

Litchfield March 29th 1823

My Dear Sir

Your favors of the 20th & 25th current came together by last thursdays Mail. This evidences the mal administration of the P. Office business between this & Troy.

Your remarks on the vast & interesting importance of having clear views on the great Subject of being born again, & of attending to practical Delineations of the works of the Holy Spirit in renewing the Soul, accord perfectly with my own_ Nor do I remember to have found a more clear, disproportionate & scriptural Account of the operations of the mind, while under ^{^the} teachings of the Spirit, & ^{^the} wonderful power of God in humbling the Soul & bringing all the affections of the heart into sweet submission to the divine will, than I have found in the plain exhibition of facts which the Statement ^{^alluded to in your Letter} affords. It is to me a precious Document indeed, & I hope that you & my beloved Daughter may find it to be both instructive & edifying to your Souls. I shall give you the perusal of it with very great pleasure___

Last friday was set apart as a Day of fasting & prayer in this State. Dr. Beecher gave us an Exhibition of the first rate on the Occasion. His text was Psalm 130 Ch. & 3.^d Verse__ “If thou, Lord, shouldst but mark Iniquities, oh Lord, who shall stand.”

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The Doctrine advanced by the Preacher was the exceeding sinfulness of Sin. This he endeavored to prove in a great variety of ways, in his forenoons Discourse, & in the afternoon he took up the aggravations of our Sins as they will appear in the Day of final account. And truly, before he had finished his Subject, he made it abundantly manifest that we had sufficient Cause to humble ourselves before God. Before he closed, he undertook to answer some Objections, & among others he stated the trite Objection, If God is a sovereign God, & changeth not, what advantage can result from prayer, fasting, &c. The short answer is (& it ought to stop every mouth) that God being sovereign, has commanded it, & who dare disobey? But if this is not enough, we ought to pray not to change God, but to change ourselves; not to bring God over to the side of rebellion & Disorder, but to

reconcile as to him & to his government, which being holy, must & ought to endure___.

The Preacher then bro't his remarks to bear upon the Common Concerns of Life, & enquired what Farmer ever reasoned in this manner when he plowed & sowed his field_ God as a Sovereign had determined from Eternity respecting his Crops, but who ever inferred from thence, that it did no good to plow & till the ground?
[new letter]

Sunday Evening. March 30th

In reply to your Enquiries respecting board & Instruction for 3 Young Ladies, I would remark that yesterday M^{rs}. T. & I called at Judge Reeves & find that they have their full Complement of Boarders who have been with them thro' the Winter, & expect to be here thro' the ensuing Summer_ We then called at D^r Sheldon's, which is an excellent place for young Ladies to board_ Miss Lucy consents to take only four, two of whom have engaged places there^{^already} They can take two more, if notified soon. D^r Beecher can take 3 more, & John Brace & Miss Saltonstall can take a number. The Miss Edwards' are going to leave Town_ If your friends conclude to send their Daughters to Miss Pierce We will very cheerfully engage lodgings for them, if notified soon ~ Board is \$2 P Week exclusive of washing_ Miss Pierce has \$5 the Quarter for her Instruction, including art Geography, Grammar, ancient & modern history, Composition, Philosophy, Chemistry, Logic, reading, writing, spelling and needle work__ If music Lessons are taken, that will be \$12 P. quarter, & 5 lessons P week__ painting will be \$3., the Quarter. So much on the Subject of schooling~

I notice your remarks respecting the \$761.90 as well as the 3 bonds_ I do not expect the money to be paid before the 1st of May, when it will fall due. If you can conveniently send it to N.Y. & place it to my C^r in the Manhattan Bank, it will suit me well. If not I will draw on you pay^{ble} on s^d 1st of May at Troy_ As you inform me in your next, so shall it be done~ In reply to Maria's Enquiries about our hot bed, tell her that ours is prepared, but no seeds are in it, & that we have now a very severe snow storm~
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The revival has become powerful in Boston, & the evangelical Clergy call loudly for help_ Dr Beecher sets out this week to aid in the Glorious Cause_ Great good may be hoped from this Event. We have had Louis Dwight with ^{^ us} on that Errand Let us not forget to pray for that people, that the Lord will prosper his work~ I have no room, or I would tell

You how D^r Beecher out did himself this day on the future Glory
of the Church_ It was cheering to the heart to hear such
blessed, glorious, things bro't to view_ With love to Maria,
Sarah & the Children, I am affectionately Yours,

B.Tallmadge

[envelope]

B.Tallmadge

March 29th 1823

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Hon^{ble} John P. Cushman

Troy

Benjamin Tallmadge collection, 1933-19-0

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Litchfield Historical Society

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