

Haverhill April 16. 1841.

My Dear Charley-

I was exceedingly gratified with the letter which I received from you the other day, for several reasons. One reason was that it showed me that you thought of your Father in his absence; & this to me is a very pleasant thought. After having all your life watched over you, my boy, by day & night, & provided for all your necessities, under God, & seen you grow up & advance to your present age, you have become very dear to the heart of your Father, & any return of affection from you is truly sweet to me. I was also gratified that your letter was so neatly written, & ~~so~~ ~~correctly~~ ~~spelled~~ your spelling so correct. I think also that you gave me a very interesting account of what you saw <sup>& heard</sup> at Tarrytown. It will be a matter of importance to you, my son, to acquire the habit of close observation in relation to men & things, in relation to practices & principles, that <sup>you may</sup> always avoid the evil & choose the good.

I wish now, my Dear Charley, to say some things to you, which I wish you ever to remember as long as you live; & as this is the first letter that I ever wrote you, I would like to have you lay it up, & preserve it long, & read it often, & endeavor to practice what I shall say to you, ~~the~~ looking to God for wisdom & strength so to do.

First of all my dear boy, you know that your Father's heart is interested in having you become a true child of God, a true believer in Christ, a true follower of the meek & lowly Saviour. In comparison with a true & hearty consecration of your all to Christ & a saving & sanctifying faith



in Him, everything else is lighter than vanity. You do not realize it yet my son, but you will soon learn, that the things of this life alone will not make you happy. & if you do not learn to love & enjoy God, true happiness can never be yours, either in this life or the next.

Next to the Saviour that died for you, Dear Charlie, I want you to love your Mother. Your obligations to her, are greater than they ever can be, to any being in the universe but God. It should ever therefore be a great pleasure to you, my son, to do everything great or small, which you possibly can do as long as you live for your Mother's happiness. I hope & trust that it will ever be a sweet pleasure to you to see your Mother happy, & if she is opposed to you & you to her, you will do very much either to make her happy, or to fill her heart ~~&~~ with grief & anguish. Besides if you wish to be respected, & to grow to manhood with a heart prepared for true & rational happiness, you cannot do a better thing for yourself, ~~that~~ than to let your heart now flow out in pure & warm affection toward your Dear Mother. You cannot conceive my son how much I miss the society of your Dear Mother, & how much my heart aches to be with her, & I have no doubt that she often ~~feels~~ feels lonely & sad while I am away, & I hope therefore, that you will do everything in your power for her happiness. Let her see that you love her tenderly, & that it is a great pleasure to you to do all in your power to comfort her heart. There is no person in the world of refined & generous feelings, who will not always love you the more, for letting it appear that you truly love your Mother. — There is no person in the world Charlie who ~~will not~~ ~~will not~~ ~~will not~~



loves you like a Mother, your indebtedness to her you cannot conceive. God has shared her to you while others have, therefore ~~full of love & tender feelings towards her & her friends~~ <sup>love</sup> your dear Mother, & if you let her see that you love her & wish to make her happy, your hearts will flow out together & in each other you will be truly happy. Next dear Charlie, love your sisters & your little brother. Cultivate the tenderest affection ~~to~~ toward them, & always try to make them happy in all things. Cultivate the feelings which I have described toward God, your Mother, sisters & brother, & then you will have a kind heart toward every one, & this will make you beloved by all. You will perceive that I have not said a word dear boy about your loving me, & for this reason. I know that if you love God & your Mother, your sisters & your brother as you ought, & you will have a heart to love all, & then I shall be sure of my share in full. You will see that I have no fears of losing what belongs to me, provided your heart feels as it should toward others whom you ought to love.

Thus, first of all your God above should be the object of your love, <sup>before</sup> But ~~after~~ all upon the earth, Give her your heart who gave you birth. Sisters & brother. Then should share your warmest love from day to day. That it may ever be your care to scatter flowers along their way. Then may you hope that God will bless and crown your life with happiness, For if you good to others do, Your God will do the same to you.

I want you to give a great deal of love from me to your dear Mother, because she is a very particular person. I do not mind it has been for a long time, & I feel very sure that there is not a person on the earth, that I begin to love one half as well as I do her. In truth I feel as though I had lost a great deal more than one half of myself when she is not with me, & I would like to have you tell her so. & say to her that if she does not love me, & a great deal, she does not feel toward me, as I do toward her. That she loves me well.



And then there is your sister Ellen, & your Brother Willie  
& little Libby & Jennie, who are all very particular friends  
favorites of mine, & for a great many very particular  
reasons which I need not name. I want you to begin  
at your Mother, & give them all a special good kiss,  
from oldest to youngest, & tell them all that your  
Father loves them very much indeed, & hopes to come  
& kiss them all himself before many days, if the Lord  
will.

Give a great deal of love also to  
Dr. & Mrs. Palmer & tell them that you  
is at work here, especially in the hour to  
of spring tides, in bringing them to the surface  
of the love. —



Walter Charles & Fitch.  
Care of Dr. W. P. Palmer,  
64. Livingston Street —

Dear - Yours  
W. P. Fitch.

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I think my son, that as things are just at present, it will be  
best for you not to go to Farrytown until my return at least,  
for as there is a possibility that we may remove to Boston,  
I presume your dear Mother will think it advisable, that  
you should come too, as the schools in Boston are of a high  
order & the expense will be much less than at Farrytown.  
Good bye dear Charlie. Your Father loves you very much, & if  
you wish to return it in the way that will please me most,  
love your Mother, because I love her so well that I wish you to love her too.  
Your Affectionate Father. C. Fitch.