

Mrs. E. Oakes Smith
Portland Sept 9/56
Dear friend
The photograph has just
reached me in safety. I did not
intend to trouble you with copying,
or returning the pr - but only
wished you to keep it safely, lest
it should be spoiled anew.
As for my poor boy - I
am full of hope & trust and be-
lieving that it is fine for us to be
afflicted, and hearing that "before
I was afflicted I went astray" -
even more than I have since,
I wait patiently on the Lord.
Many & hearty thanks
to your son for his kindness, &
especially just now for the letter
you mention. It was chiefly owing

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Date: Sept. 9, 1856

Description: John Neal letter to Elizabeth Oakes Smith

to my confidence in him — Appleton
Oakes Smith — that I consented to
trust our poor boy so far away,
and among such fe[?]ls. and
knowing what he is capable of.
— James — I rest satisfied
that we shall have our reward,
come what may.

His mother I know all: Mary,
who is now here, knows the worst.
— and Margaret who is now away,
only knows of the appointment and
of her apprehensions. I would not
have her pleasure interfered with
just now — yet I would not have
her disappointed and heart
broken. And so, I beg her,
not to be over sanguine — and
her never to be disheartened — for
God will do right —

to my confidence in him — Appleton
Oakes Smith — that I consented to
trust our poor boy so far away,
and among such fe[?]ls. and
knowing what he is capable of:
— & [?] — I rest satisfied
that we shall have our reward,
come what may.

His mother knows all: Mary,
who is now here, knows the truth
— and Margaret who is now away
only knows of the appointment and
of her apprehensions. I could not
have her pleasure interfered with
just now — & yet I would not have
her disappointment [?]
hereafter. And so, I beg her
not to be over & [?] — and
her never to be disheartened — for
God will do right —

The more I know of Walker, from
your other reliable intimates, the
more highly I think of him.
What you say of his letters is
full of encouragement.

God bless your children. They
are the jewels that most mothers
are but too willing to part with -
but you are lengthen the claim
of love that binds them to you -
like the mother bird, you
lead to brighter world & lead the way.

Remember me to Will also,
and wish him joy of his father-
hood.

Print & publish anything I send
when & where you like - I leave it
all to you - only asking to have a
hint, when more copy may be a
help to you. Our State is over
& we have swept the field. God prosper

The more I learn of Walker, from
you & other reliable [?], the
more highly I think of him.

What you say of [?] is
full of encouragement.

God bless your children. They
are the jewels that most mothers
are but too willing to part with -
but you only lengthen the claim
of love that binds them to you -
like the mother bird, [?]

[?] to brighter world & lead the way.

Remember me to Mr. Smith also,
and unto him joy of his father-
hood.

Print & publish anything I send
when & where you like - I leave it
all to you - only asking to have a
hint, when more copy may be a
help to you. Our State is in [?]
& we have swept the field. God [?]

The right! —

I forgot. I believe to mention
that I began the war upon titles
- squire, Honor & Esquire - in the
Country - like the N.A. Review used
to speak of Geo. Washington as George
Washington Esquire; & John P. Rabel
published a poem with an original title
page - saying by John Pierpont Esquire.

It was I too, who began the war a-
gainst capital punishment, & public
murders by law:

Against lotteries - imprisonment for
debt - slavery (see Webster's name
for my scheme about 1827) against
the militia system - & my other
schemes and laws hurled into
the air, - all of which have been swept
away, or greatly damaged by
the assaults - As ever
Yours truly
John Neal

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