

City Road Feb 13 1811

My dearest Love,

I have, as yet, gained very little information respecting your interview with my Father, on which account you must suppose I am very anxious. my Brother called to day, and was made acquainted with the whole business. my dear Isabella was permitted to be present, she informs me, that tho' he spoke well of your character, yet he disapproves of our union. my Father has hitherto been very kind to me, but seems very desirous of my giving it up, however, he intends at the present to refer it to Mr. L. I have every reason to believe he will strongly oppose it, so that there remains very little if any ground to hope for success. my dearest friend, the more I consider, the more fully am I convinced

Ann Benson to Robert Mather,  
13 Feb. 1811.

I never can be happy without the consent of my  
own dear and honoured Father. Yet my dearest  
I do not, I never did, never shall dispute, that  
Love for me would induce you to use every means  
in order to my comfort and welfare. I pray, that  
the God of Heaven & Earth may reward you for  
the many coincident proofs you have already given  
of your sincere affection and regard. My Father  
is certainly actuated by a desire for my temporal  
and spiritual advantage, and will, if he can with  
propriety coincide with our wishes. if this should  
not be the case, we must endeavour to give up  
our own will, and be resigned to the will of  
God without whose blessing, we can never be  
happy, or profitable to each other. It will be to  
me the privation of all that is most dear to  
me in this world, but we have every day proofs  
of the uncertainty and vanity of all earthly  
things, and we too shall soon have done with  
men and things; nothing is worth a thought

but how we may escape eternal Death, & gain  
immortal bliss. you have no doubt heard of  
the sudden illness and death of George Pearson  
how many loud calls we have to prepare to meet  
our God. Since I saw you, sorrow hath filled my  
heart on account of my own troubles, and those  
of my friends, many of whom are under great  
affliction. may they be favored with divine sup-  
port. Let me intreat you my dearest Robert  
to pray much for me and for yourself.  
I need direction, heavenly wisdom, and grace  
I know not when I shall see you perhaps never  
more in this world. Oh that it would please  
the Almighty to remove the hindrances, and  
make our way plain, that we might strive to-  
gether for the hope of the Gospel. 'Call upon me  
in the Day of trouble,' saith the Almighty. Obey  
his precept my dearest Love, and continue to be  
I am so agitated, I can hardly  
write at all but  
me your truly sincere  
Faithful & affectionate friend

City Road Feb 22

My ever dearest Robert,

Long have I feared, long have I dread-  
ed this bitter cup; but in this world, the dearest friends  
must part; we must be resigned to the will of  
God; you have often told me, "God is too wise to over-  
rule good to prove unkind;" we are now called to show  
that we believe this, by trusting in His faithful  
promises and infinite love. I have long been convinced  
of the vanity & uncertainty of all earthly comforts;  
and now I am completely sick of Life, and care  
not how soon kind Death shall release me from  
this miserable existence, that I may rest with  
my dearest Mother in the Paradise of God.  
And I never given you my company without the

Mrs Benson to Robert Mather  
22 Feb. 1811.

consent of my Parents, we had escaped this  
trouble. but, alas! I loved you, and shall forever  
love you. yes, my dearest my heart is yours.—  
May Heaven reward you an hundred fold  
for your sincere affection, and the many indis-  
cutible proofs of your true Love; but permit  
me to ask one more, that you will not re-  
quest me to shorten, embitter, and fill with  
sorrow, the few remaining days of my ever  
dear & honored Parents, this I cannot do. Oh, my  
dearest Robert, my life is not worth a thought  
when compared to his. Endeavour to forget  
that name that has caused you so much sorrow.  
I would write more, but cannot bear it: only  
I must entreat you to remember God is Allsuffi-  
cient. Return my most sincere thanks to Mr D, till  
him I shall pray that God may reward him, till death  
continue to pray for, and believe me your true & faithful friend

Ann Benson to Robert Mather.  
13 Feb. 1811.

My ever Dearest Love,

My sorrows almost overwhelm me  
I certainly love my Father to Idolatry, his dis-  
pleasure I cannot endure, if I never marry I  
cannot do it without his consent, my Dearest  
Robert do not distrust my affection for you  
I love you as I love myself, of this, I am but too  
conscious. I think of giving the inclosed to my  
Father, I've read it & candidly give me your  
opinion. O my dearest love had I but an heavenly  
Friend in whom I could trust. yet let me intreat  
you to pray without ceasing. For the word of God  
saith 'none ever trusted in him & were confounded'

This letter reveals the  
disapproval of the  
Revd. Joseph Benson to  
the attachment of Ann  
and Robert. He later  
gave his reluctant  
consent to their engagement.  
They were married on  
the 16 October 1811 at  
St. Luke's Church, Old St.,  
London.

Ann Benson to Robert Mather

1811.

then of course, continue to acknowledge God, that He  
may direct your steps. Let the word of God  
be the rule of your conduct; then you cannot  
err, remember the Judge of all the earth  
will do right, should it not then be our  
greatest concern to have his approbation.  
I have such an incessant pain in my head, and  
my spirits are so low that it is with some diffi-  
culty that I can come to see you to day, indeed  
I am almost sick of life, was it not for a  
future state I would no longer endure this  
miserable existence, but you must forgive me  
all errors & continue to love & pray for you

truly sincere & affectionate

Friend M