

Put M. M.!!
C. M. M. M.!!

Nov 5th 1837

You may be sure my Dear Maria, necessarily alone pressed
- but my answering your interesting letter as soon as it was received,
particularly as you had experienced uneasiness at my long silence -
but I have been sick & shivering, and therefore such a bad companion
that I thought it more kindness to keep quiet, and leave one brother
correspondence to suffice, for he told me several times that he had written -
I am glad you were kind enough to find an excuse for me - and
kept the Tabernacle celebration, in scenes so naturally appropriate
to the season, for my own part I was only once under the shelter of its
roof - and partook no further of the feast spread before me - than a little
bread & salt, tho' I enjoyed the sight of goodly fruit & wine distributed in
plenty, and listened to a hymn of thanksgiving, that we were permitted
to meet at the sanctification of this festival & view the emblems of former
suffering - the palm branches of goodly trees mentioned in scripture as
taken by the youths & damsels, as they went out after the ingathering
of the blessings of the year, to dwell in booths and rejoice before the Lord -
has always had a great charm in my imagination, I like the idea of
cheerful gratitude, and combining religious worship, with heartfelt
thankfulness, in scenes where they had just reaped the benefits of their
labors - and praying that God would enable them to use his gifts for
their good and the benefit of the poor - this is making religious one of
our daily duties, a habit of our lives - and the commemoration annually
of some national event in our history, which at this period of the world
is called "superstitions observances" - has to me such a different bearing
that I can hardly understand how a few can consider them oppressive
or consent to forego them - Ben has told you of our Grandfather's
paternal habit of being - of his hospitality to his brethren and
his amiable disposition - he has told you too, how liberally & justly he
dealt with all mankind - and how he was beloved by his neighbors &
the poor who were within reach of his bounty - I remember & feel a yearning
to visit the old Lancaster homestead, and feel offended that it should
have fell into strange hands as long as one of his children survived, who
might have been sheltered by its roof - but dispensing kept in - and when
the good old man was gathered to his fathers - there was no son to reign in his
stead - The last day I spent in Lancaster I visited his tomb - the scene was

broken, cows were grazing among the high grass & weeds that covered it - and I came away sorrowful - Before this reaches you I hope our dear Sam will have arrived, and in better health than he left home, it is now ten days since he left, & we have not heard a word from him, and only that he did not wait for Henry Etting who was to follow & bear him company on his journey. you may tell him I did not think he would have disregarded my comfort so entirely as to have omitted writing on his journey - we received a letter from Miriam last week how child she suffered during her perilous voyage, all the horrors of anticipated shipwreck, every moment expecting to be dashed on the rocks, or engulfed in the ocean - the Capt made them fasten ropes round their waists, so that when the boat struck they might catch themselves to spars, or what ever else they could seize - and for three days they were in a hopeless condition, but thank God they were saved by his mercy. When the other fatal accident of "the Home" destroyed so many valuable lives - fortunately the same mail that brought accounts of the disaster had letters from Miriam & her husband, so that we had no knowledge of her danger before we heard of her safety.

I was much interested in your account of Bishop Smith's trial and your benevolent heroism in sustaining him in the home when all else deserted him, I hope it will make him a better man. I have not much respect for pious Zealots, there is so much pride & uncharitable sneers mixed with their self righteousness, that it seldom comes to good. We have a new made Christian Scientist here, going the rounds of all the churches, who has been recently ordained a Minister of the Gospel - whom, if I am not mistaken will disapprove his flock.

The Rev Joseph Wolfe, the famous converted Jew. I read a book he published some years ago, his journal in Palestine - which is as little to the purpose of religion - as are the discourses I have heard he preached - but the novelty of a Jew preaching the Gospel is unsatiable and the churches are crowded - Leese went to hear him, and was simple enough to write him a note in Hebrew, pointing out some misquotations he made from a learned ^{Jewish} author. Which he turned to good account, by reading from his pulpit as from a Rabbi, vishing him to retract.

I have not read Bulwars Letters, but will at your recommendation - the present work that interests me very much

behind her, they all sacrifice their health in attendance -
 embrace your dear Boys for me, I long to hear something
 particular of each - Bernard you say is capable of conducting his
 father's affairs during his absence - what says my Howard - and
 the little fellows. I would a long talk with you all - boys, for I
 love you dearly, and should listen with such pleasure to all you say
 ask my dear brothers to accept my love, and believe my own
 dear sister in the ardent affection, which ever prays for your
 happiness, and so may God Bless you - Rly -

Tell me the Susquehanna has been been on
 her passage, and is believed to have passed her
 way up unobscured by peccates -

Leaving for
 N.Y.

Miss Benjamin
 South



approved of all - your name is a watch word of good will, and brings
 so many warm echoes whenever mentioned, that those who never saw you still
 love dear Maria - Becky ever brought his sister Grace to make her a visit
 on Fridays. I am sorry to have such a bad account of Mrs Alexander to give Mrs
 Biddee, but I am sure she will be gratified by yr remembrance. Miss Peters
 is so much engaged with her invalid cousin that we do not see much of her
 she is well herself fortunately - and a most kind nurse - The Coburns still
 linger on in the same old way. They always enquire about you & have
 kind regards - I hear Becky will have only winter members on the house