

1028/73/11

CWS-17/73.11

(W.A. Johnson to Jas. Bovell Johnson)

"The Parsonage"

Weston Ap^l 24^h 1877

Caring for small pox cases

My dear Jimmy

Your "Foreign Postal Card" arrived two days after the letters from you & Lou in one envelope.

We are just emerging from winter here & as usual all at once. Lovely weather, warm & growing, & birds on every side. I wonder if any part of the world enjoys the sudden change we do. The very gabble, jargon & discord of the frogs & lizards become music, & pleasant music too after the silence of our long winter. I suppose Ch. matters in England will become a little quieter during the summer. I notice not much is done from April to Sep^r in Ch. matters ever.

I have little or nothing to write you about just now. Small-pox is gradually dying out in the Village & few as we are in numbers, the village seems to be deserted. Everything in the Parsonage, Vestry & Chapel just the same as ever. I saw Arthur yesterday. He asked me to go to town to see some horses collected at the Crystal Palace stables & to be sold by "Grand" It is a very large sale. Arthur seems bound to sell & to buy if possible. I was tired when I got home, though I had walked very little. I am not quite strong yet though getting quite well again. I will leave this open until Thursday morning, & perhaps I may get a letter or something to ans. By the by, let me thank you for the "Illustrated Freemasonry" by all means send the other parts if you can. You have often heard me say, no doubt, The world has to be governed by one of two powers either Romanism or Freemasonry. Romanism in the form of Ultramontaniam & Freemasonry are the only two organizations moved by one head, each. Romanism organizes secret societies & compels submission, so it says, for the love of God. Freemasonry enrolls great numbers ostensibly for purposes of friendship & conviviality, but really to obtain an oath of secrecy & to be able to obtain a quarterly record of their numbers, their opinions & thus plan & plot for themselves. By either of these, Governments may be overthrown, the one for religion (socalled) the other for infidelity. The one good reason why you may not join either of them is, because they demand the submission of your "free will." I think no man can give it up without offending God. This does not affect our obedience to certain rules in certain societies; the C.B.S. for instance or our ordination vows. A woman seems to be called upon to relinquish her free will when she marries & it is this, if not more than this too, wh^h romanism & freemasonry demand of those who would join their societies.

25^h Ap. As I expected, one from Lou & one from yourself today; with any amount of information about Lenten Services & a copy of "Christian Apologist for Ap^l." Your letters are dated Apr 12th Lou does not give a good account of herself yet speaks hopefully. You observe about my Lenten Services. They were more than I can manage again. The additional work in consequence of not having a D^r to attend to small-pox cases, made it necessary for me to be on the go incessantly, so many saying "we will not keep you a moment, but do call & tell us if so & so has small-pox, & of course every one thought they had it. I am still overdone but getting

well, & all you D^{rs} could say of me is, Oh, he is tough, he will be well if he rests awhile, but somehow that rest awhile does not come. I am netted up, or webbed up with these poor people, & they are my children in some sense, & without knowing it they depend upon me for more than they know, & my constant habit of being found in the Vestry leads more & more to come to me about some trifle or other. The absence of a medical man with a little common sense & fellow feeling increases my work too. There is nothing noticeable hereabout. Prices high, war prospects increasing. An occasional cracked skull from too much whiskey, & on the other hand some one failing for want of a little. It is hard to hit the happy medium. Your Lenten papers are quite a treat to me & very instructive. With much love to you all, believe me

Ever your very affect^{te} father
W. A. Johnson

