

## CHAPTER VIII.

1836.

Serenity in Prospect of Death—New Year Thoughts—Prayer for Guidance in Efforts for the Good of Others—Domestic Enjoyment—Letter to a Unitarian—Letter to a Sister on Baptism—Visit to Princeton—Letter to a Sister commencing a Christian Life—Visit to Cape May—Letters of Dr. Clark—Temora—Letter on Christian Activity.

“Oh, how soul satisfying are the **consolations** of the Christian!” Such was the dictate of Miss Allibone’s full heart, inscribed in her diary for 1836. And where shall we find a more apt and beautiful illustration of this truth than in herself! “As the sufferings of Christ abounded in her, so her consolation also abounded by Christ.” Her diary for this year expresses repeatedly the conviction that the last enemy would soon triumph in her death. So strong and constant was this impression, that she might indeed be said to “die daily.” She lived consciously upon the borders of eternity, and the ever present thought elevated, not saddened her soul. Sustaining faith was the precious gift of the Lord to His obedient child. Hence she was “chastened, but not killed—sorrowful, yet always rejoicing.”

The record of 1836 shows the same sweet submission to her Father’s will, the same unwavering conviction that the Lord was the portion of her soul, and the same exulting delight in the God of her salvation. During this period she was still permitted, although in much weakness, to visit her church, and she was dearly thankful for it, and faithfully strived

to put the privilege to good use. From the enjoyment and edification which she derived from public worship, we can more fully understand the resignation that consented, without a murmur, to being entirely shut out from it. Almost every page of this year's diary records how much she loved the ways of God and how anxious she was to bring others to participate in these, her choicest pleasures.

"January 1st, 1836.—'Goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.' This has been a very happy New Year. I endeavored yesterday to reflect seriously upon the past, and to implore grace to help in time to come.

"8th.—Wrote a letter of warning to a dear friend, with many tears. Oh, may I be more faithful in the future, and may all the sinful reserve that prevents me from discharging my duty be forever removed. If I could only realize the value of souls, I should act very differently.

"Sunday morning.—I hope my hard heart has received a new impulse. I have been sometimes very cold lately—have done those things which I ought not to have done, and left undone those things which I ought to have done. I have been humbled, too—have been told that I lack *tact*, and that I am too zealous in my efforts to do good. Oh, how hard it is to be afraid to speak to those whom you desire to warn to flee from the wrath to come, whom you would persuade to accept the offers of salvation! O, my Heavenly Father, wilt Thou teach me my duty in this respect? Take away the fear of man from my heart, and all sinful reserve. Make me wise as a serpent, and harmless as a dove. Let me not injure Thy cause by indiscretion, nor prevent others from coming to Thee by any unnecessary strictness, but grant in Thine infinite mercy, that *levity* may never expel seriousness from my heart or countenance. Since I came home, I have been praying and shedding many tears. I want unfeigned repentance and true faith. 'Oh for a closer walk with God!' In the strength of Jesus, I will press towards the mark.

"I am more and more sensible that the influence of God is absolutely necessary to ensure happiness at home. We need His restraining power and influence in our every day conversations, and we cannot be happy, even in this world, without it. May this conviction lead me to implore more earnestly the blessed influence of the Holy Spirit."

To Miss E.N.

Jan. 31, 1836.

“Lord, with glowing heart I'd praise Thee,  
For the bliss Thy love bestows,  
For the pardoning grace that saves me,  
And the peace which from it flows.’

“Dear E., we are *commanded* to rejoice in the Lord always, and why do we not? Is it because we are so sinful that we *ought* not to be happy? No; it is because we are so sinful that we *will* not. We are so unbelieving that we refuse to accept as ours the peace and joy which are provided for us in Christ Jesus. Let us both, my dear friend, strive to have brighter views of our blessed Saviour. Let us think much of all that He has done for our sinful world, and for our own souls, and then we shall love Him better.

“I was thinking this morning of the vast capability of usefulness thee possesses in thy conversation with immortal beings by whom thee is surrounded. Thee can, and I doubt not does, seek to impress upon the minds of the children who are frequently with you, the importance of eternal things. I think this is a most important and delightful way of doing good. In striving to influence those whose habits are fixed, we have much to contend with, but impressions upon an infant mind are easily formed, and usually very lasting. I do hope, dear E., that thee will be the instrument of winning many souls to Christ.... Soon the night will come. Let us labor while the day lasts, and let us always endeavor when we enter the presence of others, to breathe a prayer for divine blessing upon our time with them. Oh, how useful we might be! I want to be stirred up; I want holy zeal for the welfare of souls, and I want the 'wisdom of the serpent and the harmlessness of the dove,' so that I may be a blessing wherever I go.”

“Sunday evening.—Spent a few moments in dear mother's room. I do not believe there are many families so happy as ours. We have many temporal, and many spiritual blessings. O, that we may be induced, by the mercies of God, to **consecrate** ourselves to Him! I am astonished at the affection my friends show towards me. Their hearts seem full of love to me. I would give God all the glory. I know that it is because He has wrought a work of grace in my heart that their affection is increased; and I desire to be very humble, and to remember that I can, of mine own self, do nothing; and to watch and pray against temptation; to set a holy and consistent example, and to use all my influence to the glory of

my Heavenly Father. May the time soon come when we will all be united by the bonds of faith. Until that time may I pray, *believing*, and then when we shall have done our Father's will on earth, may we all be gathered into 'a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.' O, my Heavenly Father, wilt Thou give me faith to believe that Thou wilt grant this, for Jesus' sake, amen!"

"Feb. 9th.—I was privileged to partake of the holy communion with dear ——. I found it very profitable to draw near the table of the Lord. I always anticipate this season, and have never failed to derive spiritual refreshment from it. How strange, how inexcusable, that any should undervalue this blessed ordinance! My heart was lifted up in prayer as I returned home."

"Feb. 14th.—I felt humbled while hearing a friend speak very unkindly of an absent person. I saw that such feelings are sinful in the sight of God, and while I desire to be thankful that I am not very prone to take offense at apparent slights, I would remember that my strength lies in Jesus—watchfulness and prayer. 'He that hates his brother is a murderer.' An angry thought is sin. 'From envy, hatred, and all uncharitableness, good Lord, deliver me.' I need that my faith be increased in this respect, for I very often offend in this thing, and I hope I shall, from this time, strive to possess 'the mind that was in Christ Jesus.' O, may I ever be enabled to realize that I cannot make myself meek and lowly; that it is necessary that I be so, and that God is able and willing to make me all that He would have me to be."

"Sunday, Feb. 21st—I think I generally feel more happy on Sunday evening than at any other time; more prayerful and more peaceful. This evening I have spent much time in prayer, and my chief desire has been for more faith."

"25th.—Felt a great desire for holiness today, while writing to a Christian friend. This evening have spent some time very profitably upstairs, but was obliged to spend an hour in the parlor with company, and a tedious hour it was. I feel more dull in the society of those who are trifling away their precious time, than anywhere else; and I am thankful that I am mercifully permitted to spend so much time in retirement. I have suffered much this day, and must pray for strength to endure greater pain, for I shall have to endure. O, that I could realize the nearness of eternity! I shall welcome suffering, if God will bless it to this end. My Heavenly Father, wilt Thou not enable me to glorify Thy name? Wilt Thou not make me more pure in heart?"

"March 3rd.—I have many mercies to record. Yesterday was very pleasant, and I very much enjoyed walking and breathing pure air early in the morning. I was in much

suffering, and as usual, had to ask God for grace to help in time of need, after which I felt much better. Called at Aunt H.'s, and fell down the steps in such a manner, that it is wonderful I did not receive serious injury, but was not much hurt. In what danger are our lives, and how needful is it that we be always prepared to die! I called to see Mrs. B., with whom I had a very profitable conversation. She told me the circumstances of the death of two young ladies who were the subjects of the disease I have; and I felt an increased desire to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man."

The great truths of the Christian religion were held by Miss Allibone with the warm grasp of affectionate faith. No doctrine was an abstract speculation or a mere intellectual conviction. "With the heart she believed unto righteousness," while at the same time her reasoning powers were acute and well developed. When any doctrine, which she was assured from God, was called into question, she defended it with the deepest interest. She was arguing not for victory but for truth. The truth she had known and felt the power of, and which she was most anxious to commend with conviction to others. With gentleness and consideration for others, she could never be indifferent to false doctrine or allow any to suppose her so. The union of directness and kindness is illustrated by the following letter to a friend, who did not believe in the divinity and atonement of the Lord Jesus:

Feb. 26th, 1836.

"...During the long interval that has elapsed since our discussion, I have very often prayed that God would enlighten thy mind with the light of the everlasting gospel—that He would show thee plainly that Jesus is 'the way, the truth, and the life;' and I hope very soon to learn that thee has been shown 'the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.' Oh, how happy would such intelligence make me! For thee cannot doubt the increase of my interest in thy spiritual welfare. The only reason why I have deferred writing has been that I could not see clearly that it was right for me to do so. I have very often read thy last letter, and reflected upon its contents—and in attempting to aid thee in acquiring a knowledge of the truth, I feel my own weakness most sensibly. I know that I am standing upon holy ground, and in my own strength I would not dare to write to thee on this subject. Thee says, that 'notwithstanding the different degrees of religious knowledge to which we have attained, thee does not think our views so widely differ.' I hope that I feel my ignorance, my sinfulness, and my lack of humble and lively faith too sensibly, to believe for one moment that I have made eminent attainments in religion; but permit me, my beloved friend, once more to say that our views do indeed widely differ. The doctrine which is to thee one involving so much doubt and perplexity, that thee says thee cannot adopt it, and which thee considers so repugnant to the reason with which God has so

mercifully endowed His creatures, is to me ten thousand times more precious than all besides. Upon it is founded my only hope of heaven, and I daily and continually ask God to impress it more and more deeply upon my heart. Rather than renounce it, I believe I would endure any deprivation, any suffering. To me, Jesus Christ is precious. I hesitate not to ascribe glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and I expect to do so throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. Does not the Bible tell us that 'Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us'? And do we not know that Christ, 'His own self bore our sins, in His own body, on the tree, that we being dead to sin should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes we are healed'? Do not reject this truth, my beloved friend, because it does not now appear plain to thee. God will enable thee, if thee will ask Him, to believe; though in this world thee will never be able to understand *how it is*, and this thee is not required to understand. Refer to the last verse of the third chapter of 1st Timothy.

"There is an article in the Episcopal Recorder of last week, extracted from an English paper, containing an account of the public recantation of a Unitarian minister. It states that he informed his congregation that he had formed an acquaintance with a clergyman who, on debating with him on doctrinal points, 'had used such powerful arguments as to entirely beat him off his ground.' He, therefore, prayed to God to forgive him for having hitherto led his congregation impiously to deny the divinity of Christ. It is said that this information produced great excitement, that many were moved to tears, and the pastor himself was greatly affected. The trustees of the church have decided that he shall no longer be allowed the use of the pulpit. If this account be true, as I hope it is, I do most sincerely sympathize with and pity that man; for he must feel that he has been the means of injuring many immortal beings, and I hope he will henceforth endeavor to extend the knowledge of 'the truth as it is in Jesus.'"

"Monday evening, I was obliged to stay away from the monthly concert. I was not well, and we had company whom I could not possibly leave. I do not think company should detain us from the sanctuary in ordinary cases. I had rather appear rude to man than neglect my duty to God, and deprive myself of an opportunity of spiritual improvement. But, in this case, I could not go, and endeavored to bear patiently the disappointment. While surrounded by those who 'care for none of these things,' whose every thought and feeling are uncongenial with my own, I longed for heaven, where is no opposition to the Kingdom of my Redeemer. I had cause to be glad that I did not go to church, as I hope I was enabled to be in some degree useful to a friend.

"March 26th.—I have neglected, during the past week or two, to procure a book in which to record my thoughts. As I think I have derived benefit from this practice, I intend to

continue it as long as I am able. One of my chief objects in so doing is that I may especially remark the manner in which I spend the Sabbath, for this is my spiritual thermometer.

“Last Sunday afternoon, Mr. — was buried, and I went an hour earlier to church, that I might enjoy the burial service, and be reminded of my latter end. I imagined myself in the place of the deceased, and thought it very probable that my own dear family would, before long, attend my remains to the grave; and my only desire was that I might live and die in the Lord, and that my life and death might be sanctified to those who survive me.

“Last Sunday morning, felt a great desire to grow in grace. My heart was moved during the service, though it was read in such a rapid manner that I felt disappointed. The sermon was truly excellent. Text, ‘And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it.’ I could not refrain from weeping almost all the time.

“On Good Friday, Mr. C. preached from the text, ‘It is finished!’ —a solemn and affecting sermon. Oh, that I knew more of the love of Christ! I resolved that I would think more of Him, and pray for more love and faith. As I walked home, my heart was lifted up in prayer.

“On Saturday evening, we had a prayer meeting which I desire ever to remember with pleasure. Our beloved pastor gave us much excellent advice, which I shall endeavor to treasure up. He observed that if not a word were to be spoken, the reflection was affecting, that so many of God’s dear children were assembled together, a blood-washed company, on their way to Him. I was very sorry when the meeting was concluded. I did not wish to leave such a hallowed spot and such a consecrated company.

“Sunday.—This morning I felt deeply interested in the service, though I was interrupted by some very foolish thoughts. I did strive against them, and could truly say, ‘I hate vain thoughts, but Thy law do I love.’ I enjoyed the Psalm, from the 84th, one of my favorites; and when the hymn was given out, ‘O for a closer walk with God,’ I rejoiced, because I hoped the sermon would be in accordance with it, and I was not disappointed. The text was from Philippians 1:27, ‘Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ.’ I felt that my heart was prepared for the sermon, and I hope it has sunk deep into it, and will bring forth in my fruit unto good living.

“Yesterday we had a delightful visit from our beloved Pastor. He gave E. much good advice—told her she must no longer defer to consecrate her heart to God, as *a matter of duty*, and then He will take care of her *happiness*. He prayed with us, and remembered me

particularly in his petition. He prayed that God would restore my health, and in this request I did not unite with him, for I desire to have no will about it. I never have prayed that my health might be restored, nor my life prolonged. I do not know whether my feelings are just what they ought to be on this subject, but I pray that if they are not, God will make them so.

“Oh, now much more happy and useful I should be, if my speech were so ordered, as always to minister grace unto the hearers! But, alas, I talk of many things that are of no advantage, and very often of *myself*. I think *egotism* is a dangerous fault, and I desire to watch and pray against it. Oh, I wish I did not think so well of myself. When I say I want humility, I do not feel it deeply. I am afraid I do not know what it is.”

To her sister S.

May 3, 1836

“I was inexpressibly gratified, dear sister, to receive yesterday, from a young lady in whose spiritual concerns I have long been deeply interested, the information that she had decided to be baptized next Sunday. If this news from one who is almost a stranger had power to elicit tears of joy, how much greater happiness would it give me to welcome my own precious sister into the visible church of Christ! You will be surprised at these remarks, for I have never yet said anything to you on this subject, though it is my daily prayer that your duty may be made plain to you.

“It is not only my opinion, but my *conviction* that it is your duty to make a profession of religion, whatever your feelings may be. And I trust you will constantly pray that you may be led in the way in which you should go. I trust you would not suspect me of a desire to induce any one to profess the religion of the Saviour, who has not fully resolved to take up the cross and follow Him. So far from this, I would not for the world in any way assist to increase the host of inconsistent professors, who are a far greater injury to the cause of religion than its declared adversaries. I hope the cause of Christ is more precious to me than even *you*, my dear sister, even would *your* interest be advanced by a premature admittance into the church.

“But I cannot believe that you have deferred until now to choose the Lord for your God. I know that you daily wait upon Him in prayer and in reading His Holy Word, and this not only because you know you ought to do so, but because you ‘hunger and thirst after righteousness.’ Your interest in this all-important subject is continually increasing; you earnestly desire the spiritual good of those who are closely connected with you; and your very powerful interest has been excited in a poor man who is a stranger to you, because he defies your Heavenly Father, and you fear He will be lost forever. I know that unregenerate hearts are often deeply interested in the salvation of others; I know that many who are not

entirely persuaded to become Christians have availed themselves of the means of grace; but I never did know anyone with feelings such as yours, who had not turned his steps Zionward. You remember the history contained in the 13th chapter of Luke of 'a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself; and when Jesus saw her, he called her to Him and said, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.'

"In coming to Christ we are required to submit to His righteousness, and to do His will. He has expressly commanded that His disciples shall confess Him before men. He has as expressly enjoined the duties of baptism and the Lord's supper. I know that many deny this, but I have gained my knowledge and derived my views on these subjects from the Word of God and from no human authority. And I am sure that if you will study the Bible, and the Bible only, with reference to these points of duty, in a spirit of earnest, humble prayer, you will hesitate no longer."

May 6, 1836.

"I feel deeply humbled, sometimes, when I reflect upon the unwearied kindness of my friends, and desire to realize that it is not because I deserve it, but because my Heavenly Father has inspired their hearts with sympathy and love towards me. And in addition to His many proofs of lovingkindness, He has granted one of the most earnest desires of my heart, in having called my dear sister — to a knowledge of Himself, for I believe that her heart has been changed by the influence of His grace. She feels that it is her duty to obey her Saviour's command to confess Him before men, and expects to be baptized next Sunday morning. I know that she will be exposed to many temptations, but I believe that God will guide her with His counsel, and will enable her to take more and more delight in His service. It is a great consolation to know that though our hearts are so sinful, and our spiritual adversaries so many, who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror."

"May 9th.—Yesterday was a most happy day. I stood with my dear sister at her baptism, and my heart was uplifted to God for His continued blessing upon both. The vows of God are upon her, and in the strength of Jesus she will be enabled to fulfill them. I earnestly desire and pray that she may be enabled to press toward the mark, and to run the race that is set before her. Mr. C. preached from the 3rd and 4th verses of the 1st chapter of 1 Peter. I was almost overcome by my feelings after church and when I returned I had a very sweet season of prayer. Tomorrow I expect, if it be my Heavenly Father's will, to go to

Princeton. May the light of His countenance be lifted up on me. May He preserve me from all evil and grant me His peculiar blessing, for my Saviour's sake!

"May 14th, Saturday evening.—The very sound of Saturday evening is sweet to me, and I always feel a great desire to spend it in preparation for the Sabbath. If my life be spared till tomorrow, I do hope I shall be enabled to keep it more holy than I ever yet have done. I have been several days in the country, and have, as usual, very much enjoyed the beauties of nature; but it appears to me, they have not had as electric an effect as they have sometimes had. Still, I have not been quite unmindful that 'the hand that made them is divine.' Yesterday I was much interested in a little book called 'The Life of Mary Lothrop,' a little child, and just such a little child in faith and humility as I desire to be; and I desire too, to imitate her resignation to the will of God, and to feel the same love for immortal souls.

"We intended to ride together, but company came, and K. was detained. She thought the exercise would benefit me, so I set off without her. I had some very good thoughts, and really wished to love God better. As we were returning, the horse took fright and ran off. I was not alarmed, though I thought it very likely I should be killed, but said in my heart, 'I am not afraid, for Thou art with me.' As we reached the gate, we succeeded in checking the horse, and we arrived in safety. K. was quite agitated. I asked God to sanctify this escape, and to make me more devoted to His service. Since then, I have felt very peaceful.

"15th, Saturday.—This has been a very pleasant day. In prayer with dear K. felt unusual fervor. We prayed especially for the Episcopal Church in Princeton, and intend doing so daily. Enjoyed the service at church less than I do at home, but still, very much. I hope the time is not very far distant when hearty responses shall arise from every part of this sanctuary.

"18th.—Am too excitable, when anything is said in disparagement of my beloved church. I ought to love it even better than I do, but my feelings should be so controlled by the influence of the Holy Spirit, that no charge against it, however unjust or unreasonable, should excite me. If I know myself, I am not at all inclined to speak or think ill of other churches, but do sincerely love Christians of every denomination; but my principles and feelings are all enlisted for my own, and there may be more of bigotry in my heart than I am conscious of. I see and lament the want of charity in other Christians, and if the beam is in my own eye, I pray that it may be taken out. At any rate I feel that I was too warm in defense of my church, and I hope my love for it will not tempt me to sin anymore, but to pray earnestly for its prosperity, to pray that God will grant to our Bishops, Priests and Deacons

the continual dew of His blessing, that He will increase the missionary zeal and the evangelical spirit which are more and more manifested.

“**Whitsunday**.—Enjoyed, this morning, the privilege of the communion. Would have been very glad to have partaken with my own dear family, and especially with my dear sister E., who, I hope, has commemorated our Saviour’s dying love for the first time, but was thankful to go to the table of the Lord here. I felt very prayerful and solemn, and as though I would be strengthened in my heavenward journey, but still my feelings were not as warm as they generally are at this season. I fear I did not pray enough for a blessing upon the sacred ordinance, and I hope, if I be ever permitted to enjoy it again, that my heart will be melted into *unfeigned repentance*, and inspired with *true* faith. I do pray for those with whom I united in obeying our Saviour’s command. Oh, I do wish that I loved Him—that I could realize His love to sinners. Surely, I ought to do so. Every privilege has been granted me, and though I do not *feel* it with my whole heart, I am an unprofitable servant. Lord, have mercy upon me a sinner, and make me feel my sinfulness. Oh, let me not think well of myself.

“I am often reminded that my frame is capable of enduring much suffering, and if I did not know that God will ever be with me, to ‘sanctify to me my deepest distress,’ the anticipation of the exquisite pain I shall probably suffer, if my death be a lingering one, would cause me to shrink; but blessed be God, I am not afraid. He will send me no unnecessary chastisement, and He will even enable me to bless Him for *sanctified affliction*. Though my outward man perish, yet my inward man is, and shall be renewed day by day. O that I were prepared for eternity! O blessed Jesus, increase my faith, and cover me with the robe of Thy righteousness.

“24th.—Today I have enjoyed very much. Have felt more spiritually inclined in prayer, reading and conversation than usual. I have not suffered so much as usual, and have wished to devote my intervals of ease to God. Oh, the *peace of God* is worth much more than all the world can give. It passeth understanding, and I hope God will grant me more and more of it.

“June 6th.—My prayers for an appropriate blessing upon the past Sabbath were more than answered. I desire to record the goodness of God. My morning devotions were more truly devotional than they often are. Did not expect to go to church, but it rained so little, that we thought it would not hurt us to ride so short a distance, so we wrapped up and went. I enjoyed the **litany** very much. My prayers, part of the time, seemed to ascend to the Mercy seat. K. and I had, at twilight, a long and consecrated season of prayer. I felt an unusual desire to praise God yesterday. O that this desire may increase, for I fear I do not

offer Him very often the incense of a grateful heart, though I endeavor to thank Him for His continual benefits. I have to say,

'Till I can praise Thee as I should,

Accept my heart's desire.'

"9th.—What abundant cause I have for gratitude for blessings temporal and spiritual! I am surrounded by every source of enjoyment; constantly receive the kindest letters from home, and have, in my cousin's society, both intellectual and spiritual refreshment.

"Talking of the odiousness of pride last evening, and of the tenacity with which it clings to the heart, I felt a great desire to be entirely free from it. I indulged a feeling of pride a day or two since, of which I am very much ashamed. O, that I were more like my Saviour! I will endeavor, in His strength, to be conformed to His image, and I trust that God will enable me, in all things, to crucify the flesh and the affections thereof. I wish nothing to remain in my heart which is not wholly spiritual. I love the law of God because it is very pure, though I feel that I come far short of it. I could not be happy if it were not infinitely holy."

To her sister.

June 10, 1836.

"I cannot tell you how happy I feel this morning, my dear sister; the scenery around is so beautiful, the air so balmy, and the birds singing so sweetly, that I feel inclined to unite with them in singing a song of praise to the bounteous Author of creation. And I have enjoyed, too, a very delightful season of prayer, proving that 'the Lord is good to the soul that waiteth for Him;' that He does not forsake those who seek Him. May this be your happy experience, my beloved sister! May you be very diligent in running the race set before you! May you rejoice in the Lord evermore! You cannot imagine the delight it gives me to be able to write to you in this way, to encourage you to persevere in the course in which you have set out. The last letter I wrote to you was penned with very different feelings—with a heavy heart—for I knew that you were grieving the Holy Spirit, and felt that I must send you a solemn warning, which I had reason to believe would be unacceptable; but how good God has been to us! Oh, how can I praise Him for having brought my precious sister to the knowledge of the truth; and though I am aware that she is yet a babe in Christ Jesus, that she has just commenced with feeble steps a Zionward journey, I believe that He who has commenced a good work in her heart, will carry it on to perfection; and my desire in sending her this letter is to encourage her to trust in Him with simple faith, and

to remind her that, though an Almighty power must work in her both to will and to do, still it is her duty to work out her own salvation with fear and trembling.

"I feel very desirous, dear E., that you should live a life of faith in the Son of God, that you should realize the responsibility you have assumed in taking the vows of God upon you, and that in endeavoring to pay them you should not be guided by the example of other Christians. If you are tempted to look to them, and to imitate their conduct, except in instances where you see plainly that it is according to the will of God, you will suffer great spiritual loss; but if you will always 'look unto Jesus,' and strive to be conformed to His image, you will rapidly grow in grace. You will find peculiar advantage in the study of the example of our Saviour, in meditating upon His humility, His longsuffering, His love for the immortal soul, and upon every attribute of His character. It is time for Christians to awake. The cause of Christ is continually brought into disgrace by the inconsistency of its professors; and if those who have recently enlisted under His banner do not more *manfully* maintain the contest against 'the world, the flesh, and the devil,' how greatly will be increased the triumph of the enemy! My dear, *dear* sister, how fervently do I pray that you may be a faithful soldier of Christ 'unto your life's end.' Oh accept the grace which is so freely offered; be 'strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might;' 'watch and pray,' lest you enter into temptation; make an unhesitating sacrifice of all that would impede your spiritual progress. I know you are ignorant, weak and sinful, but Jesus is all in all. I believe that we shall, together, adore the riches of redeeming grace throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. *Here* we are encompassed with sin and temptation; *there* we shall 'see His face, and never, never sin, and from the rivers of His grace drink endless pleasures in.' You say that you behold in my conduct and character the beauty of holiness. When I read your expressions of this kind, I desired to be humbled to the very dust. You cannot feel the sinfulness of *my* heart. Oh! how often have I hastened from your presence to the Throne of grace, to ask forgiveness for my wandering thoughts and unprofitable conversation; and every day I have to mourn that I have 'left undone those things which I ought to have done, and have done those things which I ought not to have done.' I must be entirely covered with the robe of Christ's righteousness, for I have none of my own. However, my dear sister, I do not misunderstand your meaning, and I accept your **approbation** with gratitude, and with humility acknowledge that, though 'I am not what I ought to be; I am not what I wish to be; I am not what I hope to be; I thank God, I am not what I was.' His grace has wrought in me a wonderful change, and I would give Him all the glory if my example and influence have been the means of increasing your desire, my precious sister, to 'follow after holiness,' or if they shall be in any way the means of doing good.

"And now, dear sister, feeling my own weakness, and imploring the assistance of the Holy Spirit, I wish to encourage you to 'follow on to know the Lord.' I know that I have not an extensive acquaintance with religious experience, but I do not hesitate to express my conviction that it will not be long before you will be enabled to read your 'title clear to mansions in the skies.' I do not believe that, from the creation of the world until the present hour, any inquirer after the

truth, as sincere and as deeply interested as you are, has failed to find 'joy and peace in believing.' You are sowing in tears, you shall reap in joy. Yes, my own dear sister, I invite you in the name of my blessed Saviour, to come to Him and find rest for your soul. And now, I will give you the advice which I wish you henceforth to follow: While you cannot be too watchful over your own heart, nor pray too fervently that God will search and try it, endeavor, my dear sister, to think of the goodness of God, of the character and merits of the Saviour. As the Israelites were commanded to look from their mortal wounds to the remedy that was graciously provided for them, so must we raise our hopes and affections to 'the Author and Finisher of our faith.' Has not God truly proved Himself the Father of the fatherless, in granting us His best gifts?

"And now, it is time to bid you farewell. I have written this letter under the influence of very happy feelings, and as I retire, I shall commend myself with renewed confidence to the guardianship of our Father who is in Heaven. Yes! He is our Father and our Friend! He has loved us with 'an everlasting love, therefore with lovingkindness He has drawn us.'"

"13th.—Yesterday morning I enjoyed a long season of prayer, which was much the happiest part of the day. I endeavored to be watchful, for I was exposed to much temptation, and, I have no doubt, was thought exceedingly dull; but on Sunday I dare not talk about worldly things.

"July 5th.—Last Sunday I enjoyed the happiness of kneeling at the **chancel** of our own church, to celebrate, with my brother and sisters, our Saviour's dying love. As I approached the chancel, I could have almost said aloud, 'Bless the Lord, O my soul!' I think I never more truly united with the prayers which were offered at this solemn season. Our Pastor preached from the text, 'An inheritance incorruptible and undefiled is laid up in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God;' dwelling particularly upon the certainty of the salvation of those who are truly the children of God. I listened with delight, and rejoiced in the sure promise of God. His sheep shall *never* perish. This is a glorious doctrine. Oh, that I loved God more; my heart is so cold, but still He will have mercy on me, He will give me more of His Holy Spirit.

"July 9th.—Saturday night.—Late as it is, I must write a few words here. I was at our prayer meeting this evening, and had very peculiar feelings there. Our Pastor alluded to the great probability that we should not all meet again in this world, and told us how needful it is that we be prepared to die. I thought it most probable that I should be among those who shall be absent from the earthly courts of the Lord. I could scarcely leave the lecture room,

and as I left the church yard, I prayed fervently that the Lord might guard and govern me. I was so exhausted that I almost fainted as I walked home.

"I sat a little while afterwards with my dear, kind sister, and then read to the servants. I felt much affected in talking to them, and trust that God will sanctify the truth. I must now prepare to retire. How many more days and nights will be appointed to me, I know not, and desire not to know. 'My times are in Thy hand, O Lord.' My feeble pulse and elongated features tell me that disease is making rapid inroads upon my frame. My friends all observe the change in my appearance. This gives me pleasure. I have no wish to live. I enjoy many blessings. God has given me kind and beloved friends, but I do not feel as though it would be painful to give them up. I do want to love my Saviour more, to trust Him more firmly. I know that I am a great sinner, that I am very unprofitable, but God will not desert me. The Spirit will not leave my heart. Jesus will cover me, poor and naked and miserable as I am, with the robe of His righteousness, and I shall unite in the song of the redeemed. In heaven I shall love God. In heaven I shall know and feel what Christ has done for me—then I shall be *humble*. Oh, that I were so now! 'Into Thy hands I commend my spirit, for Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, God of Truth.'

"July 10th.—Sabbath evening.—This morning I attended church, perhaps for the last time. I felt that it might be, and the thought was not painful. Our beloved Pastor preached from the text, 'This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.' The discourse was very practical. I felt very faint in church, and made no effort to go in the afternoon, part of it I spent alone, some of the time profitably, though my thoughts were not all fixed upon God. I was obliged, afterwards, to be in company a little while—I tried to avoid general conversation. I can scarcely imagine a situation I should more dislike than an exposure to unprofitable company on the Sabbath. I never feel so unhappy as when I am so circumstanced; I feel as though I was on enchanted ground.

"22nd.—Cape May.—I have been here more than a week, and my poor diary has been all this time lying in my trunk. I prayed very earnestly before I came here, that God would not let me come unless He saw that it would be for my spiritual interest, and for the good of others. He has very mercifully protected me from many dangers, though I am painfully conscious that in many instances I have indulged a worldly spirit."

To her mother.

Cape May, July, 1836.

“My first letter home is always addressed to thee, dearest mother, for I love thee best, and am assured that no one else will be more glad to hear from me. I am delighted with Cape May, and think it probable that I shall be benefited, though it is not probable I shall be *much* better. I *may* be mistaken in my impression, but I shall not be at any time surprised by a summons to the eternal world. In a very little time I *may*, and before a long period can elapse I *must*, bid farewell to earthly scenes, and I trust that I shall do so joyfully, for sinful and unworthy as I am, the Rock of my refuge is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Friend of sinners, my Advocate with the Father, whom I desire to be my all in all, now and forever. I often wonder that I do not love my Saviour more, and trust Him with more child-like confidence, but I pray that I may be taught the height, and depth, and length and breadth of the love of Christ, so that I may be filled with all the fullness of God. It grieves me to know that the greater part of my life has been so unprofitably spent. That I have been myself so rebellious against God, and have neglected so many opportunities of endeavoring to persuade others to love and to serve Him. At the close of each day I feel that I have done those things which I ought not to have done, and have left undone those things which I ought to have done, and that I am indeed a *miserable sinner*. Surely it is needful that we be entirely covered with the robe of Christ’s righteousness, before we appear at the judgment seat. I do trust, my dear mother, that we may each thus appear there, not unreconciled to God, nor ashamed at His coming, but that all of us, who are so closely united in affection here, may meet at the right hand of the Judge. We do not like to be separated on earth, and I cannot bear the thoughts that any one of us should be absent from the company of the redeemed in heaven. I have often thought that if God should see fit to make my death a blessing to my family, if He would condescend to confirm the faith, and render more devoted to His service such of them as have already professed His name, and to awaken to spiritual life my beloved —, what a blessed thing it would be! I enjoy many sources of happiness, and one of the greatest is the love and kindness of my friends. This is the richest of my earthly blessings; but I have a dearer and a kinder Friend in heaven, who is guiding me along a path beset with temptations and trials, and who will, I firmly believe, finally receive me to glory.

“Accept, my beloved mother, my heartfelt thanks for thy unwearied kindness....”

“Saturday night.—According to custom they are dancing in the drawing room. What a preparation for the Sabbath! Oh, that they would consider the realities of an eternal world! And yet is it not so wonderful that the unconverted should be so engrossed with the emptiness of the world, as that I, the redeemed of the Lord, the subject of so many mercies, am not more heavenly minded. There is a great deal of sin in my heart, and yet I do not follow after holiness with all diligence. Oh, my Heavenly Father, show me how beautiful it is, and make me love it.

“27th.—We have a ball downstairs tonight. I thought, as I shut the door of my little room before it commenced, how greatly I would prefer an hour of communion with God, to any pleasure that a participation in the lively scene below could afford, and I felt really thankful that God has caused me to seek my happiness in Him.

“29th.—Today is my birthday. Goodness from God, and sin and unworthiness from me, have marked the course of the past year. Still I can trust in the strength of Jesus, and feel no doubt that through Him I shall come off more than conqueror over every spiritual foe.

“Aug. 3rd.—I have been at home since Saturday, and was very glad to return. On Sunday morning, went *home* to church again. How much I enjoyed the service! I felt weak, and it had the most soothing effect. The Litany, and the prayers before and after the commandments, I like especially. Oh, that I could always unite in the services of the sanctuary with my whole heart, without one wandering thought!

“Sunday, 7th.—I have been able this day to praise Him ‘who is the health of my countenance, and my God.’ I have rejoiced in Jesus, who hath brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. I went to church this morning with anticipations of spiritual benefit and pleasure. I thought with pleasure of the service, and prayed that I might be enabled cordially to enter into it. I did enjoy it, and was glad to have so many of my dear family with me in the sanctuary. I prayed ‘that we who worship here, may all at length in heaven appear.’ I did deeply yearn over their souls. The sermon was delightful. I am thankful that I was permitted to hear it. Oh, how soul satisfying are the consolations of the Christian! May I henceforth be entirely consecrated to my Heavenly Father’s service.

“Tomorrow I expect to leave home again. I desire to realize my entire helplessness, and to trust in Jesus for strength and wisdom. Then I shall be blessed, and be made a blessing to others; but were I to trust myself, I should surely fall. Oh, that I may be truly humble!”

Although the present work is confined to Miss Allibone’s character, and scarcely contains the other things she has left behind, the insertion of some of the letters of her esteemed friend and beloved Pastor, the Rev. John A. Clark, will add to its interest. Their relationship was one of mutual confidence and affection, truly sanctified by the Spirit of grace. Overflowing with kindness and with high esteem and love for their work, Miss Allibone’s feelings were particularly strong and affectionate. Trusting in the Chief Shepherd, she greatly valued those who held the office of spiritual overseers, feeling deeply the need of sympathy and intercessory prayer for them. How great a treasure was such a parishioner?

To Miss Allibone.

Fairfield, July 27, 1836.

"My dear friend—I have thought of you frequently since I left Philadelphia. From having been a great sufferer myself from ill health, I feel that I can sympathize with those who are laboring under **protracted** disease. With the light of Divine truth beaming around us, we need not greatly deplore these ills of life, for we know that God intends them to be disciplinary. Every affliction that befalls us is kindly designed by Him to wean us from the world and attract us to heaven. And yet we are apt sometimes to doubt and to indulge gloomy fears, as though we were forgotten.

"I am spending my time in the midst of a very beautiful country scene. All is quietness and peace. The operations of agriculture are going on noiselessly around me. My eye takes in a sweep of country about fifteen miles in extent. The circling horizon rests upon an amphitheater of hills, up to whose very summits the hand of cultivation has spread its rural beauties. I went out this afternoon into the lonely field, and I sat down under the shade of a tree. This beautiful landscape was all before me. Above was the deep blue sky. I looked up to the majestic sun, and thought of the ten thousand worlds hung in the regions of space. And then, when I elevated my thoughts to the Great Creator, who sits enthroned in light, far above all these ten thousand worlds, I said to myself, 'Can He care for *me*, a poor worm of the dust?' At that moment my eye rested upon a poor little clover flower, in full bloom. A bee had lit upon it, and was extracting from one of its little flowers the sweet substance which constitutes that insect's delicious food. Soon it flew away, but it had spoken a lesson of instruction to me. On that single head of clover I counted twenty cup-shaped petals, and all these contained a prepared banquet for one of God's creatures. He had caused that plant of clover to spring up. He had watered it with the rains and dews of heaven. He had made the sun to shine upon it, and the winds to blow over it, and he had kept the ox that strayed over the field from eating it. He had painted its leaves with delicate colors, and shut up a treasure of sweets in each one of its petals. And why had He done this? To feed a little insect, all of whose journeyings He had watched over, and for whose happiness He cared about. And does God take such care of a bee, and will He not take care of a blood-bought soul, who is to be an heir of glory? The Almighty had watched over that single flower of clover, and raised it with as much care as if He had no other business, as if there was not another plant like it in the world! And yet, within my reach at that moment there were more than a thousand of its fellows; and in the

fields, millions, all waving in the gentle breeze, and emitting their fragrance. Over each one of these the Lord had watched. I cast my eye over the surrounding country, and thought what a mere speck their field was in the landscape before me, and yet the presence and power of God were in every part of the landscape of the world, of the universe; and still He took care of this little flower, and that little bee! Should I, then, fear that He would forget me? I prostrated myself before the Lord and prayed. It was the temple of nature in which I worshipped. I felt that the presence of God was there. I remembered my people, I remembered my dear friend —, and as I arose, and looked again upon this beautiful scene, I determined I would come home and write you.

"I fear I have filled up my sheet with a reverie that will scarcely interest you. But, my dear friend, you can gather this from it. You have no reason to doubt that God careth for you. Then cast your care on Him. Lie meekly at His feet, and say, 'Thy will be done.'

"I came here sooner than I intended, on account of the sickness of little Mary. She has been very ill, but, we hope, is now decidedly better. Little Johnny was very providentially rescued from death, the evening before my arrival, having been thrown from a carriage amid the stones. We feel that our children's lives hang upon a slender thread.

"I wish you would remember me, very affectionately, to all your family; I love them all very much, and love to remember them all at the Throne of grace. Now, if you do not feel able to write, tell — and — that I have a claim upon them each, and that one of them must write in your place, and tell us how you all are.

"Your affectionate friend and Pastor,  
John A. Clark

To the Rev. John A. Clark.

August, 1836

"I think I have never seated myself at my little desk with greater pleasure, for I am in haste, my beloved Pastor, to express to you the feelings of gratitude and joy that were excited by the reception of your kind letter. God proves that He does indeed care for me, by inclining unto me those who fear Him, and have known His testimonies; and one of my most exquisite sources of happiness has been the kindness and counsel of my Christian friends. I feel that I am united to them by ties stronger than those of nature, and rejoice in every opportunity of holding communion with them. I have often desired to write to you within the past few months, that I might be enabled to express more fully my gratitude for the affectionate interest you have proved towards my unworthy self and my beloved family. You have faithfully discharged your duty to us all, and my dear E. will have cause to bless God through eternity for your unwearied efforts and prayers.

I know that you will continue to watch over her, should your lives be prolonged, and this is to me a source of great comfort.

"I thank you for conveying to me the lesson you were so beautifully taught. I will receive it, and believe that, though less worthy of His notice than that little flower of clover, because unlike it, I do not adequately fulfill the purpose of my existence, my soul will be watered by the dews of Heavenly grace, until I shall be transplanted into that blessed region where the 'sun shall not light on me, nor any heat.'

"Our Saviour has said that His sheep shall never perish, and as I know that I am a subject of redeeming grace, and am conscious that my Heavenly Father is guiding me with His counsel, I do not doubt that He will 'afterward receive me to glory.' It has been a long time since a doubt on this subject has disturbed my mind, and yet I feel that my heart is very sinful and ungrateful. I know that I am emphatically called upon to be separate from the world, and to labor for the conversion of those around me. The hand of disease presses heavily upon me, and reminds me that I must, before long, receive a summons to the eternal world. This impression is a very pleasant one. But I do wish, while my life is continued, to seek above all things, the glory of God. Pray, my dear Pastor, that I may do this, and be enabled to rely, with more simple faith, upon my Saviour's merits; that I may look from myself to Him, and adoringly behold the wonders of His love. I feel that Jesus is my all in all, and desire to love Him more; in heaven my heart will not be cold. I suppose you have heard of the death of R. H. Her last moments were deeply interesting. Another is added to 'the cloud of witnesses' by which we are surrounded. May all with whom she worshiped in God's earthly temple be reunited to her in the heavenly kingdom."

"Temora, Aug. 11.—Arrived here on Monday. Prayed with E., and desire to do so every day. I felt an earnest desire that our conversation should be profitable, and in a great degree it has proved so. In the afternoon we went down to the Neshamony River, and I read to E. from '[Clarke's Scripture Promises and Sacred Gems](#).' I felt very peaceful, and glad to enjoy once more the beauties of nature.

"On Friday Mr. R. came up for E. We were much shocked to hear that our mother, our precious mother, had broken her collar bone, and was detained at Lebanon. I felt as though I should faint when I heard this news, though Mr. R. assured us that the injury is thought very slight. I came upstairs and immediately commended our beloved mother to our Heavenly Father's care, with strong confidence; and since, though very desirous to hear from her, I have been enabled to trust her to Him. Oh, may He sanctify this affliction."

To a relative.

"Temora, Aug. 12, 1836.

"...I have remained in the country much longer than I anticipated when I left home, and have enjoyed my sojourn here very much, and have, I think, somewhat improved, though it is my opinion that my disease is slowly but surely gaining ground; for though my appetite is much better, and my face less pallid, I am still encompassed around and about by 'often infirmities.'

"These afflictions are indeed rendered light by the consciousness that they are proofs of the love of my Heavenly Father, and the bitterness of anticipated suffering is all taken away by the promise of 'grace to help in time of need,' and the assurance that, as my days, shall my strength be. That I may ever be enabled with patience and humility to suffer the will of God is my constant prayer, and it gives me pleasure to believe that I have your prayers for my growth in grace, and 'in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;' whom, if I be not sadly mistaken in my own heart, it is my supreme desire to love and to glorify. I very often feel a diffidence in speaking of these things, for I am conscious that my attainments in religious experience are of a very humble character—that I am indeed, a very 'babe in Christ;' but I do not doubt that the 'Lord will perfect that which concerneth me,' and that, if I depend upon His sustaining grace, He will make me useful to others.

"You, my dear aunt, are a very encouraging instance of the mercy of our Heavenly Father. You have been for a long time sustained in the 'way everlasting,' and I do not doubt that when you have ended your earthly pilgrimage you will obtain a happy entrance into the blessed abode, 'where faith is sweetly lost in sight, and hope in full supreme delight, and everlasting love.'

"Please remember me very affectionately to dear M. I very often think of her with affection and sympathy, and trust that she is enabled to bow with submission to her Heavenly Father's will, and to rejoice in the hope of a glorious reunion with those who have been so blessed as to have been admitted before her into the city of the living God, 'the general assembly and church of the First-born, whose names are written in heaven.' It is a blessed thing to know that in the case of our dear departed friends has been brought to pass the saying, 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' Remember me also to Mrs. ——. I feel a very sincere interest in her welfare, and it is my frequent prayer that the *strength* of *Jesus* may be hers...."

"Yesterday went to church. Enjoyed the service very much. The sermon was on the atonement. It was excellent. I long for the time when this community shall perfectly know our Lord Jesus Christ to be the Way, the Truth and the Life."

"Wednesday.—Was enabled to preserve, in some degree, a *Sabbath day* spirit. In the afternoon went to see P., and walked home. I found in this old woman a melancholy proof that old age, sickness and poverty do not, in themselves, overcome the love of the

world. I read, talked and prayed with her. I thought I would do my duty, and leave the rest to God. I think it likely that she had never seen anyone kneel before.

“Yesterday I was much depressed by hearing some instances of the depravity of human nature, and felt thankful that there is a Saviour of sinners. Oh, how wretched would be our lot, had we always to remain in darkness and the shadow of death! Blessed Jesus! Thou has brought life and immortality to light, and I pray Thee to hasten the day when the light of truth shall illuminate the whole world. I do sometimes long for that happy period when, ‘that at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow.’

“I have had some happy thoughts of heaven lately. To be free from sin and temptation forever and ever; to know God; to see Him as He is; to praise Him aright, and to comprehend the love of Christ. Oh, when shall all this be my happy experience? I must be content to suffer and to labor until the time of my deliverance shall come. Father, Thy will be done; give me grace to rely solely upon my Redeemer’s merits, and to glorify Thee by action and endurance. Make me the means of converting many souls. Let me be strong in Thy strength, and then I shall be with Thee forever.”

Rev. Dr. Clark to Miss Allibone

Fairfield, August 23rd, 1836.

“My dear friend, I have deferred answering your kind letter so long, that I have deprived myself of the pleasure of receiving a reply to this, as we purpose to leave here for Philadelphia in about a week. It is possible, however, you may be still in the country, and that your friends will forward this to you, and in that case, I shall expect to hear from you after I get to Philadelphia.

“I have, within a few days, finished the memoir of dear [Anzonetta](#); and ever since I laid it aside, I feel somewhat like one that is bereaved. For a long time have I been cultivating an intimate acquaintance with this young saint, and watching her upward course, as she ascended higher and higher in her path of Christian attainment, till at length I saw her stand on an eminence far above myself, and almost out of sight; and then, while I still gazed upon her, her spirit, as though [etherealized](#) by her near approach to the celestial world, quit its clay tenement, and stretching its wings, soared aloft to the presence of God. As she followed Christ, so may we follow her till we reach the same blessed abode. As you promise yourself some enjoyment in the perusal of this memoir, I thought it might be interesting to you to know that it will shortly be sent to the press.

“I rejoice to know that your afflictions are leading you to look more to eternal things, and to feel willing to part with the world and be with Christ; and I particularly rejoice that you are enabled to ‘read your title clear to mansions in the skies.’ This is a great privilege, and when at times you feel depressed to think

your heart is so cold, and that you love God so little, remember what God has done for you, and begin to thank Him for His mercies, and to recount His blessings, and while you are engaged in this act of praise you will feel your heart burn within you. I would write you a long letter, but the mail is just ready to close, and so I must wish the blessing of God upon you and bid you *farewell*."

"28th, Sabbath.—I desire to return humble and hearty thanks for the blessings which have been given me this day. It has been the most happy Sabbath I have passed here. Went to church with great joy, and was very much delighted to see M.E. consecrate herself to the service of God in the blessed rite of baptism. I prayed for her with sincerity, and desired that the impressive scene might be the means of the conversion of many. I felt in haste to see one and another of this congregation come up to give themselves to the Lord in the bond of an everlasting covenant.

"The sermon was of Jesus, and I know it will be blessed. I could not help shedding tears as I returned home, and prayed for this flock. But it is dark: this blessed, beautiful Sabbath day is almost past.

"Sept. 3rd.—I could not go to church, so I resolved to spend the day as much as possible in communion with my Heavenly Father. I did not forget that it was our communion Sabbath, and asked for a special blessing, though deprived of this ordinance. I read and prayed over the service with many tears and yearnings after more grace. In the evening I heard the boys read in the Testament, and talked and prayed with them. Every night, after I retire, Violet comes into my room and reads me a chapter. I give her the best advice I can, and pray with her. I have many other opportunities of trying to win souls to Christ, and though it is a trial to be away from home under present circumstances, I am perfectly willing to stay here as long as it shall be the Lord's will. In all my ways I will acknowledge Him, and He shall direct my paths. I find I have some influence here. God has given it to me, and I desire to use it for His glory. It is not *myself* I could recommend, but the cross of Christ. I know, however, that my heart is very deceitful, and I often pray that if God sees I would not give Him the glory, were He to make me useful, He will not suffer the conversion of souls to be hindered by my sinfulness, but will give my purity of motive, and forbid that I should glory except in the cross of Christ, by whom I beseech Him to crucify me unto the world, and the world unto me.

"Sept. 8th.—The sun is just setting, and a more beautiful scene cannot be readily imagined. I have just returned from my favorite resort, the banks of the Neshamony River, where cousin J. has placed a seat for me. Everything around was bright and beautiful.

'God is love,' is plainly indicated by all His works. Oh, that my heart were filled with love to Him! Several times lately I have felt oppressed with a sense of ingratitude, while surveying the works of creation. I have longed for a new song of praise. I want to love God supremely, to forget myself, and to give thanks to Him for His great glory. He surely will enable me to do so. More than two days of my solitude have passed. I feel this is a season of uncommon privilege.

"9th.—I am well convinced that 'it is not solitude to be alone.' I have been again to the Neshamony, and I never saw the prospect so lovely. I met a boy in the road who said he would not mind going to Sunday School if there were one near. Oh, that there were! I will pray more for one. I cannot teach myself. I think Sunday School teachers ought to think themselves highly privileged."

To her sister S.

Sept. 18, 1836.

"I write to you, my dear Sister, to express my earnest desire that you shall be a very active Christian. I want you to consecrate yourself, all that you have and are, to the service of the Lord, and to use all your influence for His glory. If your life should be spared, I expect you to be the means of the conversion of many souls. You may be surprised at this language, and tell me that you are not sure that you are yourself a Christian, and that until you shall have made more exalted attainments in piety, you will be unfit to instruct others. My dear sister, you have no time to lose! Very soon both you and the immortal beings by whom you are surrounded will have ended the term of earthly existence; and I do entreat you, for yourself and for them, to 'work while it is called today.' Do not hesitate to cordially accept the terms of salvation; 'be not faithless but believing,' and then when you have done this—but this step I trust has already been taken—say, 'Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?' Pray for love for souls; pray for a strong conviction of the danger of those who are out of Christ, and do not hesitate to faithfully warn them of a 'judgment to come.' I know that you have made many efforts for the good of others, and I cannot express the pleasure which this conviction gives me. If your energies were fully awakened on this subject, I feel assured that you would be uncommonly useful. You have many talents, and I wish them to be employed in the advancement of our Redeemer's kingdom. I wish you to render all your time, all your means, as far as in you lies, **conductive** to this great end.

"And as a mother, my beloved sister, how great is your responsibility! I hope your sense of it is daily increasing, and that you offer many prayers for heavenly wisdom. I have great hopes for W. I have been long under the impression that he may be intended for great usefulness in the Lord's vineyard.

This is my only ambition for him, and I know that you covet for him the 'best gifts.' Let our united prayers ascend to the mercy seat, that God will grant him all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus, and let us expect the immediate fulfillment of our wishes. He already clearly shows uncommon interest in the things of eternity, and I want him everyday to 'grow in the grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.' Then, even though he should be in early life called to his heavenly home, he will add another to the cloud of witnesses. I hope you will ever 'seek first' for him 'the kingdom of God and His righteousness,' and that whenever you are about to take any step in relation to him, you will consider what bearing it may have upon his immortal destiny. I cannot express my love for this dear boy; it is of a very peculiar nature, and I feel interested in you for his sake, my dear sister, to teach him to 'keep holy the Sabbath day.' Make this a subject of constant prayer, for much depends on it. I never knew a happy or devoted Christian who did not 'call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord.' Pray for a blessing on this day, during the week, and you will certainly receive it; every return of this season will become more hallowed.

"I know that you will not think me presumptuous because I write thus; you have ever kindly received my assurances of Christian interest, and I hope I should not be less willing to receive advice from you...."

"20<sup>th</sup>.—How could I endure this suffering, did I not possess the consolations of religion? How wretched would be my lot! I thank Thee, my Heavenly Father, for Thy sustaining and quickening grace. Thou art, indeed, *a very present help*.

"Last evening I taught the boys with great pleasure, and prayed with them with more interest than usual. Oh, that I felt more love for their souls! I will pray for more, and God will give it to me.

"After having talked to Hannah, a little girl of eight or nine years of age, who told me she had never heard of the Saviour, I went over to Joseph's, feeling unwilling to leave this place without warning them once more of their danger, and beseeching them to seek salvation. I did so, and was thankful to see that they appeared solemn, especially J.'s mother, who is a very wicked old woman. I did pray fervently with them, and for them.

To her Nephew.

Friday eve.

"Yes, dear W., Aunt Sue has come home, and very glad she would be if she could have her precious boy with her. Christmas will be here soon, and then

I hope to enjoy that pleasure. My visit to the country was very delightful. We had walks and rides; and the most happy hours were passed in my own room, in prayer and the study of the blessed Bible. Is thee not glad, dear W., that our Heavenly Father has revealed His will in His Holy Word? Let us read it with earnest prayer, and then we shall be guided into all truth; and above all, let us seek to know more of our dear Redeemer. It is my constant prayer, my dear boy, that thy life may be devoted to His service. I want thee first to give thy own heart to the Saviour, and then to strive to persuade others to love Him. Does thee love to pray? —to enter into thy closet, and pray to ‘thy Father that sees in secret’? Remember that He has said, ‘They who seek me early shall find me.’

“A very sweet little boy of ten years, who attended our Sunday School, was very suddenly called into another world a short time ago. He asked Mrs. Bedell, some time ago, if she would teach him to be good, and she told him to come to her every Sunday afternoon, and she would instruct him. Some time ago he asked his mother to change some money into pennies. She asked him what he wished to do with them; he told her that he wished to put them into the missionary box, and said, ‘Will not that be giving to the Lord?’ I hope he is now in that bright and happy world which is prepared for the redeemed. How I do long to go there! Shall we not *together* sing our Saviour’s love, my precious W.? Oh, do come now, and say—‘Here Lord, I give myself away; ‘tis all that I can do!’”

“Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>.—In the evening, was so overcome by pain and nervous feeling that I shed many tears. This is something very unusual, and I desire to feel, more than ever, my need of help from above. I had felt better, and did not pray so earnestly for grace to endure suffering, and it is, no doubt, on this account that I was not able to bear it better. I did not feel like murmuring, though. For ten thousand worlds, I would not have one murmuring thought. I hope my Heavenly Father will do with me and for me as is best in His sight. On Sunday evening I had a long talk with L., and prayed with her. On Monday we had another talk. She is deeply impressed, but has been so long hesitating on this subject, that I am uneasy about her. It is a dangerous thing to defer a decision. So many of my friends have disappointed my hopes recently, that I cannot feel secure until an awakened person is in the Ark of safety.

“Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>.—I should be delighted, could I record the events of the last ten days. I think the last week has been, decidedly, the happiest I have ever passed. Dear L.’s serious impressions continued to increase, and I persuaded her to ask counsel of my dear Pastor last Wednesday. While he was urging on her the necessity of an immediate surrender of her heart to God, she exclaimed emphatically, ‘I will decide!’ How joyous a sensation did these words excite!

"I called, on my way home, on Mrs. C., to try to persuade her to be on the Lord's side, but was not much encouraged. I told her I would continue to persecute her on the subject as long as my life should continue, or until she became offended, or induced to accept the terms of salvation—so help me God.

"L., after this decision, felt much happier, and went again to see Mr. C., who gave her the questions. She returned home very much agitated. I prayed with her, and she answered the questions, and resolved to be baptized on Wednesday evening. On Wednesday morning we paid a visit to Mr. C., which I enjoyed very much. The day, altogether, was unusually happy.

"On Thursday I very unexpectedly went again to Dr. K.'s, and stayed until Saturday evening. I had some very sweet seasons of conversation with the Dr., who is rapidly hastening to his heavenly home. I read the Bible to him very often, and listened with interest to his comments. I felt constrained to pray with him, and was very glad that I obeyed the impulse, though I could scarcely summon courage to do so. While there, I enjoyed a delightful communion with my Heavenly Father, and I trust I shall retain the solemn and peaceful impressions that were the result of my discussion with the doctor. How desirable does his situation appear to me! He is very near heaven.

"Today I have been more depressed than I have been for a long time; have suffered very much, and have borne it with less cheerfulness; have felt, too, in some degree, disposed to be irritable. Went to God with all my sins, in the name of Jesus, and He gave me strength to bear pain better, and I felt more comfortable."