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Correspondence

Hannah Whitall Smith

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Box 1_15 (Correspondence Friends Yearly Meeting -Richmond Indiana 1881-1882)

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CHARLES F. COFFIN.

RICHMOND, IND.,

Jan 11, 1882

Marionah Whitall Smith

My dear friend

Rhoda requests me to reply to thy letters of 8th & 9th addressed to her. We do feel very near unity with thee, and a strong desire to have thee connected with our religious society - While I have never had the revelation thou speaks of, in regard to the eternity of punishment, - and accept myself, in their literal meaning, the words of the Saviour "these shall go away into everlasting punishment". I see nothing dampening in holding such a hope as thou dost.

I have consulted with Timothy Nicholson - We (three) feel after mature consideration, that if thou canst feel free

With a message of kind regard from
Rhode & myself I am

Thy attached friend

G. F. Coffin

To return thy shorter communication
dated 1-9 1882 - it will be sufficient.
Thy full and explicit, and cover all
that our Committee desire - I suppose
we all hold some views not stated in
our declaration of faith, - but certainly
if we subscribe as fully & decidedly
as thou dost, to the "Declaration", it is
all that should be required.

We leave the case in thy hands
hoping to hear from thee soon.

The pressure against thy acceptance
is not from within our Monthly Meeting
but largely from without, and has its head
quarters in another M. M. Our friends
feel very kindly towards thee.

Please be cautious about corresponding
with any one here while the matter is
pending - We have no desire for con-
cealment, but do not think it necessary
to put material in the way of designing
persons.