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Augusta, Me. Nov. 10. 1826. My dear Son William Your letter of the 30. Left has been duly & gratefully received . Your being pre removing to a greater distance, especially to the south, I consider providential trivould hope, not an us event. The bounds of our habitation are appointed by the great Proprietor of heaven & earth, as well as the number four months, which we cannot pake. The subject of slavery is full of importance, whether it provails. For if a diminution of the numbers of the coloured population is not soon effected, they may & I have no doubt it will be attended with the divine blefoing veventual success. As to duly it must be left to your serious & conscientions determination, in view of all cincumstances of hope you will be divinely directed in this, as well as all other measures of questionable capediency. On the subject of Lacred Music, which you mention as having some hand in promoting by instruction I do not fully understand what you intend by the new method? Whether it is merely the adoption of the Italian syllables in the room of the English & adapting to every change of key; or whether it is using those syllables in correspondence with the seven musical letters without changing them with the variation of the key by flats of sharps that is to say, C is always do, D is always ze, E is always mi, F is always fa; V so of the rost, lot the key be what it may. This latter method was practised by M. Holland who taught music here in 1823. This method however is not senerally received or practised in this country, of it is liable to several objections; the principal of which is ves no practical aid in designating or expressing the semitones. For although it teaches theoretically where they lay in every octave vir. between the 3. & 4. and 7. & 8. ascending from the tonic, in the major key; and between the 2, & 3. and 5. & 6. in the minor key; yet as the names by which these semitones are called in the scale are continually varying with every transposition of key, it is very difficult to make the learner understans singing. The other method differs from the old in which we have been taught, merely in the names of the se notes; & it has the preference perhaps in this respect, that it has a distinct name for every note, whereas the English have to repeat three of theirs to complete the seven. In they scheme di is the master note answering exactly to our of practical psalmody is expression, I this consists not only in the selection of a suitable time for the portion to be sung, bu in the adaptation of the music to the sacred poetry, by so varying the movement, quantity & torse of voice as justly to express the different thoughts, sentiments & passions. This it is confessed, is an attainment of no small difficulty, & requires a considerable degree of judgment & taste, attention & practice. To assist singers extensively in this efuntial but neglected part of good poalmody, The late D. Woicester, has invented certain letters as symbols, set before every verse or line, which variation from the common movement, indicating the requisite changes - I these, with an explanatory key all very simple & easy are published in Worcester's Walts Entire, comprehending Walts version of the pealms, & hypnes, & a supplement of Selecthymas, in three editions, large, common & pocket at Boston of are obtaining catersive circulation & adoption. They are also sold by John & Haven, lity of Nyork. But whether you have them with you or not I am ignorant. Or what Music Books you use

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society

(Coll. 2142, Box 1/3) Date: Nov. 10, 1826

Description: Letter from Henry Sewall to his son, William

My dear Son William

Augusta, Me. Nov. 10.1826.

Your letter of the 30.Sept. has been duly & gratefully received. — Your being prevented from removing to a greater distance especially to the south, I consider providential, & would hope, not an unfavorable event. The bounds of our habitation are appointed by the great Proprietor of heaven & earth, as well as the number of our months, which we cannot pass. — The subject of slavery is full of importance, whether we consider its nature or its consequences; & seems to portend incalculable evils, especially in the region where

it prevails. For if a diminution of the numbers of the coloured population is not soon effected, they may ^ so formidable as to endanger the tranquility of the whites. The plan of a gradual emancipation as com-

[page torn] slavery appears to be the only ^ & predictable one to produce the desired [page torn] & I have no doubt it will be attended with the divine blessing & eventual success. As to your course of in the case

duty ^- it must be left to your serious & conscientious determination, in view of all circumstances, & I hope you will be divinely directed in this, as well as all other measures of questionable expediency.

On the subject of Sacred Music, which you mention as having some hand in promoting by instruction, I do not fully understand what you intend by the 'new method.' Whether it is merely the adoption of the Italian

syllables in the room of the English & adapting ^ to every change of key; or, whether it is using those syllables in correspondence with the seven musical letters without changing them with the variation of the key by flats & sharps; that is to say, C is always more than it may. This latter method was practised by Mr. Holland who taught music here in 1823. This method, however, I believe is not generally received or practiced in this country & it is liable to several objections; the principal of which is, that it gives no practical aid in designating or expressing the semitones. For although it teaches theoretically where they lay in every octave, viz. between the 3. & 4. and 7. & 8. ascending from the tonic, in the major key; and in this scheme

between the 2. & 3. and 5. & 6. in the minor key; yet as $^{\wedge}$ the names by which these semitones are called in the scale are continually varying with every transposition of key, it is very difficult to make the learner understand the difference between the semitones & whole tones & especially to express & modulate them correctly in practical singing. The other method differs from the old in which we have been taught, merely in the names of the seven notes; & it has the preference perhaps, in this respect, that it has a distinct name for every note, whereas the English Italian

have to repeat three of them to complete the seven. In the $^{\land}$ scheme $\underline{S}_{\underline{i}}$ is the master note, answering exactly to our $\underline{M}_{\underline{i}}$, & mi, f_a , & Si, do are the names of the semitones thus, $\{Fa \text{ sol la } fa \text{ sol la } M_{\underline{i}} \}$ The Do re mi syllables I observe $\{Do re \text{ mi } fa \text{ sol al } S_{\underline{i}} \}$

[page torn] recent edition of the Boston Collection of Church Music, are recognized, & carried through all the transpositions of keys
[page torn]

[page torn] those [page torn] Fa so la. – But after the rudiments of music ^ sufficiently acquired, the most important pa[missing] of practical psalmody is expression. & this consists not only in the selection of a suitable tune for the portion to be sung, but particular subject of the

in the ^ adaptation of the music to the ^ sacred poetry; by so varying the movement; quantity & tone of voice as justly to express the different thoughts, sentiments & passions. This, it is confessed, is an attainment of no small difficulty, & requires a considerable degree of judgment & taste, attention & practice. To assist singers extensively in this essential but neglected of the psalm or hymn

part of good psalmody, the late D' Worcester, has invented certain letters as symbols, set before every verse or line ^ which requires

^ variation from the common movement, indicating the requisite changes — & these, with an explanatory key all very simple & easy are published in Worcester's Watts Entire, comprehending Watt's version of the psalms, & hymns, & a supplemental of Select hymns, they

in three editions, <u>large</u>, <u>common</u> & <u>pocket</u> – at Boston – & ^are obtaining extensive circulation & adoption. They are also sold by John P. Haven, City of N. York. But whether you have them with you or not, I am ignorant. Or what Music Books you use.

After all the knowledge theoretical & practical of this delightful science which we can obtain in this imperfectstate, to be a coephable to Go, praise must be accompanied with enrospondent feelings of heart. But of this efuncial requisite our lenging theirs are loo lamentably deficient. The predicted ora however, is donarcing when those who engage in colaborating the praises of Lien the perfect of beauty," shall "sing with the spirit & with the understanding" when this of that man, as well the singers as the players on instainments, shall be born in her. Then shall they present unto him who inhabits the praises of desail, an effering in righteousness. It I will accept you, with your sweet savour in my holy mountain, the height of desail, and the Leve. With regard to the state of religion here—a declansion among profesors, similar to what you mention beaplene in your region; is too prevalent, to the onemy is vigilant. But the Love Omnipotent reigneth, to he is proceeding his own work in various places accound no. We have great cause of thankfulness for the precious reversals within the most was as the late. There will no prevalent it out to most work of the noveless of it. But the revival at Machias has been the most considerable, both in extent I numbers upwards too being reckened upon, I by the dast accounts the work was still in progreh. And we have recently heard

subjects of it. But the revival at Machias has been the most considerable, both in asterit & numbers_ upwards of 100 being reckened upon, to by the last accounts the work was still in progress. And we have recently heard of a religious attention at Hampson, but no particulars. Good ministers have been recently settles in Farmingtha Newsharon, Strong, Madison, Solan, Jackson, Prospect, be chiefly furnished by the Bangon Institution.

Your sister Susan was married to M. Robert Gardner the 27 September, I has removed to Hallowell. The connexion will no doubt be advantageous to hier, although we lose her company. But to have her sattled so near us is a militiation of the lofs. He is a gentleman of respectable character, I is generally considered as populsing piety, although he has not made a public profession of it.

The portraits which you solvet, are taken from the frames & rolled in preparation to be sent to the care of De Sewall, by M. Sprague of Hallowell our representative to longrep, who is to set out next week for Mashing sen, & who will probably be the bearer of this. A note to De Sewall will accompany the roll. Medo this cheerfully, as they will be preserved & perpetuated as well by you, if wanthy such attention, as by any of the children. It will help you to see your parents faces when they are dead & gone" for in a little time the originals will both sleep together in the dust till the morning of the resurrection. Let us then who are of the day be sober, putting on the breast plate of faith & love, & for a helmet the hope of saturation" having "our conversation in heaven from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Phrist, who is able to change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to suboue all things to himself" that "when Christ who is our life shall appear we may, of pear with him in glory."

Jahrha d. 1913 Helmall

34
26 date of this little

57
95
24
25 years since the

authors of grand Pa Grand ma were taken

After all the knowledge theoretical & practical of this delightful science which we can obtain in this imperfect state, to be acceptable to God, praise must be accompanied with correspondent feelings of heart. But of this essential requisite our Singing Choirs are too lamentably deficient. The predicted era, however, is advancing, when those who engage in celebrating the praises of "Zion the perfection of beauty" shall "sing with the spirit & with the understanding" – when "this & that man, as well the singers as the players on instruments, shall be born in her". Then shall "they present unto him who inhabits the praises of Israel, an offering in righteousness" — & "I will accept you, with your sweet savour, in my holy mountain, the height of Israel, saith the Lord."

With regard to the state of religion here – a declension among professors, similar to what you mention & deplore in your region; is too prevalent, & the enemy is vigilant. But the Lord Omnipotent reigneth, & he is prosecuting his own work in various places around us. We have great cause of thankfulness for the precious revivals within the present year in this State. Particularly at Norridgewock, Belfast & Prospect [page tom] commenced last spring & is still in operation & considerably powerful – about 50 are already considered the hopefu[page tom] subjects of it. But the revival at Machias has been the most considerable, both in extent & numbers – upwards of 100 being reckoned upon, & by the last accounts the work was still in progress. And we have recently heard of a religious attention at Hampden, but no particulars. Good ministers have been recently settled in Farmington, Newsharon, Strong, Madison, Solon, Jackson, Prospect, &c chiefly furnished by the Bangor Institution.

Your sister Susan was married to M^t Robert Gardner the 27. September, & has removed to Hallowell. The connexion will no doubt be advantageous to her, although we lose her company. But to have her settled so near us is a mitigation of the loss. e is a gentleman of respectable character, & is generally considered as professing piety, although he has not made a public profession of it.

The portraits* which you solicit, are taken from the frames & rolled, in preparation to be sent to the care of D'. Sewall, by M'. Sprague of Hallowell our representative to Congress, who is to set out next week for Washington, & who will probably be the bearer of this. A note to D'. Sewall will accompany the roll. We do this cheerfully—as they will be preserved & perpetuated as well by you, if worthy such attention, as by any of the children. It will help you to "see your parents' faces when they are dead & gone" — for in a little time the originals will both sleep together in the dust till the morning of the resurrection. "Let us then who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith & love, & for a helmet the hope of salvation" — having "our conversation in heaven from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is able to change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all

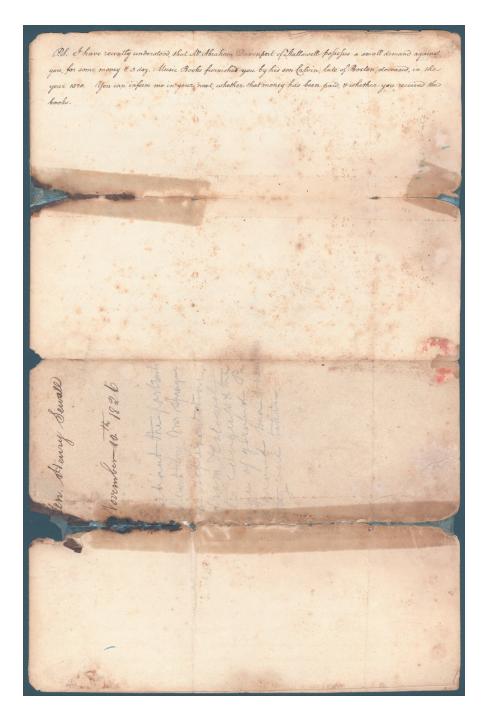
things to himself' – that "when Christ who is our life shall appear, we may ^ appear with him in glory."

With love to Eliza & the children, in which I represent all the rest of the family. I remain with

[page torn] & strengthened by divine grace, your faith [page torn]

H. Sewall

*These were taken at about the age of 50. the survivor is now 74.



P.S. I have recently understood, that M². Abraham Davenport of Hallowell possesses a small demand against you, for some money & 3 doz. Music Books furnished you by his son Calvin, late of Boston, deceased, in the year 1820. You can inform me in your next, whether that money has been paid & whether you received the books

Gen Henry Sewall

November 10th 1826



Mr. William Sewall Warrenton, Fauquier County. State of Virginia

M^r. Sprague.