

Chelsea, Aug. 3, 1896-

My beloved friend, and sister,
When your sweet
Mary's letter came to me, an
hour ago, I could hardly be-
lieve her message. The sud-
denness of the tidings made
me incredulous, but now
that I have read over ^{and over} her
simple little message, heart-
breaking in its directness
and in its mingled rejoic-
ing for him that he is "so
happy" and its pain and
sorrow of missing him, - I
know it is true. - He sent
us off on your birthday,
fondly believing that he
was really to take up again
a more definite share in

pastoral work, — and lo!
our God knew that he was
so near to entering upon
his perfect, unending ser-
vice. So suddenly the mes-
senger came for him! —
That was what took away
my breath, for the mo-
ment. The next thought
was such heartfelt thank-
fulness that I could be
with you and with him
and your dear children,
during those never to be
forgotten days. Your home
was one of God's abiding
places. I never felt His
presence more than
while there, and there I
was conscious all the
time, that I was on holy
ground. — Oh Ellie Belden!

Oh Ellie, I thank God for you
that to you was given such
grace, even to minister to
all your husband's needs,
both of soul and intellect
and poor suffering body,
as long as he had any
earthly needs; to see him
ripened for glory, and live
by your side the life
of one conscious that he
was redeemed, and the
special, personal object
of his Lord's love and ten-
der care, and yourself to
share in his blessed ex-
periences, and at last to be
with him, when he stepped
over "the threshold" into im-
mortality! How you will
listen for his call, "Ellie! Ellie!"
and miss his dependence

upon you, the while you
rejoice that he is now free
from his heavy burden of
weakness, which he had
learned to bear so bravely!
"Forever with the Lord!"
"With Christ, which is far
better!"

Dear heart, and you
have your children and
his; you have your God
and his. He will comfort
you, even according to
your need.

How gladly I would come
to you, if only it were possi-
ble, and I could do you
any good, but I have you
in my heart constantly, and
speak of you to God, —
and missionary sister, Ellen M. Stone