

Port^d Oct 27/56

Y^r dear friend God
has been very merciful to us. Our
poor boy did not die suddenly -
nor by violence - nor in battle -
without notice or preparation;
and sorrowful as the separation
may be - it is nothing to be
compar'd with what might
have happened. The Lord, will
be done!

I agree with you about
trade. I was exceedingly averse
to a profession for James & only
yielded to the preference of a mother
because of the extraordinary aptitude
of our son, for high attainments, before
he had betrayed any aberration -
Pierpont will otherwise brought up - He
is only nine in his [?] years - but

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Date: Oct. 27,

Description: John Neal letter to Mrs. E.Oakes Smith about his son's death.

We were to deal a terrible
will him. If God spares
him to us & us to him. I
shall leave it mainly to
his mother - perhaps altogether.

My thanks to you and yours
for all your kindness to our poor
boy. May your Children find
little sympathy & cheer go whither
soever they may.

In a letter from Mary rec^d
Saturday, she tells us that she
was about calling on you to see
if anything more could be known
& today, her husband writes to
say that you had written me.

No - if there should be any effects,
we shall not receive them - There

[?] we are to deal otherwise
with him. If God spares
him to us & us to him. I
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his mother - perhaps altogether.

Many thanks to you and yours
of all your kindness to our poor
boy. May your Children find
like sympathy & cheer go whither
so ever they may.

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Saturday, she tells us that she
was about calling on you to see
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& today, her husband writes to
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No - if there should be any effects,
we shall not receive them - There

maybe a few little remem-
brances for us to sadden or joy
over - of no value to others - but
considerable to another, a sister,
or a father. But we try to focus [?]
our souls in patience.

God help the mourning! I
too have a hope that our dear
son is not far off - that he reads
my heart - & sees my tears - &
is waiting to comfort us all.

Truly your friend
John Neal

Mrs E Oakes Smith

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