



Transcription

Letter to Esther Alexander from John Crowe, 1812

MSS1_Box1_F1_3_001

Hanover College, Crowe Family Papers, MSS 1

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My dear Miss, Pardon this intrusion— I did not intend to have troubled you again until I should have the pleasure of acknowledging the much wished for end long looked for favour of a few lines from you— The melancholy news of the death of your worthy and much respected parent, produced emotions in my breast that I cannot well describe— I had from my first acquaintance felt a particular regard for her, which seemed to be nearly allied to filial affection— But I could not help considering myself in some degree under her displeasure as a disturber of her peace— this consideration made me anxiously desire our lives to be spared, that I might prove by my conduct the truth of my declarations and the purity of my intentions— I was also at a loss to know whether to write to you under your afflictions or not, knowing the language of the deeply afflicted to be, 'let me alone attempt not to comfortme-- But when I considered that the poignancy of your grief might perhaps be over, not knowing the time of its commencement, I concluded there could be no more impropriety in writing, especially when I considered that although my letter might be unseasonable, yet there was no 'danger of its being ascribed to any motive than that which produced it, namely a desire of soothing the distress of those most dear to my heart— - My dear Miss, while we mourn our bereavement let us acknowledge the Lord's indubitable tight, and endeavor to -acquiesce in his sovorn will--- knowing that he is not capable

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of error and deligheteth not in the misery of his creatures— If we could suffer ourselves to be governed by reason-- having our reason informed by revelation, uc should stand in no need of a comforter on such occasions-- For why should we mourn for those that are not lost? or grieve after those who are removed from a world of cares and difficulties to the peaceful and happy mansions of everlasting bliss Bat reason does not govern, and is only designed to regulate the passions and emotions of the heart - And it is no doubt so ordered by an indulgent parent, to render us more hapy in the aggregate: and it is evident, the person who noted from no other principle than reason would be considered as an unfeeling unsocial wretch— I conceive it to be our duty under such circumstances to moderate our sorrow and endeavor to appreciate the blessing with which we are still favored, by a kind providence— believing assured by (when we have such ground for the belief as I presume there is in the present case) that the subjects of our grief are in mercy removed from an unfriendly world and kindly sheltered from impending dangers-- In which view of the subject we see the propriety and beauty of our Lord's address to the daughters of Jerusalem •weep not for me but weep for yourselves and for your children'— My Esther, love God. and keep his commandments, and you have the chearing promise on record, that the blessed Mediator will pray the Father, and he will /give you another comforter--* a comforter in finitely superior to all earthly ones; who will not only allay your grief, but give you that joy which the world can neither give nor take away— and what should endear him still more, to the sons and daughters of affliction, that he will abide with them forever-- O pleasing rapturous hope, to have such an inexliaustable source of hapiness not only in the present world but through eternity-- My dear with such prose, ects, me thinks it is impossible for us to grieve; we will rejoice in tribulation and weep as though/ we wept not—

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I must draw to a close -- may the choiset blessings of heaven attend you— nay, that petition seems too selfish-- May they attend us all, all the human family— may our afflictions be sanctified unto us, and may we in due time be rec'd into those mans ions of joy that our saviour and friend has gone before to prepare— 1 : 1 all b made partakers of all the joys of the Heavenly Kingdom, and spend an e ternity in the society of those we love, and in the presence and fruition(?) Of God our saviour-- My dear Esther so long as you love the Lord-- so long as you walk in the paths of virtue-- so long you may r± calculate' assuredly on my affections— J- I wrote to your brother James and enclosed in his letter one to yourself dated I think the Bov* But your silence leads me to think you never rec'd it-- I hope you will write to me as soon as possible, and without reserve— It would be cause of real pain to me, to think you would hesitate to confide in me, end to open you? mind freely-- You may depend' on your muni ons (communications?) being considered as sacred, and your letters kept secret No person has access to rry papers but myself--.. your letters vail come as safe and more unsuspected without a covering— I still fee] determined 'to pay you a visate in the fall, if life and health is spared— - I must bid you adieu, my dearest and most amiable friend, with sincere pray (prayers?; that you may be preserved from evil-- and that we may be spared to meet again On this side of eternity--- Again adie

John Crow April 25th, 1812 Miss Esther Alexander P.S, 'I shall trouble you no more without you give me permission by letter yours etc JC

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Miss Esther Alexander Bellevue

