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Copy of letter to Mr. Estcourt
on death of Gen. Estcourt

Burlington
Aug. 2, 1855

My dear Mr. Estcourt

You will readily believe, she
it is not the want of a heart ^{and} ~~full~~ ^{and} ~~ripe~~
burden with you - your great afflic-
tion, or of a deep sense of our own
share in your loss, that has so long
prevented us from offering you the ex-
pression of our participation in your
sorrow.

When the intelligence of
Gen. Estcourt's death ^{first} reached us, through
the papers, we learned nothing of the
cause or the attendant circumstances, nor did
we hear directly from you until we
received your own and
Mr. Estcourt's letter. That we knew
that you remained at ~~Burlington~~ ^{the office} & to receive the
heartful affection and sympathy
only consolation and alleviation, but
could make no more than permit the
loss the departed, and the surviving
your letter of the 1st ult. & the
courtesy of the family have given

as the assurance, ^{that this person was} ~~without which we~~
could not feel that any present
was due to you, and ~~from which we~~ ^{nothing} which you felt to be a duty has
placed too heavy a burden on your
shoulders & resignation and we no
longer fear that a word from us
will be seen as an intrusion
I cannot
begin to you how grateful I am for
your the unfinished letter and your
great kindness in so soon commu-
nicating it ~~although~~ ^{making the principal part of} that it will always
be to me a precious memorial of ~~your~~ ^{the} most cherished
friendships. You scarcely know
how ~~small~~ ^{narrow} ~~and~~ ^{much} ~~valued~~ ^{is}
a ~~small~~ ^{large} ~~part~~ ^{part} of it you have
kindly & yourself have formed by
you cannot have doubted the af-
fectionate interest we have so long
felt in you both & you will not
need the assurance that your interest

will ^{undiminished} still move & be not hereafter
wholly ~~certified~~ ^{wholly} in you,
~~though~~ We have little reason to hope
blunt circumstances will enable
us to renew our direct intercourse
with you & do anything for
comfort or consolation. ^{but} ~~take~~ ^{that}
hope our correspondence may not be
interrupted, and we shall especially
feel a strong desire to
know that you have been favored
in your journey and supported in
the trials which renewed grief
and trials which must attend
your return to England.
and I will
~~not attempt any~~ ~~Mr. Estlin's~~
~~to aff- of any words of consolation~~
~~He also has in but one manner~~
~~that has been offered to you, but~~
I hope this great affliction has been
you rendered less overwhelming by

^{some} many special mercies, and aggravated
by the fervor of ~~these~~ such particular
circumstances as give the sharpest
poignancy to grief. Knowing as
(we do the strength and tenderness of your
mutual affection, we are fully aware
^{my dear Mrs. S.} that your is no common or flat-
ting sorrow.)

Some such circum-
stances ~~there are~~ ^{no doubt} in every home.
ament, and ~~of course~~ in yours. Into
these our stranger can enter. They
sacred and
are yours alone, but we are sure that
as ~~you are~~ ^{your husband} common
friends, loved & esteemed by some
highly ~~than me~~ and for whom
there can come word of consolation
but from that one source alone which
has been already opened to you.

In our ~~and~~ ^{of} the severance of
these pleasant relations which had
endured so long without a cloud
is an imparable loss, & we are sure

that as few of your husband's common
friends could have known him
better none of them could have
loved & esteemed him ^{of them} more
highly than we, none more
deeply felt a blow which has
saddened so many hearts in
this as well as in your own
side of the ocean.

Accept once more
my dear Mrs. & the assurance
of my most affectionate regards.

L