

Letter to Benjamin T. Pyne, 8 December 1840

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On board the "George"
Off Gravesend 8th Dec
1840

My Dear Friend

At length I am afloat and our vessel is fast getting under weigh in order to convey me away far from happy England. I have no doubt but you now associate me in your thoughts with the little place which I now occupy & should like to know how I like my new mode of life. I am thankful to be able to say that the only report I can as yet make is good, for though every thing on board is in confusion & must for some time remain so, as all hands are employed in getting the vessel in sailing order. Yet I am well pleased with our accommodation & passed as comfortable a night in my little berth as ever I did any where else

I dont know much of our fellow passengers, as we have only exchanged a few words, but all seem willing to be pleased so I hope we shall go on together comfortably - We have two ladies & two gentlemen besides ourselves. one of the latter is D^E Grant, a newly fledged assistant surgeon in the army, quite green & but lately extricated from the eggshell. I think the majority of us are Scotch but we are none the better for that

We left London yesterday at 10 A.M. & got on board here about 4 P.M. & now at 12 noon the seamen are

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busy weighing anchor & hoisting the sails - while I write just now she has begun to move. I hope we shall have no need again for the anchor untill we reach Simon's Bay at the Cape

I dont plaee attach much importance to the state of my feelings, but cannot refrain from alluding to them now in [my present] circumstances as I know you will feel with me. When I look back on all the way by which the Lord has led me I see nothing but manifestations of His Goodness & Paternal care. Every step of my way has been strewd with mercies & now greater than all he has counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry & sends me as a messenger of

mercy to the heathen. How much reason have S. & I have no doubt but you on reviewing your lives, feel constrained to say Bless the Lord oh my soul & all that is within me be stored up to magnify & bless the holy name. & Remember me in your prayers that the loving kindness of the Lord may [have] the effect on my mind which he intended & that I may live entirely consecrated to his glory - I do feel I think grateful at present but I know the deceitful nature of my heart & am afraid ~~that~~ lest I forget my obligations to the grace of the Lord Jesus.

I could have written you this morning but there is a probability that those which I did send may not be put into the post office. The price of them being a temptation to the cupidity of the watermen by whom we send them I wrote M^{rs} Moore & paid a man handsomely to take it ashore - but as the same man would not take the

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captains wife ashore without being paid the exorbitant sum of 1/2 a guinea for about a mile & a half, I suspect he would destroy our letters - This I shall transmit by the Pilot, when he leaves us in the Downs

All hands being employed about the vessel at present we have not yet got to our luggage as it is stowed away I cant yet from personal inspection acknowledge your bounty contained in the box you sent last to the Mission House. I beg leave again return you my warmest thanks for all your kindness which I feel persuaded has made an impression on my heart which shall never be effaced - May the Lord Jesus himself reward you with peace & prosperity - & shew mercy to every member of your family

Instead of sending your letters to D^r Phillip. Please address to the care of Rev^d Adam Robson -Port Elizabeth, Algoa Bay- sending them either to the Mission House or M^{rs} Sewell's- If you write a month after this I may recieve your letter when I arrive at Algoa Bay. As we may be detained some time at the Cape - I need scarcely say that when I write to you I shall speak with freedom & of course mention things which are not designed to be seen by any but those whom I write

I like M^{rs} Ross better now that I see more of her we are in fact now so much in contact with each other that if she were disagreeable, I should not fail to discover it - seems willing to oblige & be friendly. I hope we shall have no reason to complain of each other

Please present my esteem to M^{iss} Marshall, Miss Mary, M^{iss} Mary Ruffle & M^{iss} Stubbing & the boys to whom I am known May the Divine presence be with them all & His grace touch All their hearts & [...]

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Paid
M^r B. Pyne
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