

could have it otherwise. If she could only be made to see how  
I let in bringing reproach  
upon her parents. I do  
indeed thank you for telling  
me the truth about her.  
What I want to know  
always - and I hope you  
will tell again when  
you - can I tell  
not - expressing my own  
that my child should  
Carry you and your  
as much. unpleasant  
man. Oh - I do pray that  
she may be comforted  
soon - as I do not want  
these precious years  
and I keep a sorrowful  
memory of her. I hope she  
your gratitude. P.S. I do

enough for your letter about my dear  
child. Tho' my heart was and is pain-  
ed beyond expression. You promised to write  
the truth to me and I am glad to know  
the truth - so that I shall the better know  
how to pray and write. All these months  
I have been feeling in the dark, tho' my  
heart has had many wrongings.  
Dear Mrs. Belden - What can I say? Why?  
Oh! why should this be so! Poor mistaken  
child! How I pity her. But there is no  
excuse for her. She is going against  
all her early training and against  
what she knows & she fights as well as I  
do. She was always strong willed - self  
willed - but she had such a tender con-  
science and would do what she knew

to be right. And I remember leaving  
said during the two first years we  
were at home. That if Helen never gave me  
more trouble than she had thus far in  
her life - I would be a happy woman. She  
is more like my father in many ways  
than any one else. but it was not till late  
in her thirteenth year that she began  
to develop these tendencies to sarcasm  
and unkind criticism and doubt. and  
I attributed that to physical causes very  
largely and believed they would pass  
off very soon. She has not been happy  
any of this time - and she never will  
be till she makes herself right with  
God. But oh! my dear friend I never  
dreamed that she could be so nearly  
as to disturb the peace of your happy  
family - and I hoped so much from  
the influence of your dear girls -

It hurts me so to think that a child  
of mine should do such things and  
be thus spoken of - It is too bad too  
bad and I am so sorry for you and  
your children - I did not think it

of her - indeed I did not. and you  
who had so much charity for  
her - and I know would help her if  
she would allow you - May God just  
give her - and me too - if in any way  
I am to blame - It is all so different  
from any thing one would have ex-  
pected from her - and the only way  
I can account for it is that she is  
fighting God's Spirit. Oh! it is hard  
hard. To be so far away and have  
these things to bear - and the un-  
certainty of what I shall hear from  
month to month - I dread to get another  
letter - I fear she will conduct her  
self so shamefully that you will  
be obliged to send her away - and  
oh - where will she go - what will she  
do - Pray God have mercy on her -

She will be a power always - either  
for good or evil because of her  
strong characteristics - and oh!  
the pity of it that those powers could  
not all be used for God. Last  
week I felt that I must tell our

friends here and ask their prayers  
for her - for they knew and loved her  
as a child. And Mrs. Fay tried to con-  
fort me by telling me that Dr. Paulene  
Bost was one time in the same state  
of mind and turned against ev-  
erything. But oh - I fear Helen will give  
her self to evil in such a manner  
that she will grieve away God's holy  
spirit. Do hold on to her if you can -  
dear Mrs. Budden - we are praying for  
her day and night. She wrote to us in  
the summer that she wanted to be immersed  
and join the Baptist ch. and we advised  
her to wait till she was sure of her self  
and settled in her belief - but she did not  
wait for our reply - I was not as much  
surprised - because so many of our  
relatives are baptists - and I hoped she  
had experienced a change tho I could  
see no indication of it in her letters but  
now I believe she was forced to it by her  
impatience and pecking to quiet her conscience.  
It is so hard for her to give up. But oh!  
I must have faith to believe that she will  
turn ere long - It does not seem as if