

Letters from her father Robert Morrison

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1
Macao May 4. 1830

Our dear Daughter -

You will probably
have left Singapore
before this reaches
you as two Country
Ships are coming on
with Ladies in them.
May the Lord bless &
preserve you.

Your Mamma
has been a great suf-
ferer from toothache
for several Months

The Children are all
tolerably well just
now. Your Sister
Hannah is the
strongest apparently.
I find my strength
failing me.

Give our kind
regards to all friends,
Ever your affec
Parents

R & E. Morrison

May 4. 1830

Miss Morris

Canton Oct 26. 1830

My dear Daughter

Today received your Letter in which you gave some account of Season's Party. It was certainly rather Mal-a-propos — the merry dinner after the sad funeral. But the Deceased had no personal friends here — Poor young Man! — the circumstances of his death, in a foreign land, among strangers, were melancholy.

The Governor is a quiet sort of old Gentleman. Not very imposing in his plain dress. The Artist in his free humour, when he takes Liberties is offensive. I am glad to hear that Martin improves. Tell him Dada has

a great deal of writing & cannot
every time write to him; but will
do so sometimes.

Robert, dear Boy, requires
Letters to keep up his spirits
more than Martin - who, after
all, I imagine can get on very
well without them - provided
he gets his meals in good time
& in sufficient quantity. Har-
mah also, is, I think very inde-
pendent of Letters.

The Lord bless you, my
dear Daughter. & make you a
blessing over your affectionate
Father.
Robert Morrison

P.S. I showed John your tale
about the Irish way of dimi-
nishing the size of a Letter.

It was very rich - as the cant
is at Oxford & Cambridge; in
it made a good story.

Canter Monday morn
Dec^r 18. 1831

My dear Daughter Mary Rebecca

Our Sailing on Sat^y after
leaving you was rather tedious.
We did not get as far as the
Bogue that night. And
yesterday was likewise
a day of little progress. However
this morning about 10 o'clock
I found myself in my
old Rooms, and at my
old Dirty Table for writing
at.

My bedding was not used
all the way up; for my
clothes were never taken
off till I arrived.

John goes immedi-
ately. The Lord bless you
my dear Daughter

Ever your affectionate
Father Robert Morrison.

Sept 18. 1831

My bedding was not used
all the way up; for my
clothes were never taken
off till I arrived.

I then goe immediately
ately. Miss Morrison your
very dear daughter
Macao.

Ever your affectionate
Father Robert Morrison.

Canton Dec^r 21. 1851

My beloved Daughter - Mary Rebecca,
I was very much gratified to re-
ceive your own Note, & one for
Amelia Milne, which I read.
You closed by saying that you
alone were of little use. I assure
you that for a long time your
affiduity in Domestic affairs has
given me great (though secret) comfort.
You don't know what pleasure
it gave me every morning to have
all my dear Children around
me

at Prayers - Hannah Loring Sister
of Crofton & Robert - Lord bless
you all!

Your Letter to Amelia
shall be forwarded.

Ever your affec^t Father

Robert Morrison.

Oct. 21, 1831

Miss Morrison

Canton Dec^r 24. 1831.

My dear Daughter,

Mary Rebecca - I was
glad to receive this Morning
your Note informing me
that all were well. Pleased
be the Lord for all his Mer-
cy's. Robert's use of the
word "holy" was curious.

I doubt the propriety of
Gutzlaff's going to the Company's
in a Chinese Dress; for two reasons,
exposing himself to the Notice
& talk of the Servants; & making
himself a mere object of sport
to the Ladies & Gentlemen.

51
The sun shines here again
The weather is very cold.

I am glad the Gardiner
seems to answer well.

Farewell! my dear
daughter. The Lord bless you

Every one affec^d Father

Robert Morrison

Decr 24. / 31

Miss Morrison,

My dear Daughter - Mary Deb.

This last Day of the year
has been a busy one
in presenting Lord Bentinck's
Letter to the Gov of Canton.
I have told Mother the de-
tail. I like your remarks
on the Book you had been
perusing. Such works
are edifying.

Excuse haste - faithfully
it well, but does not

improve much in civilization.
He has to preach to-
morrow at the Ameri-
can Cong. Beside J -
Mr Bridgman is quite a
Dandy.

Farewell - the Lord
bless you all.

Ever your affec^d Father

Robert Morison

Dec^r 31.

1837

Miss Morrison

Canton January 1st 1832

My dear Daughter - Mary Rebecca,
On this 1st day of a
new year, accept of a Father's
Blessing: And may the
ever blessed God grant you
the merciful aid of His Holy
Spirit, through the Merits of
Jesus Christ our Lord &
Saviour. Amen!

To day I have not been
out of my rooms. The

Putzloff preached at the Sal-
lots, & Mr Bridgman came
this evening to Prayer - but
half an hour after the time
there being Company at Sea -
Which Company was Mr
Sampson - on his acc^t too
Mr King staid away altogether

=
Jan 2,

They say Major Banks is
going home.

I am very busy to
day. Adieu!

ever your affec^d Father

Robert Morrison.

Jan. 1st - 1832

Miss Morrison

Curston Jan 50. 1832

My dear Daughter Mary Rebecca

Thank you for your
affectionate Note received this
morning to greet me on my
30th Birth Anniversary. I have
enclosed it to Jane to whom
I wrote under cover to your
Uncle James Morrison.

The Lord Bless you
my dear Daughter & make
you a blessing!

John's first literary
Production

also reached me this morning
Mks thinks it will do him
great Credit. I am very

glad to see it. I hope his life will
be spared & his heart inclined
to labour for the spiritual
welfare of the Chinese.

I am very busy to
day. Adieu -

AM

Jan 5. 1832

It has reached me this morning
Wm. thinks it will do him
great Credit. I am very
glad to see it. I hope his life will
be spared & his heart inclined

to Miss

Mr. D. R. Morrison

My Address -

Rm

Simon. Ship Samara
June 1. 1882
1 P.M.

My dear Daughter - Mary R.
we have just now got on
board this ship. We had a tedious
passage, & a terrible night
from Cockroaches - Adam
was sick & useless. All
remained without changing
clothes. Mother suffered much.
The children said they had
a comfortable sleep. We
will try Simon a few days
farewell! The Lord bless
you. Ever your affec^d
Father R. Morrison

June 1. 1832

Miss Morrison
Macao.

Canton Wed. Oct. 10. 1882.

My dear Daughter - Mary Rebecca - I have not had time to write to you since my arrival at Canton: for Canton is now arriving a most busy distracted time, arising from Hong Merchants' calls, return visits; public dinner &c.

John seems to enjoy excellent health, & is always occupied with translations, or "Proofs" or something of that kind: for he is corrector-general for Medhurst & Bridgman.

Robert has fared well & behaved well; both on his passage & since. We have much reason, my dear Mary Bee to be thankful to a gracious Providence for all the mercies he continually bestowing upon us as a family.

I think you saw Capt Laming, who was here when the Canary bird Capt Brodie was in Macao. His wife was then living at Mr Medhurst's.

Poor Lanning lost his ship in China
— found his wife dead at Batavia —
went to Singapore in a small ship;
and there, no-body knows how — the
powder was ignited & blew Lanning
his first mate & several of the
seamen into the air — and so shattered
the ship that she sunk in the
roads! Such unexpected occurrences
should lead us to constant watchful-
ness, that we may be always ready.

The news from Europe by
the Walter mortifies & irritates the
anti-reformers. France is again
stained with the blood of its own people,
shed in civil strife. — I have letters
from Doulin & Thomsen. Nothing
important. Poor old Thomsen is breaking
up he says.

Good night my dear Becker
The Lord bless you.
Ever your affectionate Father
Robert Morrison

13

Miss Moniston
Macao.

October 16th 1832

Canton Nov 15. 1832 -

My dear Daughter, Mary Rebecca,

The Letter which you addressed for Ann, I put within Mamma's Letter to Mrs Ellison: and put all the Letters rec'd last evening into the Couthe's' Packet. That ship won't go for two or three days yet. The (soprano) Chrystie has been officially ordered for delay.

I am now quite solitary. Look round the room - & though gazing

on the Company's Chinese
Books - seem Lord of all
I Survey.

It grieves me to hear
that Crofton is rather sick
- The weather is too hot
to be Seasonable - but I
dare say we shall soon
have a change.

If you write to Miss
Aldersey's friend - send up
the letter to me.

With love to all the
Children, I remain

My dear Daughter

Ever your affec Father
Robert Morrison

2

Saw Low at the going off
of Millett this evening -
but we don't know each
other in Canton. How
ridiculous to know a
man every now & then
when visiting him in
Macao, & not know
him at all, during the
same year at Canton.

Mr W- is afraid of
being considered a Methodist
if he associates with the ^{Mr} Bridg-
man

inward Prayer: therefore
to preserve his usefulness
he will not join us in
Prayer. This is one way
to promote religious use-
fulness.

I hope the little Republican
will submit cheerfully
to a domestic Monarchy;
& wish that his health
may improve by the
air of Canton — I mean,
Macao.

Tell John that if the head
pins are not bought they are
wanted back as soon as possible
for they do not belong to Houchens
— He must have told a story,

Canton. Fri. evening Jan 11.

My Dear Daughter - Mary Rebecca

I have had a busy time since my arrival - Yesterday & today have been crowded with writing & business. I have got through a good deal & hope to have time for compositions by Monday next if spared to that time.

I hope all the young folks are spared in health - & take as usual their morning walk. Advice!

Ever your affec^d Father

Robert Morrison

29

Miss Morrison

Canton Nov 3. 1833.

My dear Daughter Mary Rebecca -

I have had a rather troublesome time since I left you, in consequence of the Cutter getting on shore. However last evening she arrived with my baggage. The weather has been very hot for this season of the year. Yesterday the Ther. was upwards of 80°.

The English, which I visited on my way up, is in what is called "beautiful order" as a ship to please a sailors. Every rope in its proper place. The only thing I noticed the seamen, in the Boat rather talked more than is usual. The

rumor that the ship is separated
from others is wholly unfounded
for all the Captains of the fleet had
been on board that morning,
& the English's Boats were rowing
& swimming races like the rest.

I deeply regret the existence of
the report, for it is calculated to
make us all suspicious &
uneasy. May the blessed God
overrule all for safety & for good.

The voyage with so many little
children, is a great undertaking
inasmuch as you have no sen-
tinel with you to assist you
May a gracious Providence protect

you all, & bring you safely
to what, after all, comparatively,
may be called "Happy England".

Remain ever very Dear Mary
your affectionate Father
Robert Morrison.

Nov³ 3. 1833

Dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter of the
21st inst. in relation to the
"Cotton Planting" &c. &c.
I have no objection to your
using the facts as stated in
your paper in relation to the
Cotton Planting &c. &c.
Yours truly,
J. M. Smith

My Father's
few precious letters
after our departure
in the Anglia
Decr 13th 1833 - ! -
Our last meeting

16

Thurs. Jan 23. Canton, China. 1884

My dear Daughter Mary Rebecca - By the
last despatch I sent you a letter from Mr.
Perry. Since that I wrote to him & remarked
that he had said too little about the mode
of returning to this Country, if you should
accept of his proposal; & also had left
his future hopes or expectations about
a residence abroad too much in the
dark to enable you to form a correct
judgment. Since that I have not heard
again from him. The Buckingham -
shire which is the last ship will
sail about the 31st inst.

My health has improved con-
siderably since the cold weather com-
menced. It is now gloomy, rainy
wintry weather; & with the exception
of a few days of sunshine, has been
so ever

Since the *Juglis* sailed. That is now nearly six weeks ago, & I suppose you are somewhere about the Cape of Good Hope. May the Lord preserve you all.

We have taken a Factory in Canton, but John has not yet entered on it, because Captain Applin has not yet permitted it. He was to have left it today but it is now deferred till Saturday.

Perhaps I shall go to Macao with the Factory. At present I have no abode there. My mind is much unsettled - not knowing what to do. I hope

The arrival of news from England
settling my connexion on the reverse
with the Government authorities
expected out, will calm my present
anxious thoughts. Not that I am
much so, for neither my natural
disposition nor my religious
principles incline me to impa-
tient anxiety. Good is the Will
of a gracious Providence. The
blesed God who has led me all
my life long will I hope still
be with us as old age approaches.

May the Lord direct you &
keep you, my dear daughter -
Ever your affec^d Father

Robert Morrison

I have written to Robert & Crofton & Hannah
- May God bless you all.

2

Jan 23

No. 2

(6)

Miss Morrison

Canton, China, Jan. 1. 1834.

15

My dear Daughter Mary Rebecca - Nearly three weeks have elapsed since you all parted from me, on Friday the 13th of Dec. 1833. Since that I have not visited Macao, & your Brother John is now there, vacating our large House, & preparing the furniture to be brought up here. Up to this time we have nothing from England to settle our anxieties about the future. Plowden leaves "for good" as the phrase is, the day after tomorrow.

Mr, or rather now, Captn PARRY sent open, to day, two Letters, one for Mother, & one for you. On the subject of that to you, I do not either advise or dissuade.

There is much against a residence
abroad as a Sailor's wife; but
still many excellent persons
choose it. Pary appears to
me, although, deficient in the ad-
vantages of early education, a
man of good principles & good
temper, so far as I have seen.
If you should see it right to
accept his offer, I should hope
that it might be for your
welfare; but if you do not
see the case an eligible one,
I shall not say that you have
done wrong, nor will your

refusal of this proposal lessen
my affection.

I trust that, by Divine help
you may have been enabled
to realize the good purposes
you expressed to me when
leaving. And my constant
prayer is that, in the exercise
of meekness, humility &
the fear of God you may
find happiness.

Ever your affect Father
Robert Morrison

Jan. 1st 1847

No. 1

(3)

Miss Morrison

17

Canton, China Jan 29. 1834

My dear Daughter Mary Rebecca —

Today the Elizabeth from England has arrived — at least the letters have arrived in Canton. Nothing occurring concerning my future situation here as depends on the King's love & that being the case, it follows of course that my means of providing for my family also remains uncertain. I speak not thus in respect of want, or of present necessities, but of future circumstances, as concerns my dear Children, for whom it is my duty & my happiness to provide; as far as Divine Providence shall supply me with the

the

means; and when I die, you
must all help each other, as
our ancestors did.

I have already written to you
concerning Mr Parry's proposal.
And I wrote to him to suggest
that - in the event of your ac-
cepting his offer - which I leave
perfectly contingent - he should
arrange for your passage out
& give you some notion of his
future prospects.

To this letter he has given
no answer, though several op-
portunities have occurred. I
feel it therefore my dear
Daughter

a duty

to recommend to you, whatever
your views may be - not
to ask - but only to write. & if
you decline, give a civil answer
- if you accept, wait for
further Measures. — Beyond
these hints, I say nothing. May
a gracious Providence overrule
all for your welfare &
for his glory -

Mrs Toomer has written to
John a kind letter. She is now
an old Lady, & my ~~very~~ constant
correspondent. But she is in
Southampton, where you are
not likely to see her. She, or
her daughter Sarah, has sent me
a scripture Kalendar - & the words

for the 29th of Jan - being this day
are "Sent to bind up the broken
hearted" J. L. X. I. I. - Very appropriate
to my case, in my present discom-
forted condition. I have written
to all the dear Children & to Man-
rina - Adieu! The Lord confirm
in your soul every good resolu-
tion! Fare well!

Ever your affectionate Father
R. Morrison.

Cox the Surgeon has just now
left me - with promises to send
me medicine for my head,
which has been very unwell of
late. (Thurs. 30) I had a bad night
my head is still very unwell.

66

Macao Feb 13th 1884

18

My dear Daughter - Mary Rebecca, as these Letters will I hope so free I enclose one to you rec^d the other day from Miss Olding, which will show that she had not forgotten you. Mrs Thornhill is to-day anxious about the health of her Baby who has been in convulsions for some considerable time, that all yesterday & last night.

After I last wrote to you, I received here a Letter from Capt Pary saying he had written to you & Mother concerning his prospects in China or India. I could nearly gather from what he said that he anticipated a long stay in the east.

Mr Baylis called here yesterday being on shore for a few hours. He was quite well & is now acting as Pary's Chief Mate.

My health I am sorry to say is not very good. My head has been unwell for a month past. It is better but still not well.

John is very busy printing his Kalendar. Mrs Menden wrote the other day & desired to be kindly remembered to you. I saw Mrs Leffer the other day, who appeared in good health. Adieu! Oh that I knew assuredly that you were all safe & well. God be with you. Ever your affec^d Father

Robert Morrison

4
Feb. 13

No 3

(10)

Miss Morrison

Macao China April 25,
1834

My dear Daughter

Mary Rebecca - No-
thing new has occurred here
since I last wrote, except, by
the mere lapse of time the
introduction of the New System
of British intercourse. The Com-
pany's authority in China ceased
on the 22nd inst: but the New
authorities have not yet ar-
rived.

My health is better
than when you left. I am
greatly desiring to hear from
you all. I hope that ere
this time, by God's Mercy you
are all spared & safely landed
on England's happy shore.
Happy in many respects.

Especially the full possession
of civil & religious liberty.
May you, my daughter
be directed to all that is
good & well-pleasing to the
Almighty: may you learn
of Jesus who was meek
& lowly.

The ship that takes
this goes to Hull I believe.
It is sent by Jardine on
the New System, with Teas.

Our factory people
naturally enough are all
very anxious to know
what is to become of them.
They think themselves un-
fairly & unkindly treated in

being kept so long in the
dark about their own af-
fairs. I too should like
to know what my con-
dition is to be. May Pro-
vidence over rule all for
my good & that of my
family.

Give my love to all
my kindred. John is busy
with his Prep in Canton.
I hear from him frequently
on business. Adieu!

Ever your affec^d Father
Robert Morrison.

By this opportunity I have
written to Mother & to Robert.
I hear from Mr Pamy oc-
casionally. He will of course
expect an answer from you.

April 25th -

Miss Morrison

My dear Daughter - Mary Rebecca

The accompanying Letter from Miss Aldersey came in this morning. I suppose it was brought by the Roxbournebury Whicar-ried the day I left.

Thomhill goes down today. John asked him for a passage, but he made objections, & so John departs till next week.

The Lord bless you & keep you from evil!

I have bought a little Work-box for Hannah.

which I suppose John will
take.

Robert will be too young
I fear, for Talbot Dyphant.

George is I trust daily
getting more strength in his
arm.

Ever your affec^d Father

Robert Morrison

22

Miss Morison

My dear Daughter Mary Rebecca

John collecting some pictures for Fumkin. He gave a large order as I understood it; but fear he would not like a large expense - such as 200 dollars or so. I am therefore at a loss what to do.

John & Olyphants' arrival will cause a little stir in the House again. I feel great interest in the Rep, & hope your Br John will be very successful.

Ever my dear Daughter
your affectionate Father
Robert Morrison

You had better write the
Letter Miss Aldersey re-
quested.

I am glad to hear George
is setting his spirits again.
The Lord bless you all.

24

Miss Morrison
Macao.

My dear Daughter Mary Rebecca

I meant to have sent
a Chest of Tea by Wilkinson
but found on inquiring that
there was a heavy duty on it
& therefore did not like to put
him to the expense. Instead
thereof ask Mamma to borrow
a Chest of Tea from (alledge
or some one, till the Factory
goes down when you will
have plenty.

I trust the "little ones" have
this day been well. The

Good Lord bless you all!
May His almighty Arm
be about the Lad. Amen!
Ever your affec^d Father
Robert Morrison

2

Mon. morn^g

The silk can easily be
had; but the stockings not.
Coarse men's black
stockings can be had, but
Mr King & Mr Edwards
when I showed them the
pattern advised me not
to buy any for they would
be of no use for a lady.

4 P.M

I have got the black silk
dolls 14. which Miss Fackin
can pay to the college -
as she may do the
other currencies.
She would not like you
to present them to her.

Miss Morrison

My dear Daughter Mary R -

Dr Thomson called
to-day, & came back
after shopping to tiff.
He send you a letter &
shoe which he brought.

I hope George &
Crompton continue to
improve in health &
to gain strength

The Lord bless you!

Robert Morrison

Miss Morrison

My dear Daughter, Mary Rebecca

Thank you for your account of Mr W's Sermon and all the other News contained in your Letter.

Now that John is going, I shall have more difficulty in leaving home.

I am very thankful that Crofton & George are getting well. May the good Lord bless you all!

Ever your
affec^d Father

Robert Morrison

Read

this to Hannah -

My dear little Hannah -

I have not heard
a word about you for
2 or 3 days. I suppose
you are very busy
reading & working &
playing -

Adieu! my beloved
Child.

27

Miss Morrison

My dear Daughter, Mary Rebecca

I have received, & will put into the Packet your good long Letter to Miss Livingstone, which contains plenty of news.

The weather in Canton is now cold enough. Today it is gloomy & drizzly. But my health is through money tolerably good -

I have got a high Table - a common 4 dol Table placed on a stand, & I stand from morning till night, facing the floor

for exercise, with creaking
English boots which I
fear annoy my Neigh-
bours.

The time of John's
sailing approaches - I
sincerely hope, that he
will be useful to others,
& get good himself by
this trip. Such at least
is my object & desire.
May God in mercy pre-
serve him from all
dangers, natural &
moral, & soon bring
back in safety!

Always your affec^e
Father - Robert Morrison.

Tell Hannah, I wish
to have a Letter from
her. And I hope to
go to Macao soon.

My love to Crofton.
& kiss for George.

Miss Morrison