

Boston August 18th. A. D. 1818

My respected Friend

Yours of May 4th. was received a few days previous to our commencement. — On account of the hurry of my business I have delayed to write an answer until the vacation.

With the most heartfelt joy did I peruse your relation of the revival of religion in Yale College. It is indeed a subject of thanksgiving to the Author of all Goodness. — Awakenings in Colleges are ever attended with the best possible effects. As the students separate, and return to their respective places of residence, they are frequently the means of reviving the languishing graces of their Christian brethren, and of awakening convictions in the hearts of the impatient.

The Almighty never will desert his own Cause. — From incidents which have lately happened, and those which are now passing before us, we are induced to believe, that God is building up the interests of our Dear Redeemer; — And in what manner will these interests be better prospered, than by frequent and numerous revivals of religion in our Seats of Learning.

In compliance with your request, I will offer you a short account of the <sup>late</sup> revival of religion in Middle-

-Wury College.

For a few months before the commencement of the awakening, the state of religion was languishing. About the middle of May, 1814, religious conferences began to be held more frequently, & Christians were aroused from a state of suming indifference to the prosperity of their Redeemer's cause. In the Senior Class there were many young gentlemen, of high spiritual attainments, who showed the validity of their faith, by their works. Deeply solicitous for the salvation of their fellow-students, and desirous of exalting the religious character of that institution, when many of them had just embraced the Gospel, and from which they were soon to separate, they held frequent conversations with the students of the inferior classes, and urged upon them the indispensable necessity of an immediate renovation of heart.

Thanks be to our God, they labored not in vain!

A gracious Father, who can never view with indifference the labors of his devoted children, in the plenitude of his mercy, listened to their prayers for our conversion. The Holy Spirit descended. His effects were powerful. Several thoughtless and giddy youths, like myself, became the subjects of serious impressions. Under the influence of the Spirit the work progressed, but not without opposition. Happy am I to add, that those young persons who were foremost in the ranks of infidelity, were among the first who laid down the futile weapons of their opposition, and as rebels, submitted themselves to their injured Sovereign.

But by our continued transgressions, we proved

unworthy of the divine favor, — the Spirit departed,  
and only about 10, or 12 obtained comfortable appearances  
of the in-dwelling in Christ. —

I should be happy to close this short epistle  
without the relation of an event which must excite  
painful emotions in the breast of my brother. —

You are apparently particularly solicitous to open a  
correspondence with Mr. Darling; — and, doubtless, this  
solicitude was founded on motives of the purest  
Christian philanthropy. — But God will accept the  
will for the deed. — His spirit has winged its flight  
beyond the reach of our ~~own~~ exhortations or entreaties.  
— — He died in August, 1819. — He resided  
in the Mississippi Territory, and at the time of his  
death, held an honorable and lucrative station in the  
Commissary Department. — Mr. Brown could afford  
me no further particulars. —

With sentiments of high respect,

Th. J. Bird  
A. Coll.

I remain

Yours, sincerely,

J. G. Smith. 1819

P.S. — When you have some leisure moments, do not entirely  
forget — J. G. S.

J. G. Smith Benson Vt. 1815 Sept.

Benson Vt.  
Sept 24.

J. G. Smith 1815 Sept.

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Mr. James Smith

Stationer at Park City

W. V. Warren - Conn.

