



Transcription

Letter to Esther Crowe from John Finley Crowe, November 1, 1814

MSS1_Box1_F3_9

Hanover College, Crowe Family Papers, MSS 1

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Princeton Novm. 1st 1814 My dear Esther, It is my disagreeable lot to be still tossed between hope and despair, I had waited with great impatience the last night's mail; confident that if you recovered from your confinement as fast as might be expected, or rather as my fond wishes anticipated, I should receive a letter - But I have been disappointed. My Esther has not been able to write; and my duty is resignation O Lord thou art righteous in all the dispensations of thy providence - I have deserved not only this disappointment of my hopes, but the loss of my enjoyment for my ingratitude, for I have not rendered to thee according to thy benefits rec^d. My dear the Lord knows you are dearer to me than a right eye, but if it should be his holy will to take you to himself,-- I hope I shall be enabled to submit without a murmur, tho it will not be without many groans and tears. I have a firm confidence that you have long since surrendered your person, and devoted your services to our dear Lord, therefore the worst that could befall me, would be great gain to my Esther. But I will still trust in the tenderest mercy of God,- will still hope that he will spare you to be an instrument of great good in his church, and comfort to his people. I rec^d If 1,3 Black's note on the 22ncth ultimo - you can perhaps better judge than I can describe the emotion which it produced in my breast-- I think I have never felt on any occasion such a flow of gratitude to God and goodwill toward men. I then seemed to be perfectly sensible of the unspeakable obligations which we are under to those dear people who have voluntarily taken on themselves so much trouble.

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I pray God that our lives may be spared, so that I may have an opportunity of manifesting my gratitude, which is perhaps all that providence will ever put it in my power to do; but I am confident that such disinterested benevolence will not lose its reward. He who has promised to receive even the giving a cup of cold water to one of his followers will not be unmindful of their labours of love. My dear I hope you will honor and reverence them as parents, and do all in your power to make them happy, I felt disappointed at not receiving your instructions relative to my stay conduct. I had much rather you had given your opinion positively, as I had great doubt what was my duty, and had determined that your decision should be considered as the will of providence respecting it. However I suppose you will not be disappointed to hear that I have concluded to stay another session: which I declare to be in obedience to what I think duty and not inclination. Indeed my love, it would be a source of real unhappiness to me, if I thought you in the smallest degree imputed my stay to want of affection. If our dear little son should be spared with us you will have greatly the advantage of me, during the remainder of our separation -- While I am passing the tedious hours among strangers,

without any of the dear objects of my affection near me to soothe my drooping spirits" -- you will be favoured with the smiles & caresses of the dear little fellow: and will have the pleasure of marking the opening of his infant mind - and "teaching his young ideas how to shoot." O my Esther shall I remind you of the important charge God has committed to your trust? yes, in recollection, that for ought I know, this may be the last time I shall ever address you, induces me to say something on that head. Then remember, that a young immortal, whose happiness or misery through an endless eternity, depends on you under God, is committed to your

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care - with the injunction "bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord". Therefore while you impart to him the whole som nutriment which nature prepares in your own body, - forget not to raise your heart to God in fervent prayer, that he would open his young mind to receive the knowledge of himself, .and as soon as his little organs can begin to articulate, learn him to lisp the name of Jesus" tell him of His humiliation -- of his suffering, his death, his resurrection, his ascension, and of his continual intercession. Tell him of the joys of heaven and of the torment of hell, and as early impressions are easily eradicated as made, repeat these instructions often & with earnestness and solicitude -- nor be discouraged altho they may appear as water spilt on the ground; but be instant in season & out of season - and then "both () & quietly with the salvation of the Lord": &. if our prayers should not be answered before, it may be they will be answered after the clouds () really cover us. My love, I cannot at present write more on this important subject -- I feel confident that if you are spared you will do what you think your duty. Write to me as often as you can. I have but little to say of myself more than "here I raise my Ebenezer". My health is much better than when I left you, & the Lord has favoured me with some precious () to ray soul of late. O that I could render to him according to his benefits My dear pray for me. Give my sincere love to Mr and Mrs Black, and to all enquiring friends" And O, may the joys of the everlasting gospel which are heavens choicest blessings, be ever yours, and may we all be spared to have joyful meeting

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on this side of the grave, for the present my love farewell John F. Crow Mrs. Esther Crow Lexington Kentucky

