

Rev^d J. A. Hill

Brooklyn 12th December 1851

My Dear Sir

If you and your good Lady have not long ago crossed our names from your books not only as absent but insolvent debtors, allow me anew to acknowledge our indebtedness, if we can do no more toward cancelling the account; as the anniversary of our interesting visit at Athens ^{came} around the last week, we were especially reminded of those kind friends, who contributed so essentially to make that visit so specially agreeable, the vivid impression of which has not at all been effaced from our hearts and memories, and we often with fresh delight linger upon those hours, so that if we have failed to manifest in any adequate degree our sense of regard for you, or interest in your missionary labours, it's not because we have not had an abiding appreciation of both. We should delight to spend another week on your despoiled but more than classic soil, that pleasure we may never again enjoy, — our most interesting tour through scenes classic and sacred afford a rich fund for reminiscence which, I trust will not be exhausted while life lasts, and as we review our journals and call forth from the recesses of memory the scenes of successive days as their anniversary occurs they seem but as the events of yesterday.

We were delighted to enjoy a short visit from Mrs Bul last summer and to hear from her as well in our enquiries from your friends here of your continued health, and I hope your fire side may long be the abode of health, and your interesting school (and other labours) continue to shed intellectual and heavenly

light upon those so much needing those benign influences,

We would gratefully acknowledge the good hand of our Heavenly Father not only in conducting us safely through the perils of our long journey, but in the health and mercies He has shed upon us around our own home — sweet home in this land of privilege & peace, we often feel I trust with some deep impression that few of earth's dwellers have so much to be thankful for as ourselves,

You are aware that our niece had become the wife of Dr. Francis Maskeo of New York a very fine and distinguished young practitioner — and I have delayed to write this sheet for a few days that I might say as I now can that she is a Mother, and doing very well they have a daughter born on the 8th inst)

The Political agitation growing out of our extended territory and the system of slavery has greatly subsided and I trust the result of all the excitement will be the occasion of cementing the Union of these States in enduring Bonds, there is nothing too vast or good for us as a people to accomplish if united and virtuous, If but the leaven of the Gospel is here diffused what a magnificent prospect opens before us, I think in general the cause of vital religion is extending its influence although we have much — very much to grieve over,

Dr. Shapley and sister we have not seen since we parted with them as we were quite willing to do at Cairo. They have returned and are in Philadelphia, By the way as you are a constant reader of the Observer, I will tell you a secret which is unknown to most of my friends here, — You may possibly have read some

some of the rough sketches they have published occasionally for several months past - "From Notes of a recent traveller" which have been contributed by your humble servant, the last article was under the head of Miscellany Nov. 20 "The Music of the Spheres" where I have attempted to describe an exceedingly interesting phenomenon realised in the Desert - The Noise Produced by the circulation of the Blood, If you have the file please see what you think of my theory of "John in the Wilderness" as well as my suggestion in regard to the "Wild Honey" of John in the article on Jericho and its plain - but enough of this egotism,

The coming events in Europe seem to shed a dark shadow before them, and portend the flow of rivers of blood I apprehend, the next uprising I think will be sanguinary in the extreme - happy lot ours to be so far removed from those scenes which seem so inevitable,

I hope you will find time to let me hear from you by your own autograph ere long

Mrs Howe joins me in affectionate remembrance to Mr Hill & yourself as well as Miss Elizabeth and Miss - whose name I do not recall

To Dr King's family and Mrs & Mr Bud please present our kind regards, - Mr Sands family are I believe quite well, and I have no news of special interest to communicate and remain

P.S. Mrs Howe says I have said nothing of Fiske Howe for a promising black eyed youth of seven months, who with his mother are in good health

Very truly Yrs
Hester Howe

~~Paris~~

~~Nov 27 1852~~



Rev d J H Hill

Athens

Greece

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Stedman Humboldt



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