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Correspondence

Hannah Whitall Smith

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## Box 2\_10 (Correspondence- Lawday, George to Little, S.M-1874-1901)

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My dear Mr. Smith,

I was truly glad to receive your welcome letter, & trust it may not be long ere I receive the promised further information concerning Mr. Harris. I have felt a strange recoil from his views & teaching as reported by my friends - it seemed to me he went so far beyond what is written in the Bible. My friend has some of his writings, she is earnestly seeking after truth, what she extremely desires is to know how far his daily life tallies with his teaching. If you can give me any information I shall be most grateful, or if you can point out any particulars in which he is deluded. I do not feel free to read his books, I have no other means of learning anything about him. The lady who has felt impelled to come & tell me about herself thus is a most clever woman, & much to be of God I think, in aiding others - she is the most remarkable woman I ever met.

(2) It has pleased God to bless to her soul  
the testimony of my simple life & in  
times gone they give me the joy of  
helping & now in this matter the facts  
impelled to come to me, & I scarcely  
know what to say - certainly I utter  
some marvellous things, but where is  
the warrant for them in Scripture? I  
have a great dread of going beyond  
what is written - I have no intellect  
for grasping deep things thus, I only  
get at them through the simplicity  
of Christ & revelation & teaching of  
the Holy Spirit - I scarcely like  
offering a suggestion to you, dear  
Mr Smith, for you have been a  
succourer of many & know so much  
more of God's work than I do - but  
if I might ask a question, it would  
be as to how far you are wise  
too so especially desiring a particular  
manifestation of Christ's presence?  
"The manifestation of the Spirit is  
given to every man to profit with?"



(3)

You know you are all Christ's  
He is all yours - is not this enough,  
I should not this cause your heart  
& whole being to be satisfied? I  
cannot help feeling that possibly  
you may be hindering the Lord's  
thorow revealing Himself, because  
it may unconsciously be an  
experience rather than Himself  
you are craving - It seems to  
me the Lord reveals Himself just  
according to our need, & His good  
pleasure - according too to the  
service He appoints us - You may  
be able most to glorify Him  
by walking by faith & not feeling  
His presence - I by His conscious  
touch - another - by a vision  
of Himself - We are His witnesses  
so shall we not be utterly satisfied  
with whatever He gives, & rather  
give thanks if He can trust



(4)  
us to trust Him when He with-  
holds? Truly He is forming His  
own pure image in you - & the  
crowning praise to His dear  
name with surely be when you  
are satisfied that He seeks fit  
to keep you unsatisfied. The  
case would be so different, dear  
friend, if any indulged sin  
caused Him to hide His face,  
but altho' it is His & in other ways  
He is wonderfully revealing  
Himself to you. Do you remember  
Madame Guyon's lines on  
love - "I resign (Love had apparently left)  
Henceforth altho' my will to thine  
I consent that Thou depart  
Though Thine absence breaks my heart  
Go then & for ever too  
Altho' it is right that I should do -  
This was just what Love intended -  
Absolute acquiescence in His con-  
soling embrace or in ~~solace~~ with drawal  
as to consciousness He is with us anyway

5  
I must just pen the words of a lady  
who, like yourself, knew of what it did  
not please the Lord to give her, of conscious  
touch - ~~in that the Lord's will was~~  
~~the will of the Lord's will~~ I even heard  
of the lady, "God gave me power to trust  
Him entirely, simply to be obedient  
with an utter obedience to Him, of patient  
with the patience of one subject to her Lord.  
Oh to be His, is it untold bliss. He is  
beginning to make me know the happiness  
of simple submission to His will - I  
would rather have His will worked in  
me at whatever cost of present suffering  
than have the full joy of satisfaction  
unless it was His entire good pleasure.  
At first I strove for satisfaction, now  
it seems as though I strove for nothing  
only wait, wait, but then what a  
waiting it is! a waiting in confidence  
that whatever He chooses, He pleases  
will be done - There is a sweetness in  
this I never before dreamed of by me -  
I again the lady "God is making me  
to understand what it is to rejoice



⑥ in the darkness He sends, in the  
suffering He sends - There is no sweeter  
thing on earth than just to be "subject  
to His will," & He teaches me this, lets me  
see this day by day - I cannot write a  
little of what God has become to me  
whether satisfied or not He gives me a  
heart full of rejoicing in being His  
to work in me according to His good will  
I hope there is no breach of trust in  
my sending this extract - it so expresses  
the precious portion our Lord is giving  
you I think - You will kindly not  
use the quotation in any way but  
destroy this letter on account of  
it & also because of what follows  
I believe some learn deeper of  
God by His withholding others by  
bestowing - The case above illustrates  
the withholding & thus giving. Since  
what I am about to pen sets forth  
it unasked or rather unexpected  
giving - The Lord caused me to meet



⑦ a lady & after telling me set forth  
to her the joys of a consecrated life  
He took the matter utterly into His  
own hands - & most sweetly drew  
her to Himself - She had no conception  
of such things, & I never uttered one  
word - The Spirit alone unfolded to  
her the deep mystery of the quickening,  
indwelling & marriage union -  
Her life is so changed, she still wonders  
how these things can be, but lets the  
Lord have His own way. We cannot  
understand why He so unexpectedly  
floods some souls with His conscious  
presence, & from other hungry yearning  
ones withholds all manifestation,  
but we know it is the best & the  
result is the same - The heart emptied  
of all & Christ only desired, <sup>may</sup> ~~more~~  
more - He is most glorified in both  
cases & this is the end of our creation.  
God for us - can never wholly  
satisfy, it must be He for God -

(8) He has tenderly overwhelmed  
me at times with love but a deeper  
yearning there is than for such  
blessing even - the heart cries  
out for Him to use the whole  
being for Himself, sometimes the  
words are forced out by the inward  
panting, "never mind what I  
suffer, what I go through, never mind  
how lost, what comes to me,  
Thou art so lovely, so exquisite  
so - (I no word can express what)  
Oh! break me, crush me, fill me,  
live me, gladden me, do anything  
with me, but only let me manifest  
Thee, exalt Thee, glorify Thee -  
It seems to me heaven will just  
be being occupied with God -  
just Himself - I down here what  
more can be desired than that  
He should & He only live in us.



9  
I cannot put it clearly into words  
but I desire to be so filled with the  
Spirit always, that I shall never  
meet myself - if you can understand  
me, not know whether I'm happy  
or not - whether I'm feeling His  
love or not, having no self desires,  
thoughts, or acts - Jesus only. He to  
live within & He to work without  
through these hands, this voice. Take  
a living temple - a limb of  
His body nothing more - When you  
can spare time do write me further  
of His ways with you - of "deadness  
to sin" - I do not know this deadness  
I'm increasingly hateful, but now  
& then it rises up - surely I must  
at times forget the "reckoning"  
One's conceptions, or rather the  
Spirit's unfolding of purity, holiness,  
is always so in advance of  
one's life, that it lays one very low



⑩ I know the inward "purity" you  
speak of, how it deepens & extends!  
It is 12:15 p.m. & I must retire -  
I could not get quick during the  
day so resolved to sit up - I do not  
think I shall be here very much  
longer. The old lady is getting feeble,  
the "house call" for her will soon  
be sounded I think - Thanks so  
much for assurances about my  
letters, my heart does rest, for all  
was long ago resolutely placed in  
His hands - yes - I wrote for Him,  
when you write again please direct  
home as you did last time, it was  
sent on to me all safely - "There is  
no fear in love" is the portion now  
given me to lay hold of. May our  
beloved Lord deeply satisfy you speedily  
& may you be satisfied whether He  
keeps you unsatisfied or filled.  
He is all yours, you have Himself in  
you, with you, for you - In His dear bond  
Your very affectionate  
Lizzie Lumb