

Translation

My respected & beloved Mother

I have always known that your heart was full of inestimable treasures of goodness & benevolence, & I was happy in feeling assured that I was considered worthy of the affection of such a heart. But now, in my recent affliction during the illness of my dear Child, I felt all this more than ever, & with deepest emotion I realized all your affectionate & consoling attentions which I knew proceeded from the depth of your Maternal heart.

Be assured, beloved Mother, that these evidences of your love & those looks of sympathy were <sup>alone</sup> sufficient to assuage my anxiety during those days of sorrow through which I have recently passed.

Allow me then to express in  
writing my feelings of deepest gra-  
-titude, inasmuch as my emotion  
prevents me from doing so in words;  
although I feel & know that  
"words" can but feebly express  
what my heart dictates within.

May the Omniscient God  
abundantly & richly reward you  
for all the deeds of benevolence  
& kindness you have done during  
your valuable career in life. This  
is the prayer which from the  
depth of her soul, your grateful  
& loving daughter offers to God  
in your behalf.

Catharine Kristomanon

Athens

7/19 March 1867

Answer,

My dear  
Christian friend

Your very affecting note has deeply moved me, its expression of Christian sympathy has found its echo in my own heart;

There are on earth no bonds so strong as those which unite Christians together in one great family: This is the root of all true sympathy, and we realize in it, the truth of the Apostle Paul's declaration respecting "the body of Christ, which is His Church"; "When one member suffers, all the members suffer with it". This is so evidently our duty, as Christians toward each other, that it seems almost strange

than when overruled it should  
be remarked. I was only dis-  
charging this bounden duty,  
which has called forth your  
sweet expression of Christian  
gratitude.

I rejoice that our  
~~prayers~~ have been heard,  
and that our dear Melpomene  
has been spared ~~to~~ to be  
a comfort to her dear Mother  
and give a soothing balm  
for the many wounds her afflic-  
ted heart has sustained.

With the assurance  
of my sincere Christian love

Believe me  
Your Mother,  
In the bonds of  
Christ

F. M. Hill