

Asbury Theological Seminary

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Correspondence

Hannah Whitall Smith

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1983

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

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May the dear Lord guide us  
A Member of African Mission and  
English - B. F. Smith's Church in  
and keep the M. as good men as  
every hour. My husband's name is  
dear! He will write in a few days  
and he sends his love to the Editor

Richmond 12.21, 1881

My dear friend  
H. W. Smith

Thy letter came to hand  
and was presented at our Monthly  
Meeting to day. There was a unanim-  
ous approval of receiving thy 2  
dear daughter and a great many  
expressed their joy at having thee  
a member of our Meeting and of  
the need there was for just such  
teachers and the value of thy services.  
When J. P. Evans arose and raised  
the question of thy views on Estem-  
punishment. When my husband  
read thy letter and we both  
gave explanations in regard

to it but as there seemed to be  
a feeling that the expression  
of the views was not quite  
definite enough a committee  
was appointed to correspond with  
them on the matter and learn  
what the views were upon final  
restitution, J P Evans was on that  
committee. He is D B W's warm  
friend and was very much  
annoyed at the position they  
took in regard to baptism of the  
Holy Ghost & sanctification and  
I fear may give the trouble of  
them are not very wise.

Every body in the meeting desires  
that, and are so anxious to have  
them as members, there is opening  
up before them a wonderful  
field for usefulness in our  
Society. There is not a single  
teacher in our limits, we  
have evangelists and exhorters

but no women teachers of the  
way of life and salvation, and  
we so much need them, and  
then there are all over this  
by my women who need to be  
fully saved so that they would  
give their tongues to the Lord and  
their talents to him in the line  
of the ministry

And now my dear sister there  
is a way out of this matter  
some how. The doctrine of final  
restitution is not important  
to salvation and should not  
stand in the way of doing the  
work which is now before  
them and of being in the way  
of the ministry and the salvation  
of souls. There is no one that  
could do the work which there  
can in our Society, but we  
have got to get that bone out  
of the way. I learn from the

My letter that thou hast made  
up thy mind to drop the subject,  
and I was so glad of it, and  
I do trust the dear Lord will  
enable thee to give that whole  
matter over to him. I noticed  
that thou saidst that thou was  
a thorough "Loraker" and may  
I suggest - that in response to  
the letter which will be written  
to thee by the Committee by the  
Chairman who is my husband  
that instead of going into an  
explanation of what thy views  
in its various shades are on  
the question, that thou take  
thy stand on George Fox's Appeal  
to the Governor of Barbadoes  
in 1681. I know thou can do  
that. And if thou just refer  
them to that Appeal as the  
exposition of thy views, without

any further explanation as to what  
in the Councils and wisdom of  
God may be done millions of  
years hence. It will satisfy  
every one and then can be  
placed at once in a position  
where the Church so much  
needs the

The whole thing hangs on the  
word eternal, we all agree it  
will be a long time and we  
are entitled to prevail thoughts  
and investigation but unless  
we could settle the matter  
more definitely than we can  
it is far wiser for us to not do  
anything that will mar our  
usefulness or close the doors  
for service when so many souls  
are ready to be saved. There  
are I admit persons in the Society  
and ministers who are not all  
certain but that sometime in due  
counsel all things will be brought

into subjection to Christ but as  
there are so many weak persons  
in the Church it is not best to  
bring this idea out. Then believe  
in a hell and eternal punish-  
ment as far as that word ~~can~~  
~~help~~ with its real meaning (what  
ever that is,) implies

Expense me for that only  
for I am so anxious to have  
you with us and I know there  
is one with us on the foundation  
on which we stand and there  
is no use in letting this doubt be  
in the way. We both understood  
My letter to mean that there  
had just dropped the question  
and was willing to leave it, but  
I want you strengthened up and  
put on the ground so as to act  
wisely. I would suggest not  
to let my daughter know of  
this letter as she is young. I am  
so interested in her, Make this