

"Thou remainest."

Aug 11th 1896

My dear Ellen

Mrs. Steven and I were very much surprised and pained at the sad news of your dear Papa's removal, and we are feeling very much for those who are left behind, your dear Mother, Mary & yourself, Lina, Willie & Selden. It is so short a time since we were with you, the is so real to our minds, that it is not easy to realize that he is away. Oh what must the change have been to him. His was a ripe Christian spirit, and he was indeed "ready" for the Master's call. It was so gracious too that it was so quick, both for him and for you all. The Lord, who has stricken, will also bind up the wounded hearts, & He will be "a husband - in all his tender love & care - to the widow & a father - in loving protection & guidance & supply - to the fatherless.

Mrs. Steven is feeling very much with you at this time, & I know she is hoping to write to your dear mama soon.

It does not look very likely that we shall have you with us for your promised visit very soon, but I trust your dear mama and yourselves will remember, that we hope and expect you to come whenever you can.

Our visit to Clifton with long remains in our memories, and the best part of it was the loving kindness and heart fellowship we met with in your dear Father, Mother and yourselves. We want that the friendship thus begun shall be continued.

You will be sorry I know to learn that my own dear Mother in England has cancer, and is drawing toward the close of life. It may be that Mrs. Steven & I may go to England in a few weeks on her account and to remain until after her removal. You will be glad to know that little Ernest is very well & growing, he can almost crawl now & is very bright, the other two children Winnie and Walter are well, though the weather is very hot, & they feel it a good deal.

I must not stay to write more just now as I am very busy preparing China's millions for the press.

With warm greetings in the Lord to each of you and your dear mama from Mrs. Steven & herself.

I am yours faithfully in Jesus.

W. A. Steven.