

Feb 22. / Jan. 1839.

I had yours my dear Nephew, on the 7th and tho' the lines were few & far between yet they contained high interest. Perhaps each impressed with his own imperfections & measure of his own virtues - is it so? the former I know - but not less certain of final success. Yes it is a fact as demonstrable as existence that the real lover of God tho' certain of failing every day in perfection is certain that God cannot desert him - he is certain that no flower springs in his youth - and that age is cold & desolate - yet he glories in his very sorrows - he can challenge that infinite & perfect Being in humble confidence to deprive him of joy while his providence orders his trials - May more were things of ill & good to be left to the cold & stern laws of generalities - were God what the revelation & ministry of His divine Son teaches - the heart that is devoted to Him would cheerfully wait till He were ready to remove the veil which prevents or only hides His immediate government. Where where the wisdom of patience & courage could we see the divine hand which allots so many trials? If I might go further & explain my ideas of this devotion which has hurried in so many heroes & martyrs it would be so severe as to admit of doing nothing about which there is a scruple - any profession in which there are known temptations. One chance to a million of such a bene- after as you & I expect and who should hazard those virtues essential to the spirit of that picture? And now I will express a favorite wish - that you might preach the plain perfect law of the gospel.

I never said ^{it} - you were so abused in the chief of
the old world - I don't presume to advise - if you
needed it - others more able - I only say that your
impassioned eloquence - your sympathy were what
should be laid on the altars of him who came
to seek & soothe. Your health is perhaps un-
equal to the task of continuing in those labyrinth
wh you have entered. If it did - if you could add to
the nice of the 18th character - better than to be a
modern unitarian. All that is sublime earnest - infinite
seems to have no place in their faith. They talk
of the middle in nature & Providence & revelation.
When the last confesses them - accounts for them to
all the purposes of the most undaunted faith - so that
the believer can be puffed with a divine ambition
and make mouths at the invisible world.

I am the more afraid of it since hearing of Chan-
nings P. sermon. What has he done? And one the
sermon I extract. Should he fall - it will be because
he has departed from old fashioned unitarianism, such
as Paul preached. Words is yet an enigma. My
brother & sister's opinion I do not know - so I speak
freely. But why do I prove? God himself will
direct you and bless your prayers yours of P. Aunt.

Give my love to father & sister I am in haste
as I must give ^{this} letter to the stepman to-
morrow morning - ^{they are} and I can't pay post. I beg you
never to pay. By sending this tomorrow it is pos-
sible I can have Dr W's opinion in a week. I
am glad you approve of E. Louisa. I often cherish my soli-
tude with her lively image. And wish you had
a like engagement. The sermon & whatever else you

you procure please to ask Father to discount for
me. He owed me 4^{ff} the 14 of last month. Mr Cham
berlain expects to be at Concord in a fortnight - if
not the person may come by mail. By trans-
mitting Dr H-'s opinion (which hardly seems worth
while) to ask - but I was writing to you & you
will oblige if it does not benefit. I was wondering
for health & boarded with a young doctor the
same