

## Papers relating to John Dimsdale

### Publication/Creation

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Weisdale, Shetland

14. of 6<sup>th</sup> mo. 1873.

My dear Friend -  
L.G. Dimsdale,

Under deep feelings of gratitude to Him who has been pleased to restore me so far from a state of weakness & suffering, of late, I now write to thank thee for thy truly interesting letter of date 16<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> mo. - recd. here on 26<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> mo. with £5 - for which I do most gratefully thank thee & the other donors of the sum. Please return to them all my warmest and most grateful thanks, in the love of Him who graciously continues to <sup>be</sup> My "Sun and Shield", fulfilling to me His promise, "When passing through the waters I will be with thee".

Shortly after writing to thee last, about the time of my Spring Vacation, by some sudden change from warmth to exposure to cold, I contracted fever, and was thereby brought very low, indeed. I was three weeks confined to bed under medical treatment and three weeks longer confined to the inside of my room. My cough through<sup>out</sup> was distressing, causing ~~my~~ <sup>many</sup> sleepless nights.

The Spring here continued intensely cold till very lately, but since the weather became warm I feel much relieved from cough, and better otherwise, tho' I still feel some weakness as yet, as I was reduced to much weakness before I began to recover. I was only able to open School on 2<sup>nd</sup> day of this (6<sup>th</sup>) month instead of 1<sup>st</sup> day of 5<sup>th</sup> mo. the usual time,



here, after Spring Vacations. Still all my pupils patiently waited my recovery. The number now in daily attendance is 34 - 19 girls & 15 boys - all very attentive and doing well.

I observe with much concern the departure of thy two dear Friends and of the three motherless and fatherless orphans; such accounts are always touching to me, yet the promise remains consoling, "In Thee the fatherless findeth Mercy". The escape & recovery of the other dear little one, who met the sudden and painful accident from the horse is indeed, wonderful to us, tho' not to Him who often rescues on the brink of death. May such an event lead this dear little one & her friends, in after life, to glorify her great Deliverer.

Many deaths have occurred here since last I wrote to thee, and amongst them were three of the recipients of the clothing sent here by thee last winter - They are now beyond the reach of cold & hunger, to which they were no strangers on earth; their latter days, however, were greatly warmed by thy kindness, for which, I am told, they felt truly grateful to the last. I was not able to see their closing moments, as I would have wished to have done, owing to my own dangerous state of health at that time.

I received "The British Friend," for this (6<sup>th</sup>) month, and am much interested by its contents. The sympathy & Christian like feelings evinced by the Yearly Meeting



in London, are truly instructive and leaves  
room for others to see that many there could  
say, "The love of Christ constraineth us"

I do wonder how J. J. Bennet could at all  
Appeal to this Meeting, in the face of the  
position he had taken up & held with  
persistence, after so much kind & Christian  
admonition. "Be not carried about with  
diverse and strange doctrines." "God resisteth  
the proud, but giveth grace to the humble".

I am very thankful to observe by thy letter  
that J. Spurr, her dang<sup>r</sup>. and thyself could  
attend these solemn and precious Meetings,  
and that many I trust, could say  
"It is good for us to be here".

I trust also that S. & G. Backhouse,  
Sr. & Eliz<sup>th</sup>. Kitching & C. are well & happy

I observe, in "The British Friend"  
the name of Lovell Squire, and should  
be glad to learn if he be the son of that  
pious, "Mother in Israel," Sarah Lovell  
Squire, whose name is still fresh and  
precious, tho' many years since <sup>she</sup> passed  
over to her Heavenly home.

My wife desires to tender to thee  
her Christian love and warmest thanks  
accompanied with my own. In hopes to  
write again ere long.

I remain

Assuredly Thy grateful Friend

L. Henderson



