

Asbury Theological Seminary

ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange

Correspondence

Hannah Whitall Smith

1983

Box 3_16 (Correspondence-Contemporaries B-W, 1874-1910)

ATS Special Collections and Archives

Follow this and additional works at: <https://place.asburyseminary.edu/hwscorrespondence>



Part of the [Christianity Commons](#)

EXTRACTS FROM LETTER WRITTEN BY MRS. CLYMER, OF NEW YORK
TO HER COUSIN JULIAN OWEN, THE BROTHER OF ROSAMUND OLIPHANT.

. . . MR. WALKER READ TO ME TONIGHT A LETTER FROM MRS.
OLIPHANT IN WHICH SHE SEEMS TO THROW DOUBT ON MRS. TUTTLES STATE-
MENTS. . . . SHE STAYED IN MY APPARTMENT FOR FIVE DAYS ^{LAST JULY} BEFORE
SAILING FOR ENGLAND WITH MR. OLPPHANT. ROSE TOLD ME OF ALL THESE
PRACTICES THEN. IT IS ~~STR~~ANGE THAT MRS. TUTTLE SHOULD SAY THE
SAME THINGS THAT ROSE TOLD ME MR. OLIPHANT DID PRACTISE, WHEN MRS.
TUTTLE KNEW NOTHING OF WHAT I HAD HEARD. MY CONCLUSION^S REGARDING
MR. OLIPHANT'S CHARACTER WERE DRAWN FROM ROSE'S OWN STATEMENTS CON-
CERNING HIMSELF. ROSE TOLD ME THAT HIS FIRST WIFE LEFT HIS BED AT
NIGHT FREQUENTLY TO GO TO THE BED OF SOME OTHER MAN & 'KISS HIM
INTO PURITY' - THAT WAS THE EXACT PHRASE; THAT SHE, MRS. ALICE
OLIPHANT HAD REDEEMED MANY MEN IN THIS WAY, SOME SO DEBAUCHED THAT
MR. OLIPHANT SAID THAT HE DID NOT SEE HOW SHE COULD TOUCH THEM,
BUT HE KNEW SHE WAS ONE OF THE PUREST WOMEN THAT EVER LIVED, AS
PURE AS THE VIRGIN MARY. ON HEARING THIS TALE I THOUGHT IT MOST
TRAGIC. I DID NOT DOUBT THEIR SINCERITY, BUT I CAME TO THE CON-
CLUSION THAT THEY WERE BOTH INSANE. MR. OLIPHANT TOLD ME HIMSELF
THAT THE BEST WAY FOR A MAN & WOMAN TO EXCHANGE MAGNETISM^S WAS BY
SLEEPING IN THE SAME BED, BUT HE ADDED THE WORLD IS SO BEASTLY
THAT COULD HARDLY BE DONE. I THINK ROSE HAD LEFT THE ROOM FOR A
MOMENT TO OPEN THE HALL DOOR WHEN MR. OLIPHANT SAID THIS. IT WAS
DURING THE FIRST EVENING THAT HE CALLED., THE TUESDAY EVENING BE-
FORE THEY SAILED. ROSE M^UST KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THAT THERE IS
NOTHING IN MRS. TUTTLES STATEMENTS CONTRARY TO WHAT MR. OLIPHANT
TAUGHT. SHE EX^PLAINED TO ME THAT THIS SYMPNEUMATIC INFLUX, AS MR.
OLIPHANT DESCRIBED IT, WAS IMPARTED BY PERSONAL CONTACT, BY RUB-
BING & HANDLING ALL PARTS OF THE BODY, & SHE ADMITS AS MUCH IN HER
LETTER TO MR. WALKER. IT IS MOST DISAGREEABLE TO ME TO BE OBLIGED
TO PUT ON PAPER ROSE'S EXACT WORDS, BUT I SHOULD CERTAINLY NOT HAVE

ACTED AS I HAVE DONE REGARDING YOUR DAUGHTERS IF I HAD NOT HAD
VERY STRONG GROUNDS FOR DOING SO. IF I HAD NOT KNOWN FROM ROSE'S
OWN LIPS THAT MR. OLIPHANT REGARDED SEX-WORSHIP AS THE TRUE RELIGION,
AFTER SHE ^{HAD} TOLD ME HOW THE SYMPNEUMATIC INFUX WAS IMPARTED, I SAID
'ROSE, WHERE DO THESE FAMILIARITIES STOP?' ^{AND SHE REPLIED} 'JUST SHORT OF THE SEX-
UAL ACT'. IT IS NOT DIFFICULT FOR ME TO BELIEVE MRS. TUTTLES
STATEMENT AFTER HAVING HEARD THAT FROM ROSE HERSELF. IT WAS ALSO
TOLD ME AT THE SAME TIME BY ROSE & BY MR. OLIPHANT THAT ROSE WOULD
BE EXPECTED TO DO THIS WORK FOR THE MEN IN THE COMMUNITY, AS MRS.
ALICE OLIPHANT HAD DONE. ROSE TOLD ME THAT MR. OLIPHANT SAID SHE
WAS EMINENTLY FITTED FOR SUCH WORK 'BECAUSE HER SEX-EMANATIONS
WERE ABSOLUTELY PURE'. IT WAS ON THIS POINT THAT I PLEADED WITH
HER SO EARNESTLY FOR TWO HOURS BEFORE SHE SAILED. I ENTREATED HER
NOT TO GO INTO THIS PROMISCUOUS MIXING OF MAGNETISMS. SHE REPLIED
THAT SHE HAD NOT MADE UP HER MIND AS TO WHETHER SHE WOULD TAKE UP
SUCH PRACTICES OR NOT- THAT SHE HAD WRESTLED & PRAYED FOR SEVERAL
NIGHTS TO KNOW WHAT WAS RIGHT, & THE ANSWER SHE GOT WAS 'TO GIVE
HERSELF UP TO MR. OLIPHANT BODY & SOUL'. 'IN THAT CASE' I SAID, 'I
HOPE YOU WILL MARRY HIM'. SHE ANSWERED 'I WOULD AS LIEF DO IT OUT OF
MARRIAGE AS IN'. THESE ARE ONLY A FEW OF THE THINGS THAT ROSE
TOLD ME WHILE STAYING HERE & SEEING MR. OLIPHANT EVERY DAY, & SHE
SHE SAID THAT SHE HAD NOT TOLD ME HALF: BUT I THINK THIS IS ENOUGH
TO SHOW YOU WHAT THE TEACHINGS & PRACTICES REALLY WERE, & THAT ROSE
UNDERSTOOD THE FACTS COMPLETELY, & SHE DID NOT MARRY MR. OLIPHANT
BLINDFOLDED. HE CERTAINLY WAS HONEST WITH HER. IF SHE WOULD ADMIT
THAT THESE ~~THINGS~~ WERE HIS TEACHINGS, & SAY AT THE SAME TIME THAT
SHE NOW RENOUNCED THEM AS THE IDEAS OF AN INSANE MAN, I WOULD HAVE
SOME FAITH IN HER SINCERITY, BUT WHILE SHE HIDES THE TRUTH UNDER
SUBTERFUGES & EVASIONS & ENDEAVOURS TO THROW DOUBT ON THE VERACITY
OF A PERFECTLY TRUTHFUL WOMAN, I CANNOT ENTERTAIN ANY RESPECT FOR
HER. MR. MURRAY TEMPLETON, UNDER HER GUIDANCE, GAVE UP THE WOMAN

HE LOVED, BECAUSE SHE DEMANDED THE SACRIFICE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST
TO MY MIND THAT IS A FEARFUL TAKING OF HIS NAME IN VAIN, & MOST
TERRIBLE BLASPHEMY. HOW CAN ANY HOME PROSPER THAT IS BUILT ON THE
RUIN OF OTHER LIVES THAT MIGHT HAVE MADE THEMSELVES A TRUE HOME?
ROSE HAS SOME FEARFUL SINS TO REPENT OF & ATONE FOR, & SOME JUDG-
MENTS OF THE ALMIGHTY TO MEET BEFORE SHE CAN CLAIM THE RIGHT TO
ENJOY HER HOME. LET HER RESTORE MR. MURRAY TEMPLETON TO HIS ^{FATHER & TO HIS} AF-
FIANCED BRIDE BEFORE SHE ATTEMPTS TO TEACH HONOUR & PURITY TO
OTHERS. POSSIBLY SHE HAS ABANDONED THE SENSUAL SINS THAT MR. OLIPHANT
TAUGHT HER AS A MEANS OF PURIFICATION: I CANNOT SAY - BUT I DO
KNOW THAT SHE HAS, AS FAR AS SHE WAS ABLE, BROKEN THE HEART OF A
PURE SWEET WOMAN & TAUGHT THE MAN WHO LOVED THAT WOMAN TO FORSAKE
HER & TURNED HIS HONOUR INTO DISHONOUR, HIS LIGHT INTO DARKNESS.
I READ HIS LETTERS TO MRS. TUTTLE. I SAW HIS LOVE IN EVERY LINE &
PAGE, & I SAY THAT NOTHING BUT SORCERY & BLACK MAGIC COULD HAVE
CHANGED HIM INTO THE MAN HE NOW SEEMS TO BE, DEVOID OF RECTITUDE
& EVERY NOBLE QUALITY OF MANHOOD. IF HIS EYES ARE EVER OPENED HE
WILL HATE & DESPISE THE ONE WHO COULD TURN HIM ASIDE FROM TRUTH &
BRING HIM INTO EVIL WAYS. I WILL NOT WRITE MORE. I CAN ONLY SAY I
HAVE ACTED AS REGARDS YOUR DAUGHTERS AS I WOULD HAVE WISHED YOU TO
ACT TO ME & MINE, HAD THE ~~POSITION~~ ^{SITUATION} BEEN REVERSED. I HAVE TRIED TO
SAVE THEM FROM A PLACE OF REGULAR TEMPTATION, & I HAVE ALSO WORKED
TO SAVE ROSE FROM PUBLIC DISGRACE & SCANDAL. THESE TEACHINGS ARE
FAR MORE WIDELY KNOWN THAN SHE HAS ANY IDEA OF, & MANY PEOPLE ARE
WAITING TO SEE WHAT COURSE SHE WILL TAKE REGARDING THEM. IF SHE
RENOUNCES THEM PUBLICLY, THE DARK SIDE OF MR. OLIPHANT'S LIFE WILL
FADE & BE FORGOTTEN, BUT IF SHE PERPETUATES THEM, SHE WILL PROBABLY
SUFFER FOR HIS SINS & HER OWN TOO. I WROTE TO HER FRANKLY ABOUT
ALL THIS BUT SHE DID NOT MEET ME FAIRLY ON A SINGLE POINT. ALL WAS

EVASIONS & JUSTIFICATIONS OF MR. OLIPHANT IN ALL HIS SINS, HE BE-
ING ABLE, ACCORDING TO HER STATEMENT TO COMMIT SIN & YET REMAIN
PURE - A FEARFUL FALL^ACY. OUR LORD REBUKED SATAN FOR TEMPTING HIM
IN THAT WAY.

HOPING THAT THE LORD WILL IN HIS MERCY BRING GOOD OUT
OF THIS PRESENT EVIL,

I REMAIN,

YOUR AFFECTIONATE COUSIN,

(signed)

ELLA. M. CLYMER.

(Aunt of Mrs. Oliphant)