

Town Hall Chambers
34 Borough, High Street
Southwark, London,
March 6th 1880

My dear niece,

I thank you much
for your last kind letter
dated Oct 28th 1879 and
now I send you a few lines
to tell you about dear ~~Uncle~~
Uncle who continues to get
very feeble and so very weak
I give my whole time to
him now so that writing
seems almost an impossibility

Town Hall Chambers
34 Boro. High St
Southwark,
London.
June 9th 1881

My very dear niece,

I had your dear,
kind letter yesterday
and do indeed thank
you for the love which
it contains. Yes, my dear
I am a widow & desolate
but the Lord holds me
up and comforts me in
the midst of sorrow.
My precious dear one
went home on the 22nd

Town Hall Chambers
34 Boro. High Street
Southwark, London
September 8th 1881

My very dear niece,

I sit down at once
to answer though briefly
your truly loving letter,
I am unable to write more
on account of my sight
which is so bad that
I can hardly see to do
anything, so a badly written
letter you must pardon,
I am still at the place
here I have been so long
and at present am not
at all disposed to move,
I must patiently wait

Letters from H. M. Benson (wife of Revd. Samuel Benson)
revealing the faith and devotion which motivated
Christian life in 19th century England.

Town Hall Chambers
34 Borough, High Street
Southwark, London
March 5th 1880

My dear niece,

I thank you much
for your last kind letter
dated Oct 28th 1879 and
now I send you a few lines
to tell you about dear ~~Tom~~
Uncle who continued to get
very feeble and so very weak
I give my whole time to
him now so that writing
seems almost an impossibility

I have only one servant
and a large house so that
with nursing and other work
my days seem to pass so very
swiftly that really no spare
time seems left. — Dear Uncle
was so pleased when I read
your letter to him & desire
to you and your's fond love
and God's blessing; I am not
very well and suffer much
from inflamed feet owing
no doubt to so much being
on them and long standing.
Aunt Harmond is wonderful
and James & Sarah much

as usual. James has got
no employment — it does seem
so sad for a well educated
man like him to be idle
We have had such a severe
winter and have lost many
of our people in consequence
and the distress amongst the
poor has been fearful. Uncle
has chiefly kept his room
so he has not much felt it
but the pressure upon us from
the suffering poor has been
heavy indeed. But our God
and Father has not left us
and amidst trial & suffering

We have ever found Him
near to succour and defend
and I know He ever will abide
in faith and hope we wait
upon Him.

You all have trials dear
one and some cross which
you have to carry. The Lord
comfort you amidst all
and place under you the
"encompassing arms of His love"
My love and my prayers
ever follow you. Farewell
Pardon such a hasty shabby
note and ever believe me
Your fond Aunt,
H. M. Benson

Town Hall Chambers
34, Bors, High St
Southwark,
London.

June 9th 1811.

My very dear niece.

I had your dear,
kind letter yesterday
and do indeed thank
you for the love which
it contains. Yes, my dear
I am a widow & desolate
but the Lord holds me
up and comforts me in
the midst of sorrow.
My precious dear one
went home on the 22nd

of last February - he knew
me for a few moments at the
last and gave his parting
smile but had not spoken
for more than a week, nor did
he speak then only his last
look was on me and then
he went home to God. The
minds was nearly gone long
before - but such a sweet calm
smile rested upon the dear
face that told me all was
peace within. For 52 years we
had travelled together on the
journey of life - and my sweet
had our intercourse been
I see now alone and only desire
to live more and more to God
my husband's God - and who
I know will be my God here

to the end. I laid the earthly
remains of my precious one in
Rowood Cemetery close to the
Chapel where he had for 30 years
ministered to the poor in that
neighbourhood. I left him there
safe in his Father's keeping till
we meet again in that Father's
home which many loved ones
now are - and where we hope in
the mercy and grace of our Lord
to be brought. Oh my dear one
the world seems indeed a
blank to me without him who
was indeed my earthly light
but I would not murmur or
repine because all that my heart
- only Father does must be
right! He gave, and He has taken
away - and still blessed be his
name. My darling was in his 82nd
year - and I am 71 if spared till

Remember this year - so you see
I am descending rapidly the hill
of life - pray for me that I may be
kept faithful and humble.

Dear Aunt Harmond
is tolerably well only so feeble.
James and Sarah Jane are
well and desire kind love to
you and yours. You are still
called to carry a cross dear
well, you bear it not alone
your Saviour bears it with you
for he knows our griefs and he
carries our sorrows. In his own
loving care I commend you
and all your loved ones with
very tender love. Farewell. Write
again soon. I can hardly see to
write my eyes are so bad.
Once more farewell, and ever
believe me.

Your fond Aunt,

H. M. Benson

Torow Hall Chambers
34 Boro. High Street
Southwark, London
September 8th 1881

My dear dear niece,

I sit down at once
to answer though briefly
your truly loving letter,
I am unable to write more
on account of my sight
which is so bad that
I can hardly see to do
anything, so a badly written
letter you must pardon.

I am still at the place
where I have been so long
and at present am not
at all disposed to move.
I must patiently wait

the leadings of my Lord
and my God. Because I know
that He will direct my path
and order all my goings.

I am indeed alone and each
day I seem more desolate. My
precious husband seems every
where with me; and now I
can only look forward to that
time when once more I shall
meet him in our Father's Kingdom.

I have many friends who are
loving and kind - but none
no more, can ever fill the
void in my heart! For 52 years
we lived in mutual love
and peace and now he is gone
all my earthly joy seems
buried. But the Lord had
need of him and his work
on earth was done and all

I can now say. "The will of the
Lord be done"

I am thankful that you
are tolerably well and all
your loved ones. The Lord bless
and keep each one of you till
you come to His everlasting
Kingdom. Give my kind love to
each one and tell them that their
dear departed Uncle so often
spoke of, and prayed for them
as long as reason remained
and especially you my dear one
whom he so loved and cherished
in his memory - and especially
his sister - your now sainted
and honoured Mother.

Dear Sister Sarah keeps so
well and for her age is a wonder
James & Sarah Jane are well. I am
sorry James put your wrong ad-
dress. I cannot think how it was
because his former letters came right

My darling husband has left me
in comfort as regards worldly
means - just enough to live upon
and I shall while I am spared,
do all that I can for dear Aunt
Sarah in order. No comfort and
cheer her declining ~~of~~ years.
We do not want much - nor do
we want that little long - but
what we want is, to live close
to God and have our life hid
with Christ our living Head
and to be one with Him here
and one with Him in glory.

But I cannot now see and
fear that this scrawl you will
hardly make out. Farewell my
dear niece. Pray for me that I
may have more and more of the
Indwelling of the Holy Spirit the
"Comforter" Write whenever you can.
Sister Sarah sends tender love.
Believe me ever
Your fond Aunt,
H. M. Blunt