

Letters to Benjamin Hobson MD from other correspondents, including leading missionaries

Publication/Creation

1843-1862

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/dyrbg9w3>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Dec: 24th 1843. Putnam,
Bristol

My dear Friend

It is with peculiar feelings I now sit down to send a few lines across the ocean to China, from the serious intelligence we have received in regard to your health. We fear much, but on the bare supposition that you may yet be spared, I cannot refrain from sending a few words of friendship. — Oh! how distracting would be to the mind, amidst anxieties & fears, if we had not God for our Friend, our Rock & our Refuge. — Our times are in His hand — we have committed ourselves to His disposal. May we ever resign every thing we hold most dear, to His wise control. He gives no account of His matters, but we would ^{sometimes} wish to pry into the secret counsels of the Divine Mind without resigning ourselves in a childlike simple, confiding faith — Our prayers are now directed towards you, that that life so dear to many hearts may be again enjoyed if it be the will of God. — We mourn & yet rejoice. The effect of this intelligence on the mind of dear Mary

gives us heartfelt joy - I believe it has
been the means of leading her to Christ as
her Refuge in times of trouble. Her letters
now, breathe quite a different spirit -
She seems notwithstanding the sense of sin, &
acquaintance with the pride of her heart,
as she acknowledges - to be clinging to the
cross of Christ - I believe the Spirit has
effectually spoken to her heart and that
we shall daily see the blessed fruits -
By this "mail" no doubt you will be
cheered by intelligence from her own pen.
How tender the affection that subsists between
you! - It seems to our minds to quicken
the desire of a meeting on earth - but
we would be still & refer every thing to the
care & wisdom of our Heavenly Father -
Heaven is not far distant from any of us -
and when we arise in our glorified bodies
how happy, oh! what communion we shall
have there! - no fear of change, no
fear of separation! - no fear of excess of
affection! Pure - holy, spiritual. will be
our Contemplation of Him, through whose
rich abounding mercy we hope to stand
before the Throne. May we quicken one
another in our prayers there, & strengthen

each other's faith, & hope, & joy —
Precious words those are "He is Lord of all"
He has the government of all — He may show
it to be His will to spare you for a little more
service on earth, or he may have taken you
to ^{aside} suffer his will in weakness of body & pros-
tration of strength — Let us in all events
acknowledge for the ground of the heart
"Good is the will of the Lord" — Your last
letter to dear Mary deeply interested me.
She favored me with a sight of it. I conjure
time your kind intentions of writing ^{some} was put
into execution, but lost in the drowned
packet of the "Merrimon" — I still hope
^{some} ~~every~~ mail may bring a few lines from y^r
own hand — Never was intelligence more
longed for than now — Our faith and petitions
are brought into queerie, and many longing
affectionate hearts are looking with eager
expectation for the coming "mail" —
"We will trust and not be afraid" — Mary &
I keep up a brisk correspondence & I think
our love is now settled down to a very steady
affection & sympathy in each other's concerns
& well being; and I feel for her ^{own} sake &
for her Father's sake & now her Brothers also
I must love her increasingly — May all we love
be travellers to the Canaan of rest! —
I feel I can add no more — except these

few lines as coming from the heart
of an affected friend - but the uncer-
tainty makes it so painful at this
time to address you - If it has been the
will of God to remove the cup of deuced
sorrows & permit you yet to speak by
y^r pen to y^r dear friends in England.
we will praise His Name. - But we
must look again to our Refuge - He
will do what is best. - and we shall
have to say "It is well". All news
will be sent by the hand of y^r dear
Sister, therefore I shall close here.

My dear Husband unites with me
in kindest Christian remembrance - &
believe me, dear Friend

y^rs most sincerely & affectionately

Jane Miles.

2

Victoria Hong Kong
8th February 1844.

Dear Sir

It affords us much pleasure to bear witness to the proficiency in Ophthalmic Surgery exhibited by your Chinese Pupil - *Amoy*, during the examination at which we were yesterday present, and to express our satisfaction at the intimate knowledge which he showed of the anatomy of the eye of its Diseases and of the methods of cure adapted to those prevalent among his own countrymen.

In forwarding to you a certificate of proficiency to be presented to him, we would wish to return you our thanks for the opportunities you have given us, of witnessing your labours for the good of the natives of China, by spreading among them the benefits

of rational Medicine, and our
admiration of the ability and pre-
servance displayed in the manage-
ment of your Hospital, and in imparting
to you pupils so large an amount
of professional knowledge.

The obstacles to conveying
information in a language so different
and difficult as the Chinese, where,
not only the subject to be taught,
but every term of explanation has
to be made intelligible, renders the
teaching of medicine peculiarly arduous,
and the manner in which you
have overcome those difficulties, and
the attention bestowed, on the studies
of the young men under your care,
confer high honor on yourself as
a teacher; such careful instruc-
tion of Chinese youths, will
increase the power of doing good
and rapidly extend your means of
usefulness.

The Cause in which you are
engaged is a noble one, conferring
direct and immediate benefit on
a large number of your fellow men
and on the hands of the able &
zealous men labouring with you in
the same vineyard, while exciting
the Chinese to seek for natural
truth thro' channels of scientific
physical knowledge. it will prove
a powerfull means towards the
propagation of the Gospel among
the millions of this country.

We beg to subscribe ourselves

Dear Sir

Yours with respect.

Alex. Anderson

John Wilson M.D

Proprietor of Hospitals
& Lects

To Genl Hobson B.M. ship agent
in charge of the Med. ^{John Hall Reed Surgeon R.M.}
Miss. Society Hospital. Hongkong ^{St. B. J. Connell B.A.}
^{Asst. Surgeon}
^{Hon. Sec. Service}

To Grandfather

3
Davenport Sept 20 - 1851

My dear Friend

I received your letter of June 26th giving me the first
assessment of the death of Mrs. Webb. I am
much obliged to you for giving me so much
of the detail of the case which was a very
distressing one in every respect. The loss to
Webb is very great, but with a comfort it was to
him that you were there at the time, for both
you and Mrs. Webb. They would doubtless have
perished had all been left alone. Had Mrs. Webb
been alone, but for your presence, was the greatest
opinion on this point & I was rejoiced to
know all this from your letter. I had been
of this and just arrived from Mr. Webb in which
he expresses the depth of his gratitude to you for
all you did & I am sure he feels what he expresses.
I hope the children may live, but this I suppose
is rather doubtful. They being so near the end.

good thing that Mrs. Self has agreed to take charge
of them. I hope she will be able to relieve
Worth of much anxiety & care. She is well
acquainted with all necessary affairs -
I hope your own health is better. I suppose
your plans are not yet decided upon.
I trust they will doubtless be in one thin
week. You & Charles are returning to
England or remain in any part of Europe
may you be guided & directed from
above in all your ways. I hope Johnnie
will not suffer this autumn as he did
last year, but will get strength & back
as he advances in years. Bothy I hope is
also stronger & better & when he comes to
England (if he does do so) the colds & the
strains or rather the non heat of the
summer will do him good. Give my
very kind remembrances to Mrs. Watson
& love to Ben. Jane. Bothy & Johnnie -
and every blessing rest on them all.

Mr Larkins & the children are at present
in Cornwall. I was with them. But my brother
in law Thompson wished me to come to the
wedding meeting & so I came to Dorchester
for a few days. I go back to Penzance in a
few days - then we go back to Lizard
& to Falmouth & all come back here
on our way through Bath to London, we
shall have had a six weeks trip & the
time we got home - early in October -
Legge is here as the representative from the
Society - I saw him yesterday. He is in good
health & looks well I shall visit him this
evening again - he is to go on with his book
& has time allowed him to do it well. I
do not know whether he goes out soon or
not - his householders are well Dr Harrison
is much the same as the last, very feeble.

It has been very pleasant something about in
Drom & Cassinall - The cart is beautiful
indeed, but I do not care one much for
English, it is agreeable & pleasant enough
while I am like a Thompson or sister, but
I do not go into captivities about it at all -
I hope Ben will remain at his office & then
something else & then all hope that he will
be a comfort & joy to you walking in the park
of Litch - & that you children may all have
got in early hope - My sister who is visiting on
the other side of the table desires the very
kindly remembered to you, she is better than she
was, but not well yet, however I hope she will
improve by stages - From Mr. Chen is the friend
if the truth be kept. The sacrifice must be made
not just men, but I do not yet know
what their plans are when I get back I shall
be sure on this head. They gave Mike £50.00
again the other day. He has an employment -
I am your affectionately Whackhaik

4

Hong-Kong, 27th Oct. 1836,
9 o'clock A.M.

My dear Hobson,

I received your letter written in the Consulate yesterday about an hour ago, and thank you for it, as well as for all the others since Monday last. We wait with the greatest anxiety for every piece of fresh intelligence from Canton. It was not till Friday that I thought anything serious would come out of the collision, and then I felt strongly inclined to run up, thinking I might be of some service to your family, but I had to preach yesterday morning, and there was a baptism of two Chinese for the evening so that the way was not clear for me to leave this. I was glad when I heard that Mrs Hobson and the children were at the Consulate. And

Should it be necessary for them to come
Down here, you know they will receive
a cordial welcome.

Your own mother and Cox's to remain
at the Hospital is what I was prepared
to expect. It is like your devotion to
those ignorant and unfatuated people!
Of course you will join prudence to
with ~~your~~ the boldness of your charity.
May God preserve you from all
harm.

I shall be anxious till I hear the
result of your interview with the ad-
miral yesterday, and whether his ar-
rangements for active operations to-
day have taken effect. Exp has acted
with almost inconceivable folly. It
would be interesting to know with cer-
tainty the operations of his mind.
I apprehend he has not - as he will
likely do today - realized the resources
of our military appliances, and thought
that he might hold out against
us as he did against the Mo-ham-
bans, and come off with flying colours
and new honours. Poor man! miserably

has been decreed.

Surely this collision will not terminate fruitlessly as former ones have done. We shall have an Admiral in Command, who will secure a better issue. May God order all events for His own glory, and the opening a wide and effectual door for the gospel of Christ!

Some one of our people observed last night - "Geo! the authorities took Mr Burns prisoner, and sent him across the country, and stop the gospel. And now comes this difficulty. God will throw down every power that opposes the spread of his gospel in China."

On Saturday morning a man came to me with a petition for the Governor from himself and two thousand others begging to be employed against the "Cottons Mandarins and vile officers" of Canton. They were a large part of the rebel force that attacked the North Gate, and no doubt would be glad to ~~avenge~~ themselves. I would have nothing to do with their petition, and enjoined the bearer of it - a pro-

favor of Christianity - to have no con-
sultation with his former companions
on the subject.

The mail is over due. Surely it will
be here in the course of today.

Remain, Dear Hobson,
Yours affectionately
James Legg

P.S. My very kind regards to Cox to
whom I owe a letter. My earnest pray-
ers are offered for the safe keeping
and direction of you all -

2501
M. 188
M. 188
M. 188

5

Valleyfield. Penticuit
16th May 1859

My Dear friend

I have heard of your safe arrival in England and hasten to congratulate you and Mrs Hobson.

From the circumstances reported to me by Dr Henderson, who mentioned his having had the pleasure of meeting you at Dr. Sedman's house, I presume you have come home in tolerably good health. Most sincerely do I hope that it is so, and that you will be able to give me a good account of all your family.

We are all in nearly the same state as when you left us: only that I am laid aside by debility, consequent upon protracted dys-

pepsia. Since the beginning of March, I have done almost no professional work. Although now somewhat stronger, I am still far from well. I am advised to travel; and it appears at present, not very unlikely, that Mrs Coldstream and I may visit London in May; where and when I may hope to see you & y^rs. We long to enjoy your society.

Perhaps our good friend Mr Bullen, will prevail upon you to visit Edinburgh. I am here at present with my friends the Forams, to whom, I think, you paid a visit 12 years ago.

I can guess your opinion
of our young friend
Henderson. He enjoys your
confidence; and yet we
should have been delighted
could we have supplied
a man of higher mark -
Some of our best advanced
students are very superior
young men. If you be
here either before the end
of July, or not till Nov;
you will see them.

Along with this, you
will receive copies of the
last Report & occasional papers
of our Society, which, I
hope, will interest you.

Mr Crowlham writes with
me in kindest regards to you
and Mr Hobson, & I remain

Yours affectionately
John Crowlham

Dr Hobson

Dr. Coldstream

May 1859

No. 1

Southampton

My dear Mr. Jones

ton I saw, on board —
this morning — he did
not sail till midday
he has a comfortable
berth. It is a fine
ship — & the day
is very propitious
May be mercifully

Safely carried to his
destination

I suppose you will
hear from him —

from Plymouth,
tonorrow —

With kind regards to
Mr Hobson, I have
to forward — ever
Mr Dear Sir

Faithful yours
Joseph Doane

th
May 5/62

Mr Jas: Brown
May 6th
1852