

Fire of Sin
anger, envy, selfishness
Pittsboro, 7th March, 1859

Dr. George

Grandpapa is thinking of coming to stay with you, which I am afraid will be a great loss to you, as you will by that means lose the fine opportunity you now enjoy of conversing by letter with me. - There is no finer way that I know of for cultivating the mind than by writing plenty of letters about familiar things. we must just try to make up the loss some other way.

In my last letter I was telling you and Anna about what a great fire, a little spark sometimes kindles. I told you of Cain's rebel and of Amencias's Saphines. There is just one other character to whom I should now like to refer you.

The spark of sin in his heart, took the form of covetousness, which means an inordinate love of money. It seemed to be always there, showing itself in little things, like a tiny spark. He joined himself

to a band of Frumble Men, who
cared so little about money, that
they put all that each one possessed
into a bag, for General use; and
this man begged, that he might
carry the Bag, and keep it for the
rest. He seemed to like to feel that
he could grasp money, and this
feeling increased so much, that
he could not bear to see the money
spent on lastly ointment to anoint
the put of his Traumbly Master.
Thus, by degrees Covetousness burnt
out all his feelings of affection.

He loved money better than any
thing else, and when the Temptation
came — "deliver up your Master to
us, and we will give you thirty pieces
of Silver" — that Master man
whom he had received nothing
but love and tenderness — that
Master with whom he had lived
so many years, and to whose in-
struction and mild counsels he
had daily listened, — instead of
shrinking from the Hoail pro-
posal he yielded. The fire of Co-
vetousness had been burning so long

that he could not check it, and so
it ragged on to his destruction, for
your bath, Ruoa, the painful end
of Judas. He went & hanged himself.

In these three instances I have shew'd
you how much sin resembles a
fire; if you will take your Bibles
and search them, you will
find many more, and if you
read the History of your own, or
any other Country, you will see,
in the lives of wicked men you
meet with them, how much sin
is like a fire; We shall find too,
that the men who did such evil
deeds, did not become bad all
at once, oh, No; if you will go to
them and hear their account of
themselves, we shall find that there
was a time when sin was but as
a Spark in their hearts, and that
if they had checked it then, they
might have been happy men.

Now there is one thing I want
to press upon your minds,
you all pass the Spark of sin

in your hearts, you know it is so,
and whether you do or not, this
you know that you feel there is al-
ways a readiness to do wrong
within you, oh, then; be careful to
check it in the beginning. Look
into your hearts and see whether
it is most likely to break out in-
to Anger, or lying or Selfishness, and
set to work at once (asking for
the help of Gods Spirit) to put out
the fire of Sin, whatever it may
be, with my love to Anne
& W.B. - yours,

Grandpa

