

Andover Theol Sem. Jan, 20, 1841

Dear Br, George,

I will now commence a reply to your very welcome favor of Sept. 6th, though it is uncertain whether I complete it in a month. I generally have to make the excuse that I am pressed with business, but must now confess that I never knew before what it is to be driven. I can tell you this business of writing sermons is no trifling affair. I never thought so seriously of giving up the ministry as I have this winter, not because I wish to avoid the label of it, but because I am not sufficient for it. I am almost overwhelmed when I think of the greatness & awful solemnity of the business of acting as ambassador from the court of Heaven to punishing immortal souls. When I make a trial of the difficulty of the work, & sit down to pen my message, I feel crushed to the earth. So far do my words come short of what I would say, & so exceedingly feeble & weak in comparison with what the subject demands, that I am ready to despair of ever being able to effect anything by trying to preach the Gospel. It has recently been a serious question with me whether I have not mistaken my calling. Yet to give up the idea of carrying the news of salvation to the heathen will be like giving up the ghost. But I will not give it up yet. I will hold on a little longer. Perhaps the Lord will yet condescend to speak by me. I am sure I do not wish to speak my own words, nor to preach myself, but to proclaim Christ crucified. I confess I have been almost discouraged of late, but perhaps, or rather I know, I have been disposed to trust in my own strength, and it may be the Lord is trying to show me that my sufficiency is of him alone. I do wish to learn that lesson. - I have been hard at work for three or four weeks & have written but a small part of one sermon as yet, & what I have written, I am almost ready to throw into the fire, every time I take up my paper. Yet we have been here, been honored to preach in the Chapel & I expect to be called on to preach there in a few weeks. You will say, this is being driven into pretty close corners, & so it is. Yet there is one thought that gives me some consolation, that is that I shall not be obliged to do more than I can. Writing is a more difficult business with me than with any one else, owing partly probably to the fact that I have not written half so much as most persons at my stage of progress in studies, not having been driven up to it in the academy & college as I ought to have been. However I intend now to make a desperate effort to remove this manhood

Have heard nothing from Mr. Spink recently, except indirectly that he has not written, but I have not how large the school. Pray you hear more frequently than I do.

very dry, I think abatement is finding out

I received your letter while teaching a select school in Holden, near Worcester, & it was quite a cordial to my spirit, for the school was not a very comforting one, & a word from an absent friend now & then was like an oasis in the desert. The difficulty was, the school was rather backward, & I worked like a dog all the time, & went home very much discouraged & despairing of ever being able to beat any thing into them. Of the two schools I have taught in Mass have afforded me a fair specimen of Massachusetts mind, especially the female portion. They I say give me the sons & daughters of the N. H. hills. Why, you know the girls we used to have up there among the granite rocks, would make almost nothing of swallowing an Algebra or Euclid whole, but down here, you have to drill as with. before you can lodge a mathematical idea in the brain. But I hope I have not seen a fair specimen of Mass mind as shown in youth. However, to my surprise of it I can report some honorable exceptions.

abolition is going down here, & up too, all over the country. The clergy are still & not at all democratic. I think they are wholly & demerit.

I deeply sympathize with you in your disappointment, & with the you shunthred towards her who was the cause of it, though it & all over with now. I must confess I was at a loss how to account for her conduct, & I have less regard for her than I did. I have not seen her for 2 or 3 years. She has not been to Andover & Mr. Rockwood tells me he does not expect to come. Her father's house was burned down in autumn which makes him feel pretty poor. - I hope your loss in this matter has already been made up, for they say the best is a sudden plane from the losing of getting married. Indeed I am not sure in regarding your letter, that you told me all that occurred on that famous 10th." to which your minister at the wedding was "willing to defer it." I shall not be enlightened on that point. Meanwhile I will relate to you my own experience of a disappointment similar to yours, though not exactly similar. Some I write you I have made proposals to a young lady, & have been disappointed in that I hoped, not however because she was not willing, but because her father would not consent. His plea was that she is too young. She is indeed rather young, between 19 & 20, yet I promised to wait for her till she was nearly 21, but he "couldn't come it quite." This was as sure a trial as any that I ever felt, but it did not kill me & I trust that there is no earthly trial than ever. She is an excellent girl & one that I love dearly, but I must ^{longer} lose her. I do not feel at liberty to stay away from the hearth ^{longer} than I proposed. You would be none the wiser if I should tell her name & whereabouts, for you have never seen nor heard of her nor any of her friends. I have told no one of it as yet & think I had better not at present. So I am yet without a nail to hang on & am likely to be for some time. But doubtless Providence will arrange matters right with me & I will not trouble myself about it. - Had a delightful visit from my best sister Maria a week or two since. Was attending a meeting of the Porth Rhetorical Society one evening, when a card was sent in to me, say

ing that Mr Tracy & lady were at the Mansion House, I had not dreamed of it, & I can tell you my feet had wings. She had come into this region on business & she took it into her mind to come & stay with me in the time, Hearing friends in Keaville, 14 miles from here, we took the cars & went up & spent a few very pleasant days, while Mr T. went to Lowell & Ashka, She inquired particularly for you, had not heard that you were gone to the West, expressed a good deal of sympathy for your trials & disappointments in connection with your residence at W. J. It was hard to part with her again, to see her, perhaps but once or twice more in this life, if at all, Had not seen her for two years & a half.

By the way, br. said that while in Ashka he called on a friend in the evening who proposed having a little sing, & said there was a young lady, a very good singer, a few doors from l. He would call her in. He did so, & lo, Miss Betsy Abbot made her appearance. She had been a scholar of br. when he taught singing school in N. She sent her respects to me, & to teaching school in N.

But I will now go a little farther back in history, say about anniversary time, as I believe I have not written you since then. We had a splendid anniversary. The graduating class did themselves much honor as all confessed. Many of them I thought outshined themselves. Dr. ~~St. Pro~~ you saw in the ^{miss} papers articles of Dr. Stone's address & Dr. Co's sermon.

But a thing that enlivened the excellencies of the occasion to me was a visit from Miss Hannah Spatterok, I went down to Hampton the week before, to attend the meeting of the General Assocⁿ of N. H. where I found her & her father, I invited her to come with me to the anniversary & she accepted the invitation. I spent nearly a week here in the family of Mrs Johnson. Had a very pleasant visit with her. It was, of course, reported here that I was engaged to her, however, I know not for, & so did she, & I presume we shall not both of us be troubled much about other people's suspicions. She is quite a good girl, in my opinion, & not to be despised for a wife, if she had a constitution & health sufficient for the ordinary work, I don't know what I might do, But she has not & therefore that question is settled. She went home from here under the protection of Mr Alden Walker, who was going to Lebanon to his depot. I presume you have heard that she is to marry (if he has not already) Col. Baker's ^{eldest} daughter, Mary Ann. She has recently been ordained & settled in West Rutland Vt. - ~~It~~ - We have quite a lot of Dartmouth students here this year, I believe all your old classmates who were here last year are here still, except Wells, who is at Canandaigua N. Y. & Baldwin, who is at Sheriden. Your classmates Adams, Hall & Rockwood have entered the former class. Also of the class after you, Badger, Bowman, Binston,

My principal hope for the baptism is in the prayers that are going up for them from your labors to give a quantity of labor

Merrill, Porter - But excuse my stupidity - it just occurred to me that you
 have already read these names from the catalogue I sent you, I forgot there was
 such a thing as a catalogue in the world. But there is one thing I presume you
 don't find on it, viz. Bunton is President of the Lockhart Soc. Swift
 served as pres. a few weeks & then resigned, & Gundersen, Hoosford & myself
 were successively chosen in his stead. But we K. W. K. Couldn't Korne
 it quite, & then Bunton was elected & ^{he} accepted. He is a good fellow, but
 not an extraordinary singer, yet does better for us than any other would.
 I suppose Merrill is a better singer than B. but he is so large, the
 office wouldn't hold him, so it was thought best not to elect him. Hoosford
 is head & shoulders above all the rest as a musician, but he has not a good
 voice for leading, & on that account declined the office. We do not sing so
 well this year as last. Wells & Baldwin have left quite a chasm in our
 society.

I suppose I can tell you no news of my
 friends with you in mine. I think I have
 from my friends about as often as if I were in
 China. Br. Dwight writes me not long since. He
 will be through at Oxford next month. He
 is about to go to Boston or New York. He
 wishes to become acquainted with the city.
 I heard from home about a week or two ago
 that he had returned home. Br. Wright is at Mendon. They
 had a little one George. Something else about the
 school of the year. I don't know the year.
 Let me hear from you if you can. George -

Truly

Mr George Auld
 Cincinnati
 Ohio
 (Single)

22nd I have offered myself to the Am. Board a few days ago, but
 have not heard whether I am accepted or not. Probably the committee
 have not yet got to consider my case. I think it quite probable
 I shall be rejected as unqualified for the work, for I am deeply con-
 scious of my utter insufficiency for the business of breaking to dy-
 ing souls the bread of life. If I should not be accepted, I think it not
 very unlikely that I shall relinquish the design of preaching for that
 of teaching, or perhaps for the farm. I do not know where I shall be
 located if I should be accepted by the Board. I suggested to them that
 my feelings were enlisted in the Syrian & Persian missions as much
 as in any, though I wished to be entirely at the disposal of the com.
 to be sent where I should be most needed. They like to have the can-
 didates express their preferences, if they have any in respect to their location.