a long letter, and just think that I intend to treat you in the same manner. It is indeed true that I have written you long letters, and may be, I may try my friend's patience again in a similar manner; but do not fancy that I consider it a duty, or make it a burden, at least not for myself, though it may be one for you to peruse them. One lives here in such a wilderness, and is almost cut off from intercourse with any one, who could understand one's ideas at all, and it's such a delight to know that one is talking to some one who will understand and sympathize with one. I wished we had at least a weekly mail, so that one could have this enjoyment at least more than a dozen times a year. How glad I shall be to see your face again and to have you once more to correct my un English habits. But I am dreaming, I see; for I cannot foresee the future even to the small interval of half a year. May be you come back then, if not, as I am afraid you are made to stop longer in England, but may be that I receive summons to proceed to New Zealand, before you come back. But let us hope for the best; let us suppose both of us having somewhat recovered from our debilities, and nothing retarding your return nor me having been removed, your stay here after all will be only very short, probably only a day or two, and our communication with Natal is scarcely more than monthly.— Well these dreadful prospects of many years of spiritual and mental fasting, makes me sometimes very savage, and put wicked ideas into my head, making me wish that slavery was a lawful institution, and that I was allowed to buy ~~you~~ my dear sister as a slave, to keep her all for myself. But then I am afraid I should never be able to pay the price for a jewel so much valued as she is, and if I had it I should not be able to set it in proper fittings. But I see already your face thoroughly shocked at this my naughtiness & I therefore implore you not to read the preceding last sentences, or, if you unfortunately have already read them, to forget them altogether, except you should like to hear them, what indeed cannot well be supposed. If I had the least spirit of chevalerie in me, I should have altered the proposition altogether and have supposed myself an humble slave, who crabed to be bought by a master or mistress upon he liked. But then you see there would not have been much difficulty about it, as I would have been rather a drug in any decent slave market, and could therefore be had very cheap, though it might be said that it was not worth having at all. As to my own predilection, I certainly should prefer being a slave to being a slave owner. — But now I promise not to say anything further, which may in the least offend you; and I shall now simply narrate you what I have been doing. This is very simple; for I have not been doing much. The chief incident is that I left the Roeicks. The old lady had promised to give me a larger room, but afterwards hearing of some parties intending to come to her house, she declined fulfilling her promise.

Since

BE151 C4'5

Government House Capetown
26 Sept. 1861

My dear friend,

This morning I received your kind letter, and was sorry to see that you were not so well, as I wished to hear that you were. I hope indeed that this was only transitory and that you have recovered again after the fatigues and distractions of the many journeys you had then undertaken. It must indeed be very pleasant for you to meet with so much love and kindness from all your English friends; and though I should greatly have liked to have heard more about your doings, yet I should not have a moment wished that you should either have abbreviated the pleasure of being with them, or that in your still delicate state you should have written a word, whilst it gave you any pain, or any undue exertion, or any possible constraint. If any intercourse, like ours, is to be a lasting one and one which is to the comfort of both parties, then there ought not to be the least constraint, each party just noting down what they feel inclined to say and when they find it easy to do so, and only in so far as it is no trouble or inconvenience to them. Each party must trust to the other's doing so, and then only there will be a real pleasure in this interchange of thoughts. Therefore, if ever you do not happen to have written, do not mind, merely send me two words, saying you are still alive, and not quite so bad as I might otherwise think. I shall be quite satisfied, and if on the other hand, when you find it very dull and lonely, and you have nothing better to do you may perhaps feel inclined to tell me your mind about some matters, and with me a

My dear friend, I am now living in Harrington Street, corner of Roeland Street, in a house built by a former Attorney General Sir Anthony Oliphant (father of Lord Elgin's Secretary). It is called Granite Lodge, being built almost entirely of Granite. I have two rooms, one with three, the other with one window, all looking to the North West, and therefore sheltered from the South East Wind. We are nearly as much elevated as at Mrs. Roesch's, and from my balcony I oversee almost the whole town, perceiving in one view ten churches, a mosque, a theatre, the Castle, Barracks, public buildings, Gas Manufactory, &c &c. The price is only two thirds of what I used to pay at Mrs. Roesch's. Of course our dinners are not so good as at that place, but better than in proportion could be expected, and much better than at former quarters where I was at a similar price. There are a Mr. and Mrs. Foster, a young married couple with baby resently come from England, to settle here if possible, very agreable, and well educated people. His brother is Clerk to the Legislative Council in Natal. The other boarders are five young men, who are not such society as I should desire, but I see them only at dinner and breakfast, as I have luncheon separately, and might perhaps have the other meals so too, if I wished it. The boarding house keeper, is a Scotch widow, Mrs. Strachan, sister of a Mrs Megibbon (~~Comfort~~ Superintendent Bot-

afraid we shall never have a better account from her.– You know perhaps more of her, what a nice person she was so, so very amiable and agreable, and tied to such a selfish old brute, who was quite incapable of taking care of her. Capt. Jamison was very ill of jaundice, but has now recovered.– I am puzzling myself now frequently with a question, the practical importance of which has lately ~~b~~come very near to me. Is a clergyman or another functionary of the Church, after perceiving the erroneouness of the doctrines, confessing which he entered the Church, bound to abandon a profession to which he had exclusively devoted his energies, and by which he has now the only means of supporting a numerous family, or is he bound to expose them to all the hazards and hardships, consequent upon his adopting a new profession? The matter is very intricate, particularly if it comes home to your own feelings, and you see a man, whom you love and are interested in, standing as it is, on the very brink of a precipice. I can scarcely think that any but very extreme opinions can render it right for him to take an extreme step,– which irretrievable as it will be, he might see reason to rue afterwards. The case would certainly be different if having such opinions as he has eventually adopted, he entered first the Church, but as he assumed in good faith the responsibility of a position, the duties of which led him to doubt a great portion of the Creed which is believed to hold the Church together, –in this case I do not know exactly, who is ~~to give~~ more required to give way, he or the Creed which broke down in its investigation? I should of course be the last to recommend him to do anything that was not straightforward and to spur sophistically over points of difficulty. But as long as he can possibly remain a leader of the flock committed to his care, he has no right to desert them to the guidance of such as he believes to be entirely in error. Is it not in the true spirit (though not in the letter) of his appointment that he should awaken in them the seeds of right understanding? On the other hand, in his teaching he ought to be very cautious with regard to what he only just learnt himself,– and this not for fear of man, but because he ought to doubt himself to some extent, and the fresh impressions he has received. The novelty of his new opinions ought to fade away, before he may try to impress them upon other people's minds.– The case may indeed lie thus that the Constitution of the Church of England is such as to constrain others to take his office away from him. But he ought not to wantonly court persecution, and say as yet as little as possible to commit himself. For, it may be supposed that his views are now still in a state of transition, and require time to settle themselves into something positive. He should, therefore, desist for some time from writing or preaching upon the subjects which appear to him in a new light. He ought not to commit himself rashly, but let the blame of excluding him from his sphere of usefulness rest upon others shoulders, not on his own. I think he has

has no business to tear himself away from his present position, as long as he possibly can manage to do good in it, and perhaps he may soon find that its functions admit such critical views as he has arrived at. Therefore, he ought to be as slow as he in any way can, in arriving at an extreme decision. – Now, my dear friend, I am not quite sure that I am perfectly right in this my reasoning, and that not my feeling has carried me farther than calm disinterested reflection would have led me? But it is hard to advise a friend to adopt a measure, the serious consequences of which though they may be for the public good privately affect ~~you and~~ persons whom you love in a manner which one cannot accurately foresee, but dreads to anticipate. – It is so true that there is rarely an enjoyment which has not its alloy. For in itself I certainly rejoice to see any one whom I love convinced of what is my sincere conviction of Truth, but then if I contemplate the necessary consequences, I shrink from their effect upon my own feelings. It is perhaps cowardice; but I never considered myself a very bold person, and if ever I did a bold thing, it was merely the dread of worse consequences if I left it undone. – You will consider all this very wild rambling, but unfortunately it is too true a statement of what is now upon my mind, and in our confidential conversations I do not like to conceal from you anything what so greatly affects myself. – On the other

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Botanical Gardens), at whose house I lived in 1857 privately with Envey the parson, before he married. She is very thrifty, but does everything to make me comfortable. – I have for the present given up my plan to go to Natal, since they allow me to do what I proposed, i.e. to compile a Comparative Grammar of South African Languages, and as I can do this at home, I need not go out at all in bad weather. I have been hard at work, but whether I really shall be able to finish my task, is ~~more than~~ beyond my foresight of my state of health and of other circumstances. – I have not yet entirely abandoned going to Natal, but though I think of November, it may be that I shall not find it right or wise to go then. According to my opinion, things are very unsafe in Natal, and the Government is following the unwisest course possible, particularly in their mad scheme of issuing tribal titles, to which the Council is rightly opposed. I am afraid if I went to Natal, my hot temperament might lead me to involve myself into these troubles, or at least I shrink from any possibility of being involved in political strife. Besides, it may be that the Bishop will leave the Colony even earlier than he first intended. – From home I had good news, and also from Buenos Ayres. – You do not know with what longing one looks out for the arrival of the Mail, when it is overdue. From my bed I can see the flagstaff on Lion's rump, and how often have I strained my eyes early in the morning in order to perceive whether any Steamer signal was visible. – I hear that the news from Buenos Ayres will are very bad. I am afraid

and still less my brother in Buenos Ayres, who is the eldest after me) consider me ~~as~~ a downright infidel. It is unfortunate that my father left their religious training in the hands of a clergyman who was by far more orthodox than himself, and so did raise an almost impenetrable wall between us. There are numerous things, regarding which there is no confidence between me and those who by nature are nearest to me. This makes me feel the more the want of true friends, before whom I need not have any secret, or whom I need not be afraid of shocking by interchanging my inner-most thoughts. The wish, of course, lies near that such friends should not be separated by such distanties, and that one should stand by right in a nearer relation to them, as one alas! does, or can expect to stand in. - However as it is, one must take the enjoyment which one can have, and it would be foolish to lament for what is not in one's power to attain. - After all one ought to take at least comfort in E. M. Arndt's pertinent verse:

"Leid', glaub mir's, ist viel leichter zu tragen,
Als die schwere Last von glücklichen Tagen."

But I must end. - Give my kind regards to Mrs. Fisher, who I hope is doing well, and let me always hear good news from yourself, my dear friend, and believe me,

your faithfully attached

W. H. I. B.

BC151 C415

other hand I cannot but feel a selfish and perhaps mean delight that I have always avoided being brought into a similar position, though numerous temptations and alluring baits were thrown into my way, to entangle me into similar snares. But after all holding with opinions as I for more than half my present life time hold, it would have been downright wickedness to have involved myself, and I really cannot say that I ever even went so far as to doubt what was right for me to do in this regard. The anxiety, however, which I feel now on some other person's account, has always made me desirous to see my brothers not adopt a profession, in which they may be brought into such perplexing situations. Yet all my warnings in this regard have been entirely thrown away, as two of my brothers have entered upon this dangerous course. Of the elder indeed who has just edited my father's Introduction into the Old Testament and is ~~about to~~ now carrying through the press that into the New Testament, I have no fear. There is too much softness and amiable pliability in his nature as to make him avoid playing with sharp edged tools. but the younger is hot tempered and zealous, and though his talents are not of the highest order, yet I think he may easily become a partyman on one side or the other, and may as such get some day into troubles. However, it is impossible for me to interfere, and I must let things take their chance, particularly as my younger brothers and sisters (not my mother and