Sidney Harper Marsh Letter to Wife - Friday eve, Date Unknown [1866-1867]

Sidney H. Marsh
Friday eve  
Date Unknown [1866-1867]

Dear Lizzie,

How I love all the babies. I want to take + kiss every babe I see + when I meet the little chaps running about I want to stop + talk + play with them. How my heart pushes out when I see a mother with a child in her arms. It is as much as I can do to abide this [illegible text] conventional indifference to other people. Haven’t I got a baby at home, haven’t I [illegible] to babies generally? I know I have. I’m a[genial uncle to all babies that will permit t

+ yet its no use – what right have I. How funny it would look for me to say to a baby in the case, “Madame allow me to hold your baby. Madame, Allow me the gratification of holding your little boy” – You see its no use. I must smother my affections until I can [illegible] them on my own wife + babies.

How Mary’s dear little face comes up with a new smile that she had the [hint] of when I was out last.

+ James dear boy. Oh Lizzie we must strive more earnestly to awaken religious impulses. A Mother can awaken ideas in a child of James’ age, That will be at the foundation of all his [after] life. They will unconsciously shape his character. I wish you would realize your privilege + responsibility here. I want James + Mary to [illegible text] have to know God exists + to believe in him + if possible to have faith in him. Try + kindle the enthusiasm in noble generous actions + always associate these with God as The person who is pleased or displeased. Don’t let them be [illegible] i.e. acting with [illegible] to the judgments + approval of [mine], but have the fire of God before their eyes – To do all this is in your hands. No one can do it for you. Even I can not. Have James say his prayers every night.

In that package I sent a hood for Mary + a pair of leggings. I hope she has warm drawers and stockings.

If that [bundle] makes you happy-- I may send you another – but let me know if There is anything else you want.

I go to Norwich tomorrow night for the Sabbath [Speech] in the morning.

I am in high spirits + excellent health – better than I am usually – Though always well – I don’t know when I have felt so much like running + jumping –

Yours ever, Sidney

I have a knife for Mary but did not get it in the package-- Sent you this morning an ivory pin.