

West Cambridge Apr 24<sup>th</sup> 1845

Dear friend

Hearing that you had written home, informing them that you were going to L, I think it a good opportunity of writing a few lines, that you may know that, (although the distance between us is great,) I have not forgotten you, I rec.d your letter & was very glad to hear from you; It always gives me pleasure to receive letters from you, although I feel as myself hardly capable of returning them as I ought but nevertheless I hope you will put up with a good will, if the matter which my letter contains is not (which I am sure will be) of much consequence, or at all interesting to you, but enough of this, I trust you will bare with me, let it be written ever so ignorantly or uninteresting. I am glad you have confidence in me, & consider me friend enough to you, to tell me your trials, and feel that I can sympathize with you, for I know it is pleasant to sometimes lighten the burden from one mind to have one in whome we can confide, for I feel that is encouraging for even the least of the human race to have an interest in my welfare, And although, I am aware I am not much, I have but little influence in this world of temptation & sin, and therefore my interest for or against another is no great affair, still if I have any influence I desire that it may be a good one, And if I have an interest for you (which I believe I have) I would try to cheer and encourage you. To keep your spirits up as much as possible hoping for better things ~~under all~~ & seeking for higher joys, than this trasitory, sinful world can afford at the best; a friend in whom we can depend & who will not forsake even in the darkest hour or under any disappointments or trial whatever. Such a friend we need in a world where nothing is so certain but we are liable to be disappointed I do not suppose that man, surrounded as he is by evils & bad influences of every kind, th[unreadable] can easily live so as to be perfectly happy while ~~it~~ in this world where there are so many things to perplex & afflict, but I do believe if a person puts his trust in God has faith in Christ casts all his care & troubles on Him he could be much happier. & this ought to be the case, If we could only let our thoughts soar above the thing even this, the things we love best of this world, & have our mind more on heavenly things how much lighter disappointments would seem; how much more reconciled we should, be, how much less apt to complain But, we are apt to let our minds grovel here, below, & and let all heavenly objects go, When we cast our eyes upon the world and see the corruption, the inconsistencies in those who profess to believe in a world to come, we are apt to be led thought at once that surely there is no hereafter, there is nothing in religion & it is not to be wondered at, still it does not alter its truth, still the gospel is the same, there is evidence enough of its truth although the whole world should turn infidels, And I believe although my conduct would prove to the contray, that there is nothing besides that can give sinful man true & solid comfort, I have no doubt but you think of these things as well as I still I thought it would do no to write a little upon the subject, But I ~~afraid~~ think you must be tired of reading such a letter I am aware I have made poor works of it I suppose you have recd a letter from your Mother informing you that we are well, as I understood she had written. Abner has proposed to me to take that part of the shop in which I work, as he wished to devote his attention exclusively to farming & I have conclud to take it, My brother has come to work with me therefore I suppose I shall remain here at present, you must write to me when you can, I hope I may see you at home when you have finished this voyage, But I find I must draw to a close so Whether you're in port or on the ~~but~~ dark blue sea When you turn your tho'ts home will you remember me & When you read this letter if there's anything that's good Will you remember it's from your frien William T Wood

Envelope addressed to:

Mr Stephen P Blake Liverpool England In care of Bearing Brothr & Co. On board Ship Suffolk Crosby  
Mas.