



From Miss Malvina
Campbell

Mr. John D. Kirkson.
care of Joseph Kirkson Esq.

Chester, Del. Co.

Penn^a

Answered

Union, Sep. 3. 1856. Wednesday.

My dear John, gave me a very agreeable
first returned from Church - & found it lying
my brother's Office - along with other letters & papers
a man, in our absence, had brought from the P. Office
a talk evening - we had been to Church in the Country
The trip was pleasant - & we heard an excellent sermon from
Rev. Mr. Quick. I wish you could have been with us.

Our ride was a very pleasant one - altho' through a highly
cultivated Country - it lay along the foot of the mountains
which, with their towering forms arched to our right - made more
beautiful by the falling clouds painting their shadows upon their
sides - while between us - were the fields of corn - the farm houses
& the fine cattle grazing - The Church - built in a grove -
close by the road - is a very pretty little Gothic structure - & as it is
mid-way between Cornettsville & Union - there were a good many car-
riages came from these places - as well as persons from the immediate
neighborhood - Mr. Quick was disappointed that no appointment had
been made for him in the evening in Union - he had sent word but
it had not been received - we were sorry too, as not a single Church
was open in the evening - He was invited to return with us. & I too
think that the Presbyterian Ch. as it had the kindest bell - would have
a good congregation soon collected. But he was urged to re-
turn to Cornettsville - Our Presby. minister seems threatened with
pulmonary disease & must I visit his friends - A Congregational meet-

Parties of Powder - mixed
by Macdonald, Jan. 17/55

ing was held at which my Uncle, who is a Physician I knew the critical
State of his Pastor's health - Proposed that a rest should be given him -
until the 1st of Oct. or longer if his health required it - continuing his
Salary & procuring a deputy for his pulpit in the interim. But
Mr. Hamilton is anxious to be fulfilling his course - has returned after
a month's absence - & is desirous of preaching once a day - The
Eps. Cuzzman too, is suffering from impaired health & after a few
months relaxation has resumed his labors - & preaches once a day.
He would have been glad, he told us, to have had Mr. L. preach for
him - but as that pastor is a good deal ultra some of the Eps. are
afraid to invite him to St. Peter's for the evening service - He pre-
achd there a few Sabbaths ago, at which time he spent a week here.
Thank you for the information about our Church in Chester.
You conclude right - that it has quite a place in my affections - as
well as many kind friends there. I had seen in "The Presbyterian"
that a Mr. Spence had accepted a call there - & had heard him
highly spoken of by my Cousin Saml. Campbell - whom Mr. S. was at College
at Lexington, Virginia or Eastern I forget which - (my cousin was
at Va. Fayette College first & when its President removed to Virginia
he went to.) Cousin S. spoke of him as an excellent & very zealous
and energetic having worn himself out with his labors, & rendered
it necessary for him to go South - for his health -
I hope such will not be the case again - but that you may long
retain him as your Pastor - Churches always suffer from frequent
changes. — I would like to have heard about the Las-
sall School - How the children learned any of the pretty hymns from the
collection I gave to Mr. Means? There is a large class of children

taking lessons here from a psalm - I have been around sometimes when
they sing delightfully - Next week a "Concert" is to come off
I would like to take little Lizzie when then. Several of my little
Cousins are scholars. Besides many pretty hymns there is a beautiful
"Echo Song" they sing - with a great deal of taste & depression -

Please give my love to your Father & Mother - & thank them for
their kind expressions - as also your own wish - for my happiness.

Most heartily, do I reciprocate the good wishes - and now,
Especially as you, my young friend - are about to leave the dear
home circle - for the untrodden scenes of College life -
I am glad that with the pleasant influences of home you have
early drank in - lessons of truthfulness & morality. May these not
be forgotten - But frown upon your brow, may these gladden the
"beard" whose radiance knows no dimness even when the lights of
Science shall have gone out. "With all thy gettings - get under
standing" - is a part of that legacy bequeathed us of the wise men
& he had talked of every thing. — Take good care of your

health too. Who the mind is influenced by the body! The student must
think of this - & not forget either, that "the bow long bent, loses its
elasticity".

But I fear I am writing you - a dull, prolix
letter, & not what your sprightly spirit would like -
Perhaps you would have preferred a sketch of our travels across
the mountains - were I so successful a lumner, that with the
stroke of my pen - I could give you one outline - & say nothing
of the whole beautiful panorama - that lay stretched
out before us, during the whole of our winding way -
I should sit cheerfully down to the task - but all attempts I forbear.

Such grandeur & sublimity as meets the eye - of the wide-awake
traveler & along the track of the Penn^a. R. Road - must be
drawn upon the retina of our real optics - & not upon our imag-
ination merely. We left Philadelphia - a party of seven -
Mr. Shorter of Union - our escort - his sister Mrs. J. Jones of Phila-
delphia daughter & son. A young lady of Union returning from School in the
City - & Anna Shorter, also of Union - These were all old friends &
very agreeable people too. So we had a pleasant time to gether.
We left Phila. at 7 o'clock upon Thursday morning. & reached Greens-
burg at 12 at night - The next morning we procured carriages as there
were too many of us - with our baggage - to be transported in the
coaches as others had supposed seats. Mr. Shorter's Carriage met us
in all drove in company - & passing through romantic scenery
we had full opportunity to see every thing - while the horses
walked up & down the high hills - I shower laid the dust, & we felt
quite refreshed - Our friends, we found on the look out for us -
but seeing the stage go off with "M.M.C." upon one of the trucks, knew not
what had become of the proposition - until presently - our Carriage drove
up - We found all well as usual - But a dire
Calamity had visited them a few days previously - the whole of their
back building had been consumed - & my Aunt's next door - in whose
Stable the fire originated - & a row of brick houses - used for offices
& blue-lands - belonging to the same - I thought it occurred in the day
time every thing was so dry - that the flames spread rapidly - However,
owing to the noble assistance of our fire companies - & citizens who always work
nobly the dwellings were saved - My brother had a very large Stable &
a great deal of grain - there were 100 bushels of oats & several of corn & wheat
15 bu of Shells - & 20 chickens caged in a coop adjoining - The Carriage
Slings & Horses & harness were saved - But the loss of Carriage - harness &c.
is a great inconvenience. Every thing was so conveniently arranged - I had
said to be a most complete building for the purposes required - Now also
late the yard looked! the peach - grape - vines - fruit - trees: saved & some
dead from the fire - There was some insurance - but not enough to cover losses
What delightful weather we have now! - If you were only here! you should
have some fine rides upon the poney up the Mountain - enjoy the view from "Paw
Knob" or visit "the Falls" - beyond Fayette Springs - Come in some of your vacations.

My fire was consumed & I will for
key & to find it out - I shall more

(15 pages)

One day I went with my Cousin Edward Campbell over Old College - I wanted to see the Cabinets of Curiosities - as when we left Union - my dear Father had sent them a great many revolutionary & other relics, petrifactions Etc. Now it stirred my heart - as here & there I saw the impress of that beloved Parents hand - & I knew how these had been treasured by him - as a part of our Country's history - that "Found" with rust all over - "from battle ground near Philad^a." That huge bomb shell - parts of Cannon that ~~jack~~ knives that may have cut the biscuit (or tobacco) of many an American or British Soldier the Indian arrow heads - of every shape - but from spots close by us - Washingtons first battle ground. Come many of these relics. Here, in a bottle neatly labelled "Particles of the Powder buried by order of Col. Dunbar after Braddocks defeat July 1755 when retreating from his encampment 6 miles East - on W^{est} of Laurel Hill.

Found on 29 August 1843.

J. G. Campbell

I took the liberty of making myself possessor of a few grains & send you a part.

I remember Father procured it from the spot where a mountaineer in digging at Dunbars Camp

(6.) or near it - had previously found access to
The Grand Washington's first battle ground was
at Fort Meunier - a few miles east of Union Bay
In the same room were some fine chemical & other
apparatus - a miniature steam engine quite improved
my little nephew who was along with us. but
Edg & I took a look through some glasses -
One a telescope - it did not do so well
day observations but at my suggestion he turned
it towards "One Knob" - where I knew a party
were pic-nicing - and sure enough! then they

were flitting about upon the summit. where
the bare rocks & rugged pines were standing -
The party were mostly from Fayette Springs &
numbered 60 persons. I was invited but de-
clined that with many other invitations.

My old friends gave me a very cordial welcome
to my native land. My brother being

much better than when at Upland in the Spring.
Sometimes he thinks he will not go to Florida again
this winter but confines himself to office practice.
He is kept very busy - frequently drives 5 or 60
miles into the country to attend ^{free} patients without fee
ing any the more.

The Chester paper comes here
regularly; from it I learn all public matters - but your
letter was worth half a dozen "Repubs." tho' I wished
it had been longer.

With kind remembrances to all your friends, a
very goodly quantity to the Misses Canagh - I wish they were
with me - I am Sincerely your friend

W. Malcom Campbell