

DEAR BRETHREN AND SISTERS.—Shortly after the arrival of brother Roberts and brother Boshier at our house, on this side the Atlantic, brother R. read to us the letter which you had written, expressing your sympathy and participation in our sorrow and grief on account of the death of our beloved husband and father. We the sisters therein addressed, do feel truly grateful to you for this expression of your kind feelings at this time, and your willingness to extend so cordial a reception to us if we came to reside among you. We are able to appreciate fully the motives which have prompted you to send this invitation: your desire to fulfil, as near as possible, a trust bequeathed by our departed father and teacher. This sentiment appeals to the tenderest chord of our hearts, and would, doubtless, prove irresistible, were it not for certain reasons which we consider too weighty to be laid aside. We appreciate your sentiments and esteem your motives very highly, as being worthy of those who are called to so high a vocation, and who have learned of so noble a teacher. Had the Dr. been allowed to carry out his purpose of removing there with us to take up our abode, we feel assured we should have realized all that your sympathising hearts have led you to express. But the Lord (whose wisdom cannot err) has seen fit to prevent this purpose being realized, and we desire not to tempt God by assaying to do that which has not received the favour of his divine countenance. Therefore, we can but bow in humble submission to the will of Him who doeth all things well. If our removal from Hoboken to Birmingham could be to serve the interests of the truth in any way, we should not hesitate to comply, notwithstanding bodily infirmities weigh heavily upon the mother; but, seeing this is not likely to be the case, and an ocean voyage at my time of life would be very hazardous and dangerous, at least, my daughter and I consider it our duty to remain on this side the Atlantic during the remainder of my sojourn in this life, living in patient waiting for the time when faith shall become sight, and hope a reality—when the days of darkness shall have passed away, and the beautiful light of Yahweh's countenance shall dispel the gloom. Then He will give us 'beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.' That time we believe to be near at hand, and our prayer continually is that we may so live as to be prepared to meet our Lord, and our beloved sleeper at the appointed time. With feelings of gratitude we desire to thank you, as well as the brethren who have come to us from your midst, for your solicitude on our behalf, and the interest you all take in our welfare.

Believe that we remain, dear brethren and sisters, yours in the hope of immortality,

ELLEN THOMAS and Eusebia J. Lasius.