

128 E. 12th St.,

May 28, 1872.

My Dear Garrison,

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I received yours of yesterday this morning, but waited to consult. Deval Mendenhall, who has been with us for a week past, before replying. In regard to the Gush Meeting, my mind is hardly in a fit state to make any plans for it. My own attendance will be possible only in the event of my dear wife's death before that time, for, if she is alive, I must remain at home. She is constantly failing, and it now seems hardly possible that she can live so long; but her vitality is wonderful, and how long the struggle between

life and death may be protracted, God  
only knows. Her sufferings are terrible,  
and, since I am compelled to regard  
recovery impossible, and since she is not  
only ready but anxious to depart, much as  
I shrink from the event, <sup>on my own account,</sup> I must for her sake  
welcome it as every way desirable, <sup>however soon</sup> ~~whenever~~ it  
may come. Her will is still as strong, her  
mind as clear, as ever; but her bodily strength  
is failing, and the end cannot be far off.  
The Doctor told me this afternoon that she  
was "going from bad to worse" every day, and  
as I write I hear her uttering cries of pain,  
though I am in the parlor and she is on  
the third floor. It is terrible to witness  
such suffering, and be wholly unable to  
~~retro~~ afford relief. Our friends here are  
full of kindness and sympathy, but alas!  
these will not compose the agonized

flush, or stay the painful throbbing of the nerves.

Our friends in Chester County will be very much disappointed if you do not attend the meeting, especially in case of my absence; and yet it does not seem ~~hardly~~ hardly reasonable that, at your time of life, and with feeble health, you should take so long a journey ~~for~~ to attend only a part of the meeting. You have been so kind and generous in coming to the meeting in former years, and in helping me to bear its burdens, that I cannot urge you now against your inclination; and yet if I should go myself, and not see you <sup>there,</sup> I should be more sorry than I can tell, for I don't know who could fill your place. As I have already said, in case of my dear wife's death, I shall

telegraph you at once, in the hope of  
securing your presence at her funeral; but  
perhaps I did not tell you that her body  
will be taken to Longwood cemetery, where  
we have for many years had a lot, the gift  
of our friends. We must have funeral exercises  
here, for the sake of numerous friends, and  
~~and~~ the dear ones at Longwood will no  
doubt expect some sort of service at the  
meeting-house. ~~If~~ <sup>may</sup> Events ~~should~~ so shape them-  
selves that you can go with me to the  
burial at Longwood, and remain to a  
part or the whole of the Yearly meeting;  
and in the occurrence of such a contin-  
gency you would find your course shaped  
for you by Providence. If you <sup>should</sup> ~~are~~ not be  
summoned hither before the yearly meeting,  
I cannot urge you to attend <sup>it,</sup> ~~the meeting,~~  
if the journey seems burdensome to you.

With love for Helen, and your whole  
household, I am,  
Your attached friend, Oliver Johnson