

Hon^{ble} & Dear S^r

Had my present Indisposition allowed my going abroad, I should have attended the Funeral of your dear Son, but tho' I can't wait on you on this Melancholly Occasion, yet I heartily condoleth you Under your Great Loss You have sustained in the sudden Death of your dear and only Son. And indeed y^e immature Death of so hopeful a son, so likely to be a great Blessing in his Day and Generation challenges an Elegy from Every One that knew Him: and considering his [?] generous behaviour so pleasing to all Persons almost, your Great Loss (tho' great) is thereby the more diffused, & you have as many partners in your affliction as Your Son had acquired Acquaintance in his short Life. It must be ac- knowledged, that such sudden changes are ordinarily Very shocking to Nature, & call for more than ordinary Measures of Grace to carry thro' them. Such dark Providences are Riddles to Carnal Reason, but Faith Can Unfold them in the Face of divine Providence to entomb such Children in the deep Gulph of Oblivion. Friendship when lost may be regain'd, Honour when darkened may be now [?] Gifted, An estate - when craz'd or shipwreck may be reunited: But to have such fair Cabinet wherein we design to lodge & hide our mortal Essence, our worldly Hopes & glory pickloct, rifled & demolished by sudden Death, seems to our fond Nature, not only deplorable but desperate. But there is a bright star that shines in such Dark Nights! oh Interpreter of a thousand, an Attend' of the Covenant who unriddles such hard Chapters in the Book of Divine Sovereignty. All our Changes are in the Right Hand of the Most High, All o' Trials are ordered by Infinite Wisdom

Lord

all things shall work together for Good to them that Love God. The ^ y' a better Portion than that of Sons and Daughters. He can more, infinitely more than make up in Himself what is lost in the Creature: Christ has unflung Death & consecrated the Grave for his People, & our freinds, when they die they are not lost, only gone before, & we shall meet them again

be

(it so ^ hop'd) At the Right Hand of Christ never to part again — Brethren
you

(says the Apostle Thess 4. 13, 14.) I would not have ^ to be ignorant, con- =cerning them that are asleep, that yo sorrow not, even as others, that have no Hope. For if we believe that Jesus died, & rose again, evenso them also w^{ch} sleep in Jesus, will God bring wth Him. And what Though the Lord of both calls the wakeful Centinel from his Post in the first Watch, and remands Him to the grand Rendezvouz, to the great Master of the Heavenly Hosts, The Gen' Assembly of the Church of the first born whose Names are Written in Heaven; He thereby discharged the Sm^{ll} Soldier from many a bad - Brush & hard marches, He shortens misery & hastens Felicity: And can our worldly Views & Expectations, Should they be accomplished yeild us such Grounds of Consolation? O No! What are all o' mortal Ravishm^{ts} & Hopes (Says one) but a vain show? Tho' we tread in the Path of Duty, & commence the fairest Suits, & thereby erect Piramids of Honour to ourselves? they are but Phantasies to the Joys of Grace here, Much

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. 420, Box 6/39)
Date: 1750
Description: Letter from Jeremiah Wise to William Pepperrell

more to the Visions of Glory hereafter. We should (as the Apostle
 says) Comfort ourselves & one another with these things.
 My Christian Friends! I heartily sympathize wth you, having
 drank of the same bitter Cup that is now put into your Hands,
 I have in some Measure learnt to mourn wth them that mourn; But
 We must not give Way to Despondency, Nor be inconsolable wth Rachel
 O Let us Not put away the Comforts of Gods Word, w^{ch} are laid up and
 provided as Cedars against a famishing Law. Surely the Comforts
 of God should not be small wth us; Nor the Grounds of Hope we have
 in Gods Word made void by and our as well as wth David slighted by us;
 but will be accounted by us as well ordered in all things & sure to be
 all o' Salvation and all our Desires tho' o' Houses be not made to
 grow. We must reason down our Dejections & Disappointments as David
 does his, Under y^e Darkest Views, in the 42 & 43. Psalm: Why art
 thou cast down O my soul, & why art thou disquieted within me?
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 hope ^ on God for I shall yet praise Him, who is the alth of my
 Countenance & my god! I hope I shall hear that S^t. William Pepperrel
 & his elect Lady are enabled under their infant Trial, tho' it touches
 them in a very tender Part, to behave themselves as becoming
 Christ^{ns}
 ^ Neither to despise the Hand of God Nor to faint Under his Rebuking
 that they have approv'd themselves the genuine & Sp^t Children
 of Believing Abraham, in cheerfully offering Up their be-
 loved Isaac y^e Son of their Laughter to God, by a childlike
 submission to Him; & that they are able in some measure
 to say wth Job, The Lord has given & the Lord has taken away
 & blessed be his Name. We had Oportunity of joining o' Prayers
 with Yours while Your Son was living, and tho' God was not pleas'd
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 to grant You his Life, Yet we hope he has bestown that ^ w^{ch} is infi-
 nitely better, Even Etern^l Life. You have many Prayers, going
 up for you still, and God forbid that I Should (among
 other Your friends) Cease to pray for You, that You ^ be sup-
 ported under & have a sanctified [?] of this and all y^r
 future Trials that you may be more engaged y^e Ever in Gods
 Service, walk more closely wth God, & after a life of Commu-
 =nion wth Him here, may be brot' to the Everlasting Vision
 & Fruition of Him hereafter. With my humble Service to my
 Lady Pepperrel Your Dear Daughter Madam Sparkacok & her dear
 Consort, desiring an Intercession Your Prayers for me and mine
 I rest, and am,
 Brevio: March 7. 1750. Honourable S^r
 Your sympathizing & affectionate Friend
 & Humble Serv^t Jeremiah Wise.

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Mr Jare: Wise 7th March
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To
The Honourable
S^r William Pepperrel
Knight Barronet
at
Kittery

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M^r Jare: Wise 7th March
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