

Sympathy letter

1896

Qued. Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>  
at Presbytery at  
Hrauchville N. J.

My Dear Mrs. Belden,

I write, hurriedly, this morning, merely, to assure you, if that need be, of our sincerest sympathy in your sore sorrow. We knew nothing of your affliction, till last Thursday evening, when we learned that your dear husband had ended his earthly life to enter upon the heavenly, thro' Mr. Larned. I should have written you, at once, but I have been watching night and day, for three or four weeks, at the bedside of a sick Elder. Yesterday he, too, went to Heaven. And, now, I must get ready for the funeral. As it seems, our loss can not <sup>be</sup> repaired. But yours and the dear children's,

how shall I speak of that. For I do not know how great it is. But I do know something of the unspeakable comfort, that must come to you all in your sorrow. I recall the useful life in the ministry; his service to his Master; his consecration to Missions, & the stimulus his words and work gave to the cause, and roused others to a like devotion. All this and much more, of which you know better than I, was not laid away in the grave, where you laid his dear form. It all remains, & will remain to continue to honor God and bless the world. He rests from his labors, and reigns with his Lord.

God comfort and support you all. Mrs. Clive is not very well. She joins me in sympathy and love.

Sincerely Your friend,

Phillipsburg, N. J., E. Clarke Clive,  
August 10th 1896.