

Sydney July 21st 1819.

My Dear Wife

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines hoping to find you well as well as all my brothers & sisters. I am now going to inform you how I am situated in this Country. On my arrival here it happened I was sent to a Gentleman who keeps a steam engine so that I am quite at home, only for the loss of you. I should wish you to be certain whether there is any possibility of my getting a pardon before you leave home, But if on the contrary you think I shall not get a pardon & have a wish to follow me I should be glad to see you in this country, for I shall never be happy 'till we meet. I would rather come home to you as I should be among my old friends, for although this is a fine country, they are almost all such rogues that one is not safe among them though I have no reason to complain for my Master came here free as well as his nephew & they both behave exceeding well to me. I am an engine man. I get my victuals & 8/ per week so that I thank God I am pretty well off much better than you might expect. I lodge at a young man's house that came over free along with Mr. Dickson - for that is my masters name & he behaves extremely well to me.

I should wish you to present my best respects to my good old master & all his family & thanks to all those gentleman that were good enough to sign my character. All kinds of wearing apparel are very dear here as there are so few manufactories. It is all brought from England & is so excessive dear that poor people cannot get it. If my Master has any old clothes that he could send me, I shall ever be thankful to him but am almost afraid of intruding too much upon his goodness. A few days ago I saw Buxton, Whiteman, Brassington, Bettington & McKissock. They are all well. The rest are up at Parramatta about sixteen miles from Sydney. They were all well when I heard from them last.

I was very much surprised when I came here to see the blacks both men & women quite naked. They are both dirty & indolent. Would sooner beg than work for a living.

When you write to me direct as follows
Josiah Godber
at Mr. Dickson's
Cockle Bay Sydney,
New South Wales.

Please give my love to all relations and friends for which I have much cause to respect the same I would send dear wife in the warmest affections hoping that we shall see each other again is my anxious desire
From you ever affectionate husband

Josiah Godber

P.S. Should a favourable opportunity arise, John McKissock would be much obliged if you could let His wife or friends know that he is well in health and he sent a letter which would arrive about the middle of July the present date.

Rebecca Godber
Ripley
near Derby
Derbyshire