

Philada. Jan. 13th. 1837.

My very dear Dr Mylie:

On last Saturday we received information of the painful bereavement you have lately suffered in the removal of our cousin Samuel. We had heard from Theophilus of his severe illness, but had cherished the hope that he would recover. This hope has been disappointed: he has gone "the way whence he shall not return."

We all sincerely sympathize with you, & Mrs Mylie, & the rest of the family, in your severe affliction, and Father has desired me to write to you to assure you of our heartfelt sorrow, & to express our affectionate condolence. We would regret indeed to open up again the fountains of your grief, but we would desire to bear with you the heavy burden which divine Providence has laid upon you.

There is something mysterious in the administrations of the Almighty's government, when we find one just entering upon a career of usefulness & honor, so suddenly cut down. In such cases it often happens that human reason & feeling find it difficult to say, "He doeth all things well."

Yet even human reason must perceive that "the
Judge of all the earth will do right," & we feel
that our Father in heaven cannot inflict
pain upon us, without some kind, & holy, & wise
design: we know that "He doth not afflict
willingly or grieve the children of men; it is not
for his pleasure, but for their profit, that they
may be partakers of his holiness." "What we
know not now, we may know hereafter," and
the disclosures of eternity will doubtless show us
that even the most painful events which have
befallen us, have been for our benefit, that "all
things do work together for good, to those who
love God, and who are the called according to
his purpose."

No doubt such afflictions are necessary for us.
We need to learn more the divine Sovereignty,
which it is so easy to admit in Theory, while, alas,
perhaps we are often so reluctant to yield
to it when it comes in collision with our
own preferences. Yet God is God just so far
as He is sovereign, and we are really denying
God, in so far as we deny his Sovereignty. He
has a right to do, and he will do what he
pleases, while we rejoice that he never can
do anything which is not just & good.

Then, too, we need to be drawn off from the World. It is strange that we think of it so much, & cling to it so strongly, & trust in it for happiness so constantly, when in any instant we may be obliged to leave it, and when certainly the time must come sooner or later that it can do nothing for us. Its inadequacy to supply what is necessary for our happiness is shown by such afflictions, and we are thus led to feel that "this is not our rest;" that our souls need something more & better than all the world could give us, something that the world can never take away from us.

And besides all this what a tendency such bereavements have to draw our hearts towards heaven. In the consolatory belief that our departed friends or relatives have "gone to be with Christ," "We may sorrow not as those who have no hope," since those who sleep in Jesus God will bring with them at His coming. Death is divested of much of its painfulness when we consider that it will reunite us to those whom we have dearly loved. Heaven possesses increased attractions when we regard it as the abode of those for whom we have had the strongest affection. We

have more treasure in heaven, & our hearts
will be more there also. The other world
will seem more like home to us, than this
does.

But dear Mr Mylie, I almost feel as if I should
not send a letter which merely expresses thoughts
which have been already much more clearly
before your mind. Yet if any of us had been
present with you, while we were mingling our
tears with yours, we would have been nat-
urally led to such reflections, and we know
that we are directed to "comfort one another
with such words." At least you will accept
of them as an expression of our sincere love
& regard for you all.

Please present our kindest sympathies to
Mrs W. & all the family.

Hoping that He who is the Father of mercies
& the God of all comfort, may comfort you
in all your tribulation,

I am with great affection & esteem
Truly Yours.

J. W. Mylie.

Rev. Mr Mylie.

Bloomington, Ind.