

Woburn Town 14th 10th mo 1862

My Dear James I wish to congratulate

Thee on this the Anniversary of
thy 21st Birth day and to express
my desire that every needful
Blessing may be thy portion
and that in thy search after
Knowledge Thou mayest be
persuaded from evil and that
the wisdom that cometh from
above may descend and abide
with Thee I have sometimes
been afraid that Thou indulgest
too much in light reading
I am aware thou canst not
always be reading religious
Books yet the pious monitor
within if attended too much
clearly shew thee what
may prove useful and

and what will have a ^{harmful} tendency and I can hardly
suffer this opportunity to pass without reminding thee of
thy attending a Desenting place of Worship having myself
in some measure suffered from getting my mind entangled
with Calvinistic Doctrine when young in years a circumstance
occurred to ^{me} which I feel inclined to tell thee. I went one evening
with a young friend to call upon a Desenting minister
Dr. Scorselys Brother in Law but he not happening to be at
Home and having ~~that~~ a friend was going to have a meeting
for seamen we went to ^{at} the friend. I spoke a great deal
about Jonah but before concluding she referred to the
12th and two following verses

of the 12th Chapter of Ecclesiastes and showed clearly the little
use study and the reading of many Books but to fear God and
keep his commandments was the whole duty of man. My friend on
coming out ^{said} what an uncommon discourse but by Dear James
It was accompanied by a furrow to my mind to which I had
before been a stranger and I believe it was a word in season
for I had been reading with avidity a many Books principally Calvinistic
yet It was many years before I saw It required of me to
become a friend. Remember My Dear James the
bright example thou hast had in thy Dear lamented
Father who through guiding
obedience to what was more
manifest within was enabled
to lay all at the feet of the

knowing nothing among
Men but Christ and His sacrifice
and thus he became eminently
useful in life and honored
at His Death Thou wilt
receive a easy Chair for thy
Study which I trust will
add to thy comfort I am also
getting thee an antemortician
of my own knitting ready for
It and remain with love
thy affectionate Grandmother
Esther Mather

To J B Walker