

Boston July 26-1842-

My dear Bro. & Sister Palmer— In consequence of my absence from Haverhill, your letter of the 9th did not get into my hands until this morning; it was put into my hands at Woodbury & my whole heart has been thanking you even with tears, as I came down in the cars. You ask after my experience with the Lord, on the subject of the Second Advent. There are a thousand things I have been longing to tell you, & your truly kind & precious letter has just opened ^{the way}. When I last wrote you many months ago, I was as you will doubtless recollect, mourning before the Lord, because my way was hedged up, & I could do nothing for my Blessed Saviour. You know dear Bro. & Sister, how my heart had been bounding with intense desire to get abroad & proclaim the glorious doctrine of holiness. You know that I gave up my charge, & all worldly prospect of support in order that I might be at full liberty to pour my soul all abroad on that blessed, blessed subject. But my way seemed completely hedged up after I came to Haverhill. I felt as though shut up in some narrow cell, looking out with intense desire at my grated windows & longing, & weeping, & writhing with God to open the way before me that I might go forth & spread out before my fellow men the bread & water of life. I fasted, I prayed, I groaned, I wept before the Lord. At length Brother Litch, whom I had never seen, called & said, "Brother, you need the doctrine of the Second advent to put with the doctrine of Holiness." He knew that I had looked at the subject, before I left Boston; which was a good while before I saw dear Bro. & Sister Palmer. — I had indeed looked at it & been overwhelmed with the evidence in proof of it, but laid it wholly aside. My attention was then

directed by Our Blessed Saviour to the glorious theme of Holiness, I was
made to rejoice in it, & was ~~was~~^{made} truly willing to forsake all, that
I might publish it abroad. I had forsaken all for this one purpose
& yet I was left as an imprisoned bird, flapping its weary wi-
ngs in vain, to get abroad upon the free air & pour forth
the feelings with which my full heart seemed ready to burst.
When Dear Bro Litch named the second advent, I went to the
Lord; I read my Bible, & all the works that I could obtain. I posses-
sed myself of all the evidences in the case that I could; & then
with fasting & prayer I laid them & myself with my all before
the Lord, desiring only that the Blessed Spirit might guide me
into all truth. I felt that I had no will of my own, & wished
only to know the will of my Saviour. Light seemed breaking in
upon my mind, ray after ray, & I found myself more & more
unable to resist the conviction that it was indeed the truth, that
the coming of the Blessed Saviour was at the door. But now came
a severe struggle. I had once sacrificed all my friends on earth
for the truth's sake, & had made myself an outcast. But often
& for Dear Friends, had taken to me to their hearts, & had loved
me because they believed that I loved Jesus. I will not try to
tell you how Dear these friends were to me, nor could I.
You know how those love one another whose hearts are
burning with the pure love of Jesus; but you don't know
what it is to be thrust out of your denomination for the
sake of truth which ^{God} has made dearer to you than all
things else; & then to be taken into the very bosom of God's
dearest children & be loved by them for Christ's sake.
You know how to love God's Dear children, but you
do not know how you would feel towards them, after

being carried through such circumstances as these, because you have never been called to experience such things. Ah, I loved those who in such times reached out to me the warm hand of Christian fellowship, & unboresome to me their kind & faithful & sympathizing hearts, & bore me upward to the heart of my Saviour in their fervent applications; but among them all there were none whom I loved more than I did dear Bro. & Sister Palmer— because there were none whom I had more reason to love, none toward whom I had such reason to feel grateful. Now to come out again, & sacrifice such friends; whom I had gained under such circumstances, or to run the hazard of doing so, by embracing & depending views which they might sincerely regard as error, caused me I can assure you a struggle indeed. I thought much of dear Bro & Sister Palmer, & it was truly plucking out a right eye, when from a conviction of Duty to My dear Saviour, I took a step which I feared they would regard as wholly wrong. But it was only for Christ's sake that I did it, & after being convincingly, & as I believed by the teachings of God's Spirit that it was ^{what} Christ required. And now as soon as I was ready to come out on the second Advent, the door before me was thrown wide open, & I have been wholly unable for the last 8 months to meet one half the calls which I have received. Wherever I have been God has been with me. ~~Since~~ ^{Since} the 1st of Dec last, I have preached as often as every day & ~~about~~ ^{about} sixty times besides. I have been in all the New England States, congregations have been large in all places. Wherever I have been I have preached holiness. My usual practice has been to preach on Holiness in the afternoon, & on the second Advent in

the evening. I have seen saints sanctified & sinners led to Christ. I know that God greatly blesses this truth to the conversion of sinners & the sanctification of saints. I have had no occasion to complain that the door was shut against me, or that my labors were not blessed of God. I am now without a charge, laboring from place to place, & God is with me. My soul is in its native element, my conscience approves, & I feel that I have the approbation of God.

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I have thought much of dear Bro. & sister Palmer, but as months had elapsed & I had received no reply to my last letter, I was ready to fear that you thought me in so great an error, that you would no longer regard me as a Brother in Christ. I was questioning in my own mind, whether or not I ought to call & seek in New York, fearing that an interview might be a trial to your feelings. But it was a rich comfort to believe that we should soon meet in heaven & then you would fully appreciate all my motives, & know that what I have done, was for the sake of our Beloved Saviour. I have scarcely begun to say what I wish to say. I hope you will write again. Don't forget to pray for Brother Fitch.