pray, which was repeatedly requested, I had never done before - I took up my cross, and in a very incoherent manner and with many sobs and tears showed by my prayers, that I was determined to serve the Lord

Jesus. My Superintendent, who looked after the spiritual interests of the Teachers as well as the Children soon introduced me to our Pastors both old and new - and after about three months, during which I received valuable counsel from them and the deacons, I was formally admitted a Member of the Church, and received the right hand of fellowship from my dear old pastor (who had baptized me in infancy) - in the presence of the Church. Soon afterwards I was called upon to pray in the Monday evening prayer-meeting, and sometimes had considerable liberty in that exercise. One Sunday my

a short time afterwards, my minister Mr Stoughton spoke to me after service, and said Do you not go to Dorney Sunday School this afternoon (a village about 4 miles off) - I replied, yes. Well, said he, there will be no preacher there this evening, and I want you to stay and conduct a service - I objected strongly but he said - Take this tract, you see it is a short sermon, and read it to the people, and if you feel free to say a few words of your own, do so by all means.

With fear and trembling I went to my first appointment my brother in law Mr Tilly accompanying me. The service

was held in the great kitchen of a farm house, and the place was quite filled. - I was very nervous when I began to read my tract, but gradually I felt more happy and interested - and having got about a third part through - I felt liberty enough to say something of my own and continued so - the consequence of which was that I never got back to my tract, but finished a (to me at least) very interesting service in the usual manner.

I was now between 17 & 18 years of age, and had hitherto taken no pleasure at all in the society of the female sex - in fact I was unusually shy

and timid when in company
with them. I remember well
that on Good Friday in the year
before, going in a van with the
other Teachers to the S. S. Anniversary
at Spaldenhead as was our Annual
Custom, that when the van stopped
at the Inn and we all got out
having a good way to walk to the
Chapel - all the Teachers paired off
each Jack to his Jill - until at
last there was only one Jack and
one Jill left. The Jack was
I - and I ran away to the opposite
side of the road, and the Jill
followed behind the Superintendent
and his Jill - All at once he saw
her walking alone, and I on
the opposite side sneaking away.

In an authoritative manner
he called to me to come over.
I obeyed, and ^{he} directed me to
go and offer my arm to the
young Lady - I went up to her
without saying a word, and
she mechanically placed her
arm within mine, and we
joined the others.
Several times looked up in her
face, intending to say something.
but she looked so very black
and sour that I was frightened.
and I never spoke a word to
her, or she to me, during nearly
a mile's walk, or when taking or
leaving my arm. Happy was I
when we reached the Chapel and
I was free again. But she

next Good Friday, my time
had come.

On Good Friday in the year
1834, I and a fellow teacher
named Stephen Boulton, some years
older than I, hired a boat at
Eton to row up the river Thames
to Maidenhead to the Anniversary.

The van load of Teachers went
as usual by road. It was a
beautiful spring morning in April
and we greatly enjoyed our row
of ten miles. We attended the
morning service, met our fellow
teachers, and went with them to
an Inn and had dinner with
them. We afterwards went to the
S.S. tea meeting, after which there
being time before the evening meeting,

we separated, many going for
a walk, some one road, some
another - Boulton and I went
out by the road leading up
Folly Hill - A little in front
of us, we saw two young ladies
whom we knew as Teachers,
but, as yet, had never spoken
to them. I said - Let us overtake
them, and ask them to take a
walk. All right, said Boulton
but I mean to have the youngest
Miss Hill - you can have Miss
Jeffreys. Well, said I, we'll
see about that. Accordingly
we made up to them, and I
at once secured my young lady,
leaving poor Boulton with Hobson's
choice - We had a delightful

walk (of course) and then went to the evening meeting not before we had persuaded the ladies to leave their companions and go down with us in the boat. it being a full moonlight night they stipulating however. That a young married Teacher named Hatty should go with us, to save appearances.

We made a start on the river about 9 p.m. Boulton & I rowing, Hatty steering in the stern, and the ladies on the broad seat in front of us. — It was a most delightful evening so calm and bright that we didn't hurry down, but every now and then would rest upon our oars, and let the boat glide

gently down the stream. and joined our voices in singing a hymn or sacred piece, making the echoes of the night ring with our melodies. I should say that four out of the five were singers in the Chapel Choir. The exception being Miss Hill, who could sing very nicely on occasion but didn't blow — like we did.

We got home very late, but perfectly happy and pleased with our day's pleasure, (at least I was).

We met on Sunday of course after prayer meeting in the evening, and had a good time, only my mate Boulton was dissatisfied with me for having taken the young one, but I clearly demonstrated to

him that there was a fitness in things as they were. seeing that Miss Hill and I were nearly of an age. between 17 & 18. while he was 22 and Miss Jeffreys about - well, an uncertain age. but older than he.

That I was right was abundantly proved by the result. viz. - That each of us eventually married the right girl. altho' it was $4\frac{1}{2}$ years before I married. while Boulton & Miss Jeffreys were not married till after our first child was born.

In looking back over this period of my life. I see clearly the good hand of the Lord my God as leading me and guiding me, and preserving me in the most

dangerous period of my life. I had begun to contract bad habits. Having a good tenor voice, and being much praised by my shop-mates. I was several times led astray to Public Houses, where they used on one or more evenings in the week to hold (Free and Easy's) where I was of course called on to sing, and made much of, to gratify my poor vanity. I was restrained from drinking, because I did not like it - but no doubt. if I had continued. I should soon have been equal to that accomplishment also. - But directly I became acquainted with your mother I at once ceased to attend these meetings and found quite enough

to employ my evenings in going to see her. She was however very chary of giving me her company, (as I thought so) as she limited my evenings to two a week, excluding Sundays, on the principle I suppose. That too much of a good thing, was quite enough - and as the courtship extended to nearly five years, she was probably right.

Time went on, the years went past, with happiness for me in the society of your dear mother, until the day when I became of age and was free from my apprenticeship. I cannot omit to mention, that my master, a week or two before I was of age, came into the workshop, and

before the men, said that he had never had an apprentice who had fulfilled his obligations like me before, and that in token of his esteem, he would give me the best suit of clothes the shop could furnish, to be made by the men, and that so long as there was a job of work in the shop, I should have it, as his journeyman. The day of my freedom arrived, I not only had the suit of clothes, which were black, as my Brother William had died shortly before. But he gave a supper to all the men, at which many kind things were said with regard to me. I became a journeyman at a good time financially, for the King William IX. died just as I was released and it was the custom in the trade

in Windsor for double wages to be paid to Tailors from the time of the King's death to that of his burial which was about 3 weeks. consequently I earned a great deal of money.

After more than a year was past I began to think about marrying, as I had put away nearly 50£. since my freedom. We took a 5 roomed house in William St. Windsor, and your mother, who never would tell me whether she had any money. said she would find all the bed linen and other linen required. but that I was to furnish the house. This I managed to do, though it brought me very low in finances, and the all important day arrived. We had decided to be married on Monday Oct-~~24~~²⁸th. 1838.

and as the Act allowing marriages to be performed in Dissenting Chapels had become Law just before, we could not but be married in our own Chapel and by our own Minister.

About 3 or 4 weeks before the marriage. I went over to Old Windsor 2 miles off. to interview Mr Bailey whose name you will see in my Marriage Certificate. He was Clerk of the parish church, but also the Registrar under the new Act.

It was a very dark night, and having with great difficulty found his farm house, and being worried by his dog. I knocked at the door.

A servant answered it with a candle in her hand. saying "Who be ye". I said. I wanted to see Mr Bailey

as I wanted to get married. She called her Master, who at once said. If you want to marry, come to the Old Church and do it in the right way. I am the Registrar under the New Act, but I have never had a job, and I don't want to. The Old Church is enough for me. I replied that at all hazard, if it were law, I would be married by my own minister.

Well, said he, then we must go to Mr Long. Superintendent Registrar who was a Solicitor in Windsor but resided at Old Windsor. Accordingly he arrayed himself in his Great Coat and taking his stick and his dog and lantern, we proceeded in the darkness to Mr Longs about a mile

off. Here I was subjected to a bantering ordeal by Mr Long, who treated the whole matter as a good joke. However I, at least, was in earnest, and paying certain moneys, I received a paper, which I was to produce at the marriage ceremony to the Deputy Registrar Mr Bailey. The date was fixed and the place the Independent Chapel in Windsor, and the Minister, my dear Pastor, the Rev J Stoughton.

Full of happiness, I bridged some three slush and mud. A fortnight elapsed, and this day of my happiness drew near. When one day Mr Bailey appeared, and said that as he had found that my future wife lived in another Parish Union, altho only across the river

it was necessary that the banns should be entered and sent at the Eton Board of Surrogates as well as the Winkler.

There was no help for it, and so I had to go to the Eton Board and go thro' the same forms there, and my marriage was delayed for a fortnight. But at last, the important day arrived. Monday, 22nd Oct 1838.

We had kept the affair quite secret. Oh! Yes - But on going with my friends into the Chapel, I was surprised to find that the Chapel was filled by I should think 500 People. More than half filled. The ceremony proceeded very fairly for a time, when I found there was an awkward pause, and I, who had been in the seventh heaven or somewhere else, was awake from my reverie by the voice

of the minister gently asking, "Do you use a ring" - Now, your Mother had given me that necessary article just before starting, wrapped in a Thousand folds of silver paper, and I had deposited the same in my waistcoat pocket.

Awake to consciousness, and not liking to unfold the ring, in the presence of so many people, I began trying with my fingers to push it through the papers. But that was a work of extreme difficulty, and my embarrassment was great, as amidst the suppressed tittering of many, I at last produced it. The ceremony proceeded, the ring was duly placed, the audience dispersed, but it was necessary we should adjourn to the Vestry to sign the contract. I was asked at once

to produce the document I had received from the Superintendent Registrar, without which the Deputy could not sign the Marriage Certificate. Now on the mantelpiece of our newly furnished home, there was a pasteboard model of a church, the roof of which lifted and I had placed that document inside.

I directed Mr Bault who you will remember was my companion when we first commenced our courting, to go home, and get the document from the Church. He went, and a long and to me at least painful interval elapsed.

At last he came breathless into the Parsonage, stating that he had been to the Church, and that Old Cobbett the Parish Clerk knew nothing about it. He had been to the Parish Church!!

However he was soon sent off in a hurry to the right place, and the documents were signed and sealed.

We spent our Marriage day at Virginia Water, a lovely spot in Windsor Forest, and thus our Marriage ended.

On the next morning before I went to work, your Mother surprised me by putting into my hands a £20. Note which was extremely acceptable, as my finances had been almost brought to nil, by the expenses of the Marriage. And thus was begun a union, which I believe, as the poets say "was made in Heaven", and which for the long space of 41 years, was ratified by the blessing of God.

I have thus been particular in narrating the circumstances

of my marriage. because it was the most important epoch of my life, and largely determined my future life. I only regret that we could not have gone down to the grave together, but my Father in Heaven ordered otherwise. Your Mother was always a faithful wife and a loving Mother, and I hope my children will always reverence her memory. I continued working for my apprentice Master for a year or two afterwards, but I grieve to say that he did not fulfil his promise to give me full work and often in the slack times I did not earn a pound per week. But your Mother commenced business as a Milliner & Dressmaker, and was

largely patronized by the upper servants of the Castle and other Ladies. So that she soon began to have work people to help her.

I think at one time she employed three young women, and was highly esteemed by her customers for her good honest work, and for the taste she exhibited in dress. It was on the advice of one of her customers, the lady of one of the King's pages, that I began business for myself as a Tailor, and soon got enough work to keep me employed principally among the upper servants of the Castle. And now comes another of the great incidents of my life. Your Mother was delivered of

a baby in September 1839. and I thought that my cup of happiness was now complete. The baby was Mary, and I rejoice that she is now alive, and the Mother of a numerous family. Another daughter was born about a year and a half after. Susanna, who I am glad to say, is still alive and also the mother of a large family. But about this time I, not liking my trade, and being urged by my Brother Thomas to become a School master, applied for admittance into the Training College of the British & Foreign School Society, 110, Strand London. As I was a married man with two children. I had to satisfy the Committee that my wife and family would not mind. Your Mother was

equal to the occasion, and nobly agreed to attempt to keep the house while I was in College. I was accepted on that condition, subject to an examination. In August I went up. There were more than 50 candidates, and the whole of us were seated at a long table. I sat near to the tutor and examiner D. Cornwell, and the ordeal lasted 5 or 6 hours. At the close, he told us in plain terms that we were all miserably ignorant, but that we should be admitted probationally. Gathering up our examination papers, he said. These will be produced at an examination in three months time, and if your next papers ^{then} do not show a great improvement even in the best of you

you have mistaken your vocation
and must go back from whence
you came. This so affected me
that as I walked down the Westminster
Bridge Road that evening on a visit
to your Mother's Aunt. Mrs. Ham
I had a good cry, at thinking what
would become of me and my little
family, were I to be turned out of
the College after having made such
sacrifices to get in. and I resolved
that with the help of God I would
strain every nerve of my body and
spirit to prevent such a catastrophe.

And I did so. On one occasion
shortly afterwards. I was behind in my
lessons, and the Doctor severely scolded
me. My excuse was that I had
not time. When he curtly replied

You must make time. I understood
him, and from that morning
I used to rise at 3 or 4 o'clock, and
with a few of the students who were
like minded, studied my lessons
in the Class Room, where we were
permitted to light the gas, but were
almost frozen by the cold.

The Doctor shewed confidence in
me by placing me in trust over
the others, and I had only to
call those who were disposed to
be rowdy, to return to their studies.
or I would inform the Doctor, to
ensure obedience. Once in 3
weeks I used to go down to Windsor
to visit your mother and my two
children on the Saturday after
noon, walking 5 miles thro' London

to the Paddington Station and then
3 miles from Slough to Windsor. &
after spending Saturday afternoon
and all Sunday with my family
I had to answer to my name at
1/2 past 8 on Monday morning.

It was in August 1842, that
I entered, and in Dec I was appointed
to Wrexham Denbighshire North
Wales. This was a very short
training only 5 months, but the
demand for Teachers was so great
that I could not be kept longer.

I received a valuable lecture from
Dr Cornwell before leaving. He told
me that tho' I was appointed to an
important School I was not to
understand that I had finished
my education. He acknowledged

that he had perceived in me the
faculty of teaching, but that I was
still very ignorant, and must improve
myself both in learning & teaching
or I should still prove a failure.

I arrived in Wrexham early
in 1843, leaving your mother
and the children at Windsor for
the present. My salary was £80
per annum, quite a respectable
income as times then were.

I found the School of 200 Boys
in a very efficient state, the
master whom I succeeded being
a first rate teacher, and who was
afterwards for many years the
Head Master of the Model School
at the Boro Road. like my School
I had been practising in while

in College. He may be there still.
His name was. Mr Langton. B.A.
of London University. The School
was held in the Town Hall, an
old and venerable building of several
hundred years standing, but very
dilapidated and they had just
commenced building a New School
Room both for boys & girls in
another part of the town. I
entered on my duties with great
enthusiasm and for a time all
went on swimmingly. I commenced
a Class in Vocal Music on Hullah's
System, and soon had about 100 Pupils
which not only was a source of income
to me, but served greatly to increase
my fame as a Teacher. I went
up to Windsor at Easter to see your

Mother and soon after I returned a
baby was born, whom we called
Anselm. But now my troubles
began which ultimately resulted
in my leaving Wexham.

The Chairman of my Committee
a Dr Lewis, was a retired Physician
and was a perfect enthusiast in
the education of the people. Quick
and impulsive and overbearing
in his nature, and his time entirely
at his own command, he used to
spend the greater part of it in
my School. This would all have
been very well, had he confined
himself to observing, but unfortunately
for me, he would interfere with
the management of the School,
and go into the classes, and

always with a ruler, and use it too,
on the boys. Complaints were made
to me from the parents, of his
interference, and I repeatedly asked
him not to do so, but to refer any
thing wrong to me. Several times
he promised to do so, but continued
the same conduct, until it became
intolerable. One day, when he had
drawn blood from the knuckle
of one of my monitors, I told
him plainly but courteously that
I could no longer endure this
interference, that he was undermining
my influence and authority
he became very angry, said he had
always done the same under the
former master and threatened
to bring me before the Committee

I replied that I was ready and
even anxious to answer to the
Committee for my conduct of the
School, but would not suffer any
more interference from him.

At length he became abusive,
and taking up my hat from the
table, I said, "Now D. Lewis, either
"you must leave the School, or
"I will." He was in a towering
passion, but put on his hat and
left the School, to the delight of the
children, saying that I should
have to answer for my conduct.

He never entered the School for
6 months thereafter, but he did not
summon me before the Committee.
I told the other members, and they
said I had done right, but I saw

that his influence was paramount
& that they were quite afraid of him.

I decided therefore at last to resign
and did so. and soon after, while
conducting my School as usual
one morning, there appeared at
the open door, my enemy, with
his double eyes glaring upon me
followed by the Committee and
among them Henry Dunn Esq
the Secretary of the B & F School
Society to whom I was accountable.

It appeared they had caught
him taking holiday at Llangollen
and had brought him over to
inspect the School. Now thought I,
I am in for it, and so I was,
but after a thorough inspection
he declared to the Committee that

the School was in an efficient
state, at which all the Committee
except D Lewis, seemed very glad.

Then turning to me Mr Dunn
said he found I had resigned
but, said he, find your way to the
Doro Road, and we will give you
another School. A few weeks
after I left, with regret, I must
own, for I had made many dear
friends, but I could never have been
comfortable with D Lewis.

I remained with your
mother three weeks, we had now
3 children, Mary, Susanna & Ann
the baby. I had contracted the habit
of smoking in Wales but I think
my children will say, when they
read this, that I was greatly to

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be excused. When in Wexham
I lodged at the house of a kind old
blind lady. Mr Ellis. who by the by
received her sight at the age of
79. by an operation while I was
with her. There was an old
single gentleman lodging with
us named Sudlow. a terrible smoker
The fireplace of the keeping room, as
it was called where we used to sit
was a large cavern with a seat
on each side. He and I sat on
the one side & my Landlady and
her niece on the other. and as he
was almost constantly sending forth
thick clouds of tobacco smoke, I
often was quite sick thereby
On such occasions he would fill
a long pipe with tobacco, having

all the requisites in a hole at
the back of him, and lighting it.
at the fire, he would say. "Here"
"young man, take a hair of the
dog that bit you", which I did
at last in sheer desperation, and
made my own smoke, which I
found was much better than
enduring his. And so I became
a smoker. After I had acquired
this habit, I went up to Windsor
I think at Midsommer. One morning
I wanted a smoke, and looked about
for a secret place to enjoy it in
as your Mother did not know
that I had formed this habit.
There was a Washhouse across the
yard detached from the house, which
seemed to be the very place. I got

some tobacco and a pipe from the
Storekeepers, and proceeded to
have my enjoyment. I had
only just lit my pipe and begun
to enjoy myself, when my little
eldest child between 3 & 4 years old
came and looked in at the door.
I called 'Mary! Mary!' but my Mary
would not come nearer. She had
seen something new, and ran back
to the house, and the next minute
she and her mother were coming
across the yard to see the wonderful
sight. And now the murder
was out. Of course your Mother
~~was~~ pated me very soundly for taking
up such a bad habit, but I expect
I was correspondingly penitent.
But I did not abandon the practice

and now in looking back over
40 years of my life I cannot
altogether condemn the habit, if
only moderately indulged in.
It has been a great solace to
me and is so still. nor do I
think it is harmful to the health
if used in moderation. But
I cannot too strongly condemn
the practice when indulged in
as it now is, by growing and
pump boys & young men, and
I confess that when I see such
going along the streets puffing
forth their clouds of tobacco, and
spitting away their lumps, it
almost literally puts my pipe
out. I do not spit, and I
think that is one reason why

it does not harm me. At any rate with me at my age, it is a great comfort, and using it without abusing it, it soothes and comforts me and I esteem it therefore as one of the gifts of God.

After remaining 3 weeks with my family, I was appointed Head Master of the British School at Lancaster, the County town of Lancashire. It was a mixed School of Boys & Girls, and I was assisted by a Female teacher and also by a young man. There were 350 children. The School room was like a huge barn 60 x 40 feet, most rudely built, of un dressed stone, rough inside & out. stone floor, stone supports to the desks & forms, stone jambs to

the doors & windows, in fact it was all stone & cold, with a huge iron stove in the centre, holding a cwt of coals, which was the only warm thing about it, but I had quite enough to do, amongst my numerous family, which I suppose kept me warmer. It was in Sept^r I took charge, and at Christmas, I brought my family down 260 miles from Windsor. It was a desperate cold ride for the poor children, of whom I had now three Mary, Susanna & Amelia the baby, but the railway was now open from London to Lancaster, 240 miles, so that we did the journey in one day. I took a house near the School and my furniture came down by the

Canal which ran from London down
into Scotland and passed by our house.

My salary was £90 per ann.
and I further increased it by writing
from evening for a Merchant who
was one of my Committee, and traded
with his own vessels to Canada
& the United States, who paid me
liberally for copying Charter parties
for his ships. I also earned
a good bit of money by a Hullah
Singing Class I established in
Lancaster chiefly thro' the influence
of a Mr Thos Johnson, a Solicitor of
Lancaster, who was so warm a friend
during the four years I was in the
town, that I think my connection
with him should have a place
in this narrative. Before I had

been a week in Lancaster, as I was
one evening sitting in my private
room at my lodgings, I was informed
by the servant that a gentleman was
desirous of seeing me. *That gentleman*
was Mr Johnson. He said he had
heard that I was a Teacher of Vocal
Music on Hullah's system, and
being an ardent lover of Vocal Music
he had come to make & cultivate
an acquaintance with me, if
I would allow him. Thus we
became acquainted. He was the
son of Dr Johnson the then Mayor
of Lancaster, his brother was in
large practice as a Surgeon, and
the family altogether were chief
among the elite of the town. He
with all the family were Church men

tho' I afterwards found that he had no particular opinions respecting religion, but he was certainly a very moral & respectable young man.

Our acquaintance soon ripened into friendship especially on his part. Being a briefless barrister at that time, his friendship was almost oppressive. He would be generally waiting at my School door in the afternoons at the closing of my School duties, urging me to go for a walk, and sometimes we would be together all the evening. Secured by his influence, I started a Singing Class, which numbered nearly 100 members and was very successful.

My friend Johnson shortly after

starting the Class asked me if I would allow him to join my Choir in the large Independent Chapel there, to which office I had been appointed shortly after my arrival. I had got together a fine Choir about 20 young women some of them with splendid voices for which the Lancashire Lassies are famous, and about the same number of young men. I was very much surprised, as all his family were High Church, but said I should be pleased for him to join the Choir, but hoped he had considered the consequences as regarded his family.

He said he was prepared to risk all that, and so he joined the Choir.

The singing pew was immediately under the Pulpit and I sat in

a raised Chair below the Pulpit facing the Congregation. My little daughters Mary & Susanna on either side of me both armed with Hymn Books, for they had already begun to read, would stand up on the seats during singing and lift their tiny voices with the choir & Congregation to the great delight of many of the worshippers.

My friend Johnson sat on my right hand next the child, and during the prayer time would be constantly turning over the Tune Book, and nudging me with queries as to what we were going to sing next - not giving the least attention to the prayer, and hindering others. But as soon as the first word of the Lords prayer was uttered, he would rise up and

assume the attitude of devotion.

I remonstrated with him upon his behaviour, and he replied that he would try not to offend again, but he could not for the life of him regard free prayer as prayer at all, but the Lords prayer was prayer, for it was in the Prayer Book. But before he had been with us 3 months, he was converted.

Our Minister was the Rev^d Jos Fleming who was afterwards for more than 30 years Minister of the Congregational Church at Bluntish Town London, and who has only lately gone to his reward.

Under his powerful preaching poor Johnsons heart was completely broken down. Never have I seen a more marked and decisive change. He at once gave his heart to God.

and his hand to the people of God, and being saved himself, he began to try to be the means of saving others. In the Sunday School, in the Prayer Meeting, in season out of season, whenever or wherever he could speak a word for Jesus, he was ready. As we sat under the pulpit facing the people, he would scan the people above & below and would often whisper to me, "Look at so & so. don't you think they are 'feeling'?" We speak to them after service, and directly it was over, up the aisle he would go, station himself at the door, and when they came out, would politely accost them with, "Beautiful sermon Sir. This morning. I thought you enjoyed it" and by this and similar means

would bring them to Jesus. As for the young men, he formed a Class for them at his Office, meeting once a week, and soon had between 20 & 30, most of whom he eventually brought into the Church. In this I was his helper. If he got hold of a fresh young man. He would say "Now will you come to-morrow night to my Office, there will be a good 'fire'. Mr. Ryder will be there, and 'we will have some nice singing,' and spend a comfortable evening," and in this and other ways he would bring them into the Gospel net. As a matter of course, he endured great persecution from his family. His elder Brother, Dr. James Johnson, apart from his Father

was the principal Physician in the
Town, and he formally disowned him
saying. He was no Brother of his. for
he had disgraced the family.

His father & mother, with whom he
lived did all they could to cure him
of what they called his madness. but
to no avail. He was greatly concerned
for the salvation of his only sister, a fine
girl about 18; used to contrive means
to leave an affectionate letter on
her dressing table, or a Bible open
at some marked passage, or a
tract. but his efforts were not
successful as far as I know.

He began Street Preaching
too. for which he was not fitted
by natural gifts. In this at
the beginning I assisted him.

but finding he had not the gift of
public speaking. I persuaded him to
relinquish it. When I left Lancaster
he was still carrying on the same work
altho' perhaps more soberly & steadily.
He was too, beginning to get some
practice in his profession so that his
time was more occupied. but his evenings
were always devoted to gospel work in
some way. I kept up a correspondence
with him while I was at Lynn. but
when we sailed to Australia, as a
matter of course, our letters became
fewer & eventually ceased. I received
however from him a small book
written by him containing a nice
biography of one of his young men
who had died happy in the Lord
and which I should now have

somewhere among my books
Your Uncle Thomas and Cousin
Erastida visited Lancaster a
few years ago, and called upon
him.

Glendy Nov 10th 1885.

I resume my autobiography
after a lapse of more than
3 years. I came to Glendy
on Aug^r 12th 1882, having
retired from School work
at the end of June 1882,
and by the mercy of God
continue unto this day.
Until lately I have had
no leisure time, but now
being more favourably
situated in this respect

I have determined to resume my
narration. With regard to Mr
Johnson I may say. That your
uncle & cousin found him in
practice as a Solicitor & doing a large
business, a confirmed bachelor, &
getting quite gray. He expressed
great pleasure at seeing them for
my sake, and wished them to tell
me that he was still heart & soul
a Sunday School Teacher, but had for
many years past gone back to the
Church of England. Since then
I have not heard from him.

I remained in Lancaster
nearly 4 years, during the latter part
of which time my health visibly
declined, the wintry keen winds
from the Irish Sea being especially

trying and causing me many distressing coughs & colds. I therefore determined on removing to a more southern & genial climate, and was chosen, over many other applicants to the Mastership of the British School at Kings Lynn in Norfolk, quite on the opposite or eastern side of England. But as the sequel proved so far as health was concerned I only "jumped out of the frying pan into the fire". It was about Easter 1848 that we left Lancaster and the journey was long, first to Manchester where we stopped the night, and then right across England to Hull and then by Steamer to Lynn. I had now 4 children Joseph being born at Lancaster. However by the good

hand of our God upon us, we all arrived safely at Lynn. We found it a good sized town of about 20,000 inhabitants, near the confluence of the river Ouse with the German Ocean doing a considerable shipping trade. A very comfortable house was ready for us just opposite my School, and as I had arranged with the retiring teacher for ~~the~~ furniture we were comfortable at once. My School was for about 200 Boys, and I commenced work with a determination to do my best and work hard. I had a powerful opposition against me in the Church School not 100 yards away which was backed by all the Church clergy, and High Church influence but I stood my ground well

throughout the summer and liked the place very well. But as the winter approached my health again failed and I found out that my position in that respect was worse than in Lancaster.

The part where I lived was high & dry, but the greater part of the town lay lower than the sea, and was kept out by dykes or mounds of earth as in Holland. Large creeks or fleets as they were called, running up into the town, filling and emptying with every tide, and causing agues & low fevers to be quite common. That winter almost finished my earthly course. Though not giving up. I was very ill, no appetite, no spirit to work in my School, but I kept on as well as I could through the winter.

as the summer came on I was sometimes a little better, but was often very weak.

The Secretary of my School a Mr Wigg^{chemist} related I believe to Mr Wigg Bookseller of Rundle St. was an intimate friend of mine and I well remember that on Good Friday of 1849, he first asked me whether I had ever thought of emigrating to South Australia as a means of regaining my health. He said he would be very sorry to part with me, but he felt that to remain in Lynn through the next winter would be fatal to me.

He had been keeping me up for months with quinine & iron and other tonics. And said He would take me to the leading physician of the town and get his opinion of my case. Your mother did not like the idea of emigrating at

all at first, as, soon after we came to Lynn, we had ~~our~~ mother to live with us, who was much paralyzed in her limbs and needed constant attention.

The physician however after examining me, gave it as his decided opinion that nothing but a removal to a warmer climate before winter could save my life. Then your mother at once agreed to go. But how to find the means? Here the help of my good friend Mr Wigg was of service.

I first applied to be sent out as a free emigrant, but had too many children under a certain age. Failing that, I applied to be sent as the Schoolmaster of a ship, and was accepted. But should have to wait my turn which might be

possibly more than a year, so that plan had to be abandoned. Then said Mr Wigg. You shall go - How much money can you raise? I told him I had only my furniture &c and I thought the very utmost I could raise would be under £20 - He applied to Marshall & Edridge Shipping agents of London as to the cost of passage for myself wife & 4 children, and they agreed to land us in Adelaide for I think £80. Mr Wigg then went to work and in the course of a few weeks collected from the friends of the School & Congregational Church of which we were members, quite sufficient with what I could raise to pay our passage ^{with} but little to spare. Before I proceed

to narrate the circumstances of our voyage to Australia. I should like to mention that about six months before we left Lynn a curious accident befel our only little boy Joseph. who at that time was about 2 years old.

One morning after I had gone to School as his mother was dressing her mother who as I have said was paralysed, and he was standing in the window seat behind her. the casement suddenly opened, and he was precipitated on to the yard below. The fall was more than 12 feet. When his mother picked him up. he was to all appearance dead but we were rejoiced to find that he still breathed. I went for a Doctor. who on examination found not a scratch or bruise upon him. The Doctor

tried various means to restore animation but without any effect. He lay lifeless on the sofa. and the Doctor said we must carefully watch him. he was in a state of coma. and if his strength lasted he might awake. but he feared the result. All that day and all that night he lay in the same state. and when I left for School at 9 o'clock ^{next morning} there was no change. But at about an hour afterwards he awoke, and when I returned was playing about on the floor as if nothing had happened.

Thus our Heavenly Father in mercy to us spared him to us at that time tho he was taken from us 14 years after by a fatal accident. the harrowing account of which I will. if spared. narrate in its proper place. We left Lynn on the

Saturday
24th Aug^r 1849. for London, and stayed
at your Uncle Thomas's house. On Sunday
morning your Uncle & I. went to Spa
Fields Chapel, Lady Huntingdon's Chapel
an immense octagonal building, which
had a large organ & choir. As the
great congregation rose to sing the
first hymn, "How sweet is the Sabbath
the morning of rest. The day of the week
I love dearest & best. This morning the
Saviour arose from the tomb, and burst
all the fetters of death and its gloom", my
feelings entirely overcame me, and
I sobbed aloud. The thought that I
was going far away from the house of God
and its privileges, into a strange land
and for many weeks to come should be
a wanderer over the mighty ocean, was
very saddening. But the minister began

to read the Church Service and while those
beautiful prayers were being made, I became
more calm and when again the joyful
hymn of praise resounded thro the chapel
I heartily joined in the singing, and
felt comforted & blest. The Rev J. E. Thoresby
M. A. preached an earnest sermon
which, especially under my peculiar
circumstances, I much enjoyed, and
thus came to a close the last service
which I was privileged to enjoy in dear
Old England. The same afternoon
we all together with your Uncle went
by the Blackwall railway to East India
Docks, and went on board the "Asiatic"
the vessel which was to take us to our
destination, Adelaide, South Australia
which was to sail from ^{Greenwich} ~~Greenwich~~ the
following morning. We found our

berths after a time and were pleased to find that we were placed under the main hatchway, so that we hoped to get a little more fresh air than some others not so favorably placed. The ship was in a most admired state of confusion, bales, boxes & parcels of all kinds crowded the decks above & below. so we had tea bid farewell to your uncle, and soon after crawled into our bunks, and soon went to sleep thoroughly tired out.

In the morning we found ourselves opposite ^{and send} ~~Greenwich~~ expecting to sail directly after breakfast. But while at breakfast a terrible event occurred. Opposite to us and at the same table were a man & his wife, no children, who ^(the man) was suddenly seized with cholera which was then raging in Clerkenwell and

other parts of London. It was a dreadful sight to see the poor man, his face & hands turned a ghastly blue, fearfully convulsed and in great agony while his groans rang thro the ship. He was quickly taken to the ship's hospital, and of course our sailing that day was out of the question. The poor fellow died at 4 p.m. a shell was hastily prepared and before dark his body was taken on shore, and the health officers came on board to hold an enquiry, which was to be continued next morning at 4 a.m. after which we were to sail. Of course great excitement reigned among the passengers, and we resolved to hold a public meeting in the morning to protest against putting to sea with cholera on board. In the morning

the Health Officers continued their enquiry, and we held our meeting, when the Ship Doctor, Dr. Maurau was sent to us to tell us that the case was decided to be one of English Cholera only, and that the vessel was ordered to sail at 10 A.M. Notwithstanding our loud & vehement protests, the Blue Peter was hoisted, and every preparation was made. I went ashore by leave to buy mother a chair, and nearly lost my passage. The ship was seen slowly moving down the river, before we left Gravesend, and but for the fact that one of our passengers was a sailor & took one of the oars, we should never have regained the ship. However your mother's great alarm was assuaged when I scrambled on board with her chair.

Before I go on to describe the incidents of the voyage, I must narrate a laughable story in which I ^{played a} very wicked part. Our Dr. Maurau, whom all my children will remember and esteem as the "Good" Doctor of Reynella, and my intimate friend for many years, was then a nice bashful young man, just married and only just passed as a Surgeon, was as I have said, sent to assure us that the man had died of ~~English~~ Cholera. Among the many indignant denials made, I, who saw the point of a joke said, Doctor I will prove to you, and you shall acknowledge that you are wrong. Will said he if you put your opinion before that of the Health Officers, I have no more to say. Nay said I, but you shall acknowledge

that I am right. There was great silence, and I said quietly, Doctor What is the name of this Ship. Amidst great laughter & voices replied "Asiatic" and the poor Doctor made a hasty exit. It was too bad of me, but I could not resist it. Many a time since have we laughed together as he would recount this anecdote saying that I completely "sold" him. Alas! He is gone. Peace to his memory.

We sailed slowly down to the sea. I remember passing Sheerness & the North Foreland and then came Chaos. For two days & nights I lay in the utmost misery. How the poor children below us in their berths got on. I neither knew nor ^{could} ~~could~~ ^{help them}. I only thought I should die, when all at once we were still.

We were inside the Plymouth Breakwater. Oh what a respite, but only for a day. Next morning we were off again and the sea ^{was} calm. I remember passing the Land end & Eddystone Light, and ^{felt} very sad at ~~leaving~~ taking farewell of the shores of my dear old country. But what I thought of for several days after that it is impossible for me to describe, except that I deeply regretted that I had ever put my foot on board ship, and felt sure we should all go to the bottom. One day when it was a little calmer, Capt Waddell came down and made us all get up on deck. We were forced to obey, and children and adults were all seated on either side of the cuddy, and for a time we managed by holding on tight to the bulwarks to enjoy

in some measure the rays of the sun but it was of brief duration. for the sky soon clouded, the wind arose. a tremendous sea struck the vessel, and your mother who sat on the opposite side from me, was sent spinning right across the ship down to me. and we all had to be assisted by the sailors down to our bunks. A day or two more of misery. and then the Captain told us that we had crossed the Bay of Biscay and should soon have calmer sailing.

This prediction proved correct, and getting more used to the ship and its ways, we gradually found ourselves more comfortable. But your mother could not relish the food allowed us nor did the children, and poor mother often went hungry and longed for some

more flour especially as she could not eat the ships biscuits which they ironically called bread, only a small quantity of flour being doled out to us which chiefly went for the children. But we could not buy it, and so had to put up without it. As for myself, after I got over the sickness, I felt better than I had been in England but still far from well, and did not relish the food any more than the others. On the next Sunday we had service on board. Passengers, crew and all not engaged working the ship were arranged around the Cuddy, and the Rev^d W^m Creighton a Congregational Minister who, with his wife & family were Steerage passengers with us, conducted the service which we greatly enjoyed. After dinner the first mate

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announced that we were passing
Teneriffe, and must look out for
the Peak. We looked & looked in vain
no sign of land could we see. when
all at once I looked above the white
flecked clouds which bounded the horizon
and there high above the clouds, in
the pure blue ether, arose the Peak
in all its magnificent grandeur.
Its height, I think is 15,000 feet.

A few days after this we were becalmed
and as we were getting into the tropics
and nearing the equator the heat became
very great. while the fact of our being be-
calmed, and the offal of the ship lying
all round about us, caused a stench to
fill the ship almost unendurable.

We were becalmed a fortnight, and our
becalmed became most distressing. On the 5th

October however things came to a climax
in more than one respect. Your Mother
was taken poorly in the evening, and the
Doctor ordered her into the Hospital
which was hastily prepared for her
and before midnight she was safely
delivered of our fourth daughter, Annie
Occana, now Mrs. W. Padman. In the
early morning while I was sitting
on the gangway steps talking with
the Doctor's assistant, I exclaimed "The
ship is moving". Nonsense, said he, but
I ran to the bulwarks, and sure enough
she was going nicely thro' the water at
two or three miles an hour. Oh what a
double relief. The birth of our child
was entered in the ship's log as having
occurred in lat. 6.35 N. & long. W.
6 1/2 degrees north of the equator

Two days afterwards we were told that we should cross the line that evening, and a fat old Cornishman on board was very anxious to see the ship go over it, as he thought it was a veritable line or rope. So the first mate determined to gratify him. We agreed that he should be awake in the night, and scolded because he had not got up before we had passed it, which the mate informed us we had done an hour before. The old man rudely awaked, hurried on deck his shirt tail floating in the wind, & exclaiming, in true Cornish style "Where is her! I cant see her! Oh what a pity! The mate said dont you that line pointing to a streak on the horizon. But the old man was not

to be gulled. "Her baint she" he said, "you be jammoning I". Well said the mate I'll convince you, and fetching his telescope he adroitly put a hair across the sight, and handed it to him. Amid roars of laughter the old man cried out. "There she be" "I see her" "Thanksee Mr Metcalf." I said home "that I would see the line, and now" "I have seen her", and went to his bunk quite satisfied.

When your Mother had been in the Hospital about 3 days the Captⁿ ordered the Medical comforts to be stopped, as she was doing well. I thought it very cruel. But there was no appeal, but when I saw her pining for want of proper nourishment I was very indignant. Now all the money we possessed

was 5 sovereigns which Mother had sewed between the bones of her stays. So I said Mother, give me your stays. but she refused. however I soon got them & ripped out one, and got a bottle of Port Wine for her. Cost 5/- She afterwards had another bottle and so she sewed up the others & we arrived in Adelaide with £4.10 & 5 children. We had ^{hoped} to have had one sovereign for each child.

We had by this time become used to the ship and sometimes greatly enjoyed ourselves when the weather was calm and the sea moderate. For myself I felt so well and my appetite was so good that I could relish to the full the coarse food provided. While your Mother

was in the Hospital. I had of course the care of the children and had enough to do, especially as our little Boy Joseph was very poorly and had a large boil or ulcer formed in his back which required constant attention. The heat too being in the tropics was dreadful. It was then that I began to experience a complete change in my physical nature. I began to perspire a thing I had never done before and so freely that the bed would be almost wet through in the morning & had to be placed on the bulwarks to dry. My skin too, which had always been dry & hard like chicken flesh changed by degrees into a fair & clear skin like that of a little child. It seemed as if I had done all the sweating of 33 years in almost

as many hours. Following this came a tremendous appetite. I would get up in the morning by 5 o'clock. and taking a Ships Biscuit, & knocking the weevil out of it, would put it on a tin plate covered with a good large slice of fat pork. put it in the galley fire, and when cooked, eat it with much gusto & Appetite. In fact I could eat anything. I had clearly turned the corner and begun to live a new life. and thus the opinion of the Dr who examined me at Lynn was verified. that I was not too far gone. if I had the benefit of a sea voyage & a change of climate.

This is 36 years since. & I wish here to record my fervent thanks & praise to my gracious God & Father that through

that long period I have had almost uninterrupted good health. and now in my 40th year the same great blessing is still vouchsafed me. What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits.

The Lord make me truly thankful. Amen.

Nothing particular occurred during our voyage down the Atlantic. We rounded the Cape in fair weather. crossed the meridian of Greenwich and entered the Southern Ocean. I had put my watch right with Greenwich when starting. & kept it always wound up of course we lost time at first going west and when off the South American coast were several hours late. but I never altered my watch. and had the pleasure of finding that it was almost right with the Ships time when

we crossed the 1st meridian. Then going east we began to gain time, till on arrival at the Port. I found my watch 9½ hours late. But I am forestalling.

We had made very slow progress going down the Atlantic but when we entered the Southern Ocean we had fine westerly & southerly winds & went on gaily. Our old tub of a ship which foundered going home at Port Elizabeth in South Africa behaved nobly.

Our Baby Oceana was getting on finely, a fat chubby infant, and our first mate Mr Metcalf, would often ask your Mother to be allowed to nurse it. He said he had a family of his own in London. He would take the baby round among the passengers and have a sly bit at some of the

newly married women among whom there had been two or three failures on the voyage. saying "Ah! this is a" "really baby. none of your make-believes" Your Mother too was much better as were the children, and we were now all looking anxiously for the first sight of the New Country.

We passed within sight of St Paul where the Captain had promised to call for water, but when we sighted it, resolved not to lose any time, so we did not call. It was on the 24th Dec^r. we caught sight of Kangaroo Island, and the Captain promised us, that we should have roast beef & plum pudding at Adelaide on Christmas day if we found it ourselves but we were doomed to disappointment.

On Christmas morning we entered the Gulf but were opposed by a very strong wind from the North, which we found afterwards was a hot wind.

All that day we did nothing but tack from side to side making but little or no progress. We saw "the goodly Land and Lebanon" the southern coast looked particularly inviting, but could not enter it, and so instead of dining on Christmas fare, we were doomed to regale ourselves on the inevitable Salt Pork. It was not till noon of the next day that we got to the Light Ship, & then we found the "Harry Lorrequer" a fine new emigrant ship, that had left London a month after us. Mr. Hinman & Wife of Hairne came out in her.

We did not arrive at the Port after

all till evening, but most of the male passengers went off to Adelaide at once.

I did not. I and Miss Griffins, whom I have not mentioned before, went on shore, and walked as far as Alberton a township about a mile or so from the Port, to see how we liked the new land. This young Lady, was an assistant in a Drapers shop in Lynn, and a Singer in the Congregational Chapel like myself. When she heard that I was going to Adelaide, she asked me only the Sunday before we sailed whether she could go out under our protection ^{in the} ~~as a~~ single women's department. We agreed, and tho' she had only a few days to prepare, she was ready and went with us on Thursday and sailed with us, not even going

to see her aged parents, who lived in Hampshire. because there was no time I may here at once say that she got a situation as Governess in the family of the Hon. W. Duffield of Gawler. and as that Gentleman got rich very fast their household became large and she became Housekeeper & General Manager of the household, entrusted her savings in Mr Duffield's hands and in 15 years time saved money enough to go home to England and to keep herself respectably but now I hear that she has been for years past out here again, and is living at Mitcham.

The next morning Miss Griffin & I started for Adelaide to seek our fortunes. The day was very hot and the sun scorching. Our first visit was

to Mr Geo Rolfe the only friend we knew in Adelaide. who was one of the Deacons of our Church in Lynn and who had emigrated about 6 months before we did, with his wife and two children. He was a Draper in Lynn but had been insolvent, and all his available cash I was informed was about £100.

They had a most unfortunate voyage lasting 6½ months, and were nearly starved causing Mr Rolfe to be seriously ill and she died within a few weeks of landing. We found Mr Rolfe in business as a Land Agent, and doing well. He was cousin to Mr Geo Morphett now Sir John, a rich landowner, who doubtless put him into business. He received us very kindly, but was very busy so we did not trouble him long.

He asked me what I intended to do. I said of course School teaching was my profession. Oh! said he That is but poor work. Adelaide is full of little Schools and when a person can get nothing else to do, they start teaching. What else can you do. Well said I I could fulfil the duties of a Clerk. Said he That is much worse. The city is deluged with Clerks of all sorts. Can you do anything else? I said I could work at my trade of a tailor. Why said he That is worst of all.

This was poor encouragement. But said he dont be dismayed. something will turn up in a few days. Bring your wife and family to my House, we will manage to do somehow, and as tomorrow is Saturday, you can sleep there. on

Saturday night and on Sunday I will introduce you to some friends who will be able to help you. We then left him. In the afternoon we walked to Worsington to see old Mr Roberts, to whom I had a letter of introduction from my brother Thomas who was on the Committee of my brother's School at Wern. Shropshire and reputed very rich. He received me very coolly I thought, but when he opened the letter, his manner changed. Why said he, Have you got any testimonials as to your fitness as a Teacher. Yes, you are the very man we have been looking for. We want to establish a Day School in connection with Freeman's Chapel but we will not do it until we can find a regularly certificated British

School Teacher. Well said I. Here he is, shewing him my Certificate as having passed thro' the Normal School and also testimonials from the three Schools I had conducted in England.

He sent for the Rev^d Mr Strongman the Congregational Minister of Wensington who examined my papers, and entered heartily into the project, and Mr Roberts gave me a note to the Rev^d Mr Stow the minister of Freeman St. Chapel which I was to deliver to him on the next day, at his residence at Payneham.

I then went back to the ship, very tired, but very hopeful.

The next morning I was off again and saw Mr Rolfe who was very glad to hear what had occurred, and promised hearty assistance, and then started to

walk to Payneham to see Mr Stow. It was terribly hot, the distance 4 miles, and of course I lost my way, and wandered about for an hour or more. I was told to make for the Maid & Magpie, but how to find either of them I did not know. I lay down by a tree, but there was no shelter. I was utterly exhausted and could go no further. Looking around however, I could see a long low building at a distance and slowly dragging my weary limbs along I at last got to it, and to my joy found it to be the Maid & Magpie. I had a glass of ale there and a good rest and as I was now in the proper road, I soon got to Mr Stow. He received me very kindly, entered into the plans proposed for the establishment of a

School, and after having dinner & tea I walked back to town. An awful dust storm with loud thunder and vivid lightning met me on my way, and presently ^{the rain} poured down so fiercely that I was drenched in a minute. I never had seen such a rain before. I kept on my way much frightened & wet through, and by the time I reached town the rain had ceased, the sky cleared and the cool west wind was very refreshing. I again went back to the Ship.

On Sunday I went again to town to Mr Rolfe, and with him to Freeman St^h Chapel, and heard Mr Stow, and through him one of the best preachers I had ever heard. Mr Rolfe introduced me to the people and a notice was read calling

a meeting of all interested in commencing a British Day School in connection with the Chapel for Monday evg. At that meeting a Committee was formed, and I was appointed Teacher School to begin on the following Monday in the School Room at the back of the Chapel. I was to have no payment from the Committee but they were to spend a few Pounds in fitting up the School, and I was to have the School fees, which were fixed at one Shilling per week each, except for little children under 7, at. I think 8^d per week. That night I went back to the Ship happy & thankful for my success.

On Tuesday morn I brought your Mother my 5 children and all my household goods up in a Bullock dray to Mr Rolfe at North Adelaide for a day or so

while I was looking for a house, and finding that Mr Roberts had a house to let at Kensington, we took it and removed there the next day. It had only 2 Rooms with brick floor. but the rent was low and we had no furniture of any value to put into it and so it suited us very well. I borrowed some forms from the Congregational S. School to form a bedstead for the children and two seats with backs, from the chapel made a first rate bedstead for ourselves. we had small boxes for chairs and a large one for table and so, as our finances were running low, we did not spend any upon furniture

I commenced School on Monday with about 50 Scholars a very good

beginning and was busy enough all the week organizing and getting things in order. I walked from Kensington every morning with my two eldest girls, Mary & Susanna whom I found very useful in the School. Mary being over 10 & Susanna over 8 years of age

In less than a month my School was over 80 strong and I had quite enough to do. In about 3 months I found a reaction setting in. The parents complained that there was no female to teach sewing & I lost several girls in consequence. I laid the matter before the Committee and requested a female assistant. which after a deal of pressing they allowed me, & appointed Miss Sootheran now Mrs Crossley late of Virginia now of Ararat Victoria

for afternoon School only. This had the effect of retaining the girls and I had still a good School. But I found that I was at a great disadvantage in regard to the assistance Government gave to Education. By the "Education Ordinance", as it was then called, any person could start a School, if he could get a Magistrate to sign his application and state that he believed applicant to be a fit person & that he had a proper School room. At the end of each month he or she the Teacher sent to the Govt. a filled up form giving the number of children who had attended, which had to be signed by a J.P. and the Teacher received from the Treasury One shilling & eight pence per month for each child not being less than 20 nor more than 40

This Ordinance which had only become law just before I arrived induced great many people to start little Schools all around me, and I had hard work to maintain my numbers, each one of these mushroom Schools taking away one or two children. This in the long run most of them would come back. I asked my Committee several times to allow me to take it, but no, they would not allow me to take Govt money for Education. It would have added nearly £ per week to my income but they would not hear of it. This led to the breaking up of the School about a year afterwards, as I shall narrate in its proper place.

About a fortnight after commencing school your mother was seized with

a severe attack of diarrhoea. which resisted all the remedies we could procure & brought her very low. She would not allow me to send for a Doctor, and I verily thought that we should lose her. At last, some person advised me to get some young wattle twigs & leaves, & boil them down for her to drink. I did so, and the result was almost magical, and the diarrhoea soon ceased.

I commenced a class for Vocal Music on Kullaki system early in Feby. which was at once a great success. more than fifty members joined it on the 2nd night of meeting, after which I closed the list. I also started a similar class in North Adelaide chiefly thro my

friend Mr Rolfe but that was not such a success, the population being too limited, and I closed it after about six months trial. These two classes considerably added to my income, so that we were able to get a little furniture and other comforts about us. I ought to mention that no sooner did your Mother get well than I was afflicted with bad eyes. In a few days I became almost blind, and the pain was intense. But I continued my school, going from 4 to Kensington every day, my two daughters Mary & Susanna leading me. This lasted about 3 weeks. But I soon resolved to move into town and took a Wooden House in Angas St. belonging to Mr Brown

one of our Deacons at Freeman St.
This I found of much advantage
as the winter was approaching
and the Kensington road was very
bad for walking. Even as it was in
Adelaide it was often as I found it
that winter a very difficult task
to get from Angus St to my School
without getting knee deep in mud.
- One Sunday night I remember
your Mother started to go to Chapel
at Freeman St. not a quarter of a
mile distant while I remained
at home to take care of the children.
I expected her home by 8 p.m. but
9 o'clock came and nearly 10, when
she was brought home by some man
to whose house she had wandered
through acres of mud and water

in the dark arriving at this refuge
with only one boot on and covered
with mud & dirt. She had never
reached the Chapel.

All thro' the year 1850. I
continued my School at Freeman St
and also my Singing Classes both
there and at North Adelaide. and by
thus working hard he managed
to save a little money. I bought
a plot of land in Beulah Road
Norwood and by means of a Building
Society. had a two Roomed Cottage
built to which we removed. I think
early in 1851. I should state here
that my brother in law and sister
Mr & Mrs Gilley who emigrated to
New Zealand 10 years before we
came out, but who were then living

near Sydney. on hearing of our arrival in Adelaide, soon made tracks to come to us, arriving about Augth 1850. and lived with us in Angus St. till we removed to Norwood, soon after which they removed to Hay Valley, near Nairne, a very important change for all of us, as will appear in the sequel.

The year 1851 opened very unsuspiciously for me. My School began very low. so great was the competition of mushroom schools around me, so in Feb'y. I called my Committee around me, and stated that my income was insufficient for the support of my family, and put before them two alternatives. The first was: to allow me to take

the Gov^t subsidy. the other, that they should fit up the School Room with forms & desks, and give me proper appliances, as lesson sheets Books. Slates & Maps. common in all British Schools. at an estimated cost of £50. and I would try to maintain my position against all comers.

To the first proposition they gave a decided negative. They were Independents and would never accept Gov^t aid. either for Religion or Education.

To the second, they expressed themselves favorable. provided they had the means. but it was at the present ~~it was~~ quite out of their power. As I saw they were very lukewarm about the matter, I took the only other alternative left me and resigned my position.

I may here say. That I was succeeded by an exceedingly clever man a P.Z.A. who I think was a Student from one of the Independent Colleges. But after a month or two's experience. The School was shut up and has never since been re-opened.

The members of my Singing class determined on giving me a benefit concert. I had taken them thro the Manual. and were now far advanced in Hullah's Part Music. Great interest was evinced, as this was the first class formed in Adelaide, and great enthusiasm manifested by all the members numbering more than 50. besides the School children whom I had carefully trained.

The concert was a great success

The School room crammed, and the part songs. solos, & choruses. loudly applauded. and what was better for me, a sum of nearly £10. in my pocket the next day. as the proceeds.

A very flattering notice appeared in the Observer the next week.

I may say it was entirely vocal. no instrument but my tuning fork.

I had opened a Day School in Norwood. but it was not a success owing to the paucity of inhabitants.

On Good Friday of that year. I went to Nairne riding in a Bullock dray. with Mr Clegg Senr & Mr Bee. with Charley Perry as Bullock driver. to visit the Gillies. The result of that visit was that I determined to remove there. and after a few weeks

we left Norwood one Saturday noon
with all our belongings & children
in a Bullock Dray for Hay Valley.
We packed the children in a large
empty case at the back of the Dray.
It was the 4th of May, as I well remember
the wettest year in N. Australia, and
that day was no exception. Before
we reached Glen Osmond we were
drenched, and so in toiling up and
over the mountains the rains con-
tinued. It was midnight when
we got to the Outparings near
Balhannah. River swollen bank
high. However we managed to get
across I can't tell. But we did so.
and about 2 in the morning we
got to Mr Bothams at Balhannah
who with Mrs Botham got up and

received us with true Christian kindness.
lit a roaring fire, gave us a good hot
meal, warm clothing &c &c &c

We then lay down on the stone
floor of the kitchen and got an hour's
sleep. After a good breakfast provided
by our kind friends, we resumed our
journey, and got safely at Tilley's
on Sunday morn.

Tilley lived in a thatched hut of
one room about 12 feet by 8 ft. and
we were for some weeks to come, to
live in the same. Mr Tilley was
nursing Mr Light. one or two of their
elder children were out at service &
Tilley went away somewhere to sleep
so we managed somehow while
our house of two rooms was being
erected opposite. I had secured a

lease of an acre of land from Mrs
Smilie at a rental of 5/- per ann.
and had engaged a man to build
me a wattle & dab house with thatch
roof. I having to help him.

It was several weeks before it was
finished and I had to work hard
but it was with no little pride we
entered upon possession of our own
new house, which consisted of one
long room 24 feet long by 12 ft wide
high pitched roof and strongly thatched.
We of course made two rooms by a
curtain. We didn't trouble about
windows. two openings in the wall
covered with a strip of calico sufficed
a sack hung up served for a door
tho' we afterwards rose to the dignity
of a really door

And now comfortably housed. The
next question was. How to provide
for our maintenance. There were
a few settlers in the Valley and no
School and Naime was only two
miles away and considerable population.

So we decided that your Mother
should open a School in our new
house and that I should open one
at Naime. Accordingly Mother
moved her curtain partition a few
feet further from the centre making
a very nice Bush School room 18 ft
long by 12 wide. She very soon got
sufficient scholars to enable her to apply
for the Govt grant. I rented a wooden
building in Naime and from the first
was successful as regards numbers.
tho' there was another School in the

village. We soon succeeded in obtaining the Govt aid for both Schools getting our papers signed by Mr Allan McLarlane I.P. who came & inspected the rooms, and kindly certified for us, while Capt Davison the other I.P. in the Dist. refused to do so, being a partisan of the Nairne School teacher.

I think that at this time an eldest girl, Mary, who must have been 12 years old went as Nurse girl to the family of Mr Jas Johnston Oakbank where I know she was kindly treated and highly esteemed and where she remained a considerable time.

And now we seemed fairly launched on a sea of temporal prosperity, which was however to be succeeded in a year

or two's time by the sharp & bitter storms of adversity. But I will not anticipate.

From the time of our coming to the Valley, our children attended the Sunday School at the Wesleyan Chapel in Nairne with their cousins and we and the Gillesys often went down to chapel in the evenings.

When our House was built, and the School opened however, I thought it would be a good thing if we could open our house for Divine worship on Sunday evenings, as there was no service nearer than Nairne, and the dwellers in the Valley generally were living a careless & ungodly life.

Accordingly after due invitation and notice given I held my first service within a few weeks of the

opening of the School and was much gratified at the attendance which was large from the first, and within a week or two entirely filled the house.

Of course I preached myself, being entirely unconnected with any other religious body except the Congregationalists under Mr Stow in Adelaide. This was continued until I went to the Digging in April 1852. and when I returned in October I found that the Primitives had taken up services at another house and soon afterwards built a chapel.

And now I come to a period in my history that completely changed all my plans, and threw me and my dear wife and family into great poverty at least for a time, but in which I can now clearly see

the leadings of my Heavenly Father.

The Melbourne Gold diggings broke out I think in October 1851. and within 3 months almost the whole of the adult male population had left the colony for the New El Dorado. I continued School at Naivine till the end of the year, and might have carried it on afterwards could I have lived without money. But the bone & sinew of the colony were gone, causing the greatest amount of depression possible. Every one leaving carried with them all the gold (coin) they could raise, so that the Govt. had the greatest difficulty in carrying on, and the Colony was nearly bankrupt and most of the merchants & shopkeepers were obliged to resort to a

paper currency. Whole rows of shops
in Hurdley St were closed. grass grew
in the once busy thoroughfares. and
nothing but ruin stared us in the
face. I had a few pounds left, and
I sold my interest in my cottage
at Norwood for £20. for I was
thinking of following the many to
the Diggings in April. I will
relate one incident in regard to
this, to show to what straits the
Colony was reduced. I had walked
down to town and received the money
for my house. and next morning I met
Mr Prankerd the Land Agent whom
I knew well. He said Oh! Mr Ryder
I have got a property to sell that will
just suit you. It is at Prospect. There
are 4 acres of land fenced, and a

well built house of five rooms. and a
stack of hay of about 3 or 4 tons. and
you shall have the lot for £20 -

I had great difficulty in refusing
it. for I had the very money in my
pocket, but I did. for of what use
was land or house to me. The colony
was bound to go to ruin. and my
family couldn't eat house or land. the
difficulty would be. I thought how
to feed them. for flour was £5 per bag
and all other things in proportion.

So I kept my money. altho I believe
within a year from that time. the same
property would have fetched two or three
hundred pounds. About April 1852
our party was organised. It consisted
of Mr John Bott. Messrs Brinkley
Lilley. Ryder & another. whose

^{Mr. Hart of Bathurst & son.}
name I have forgotten. All were
Primitive Methodists residing in the
Valley. We had a team of 6 Bullocks
& a Dray which was to carry our
provisions and also our swags.
and we were to walk.

I arranged with Mr. Leary son
of Naime, to supply my family with
provisions & while I was away. in the
hope of being able to pay him on my
return. My share of the expenses of
the journey caused my £20. rapidly
to lessen. and when I started I left
your Mother with £1. and a Bag
of Flour, while I had only a few
shillings.

The narrative of our
journey overland I kept in a diary.
which I have preserved, and which
if spared, I will append to this history.

We were about 5 weeks going over. &
had to endure a little hardship in
sleeping out at night, and walking
500 miles, and in many other ways,
but I had almost constantly good
health, not only then, but throughout
the whole time I was away. Indeed
I know it must have hardened me
for the 35 years I have passed since
then. I was then in the zenith of
life. 35 years old and have, in the
mercy of God been preserved to the
age of man 70 years, in tolerable
health. Praise the Lord.

When I came home I found another
little girl had been born to me
(Matilda) and was glad to find your
dear Mother & the other children all
looking fresh & well. As to my

success. it was but small. altho I was at Bendigo in all the good time when gold was plentiful. I had sent home by escort 6 oz of gold and I brought with me about 40. oz. - The first thing to be done was to discharge my debt to Mr Cleary for the maintenance of my family. & as I got only about 60/- per oz. for my gold in Adelaide and my bill was over £90 - I was left with only a few pounds when I had discharged my liabilities.

I went to town and tried hard to get a School under the Board of Education which had been established ^{2 yrs} while away. but could only get the promise of being appointed when a vacancy occurred. Nor could I

obtain any other situation. so I returned home and hired myself out to Mr Hefford who came home with us from the diggings. to help him with his hay making.

All day long for a week or two. I dragged a heavy rake over the paddocks for I was not strong enough to do the pitching & stack making and he gave me my food and a few shillings per week as wages.

Before Christmas my money was all gone, and it behoved me to do something for our support.

Accordingly on the Monday morn^g before Xmas day 1852. I shouldered my swag. and having with my last half crown bought a sickle at Johnny Dishe's Store. I sallied

forth up the Woodside road to
get a job at reaping of which I
knew no more than the sickle
I carried. I was directed to go to
Mr Sal Inglis's farm at Western
Branch about a mile from Woodside
as his wheat was ripe. I think I
see him now as he came out to
speak to me in front of the house a
fine tall old Scotchman. I asked
him for reaping. He scanned me
well for a moment or two, and then
said abruptly "You're no reaper."
No, said I. What are you then?
A School Teacher. I replied; and then
in answer to his questions. I told him
all he need to know about myself.
Well, said he, my man, so as you
could not get work in your proper

calling, you have come out to get
reaping in order to support your
wife and family. Yes, I said.
That was so. - He looked down on
me so benignantly and said, All
honor to you, my man, if all colonists
acted as you have done, it would be
better for all of us. Come in, my man,
and get your breakfast, and I will
go to the field with you, and set you
to work. You will be very awkward
at first, but don't be discouraged. You
will cut your finger, get that over
as soon as possible and then you will
be seasoned for the work. Mrs Inglis
a good motherly old lady gave me
a real good feed, and then Mr Inglis
took me to the field. He set me a large
piece, took the sickle and showed me

how to use it. made a band for me
and made me make another.
& promised to come now & then
and further instruct me,
all which he more than performed.
At first I was very awkward, but
gradually got into the way of it,
and by the end of the week felt
myself quite a reaper. I worked
for him for six weeks and reaped
ten acres, doing for the last 4 weeks
my half acre per day easily. thus
earning 10/- per day and my keep.
Afterwards I reaped for Mr S Mills
in Hay Valley but did not do so
well there. I was with him 3 weeks.
This reaping was a good thing
for me and kept the wolf from
the door from Christmas to the end

of July. I then went to town again, but
could not get a School nor any thing
to do in the shape of Clerking &c.
Returning, I did odd jobs for the
farmers. wrote letters for them. measured
land. besides working for them on the
farms or any thing to earn a shilling.
Among other things. I heard that
Mr R Baird of the Mount wanted
some one to thresh (by hand) a small
stack of Oats. Accordingly I walked
7 miles to the Mount. saw Mr Baird
and asked for the job. He said. do you
think you can do it Mr Ryder. It is
hard work? to which I replied. I don't
know. I can but try. So he set me
to work. prepared the floor for me.
and promised to look round occasionally
and change the floor and see how

I was getting on. The weather was frightfully hot. The sun scorching. I stripped to the work, began thumping away with the flail. Bringing it down oftener upon my poor head & shoulders than upon the Oats, while the weight of the instrument of torture, and its jarring motion, tried my arms and shoulders with great pain, and soon filled my hands with blood. But there was no help for it. I kept on some how till sun down. the master changing the floor occasionally & I thumping away not at all intelligently, but feelingly at any rate. After supper. I lay down in the barn on some straw, but not to sleep. Oh! the pain I endured!

I had raised bumps on my poor head unknown to any phrenologist, while

my shoulders, arms, and hands, were racked with anguish.

However, at 5 the next morning I was at it again, but with the consciousness (I own) that I had got a job I could not perform. About an hour or two after. George Pope a farm laborer, almost the only man left in the District, who did not go to the diggings, came up to the slip-panel. Oh said he you're there Mr Ryder. I can go back then. I promised to come & help Mr Baistow, as he couldn't get any one, and I know he wants to get the Oats to the Market as soon as possible. Stop a minute George, said I. This job thrashes me! I cannot do it; bid off as I am, and the master coming up. I said. Don't

Let Mr Pope go. for this job is too much
for me, so we went in to breakfast
and I was relieved of the job. and
went home a sadder & a wiser man.

Since returning from the digging
there being regular service in the valley
by the Primitive Methodists. I had at the
request of the Rev^d I Dare (afterwards
Dr Dare, the popular preacher of Melbourne)
then Wesleyan minister of Mt Barker
circuit, preached at Naime occasionally
for them, and afterwards my name
was placed on the plan as Auxiliary.

I had commenced a School in
a ruinous hut, in the valley and had
got together a few children, but with no
prospect of earning a living by it, and
my mind was much depressed.

I looked on my troubles and thought

God was dealing very hard with me.

One day Mr Dare came in and
asked me to go to Mt Barker and
preach for him on Good Friday
in the coming week. I told him
my then state of mind I could
not preach any where. I thought
God had forgotten me, and then
told him all my troubles. He said
Send those children away, which
as it was near noon, I did.

Let us go to prayer, said he, and
down we knelt on the mud floor
of the hut, and he prayed most
earnestly for me. Afterwards, he said
Now my dear Brother Ryder, cheer up.
I verily believe that the Lord will
appear for your help. Dont indulge
those hard thoughts of God, but believe

and pray, and God will deliver you. I felt greatly encouraged, and promised to preach for him, and on Good Friday evg. I walked over to Mr Parker, and very well, remembering turning aside into the wattles at the back of Blakeston Church, and committing myself & all my troubles into the hands of Jesus, and then going and preaching from the words "It is finished" having a glorious time, & walking back, forgetting all my woes in my unutterable joy.

In May we went to Echuraga at the request of the Hon. Jacob Hagen M.D. who promised to give me the use of the School house there free of rent, and to get me the license and to do every thing possible to enable me to get a

living. I thought I had a good chance. It cost me £5 to take my family over there, and I opened School, and stayed there a month, but the Honorable behaved the reverse of honorable to me, would not use his influence to get me the license, and refused to lay out a shilling on making the house & school room habitable. The rain coming in both school room & house, which latter consisted of but one room, and when a month had elapsed, as I received a reply from the Board of Education refusing to grant a license for the School until it was put in repair, I had no alternative but to give it up and go back.

It was now the middle of winter and the wettest winter the Colony

has ever known, and the day we went back was no exception. We started before noon, but before we got a mile on our way, while going thro' Weston's Flat, which was a sheet of water 200 yards long, the drag got bogged, and all the efforts of the driver were unavailing to make the bullocks move; while the driver lost heart entirely, and cried bitterly and the rain pouring down like a torrent, we were all in a most pitiable condition. The poor children drenched, and our beds & clothing wet through. When the rain ceased I went to a man I saw just putting his horses into the plough in a paddock near by and asked him to kindly give us a pull out of the bog with his horses.

but he flatly refused. said he wanted to get on with his ploughing, which was all behind. I appealed to his sympathy for my poor wife and children but to no purpose, and I was just sorrowfully leaving him, when his wife came out, and on my stating my case to her, she said her husband should go, and as the "grey mare was the better horse" he had to do so, grumbling & swearing all the time. However, his horses soon pulled both bullocks & drag out on to firmer land and I was grateful to him. His name was Weston, as I have remembered ever since. But the rain again came down, and so slow was our progress, that night fell before we got to Mr Parker's Flat, and

we were unable to get over the log bridge into ~~Mr~~ Barker. The fact was, our driver was no Bullock driver, he couldn't even swear.

In this extremity, we were obliged to seek shelter, at Mr Dare's lodging, at Mr Ben Fuller's. Nothing could have been kinder than the reception we received. Mr Dare busied himself with caring for the poor children, and both Mr & Mrs Fuller rendered us every service in their power. After a hearty meal beds were improvised on the floor for the children & the mother and young John Dunn, now Hon John M.L.C. took me home with him to sleep.

In the mean time our belongings were left to take care of themselves. But in the morning were found all

right, and thanking all our friends for their great kindness, we started after a good breakfast, to continue our journey.

We had only four miles to go to Hay Valley, but so bad were the roads, that we were bogged several times, and it was after dark before we reached our home, being two days in doing twelve miles.

Within a fortnight thereafter we removed into Naime. I was led to take this step ~~from~~^{at} the suggestion of Mr Dawes the Miller, who had in several ways assisted me, and who promised that whenever they formed a District Council, he would see to it that I should be appointed clerk, and I knew he had influence enough and the owner of the house Mr Sanders

would expect no rent, until I was in a position to pay for it, which I honorably did a few months afterwards. Mr Davies also told me to roll a bag of flour over when I wanted it, and pay when I could. (I lived just opposite the Mill) I also earned a few shillings now and then, in writing letters & making out a/c's for the farmers. About this time I received a letter from the Rev^d Mr Newland, Congregational Minister of Encounter Bay, and one of the largest farmers around, in fact, he was called the King of Encounter Bay, stating that the Rev^d Mr Stow of Adelaide had recommended me, as a fit man to occupy the position of a Congregational Preacher at Port Elliot & Currency Creek. Port Elliot

being a rising place at that time & thought likely by some to rival even Port Adelaide. He would also use his influence to get me the License for Teaching at Port Elliot, and wishing me to come and see him.

Accordingly, I started off one morning with my blanket & Swag in which was the only suit of rusty black I possessed, to tramp to Encounter Bay, a distance of over 40 miles, but that was nothing to me at that time.

How I lost my way in the Spinney Scrub, wandering all day I knew not whither. How I crossed the Black Swamp at the imminent risk of life and slept in an old disused Chapel at Currency Creek until forced to get up by myriads of fleas and

mosquitos, must pass for saying.
Suffice it, that I reached P. Elliott
by day break the third morning
and then continued my journey
along the coast to Encounter Bay.

I had to cross a small river the
Inman or the Hindmarsh, there
being no bridge. so I undressed
and placing my swag and clothes
on my head I waded through. it
was not above waist high, and
getting to the other side. I made
my toilet, casting off my digging
clothes, & putting on my clerical
costume, such as it was, to make
myself more presentable. But
I had a "shocking bad hat".
In this guise I appeared before Mr
Newland who received me very

kindly, and at tea, shortly afterwards
introduced me to his lady & family
and also to the visitors present, of
whom there were among others, a
Mr England & a Mr Coulthard
two young Civil Engineers, not long
from home. the latter of whom, some
years afterwards, perished miserably
of thirst in the North west Bush, on
an exploring expedition. His remains
when discovered, were identified by
his canteen, on which he had scratched
a record of his dreadful sufferings.
That canteen is now I think to be seen
in the Museum. This was Thursday
and for ^{the} two next days I occupied myself
in viewing the splendid scenery of the Bay,
in reading from the fine library there
and in other ways. On the Saturday

he informed me that he had arranged
for me to preach at Port Elliott on
Sunday m^g. and at his Tabernacle
at night, so that he might hear me.
Accordingly on Sunday m^g his son
Samuel, late the Treasurer of S. A.
^{and I} were mounted on horseback, which
to me at least was a novel and very
painful experience, and proceeded
to Port Elliott. I preached in a large
barn or unfinished shed, but there was
a good audience of about 50 or 60 persons
among whom were the late Mr W.
Richardson Under Secretary, & Captain
Lipson Harbour Master of the Port.
We got back in the afternoon and I
preached for Mr Newland at his church
in the evening under most distressing
circumstances. On Monday m^g. after

breakfast he took me out into the arbor
in his beautiful garden, sloping down
to the sea. the panorama of sea & land
one of the most magnificent pictures
I ever beheld, and asked me what
it was to be. He was willing to abide
by his offer and thought he could see
the workings of Providence in it. I
replied that at present I felt much
afraid that I should fail in fulfilling
such a responsible position. but I would
think over his kind offer, and ask
the Lord's direction, and definitely
reply within a fortnight. To this
he agreed, and we parted, and I never
saw him any more, as he was killed
some years afterwards in travelling
between town & Encounter Bay. I must
pass over my journey homewards, merely

stating that I lost myself again
in the Finiss scrub. was picked up
by an old Farmer named McHarg.
who kindly took me to his house
and gave me a good meal, and then
put me in the track to the Black Swamp
saying I couldnt well lose it now.
But I did lose it, and wandered
about till long after nightfall
when I was attracted by a light, and
at last weary & footsore I was received
into the house of a Mr. Surman, &
found I had wandered almost
back to Currency Creek. I spent
the night under his hospitable roof
and next m. he mounted his horse
and went with me some miles
in fact nearly to the Black Swamp
which I safely crossed, and was soon

on the high track to Strathalbyn.
I preached home in due course, and
thought and prayed about the matter.
Your mother thought it was a marvellous
interposition of God on our behalf.
but the more I thought about it, the
more distasteful it became. While I
preached for the love of God, I could
be happy enough, but I thought if
I was a hired preacher, at so much
a week or quarter, I should never feel
I was in my right place, and should
come to loathe it. Besides, I knew
that the Congregationalists liked good
sermons, and I doubted my ability
to give them, and so, when the fortnight
was nearly up, I wrote Mr. Newland
declining his offer. Mr. G. Tappin
afterwards Protector of Aborigines was

soon after appointed to the position and I believe fulfilled its duties with far greater ability than I should have done.

It was in August 1853. I think, that the Nairne District Council was formed and I was chosen clerk at a salary of £100. per annum. thus happily lifting me out of all my poverty and trouble.

It was soon after this, that Mr Silley and myself became tenants under Mr Smillie on her home section at the "Callies" 3 miles from Nairne. I rented 20 acres & Mr Silley 50. The remaining ten acres forming Mr Smillie's Garden & homestead. We each built a cottage of two rooms on our land & very soon were domiciled therein.

My engagement with the Council only required attendance at the Office 3 days a week, and I therefore had a great deal of leisure to attend to our farm. for so we dignified it. We very soon got a Cow. Then some pigs & fowls. and your dear Mother was soon in her element, with plenty to do in farm & house. We soon bought more Cows. and increased our live stock of all sorts. and as my position as Clerk of the Council. brought me plenty of other work as Secy to the Oddfellows & Foresters. Secy of Building Societies &c &c &c. I had plenty to do. and the money came rolling in. I worked hard both on the farm and at the desk. and your Mother kept the house with the sale of her

produce, so that we were on the road to worldly prosperity.

And now I shall rapidly pass over the remainder of my history as you my elder dear children were now old enough to be to some extent, cognisant of all that transpired. I think it was in May 1854. that I commenced school in Nairne, resigning my clerkship of the Council, but retaining most of my other Offices. I opened with about 50 and in a week or two I had over 80 Scholars, so that we determined to leave our farm, and come to Nairne to live, so as to attend to the School properly. Your dear Mother had the smaller children under her care in a separate room, while your

sister Mary was my assistant in the big School room. My salary from the Board was £80. per annum and Mary's £20. but I expect I took it all.

I had bought the lease with right of purchase of the acre on which the old Public House stood, and soon began to build a new front with three shops. but soon found it was any thing but a profitable venture. In a part of this old house we lived for some time, but afterwards I became the owner of the White House across the Creek to which we soon removed. Here we had a fine garden with fruit trees & vines, but as both properties have passed away from me I shall not dwell further upon the circumstances connected either with acquiring or losing them.

Perhaps it would be interesting at this time to note the state of our family say, in Jan'y 1854. the date of my recommencing the practice of my profession as a teacher

I think I stated that a little girl was born when I was away at the Diggings in 1852. Her name was Matilda. But God reclaimed her when we were at the Ballies in the winter of 1853, and this was the first break in our family circle which was in Jan'y 1854, as follows
Father & Mother Mary Susanna
Anelia³ ^{Burfield} Eliza⁴ Annie⁵
& Emma Matilda the baby. I see there misplaced Annie & Eliza the latter being the elder. In 1858 Emma Matilda died at about 18 months old. Within a month or so. of this death our number

was again made up to eight by the arrival of a little boy, a rare event in our family who was named William Charles. Two years later viz in 1860. our youngest child Isabella¹⁰ Bond, was born, and this completed our family number viz ten children, of whom two were dead. But there are other deaths to record, so distressing and agonising in their nature, that I cannot bring myself to record them at this present 24/1/84.

Our eldest Boy, Joseph Hill, born at Lancaster England on Dec^{1st} 1847, was a weakly child at his birth.

I don't think he could walk alone till nearly 2 years old. He continued weakly till we embarked for Adelaide. but the climate of Australia

evidently agreed with him and he improved rapidly. He was moderately quick at learning, and at 14 or before, he entered the service of Mr Christen the Chemist & Stationer at Naime who also had the Telegraph Office there, which he quickly learnt and soon became very useful to his master. On the 1st Decr 1862 he was 16 years of age, a fine promising lad and both the joy and pride of my life, but Alas! I was soon to lose him.

On Saturday night the 13th Decr. I was at the Lodge room about 9 p.m. making up my Books, for it was Lodge night, when some one came rushing in and told me that Joe was killed near the old Mill. I ran breathlessly up leaving my hat & coat behind me

and found him lying stretched by the side of the main road, and Dr Weld examining him, while his poor dear Mother was standing speechless & tearless (at first) by his poor body. It required but a few minutes to complete the examination, and the doctor pronounced him dead. We then had him conveyed to the house of Mr Hughes opposite. (Father of J Hughes my son in law) Here we found the fatal wound, the base of the skull being fractured. In his pocket I found his months wages, true to a penny. He had given notice to leave that night. I think because his master would not raise his wages.

We then had him taken home to Bryethorn where we then lived, and Oh! what a desolate house it was. Your

poor dear Mother's grief at last gave
vent, and she became alarmingly
ill, all thro' the night it was doubtful
both to the Doctor and to ourselves whether
she would rally, but in God's great
mercy, during the next day her great
natural strength prevailed, and she
was mercifully spared to us.

It was truly a melancholy Sunday
we passed, now & then going into the death
chamber to gaze upon the placid features
of our dead boy, only a few hours since
so full of animation & life. I must not
forget here to record that our Minister
Rev H Chester, who had been preaching
at Woodside, came miles out of his
way in his journey home, to condole
with us. Seeing us all sitting so
silent & mournful, with your mother

reclining in the arm chair, before he
uttered a word, his feelings overcame
him, and he lifted up his voice and
wept, with a loud & bitter cry, in
which we all joined feelingly.

He afterwards prayed earnestly for us
all that the event might be sanctified.

On Monday morning the inquest
was held on his body. The accused man
was arrested on Saturday night within
half an hour of the accident and lodged
in the Lockup. From the evidence it
was proved that he was returning from
Mt Barker in his Barker's cart in a state
of intoxication, and driving at the rate
of 10 or 12 miles an hour, when on turning
the corner, the cart or horse came violently
in contact with my poor dear boy, who
was thrown backwards on to a heap of

metal, and was killed instantly.

When arrested he was totally unconscious of any thing having happened.

He was a tenant of mine, and generally speaking a kind & honest man, except when under the influence of drink to which unfortunately he was much addicted. He was fully committed for trial for manslaughter, but was admitted to bail.

To finish this sad story I may say that he was tried in due course at the Criminal Court, and sentenced to One year imprisonment & hard labour in the Stockade, but after serving about a month there, his health broke down & I was entreated by his friends to sign a petition to the Governor asking the favor of his being allowed to serve his time out in

the Adelaide gaol. I complied with the request, as I did not wish to be vindictive and he was transferred to Adelaide gaol. to serve the rest of his time.

In reviewing this sad incident in my history, now after a lapse of more than twenty years, I cannot fail to see the goodness and mercy of my Heavenly Father to all of us I believe, in solemnizing our minds, but especially to me.

I was at that time immersed in business both in my School by day, and as Secy of various Benefit & Building Societies by night, working very hard, earning a great deal of money, and fast becoming quite worldly in my aspirations & habits. Being so fully engrossed by these earthly pursuits, I had also acquired the habit of the Public House, and ^{on} several occasions found myself the worse

for drink to my great disgust tho' without neglecting my business. I gradually lost my desire & relish for the ways of religion tho' still constant in my attendance on the House of God, but it was for little else than criticising the preacher. I could not feel. Of course I had given up preaching but did not separate myself from the Society. The ostensible reason of my giving up preaching was, that I was appointed Precentor of the Presbyterian Church at Mt Barker at a salary of £20. per an. and used to ride over there on Sunday m^r. on a horse lent me by Mr W Steele. I was not required to attend the evening service, except now & then.

But the fact was that I had so far lost my former delight in religious matters that I was glad to avail

myself of the position of Precentor at Mt Barker. But the Lord in great mercy to my soul gave me a knock-down blow in this dreadful visitation which brought me to my knees in agony of spirit. For a time like the Psalmist I could not understand it. I was dumb with silence. I opened not my mouth. I was consumed by the blow of His hand. I went to Chapel on Sunday m^r. by myself in a rebellious frame of mind, thinking hard thoughts of God and saying like Jonah. I do well to be angry. My gourd, under whose shadow I had trusted, was withered & dead. my purposes were broken off. my heart within me was desolate. Yes, I did well to be angry. But it was not long before other & better feelings came to me by God's mercy. I came

to see clearly that in the inscrutable wisdom of my Heavenly Father, He had made use of this terrible visitation of His hand to draw me back to Himself. Then I cried out with Job. "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eyes see Thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent, as in dust & ashes."

Under the influence of such feelings as these, I humbled myself under the mighty hand of God, sought mercy and forgiveness thro my blessed Saviour, determining in the strength of Divine grace for the future to know nothing among men but Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

We buried poor dear Joe on Monday afternoon, after the inquest in the Nairne Cemetery. Nearly all

the village turned out. The S.S. children walked before the corpse and sang at the grave, and a very solemn feeling pervaded the large concourse of people.

In July 1861, my eldest daughter Mary was married to Joseph P. Hughes and in Jan'y 1864, my second daughter Susanna was married to Alfred H. Dunn. Both marriages taking place at Nairne before we finally removed from that place at Christmas 1869.

For several years after the death of my dear boy Joe, I continued in Nairne, but did not make much progress in worldly matters. I had in my eagerness to accumulate overstepped the mark, & burdened myself with a heavy mortgage on the shops I had built, while my income from school and other

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work was materially lessened. It was a hard struggle to your dear Mother and myself to meet our engagements, and towards the end of 1869. my School had not only fallen off in numbers, but in price, so that tho' I still retained 50 or 60 children in School. my School fees did not amount to £7. per week while the Education Board reduced my stipend to £60. I had been in the Township nearly 20 years, and as everything looked as if Nairne were going down, we resolved to remove. Accordingly I applied for and obtained the School at Virginia, 18 miles from Adelaide on the North Road.

A Public Dinner was given to me over which Mr. Townsend our Member for the Dist^r presided, at which a silver watch was presented to me

by the Flinders Lodge of Odd Fellows, in token of their appreciation of my services as Secy for a period of 15 years.

I was also presented with a pair of gold spectacles & case, by the members of my class, together with an address, at a tea meeting held in my honor in the Wesleyan Chapel by the Rev^d J. Edmeades, for I had been the Leader of a large Class, ever since the death of poor Joe seven years before.