



Transcription

Letter from Mary Ann Thompson to Esther Alexander Crowe, May 8, 1840

MSS1_Box1_F15_9

Hanover College, Crowe Family Papers, MSS 1

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Carlisle May 8th 1840

My dear Mother,

You probably think us negligent about writing, as you have not received any letter from us since Samuel's arrival. I intended writing a week ago, but Samuel told em he had writin; and I concluded to wait a while, and now, I think he has a letter ready to go out, the same mail with this. Samuel seems to be doing very well in his school; he has upwards of 40 schollars. Mary intends going into the school with him if [be?] enough of schollars to require it. I am very much pleased with Mary in every respect but one, and I believe every person who has become acquainted with her feels just as I do on that subject. She is a very strong Campbelite, this part I cannot away with she is not at all backward in letting people know that she is a Reformer, as she calls herself -- She gives Caroline, and Samuel Lectures on Baptism and explains, and then tries, to enforce her doctrine.

I should not think it strange , If Samuel were a Campbelite preacher, in less than two years.

How are you all getting along these hard times. I hope you are not sharing the fate of our good old Dr Matthews; we all feel deeply for him in his present distressed condition Mr Kane met our Presbytary "which met in Findley," and made a long statement of the sufferings, and privations which Dr Matthews was enduring, that they had been reduced so much, as not to know one day what they were to eat the next. Mentioned an instance of the Drs strong faith and entire confidence the Lord would provide. His relation was as follows.

Mrs Matthews came in one morning after Breakfast and told her husband, that they had nothing to get

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for dinner, he asked her if there were not Potatoes. She said not. He told her to put on the pot to boil at any rate; she did so. In a short time she came in and told the Dr the pot had boild dry; and there were no potatoes yet; he told her to fill it up, and let it boil again. She did so. Presently she came again, and told him, the pot had boild dry, the second time, and still there were no potatoes. The Dr said fill it the third time and remarked [torn: there?] was need for strong faith in this [torn: world?]. She filled it the

third time and just as it got to boiling, Mrs Crowe stepped in with a pan of potatoes.

I have related all of this to know from you whether it is true or not. I can hardly credit it myself.

The Presbytery gave him upwards of thirty dollars, per the Dr.

We have had no opportunity of sending Caroline home Charles talks some of taking her; he has to go to Evansville the first Sabbath in June, and if he can make his arrangements, so as to leave home long enough he will go on with her to Hanover. It is not at all impossible but we shall all be there sometime in the course of the [illegible] if we live and keep our health. My dear Mother I feel extremely anxious to hear from you often how is your health now? Do you think you are improving?

I hope you try as much as possible to avoid melancholy or low spirits. Samuel tells me you have two young Ladies boarding with you. I felt rejoiced to hear they were kind and attentive to you. The family are all in bed but myself, I will close for to night. Perhaps Charly or Caroline will write some in the morning.

Tell Walter and Sarah, if Charly should go to Hanover Mary Esther will go along, and pay them a short visit.

I wish you could see our little Finley he is just eight weeks old and weighs fifteen pounds. -- I hope you and Father will both write soon. Has Thomas left home?

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Do you ever hear from James. I am glad to hear he has a good situation. No more.
Your affectionate daughter,

Mary

Give all our love to Father and the children.

[Postscript:]

Carlisle May 4 1840

Dear Mother

I believe that Mary [torn] you all the news we have. I expect [torn: to?] be home in three weeks, if I go with Louisa. She will start two weeks from to day, and go as far as Vincennes, and start from there [Monday?]. I think it is a little doubtful about her starting in two weeks as she has had another spell of chills and fever. It is the second attack of it she has had this spring. I have felt nothing at all of it, neither [torn: has any?] of the family.



Tell Sarah we had a may day party here, and had Elizabeth [Ohara?] for Queen. She surpassed [our?] Queen by far. I really think I never saw such gay & fine clothing as she had. Her parents took a great deal of pains and from appearances I should think that they did not care for expense. Tell both Walter & Sarah that Mary Esther thinks a great deal about them, and is quite affronted if they do not send her some word when the rest write. Samuel Finley is quite well and very good, hardly ever cries, and is quite a handsome child. As the school is filled, and I should see you soon I will say no more.

Your Aff daughter
C E Crowe

Mary Ester insists that I should tell Uncle [Beny?] that she has some of his Walnuts yet. And Aunt Sady, that she attended the May party and kissed the Queen, had an excellent dinner. [Sisse?] says give her love to Granpa & Granma. She wants to see them very much. . . .

Transcription by Jacob Dupps, HC 2023, and Sarah McNair Vosmeier

