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8-23-1824

## Letter from Joseph S. Tomlinson to Mr. & Mrs. Johnson Armstrong

Joseph S. Tomlinson

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Tuesday Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> 1844

To Mr Joshua Armstrong & Lady  
Dear valued friends.

Having with the blessing of heaven  
I arrived at Lexington the evening in health and safety. Nothing  
worth communicating has occurred in the place since my absence  
it continues to be distinguished as usual in an unusual degree  
for the health of its inhabitants and would that I could say  
it is equally remarkable for its devotion to the high and noble  
able claims of our holy Religion but though we join with the  
prophet in lamenting that notwithstanding they have been nourished  
and brought up by the fostering care of Providence a majority  
refuse to make a suitable improvement of his loving-kindness  
and yet it would be unpardonable not to express our regret  
that there are here those in a manner according to the election  
of grace a few among who have united themselves in common  
with the common lot and master of whom the  
family in heaven and earth is named the ministrations of  
the ambassadors of Christ of every denomination are  
unusually and profitably attended it is to be regretted  
however that the honest and evangelical dealing as the  
solemn words of death judgment and Eternity is not more  
faithfully practiced and more cordially received I often find  
that we hold firmly to the altar and too much in  
order to justify the common and unchristianized expectations  
of our hearts at the expense of the substantial benefit  
made so to speak to obtain the reputation of having saved  
a few things than for having lived the rest at the root of  
this ministry - and for having brought down the mighty power of  
holiness to the dust of apostasy and self condemnation is  
which condition shows they are rationally and scripturally  
opposed to show the people representing sanctifying and



glorifying grace of our heavenly Redeemer, & that more of the  
praiseful activity and boldness which characterize the apostles  
type and uniformly animated those of our day who are appointed  
to cultivate the vineyard of the Lord their indeed great reward  
in the enjoying in the habitation of the Holy Spirit, and wide made  
in the devotion in the empire of darkness. Before the mighty name  
of truth the ranks of our legion like the hosts of the Philistines. Before  
Jonathan this armor beam would rapidly melt away the valuable  
which cannot be obtained without the hearty cooperation of the men  
leadership to us only when Aaron and Hur sustained Moses  
hands that Joshua discomfited Amalek the chief of the op.  
with no coercion, that his mightiest efforts would return void  
unless they were energized by the exemplary lives and fervent prayers  
of those who were heads of his flock. The whole Christian  
Church is spoken of under the idea of a Body no member  
of which can be severed effectively without the concurrence  
of all the rest. Now then God has so wisely and proportionally  
distributed our responsibility as members of the Christian  
family how important to ascertain our personal duties and pro-  
fess them cheerfully and patiently, that we may not be  
shamefully left behind by coming the Lord to only pursue  
also that you will do best. Please me when I say that  
I give it as my opinion that God has made you together  
with those of your connection, not whom I have had the pleasure  
of being conversant with the honored instruments of ascending both by  
your faith and generosity and attention and spiritual  
devotion to the cause of humanity and religion there has our  
fellow to the lot of any other family within the compass  
of my acquaintance. May he who has thus made you faith-  
ful stewards of his manifold graces continue to prosper you  
in all your doings, to enrich you with loving kindness  
and tender mercies and abundantly to give the means for  
the spread of that diffusive benevolence with which he

has so richly endowed you. When I forget to be grateful  
you open your unaffected kindness and hospitality to me may my  
rept have found her cunning and my tongue clean of the hoop  
of my mouth have pleasure in the recollection of your society  
and conversation and the affectionate and dignified behavior  
of your amiable ~~children~~ little children at our period in the  
course of my trip. I thought the remembrance of it would cheer  
of a prospect with sadness and melancholy. But even in  
connection with the circumstances to which I refer I was well  
back and dwell upon it with greater satisfaction than upon  
any one I have hitherto taken and I am sure that while  
I retain my memory and any claim to being influenced by  
morning principles I shall reflect upon it as among the most  
agreeable scenes of my existence. O Friendship! Bestowed on  
the invaluable precepts of our holy Religion how do they imp-  
lure. Regard the meek and lowly minded and meek and  
pitiful through the world in a mighty deed that counts  
to reconcile man to his God in the wilderness of sorrow in  
what kindly colors does thou portray the happiness that reigns  
in the society of those who walk in white before men  
without measure at the throne of everlasting goodness and  
that I may ever conduct in a manner which will merit  
to be in some humble degree your much valued friend  
and often in the service with of ~~your~~ ~~my~~ ~~much~~ ~~obliged~~ ~~I~~ ~~humbly~~

Ever and

To Beulah

NB It will be gratifying to me to hear from you in  
answer to the you will also oblige me by remembering me  
affectionately to your Brother, Family & my wife  
P  
J. J.