

Bridgeton, March 8. 1891.

My dear Mrs Belden:—

I am writing to say—if I can—how our hearts go out to you in sympathy and love in this time of your sore trial. The sad news came to us through the daily paper on Wednesday evening, being communicated by Mr Cochrane who received it by letter. He was here attending upon the closing hours of the life of his Aunt, Mrs Hamilton, who died on Friday. My inquiries on Thursday morning left no room to doubt the facts so I wired, as you know. My sincere thanks are due your friend Miss (?) Bowman for her kindness in writing just what we wanted to know, and her tender Christian letter was greatly appreciated. It came on Friday, and it was "Missionary night" at our prayer meeting, when we are always led to remember Mr Belden and his zeal for missions. Only half the hour was given to that subject, the other half being devoted to prayer to God for you. I trust Miss Bowman will forgive the liberty I took in reading her letter to our people, it said just the right things in the right way, and the people listened in a silence that I could feel. Then, after prayer, they asked me—by rote—to tender you in my own way their Christian sympathy and love. I am only sorry that my expression of it must be so poor. Mr Bridges also spoke very feelingly, and again, in his prayer at the morning service to-day remembered you tenderly.

We shall hope day after day to hear some word that warrants an expectation of recovery, but in such a case we know the comparative helplessness of human

effort and the wonderful power of God's support in enabling us to - wait.

I trust that you are so entirely recovered from your own illness that your physical strength will serve you now when the demands upon it must be so heavy. I have many times thought of and appropriated what you once wrote to my sister: that you always found that just before your burdens became too heavy to be borne the Lord sent you help to bear them; and I can only quote your own words back to you, commending you and the dear children to the help of the great burden bearer.

I have just recovered from my own confinement under the surgeon's hands, and I find abundant reason to be thankful for blessings which came to me during that time and which I can now see that God chose just that time and that way to send.

My wife and baby and my mother's family are all well.

May God bless and keep you all.

Sincerely,

Ed. M. Fithian.

P. S. Andrew Mahr asked me to send you his earnest sympathy.

Ed. M. F.

To
Mrs Wm H. Belden.
Bristol, Conn.

Ans. Mar. 12th

3/5/81



Mrs Wm H. Belden.

Bristol,

Conn.

