

61 Phila St. Saratoga Springs N.Y.

Feb. 1896

My Dear Bro. Belden.

It has often given me pleasure to meet you personally in our summer walks at Clifton:— why may I not have the gratification of sketching a conversation with you on paper. The thought was engendered, by receiving, this morning, an affectionate letter from Bro. Wm. Scofield of Washington D.C.

We frequently correspond with each other:— and the topics therein, often <sup>have</sup> a wide range.

I single out from the gems of this morning's letter the following:— "Your opinion of Bro. Belden corresponds with my own. He is a very sincere man, and a man of great natural gifts, & of excellent <sup>spirit</sup>; I do hope his apparent improvement will continue, and that he will in due time resume the ministerial work".

Most surely Brother, do we concur in this hope that you are improving, & will soon recover again your walk in ministerial life.

You remember, last autumn, we spoke to you of the serious afflictions of our brother in Troy: He was smitten down with acute paralysis - & all doubled up like a ball. We called on them on our way here. Found him in a precarious condition, & it was only because he was blessed with an immense bank of vitality, that saved him alive to the present.

We found him also neglecting proper means of improvement, & so we began to enlist his thoughts of Clifton Springs Sanitarium as the best possible place for him, over winter at least.

We canvassed the subject well, before he yielded his consent to go. He is a wealthy man & close calculator; & finally said: "If you think the people at Clifton, are honest, square & conscientious people, & the Doctors are able men, I will go." Then we said, And he went, - closing up his <sup>business</sup> matters, & leaving horses, dog, chickens & hundreds of house plants, in care of his faithful coachman. He is there with his wife; - & we hear is doing well under the special care of Dr. Thayer.



It is now about a month since he arrived in that blessed place of healing & help. They found more than verified all we <sup>had</sup> said favorably of that resort. There are occupying one of the <sup>Dr. W.'s</sup> Lower rooms, & are very happy in all their surroundings. We once spoke to our brother of your case, & thought much worse than his at the first, yet that you had vastly gained every way since coming where you both are now. We asked him to make your acquaintance if convenient. Now we make the same request of you:— that you will call upon him, & to comfort him, & tell him how to be sick patiently, for he was never sick before.

Moreover, pray for him Brother, that he may be enabled to say with David:— Before I was afflicted, I went astray, now [I know better] & try to keep thy law. We remember him daily in our prayers; for, we think this may be a loved last call for his acceptance of Christ & salvation. Therefore; please call upon Mrs. Parker's only brother Mr. William J. Simmons of  
 From N.Y.

Please remember one thing more: On March 21. the Lord will, we shall celebrate my 85<sup>th</sup> birth day.

From Brother Belden, I must ask how you do? And are you getting stronger? - more normal use of your hand: - a clearer mind: - & a more natural & easy working of your intellectual faculties? In other words, do you find a steady movement in your entire being, towards the old-time vigor & tenacity of thought, you once could boast? I think, since my acquaintance with you, there has been a wonderful improvement in all these respects.

Mrs. <sup>Parker</sup> inquiring after the welfare of your household, wishes especially to know how "Earthquake" is - that dear little boy whom Mrs. Parker has taken such a fancy to?

Finally, Bro. Belden, call as soon as you can on our poor, sick relative: introduce yourself as Rev. Mr. Belden - a friend of Dr. & Mrs. Parker. Encourage him to remain just where he is, till Spring, at least. His wife gets impatient at times because he don't get well at once. We counteract this hasty impulse, as much as possible.

Write how the new San. progresses. Kindly re-  
=member us to all your family.  
Yours sincerely, Rev. Dr. & Mrs. O. P. Parker