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Letter from July 15, 1891

Lavinia Coombs

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June 23rd 1864

Dear Sir,

I think I have never written one of your letters so long unanswered for it has not been five months since I received your last which was sent Jan. 4th and received Feb. 12th.

And right I will say it was rather wonderful that I got it at all for the envelope was open on three sides and just a bit hanging on the fourth so why the letter didn't fall out entirely I don't know. However it did not and I was glad enough to get it. You wrote in the most of the changing about pastors and I was very glad for Boston that they voted as
soon found such a good man as Dr. Lewis, that what, 
Portland was to do was another point of the question, but I think 
you too to have been fortunate 
in getting her. Cali according 
to what I have heard I lived 
in other places but I have not 
heard what they did at Lowell 
place this left, and whether this 
circle started by the recent 
Marshall has reached the 
stone yet or we still wandering 
on and on. Perhaps we had 
better adopt the Methodist 
rule at once and remain 
prepared for continual change but it surely does not 
suit me the better way. 
I think it so good to have a 
pastor grow old with the people, but it rather strange 
that Mr. Pennie has got 
back to his first pastorate. 

was well-spoken of joining the church 
through by letter. I don’t very much 
this letter to Indiana where I care 
when this Hindopside church 
at once and now I’ve taken 
a letter from there and found 
were in Balacony I like to 
no belonging to the church where 
due stopping if it due likely to stay an length of time. 
my stopping in Balacony 
 however I am uncertain 
quantity. Mrs. Smith has 
gone nominally for high 
being monthly but she is old 
and fable and she stay is 
very uncertain it seems to 
me. I know she wants to 
come back and I think 
the world rather to here 
and be busy by her 
and. If I have come back 
I doubt between when did ever
I am alone again. Possibly some one may come out with her, or I may stay out here with her. There are thirty girls in the Orphanage and some of them are quite old; that is seventeen and nineteen years old. At that age it requires constant watching and care to keep them in the paths of rectitude, and sometimes the care seems more than I can endure.

I am helped to bear my burdens on the Lord and if it were not for this I think I should drop all and run away. An elderly person like Mrs. Smith does have more authority in her very appearance and I am sure it cannot be as hard for her to discipline them. This is all such new words to me.
The caring for their good health, their clothing, their manners, their souls is like becoming mother to this great family all at once and my work is right in this one spot, while all the years I've been here up to this time I've been going here and there to bananas, to schools, to villages and outside church and so forth. I've often thought I was spread out over too much, and now I find it rather hard to draw myself together and concentrate on this one spot. However, I know it's all right and I only hope I may do it satisfactorily. The Orphanage there is a school in two yards for Ceylonese.
Orphanage. Every morning at nine o'clock and immediately after, prayers are held with the men and women servants or those working at the place. I have a class of young men in the Sabbath school, and have been chosen one of the Church Committee, which meets one evening each month so that although I cannot go out among the heathen as I could formerly, I have abundant chances for work among the church members. The only chance I get at a heathen I at the servants' prayers. The two men who work the gardens are heathen, and a mason who is building a wall on the place. This is very different from what I should have planned but I know there is great need of work among our nominal Christians and I accept the work given me for two
now of my sickness and I must acknowledge the Master's hand. The war for June 11th is past and I see him. Stacey has written a bit about Mrs. Boyer. She was a good man he was, and the taking him away is one of the inexplicable things that do come now and then. Nobody can fill his place and he was needed so much. Strange providence! And yet we must acknowledge God knows best—and we know He doeth all things well. I shall never forget those nurse days in which we all fought that fever and did our best to hold him here but it was no use. Poor man! The delirium was pitiful for the first two or three days and he passed away without being able to say one word of comfort to his poor stricken wife. Allie was crushed never having in her life.
This year goes on with the work in the case, and has bravely continued to stay on and work till her children may be taken home, yet the joy has gone out of her life and the looks as dead and worn. They were most devoted to each other, and it is like taking half of her right away.

Mr. Hume. Ager have come from Ireland to stay here temporarily at least, and he is looking after the repair and pushing them on on the house for the High School and in which they now live. The school was to have begun July 1st but now it must be indefinitely postponed for there is absolutely no one to begin such a work. The Bowers have moved into that house in the spring and he had been
after her brother came to his end on the hills (the time, I think, the last of February and we had hoped she would begin to pick up at once but she did not, but rather grew more and more weak and nervous until at least the 25th of March) pronounced it nervous prostration and said he could find no certain remedy and that was a voyage to the sea around the Cape but if she could have a voyage where she was and her husband could come and stay with her and take the care of the family she might be able to resume her work by next coldest season.

Mr. Griffin was here then to help in the care of them but he had to leave immediately.

Mrs. Griffin went to her but had only been there two or three days when their little boy fell and broke his arm.
In two places and three doctor after that, they were all down with the flu and they were having a very bad time of it. The last letter from them received yesterday said they had all recovered to a certain degree but had bad coughs. The little boy's general health was good but the arm would probably always be stiff. It was broken at the elbow and must be fixed.

To complete this doleful letter I'll say that the rains are holding off and we have had almost none as yet and the earlier signs of famine are heard from many directions and besides this the arm and arm and swarms of locusts are devagating the country in various places. A flood came past our town the other day but did not settle.
Mrs. Fuller

Portland

Elmwood Dr.

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