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Clare-Hall, St. John's, Antigua B.I.

June 27th 1871

My dear Johnson,

As you may fancy my thoughts
to day went by telegraph to Boston, and I am
spending a deal of time in the old arm chair
with you. The worst part of the business is,
that although you are visible to me, you
are as dumb and silent, as Ghosts who come
to earth. The paper cutter is in your hand
and the Church Times is being opened and
you are gawwling about Bennett and
Purkes, but having it all you wont converse,
till then I will come back from reverie to
earth and take to writing. Here I am in the
good Bishop's house; over an examination
and waiting to go down to Lewis to take
up, as Rector, the United Parishes of St. George

and St. John. It seems very wonderful
very mysterious. The way I have been led
does not justify, but it awes me. I have
been so passive in it all, so determinately
in-active, and others have so shaped out my
course, that I feel inwardly tranquil
yet so resolved, that I trust fully in Him
and towards Him, who can do as he wills
with His Son. On Saturday the 25th in the
Cathedral, I was called to the holy order of
Priest and now here I am flesh and blood
set to do Gods work. The time is short and
there is a deal to do, but having stood so
long in the market place idle and no
man having hired me, now that I have
found a Master let me go in too for
the penny. The work is very severe and
the area comparatively large and populous

but still I can do a great deal. I want
to keep up my four services, ^{and three} on Sunday
on Wednesdays and Fridays; and I have just
got one school going with 115 children. In
St. John's Parish, I have been bundling out
a three-decker and kitchen table, and have
got in a neat chancel, proper altar, lectern
Pewer desk and 10 new settings round the
chancel. By degrees things will go well. I wish
you would lend me the address of the man who
sent you the paper for the church. I want
to get as much as will do the chancel walls
of both churches. How I wish I was near you
now. I don't despair. Some day when I have
set the two old decayed panes up and
made the work easy, I will run back to the old
place and end my days in the snow.

My wife's health is very bad again and her
fever increases very much. She has
had

a very large abscess in the hand which I
was obliged to open four days before I left
Newis. I go down tomorrow on the Steamer when
I hope to find her better. I am trying to get
you a collection of ferns which I hope to find
an opportunity of sending through Halifax.
I have not looked at an object since I left
Toronto, and I dare not even think for five
minutes of any work that is past. We won't
talk about it. I long to hear from the Provost
for he does give one such good advice
and useful hints. Darling I will write to and
through shall by mail they have been very kind
to me. Tell Mrs J. I received her letter and felt
rejoiced at the comfort Arthur had given her.
Now my reading for examinations is over, I will
have more leisure for writing and dear Oster
shall have a scrawl. Tell Sam I will send
him a letter about getting the Medical Books
Oster can help him select them. Love for all
Farewell old fellow. Yr affec^d Wood