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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letters from Charles Collins to Harriet Collins (Mar. 1853)

**Date:** March 7-8, 1853

**Location:** I-EwigC-1990-1

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Hagerstown March 7 / 53.

My dear Wife

This is the first opportunity to write you a word & I embrace it. We got here safely on Friday, though the ride over the Rip Rap, Patent R. R. from Chambersburg to this place was any thing but pleasant.

Conference business is going on well & I am much pleased - find many old & I hope am making many new friends. Yesterday I had the honor & privilege of preaching in the German Reform Ch at 10<sup>o</sup> o'clock - audience large, attendance of the preaching numerous & through the blessing of God. I had a good time. Hope the expectation as well as currency of the preaching was satisfied.

To night is the Missions meeting & I am called to the honor as well as responsibility of speaking. The other speakers are Abel Stearns & John A. Collins & I am to lead off. This will bring me into fearful comparison. I tremble at the prospect but with Gods help shall try.

I like the preachers very much  
— they are a very numerous body —  
a very fine looking body — some  
280 in all! Think of that. They do  
business very well.

I am boarding with judge  
Wesel in company with Rev John  
Seys who you recollect was Miss-  
inary to Liberia. He is a very nice  
companionable man — at present  
Agent for the Maryland State  
Colonization Soc. The judge  
& his wife are fine people —  
live in fine style — are  
Presbyterians &c

A steamer is waiting I  
must cut off. Look for me  
about Thursday

Affec<sup>t</sup>ly Yrs C. Collins

Hagerstown March 7 /53

Mr Dear Wife,

This is the first opportunity to write you a word and I embrace it. We got here safely on Friday, though the ride over the [Rip Rap?] Patent R.R. from Chambersburg to this place was anything but pleasant.

Conference business is going on well and I am much pleased - find many old and I hope am making many new friends. Yesterday I had the honor and privilege of preaching in the German Reform Ch at 10 o'clock - audience large, attendance of the preachers numerous and through the blessing of God. I had a good time. Hope the expectation as well as curiosity of the preachers was satisfied.

Tonight is the necessary meeting and I am called to the honor as well a responsibility of speaking. The other speakers and Abel Stevens and John A. Collins and I am to lead off. This will bring me into fearful comparisons. I tremble at the prospect, but with God's help shall try.

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I like the preachers very much - they are a very numerous body - a very fine looking body - some 280 in all! Think of that. They do business very well.

I am boarding with judge Wesel in company with Rev John Seys who you recollect was missionary to Liberia. He is a very nice companionable man - at present Agent for the Maryland State Colonization society. The judge and his wife are fine people - live in fine style - are Presbyterians etc.

An answer is waiting. I must cut off. Look for me about Thursday  
Affec your C. Collins

Hagerstown March 8/83.

My dear Wife

I am now in the Education Committee Room & as the brethren are discussing matters very well with out my assistance I choore to improve the time by talking a little with you. Dr Peck is now in full blast on the College Agency & is doing the fair thing.

Last night we had a great crowd at the Anniversary Meeting & a very successful one it was. You will be anxious to hear how I came out with such competitors & comparisons as Stevens & Geo A Collins. I led off in a Speech of 30 minutes & did perhaps as good a time as I ever did in such a Speech - not coming up to my wishes, but doing better than my fears. Stevens succeeded in a Speech of 45 minutes & in my opinion it was the best & most brilliant Anniversary Speech I ever heard. He unworked his electrical bottles & let the lightnings fly in every direction. Geo A. Collins brought up the rear in a Speech of 25 minutes - full of humor & fire. So far as I can learn my Speech fully met expectation both of the Conference & Audience &

I feel thankful to God who has given me so much success & so ready an assent to the results of the Conf. The unprecedented complement was paid to me first & afterwards to Stevens of making us Life Directors of the Parent Missionary Society by the payment of \$150. each. This I am told was never done in the Conf before & you may regard it as the highest sort of a Conference complement. We raised about \$450. The missionary collection of the Conf. will amount to about to \$20,000, during the year.

My application for admission to the Conf. has not yet been acted upon. It would have come up to day but for a very tedious trial that took the whole time. The prospect now is that Conf will hold on through all the week. So more trials are to come up. Whether I shall see you on Thursday or not is uncertain. If not, expect me when I come.

To day I had the pleasure of dining with Mr Selley & ~~day~~ in company with a large number of preachers & yesterday at Mr Roman's with a similar company - fine companies - splendid dinners. The good people of Hagerstown seem to have opened their hearts to the Conf. Whether they have opened them to religious impressions or ~~not~~ is a question. Perhaps a love of hospitality is all. No special religious impression has been made, so far as I know by the preaching. Nothing was said about your writing to me but I hope you will. A word from you advising that all is well at home & at the College, would be a relief. You may still expect me Thursday I shall get off if possible.

Affectionately  
Wm C Collins

Hagerstown March 8 /53

My Dear Wife,

I am now in the Education Committee Room and as the brethren are discussing matters very well without my assistance I choose to improve the time by talking a little with you. Dr Peck is now in full blast on the College Agency and is doing the fair thing.

Last night we had a great crowd at the missionary meeting and a very successful one it was. You will be anxious to hear how I came out with such competitors and companions as Stevens and John A Collins. I led off in a speech of 30 minutes and had perhaps as good a time as [Cleuse?] had in such a speech - not coming up to my wishes, but doing better than my fear. Stevens succeeded in a speech of 45 minutes and in my opinion it was the best and most brilliant missionary speech I ever heard. He uncorked his electrical bottles and let the lightning fly in every direction. John A. Collins brought up the rear in a speech of 25 minutes - full of humor and fire. So far as I can learn my speech fully met expectation both of the conference and audience and

[page break]

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My application for admission to the Conf. has not yet been acted upon. It would have come up today but for a very tedious trial that took the whole time. The prospect now is that the Conf. will hold on through all the week. Two more trials are to come up. Whether I shall see you on Thursday or not is uncertain. [illegible] not expect me when I come.

Today I had the pleasure of dining with Mr. [illegible] in company with a large number of preachers yesterday at the Romans with a similar company - fine companions - splendid dinners. The good people of Hagerstown seem to have opened their hearts to the Conf. Whether they have opened them to religious impressions or not is a question. Perhaps a love of hospitality is all. No special religious impression has been made, so far as I know by the preaching. Nothing was said about your visiting [here?] but I hope you will. A word from you addressing that all is well at home and at the College would be a relief. You may still expect me Thursday I shall get off if possible.

Affectionately  
Mr. C Collins