

Middlefield Centre, Otsego Co. N.Y.  
May 28, 1856.

My Dear Marvin:

I have just been reading your article No. III in the N. Englander for Nov. '55. Feel so strong a desire to renew our ancient acquaintance, that I must write to you. I have several times thought of it before; but the article brings you up so vividly; it is so very like what your notions used to be, that I can hold in no longer. The article is the boy grown up to a man, & educated.

If you care to hear my history after we separated in '32, I went to Singapore in the E. I. Archipelago; staid eight years; learned the Malay language, & was intending to learn the Javanese & Celebes, with reference to the contemplated Seminary, when the Singapore Mission was broken up. Had leave to go to China, but preferred Southern India; staid three years, & was intending to spend the rest of my life in the Madura Seminary. Mrs. N. died of cholera; had to come home; told the Committee I was afraid, on the whole, I should not be happy if I returned; a man who begins the hard Tannul late in life is not apt to do well in it; I was not willing to drag through life as some there are doing; better spend the money on a younger man; I felt, too, that I ought to stay with my children. Resided two years at Auburn Seminary, in order to get re-Americanized. Now find myself settled as pastor of this chh.

Life in the East is much more in the world than it is with

us. At Singapore thirty languages are spoken; the commercial enterprise & the stir is prodigious. We had much to do with Europeans of different nations, & with Americans. India too is a land of wonders; the novelty never wears away. America, for a while after my return, seemed almost out of the world; but now I have become more reconciled to it.

Your other article on N. Adams' slavery, I like. Living so long among Englishmen, I am sensitive on that subject; it is the great thing that destroys our influence abroad.

Now my dear Morrin, write to me; give me an outline of yr adventures. Did you graduate at Burlington College? <sup>no at ~~Sims~~ college Hartford Conn</sup> did you study theology at Yale, with yr favorite Dr. Taylor? <sup>yes</sup> Where have you been these 24 years, & what doing? Nothing wd please me better than to have a visit from you; it is an easy thing to get here, by rail-road nearly all the way; an airing for a week or two this summer surely wd be pleasant to you; I could show you the classic ground of charming old Cooperstown; the scenes of Cooper's novels are hard by. If you are fond of books, my library is large & rich. And you might preach for me a Sabbath. Or if you will not do this, I should be delighted to meet you some time in N. York city, if you wd let me know when you have occasion to go down. Perhaps if nothing better can be done, I can see you at Newark next Sept. at the meeting of the Amer. Board.

Was in N. Y. two years ago; was astonished at the changes, especially in Brooklyn. You will recollect we once went over to hear McQuaine preach, & you spoke severely of his "shirt." That neighborhood has now a very different appearance. It wd be

useful to us, to walk about & look at the places in N. Y. where we once stood & picked. I know you were rather a proud boy, & perhaps wd not like to do it; still I think it wd be useful. Have you forgotten Mother Williams' little chamber, & Mother Whittelsey's? and how we bo't bread & butter, & carried home, & said: "Our soul loatheth this light food"? and do you remember Bull, & Dill, & Coombs, & the lordly Chandler? & the inquiry: "Have you got any dag-Heb.'s?" The Edwards on the Will I gave you for a keepsake, I suppose you read & digested twenty years ago.

As I was reading page 537 at bottom, & top of 538, in the N. Englander, I was reminded of yr determination when you left N. Y. to examine the subject of episcopacy; I always felt curious to know how it turned out. You wd make a bad Chhman; you were dyed in the wool.

Sometimes I give my young folks a secular lecture; it has a tendency to attach them to me; perhaps you have found it useful in gratifying the desire for excitement in the long winter evenings. Occasionally, give them a talk on India, or what I saw, on my way home, in Holland & England, or something in history. Like to lecture in Cooperstown, to that more large & intelligent audience. How it may be with you I know not; in this region it is important to keep this matter of lecturing out of the hands of the enemy.

Rev. J. T. Dickinson, formerly pastor of the <sup>1st</sup> Chh in Norwich, Ct. and my intimate friend at Singapore, has lately written me a very interesting acct of a district school he has been getting up in Middlefield; sch. house cost \$2100, seven acres of grove around it. The Ct. people are provoked by Mass. people to do great things.

I have lately had my thoughts much directed toward Congregationalism. Had considerable difficulty in getting my ordin-

tion, by reason of the rigid High Calvinism of some old fashioned men in  
Presbytery, men of extremely narrow minds & small theological reading.  
The hot displeasure of our Chh, & the fear of losing us out of their connex-  
ion, finally brought them to. Were it not for our powerful neighbor  
Congregationalism, the whole Presbyterian Chh, N. Sch. as well as Old, wd  
soon come under the iron bondage of those terrible Scotchmen in the  
Middle States. I formerly thought some of our troubles were local  
accidents; I now begin to suspect that tyranny belongs to Presbye-  
terianism in its very essence. The article in the N. Englander headed  
Ohio Congregationalism I like much. Also the notice of the "Earnest  
Pled" in the last No. This goodly Quarterly the N. Englander I am get-  
ting much attached to. The last No. is very rich; the article of Mr.  
Eustis on Prof. Atgdon right charming.

Tell me how you get along in sermonizing; in pastor's duties;  
in general studies. Occasionally I write a sermon in a very careful  
manner, every sentence by the ear, i.e. loud in the study; such work is  
very profitable. A N. Y. student settled near me has helped me to get  
a standing rule passed in Presbytery, criticising freely the opening sermon;  
it reminds me of Jezebel & the dogs; nothing is left but a few  
gnawed bones. Multitudes of ministers are wholly inaccessible to crit-  
icism; they think their habits are all good; to speak to them gently, gives  
mortal offence; an absurd kind of dignity. — Write to me, &  
believe me, as ever,

Yours, very affectionately,

A. North.