



Transcription

Letter from J.B. Crowe to Esther Alexander Crowe, January 20, 1840

MSS1_Box1_F15_1

Hanover College, Crowe Family Papers, MSS 1

Page 1

Dear Mother When I left home, my calculation was to write you at the farthest by the succeeding week; that you might know with what degree of safety a heroism I braved the dangers of the way & the peltings of the storm. But I had not quite sat down to the business, when Thos unexpected appearance, led me to defer it, expecting that an oral communication of the news would be most satisfactory to you. After crossing the river, we pushed on to Mrs Baker's got there a little after dark -- I was glad enough of the company after I got started; but in Madison I was almost on the point of telling Mr. Baker that I would rather go home again than venture on the ice. In fact when I left Hanover, I had very little expectation of getting off, and now I almost reflect on myself for having left in such an abrupt manner -- for I had several little arrangements in view, which I left without accomplishing. Thursday morning I started early for Shelbyville, and just at two o'clock its spires & domes rose to gladden my sight -- to stop at Mrs. Clay's (a woman who professes great pleasure in the remembrance of you) to satiate the cravings of my appetite -- then rode out home & commenced the dry old business the very next morning -- So you see I was determined to lose no time -- the more especially as by commencing on Friday I could also save Sat. & S a b --- The parties were pretty much over when I returned -- and glad I was of it -- I never have been so much tormented with descriptions in my life -- parties, parties -- all the talk. We expected Prof. Galloway here last Saturday to make a Temperance speech. But a letter was rec'd stating that owing to the closing of the river, his visit would be deferred two weeks

Page 2

Consequently he is expected next Saturday evening -- Public expectation is high -- he is considered an odd scatterbrained sort of fellow; though/ when he was here, he made an address to the S. School which was much admired. He will advocate an unpopular doctrine here -- for altho' most of the people profess to favor the Tern. Cause they are greatly opposed to Tern. Societies -- and can't think of total abstinence. -- I have nothing of great interest to communicate -- last night was at a collection of young folks at Firs Shannon's -- not to call it a party -- a -Sing is sitting by me now- hurrying me to get done -- we are about starting out town in the sleigh with Miss Mary Venable & her cousin. I have been there to tea since I returned -- found them very clever & had the most exquisite & unsophisticated pleasure of gallanting Miss Mary Dupey & Venable to the Tern, meeting. Mrs & Mr Logan have just returned from a visit to Louisville -- to see Mrs Polk off -- She is likely gone to the south by this time. Alex started this morning to Frankfort -- taking Betty Monroe on a visit home -- they will be here Monday -- Write soon & excuse this great haste --

Wrote to Father by Mrs Folk A sent the latest word from home. Remember me to the children - Rachel & the boarders " tell Thos to write Your affee. son J .B . Crow

Page 3

Very unexpectedly I found the note which was lodged in my vest " and as the subject of it is delicate and solemn, I make my reply on thsii separate papers which can easily be concealed from the promiscuous gaze. In regard to it, first of all, I wish it were in my power to give a greater confirmation of the intelligence which you received than I can honestly do but I am happy in the consciousness of feeling more solicitude on the "all important subject of religion", than I have before felt. At one time indeed, I was almost ready to make known my case to the church here, but motives of private convenience prevented, You wish to know, what has produced this state of mind? I can give no definite answer- Can ascribe it to no particularly exciting or convincing sermon, or striking providences but hope and trust it is the springing up of seed long since down- & the result of those impressions which were formed and festered by a religious education. For exercises of mind as nearly as I can visualize them was something like these;- First, a sense of dependence and insufficiency of myself to discharge necessary duties drove me to daily prayer - this naturally led to a review of my life and standing before God, and a consideration of His & spirit which are his. Sometimes I am ready to believe that the plea which has been so often offered in faith is about to be answered " that after an effectual calling by the Holy Spirit,, God, of His free grace has been pleased to justify me, for the righteous sake of Christ, & the work of sanctification is commenced. But I long for more evidence" the testimony of a good conscience and the witness of the Spirit. In view of the weakness of my faith & the power of temptation-- be it your daily prayer for me " (as it is mine) that I may have more light & strength from above, that more unreservedly I may commit my cause to God.

Page 4

Mrs. Esther A Crowe Hanover Indiana

