

1864

MS021: Correspondence

William R. Smith

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Dear Mrs. May

Nov 28th 1864

My dear lady

I have been informed of your great family
by affliction - through which indeed to overwhelm you with
grief, and make the future even more gloomy than even
when the question is forced upon us by such visitations,
What can we promise ourselves? I know the
strength of your parental feelings - your anxious
and concentrated devotion to all that concerns the
health, prosperity and happiness of your dear ones,
and consequently must know the sorrow and
anguish caused by the sudden death, almost at
the same moment, of so many dear ones. To
attempt to offer consolation to a family thus be-
reaved would indeed be a vain effort. I might add
word upon word, and sentence upon sentence without
affording further comfort to you and them than that to
be derived from the assurance of my sympathy and
prayer, the sincerity and ability of which you would
know not so much from what I might now say, as
from my past feelings and conduct. Let us then
fore, as far as possible, endeavour to banish all fruit-
less sorrow, and seek to find religious resignation
and profit under these and similar afflictive dis-
persations of Providence. The history of the past
few years is crowded with sad and melancholy
changes in our social and domestic circles, as well
as our pecuniary ruin, and disastrous revolutions in
our political relations. Would that they ever now
were at an end, instead of our being in the midst of the
most gloomy and painful

For more than a week I have been visited by the severest
of my attacks, confining me to the bed almost entirely
for the time mentioned. To my surprise I went through
another Epidemic, not however, without the assistance
and of Morphine and Stimulants. My eyesight is fail-
ing. My inability to get up and down Stairs increases, and
the necessary exposure would subject me to the use
of more Opium and Alcohol than when out of prac-
tical consequence I can not look to my profession
as a means of support. The wants and sufferings of the
people of Galveston lost since were however, call for my
humble efforts, and I hope I did some good to the poor
soldiers, and the poor generally. I know not what to
will, or can do this winter. Employment is not only
a thing desirable, but with me a necessity, morally
and pecuniarily, if physically I could follow what I
am best suited for by education and habits.

My son Weymouth spoke to your hospitality when
he was in your County. He is now in Brownsville.
I shall be most happy to hear from you frequently.
Anything connected with you and yours will in-
terest me. I hope to learn that the rest of your
family have escaped the Fever, & are now
in the enjoyment of full and vigorous health.

Remember me in the kindest manner to
them all and accept the assurances of my friendship.

Yours truly
W. V. Bennett

Judge W. Jefferson
I am at present stopping in Gal-
veston, but direct your letters to Houston. They will be for-
warded to me if I am not there.