

Recd of Honoured Sir,

Boston January 29. 1742/3

To consider the Conduct of Divine Providence in setting my Brother-in-law Mr Joseph Gardner with you (as a Son with a Father) in the Ministry of the Gospel of Christ; to hear him always delightfully speaking of you in strong expressions of filial Reverence, to understand that you favoured him with continual Tokens of paternal Goodness; and to be informed, if his Labours met with acceptance & were followed with some Success among the People of your Church & Congregation. — These things in time past have afforded me matter of Joy and Thanksgiving to the God of all Grace.

But it is with a very sensible Grief of Heart that I now find myself called to write to you for your Advice relating to the present Circumstances of his Case. I should be glad to wait on you and converse with you more largely upon it, if I had an Opportunity; which it pleases God not to allow me: but at present I must content myself with mentioning to you the following Particulars. Some time last Summer he appeared to be under Discomposure about his Support in the work of the Ministry, which I judged him to guard against as the effect of Temptation. When after this I found him engaged in a particular acquaintance with a young Gentlewoman in our neighbourhood, I pleased myself to think he had got rid of his dark Proposals. But it was not long before to my surprize he let me know, that he had not any prospect of being enabled to support a Family at New-Ort: and I perceived at the same time, that he had bin exercised with Temptations to think of leaving the Ministry & taking to some secular business. I hope I discovered to love him faithfully as well as tend only on this occasion: his Parents who (with other friends) cannot bear the thought of his forsaking the Ministry, struck in to hinder his giving way to this Temptation: and he was persuaded to return to his flock & to hope that he would not find his People backward to do what was needful for his Support in the conjugal State, when they perceived he thought himself called to enter into it. His friends have been waiting to hear of the State of things in the flock & the disposition of their minds towards him upon his return to you. It has bin said, yet he thinks there is little or no prospect of his being supported in the Work of the Ministry at New-Ort — that several attempts for a subscription towards it have been made without success — that some of his particular friends are for his asking a Dismission — that others are uneasy with him because he is not in the New-Light School (as some call it) — and that he has nothing at present but of absolute necessity of a Separation. [Which by the way, Sir, I fear would tend to his Ruine, according to my present apprehensions.]

Now, Recd of Honoured Sir, that so you may be no Darkness and Uncertainty upon the Truth relating to this present unhappy Case, my Father-in-law Mr Gardner has desired me to write to you, & pray you to favour us with an account of the State of things, & with your Advice upon it. and this is what I humbly & earnestly desired myself, that I may be directed what Advice to give in a Case which is not without its peculiar Difficulties. Hoping therefore that you will



Speedily write to us on this melancholy occasion, I conclude  
affixing your Prayers for me and mine, whom a righteous, holy and  
faithful God has put it best to exercise with various long-continued af-  
fections, and subscribing my self

Resd & Hon'd Sir

Yours to command in the Service  
of our Lord Jesus Christ

Joshua Gee.