

might have been - both to me & my dear wife also, whose sufferings, as it was, were exceedingly great - for the doctors did not hesitate to tell her plainly, what they intimated more obscurely to me, the dangerous condition in which I lay. They were willing that she should have any additional aid from England, and she did telegraph for our friend Dr. Evans of Gloucester - but he was not well enough, & anyhow could not have come in time. One whole night was wasted while they could not find the great operator - & that was a terrible night for her - but she never let me see it! And though she had been very poorly all through our town, yet strength was then given to her - she proved the most efficient as well as tender of nurses - & to my great joy on our return Dr. Evans found it had done no fresh damage to the heart. -

But what a lesson I had set before me of the utter folly of postponing religion to a sick bed! as well as of supposing that anything can possibly take the place of the Gospel of Christ! - So prominent was my bodily trouble, & so much mental effort was required, that I was absorbed, in the mere act of enduring it, that to learn religious truth at such a moment would have been almost like beginning to learn algebra or chemistry! Had I had to look to an "unknown God"; I know

what which would have become of me! Had I then for the first time to attempt to exercise faith, all must have been darkness and confusion. Blessed be God for His unspeakable mercy to his most unworthy creature. He let me feel that I was on the foundation - but what if I had had then to seek it for the first time! And as to all human science & knowledge & earthly pursuits they all appeared as nothing! I hope I shall never forget the lesson - or how unspeakably good He was to me! I will love Thee, O Lord my strength! The Lord is my strong rock & my defence, my Saviour, my God, and my might, in whom I will trust - <sup>my purchase,</sup> the horn also of my salvation, & my refuge!

It was very kind in you to write about the MSS - but I don't see what difference it makes! What possible consequence is it of, to the wide world or any member of it, that they should stand in your name? I can't hear therefore of your most kind & generous proposal.

Josh hurried & I can only tell you that my last surviving Uncle was buried yesterday - & that poor Mr. Drake is in an Asylum! My wife's very kind love - Adys your Aunt your very affectionate & proud  
J. W. Webb.