

sparks of fire

Pittou, 28 Feby 1834

Dr George

I have a letter from you
to day - with out date, I hope Sally &
you have got duct of your cold,
you should take good care not to get
your feet wet among the cold snow
and water - you have heard the old
Proverb, I suppose that Water & fire
are good servants but bad masters,

Every body knows what a comfort
it is to have a Fire when cold weather
comes, and the wind blows keen &
chilly. I have say you have found
it very pleasant of an Evening, when
you have been out Building Sundry
men & Snow Houses, to gather round
a nice fire with your Partners and
Matters & Sisters. But suppose that one
of these Evening's, when you were snug
and warm in Bed, a blazing Spark
or Coal should have flown into the
Room, and Burnt away while no
body was near, till you were awak-
ed by the crackling noise, and smoke
caused by the House being in flames,
your Paper runs to you, Seizes hold
of your arm, and rushes out with

you in Great haste, just in time to
save your Life, while the Roof of the
House falls in and all his Property
is Consumed. — "What!" you would say,
"Can this Dreadful work all come from
that little fire, by which at last
Ending?" Is it possible that that little
Fire could do so much mischief?
Yes, it is even so, you remember how
last year, Burnside Hall, together with
a Number of Papers Books and
Specimens were destroyed, from
some such little Spark of fire.

The English Cathedral also of your
City was being lately Consumed by
the continuation to some such small
Beginnings — Now a Text came into
my mind when I heard of these
things, and I thought that I would
write to you about them, so that
you could talk about them to
Anna & W. B., and so that you might
all see how much sin is like a fire.
The Text is "Behold how Great a fire
a matter a little fire kindleth."

To help you to understand and re-
member it, let us take only the three
words, "A little fire".

There were once two Boys who loved
Praying, they had grown up together,
but one was better than the other, and
more obedient in his conduct than
his Elder Brother. It happened one
day that they were out in the fields
together, and a little Spark of Sin
in the form of Jealousy, came into
the Elder ones heart. He did not
check it, for he did not like his
Brother, to be better or more be-
loved than he was. The Spark burst
on to Anger, and just as Smoke
shows when there is fire within,
so his face was stark and clouded,
and showed that anger was there,
but soon it blazed out into Rage,
and he lifted up his hand, seized
a Club, and killed his Brother.
Altho' he did not at first mean to
do this; No, but neither did he check
the Rage ^{or fire} of Anger, so that it became
his Master, and destroyed him;
for God set a mark upon Cain, and
there he stood till some Blasted
Ruins Ruin again to become the pain
Tumple which it had once been, not
Sin then till a fire.

I must tell you of two other persons, they
were husband & wife; at the time they lived
Christians were very self-denying, and were
ready to give up a great deal of their
property, and sometimes their lives even,
for the cause of Christ. Now, these two per-
sons wished to be thought very good, tho'
they were not ready to make the real
sacrifice; so a spark of sin in the form of
deceit shrouning up in their hearts, and
they began to say to each other, "what can
we do to make people think that we are
giving up all for Christ, without actually
doing it?" Now, they were very rich people,
and possessed some land, so they consulted
how they might deceive about it, was not
this like blowing the fire to make it blaze
and so it did, for at last they agreed to-
gether to tell a deceit lie. you, no doubt
remember what the lie was which Ananias
and Sapphira told, and what followed;
how it was no sooner uttered than the
hand of God fell on them and destroyed
them both. How like a fire was this; as
rapid in its progress, as fearful in
its consequences? (More of this next week
meantime send my love to you all