

Esteemed Cousin

Pittsburgh January 16th 1845

Your Valued Favor of 23^d ultimo came duly to hand & I am thankful that I have never for a moment thought of applying the old motto "It was brownie" to you & I am also thankful that my fears in regard to your silence were groundless. I have formed so favorable an opinion of your Character from your kind manner in volunteering to become my Correspondent, that some aggravating Circumstance (which I cannot even fear will be given by you) must take place before I shall (I trust) entertain a disposition to even complain. My fears originated from the Circumstance of Cousin Richards illness when Wm Fairland called. I hope whenever your thoughts turn towards my humble self that if it will not interfere with your duties as a wife & mother that no idea of postage will deter you from forwarding them per mail, as I always consider myself as obtaining more than value received. Wm Fairland expressed himself in very warm terms with regard to Richard & yourself and regretted his short stay in your City. I rejoice that you are a mother & as I am not altogether ignorant of the unremitting care & anxiety this new relation will impose upon you, I trust will be found patient under disappointment in receiving my accustomed Epistle, in order that I may meet with few of them, however. I hope when your cares or duties, or whatever else, may in any way, cause a difficulty in your way of penning an Epistle to me that Mr Cousin Richard I trust will supply your place for your special benefit only, now I hope you will consider me generous & that Richard will not think me too partial. Mighty as you can possibly feel your responsibility as a mother its obligation will in no wise fall short if we regard its training for this world but more especially with regard to the eternal world, its own happiness in this world & its influence upon the happiness of others. Oh! what a powerful and extended influence may this child yet exert for evil or for good upon both worlds. Thoughtful mother may you ever keep in view that to you is committed in trust a being formed for both worlds and while every attention is to be paid to prepare it for acting in its appropriate sphere in time among men

Oh! forget not that all this is to be subordinate to, and usefully connected with a "mutualty for the inheritance among the Saints in light." God grant you all wisdom & grace for your high responsibility, and bless your dear husband with all the qualifications ever needed by a father so that both of you may be coworkers together with God, who must be with you, in order that you may be "more than able who will be against you" but if God be with you "no weapon that is formed shall be" able to prosper against you. My answer to your kind query why my dear wife & self have not shown our unworthy selves is, ^{1st} my engagements in business would not permit at the proper season, since our return from Erie my wife's mother has been confined to her room, she is 66 years of age has had eleven children ten of whom arrived to be men & women, during all that long life (twenty three years of it a widow struggling with a little property to raise her children) she never needed a physician except in child bearing, yet now she is in the last stage of Consumption, her decline (no doubt induced by the death of her three eldest sons in one year) was immediate in its first stage but has since been so gentle that scarcely any attrition is visible for sometime past she suffers no pain, but is much afflicted with Cough, to day she is evidently worse, she resides with us, when we went to Erie we had previously given up housekeeping, Mr McFarland & wife taking our place, we intended not to resume our post until we had visited you especially, and others generally this we did not intend you to know for fear some circumstance would prevent our design, as my friend Mr Copeland was well acquainted with Cousin Richard I supposed possibly he had given you some intimation of it he being aware of our design. We have very little prospect of accomplishing our design, as I have made an engagement of a business nature with an esteemed friend that will make it necessary to remove to Whiting, Virginia which is 100 miles distant by

water or a day & night travel by Steamboat down the Ohio river, but rest assured that if opportunity offers, you will see us, in the meantime Mr & Mrs Copland can in part at least gratify your Curiosity with regard to the little man. As our western Country is constantly and increasingly engaging the attention of the East may we not hope Richard & Margaret with little Emma will pay us a visit.

I congratulate Cousin Richard on his restoration to health & would say (in view of your quotation of "what a day ^{or an hour} may bring forth) to him, in all ^{the} affection prompted by a heart that loves him though the eye has never seen him. Live now not unto yourself but unto Him who loved you and "gave Himself for you". Oh! how rapidly are your ^{years} slipping away and how soon will Eternity be here. "Procrastination is the thief of time". We wish for heaven but wishing will not secure it we must get at the work at once. Delay is dangerous in the extreme. Godliness has the promise of this life as well as that to come. Secure the Good ^{for} it maketh truly rich and addeth no sorrow. ^{We} without God, without hope in the world is an awful condition. I trust my dear friend is indeed living a life of faith in the Son of God & also rejoicing in prospect of the Glory that is to be revealed. I admire your new year reflections & will also endeavor to adopt them. Cousin Susan is still delinquent but I suppose she has sufficient cause for delay & will not condemn her without a hearing. Shall both wait & quietly hope on. Our united love to all. My step mother & brother & Sisters tender their affectionate regards we often talk of you all & would esteem it a great privilege could we often talk to you. God grant if we meet not here we may all be happily united with each other & all the redeemed in glory. I have taken the first convenient opportunity to return the best wishes and sincere regards of Cousin

John S. Bonds

3
BURTON
16
Wm. W. Carquest No. 100

No. 32 Attorney Street

New York City

2
dulu
as comm
14