

1028/62/14

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"The Parsonage"

Weston²⁰ 4 Sep^r 76.

My dear Cole,

^{Hart} A young man at Miss
Hart & Rowlinson's handed me
a parcel a few days ago & I so often
get parcels from them that I little knew
what it was: however I find now I
am indebted to you for it & much in-
debted too: After much effort (or I am
very obtuse) I have managed
the two first chapters & wanted to make
myself master of them, but it has all
ended in a conviction that there is
something wh^{ch} is uncommonly un-
usual I find. I can not say "know" to
be right: but wh^{ch} I fail in explain-

ing to myself; yet ought to be quite
clear to me, because it may soon
to conclusions w^{ch} I must accept or
refuse; but w^{ch} will be dependent on
these difficult premises. Perhaps.

They are the more difficult because
new to me. This originating know-
ledge from mere consciousness, cor-
rect as it may be, is new to me. We
have been so much accustomed to look
on our consciousness as a sort of
reality without a value, that when
called upon to accept it as the true
foundation of all future knowledge we
do not know ^{how} to arrange our ideas to
think of it; at least I an old man
find it difficult. Light always
seems to be the same by w^{ch} we

learn most, & earliest; but here
consciousness w^h seems to have
nothing to do with sight, actually displa-
ces it. Look for a great treat and
advance in the book, I am sure it will
interest me greatly, though I feel sure
you have over estimated my ability to
comprehend such subjects. There is no-
thing more perplexing to an old man than
the entire destruction of w^ork, foundation
ideas. Yet to have correct general ideas
is all important. Our conclusions surely
can not be correct unless our first prin-
ciples are so. Moreover, it does seem so
late in the world's history to say that know-
ledge must be based on the study of men-
tal facts & v. v. Every word of such a
proposition is a stumbling block w^h
my old limbs can with difficulty clear.

I am really delighted at the gift,
while ashamed to acknowledge my in-
ability to comprehend the subject ade-
quately. I feel sorry at the expense your
affection put you to, while at the same
time I am proud to acknowledge it as shown
towards myself. It was very thoughtful
& very kind of you, & adds another & yet
stronger testimony of the affectionate re-
collection you have of the pleasant times
we have spent together.

What a loss it is that in this country
we have so few who will read & converse
upon such subjects as Mirac brings to
the surface. None could talk of these things
one might soon come to understand them.

Hope to see you again, if you get
away at the end of Sept. The "Reheat" is
the 26th & four following days. My kind
remembrances to Mr. Francis with many
thanks & affectionate acknowledgments of
your love & esteem believe me

Yours, your very sincere friend

W. A. Johnston.

High Church retirement.