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Correspondence

Hannah Whital Smith

1983

**Box 1_14 Correspondence Fowler, Emmato French, Thomas
1880-1910)**

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Good Name Mrs. Charles Beall

St. 6 Transcona of the Massachusetts WCTU

X I think thee as "that friend of mine
who lives in God"

Phil^a May 10th 1881.

Mrs H. W. Smith

Dear kind friend

Again, to day the precious
little sheets have found there way into
my sick room. The "Fulfilled Word".

One of them tells me so sweetly, why
I am "called aside" Yes! Oh, yes,

"Doth knowledge deeper grow with Him
In secret oft, His deeper love is shown,
^{alone,}

"We learn in many an hour of dark distress.

Some rare, sweet lesson of His tenderness.

I well know my friend, that your time
is always so fully engaged, that often,
messages or correspondence may be obliged
to be overlooked, or perhaps not receive much
of your attention, amid the multiplicity of

your more important duties; but nevertheless
I shall make an attempt to crowd in my
grateful thanks for your unceasing and
ever thoughtful kindness to me. Before
my Heavenly Father laid this affliction
upon me, now over three years, I was one
of your most attentive and appreciative
listeners at the weekly Bible Readings,
and I want to tell you again, as I have
before, that it has all been made so plain
to me now. The light and comfort I received
from your teachings there, helped & fitted
me so much to bear ^{more} patiently this long-
painful illness. Having such perfect health
a whole life time as it were, then suddenly
find myself in a helpless suffering condition
pronounced by man an incurable disease.
Very naturally, such a blow must rack
our poor nervous system, and almost say
in despair, why has God afflicted me
so terribly when I love to work for him and
searching more and more after the promises
in His Holy Word? Strong physically,

always busy, active and earnest, with a resolute will, firm in any purpose that would honour my Lord and Master's name, an unwavering faith, believing that "All things do work together for good to them who love Him." Yes, it seemed to me, before disease came, that I could say Amen to everything. One constant wish and prayer was always uppermost, - this "Make me a broken and emptied vessel, fit for the Master's use." And now He is doing it. I remember too, when praying, that I said at any cost Lord, only make me fit, that I may show in my life and conversation, and in the class that I am teaching, that Thou art with me, guiding and leading, putting light and love into my heart and words into my mouth. Truly indeed, that God's ways are not our ways. I would not have chosen a painful, incurable disease to come into my body to accomplish the work, in answer to my supplications, but He who made this frail bark knew just what it required to lose self, and become the broken and emptied vessel pleaded for

2005 - October 11
the Beloved. Mary St. Trudley
thanks again. I am yours in Christ
when in perfect health.

And now my
dear friend, I have trespassed on your time
longer than I intended to do, but I know
your charitable heart will pardon all such
intrusion from one of God's "shut-in
children." Goulburn says - "We should
regard suffering in all its forms, as being
a vocation, having its special duties,
receiving special grace, saying calmly - Soul
"For the present here lies thy allotted task;
it is the post to which thou art appointed: seek
to occupy it faithfully, and more ^{good} shall accrue
to thee from it, than any service of thine own choosing
and yet still more dear friend, as you told me
when by my bed, that it was the highest point
that we can be called to - Suffering with Christ.
Remember me at the Throne of Grace, that
I may endure to the end. With many