Dear Dr Baker

Before writing Henry Jardon I am very anxious to see them for a few minutes if I might I would rather than would write yet would not be so much trouble. I am getting uneasy anyone as I get no letters from home

Sincerely Yours

Edward Johns

Dear Dr Baker

May I see them now abt my wife's coming down to me I want to know abt it

E. Johns

Dr Baker

37
1/2
1/2

1/36
28
108

Dr Baker

6. 8. /86

My dear Dr Baker

I wrote then a note last evening begging for an interview. I have none but then to look to for help. I am in very great distress. I am here surrounded by the insane I do not feel that I am so yet my mind is weak or I should not have said what I did abt my doings at home. I once more beg then to let me see then some time today — to see then alone. I am very sorry then sent my letter to my brother; I meant it for then only. I get no letter or any communication of any kind from home now & that looks very ominous to me when I think of the agony my dear wife has endured on my account since I have been here I cannot rest — I never ought to have been sent here — I am persuaded. If I had only moved abt among my dear relations near home as I might have done all this misery would have been saved. I can't rest for one moment except in sleep then I am at home happy with my dear ones as I used to be. I am making no progress here sorrow is doing me more harm than my board is doing me good

Let us see if we cannot come to some arrangement abt my being sent home. I wrote to my sister who lives not far from here but she does not answer me. There is something wrong & they have found it out. It is truly dreadful to be thus shut out from all intercourse with those whom I so dearly love & who, some at least still love me. It is still in their power to give me some relief and that would be by sending me quietly home with Allison in whom I can trust for he with them only is my real friend. Now don't deny me dear doctor this favour of a private talk with them some time to day I will not hinder them more than a 4 of an hour My agony of mind is something dreadful I know I go all strange times. I so fretted. Kate on Ist day, for the first time since I have been here I should like to have had a nice chat but the attendant called me away not knowing I was acquainted with her. She looked so very natural I have known her from a boy — And am I never more to see my dear old

friends in Cornwall? Oh! Doctor, help me my heart is ready to burst with anguish How I wish I could see my darling wife & children! It is like death being away from them. They imagine they only away from my dear wife & children so long & the longing to see them but in vain Could I dismiss from my mind all thoughts about those we at home would then they send me home. I must see my darling wife whose heart is breaking about me! Oh! dear doctor, for her sake as well as for mine have pity upon us. She tells me she has not enjoyed one meal since I have been away. I am eating the bread of idleness & that is not right. I can't read or settle down to anything I simply want home & friends & some light employment. Better my dear wife had never seen me than for us to be parted in this dreadful way. She has a lovely home where she is, close by the sea but she wants my company. In her last letter which I handed to you she made a touching

allusion to the anniversary of our marriage – the 27th of this mo: Oh that I could spend it with her yet is in thy power I believe I confer this great happiness I feel like one dying out of the world Our former happiness enhances our misery now! Let me see thee without fail I pray! No one else can relieve me. Oh the delight I should feel to find my self in company with my dear friend Allison – on my way home! My heart would bound with joy – now it is breaking with grief – I feel like one all alone – no matter by whom I am surrounded – I could kiss the flowers that grow at home. I love my home most intensely –

Affectly Thine

Dr Baker Edward Johnson

Don't deny me
This great favor dear Edward

Dr Baker

Dear Dr Baker

May I remind thee of thy promise to see me today - I must go home if possible on Monday - I shall go mad. I get no better from any one. What can be the reason? However long I may be spared how I shall get no better. No doctor in England could do more for me than thee have done every way & I feel grateful for it - I want to see my almost dear - brother wife. What could have prevented my brothers coming for me as they agreed to do? There was treachery in it on the part of some one connected with this place I am sure of it - Jeffreys said

to me at the time - "Your brothers will never see you any more!" It went thro. me like a knife. I am miserable - they told me some time ago that if they thought me well they would not keep me a day. I want them to examine me thoroughly as to the state of my mind. Ask me any questions on any subject so as to test my condition. This long separation from all I love so dearly is breaking my heart. I am not a stoic in any way. I love all at home most dearly. It is in thy power to give me some happiness - the intense delight of meeting my dear ones again.

Do dear doctor let us have a

full so few interviews this every
I have no one in the world but thee
to look to now for help — I know
it will cost my dear wife her
life or her reason if I am kept
away much longer. No one in this
world can feel more completely sh-
ifted of all that can comfort than
I do. Others are being discharged
& I am kept still. I know the
Lord knows what is right — Oh!
tell me I shall go on Monday — Send
me quietly away with Allison my
old friend I should feel safe
with him. I am so sorry I came away
so soon from Selby. If I had stayed
would they have sent me home?
Now please let me come up this

evening without fail. It does me good to be in thy company. There are but few here with whom I can hold a rational conversation. How I long to be with my own dear ones again! My heart would leap with joy at only the thought of seeing them again!

Was that A. Veale whom I saw walking with thee in the Kitchen garden yesterday? she had a ~~with~~ friend's bonnet on I thought it looked like her. Excuse my asking the question but is sweet to see one whom I have so long known — Now do let me come up this evening without fail please let me come up! My heart is almost breaking. I won't hinder thee very long. I am so very sad. Nearly two miles away from all my own dear ones who cannot come to see me on account of the distance and cannot go to see them! Thine &c E. Johns

Dr Baker

H SESSIONS STATIONER YORK

Dear Dr Baker

Shall I come up & have a little talk with Her? I am in great agony about my dear wife's heart & my Child sent home. I feel perfectly sure I know I am not strong in body nor mind but home & employment would do me more good than being confined here or in any other place of this kind. Do let me get me an interview with Her. I know they word him to love –

Yours sincerely

Edward B Foote

Dr Baker

W SESSIONS, STATIONER YORK

Dear Dr Baker

Might I ask thee once more to have a few minutes in private with thee. I want to tell thee my heart. I am in great mizery about my dear wife & others. I want to shew thee some letters. All would not occupy more than a quarter of an hour Please dont refuse me my request. Wilt thou return word by T. Addison –

Thine affectionately

E.B. Johns

Dr Baker

1/65

1/65

Thursday Morning

Dear Dr Baker

Things are getting worse & worse. Jeffreys is quite mad, shouting murder at the top of his voice. He knows that he has done a very wicked thing but I blame those attendants more than him, they knew it was against the rules of this place to communicate anything said by a patient. Now dear doctor I owe more than ever of you to send me quietly to me by Allison who is my real friend. It is dreadful to be here in such suspense. No one writes me now. Don't let me be taken away from this place by the police which I shall be if I can't get much longer and that nearly all the attendants to know well know. Stead &

Coates amongst included - It will be dreadful to my feelings to see me in that terrible position I want to spare them the trial - And it is dreadful to me to witness so much mental suffering as I do - I am fearfully sound in my mind & have been for a long time past & that they can plainly see. My appetite is good & I sleep well - Don't send this to anyone - it is for them only I bitterly regret that I was sent here on their account as well as my own. I was only broken down & discouraged not insane. If I had only kept myself quiet & said nothing they could not have harmed me nor any one else but I seemed to have no control over my feelings

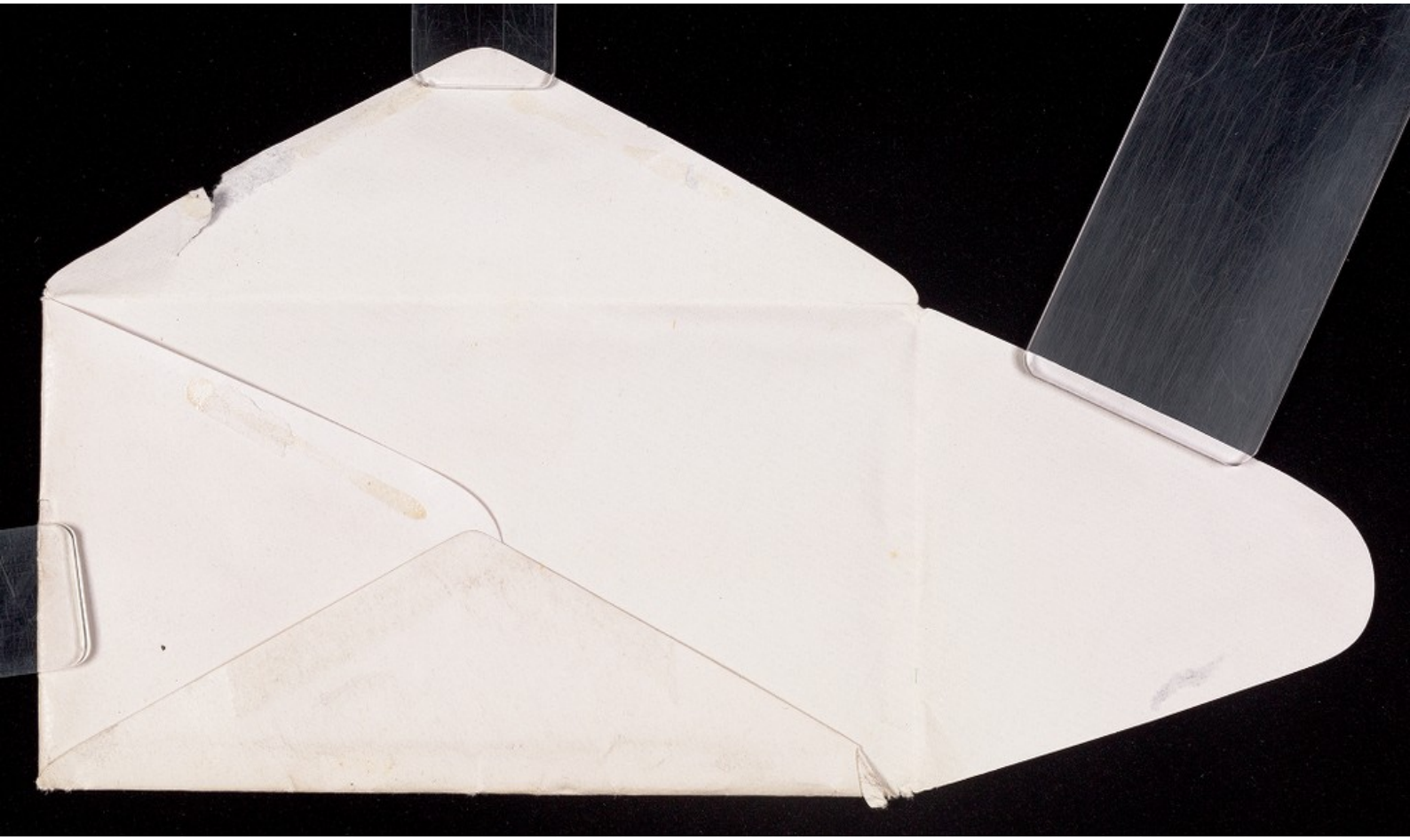
nor words I was so alarmed abt my
dear wife & children - Now to make
the best of a bad matter do dear
doctor send me quietly away as I have
said. I am sure I am perfectly sane
& they know it - I should never have
thought abt those men if I had
not been repeatedly told so. It is a
fearful case they never did me harm
nor I think when I was at home neither
would it have happened if I had been
at home - Do let me see them today
dear

Yours &c

Edward Johns

Dr Baker

221|1



Dear Dr Baker

I am very desirous to have a private interview with you – It seems an entire waste of time my continuing here – My longing for home is getting more & more intense. I want some employment which I believe would be helpful to me –

Yours truly

E. B. Sehms

Dr Baker

1/105

1/105

Monday Morning

Dear Dr Baker

May I venture my earnest request to be sent home? I faithfully promise to conduct myself well. I have no temptations to do any harm to myself nor to anyone else. I feel perfectly clear in my mind. I am not strong in body I know. Sometimes milk & bread makes flesh but does not impart vigour but makes me weak & stupid – But the intense longing which I have for home & dear ones there is altogether beyond any I can express. My dear affect. wife is literally breaking heart abt me – disappointment or disappointment she says I seem to be taking up my abode here. I long from my very heart's depths for home & friends particularly for her. Thou hast indeed done thy very best for me every way & nothing more can be done I feel that a removal to any intermediate place would be of no use I want home & friends. I do feel that thou art in an awkward position with respect to my case, which seems to be a peculiar one. But if thou would send me home by J. Addison who has always been my true friend since I have been here, I should be thankful indeed, then

I should see for myself how things are at home. I wish I had entered into these things yesterday yet it was not a suitable time. I am getting to feel very uneasy abt things at home. If thou would comply with my request & send me home to-morrow or in the course of a day or two should be thankful indeed. I wish I had been sent home last winter for my mind has been always clear I believe. Shall I come up that we may talk these things over a few minutes? I had a letter from C. Veale yesterday in which she expressed the hope to see me soon & proposed my wife taking one of her mother's cottages for us for the present. I enclose a letter from J. M. Albright to my dear wife. Oh! the wearing anxiety and suspense I am daily enduring is far beyond anything I can tell thee, dear doctor. However weak I am my affections are as strong as ever. I love my dear wife & children & all the rest at home more than ever I did; and I know they love me and I cannot endure patiently the pangs of separation. I know I have said some very indiscreet things since

I have been here — when I came first I mean but it was owing to the misty agitated state of my mind and if any did report what I said it was very cruel & wicked. But that I will leave. I will simply urge my request to be sent home for there my heart is & has long been. Yes, doctor, the world would I give now it seems to see dear ones again and to be addressed to them. I cannot rest here with nothing to do. I am sure some light employment would do me good and that I could get at home. Oh! my home my home! my heart bleeds for my home & the dear ones there. Thou will send me home, dear Dr Baker, won't thou? Hoping to see thee some part of the day

I am &c

Edward B. Johns

P.S. If thou detects anything in me that is not rational please to deal plainly with me & tell me so — I know thou will

Hazeldean
Charlbury } 14/10/85
Oxon

Dear Friend
Susan Johns,

When at York about twelve months since, I saw thy dear husband. His mind was quite clear, and he conversed quite rationally, & tho' depressed about his spiritual condition. I have had

two long letters from him, in which he expresses a most intense longing to return home. He writes in most affectionate terms of you all, but complains that you do not write often, or at least not so often as he wishes. I cannot see, for my own part, a sufficient reason

for his being kept
at the Retreat; we
should have no
hesitation about
his return, if sanct-
-ioned by Dr Baker.
It seems to me if he
had light regular
employment out
of doors his strength
and appetite would
improve. Dr B told
him in my presence
he would soon be

well if he would take
sufficient food. I write
at thy husband's
special request.
Hoping you will be
guided to a right de-
cision, I am with
love thy friend
John M. Albright

P.S. I cannot see that
there could be any
harm in his now living
at home, as it seems to
be simply a case of mono-
mania involving no diffi-

Cultivating correct conversation and

Dr Baker

1/199

1/199

Thursday morning

Dear Dr Reader

Now then can I tell you
which I am glad to hear from
let me see them for a few hours
This morning I have a request or
two to make. — My heart is breaking
abt my dear wife. I am cut off
from all communication with
my dear ones at home. I must see
them being the only one to whom I can
look for help. It is in their power to
grant unto me my requests. My
mind is quite clear & I am sur-
rounded by insanity of various
kinds — Let me come up & tell them
what is on my mind. My agony
abt my dear wife is dreadful

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the anniversary of our marriage will be in a few days. Oh! that I could spend that day with her. Let me come up dear doctor for a few minutes just because my poor tortured mind. The world is nothing to me without my wife & boy — I am getting no benefit here. No doctor in England can do anything more for me than the law down every way — Let me come up that I may tell them what is on my mind — I am sorry we have lost dear H. Sessions but it is no doubt well with

him – Oh for that spiritual
consolation I once enjoyed
at home! Let me go home
Let me come up & unburden
my poor mind to Thee I will
not hinder Thee more than a
few minutes – I have hardly
anyone left to converse
with now – Don't let my dear
wife's heart break. I can't have
back her last letter I handed to
Thee. I valued it much. I am
afraid it is her last to hell
Lam – my heart is bleeding
away! Let me come up, please
Mr Baker – Edward Johns

Caroline Veale
North Hill
St Austell
Cornwall

129 North Marine Road

Scarboro.

15. 7. 1885

Dear Friend

Do please write me once more and try to comfort me for I am in sore distress I dont know what to do I look back with sore regret upon my past life and cannot get peace of mind I dont get letters like I used to that troubles me. I am racked abt my darling wife I feel she had not the home she deserved. But how happy we were at first, or at least we thought so but what are we come to now. I cannot in any way tell thee what I pass thro. each day. It seems to me I ought not to have been sent up here but there it was done for the best. But now I seem to be as in a net and unable to get out. I cant feel that my sins are forgiven me. I

pray earnestly sometimes to be forgiven.
Tell me Jane my dear friend they sent
part of the Cherokees off yesterday this & tell
me what I shall do. I saw the other day
the school where the Anderson was
educated — I shall never see any of your
friends at Grand Rivers. I wish I could
be with you at least that I could see
my dear children. Write them to
write often. This place is so large and grand that it quite
wearies me. But all this I could bear
if I could see that my endeavors
were blessed. I feel the greatest desire to
do good. Do pray for me. Give my love to
all my friends. I still suffer greatly
from costiveness & have had to be constantly
taking medicine. All are very kind. But
they are strangers. I am indeed a stranger in a
strange land. What I have suffered the last year

Does I hope come to the time." Oh they shall be turn
to the Lord above. Dost thou think there is any
hope for me? Pray for me! I am so sorry this
of course I feel utterly unworthy of such
a good. I don't forget the days you spent
long ago with us for I shall never forget
I know you are happy up there. Oh tell
the good Alice & Carrie of it. I went to meeting
last first day, heard Robinson & Shipley
morning but did not see Mary
Chase. Without peace of mind what can we do!
I know that to my poor Shelbie will be for
ever and ever. Remember me to your mother
and brothers & sisters. Write
the answer please as my time is short. Do write
I should like a letter from E. Singleton too if she
is able. Dear Carrie. Please tell me all about
them. How I look back on the past! My dear
children gathered round our fireside in our
happy days and the interesting little stories I heard
to see them. I can see them now I look back upon
those times. And also before we were married
I had much enjoyment during the long winter
evenings. But now with all the creature comforts
that can be had I have no true peace

What is before me I dont know, sometimes it seems as if there is something dreadful to my precious wife. I have often felt that she has been neglected, & that I should get back again & do what I could to compensate her & make up for the past which I see no prospect of. I again thank thee from my very heart for all thy kindness to us all. Kindness which I do not merit but which I hope I did in some degree appreciate. How is dear A. L. Jr? I heard some time since that he was very ill. Well it will be heavy news for him. I dare say I shall never join thee. Many of late years have been a very misspent day & I cannot return to spend it over again. I have always supposed me from weakness of body & mind & the very best & kindest advantages of life. But I must be serious now if I can be but for a moment. Very sorry in the great distress and so did at home. Oh that I had been as when young & had given my heart to him then I did it fast but not wholly. It was too much a matter of form. It ought to have been but I suppose that was the best. Some more

so. When I write I think it may be my last letter and so it has been for a long time past Do you keep many poultry at Biscovallock I had a letter from B. Walls some time ago & I thought from what she said that you might — Please give my dear love to my dear wife children and all the dear ones at Methen — I am in weeks of sorrow abt them all for I dont see how I am to see them again! Pray for them & for me dear dear friend that we may be supported under whatever trials may be in store for us. I should be glad if dear Brother Richard would write me they all come near to my heart. J. Coon has not written me yet. You must have a nice little party now — the old ones are gone and new ones are filling up their places. Ah! poor wretched me! I little thought a few years ago that I should ever be circumstanced as I am now I cannot tell thee the bitterness of my soul

I had a letter from my dear sister Jane some time ago I was not aware that she was so weak But oh what is that when there is peace of mind I believe my dear sister is on her way to a better place she has had much of trial & suffering here but abundant will be her reward hereafter. And I believe her dear husband is safe She was his guardian angel we may say I begged her to write me again but she has not done so. I seem to be forsaken of nearly all my friends and what shall I do! My misery is very great and I see no way out of it I look every way for help & comfort but cannot get it A moments gleam of hope I may have but it is gone and I am left in darkness. I cannot be happy away from my darling wife

I cannot be happy without the Saviour's smile. Oh that I had been wise! that I had remembered my latter end! Oh that the Lord had seen fit to have taken me away when I was young But the Knows best Yet I cannot bear the thought of being so far from Him the fountain of life I. M. Albright wrote me a beautiful letter but he cannot tell what I am suffering nor my true condition But I thought it so very kind of him Oh that my spirit were one with his he is a lovely character I love him much but I am afraid I shall not see him again. I am in bitterness of soul not only on my own acct but on acct of others Do oblige me with a good long letter on getting this From thy distressed friend that loves

E. B. Jones

Wednesday afternoon

~~The trouble & intense~~

Dear Dr Baker

The intense anxiety & suspense I am enduring is making me quite ill. I get no letters now from any one. Please let me see Her alone that we may enter fully into conversation about my case. I am afraid there is something very wrong at home. I get no stronger in body or mind so much confinement does not suit me I have been accustomed to open air work all my time.

I fear there is too much truth in what I told Her about those men at home – I feel dreadfully alarmed and it was most wicked & cruel of those men here who communicated to them what I said while in that misty state of mind – they will have to regret it before they die. It is use saying anything to Jeffreys but I should be glad if Her would question one

of the attendants. I bitterly regret my indiscretion but it was spoken in the greatest innocence. If it be true I have rendered myself amenable to the law I cannot remain here standing charged with such an offence. My neighbour was to me like a brother or even a father – by far the best neighbour I had. I never had anything but good feelings towards him – I cannot rest It makes me almost mad to think of it My poor wife will die of a broken heart if this is true. I should never have thought anyone in this place could be so wicked or cruel. I think I know who they are. Oh dear doctor I believe I shall never see my next birthday. My dear children will be broken hearted. My brother would have come for me as he promised to do had not someone connected with this place secretly written to him dissuading him from it & that no doubt was Keen my old enemy. I hope they will be back to morrow Do please let me see them I am sure that the sooner I am sent away from here the better it will be for us all. I have

due regard to my feelings & I know how dreadful it would be to them to see me taken away from this place by the hands of justice & besides it would be such a disgrace to this highly respectable institution. I feel my self the most unfortunate poor man in England. I see the offering lemons but I don't see them fall these cruel people have dealt most treacherously

I should be glad if I could have my dear wife's last letter & I asked Mr Woods for it but he could not find it

My heart is ready to burst - I am very sorry to give them so much trouble but I cannot be satisfied to remain here in such suspense - I gain nothing trouble is killing me - Do dear doctor send me home & then I shall see for my self & shall be off my hands. I have caused the most trouble & anxiety which I deeply regret I will gladly pay the expences of the attendant - Do let me go, doctor

I get more & more bewildered with trouble & suspense. I feel there is a sad time at hand. I can't forgive myself for being so indiscreet — for speaking without thinking of the consequence. It will be sad indeed for our dear friends at St Arnaud if this is true. My Father did not contradict it when they sent down my letter in which I mentioned it to them which he certainly would have done if it had not been true. I write in agony at the thought of causing suffering to innocent people which these men are and I was quite as innocent as they as it regards my feelings towards them — I don't know what to do. May the Lord be gracious to me & forgive all my sins —

Please let me see them. The very first opportunity that we may have a free discussion I can tell them anything they would like to ask me —

Affectly Thine

Edward Johns

J. W. Tandow

St Austell

Cornwall

1/61

1161

30/5. 86

My very dear Friends

66 & 6 Fordow

When I am still how much longer I cannot tell. I long from the very bottom of my heart for home & friends but I can get neither. Dr Baker is away for a little while long at present I long to see him back again. Will you Reddy write me & tell me what is doing at home & how all are, particularly my dear wife & daughter – I get no strong either mentally or bodily – I am at a standstill – I long to get away. I feel like one in a net – I have my reason but not much power of body or mind I want home – I long to see some one

from home. Can't Sarah come to
me? In her last letter she expressed a
strong wish to come up & I begged her to do
so & have felt greatly disappointed
I don't think Russ has to realize my
position here. I sometimes feel discour-
aged. I have every care for which I
desire to be thankful. But I feel my
time is entirely wasting – I long to
be useful & to be doing good in
some way – I do not feel easy here
Do please answer this in some way
I want your earnest prayers for
us all – Shall I ever come home
again! I am all in the dark I hear
nothing – I believe there are some
here who are much stronger in
body & mind than I am but that
has nothing to do with it. I long to

be away – Every thing is getting to look lovely
but I am all forlorn. I want my
own friends for my feelings are
natural & strong I cannot weak my
mind. Maybe – If I cannot see
Fleon I send my Susan or Ellen
let me see some one. I long to see
my little Sam. I dream of him
almost every night he used to be
so much with me where I was at home
I feel I cannot bear this. It is
like a strange fiction or dream
– not like a reality – to be cut
off from all communication from
home & those dear ones there is one
indeed I feel I cannot endure it
Day after day no letter! Whenever I go
I feel I am out of my proper place –
I suppose the yearly meeting is over
now. Have any of the gone from Philadelphia

that I must see you or you from
home. My heart is ready to break
at the thought. It would surely kill me if it
would only take a few hours. I am
actually frightened. I look at
the sun out but can see no sign no
one is so terribly
miserable. read a little but get
tired. It seems reminded me of home
friends, particularly when it is the
same as I have pictured them
for you in my way. I am
walking as if upon a [illegible] it is
a most strange sensation. But
I must quit out of the
[illegible] right now. It is
[illegible] I cannot see one of
them [illegible] there is something
[illegible] that cruel [illegible]

Edward [illegible]

Dear Sister Hattie