

Newark October 15th /45

My ever dear and much Beloved Friend

It is useless for me to express to you the joy your kind dear letter gave me, and day after day I have determined in my own mind to answer it, but have been prevented by many unforeseen circumstances. Indeed, perhaps I have willingly yielded to procrastination, that you might still anticipate the pleasure of meeting me, but Providence has ordered it otherwise for the present.

My dear Mother has not been well lately, the swelling on her chest has increased very fast. She has been examined lately by two of the first Surgeons in New York, who find it necessary for her, if the present treatment ~~she~~ she is under does not disperse it, to ~~under~~ undergo an operation by removing the breast, this we fear too much for her now weak state, and if it is not removed she will linger a few years perhaps a complete sufferer. We know not what to do or advise, we are only able to lay passive in the Lord's hands knowing he will order all events in kindness and much love. In consequence of her now weak and nervous state the Doctor has forbid her having any care or

charge about house, and of course it all rests with me, therefore it will be impossible for me to leave home.

I should very much like to see you, and your husband and dear little Emma. I expect Richard is delighted with her, may she prove truly a comfort to you both; Margaret dear friend my heart loves you still as fondly as ever and if all were well, I would love to be with ^{you} and yours for some time, and that was my intention when you were with me, but we know not truly what a day or hour will bring forth."

My health is now very well indeed, I have gained wonderfully since I recovered from my fever. All of us are well including all in Centie Street. Little Louisa has been spending more than five weeks with us ever since I returned from Glen-bowe, she had five of her little ones with her and I miss them all very much since she left which was last Friday. Speaking of Louisa, if Mother is better she will visit her for a short time in about two months and then perhaps I will fulfil my promise to visit you.

And now about my Stephen, oh dear Margaret what sweet letters I have had from him recently, indeed you would have delighted with them, he has now a situation under government, and we have every prospect before us, the Lord has been very kind to us both, though we will not be able to meet very soon unless my dear Mother should

be much better of course this is now a trial to us both. He says he has formed an acquaintance with a young Lady which much resembles you in looks and manners, and he shall cultivate his acquaintance so that I shall have some one to whom I can attach myself when I come to England, for he is sure I will love her for your sake. He also says "I hope you visit Margaret as much as ever I have you to be with her" give her my kindest love as well as Richard, and tell them I shall never forget their kindness to me.

And now my dear friend remember us all at the "House of Grace" that the Lord will give us strength according to our day. Mother and all the family unite with me in kind love to you and yours, not forgetting Aunt Sarah. If you cannot come and see me, write me frequently, have you heard from Emily lately? good by my dearest Margaret - may our heavenly Father's arms shield you from all that may harm you, and His presence ever be with you, is the sincere wish and prayer of your sincerely attached friend and Companion

Caroline



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