

[Page 1]

W7/27

Darlington Maria Island
1st August 1846

My dear friend,

I have to acknowledge, with best thanks, the receipt of the Work Box and your accompanying note per favor [sic] of our friend M^r. Cairnduff.

The Box I am glad to inform you gives the utmost satisfaction and is deemed extremely handsome. I herewith enclose the sum of £2.10-0. being the amount of Mef^s [sic] Stevens & Co Bill, with which I see you are charged. Will you be kind enough to forward it and take the receipt.

Your kind offer to transmit, for me, the money to England I shall most thankfully accept, as soon as I can make it convenient to do so, which I hope will be sufficiently early to be in time for the departure of the "Mayflower", as you may perhaps be forwarding advices to London by that vessel.

The removal to this island of our mutual friends the Cairnduffs, has given me the greatest pleasure as we can now occasionally meet together, the

[Page 2]

distance between the two stations being only about eight miles_ I have already spent a day at Long Point and M^r C. has in return visited Darlington.

We have prepared a letter to the Inspectors Mef^s [sic] Crawford & Russell, relative to our disappointments and as these Gentlemen are the leading Commissioners of Pentonville, I trust our appeal to them may not be altogether useless, but everything connected with these matters seems at present ^{^ to be} very unsettled in England.

I observe from the papers, that Lord Stanley had entered somewhat fully into the consideration of the proposed plans of Capt Maconochie, and with nearly the whole of which he appears to disagree.

At this difference of opinion I cannot but express my sincere regret, and also for the delusion under which His Lordship is evidently laboring [sic] respecting the working of the

System now in operation here. No man, in my humble opinion, was ever so fatally deceived as he seems to be about the success of his

[Page 3]

instructions sent out in 1842. and yet this ignorance seems most strange, when we consider the numerous representations which have reached home during the last eighteen months. But I anticipate that Dr. Hampton will, ere [sic] now, have placed the subject more faithfully before the Home Authorities, as I know he possesses abundant means of doing so, and if such facts as he was prepared to submit, are disregarded by the Government then I fear probationism [sic] is indeed under powerful patronage and will require no ordinary demonstration of public opinion to shake its stability.

The London "Times" appears to have raised its influential voice in favor [sic] of the V. D Land petition and threatened an exposition of the errors of the present system of Convict Management. Such being done effectively will, I doubt not, do much towards hastening its doom, and convincing the British public that a better state of things must soon be adopted.

Mr. Cairnduff and I have have [sic] talked

[Page 4]

over this subject, and it seems that so nearly alike have been our respective views ^{upon it} that in his letters home he has used the opinions almost verbatim that I have given in mine. But this does not surprise me, as I apprehend the system merely requires to be seen, to convince any unbiased, impartial person that its principles and results have proved ruinously fallacious.

We have had a visit from the R Catholic Bishop, Dr Wilson, who made a minute inspection of our station and with the whole of which he expressed himself much gratified, that is ^{I suppose} so far as the exertions of the Officers are concerned. He is about proceeding to England on important business, and seems to be collecting every information connected with this system.

Mr Cairnduff has informed me of your kind sympathy in behalf of my dear Mary Ann, and they have offered to take her to live with them for a short time. I cannot sufficiently express the grateful sense I entertain of your goodness, which alleviates my sadness of thought when ruminating upon all that I have suffered. And I have great reason

[written at 90° over the top of previous text]

to bless Him, who has thus raised up kind friends (in a distant land) capable of feeling for the [wi]ves of another.

I would gladly avail myself of our mutual friend's offer regarding Mary Ann, were I not under a debt of obligation to M^r Lapham's family and to whom the poor child has become so deeply attached, that I think it will be as well to allow her to remain there until I see my future path a little clearer.

With kindest remembrance to your dear wife and family in which MA unites with me, and hoping you are all enjoying good health and every other blessing conducive to your happiness.

I remain,

My dear friend

Yours sincerely

J Boyd

P.S. Please let the contents of this letter be confidential. JB

[written in centre of right hand margin at opposite 90°]

Jas Boyd

1/8Mo 1846