



Transcription

Letter to Esther Crowe from John Finley Crowe, October 21, 1814

MSS1_Box1_F3_7

Hanover College, Crowe Family Papers, MSS 1

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To; Mrs Esther Crow Lexington Kentucky Snail 2 5 Princeton October 21g^ ISlir My dearest earthly Friend, I hardly know how to apologise for my long silence, or to express uneasiness, under the present dreadful uncertainty respecting you. I intended to have written last Saturday, but was prevailed upon to accompany some of my friends to New York on that dayf in orderho pass away the tedious hours of suspense, and I had not an opportunity of writing'while I was in the city.â€” I hastened back yesterday in hopes of finding a lette but was disappointed, which together with the fatigue of the journey has greatly depressed me-- O my love, I fee', indeed, like a poor wandering pilgrim, in an unknown desert, who has lost his guide, and is perfectly at a loss to know what way to steer his course; and to add to my distress, I seem no longer toâ€™™be favoured with access inuo the presence of God, where there is fulness of joy; and where I might ease rny burdened heart by pouring out ray complaints into his compassiонт (compassionate; bosom. I find I have been seeking comfort from a wrong source, and vainly attempting to banish the cares of the mind by the fascinating amusements of a great city. I could tell you, my dear, of the awfully sublime appearance of the ocean-- of the grandure of a great harbour crowded with ships, and the magnificence of one of the richest cities in the worldâ€” but these interesting objects have

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been unable to divert my mind from its present anxiet' I rec your letter of the 1 ^ h Sep^ which I n o w feel confident was the last one you wrote before your confinement; and it gives me the most acute sensations of pain to reflect that as you suggested, it may possibly be the last that I shall ever receive f r o m youâ€” - But I will not indulge such melancholy soubts-- Bless God 1 know in whom I have trusted; and I still feel a strong hope - and a degree of confidence, that he will preserve that which i have committed to him I still feel a confidence, my dear, that we shall be spared to meet and spend many happy days in mutual acts of kindness, and the service of our God. My dearest Esther, you are before this time a Mother - I would congratulate uou on this honorable and important addition to the dignity of your character-- You have indeed been favoured of the Lord, who has counted you worthy of the honor of being instrumental in his hand of bringing into existence an immortal being, capable of glorifying God in perpetual approaches toward the perfection of his being, throughout this ceaseless ages of eternity-- And O my love, let it be our perpetual prayer, to be found worthy of the care and guardianship of the precious infant immortal- Let us recollect that it will be a much greater honor to be instrumental in turning it from darkness to light, and preparing it for

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the employment of heaven and the enjoyment of God, than to have been instrumental in its existence" If the Lord should c... spare our dear babe, I leave it entirely to you, my love, to give it a name, which i think is your undoubted prerogative as you will have the trouble of rearing it up and forming its tender mind-" " But if M r and Mrs Black should express any wish to have the name, I think it is as little as we can make, my dear, for the many obligations we are under to then, to let them have it. I hope I shall soon hear from you - if I do not I dont know how I shall contain myself. Pardon my present low spirits and be assured that if you instruct me to con()here through the winter I will not fail to write at least once a fortnight.-- I am in good health at present" ~ the Lord is kind to me-" I have nothing to complain of but spiritual maladies" and I esteem it a great blessing that I am sensible of my wantsand know whom to apply for relief" My love I cannot vrrite under the present stste of mind-- - pray for me and our dear little one if it is spared to u s " be assured you will not be forgotten by me-- Give my love to our friends and believe mg to remain entirely yours My loving wife farewell John F. Crow; Friday evening I i Note. The original letter is in the archives of Hanover College, Hanover Indiana, This copy w;as made in 1^67 by a grea-granddaughter, Sadie Crowe Gilchrsit Allison.

