



AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOTES,
LETTERS AND REFLECTIONS

BY
THOMAS SMYTH, D. D.

EDITED BY HIS GRANDDAUGHTER
LOUISA CHEVES STONEY



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seem yourself to assume the attributes & prerogatives of Deity. If you can conscientiously publish the said letter, I can only leave it with my own to be judged by "the law & the testimony," "the letter & the Spirit," of the Word of God. To him we are both accountable, & "him that walketh proudly the Lord knoweth how to abase."

I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

THOMAS SMYTH.

Extract from Mr. Robertson's answer.

"August 11, 1846.

"I am not able to find any passage which warrants you to say that I seem to invade the prerogative of Deity in judging of your spirit or your motives. * * I am content to leave the people of this country and of the world, to judge of your conduct. * * It is impious to refer to the revelation of the blessed God as you do, as if it contained a single line to authorize the *villainy* and daring wrong of the *man stealer*."

Dr. Smyth visits Dr. Cooke. It must have been at this time that the visit to Dr. Cooke took place and the dinner out of town. Whatever the explanation sent to Frederick Douglass, Dr. Smyth had found Dr. Maccourdie and his witness, the Rev. Moses Black, so that he was safe and his friends relieved. Even the Rev. Samuel McCurdy must have been appeased.

Mrs. Magee's death. The Doctor's business in Dublin was connected with the death of his aunt, Mrs. Magee, the details of which will be given later.—Editor.

CHARLESTON, May 22. 1846.—

Friday Morning.—

MY VERY DEAR HUSBAND,

Mrs. Smyth to Dr. Smyth. This morning I was not disappointed, as Father sent me up yours of the 19th, Tuesday. * * * I am glad you are at Mr. Henry's, & *very glad* you are to have Dr. Scott as a companion across the deep.¹ I feel anxious to hear the news from Paterson. I trust in mercy Mrs. Smith may yet be spared to her family, & for her soul's sake. Deal faithfully with her, should you be permitted to see her alive. I fear we have not done our duty to her in this matter.

¹Dr. Smyth speaks of visiting Mr. Alexander Henry, President of the American S. S. Union. Dr. W. A. Scott was his frequent travelling companion.—Ed.



MRS. SMYTH.

From a Daguerreotype in the possession of the Family.

I wrote to you on Monday, immediately upon receipt of yours from Washington, & directed it to Paterson; this I will send to Boston. You tell me to send your "Passport;" I will look for it as soon as young Carberry comes from the Study where he now is, but I suppose you miscalled the paper, & that it is the Certificate of American citizenship you want. * * I staid at home last night & let Ellen² go, she was much delighted. A very good attendance, Miss Parker met the Session last night. At the Church meeting on Monday—the Com. brought in their plan of altering the Church, but it was voted down by an overwhelming majority, as was also the proposal to enlarge the present Lecture Room, but I have not heard that they did any thing on the other side, although the boys think they got "a famous victory" over old John.³ I sent the bundle to Mr. Lumpkin, & also to Sam R.— I wrote a note to Miss Timrod proffering Mr. Porter to call & see her, & apologizing for you. She wrote me a reply with many good wishes for you, but declined to see Mr. P. as she hoped soon to be able to be out. Mrs. S. Robertson gave me a long message expressive of her regret at not having called to see you, nor even of stopping to shake hands with you before your departure, with many fervent wishes &c. &c. She charged me so often on this point & made me promise so faithfully that I am obliged to comply. Aunt Margaret Ellison too gave me many kind wishes for you—& Mother says, "be sure to give my love to Mr. Smyth." Mr. & Mrs. Dargan, (Judge Dargan) came down yesterday, are at Fathers & will be there a week longer. Father brought up *three* pair of French boots for you & paid for them \$21.00 of Spring St. he believed—2 pair seem Light, & one pair double house. soled. He will alter the house I believe, but not in the way I proposed, he suggests a plan of his own to build on an addition on the front, closing up our front gate. I believe it will be much the best, but will *I think*, involve more expense. I like it however very well, but if it is carried out, the large mulberry tree must be cut away. * * *

²In January, 1844, when the second Augustine was the baby, Miss Ellen Crawford, known afterwards to her grown-up "babies" as "Crawf," was added to the Smyth household. She was taken as a young girl from the Orphan House by Dr. Smyth, who chose her from a number of others, because, when he spoke of a baby to care for, her motherly arms reached out involuntarily. Her devotion to her nursling and the whole family was unbounded and they became her people. She lived long as their staunch and loyal friend and ended her days among them.—Ed.

³Mr. John Robinson.—Ed.

Little dear Sarah Anne has had a cold which cost *me* one or two sleepless nights. She is well again, & grows finely. The musquitoes however have manifested too much fondness for her, I have been obliged to put up all the nets. A great change in the weather, cool easterly winds. Father said on Tuesday night "*it was bitter cold.*" Augustine stands beside me, he says "tell Papa that I am good sometimes & I'm *bad* sometimes too,—& I pray to God to bring him home safe again."— He & Adger have been made perfectly happy by the gift from me of a Pluffer. Adger was the purchaser & it has been a great event. Adger sends his love to Papa. I will attend to what you say regarding him. He seems feeble, if it continues I will consult Dr. B. for him.

Saturday morning—I wish you could see your study, how nice, & clean, & cool, it looks this morning—carpets all up & put away—& blankets & woolens &c.— I have been very busy—so has Sam.⁴ * * *

I must stop now. Found your passport & send it, you are right as usual & I am wrong. Father says it will be of no use to you. If you have any idea of going to the Continent, get a new one in London from our Minister there—if you meet a Mexican privateer you had better not claim to be an American.⁵

Yours ever

MARGARET.

CHARLESTON, *May 26, 1846.*

Wednesday—

MY VERY DEAR HUSBAND,

I was so sick, oh so very sick yesterday as to
 Mrs. Smyth be enable to write, & fearful that the mail of today
 to Dr. Smyth. might miscarry, & you might not receive this, I
 got my ever kind & obliging Sister to write a few lines for
 me. I hope you will receive this & hers also. I am better to-
 day & am sitting up to write this. * * *

The probability, which I do often feel, that I may not be much longer spared to my children, & that in the event of my removal they may fall in other hands less tender, & less careful than my own; the joy I experience when I remember that we have *three* safely housed, & that whatever may befall these *four*—the other *three* are happy *forevermore*; these considerations often make me feel that if it were the Lord's will to remove them now in their youth, their beauty, & their inno-

⁴Sam Dent, her house-boy.—Ed.

⁵This was during the war with Mexico.—Ed.

cence, even now when all the warm & deep emotion of my heart's love is gushing out towards them, even now, I would rejoice & surrender them to him without a murmur, although it might not be without tears. * * *

I saw a letter from Janey to Margaret,⁶ which however she had requested might not be shown, in which after bewailing much the state of her own heart, & her fear lest after all, she might be a castaway, she speaks of the preaching she has heard from Mr. Fraser, so different from yours although it was good, & she supposed orthodox—she then spoke of some of your lectures which she said she would never forget, nor the hours she had spent in that Lecture Room which she said were the happiest of her life.

I received a letter from your Sister Isabella in which she begs me to send her a lock of your hair cut immediately from your head. I suppose if you are inclined & have the time to gratify her, the postage would not be too much.

Philip comes for my letter. I must stop. It will be the last letter you will receive ere the wide Atlantic separates us. My own dear Husband, farewell. I commend you to the care of our covenant God. Forgive all my offences & all my frailties, & think of me only as your own attached and loving, (although it may be sometimes, a too exacting & jealous,) Wife—

MARGARET M. A. SMYTH.

CHARLESTON, *June 1, 1846.*

MY DEARLY LOVED HUSBAND,

Mrs. Smyth
to Dr. Smyth.

On this day you are to leave our shores and commit yourself to the mighty Ocean. May He who hath the winds and waves under His command, take charge over you; send you a safe and prosperous voyage; grant you renovated strength; and yet a long, and useful, and *happy* life. * * *

I thank you for the promised likeness, I shall prize it *very* highly when I get it and appreciate the motives which prompted the sending of it. I have another likeness of you however, which I prize yet more highly, dear little Sarah Anne, who grows every day more lovely, and of whom every stranger exclaims, "how like to her Father she is!" She is indeed a precious treasure. I see the likeness increasing every day, and yet it is not *yourself*, I think, she so much resembles, as *your family*. The shape of her head and her hair is like your Father's; while her profile and features all are like your

⁶From Miss Jane A. Adger to Mrs. William Adger.—Ed.

Mother's. May she resemble them in all that was excellent and amiable, and above all in their love to God, and to their fellow men. * * *

Adger will be 9 years old on Monday next, *June 8*. Ought he not to be studying the languages? * * Augustine says you are to be at home on his birthday, (*Oct 5*) when he will be 4 years old. * * *

Your own wife,

M. M. A. SMYTH.

CHARLESTON, *June 9*, 1846.

MY VERY DEAR HUSBAND,

Much to my grief & disappointment Ellison
Mrs. Smyth
to Dr. Smyth. did not forward my letter as I desired him, he thought the chance of its getting to N. Y. in time for the *Great Britain* was too small to warrant him paying the postage, & yet after all it would have been in time, as she did not leave until the 8th. * * *

Addition
to house. Father sold the poney yesterday to Mr. Rogers for something under \$20.— He has received estimates for altering our house the amt. of which are \$3000—& \$2,800.— I was astonished. I am afraid it will not be done. He says he will consult other workmen, & get other estimates. The plan now proposed does not contemplate interfering at all with your study or Library. There will be one large room down stairs, which covers the whole front of our yard,⁷ where the large gate now is, & leaves no entrance from the street except through the hall door; the piazza of course will be removed, but will be put up at the southern end of the new building. The new room will be 20 feet by 22, & have six windows, 2 at the North, next the street, 2 at the West, next the lot; & 2 at the South, opening into our own yard. There is to be a similar room, in size, &c. &c. in the second storey for a nursery—& the space on the 3rd storey, Father advises to have made into 2 bed rooms for the children

⁷In the letters of 1837 the situation of Dr. and Mrs. Smyth's house was described. Mr. Robert Adger had been established in the house south of Mr. James Adger's, all the yards communicating, with gardens in the rear. In addition to this there was a garden in the large lot on the opposite side of King Street, with a Summer house, where the Adger grand-children played and had their May-parties. There were beds for vegetables and accommodations for several cows, of all of which old Daddy Daniel had charge. A part of this large lot was a waggon-yard for the accommodation of farmers bringing cotton, etc., to market.—Ed.

as they grow older. It is too large for one room. If the work is carried on I will urge him to flatten the roof of the piazza. It is a terrible job; I wish it was finished. * * Father desires me to say to you, that he has insured your Library for \$8,000 wh. he thinks was the sum you mentioned, at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent premium, paying \$40.— * * *

Now for the children. Adger's birth-day is over. I made them a present of a juggling board, (for which *you* must pay \$4.50,) and you never saw such delight. Augustine jumped & danced & screamed with joy. Adger too is highly delighted with it. He seems to be better, i. e. stronger than when you left.^s You are gone one month tomorrow: one fifth of your term of absence is over. Did you see in the last *Watchman & Observer* some notice from the pen of Mr. Watkins on your Sermons on Children?— I was reading your note to Adger & Augustine, wh. highly pleased them, in wh. you desire them to tell you what to bring them from London. Sam was standing by, "& begs Mr. S. will bring *him* a watch"! ! He comes to me to day with the same request. I told him he *was crazy*. He says "No mam, you ask Mr. S. I know *he* will bring it to me." So his ideas of *your generosity* or of *your purse* are *very large*. And now my paper is finished. Perhaps I may write a note by tomorrow's mail. Farewell. May God bless you, protect you, & restore you in safety to the arms of your own Wife M. M. A. SMYTH.

You are now more than half way across the Atlantic but I can not expect to hear for three weeks yet.

CHARLESTON, June 18, 1846.

Thursday afternoon.

MY VERY DEAR HUSBAND,

* * On Tuesday * * Adger came running * * exclaiming, "Here is a letter from Papa" * * It was received most cordially & gladly. * * *

This addition to our house will involve us in expense in other ways, these three rooms will each require a carpet & other furniture. I must have another bedstead for the children, & some articles for their room which are *essential* &

^sAdger was delicate from his birth and caused Dr. and Mrs. Smyth constant anxiety: at one period he suffered from some disease of the hip, which prevented his walking, and for about a year had to be carried like an infant.—Ed.

necessary—then when we go to housekeeping⁹—& I don't see how we can avoid it, we must have more servants; if we bring Betsy & her two children home, it will increase the size of our hominy pot; & then if we have so large a house, we will be expected to entertain more company;—this you would like, so would I, if I had servants enough and money enough to buy all I need. I tell you all this now as a preface to a

caution, not to involve yourself too deeply or inextricably in debt by the purchase of books & pictures; of the *last, with the maps*, we have enough now to cover all the walls, even of the new rooms; & the books are already too numerous for comfort in the Study & Library. Sam is now busy, carrying on a war of extermination against the Moths there, which have become very numerous & destructive. But I would enter a protest not only against books & pictures, but all other things not necessary & which can come under the charge of extravagance. Do be admonished, & study to be economical. And now upon the back of this I am going to give you a commission. When we were in Montreal, & I was going to buy some *fine* cotton stockings, you told me not to mind them there & you would bring me some from England. I cannot get *fine* ones here of a *large size*; our Ladies feet & ancles are all so small, that when stockings are *fine* they are as a matter of course *small*—I mean *short*; and having considerable length of body in other ways, I also have it in my foot as well as my fingers. Neal marks my shoes 5½. But I mean now to make a change in my order, & instead of *Cotton*, to ask you to bring me some more *Lisle thread* stockings. The weather is now so warm, I have been wearing what you brought me two years ago & I find them so very pleasant, & so much cooler than the Cotton that I infinitely prefer them.— The only objection is I *fear* they will not be so *durable*, but Marg't Adger assures me they will. She got some in England & has tested them.—

I have been interrupted by a visit from Mr. Porter,¹ he inquired very affectionately about you, congratulated me upon hearing from you, and inquired with much interest as to *when* I expected to hear of your arrival. I shewed him a Copy of

⁹Dr. and Mrs. Smyth had never really "kept house," but had taken most of their meals at Mr. Adger's, preparing at home only such light repasts as the children's supper. Mr. Adger always kept up a supervision of his daughter Margaret's pantry, regularly supplying many needs.—Ed.

¹A Presbyterian minister supplying Second Church.—Ed.

your S. S. Sermons, wh. Mr. Packard² sent me 3 days ago—he asked me to loan it to him, & *as I had already read it through*, I did so. * * *

Mother has just now been in, she lifts up her hands when she sees what havoc the workmen are making—I ask her if she has any message to you, she says “give my kind love, & tell him to come home soon.” John & his family expect to leave Smyrna 20th June, to come home, by the way of England—Adger is writing you a letter, but as it is quite an undertaking for him, he may not get it done in time for the Steamer—if he does I will add a P. S. but for fear he should not I will finish & send this to-day to ensure the mail. We are all well. I hope soon now to hear from you—ever yours most devotedly.

M. M. A. SMYTH.

CHARLESTON, June 22, 1846.

Tuesday morning.

MY BELOVED HUSBAND,

Can you realize that we have the weather now so cool that we sleep with all the windows closed?
Mrs. Smyth
to Dr. Smyth. * * *

Wednesday morning:—

Yesterday Fleetwood Lanneau came up to see me and brought me your likeness.³ I have been looking for it with so much desire, my expectations were so much raised, for I heard so much about it, that on opening it, as might have been expected, I was disappointed, for who was ever satisfied with *the picture* of one they love. Lanneau watched my countenance, although I carefully avoided any expression of my feeling by words. “Mrs. Smyth,” said he, “you dont like it,” and he seemed as much disappointed that I did not, as I was at the likeness. It is indeed a beautiful specimen of the art. *The eyes are good* but there is something about the mouth which spoils the whole picture, and yet some say they often see your mouth in just that position. I have showed it to everybody and as usual everybody has a different opinion. Father says it is not like you at all, James and Sis Susan that it could not be better, Mother and the others say it is very good. Do you know that Lanneau had eight copies taken from it of a small size, & brought them home as presents for his friends! He told me he knew he could not bring them anything which would please them more. * * *

Thursday morning, June 24.

²Secretary of the American Sunday School Union.—Ed.

³It has not been possible to identify this portrait.—Ed.

Yesterday afternoon, Jane Ann came to stay with our dear boy,⁴ while I would go to the Society.⁵ She is very fond of Augustine, & has above everyone I know a faculty of imparting instruction pleasantly. I like him to be with her. We had a large meeting of our Society. I took your likeness there & the ladies had great pleasure in looking at it. It was passed from one to another until I began to fear I should not get it again. How glad I am you had it taken for me, but I wish it had not such a sad expression, and such a falling of the lower lip. (Dr. Bellingier objects to the way the hair is arranged.) Still I think it is a good likeness, *decidedly* the best I have seen. * * *

The bricklayers are now busy at the walls of our new room. I wish very much you were here to have some things done which I know you would like, but in which I fear I will not be able to succeed. I cannot stand out and insist upon having things as you can. Still I hope the place will be comfortable when it is done. It is a very expensive job & certainly a very troublesome one. Although I wish you were here, when I want any thing altered, or any change made, yet upon the whole I am glad you are not. You could not stand the noise & turmoil, the exposure to the sun &c. I thought much of you the day they cut down the mulberry tree. As branch after branch was cut and fell to the ground I almost shed tears, as if each one was a friend, & when the naked trunk was torn down I could not but say "I am glad Mr. S. is not here to see this." I remember you told me once you would not take \$1000 for that tree, but it was impossible to save it as the new room will extend *past* where it stands. Houston promises to have all done 1st Sep.—

It will be ten days yet before I can expect to hear from you—it is a long time. * * *

Susan has just come in to take her morning nap & seeing your picture on the Table, she says "Sue wants to see Papa;" on getting it into her hands she says with much complacency "Sue's Papa, Sue loves Papa, Sue's Papa gone." She is a great and incessant talker & is improving very much in every way; is becoming a great favourite of her Grandfather's. * * Adger is a boy of uncommon promise, if his health is spared; he possesses a mind of more than ordinary power &

⁴Augustine was not well.—Ed.

⁵The Society for the Education of Young Men for the Ministry, one of the Church organizations, of which Mrs. Smyth was many years president.—Ed.

will be a student. God grant his powers may be sanctified & given to the highest and best of causes. My own dear Husband, believe that I am ever your devotedly attached Wife,

M. M. A. SMYTH.

A very kind letter for you from Smyrna—from
 The Evangelical Alliance. John. *If they come* they do so by way of London, leaving Smyrna the last of July. You may meet them there, if you attend the Convention. But I suppose you will not be allowed a seat, as you are from the South.

CHARLESTON, July 4, 1846.

—Saturday—

MY BELOVED HUSBAND,

Father has hitherto promised to bring me up a letter from you today, but now he says I must wait until Monday. I have endeavoured to wait with patience, but the time seems long, & I am now getting to be very anxious. I hope to be gratified next week. We were all up very early this morning; Father had promised the two boys to take them "to see the soldiers," & I accompanied them, for the first time in my life to see the sight. We went in the green carriage; Susan took Ellen & the two daughters in Robt's carriage; Ellison & Janey in Father's buggy. So we were all on the field. When we got home & had breakfast I brought the children all round, undressed & put them to bed, they had a fine sleep of two hours; then we all took a bath, got dressed again, & went round to dine on ocrasoup. Wm's family & Mr. Porter came to dinner. We had quite a family meeting, a good dinner, soup, iced melons, fine banannas, &c. &c. still there were some deficiencies. Robt. wanted his wife & children. & I wanted my husband, & the father of my children. This day of course will not be publicly noticed where you are & unless some American friend would remind you of it, it is possible it may pass unobserved by you. Here such a thing would be out of the question, for it is a jubilee among children, mechanics, & negroes, second only to Christmas. All the schools give holy-day, all workmen give the day. The course of people this morning on the Bay, the Battery, & the principal streets was immense, the windows all filled, & the streets thronged with ladies in their carriages. The shipping in the harbour all displayed their flags, they were hung too from all the public buildings. The bands of music with the soldiers, the firing of the cannon, the ringing of the bells, the noise of the negroes, all, all showed it was the 4th of July.

Mrs. Smyth
to Dr. Smyth.

Fourth of
July Celebra-
tion.

(Do you remember the first you spent here & your impressions then?) Augustine enjoyed it all very much. He is getting better, but has been for some time past under the Dr's care.

Sabbath. July 5. This day has been set apart by the Gen'l Assembly as a day of special prayer for our country in view of its present state of war. Mr. Porter preached a good sermon from "The Lord reigneth." * * *

Father asked me on getting into the carriage this morning at the Church door, if I would go down then with him & see for a letter from you. My desire to hear was great, but the offence I thought too glaring, & I declined his invitation, so *he* did not go. He told me this evening as he was retiring to bed, that he would go down before breakfast & bring one up for me. I trust then to hear, as there are now 3 or 4 mails due, that you have arrived safely & have been benefitted by the voyage. Good night, my own dear Love, may the Keeper of Israel, be ever near you. * * *

July 7.

My birth-day— If you do not remember the 4th will you remember this week of anniversaries? Will you remember *the 9th* that ever memorable day, 14 years ago?⁶ * * *

I have had the two daughters weighed—Susan weighed 24 lbs.—& dear, fat Sarah Anne—only 5 months old—16 lbs.—Sue is small but is now *very* fat, but she wore at *12 months* a little muslin dress you bought in Paris which is too small now for Sarah Anne. I wish you could see this darling, lovely babe. She is so fat & rosy, & so very fair, she has a complexion like that of our dear sainted Augustine, & she is so very, very good—so seldom is heard to cry. * * *

Adger is very docile, but his lessons do not I think sufficiently employ him now—he ought to be more advanced. I think when you return you must remove him to a higher school. Mr. Miller does not teach the languages. I have just paid him his quarter's bill—\$10.50. I did think some time ago that I would keep Adger at home during the three next months—but we have so many workmen about, so many little negro boys, from whom it would be impossible to keep him,⁷ that I have concluded it was best for him to continue at school. He will not be more exposed than at home to the Sun. * * *

⁶The 7th was her birthday, the 8th his first communion service with his congregation, at which James Adger and his son William were admitted to the Church. The 9th was their wedding-day.—Ed.

⁷Adger recollects constant yielding to temptation and playing with the little negroes (a sin committed also by Mrs. Smyth's grandchildren, to her ever-fresh horror); and tells that on one

MY VERY DEAR HUSBAND, *July 8, Wednesday.*—

Mrs. Smyth
to Dr. Smyth. I have just been gratified by receiving the tid-
ings of your safe arrival in England. Your
package containing a letter to the congregation,
(which I gave to Mr. Dukes,) a letter to the boys which has
pleased them not a little, & a letter to myself,—has been sent
up to me by Robert or Father. * * I suppose you have
been engaged with Dr. Scott, your hand writing & the ap-
pearance of your letters generally, indicate to me your weak
and nervous state. I look now, *anxiously* for the *next*
steamer. * * *

I am glad to hear you got the fly-brush safe on shore, I
must confess I did not expect it, and all your other goods &
chattels; but as the negro says "you are born lucky." Let me
know what your Aunt thought of it & how she received the
other things.

July 9.

Our wedding day—how do you suppose I celebrated it?
By attending another wedding in the same Church. * *
Fourteen years ago this same day, about the same hour, I went
to that Church as a bride.— How has the time slipt away, un-
consciously almost to myself! I can hardly realize that it is
14 years. One thing I do realize, that what was then hardly
confessed even to myself, is now my chief earthly felicity; that
I love you most sincerely and devotedly, and believe that I am
loved by you in return. * * *

We assemble together every morning in our chamber and
read together and pray for each other and for the dear absent
father and husband. I think I see the good effects of it, I
have resolved to do so always in your absence. * * *

Adger has taken your letter to school today to show it to
Mr. Miller. I gave it to Ellison yesterday to read & he took
it down town with him & showed it to Mr. Dukes &c. &c. So
your description of the icebergs will be quite public—it is very
good. * * *

Yours only and ever.

M. M. A. SMYTH.

occasion his father on his return home, finding that this law had
been broken, condemned the culprit to a whipping after dinner,
when he had time to attend to it. The nine-year-old sinner grew
anxious, and seeking his Mother, asked if she thought it possible
for Papa to give him that whipping now, as he did not want to
have to wait any longer. She, wise woman, sent him up to the
study to consult the oracle, with the result that the Doctor with
a softened eye, thought—well—that whipping would not take place
at all—but it must *never* occur again.—Ed.

CHARLESTON, July 24, 1846.

MY VERY DEAR HUSBAND,

After some days of anxious waiting the letters of the Steamer *Cambria* arrived yesterday, & I duly received yours of the 28th June & 2d July from Edinburgh & Glasgow. I am truly thankful that you feel yourself at all benefitted, & yet I desire to hear of more. Mr. Porter thinks you are keeping up too much excitement to derive any advantage; you are, as usual doing too much. I feel very sorry that you were not permitted to see your Aunt once more.

Mrs. Magee's
death.

It would no doubt have been a gratification to her to have seen you; & you might have been enabled to minister consolation & comfort to her in the trying hour. But it is all ordered wisely & well, & on some accounts I am glad you were not there. If your expectations are not to be realized to their full amount, I hope you will be enabled to bear the disappointment wisely & with patience, & realize the belief that it is best for you it should be so. If on the other hand they are realized, oh! may grace sufficient be afforded you. May you be enabled to bear prosperity meekly, believe me it is harder to bear than adversity. It brings with it greater dangers, & greater *temptations*, & oh! greater responsibilities.

* * *

I almost hope Thompson the Abolitionist will not agree to your terms of controversy, not that I think you unprepared or unable to meet & cope with him, but I think it will do no good in that country. & I think it will do *you essential harm*; by calling upon you to write & study & make mental effort, when you should be enjoying yourself, by relaxation from all study; & have left home for that very purpose. * * *

Our own dear children are all well; the three younger ones especially. Augustine with his curly head^s is now playing

^sAugustine's curly head possessed perhaps the tenderest corner in his Mother's heart, but it cost her her most serious disagreement with her father. The child was very handsome, and his golden-brown curls were allowed to grow long; while his admiring mother dressed him so handsomely, that she confessed afterwards to have overheard once, in the street, whispered comments as to such a costume for a minister's child. As he grew older and more conscious of such things he found both the curls and the attention irksome, so that when, one day, his grandfather suggested that he might like to have his hair cut, he joyfully agreed and fetched a pair of scissors with prompt obedience. Old Mr. Adger parted the hair in the middle, cut one side close, and, giving the

around the table at which I write, sometimes on the top of it, then on the sofa, or on the window seat; anon throwing himself out of the windows to the piazza floor. He possesses amazing strength. He is now quite full of learning to read, & is always spelling or singing Hymns. Little Sue is very fat & is I think more amiable. Dr. B. says her fretfulness is caused by her weakness; her inability to run about & cope with Augustine, & as she acquires more strength she will lose that sense of fear which often makes her now cry. Dear fat Sarah Anne is as lovely a babe as you ever looked at, & as good as she is fat. * * You will be surprised to hear (although not more than I am myself,) that I have sent Adger to spend the remainder of the summer with Elizabeth Ellison^o in Fairfield. I received an invitation from Wm. Ellison when Jane Ann came home, to send Adger up to him, & he would make him "strong & hearty"—& Eliz'th promised "to take good care of him." I thought at the time it w'd be good for the child to accept, but I c'd not bear to part with him, nor think of sending him alone, to be among strangers. Two weeks ago however I had a conversation with Dr. B. whom I met in James' room; he told me had for some time been noticing Adger with painful anxiety, unless his constitution was materially altered he would grow up a very feeble man; & recommended that he be removed from school, taken from books, & allowed to run wild, thought he ought to be left perfectly free & unrestrained, except as far as his morals were concerned, for at least 2 years. The family all urged me to send him to Fairfield, assured Eliz'th w'd take every care of him & that he would there get the kind of exercise most useful to him, blended with amusement. He will ride, climb, run, hunt, &c. &c. I proposed it to Adger, to my surprise he was quite ready to go; & although his heart did fail him & he w'd sometimes put his arm around me & say he did not want to leave me—especially his little Sister to whom he is very strongly attached, yet he went off cheerfully or I could not have let him

handful of beautiful curls to Augustine, sent him through the connecting back yards to his mother. Her outraged feeling cannot be described as she clipped the rest of the beloved curls. She confessed in later life that she made up her mind to go to her father's stable and shear the luxuriant tails of his highly-valued carriage horses. But she held herself in check and outwardly made the best of it, though it was years before she finally forgave her father.—Ed.

^oElizabeth Adger of the earlier letters, who had married Mrs. Adger's nephew, William Ellison.—Ed.

go. I have never felt so much in parting from him. His Uncle Wm. was appointed by Session to attend a meeting of Presbytery in Columbia & took charge of him that far on Wednesday. Wm. returned to day & tells me he was to go up to Winnsboro to day in the carriage with Joseph Adger & his wife, & that he was in fine spirits. I trust it will be for his good. Should I hear that it becomes sickly up there I will have him immediately brought home. I think this will be more to his advantage than sending him to the North. A holiday spent shut up in a Hotel, or in a Steam boat or Car is of no great advantage to him. * * *

CHARLESTON, *July 28, 1846.*

Trouble in
the Church
from coloured
members. * * I would have written you this letter
yesterday morning but just as I was preparing to
sit down Catto called, & as he seemed in trouble
I listened to his story until I found it too late.
I told him to write to you, he brought me up a letter this
morning which I sent to Wm. to forward. It will do for you
to shew there as from a negro in Carolina—but he is not a
negro. I don't know when I have been as much pleased with
the conversation of any one as with his. I am truly sorry
for the state of things as he represents them in the Church.
I would rather part with Johnson, Mitchell, & Matthews, all,
to retain him: but I am afraid he has made up his mind to go
either to Liberia or Hayti.¹ I do not know that we ought to
retain him, if he will have a wider field abroad. I told him
he ought to stay until you returned, & at any rate to go &
have a free conversation with Wm.— I gave him a copy of
your S. S. Sermon & loaned him a Geography which he
wished. * * *

CHARLESTON, *August 13, 1846.*

Saturday morning.

* * Little Sue seems to feel the heat, she is not well. I am sending her to the Bathing House every day. She is in quite good order though, & sometimes very playful. She attracts great attention down there, by the beauty of her eyes.

¹Dr. Smyth speaks of him later in Washington, he did not go to Liberia. See p. 205. But Joe Corker, a free man of colour, who was sufficiently intelligent to be, in a small way, a contractor, went to Liberia, taking with him his wife, Mom Sue, the children's nurse. The old woman was broken-hearted at leaving and did not live many years in her new home. She was perfectly black and always wore a head-handkerchief.—Ed.

Mr. John Crawford² dined with us on Thursday, when he saw Sarah Anne, he exclaimed "that is as lovely a baby as I ever saw, whose child is it?" I told him "*all* my children were lovely"—he said "they were, Augustine was a fine looking boy, but this child surpassed them all, she was a perfect *Camellia Japonica*."—Am I not vain to tell you all this! But it is all *true*, every word of it. Her complexion is beautiful, for this she is indebted to you, Augustine however is his Mother's likeness. He, & he alone of all our children at all resembles me personally. I have been led unawares into this preamble about the children. * * *

The coloured Church mem- bers. The affair among the coloured people they seem to have sifted very thoroughly, and unanimously agreed to suspend Matthews from the duties of Leader. Catto, they think, will remain. It has made a great stir among them. * * *

Mrs. Magee's will. I asked Father if he would write to you today but he said he had already said all he could to you. To tell you to hold on to all you could. It will have a strange appearance in the eyes of the world if a legacy to Foreign Missions should be contested by two clergymen. In Mr. Dill it will appear inconsistent. But if the other Legatees claim and get it—these cherymen might as well have their share. Father says the Missionary Society will not get it, at any rate:—it will all go to the heirs-at-law. Oh these riches, how they tempt us! How selfish, close, & calculating they make us. Your poor old Aunt, how little she thought those around her to whom she was so munificent, would endeavour to change the current of her charities.— * * *

My own Love, Farewell. May God keep you ever. The time is long till you return.

Your ever affectionate Wife

M. M. A. S.

Letter from my Father when 83, while I was in England. Though I insisted on helping him, he did not actually require it; and would have been comfortable (as he had erected a good stone house) had he not loaned considerable without security to my brother Robert, by whose death it was lost. He had a great passion for building, fixing, &c. and I told him to indulge himself within any reasonable limits.

²Of Columbia.—Ed.