

Prayer St Beth

July 20th

1071

Dear Joe

I received your very welcome letter last Sunday morning I was greatly surprised to hear from you I really did think you had forgotten us but now I can say you are a friend in deed and not in word please to accept my Dear Joe our thanks for the five pounds you sent us for it has given me almost a new life you cant think what an effect your letter has had on me when I think you sent all that money to the poor little children and said you were sorry it was not more if it was only one pound think what a help that would be to me at ~~that~~ this time I have had a few friends with fair promises but nothing else to part with Dear Alfred death is come an old thing to many but the children is no nearer rear than an year ago but you Joe who I must repeat it never promised me anything sent all that money in the very time I so much needed it we have been short of meat sometimes this summer I never

said anything to any one nor allowed the Children
to I thought certain people might guess without it
I think most of my ten youngest Lizze and Alfred
two so pretty little Children as you ever saw
Alfred is thirteen months old he can run
as fast as the rest I suppose you would like
to know how we are getting on I think to me
shall do bye and bye I do belong down to
Melanear mine in the account house got one
pound a month William Roberts is working
on the floors for ten shillings per week he
is nine years old is a very good boy is always
ready every day to work he has not lost an hour
since April he is very small he was for years
always sick but is very well now never
complains is as cheerfull as a lark you said
you suppose I'll had forgotten Joe you are
told of scores of times with them a what
sort of a man you are and how tall you are
the are both going to meet you when you
come home you have ^{been} daily expected ever since
Jimmy is come the cant think how you will
not come to I'll have not ~~the~~ laugh
nor done much else but weped like anyone
in a bad temper ever since her poor father is
dead I have to go to work from seven to five

so she has to stay home with baby and Lizzie and do what she can while William R and I go to work I did feel to go every day from baby while he was so young altho I was very glad to have it to do I would rather work as hard as I do and live hard to than apply to the parish for relief I have not done it yet and no one knows how hard I have had it all anyhow well we are getting on and I am very proud to hear it.

Laure is with your Mother still as you know she has been freed from many hardships on that account they say she shall keep her longer she is very comfortable there

Mary your wife was up here last Sunday I never saw her looking so well in my life like a girl she has almost been over carried all this summer with thoughts of your coming home.

my poor dear Alfred can never return any more she has the thought of your coming home to her I hope to see you soon to I could talk for a week to you

I suppose you will not have patience to read this through

your family will write for themselves

I should be glad to have it letter
again will you dear Joe write me

I remain Dear Joe your
Affectionate Sister

Mary Johnson

it is now half past five
I am in the account house
Jimmy is out in the engine house
and William on the floors