Newcastle on Tyne, 26 Dec. 1851

To the Revd J. Hill

Sir

At the suggestion of Dr Winterbottom and a friend as to the two young men, Henry and George Barras who visited your City last summer, I venture to address you. We found by their Journals, and were also apprised of it by their letters, that you and Mrs Hill had shewn them much kind attention and likewise by your advice their short stay in Greece was made much more profitable to them than without it, it would have been. My saying their Journals and letters gave us this information will have prepared you for what I have to add, viz. that an allwise but mysterious Providence decreed they should never return to their native land! At Milan, on the same day, the 24th of Augt the spirits of our dear Boys left this earth. It was not until the day of their decease that their Parents had knowledge of their indisposition. They instantly set off to them, but though they travelled night and day (excluding the necessary delay in London for a Passport) on their arrival at Milan they found they had been dead 9 days! It seems they were unwilling to alarm their Friends by giving intelligence of their illness hoping it would soon pass away, but it proved Typhus fever which could not be subdued and which they told their Medical attendants they had caught at Venice. Their sorrowing Parents had the consolation of learning that all human efforts had been tried to save them, and that all kindness and comforts ~~that~~ had been afforded them which their situation admitted

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The latter laments their proceeding to Greece at the time they did and fancies they caught there what is called "the Morea fever" If Mrs Hill can furnish any particulars respecting them it will be greatly treasured by the inquirers. I am sure it will give you all pleasure to learn that time is laying his hand very gently on our honoured friend Dr W— who continues to cast his bread upon the waters, and in contributing to the wants of others ensures their happiness and paves his way I doubt not to the bosom of his Saviour in the world to come. I beg to subscribe myself with much respect yours very truly Mary Barras.

Most providentially too they were spiritually cared for by the Revd. Augustus W. Noel who happened to be at Milan and also by the Minister of the German & French Protestant congregation there. The former addressed to my Brother a most consolatory letter ~~to my Brother~~, telling him he had administered to them the Holy Communion the Sunday preceeding their death which they received with much comfort and expressed to him their entire resignation to the Will of the Almighty whichever way their malady might terminate, he also spoke of their brotherly attachment each being more anxious for his Brother's welfare than his own and concluded by saying he would do the Master of the Hotel injustice if he did not bear testimony to his unceasing kindness and attention to them and the Italian clergyman whom my Brother and Sister saw bore a like testimony to Mr. Noel's.

In George's trunk was found your present to Dr. W— and the note you had written to George with it. They were forwarded to the Dr., who would have written ~~then~~ his acknowledgement, but he daily expected to receive from you the letter you mentioned in your note as having the intention of writing him. Since then we have learnt that you also have been ill and Dr. W—, who has rather an aversion to writing, has urged me to do so in the hope that he may shortly hear either from yourself, Mrs. Hill or his friend "Elizabeth" an assurance of your restored health. Having then the opportunity afforded me, I venture on behalf of the sorrowing Mother and bereaved Widow, to ask what appeared the nature of Henry's indisposition to which Mrs. Hill benevolently administered? To me it seems to avail little when the malady had been caught, but to the Mother and Widow nought seems to them so acceptable as the relation of any circumstance connected with them;

5/10/15

Rec'd 12 Jan 1852
Ans 19 Jan

The Rev. J. H. Hill
Athens
Greece

post paid

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CUMBERLAND

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