

Bridgeton N.J. May 25¹⁸⁷³
Rev W. H. Belden

Dear Sir

Yours of recent date, duly recd. and was read with much pleasure and deep interest.

Very often, have you been in my thoughts, and very often have I inquired, after your well fare.

But letter-writing, being so very little practiced, by myself, said thoughts and inquiries never reached readable shape.

I was very glad to hear from you, as, I assure you, I entertain a most affectionate feeling, for the deep interest you have shown, and ^{do} still show, for me.

I am glad to know of your increasing strength, and sincerely hope that life and strength may be allowed you for many more years of usefulness.

I am getting along slowly, enjoying
a goodly portion of health. Should
like to see it. I shall be seventy-three
years old on August 18. next.

My sons family, is. And our mutual
friends in general, ^{are} as far as memory
serves me. in good health and join
in wishing to be very kindly remem-
bered to yourself and Mrs B. We
shall expect to hear from you
again. when you have the time
and strength to devote to that purpose.

With affec regards

I am Yours

John. S. Holmes.