

[Edith Griffith] Fayette Co  
Barrenville Pa 3<sup>rd</sup> mo 22<sup>nd</sup> - 1844

My dear friend

Having so much enjoy'd the reading of thy kind letter with the accompanying from S. on my return from Ohio a few days since - I feel like promptly returning thanks for the same fresh & full from my heart for I do love to keep some "sight of thy movements;" as being "ported up" is quite out of the question. Also if dear Libbi's my heart goes with her in the work - truly the fields are white for the harvest - Paul & Apollos, Priscilla & Aquilla can all find abundant room for labour, and work in waiting for willing hands - was there ever a time since we liv'd that there was more need of the Gospel being preach'd in all its freshness - greenness & fullness, never. Dear S. who leans her mark as the cow - is too eminent & gifted for such service to hide her talents at home long at a time in her domestic sphere - and the injunction of the Great Apostle was vividly reviv'd - as she was afresh introduced to my view by thy letter - "Help those women who have labour'd with me in the Gospel!" I do not know that it is appropriate here - but my sympathy and unity is such - that I would have her encouraged in every right way - to fill up the measure of duty assign'd her

by her divine master for the gathering in of the outcasts  
the comforting of the distressed & destitute, as well as for  
the edification of the Church already gathered.

I will understand thy idea of the task - amid the confusion  
of the times - to maintain that close communion <sup>with God</sup> which  
gives effect to watchfulness & prayer - and in which di-  
vine instruction is received - to be quiet in his will or to  
bind on the sandals and go forth in the authority and  
power of our risen Lord, to administer to the wants of  
his children in whatever way he sees meet to point  
out - I admire the zeal & liberality of the Friends on be-  
half of the freed people - Those who have abundant of  
this world's treasure - need not be at a loss for objects  
of Charity - they seem to be multiplying almost every  
where. I did not expect to see so many figures in counting  
S. Sharpless's estate - It would be quite an alarming  
thing to me to become half so rich in gold or silver - in  
fact I would be immensely rich - I would be an  
heir to a Kingdom - My feeling is neither to desire  
riches nor poverty - but to be comfortable while I  
live - something to divide with the poorer - and  
always to be in readiness as a servant in waiting  
to run the errands of my Divine Master, Lord and  
Law Giver - although attended with many baptisms  
and deep humiliations - but if <sup>we</sup> would reign with

Christ we must also suffer with him my late visit  
through some parts of Ohio was one of deep interest were I with  
thee I would whisper some touching incidents in thy ear  
that I do not like to trust my pen with - but as I think thou  
wilt be interested - and then <sup>a</sup> too familiar & particular friend to  
misapprehend or misconstrue) I will mention a few that  
thou may have some insight of Affairs "out west" When we  
arriv'd at M<sup>o</sup> Pleasant - we were soon told of a wonderful  
excitement, occasion'd by a remarkable protracted  
Meeting of the Methodists - very many were being con-  
verted - among them quite a number of our young friends  
who had given their attendance day & night - But they kindly  
left & attended our 2<sup>d</sup> Mtg<sup>s</sup> next day - our two Mtgs, much  
was said - they were ready to hear - the ground was broken  
in some measure prepar'd for the seed of the Kingdom  
Regeneration was dwelt upon, the terms of reconciliation  
plainly set forth - repentance & faith the first steps  
toward the heavenly Kingdom - the remission of our sins  
not to be relied upon as the whole work; only the  
beginning of a life of faith, the starting point of the  
Christian race - only the first step up the Ladder  
that reaches from Earth to Heaven - the work of sanc-  
tification a progressive work - humility obedience watchful-  
ness & prayer - indispensable to the growth of vital piety, &c  
and it is most comfortable to reflect upon that not one of these

I do not mean that I committed them back again to depend they are feeling  
dictated their course - the young man who had served so far as to help by  
the way of being out of the way of the young man who had served so far as to help by

Dear young people who profess a conversion among the Methodists  
return'd to them - but maintained their resolution to be friends  
and even more of friends than heretofore - being arrous'd to an  
appreciation of our doctrine - by the gospel messenger - which had  
found a place in their hearts before - amid the throng of the  
old founding Methodists - Do not imagine that I am yielding  
my preference to such measures - But this I feel to say - that if  
members of the flock - <sup>in our Society</sup> do not cultivate that earnest love to the  
great head of the Church - wherein fresh supplies of heavenly grace  
will be receiv'd - and qualification also, to feed the flock which  
among them - the hungry children will be likely to seek bread  
elsewhere - and thus an awakening reprimand may fall  
back upon the too easy - or unfaithful pastors =

We visited the neighborhood of Stillwater - a strong hold of  
our Friends - had one apt - mtg in their large house - some  
thous attend'd - Contrary to the advice of the controlling powers  
while wading as in deep waters - utterance was granted most  
freely - both in testimony & prayer - through the great goodness of our  
admirable head - Truth seem'd to get the Dominion - and some  
the barriers to give way - and my heart renewedly rejoic'd  
in the precious liberty which with Christ maketh free - to declare  
the riches of his grace - "although Abraham may be ignorant of us  
and Israel acknowledge us not" - But one dear Israelite who  
took a gallery seat - near us - greeted me most affectionately at  
the close - adding tearfully "I am glad I am here," invited us  
home with him - we accepted, spent the evening - had some  
plain talk - he own'd his dissatisfaction with their course  
said "they had taken a wrong one" - he had told them so  
his wife is a minister - he had long before been appointed to the  
station of an Elder - they were both in trouble - indeed the whole  
meeting was in trouble - on account of a most shameful quarrel  
and parting of a man & wife - among them, which took a large  
number of them to court - while we were there - some to testify  
on his behalf and some on his - I must tell thee a little  
of our conversation - that thou mayst be wided, that blindness  
in part has happen'd to Israel - He said - they began (I don't know when  
read the Scriptures in their family - but they hardly knew  
whether it was right or not - whether it would not become  
formal - so they had quit it" I reminded him of the solemn

Please give much love to thy mother & sister Richard & Aunt Susan & all thy friends & family  
and E. Comstock -

1100

injunction under the mosaic dispensation to teach those things  
diligently to the children &c &c and did he suppose it was less oblig-  
atory upon us under the new dispensation, to use the means  
appointed by divine wisdom for our own and our children's benefit  
He then refer'd to our Scripture Schools - as something new  
among Friends, and he had heard that sometimes teachers  
undertook to explain - who were not religious themselves - and more  
harm than good might be done" I answer'd there might be such  
cases - But with this exception - (for it was not the rule perhaps  
more good might be gain'd and less harm done than by  
omitting it altogether - and as being new - so far from it  
being a child at Westtown School - I knew the practice was  
adopted of learning Scripture lessons on the first day of the  
week - and when Ohio B. S. L. was open'd it pursued the  
same plan - and now where was the harm or the novelty  
when we take these same children (and more if we can get them)  
the same Scriptures in our hands and the same motive  
in our hearts - and try to carry forward what our children  
have begun to learn at in those very Schools patroniz'd  
by the Yearly Mtgs of Friends - I added it was a very nice  
point for us to determine for each other, <sup>justly</sup> how far we should  
go - and no further in the use of these invaluable records  
it was in the <sup>proper</sup> use not the disuse, that we would derive the  
precious benefits they were design'd to confer - there are a  
few of the mountains that they have been compassing for years

May the Lord bless thee - and cause his grace to shine upon thee - may his favour  
accompany thee as a shield - and crown thee with sweet peace

dissatisfied with themselves - and afraid of us - I told them plainly  
there was a better inheritance for them, for I felt that they had  
Company's mountains round ground in the wilderness - and now  
the language in my heart was - and I wanted it to go through their  
Camp "speak to my people that they go forward!" - Oh how I  
lament the lameness, the blindness, the fearfulness and the lack  
of that zeal which is according to knowledge - "For let every man  
be fully persuaded in his own mind - that full persuasion  
which is the outgrowth of an establishment in grace  
I believe these tried friends - were weighing the question whether  
to remain with those they could no longer unite with - and  
use their endeavours to enlighten and exhort them or to  
leave them in their uncomfortable condition - I felt to leave  
them in his hands who had brought them thus far out of  
the mists - believing there was a time to wait a time to  
labour - a time to suffer - but is there not also a time  
to "come out from among them and be separate" - I would  
that this the response to this might be of a more general  
character - when will our little divided section of the Mil  
itant Church - be seen coming forth out of the wilderness  
beaming on her beloved - fair as the moon - clear as the sun in  
light and in strength - like an army with banners!

I began this letter last week - but have been so taken up  
with Company - and my work - I could not finish it - and  
now I have some doubt about the probability of it - but I hope thou  
will excuse the uncalled for - my heart so joyfully takes hold of  
those who take hold on the Truth - that I thought it might do to  
speak of it - Thy good heavy cross - was a good friend to  
me in my wintery journey - and tended to keep thee very near  
all sort of goods - and every thing else commands such a  
high price that Economy - and humble trust - are aids, never  
needed more - to quiet and settle our minds on the faithful  
ness of divine Providence - toward those who love him -  
Thy letters are always pleasant - Can I have more sometime? I know  
thy hand is industriously sowing good - so on - thou will  
reap thy reward