

1028/69/16

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"The Parsonage" Montm Aug 27 1873

My dear Osher,

I am really ashamed to look back at your last kind letter & see how long it has been unanswered. I really can not tell what I am doing but I never get a moment to spare. I have given up the microscope & every thing that might occupy a few minutes & I take myself entirely to the Verky School: still I have not time. I really am ashamed to own it. The school occupies me from 9 to 4 daily. Then I had to go to Thunder Bay on Lake Superior a 10 days trip at the least & by spending a couple of days there it lost a fortnight. Then a Confirmation on the 24th. & before it a festival day for the Guild of St Lawrence. This went off well I must enclose a programme of it. Everything is much as usual here. Do you people. A good work is doing on those that remain, but it is very precarious when always singlebranded. My daughter M^{rs} C. F. Miles has just come down & intends staying with me during her confinement. After that if she does well I suppose she will return to Prince Arthur's Landing. John, who is now going into his second year at medicine I want to send if I can so arrange it to Montreal for a winter. I am in hopes it would be the means of breaking through a circle of Toronto acquaintances who seem to be always finding some kind of amusement for him to take part in & he becomes a sort of general favour ite but this is not beneficial for study. I have not been able to get over to Drucdas this summer. I have not even seen the little baby yet. I dare hardly go now M^{rs} Miles is here for a few days; because she has

Come down for the sake of being near me. I suppose by
the time you get this you will be thinking of going to Vienna
for the winter. It will be a great thing for you if you can
accomplish it. There are usually so many English on the
Continent during the winter months, that I suppose you
will find our branches of the Catholic Church represented
there & perhaps well represented. If not, you will feel the
loss of your religious opportunities. Where one is accus-
tomed to returning opportunities of religious refreshing, we
soon feel their loss. The heart of all other things is least a-
ble to keep stationary for a little while. In a single day it retro-
grades though for months we cannot notice any advance. Out-
ward acts, well viewed singly, & from the difficulty of fixing
our minds on one thing, are oftentimes mere formal, & trivial
acts in themselves, still seem necessary to keep us from fal-
ling away. Old Satan is cunning & wise. He never makes
a dead set at the citadel, he just removes a stone or two of
the defenses. He does not touch the crop of corn he only lay
down a rail or two & then the cattle break in & destroy it for
him. That German Peitry or some such name caught
a good thought when he made the famous painting of
Satan playing at chess with man for his soul. Man
is represented as having taken some valuable pieces
from Satan, but Satan has taken all mans pawns but
one. This is his old game. Those who would be rich
should take care of the pence & the pence will take
care of themselves so those who would be holy must
use little opportunities or they will never value great
ones. Let me hear from you again when you have
time. Your letters ^{are} life & pleasure to me. May God pro-
per all your undertakings & give us a happy meeting
some of these days again. Your affec^ted friend
W. A. Johnson