

Yale College April 15<sup>th</sup> 1822

Affectionate Friend,

What can be more gratifying than the correspondence of an affectionate friend. It not only affords pleasure and satisfaction to its partakers but combines with it utility of the highest degree. It also has a tendency to render more strong endearing the bonds of social friendship. The mind of man, is naturally inclined to form habits of intimacy, with those with whom they hold communication. It is a peculiar principle in the breast of every one, among the circle of his acquaintance and associates, that his familiarity, and his warmest feeling should be centred upon some, in a greater degree than upon others. And indeed the chief joy, the greatest happiness we enjoy here below, I think must be in a great measure owing to that inward original cause affection and true friendship. But real, true friendship I believe is not cultivated to a very great extent. its limits are indeed ~~not~~ extensive, and its rule strict, but its fruit must be truly pleasant. To one who obtains such an one for his companion and ally, although deprived of almost all the other advantages derived from civil society, he has a source of happiness which will remain when others have failed, and supply the loss of other privations. he has one to whom he can communicate his dearest concerns, and most secret feeling, one who can mingle with him in the cups of common fortune, and partake of its draughts, whether bitter or sweet, one, who can ever afford his utmost endeavours, to calm the boisterous ocean of life, and promote each others happiness, to the highest degree possible; while passing over ~~the~~ <sup>its</sup> billows ~~at~~, to their destined haven

If this then is really the case, well may the ties of sincere and true friendship, be termed strong, and endearing.

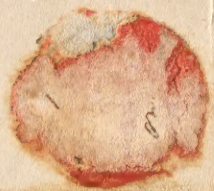
But leaving this subject and ~~turning~~ turning to my present circumstances in college, I can with pleasure inform you, that the <sup>hours</sup> longer I continue here, the more all things contribute render it pleasant. New acquaintances, are almost daily formed, and some whose associations, are truly valuable, together with our pursuit, in the paths of literature, all unite to render its daily scenes delightful. We are now very busily engaged in reviewing our studies, in preparation for examination next week.

But Dear A. I have not now devoted a short time in writing to you, as united to you in a distant friendship but as bound to you in one more endearing, as allied to you in one still more <sup>binding</sup> ~~endearing~~. that of trust affection. Since I wrote you last has transpired one of the most solemn though interesting periods of my life ~~subseq~~. I have ventured to make a profession of that religion, in whose blessings I hope to have been made a partaker. I have dared to come around <sup>the table</sup> of that dying Lord, & whose blood I humbly hope to have been washed. Indeed what a feast of <sup>love</sup>, for such guilty rebels, to approach so near an expiring Lord, and partake the emblems of his body and blood as broken and shed for them. Surely nothing but love beyond degree could have prepared such a royal banquet. But if I may live according to my professions, if I may ever live faithful to that God I have professed to love, and ever be actively employed in that cause, I have solemnly sworn to maintain them may I well, finally subscribe my strains to the very last service I can render him in return.

In attempting to give you any information concerning  
the state of religion here at present, what must I  
say to you. When I wrote you last appearance  
were very favourable, then I could indulge the  
fond hope of the next time addressing you, I should  
have interesting news indeed of the revival then begun here  
but it has proved no hope and expectations often do.  
Though the <sup>state</sup> of things is not as it had been some time before  
the first intimations of a heavenly shower, it is certainly  
vastly altered from what it was but a few weeks ago.  
Then could we look around upon our companions and  
classmates, and see some enquiring the way to eternal life  
but now I fear we can say there are but few if any really  
anxious for their souls salvation. but in searching in the  
cause of this vast change to what must it be attributed,  
Alas! is it not in some measure resting upon the  
~~character~~ <sup>character</sup> of christians. But indeed, the hearts of christians  
can never be too grateful, for what the Lord has done  
here of late. Mr Nettleton as probably you have heard,  
to the sorrow, of all has been confined by a sickness for  
about six weeks, until sunday evening, he passed in  
the city. The work is still going on in town, though not  
with such power as a short time since. There are revivals  
in several towns not far distant, and in the state, concerning  
you have heard, doubtless more particularly than myself  
is not that cause (which we are assured must prevail)  
gaining mighty conquest over the adversary. Truly blessed  
then in some degree, is he who can afford his willing  
and devoted services, at such a time as the present for  
the promotion of such a glorious cause.

at. S. P.

Yours affectionately J. Nettleton



Q

Amos A. Phelps

Farmington

Conn

S. Johnson