

Sidney Place Nov 20, 1835

Friend Henrietta

Now that you are about to leave us, and to deprive us, of the pleasure of your society for a time, (we know not how long) I cannot permit the occasion to pass by without a parting word.

Along the journey of life, we not infrequently meet with persons whom we love to retain in our thoughts. Whilst the multitude pass by us, unheeded or forgot.

Why it is so, I will not stop to inquire, but ^{at this time} will only say, that I take great pleasure in assuring you, that you are not of the multitude, and that you share largely in my friendship and Esteem.

I know not how it may be with you, but with me, of all the emotions of my heart, none are so welcome, as those called forth by the kindly influence of true friendship.

You will pardon me I trust in speaking to you, familiarly as though we had been acquainted for years: for I always speak and write just as I feel, or not at all. Besides what has cold formality, to do, with friendship - Or why should travellers, having the same journey of life to make, continually remain strangers on the way.

Mrs Henrietta Whitlock
Friend

Now that I feel myself some what acquainted with you, permit me to say that I very much regret your leaving this delightful Village: thereby denying me the pleasure not only of your society, but also of beholding a countenance never discomposed by discontent - but ever bearing the impress of calm resignation.

You are about to leave near and dear friends - to dwell with others, equally near and dear to you. And were it not for the peculiar situation (as it respects health) of some of them here, your desire to remain with either would, ^{doubtless} be nearly equal.

As it is, I can well imagine of your being desirous to remain with your friends here.

I hope you may be prospered on your way to Macon with fair weather, comfortable quarters and good spirits. not of wind - but of the heart. I also hope that you may soon have firm health and return to this place in the spring, - with the best friend in this world - a good husband. I cannot forget to say to you that I feel thankful that you will leave behind for the consolation of your friends, the best sister in the world. You must excuse this unconnected communication, for it is done in a great hurry, and by a mind wholly unsettled.

Sidney Place Nov 24 1835

Friend Annette

I wish you to be careful of your health & to think of me, and a month at least -

In course of the fall or winter I shall if I live write to you, and hope when I have more leisure to write something to you worthy of perusal. This I know is good for nothing - only to assure you that I feel interested in your welfare. I shall bid you adieu for the present, and I pray you to accept of my good wishes for your health and happiness in both worlds.

Your Friend
M. J. Russell

Duney Place July 25th 1832.

To Miss Henrietta Whitlock
Dear friend

I am not satisfied with what I have yet written to you, and cannot resist the desire I have of saying something more to you - something more congenial to your feelings, and more worthy of your notice as a token of remembrance of me.

If I were better acquainted with you, I should better know better what subject would be acceptable to you, and should endeavor to shape my discourse, accordingly. As it is, I shall speak to you in a vein of thought most consonant to my present feelings, much wishing at the same time, that what I shall say may prove not unwelcome to yourself.

I can assure you I take great delight, in writing to those whose good opinions I much value, and by whom I wish to be held in remembrance. Especially if I can flatter myself that by so doing, I contribute anything to their happiness - For Happiness is the grand object and daily pursuit of us all - and though we never come quite up to it - yet we approach it, as nearly as mortals can, while here below - when we come to the full enjoyment of true reciprocal friendship. And nothing more readily induces that state of feeling than the opening the heart to a friend through the medium of writing. Under that exercise, the mind undergoes as it were a purification: The thoughts become elevated purified, refined, and the heart takes sweet delight, unalloyed by the drop of common talk.....

You have doubtless long since discovered the impotence of this world; and how little of happiness it yields to any of its votaries: and yet how prone we all are, to trust to it, as the only source of joy and pleasure. That Man

should not be permitted to taste the cup of pure bliss in this life,
I can conceive to be just and right - Our present affliction
is probationary - to purify us, and raise our affections above the
vanities of this life, that ~~we~~ we may enjoy a holier atmosphere,
than we here inhale: but that we being continually deceived by
the fair, yet delusive promises of happiness held out to us by the
world, ~~we~~ ^{should} still cling to them, as the only source of true
joy and comfort is to me one of the greatest of myster-
ies. yet this state of things - this propensity of our nature, if
wrong in us - is, we are bound to believe, ~~is~~ wisely per-
mitted by a wise and good Providence. And in this ~~thought~~
thought me how great consolation. Surely there is joy in
believing that our Heavenly Father is all wise, and full of benigi-
-cence And to what hope may we not aspire if we put
our trust in him - since He is the highest and best
source of all true happiness. I commend for the present
farewell - and may the best of Heavens blessings rest upon
you. Please accept what I have here written in
remembrance of me and as a small token of my good
will towards you.

Your Friend truly -
W. L. Gage