

Asbury Theological Seminary

## ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange

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Correspondence

Hannah Whitall Smith

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1983

### Box 1\_12 (Correspondence- Fowell, Abby 1858-1868)

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myself ~~and~~ <sup>many better</sup> image to be the instrument  
of greater usefulness.  
At the other  
end of my self  
I cannot see  
any way but  
to <sup>to</sup> mar the  
moment wait  
complaining of my backwardness  
in answering thy letters so I'll send  
when I've none to answer -  
was ever earthly communion  
you looked for it to be, I calculated  
upon thee, and how little I said  
thee when last here - the fact is  
there is only one, ever near - ever  
reliable - One from whose Presence  
comes broad effulgence of light -  
while our friends but throw little  
passing rays of light across our  
paths - very sweet and pleasant to  
greet, but not sufficient to light our  
way - or steady and continual enough  
to task in - Dear Hannah, I fear  
the shady places in thy present path  
are not few or far between - but the  
picture will be the more beautiful &  
perfect, when worked out - won't it, darling?

I was telling Anna the other day I really thought the Lord was kinder to me than most other folks - really the lines fall unto me in pleasant places! since I heard of Anne R's troubles so overcasting their sunny pictures, I have the more realized how great a boon is my excellent health, a sound mind in a sound body & I trust, this thy suggestion, Anne's discomfort may be temporary - How faithful and loving I ought to be, when His mercies so abound - but the thing is to be thankful at all times, not only when the sun shines - how wrong by we judge of ourselves often - we think we have a very grateful spirit - when it may be only because there is no trial to prove us - we think how near we are kept to His side, when there is no temptation - strongly pulling the other way - oh Hannah, it does

seen as if some had a much  
harder time than others - there is  
poor Mr Jacob! if there ever has a  
prayer to spare, oh! offer it for him,  
how impossible it is to know whether  
people are born again or not - they  
may be, and yet fall into temptation  
may they not? but then no one will  
<sup>Don't they think it's dangerous to tell people they're safe, never</sup>  
believe it - I am distressed for thee  
my brother Johnathan - how I do  
pray & plead for that poor soul!  
dangers so surround him, and nothing  
seems to offer for him to do, keep this  
sad hint to thyself - I fear the chains  
of habit! James Morrison is in  
New York, he wrote him a beautiful  
letter of sympathy & encouragement  
and bade him if sin was in his  
conscience go straight to that fountain  
We have had so many good gospel  
sermons lately at this meeting, indeed  
I have enjoyed them much Eli  
Jones did preach the soundest best  
and most earnest sermon, I've most  
ever heard a message to the sinner -

and the saints — including me  
He said "do not startle at the word  
sinner — for we all have sinned &  
come short of the Glory of God — but  
there is a Fountain filled with blood  
and we know that sinners plunged  
therein, come forth white and clean!  
Then, why should not souls here this  
day wash and be clean? what  
hindres? what hindres? how  
solemn was the call! it seems as  
if sinners must have been brought there  
& then! how sweetly he spoke to me  
and my fellow believers — I can hardly  
give thee any idea — he spoke of the  
unrecognized who had no nursing  
Fathers & Mothers — of the poor woman  
who pressed through the crowd — and  
touched the hem of her Saviour's garment  
and was made whole — even the dis-  
ciples near him, knew not she was  
healed — but Jesus knew it, He recognized  
her, and she was constrained to tell before  
them all her malady and its healing!  
Then he conveyed a special message to me  
telling me the thoughts of my heart — he said  
he had heard a plaintive voice "my way is hedge  
up — I cannot get out" the language to me was  
the same as to the Israelites, "Stand still &  
see the salvation of God" — over & over again  
had these words come to me as, I believe, the voice  
of the Spirit to a mind I trust made somewhat  
subject — and I do not think I divine myself  
in thinking the fullness of time has not come yet  
God does take our circumstances into account & if  
I can at any future time keep these commandments without