

August 21st 1820.

For Rebecca Godber

My Dearest Wife

I once more sit me down to write a few lines to you hoping they will find you my dearest wife in good health as they leave me at present. I thank God for it. I begin with very bad heart as I have written two letters and have received no answer, one by the ship Shipley one by the ship Surrey. I hardly know how to begin to write as I should like you to know how we are situated. I wrote in my former letters how we were fixed but if you have not received them, I must give you a little of the country we live in but I shall be more brief this time. As I have said before, my dear wife, what would I give to hear from you. They say that absence and length of time will wear the thoughts of one another from our minds, but my dear wife, if I could but once more enjoy your company, all the powers on earth should not part us. Oh my dear, to think that we have lived together so many years and then torn asunder at last. It almost distracts me when I think of it my dear.

I must let you know a little of how I am situated. I am very well off for a prisoner, a government man to one Master Dickson a merchant and miller who hath a large mill which goes by a steam engine. I dress flour for him and have done ever since I came. My allowance is seven pounds of flour and seven pounds of beef or pork and seven shillings that is my weeks allowance and a very good one for a prisoner. I have my lodgings and clothes to find out of it, but I have, I think, as good lodgings as any in the town. These are with a man and wife who both came out here with master Dickson. He is his head carpenter. They take my mess and I live with them and they charge me nothing for my lodgings. I am as comfortable as possible in my situation but my dear I could like to have you with me and I should be happy.

My dear I must give you a little of the country we live in. The "Town" I should say for Sydney is a very large town concerning the length of time since it was first inhabited by the English. It stands very pleasantly situated about seven miles from the main ocean up the river with two branches of the river. The river branches run each side the town, so deep that ships of the largest burden can sail right up to the town side. The town is formed of streets and squares. The Governors house and Park, his Secretary, the Judge, some merchant's houses and the Sydney bank form one square Called Macquare Square. There is Sharlot Square. There a Church stands in it called "Saint Philip Church" market Square. The Streets are all very open and run in a direct line from north to south, the cross streets from east to west. They run in a direct line both ways.

We have races at Sydney. They begin about the Prince Regent's birthday they are at Hyde Park which lies close to the town side. There are several good institutions in Sydney. There is the Male Orphans School and the Female Orphans School. There is the Benevolent Society and Bible Society. There is a very large house building for the reception of old men and cripples. There is a very large house building for a free school all of cut stone. There are two very large churches, one in King Street and one in George Street. There is very large General Hospital in Macquare Street and a very fine Methodist Chapel in the same street. There is another in Prince Street. There is a very large soldier's barracks square a mile round which will contain two thousand soldiers. The soldier's hospital is a very large fine building. I shall leave off with the town until I hope to see you here.

You must try to get a passage. If you cannot, I must try, as George Weightman has just got a grant for his to come by applying to the Principal Superintendent and they will send for her as a free passenger. So my dear I do not quite despair of having you with me here. If I cannot get you, I must resign myself up to him who is able to do all things and pray for your health and happiness 'till my time is up, and then if it please God to spare my life, I will return to you. So my dearest wife I hope you will arm yourself with fortitude and resignation. Pray to Him who is able to see all things and I hope will at last restore us to one another. Oh that we may live the remainder of our days in comfort and happiness to one another. So my dear wife I must conclude. Give my love To my sister Milley and her husband and to their little children, brother Robert and his wife and children, to my sister Mary and her husband. Give best respects to my old master Fletcher and young master, to Thomas Moore and his wife, to old Jacob Millington, Thomas Brassington and Dolley George. Brassington sends his love to you and to all my brothers and sisters and

desire you will remember him to his old masters Fletcher and to all inquiring friends. My Dear, I desire you will write to me immediately and direct for Josiah Godber.

So no more at present
From your ever loving husband

Josiah Godber

I have seen my Relation John Wigley. He lives about fourteen miles up the country. We have heard that Robert Cresswell is in the country but have not seen him .John Reight of Shottle lives in Sydney and is as yours truly.

1821 Sent my Letter February the 26

for Rebecca Godber
Ripley near
Derby
Derbyshire
England