

Dear Cousin

Pittsburgh Pa April 25th 1844

A thousand thanks for your prompt answer, and very interesting information for which I shall feel you as fully entitled to a cousin's share in my heart

In your attention to others you have almost neglected yourself. As to some particulars that I desire to know, and first what is the name & business of your husband and your place of residence. These items I wish for in case I should at some future day visit New York I may in person acknowledge your kind attention for I had almost given up all hope of having my desire gratified of learning from any of my relations in New York what was their situation

Second the names and occupation of your brothers and all that you may consider interesting concerning your father and them. What is Cousin John doing in Pennsylvania (our State) In what circumstances are my dear Cousins Susan Bonnell & Rosanna Stafs. (tell Susan I will write shortly) what of Cousin Richard Cornwell. dear Cousin Eliza's husband & the business of Henry Ten Eyck and his prospects, the names of Eliza's children. and Oh! how many more questions could I put and anxious Enquiry make but fear to alarm you and cause you to regret your prompt engagement to be my correspondent but remembers once for all. I never wish you to neglect one single duty as a wife or relative to others in corresponding with me. I would if possible have all I ask done as a pleasure and not a task. The closing paragraph in your kind letter induces me to believe this

will be the case and most fully convinces me that
I shall have a correspondent faithful first instructive
one who regards the soul as preminent in value
the Pearl of great price, and yet not unacquainted
with poor human nature, one who I trust is ~~travels~~
through grace to "seek first the Kingdom of God & His righteousness"
under the firm conviction that thereby "all these (necessary) things shall
be added". This alas! is not the common course of mankind
they spend their strength for that which satisfieth not. And
reversing the wise counsel of the infinitely benevolent Creator
who assigns the happiness all & therefore directs to the method
of its attainment, they mind not the things of the
Spirit, but mind earthly things, and pursue the course
of one in the gospel pronounced by God himself "thou fool"
and in the midst of their schemes and plans too often
realize with him their folly. and their poor uncarved
poor souls are required of them, and then whose
shall these things be, the things for which they
alone have lived, forgetting God, their souls, and
Heaven, the dust of Earth cannot satisfy the immortal
Spirit, it was made for higher, nobler joys, even for
fellowship with the Father & with His Son Jesus Christ
and to realize even here that our lives are hid with
Christ in God, so that amidst our severest trials we
may rejoice knowing that when Christ who is our life
shall appear then we also shall be like Him for we shall
see Him as He is. There our Sun shall no more go down
nor our moon withdraw its shining but the Lord shall

be our everlasting light and our God shall be our
glory the days of our mourning shall be ended
Then as earth has no sorrows Heaven cannot had
let us my dear Cousin Oh! let us increase our efforts
to secure a place in heaven. What ties are there
already and Oh! how swiftly one follows another
and who can tell "who next shall be ~~summoned~~
away" how necessary the caution "be ye also ready"
I have intimated I may at some future day pay my
respects to you in person in such event I shall through
Divine permission be accompanied by my wife who I
desire to introduce to you as one who in her Ance
holds a large share in many hearts and for twenty
two years has been all I could ask as the share
if my joys and sorrows we have no children, we
are uncle and aunt to many little prattlers whose highest
wish is to spend a day with Uncle & Aunt in a
few weeks we start to Erie where I am to settle
up with Government the contract for the Iron
Ship of War, Michigan constructed by the gentleman
by whom I am employed. Direct your letters
to me at Pittsburgh Pa & I shall receive them
My wife joins in affectionate regards to all our
dear relatives & especially to your husband & self
write soon & believe me to be truly and sincerely
your most obliged & affectionate
Cousin
Mrs Margaret McInnes
New York
John L. Sands

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PAID

11/11/71

Mrs Margaret M. Swade

Care of Mr Robert Swade

No 73 Spring Street

New York

Handwritten signature and initials.

