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**Title:** Letters from Charles Collins to Harriet Collins (Jul. - Aug. 1853)

**Date:** July - August 1853

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## **Contact:**

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Berwick July 24 100. My Dear Wife, I count permit the day to pap without enjoying The best dibrubile for your usual Subbatt company that the case permits. I will think about you I tack at you trusting the pool to bear the mapage. I wish in deed that you wie here. Among Then old freed, of the James of your Cheldhood you could hard. y fail to be happy. Yesterday and wide in the Hago by Bries Creek, I was on the look out to Lee of I amed acoquere the have I durounding desurary of your Childhood. Bownaus Mill & John Bowwaiis house, the Creek were all there just, I duppere as when you tow them with, Me fore Bowmen tell me that the house where you wood is about 3/4 of a will faither wh The crack, of course I failed to du it. The Country all along

is very builtful - hill, valley Mountain I wow just that de lightful ambination whish alway, produces Chaining pictorial effect. as you had not the privilege of accompanying me in person I will edearn to take you ideally Through my trop, up to the point. From C. to Hoursbury nothing in particular except conversa tim with Mr Comman, we of the Editors ( Mu Democrat) / C. on the Maine Law, From how I leave that the two parties will pube bly fut one Lunperance man on each of their tickets. If this is done we shall probably be able to elich both the temperance men. But you will but take to hunch inthest in these things as father. This therefore you may give to him. - At 10' before 10 ch, Starte. in the Mestern train \_ I forgot to day that I went who tours you

on Rev Alfred Coo know The Sta. timed preaches I de ned with him making the acquainlance of a fine lady in his wife - I head up to "the junction", 18 mile up The wor where the private com, who the susquehauna & where the Count begins There we took packet for Northan below destance about 42 ms, The packet not to nece as the James Rever Packets. Travel - chaving buildcakes - a Me Michiay, wife & down on board with whom I heade a very pleas. antacquainlance. But when it came to the Heeping - hours! Such duty thee 5 & bedy. They were about as old withe boat of Icres of Fish Canal laborers I should thenk had Heft in then since they had seen the wash tub. Of course I cay down in

contagion, Juall Pox te, At about 100 clock at nights we wished Northenberland. Got a few hours Stuck at the Washington Hotel's a good headfast. Thence in Stage 14 miles to Danville where to Forence leves. Led not see him. Here My friend, McKeoling left me. Thence in to Blooms burg Cutawisse, Espy torn, Line Redge & c to Berbick - beauti ful country - festile - fine prospect of crops - had coping, racus - com looks very good - a wonderful contrast as compared with Carliste. Will, here I am with old he folic Bownian - in his parla chamber with every thing nice Hometable about he. They would tell have been so glad it you had come with me, My young I her husband (Sarah Borman) with then It Children have bun here to die to day, Mis I, has wany unquires to make us he ling you tyour mother

- refined to your school day I when the the tester Mis Hist & yourself all at tended the Jame John of. I told her it thuck me as wather Lingular That There little guls in the fame little Country Je Low Ihraco all get Methodest preach is for husbands, Me young is a Duperannater preacher not traveles for you 10 ges & is how in buy four health. They have an interesting family of Children, I don't 3 dang ating. Shadrach B. will take he in private Conveyance to more up to Wilherbane when I Hall Spend The night Caleb Bornon, his hother live at W. Westing is at home - he this wife have been here to day, Mr Burnham pour Manchen sent me a des palch last night to inquire if I would be in M. monday wight, from which

infu that he will mut here There. Wish they note could leach you in time I should ask you to send we a despatch at that place to let be known your villfore. If opportunity Leives you may expect to how for exeme at that place I preached here , to day , for bro Carnes our of the Circuit freach is & - thick to preach again How my dear Howiet, by I feel very down to be departed this critical time with you. I trust Though that all will be well. To the care of our Heavening Fa. Then whose care is worth more than that of all husbourd, arach by punds I commend you into Outheree that he will bring as together again in

safely. I hope the children will all behave will so as to give you tillle trouble. I vould tuggest a, a means of in Huencing them the you keep ung my absuce in which note down every act of grofs disobedience a husconduct for he to see when I come home. explain it all to them before hard, therhaps was it to the very right to ast remen them of what they are doing . If they are good I shall remember thede I cove them. If have aly I shall be much displease Tell Norcepu, Many Halles this specially, Jam think ing about you all very much My plum will be to got away pour Coup on Mouday, Ochaps I Shall conclude not to go to Mid-Metown. If I go I shall by to get thereby Fresday. If any thing

three happen dend we a dethe teh to Middletown to the care ("Prof John Johnsten" also to Port Conf. very likely I thall gods buck a for as N. y. by the olowing sunday & to Carliste by Wedness a Thurs. In aus, to This by return mail might unch we at Conference which is at Brooklyn, Susqueto hear from you if it is god blets you my dear affec you C. Collins

Mrs Dr. Collins Carlisle

# My Dear Wife,

I cannot permit the day to pass without enjoying the best substitute for your usual Sabbath company that the [call?] permits. I will think about you and talk at you, trusting the post to bear the message. I wish indeed that you were here. Among these old friends, and the scenes of your childhood you could hardly fail to be happy. Yesterday as I rode in the stage by [Brias?] Creek, I was on the look out to see if I could recognize the home & surrounding scenery of your childhood. Bowmans Mill & John Bowmans house, the Creek were all there just, I suppose as when you saw them last. Mr. Joseph Bowman tells me that the house where you lived is about ¾ of a mile farther up the creek. Of course I failed to see it. The country all along

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is very beautiful – hill, valley mountain & vale just that delightful combination which always produces charming pictorial effect.

As you had not the privilege of accompanying me in person, I will endeavor to take you ideally through my trip, up to this point. From C. to Harrisburg nothing in particular except conversation with Mr. Cornman, one of the editors (of the Democrat) of C. in the Maine Law. From him I learned that the two parties will probably put one temperance man on each of their tickets. If this is done we shall probably be able to elect both the temperance men. But you will not take so much interest in these things as father. This therefore you may give to him. – At 10' before 1 o'clock, started in the Western train – I forgot to say that I went uptown and called

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on Rev Alfred Cookman the [stationed?] preacher & dined with him making the acquaintance of a fine lady in his wife - & went up to "the junction," 18 miles up at the river where the Juniata comes with the Susquehanna & where the [Canal?] begins. There we took packet for [Northumberland?] – distance about 42 miles. The packet not so nice as the James River Packets. Travel very pleasant – few happenings – charming landscapes – a Mr. McElroy, wife and son on board with whom I made a very pleasant acquaintance. But when it came to the sleeping – horrors! Such dirty sheets and beds. They were about as old as the boat & scores of Irish canal laborers I should think had slept in them since they had seen the wash tub. Of course I lay down in all my clothes – thinking of

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contagion, Small Pox etc. At about 1 o'clock at night we reached [Northumberland?]. Got a few hours sleep at the "Washington Hotel" & a good breakfast. Thence in stage 14 miles to Danville where bro Lawrence lives. Did not see him. Here my friends McElroy left me. Thence on to Bloomsburg Catawissa, [illegible] town, Lewis Ridge etc. to Berwick – beautiful country – fertile – fine prospect of crops – had copious views – corn looks very good – a wonderful contrast as compared with Carlisle.

Well, here I am with old mister Bowman – in his parlor chamber with every thing nice & comfortable about me. They would all have been so glad if you had come with me. Mrs. Young & her husband (Sarah Bowman) with their 4 children have been here to dine to day. Mrs. Y. had many inquires to make us [illegible] you & your mother

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– referred to your school days, when she and her sister Mrs. Hirst & yourself all at tended the same school. I told her it struck me as rather singular that three little girls in same little county school should all get Methodist preachers for husbands. Mr Young is a superannuated preacher – not traveled for 9 or 10 years & is now in very poor health. They have an interesting family of Children, 1 son & 3 daughters. Shadrack B. will take me in private conveyance tomorrow up to Wilkes-barre where I shall spend the night. Caleb Bowman, his brother live, at W. Wesley is at home – he and his wife have been here today.

Mr. Burnham from Mauch Chunk sent me a dispatch last night to inquire if I would be in W. Monday night, from which I

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infer that he will meet me there. Wish this note could reach you in time. I should ask you to send me a dispatch at that place to let me know of your welfare. If opportunity allows me you may expect to hear from me at that place. I preached here, to day, for two [carnes?] one of the Circuit preachers & expect to preach again at night – tomorrow morning start for W.

Now my dear Harriet, be in good heart during my absence I feel very sorry to be separate from you to long just at this critical time with you. I trust though that all will be well. To the care of our Heavenly Father whose care is worth more than that of all husbands [illegible] friends I command you with confidence that he will bring us together again in

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safety. I hope the children will all behave well to as to give you little trouble. I would suggest as a means of influencing them that you keep a sort of register or diary during my absence in which note down every act of gross disobedience or hinderance for me to see when I come home. Explain it all to them before hand, & perhaps read it to them every night to as to remind them of what they are doing. If they are good I shall remember them & love them. If naughty I shall be much displeased. Tell Narcissa, Mary & Charles this specially. I am thinking about you all very much.

My plan will be to get away from Conf. on Monday. Perhaps I shall conclude not to go to Middletown. If I go I shall try to get there by Tuesday. If any thing

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should happen send me a dispatch to Middletown to the care of "Prof. John Johnston" – also to [Portland?]. If I go on to P. direct from Conf. very likely I shall get back as far as N.Y. by the following Sunday & to Carlisle by Wednesday or Thurs. An ans. to this by return mail might reach me at Conference which is at Brooklyn, Susquehanna Co, Pa. I am anxious to hear from you if it is only a word.

God bless you my dear Affec yours C. Collins

Milker bære fuly 15 My Dear Wife I wole to you here Berwick. You will get of tomorrow. I am here in my Charber at the Therex Hotel 10 a o'clock, but cannot go to bed without a That talk with you. Bro Bowman dent we on by one of his down, Shadrack, who is a fine young wan - a preacher to be will be a Hudent at Carlesle wext Sept. We had a delight the Mr Burnham & his little son Prof John S. Hart & Isaac Jackour & wife drove who to my hotel! Quite a family meeting. Don't you wish

you were here too! John is going on with Me B. h Carban date to monow. As I have plu ty of time tich is so mean I have concluded to run up there also. I can do this + Itill get to Conf. by Wedness It's John's plan to return here Wedne, day P. M. take day Morning the in Carleste by the 40 clk trace on Freday P.M. Perhaps he will day over Sunday. I have made trendry cally - an Dr Peck - judge Bewett, Me Gilderslew toon the rever to visit the Seminary & make thee acquaintance of Bro Nel. to the henorfral have mades the acquaintaine also of Col. Hendre & B. Wight

who told we that he is a gradevate of Dickensun The Country up the way looks very beautipul - plentiful reiens ternoon. I thought of Can liste tour poor bunt ap gar. den. Terhaps however the quacing three, have Lytended to you. But good night. Peaceful Hech thappy dreams be yours. Would that I could be with you. I pray that God way blef theef you & good the Conrolations of his grace, I think a great deal of your there children yi affecteaute hurband C. Collins

My Dear Wife,

I wrote to you from Berwick. You will get it tomorrow. I am here in my chambers at the Phenix Hotel 10½ o'clock, but cannot go to bed without a short talk with you. Bro Bowman sent me on by one of his sons, Shadrach, who is a fine young man - a preacher who will be a student at Carlisle next Sept. We had a delightful ride. Soon after my arrival Mr. Bernham & his little son Prof John S. Hart & Isaac Jackson & wife drove up to my hotel! Quite a family meeting. Don't you wish

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you were here too? John is going on with Mr. B. to Carbondale tomorrow. As I have plenty of time & it is so near I have concluded to meet up there also. I can do this & still get to Conf. by Wednes. It is John's plan to return here Wednesday P. M. – take packet for down river Thursday morning & be in Carlisle by the 4 o'clock train on Friday P.M. Perhaps he will stay over Sunday.

I have made sundry calls – on Dr. Peck – judge Bennett, Mr. Gildersleeve & over this river to visit the Seminary & make the acquaintance of Bro Nelson the Principal – have made the acquaintance also of Col. Hendrick B. Wright

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who told me that he is a graduate of Dickinson College.

The country up this way looks very beautiful – plentiful rains – a fine shower this afternoon. I thought of Carlisle & our poor burnt up garden. Perhaps however the gracious showers have extended to you.

But good night. Peaceful sleep & happy dreams be yours. Would that I could be with you. I pray that God may bless & keep you & give the consolations of his grace. I think a great deal of you & the children.

Yr affectionate husband C. Collins

Brooklyn July 28/03. My Dear Wife, Here Jam at last. Neached B. yesterday about 1 orclock P. M. at the beginning of a powerful rain which con. times nearly all the afternoon very much à la Virgonia, To day is pleasant. This is a duction - very beautiful. Brooklyn is a small country village, about twice the tire of Cedarolle! A trail place le accommodate a Conference of about 10 preachers. But the Conf. here is a very good one, ving That the Coup. can be better accommodate now than hereafter then it has become more un meeory! I am very pleasantly located at the house of ho Ashley who has a nice house of things been convenient around her. It is by your fortune also to be

there with the Bishop ( Wang is) of Rev R. Nelson, the worthy Prin cipal of the Seminary at kings. tion of a Reache Clark. To day I attended twas introduced to the Coup. In numbers to about the sine of the Holston Conf. he besides, I hope to finish the week to as to get off on Mend day - of posite I shall be There is nothing especially atmy work of be off. I shall get accifs to the educational Comes to night subatever is done by them can probably be got things the Conf. on Friday or Sat. In my wither from Callow dale I die but mention. that De Robert A. Pearing has wrillen to Rowens twice from Sacramento! Howens told we the wrote him back that "the how in the beach recollection of him in the one of the

for an ardent love ! How could not to remember him, And Then, more cruel, to tell him to. The was to much of a child then She left va that the retains but Little interest in offairs There.

Friday morning. My letter
was left last night unfinished
but I must mail it they weregood health. Wish I could hear from you the assured that all is well. I am get. they quite impatients he is wish to be off. Bus Slice Come last might to allered this metropol clare Church business i'hall I hear pour you at Middletown? Prace be out you love. God bless My truly Co. Collins

Mrs De Collins Carlisle · Ca.

My Dear Wife,

Here I am at last. Reached B. yesterday about 1 o'clock P.M. at the beginning of a powerful rain which continued nearly all the afternoon very much a la Virginia. To day is pleasant. This is a very hilly country – very productive – very beautiful. Brooklyn is a small country village, about twice the fire of Cedarville! A small place to accommodate a Conference of about 70 preachers. But the reason assigned for bringing the Conf. here is a very good one, viz. "that the Conf. can be better accommodated now than hereafter when it has become more numerous."

I am very pleasantly located at the house of bro Ashley who has a nice house & things very convenient around him. It is my good fortune also to be

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here with the Bishop (Waugh) & Rev R. Nelson, the worthy Principal of the Seminary at Kingston & a Rev McClark. To day I attended & was introduced to the Conf. In numbers it is about the same as the Holstan Conf. My business, I hope to finish this week so as to get off on Monday – if possible I shall be glad to get off on Saturday. There is nothing especially attractive here. I want to do up my work and be off. I shall get [access?] to the educational Conf. to night & whatever is done by then can probably be got through the Conf. on Friday or Sat.

In my letter from Carbandale I did not mention that Dr. Robert A Pearis had written to Rowena twice from Sacramento! Rowena told me she wrote him back that "she had not the least recollection of him in the world." Cold comfort that

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for an ardent lover! How cruel not to remember him. And then, more cruel, to tell him so. She was too much of a child when she left [illegible] a that she retains but little interest in affairs there.

Friday Morning. My letter was left last night unfinished but I must mail in this morning. Nothing new. Still in good health. Wish I could hear from you & be assured that all is well. I am getting quite impatient here – wish to be off. Bro Slicer came last night to attend to his Metropolitan Church business.

Shall I hear from you at Middletown? Peace be with you love. God bless you.

Yr truly C. Collins

My Deur Wife My Deur Wife It is time to go to bed & Jam tires, but I shall the first to you. To day has been a great day in B. At 8 ordock this morning, a serve on by Dr Glo leck on the occasion of the death of two menters during the year I had never heard the Iz before I I must day that it was a feast of fait things - I enjoyed it much. At 16 orch, theeting was held in a grow - termon the ordenation of the deacong. he the P.W. at 201clk it was put on me to preach

after which the ordination of the Elder, God blest me with a good degree of liberty. To by Rev Sile, Confirt of the One Centrary to office taken when I first came, I have enjoyed myself very much. There has been an extraordi-Atte preaching has been attended with great power. On Thirday night then vere mue than 20 conversing + when I left the Church to night mourners were coming for-words in crowds. The people of B. will long remember they Cent. in Conference the object for

which I came. The Wyoming Cerif hay wheeler ant the ranky I made itself one of the patin vising Centerency of Dicken - Ion Col. They have treated I am towned I think highly of them. he appreciating me they have thown their good sense! Last night I has the please a Mupunary Speech. As I has never heard him, this of course was a great grate. It was a happy, bil. least freet. I now see the Secret of the Dr's reputation Thower. Thower. Tomorow morning I axfrech to Hart for N. y. in Com pary with De D. ho Succes & Muy he plan now is for

Middle toon where I hope to hear from you. I think a great deal about you & ale impoteent to turn my tace homewows. Be of good cheer of the blefring of Good be with you. Love to the Children - good night Affectenately Collins

# My Dear Wife

It is time to go to bed & I am tired, but I shall sleep better if I write a few lines first to you.

To day has been a great day in B. At 8 o'clock this morning, a sermon by Dr. Geo Peck on the occasion of the death of two members during the year. I had never heard the Dr. before & I must say that it was a feast of fat things – I enjoyed it much. At 10 o'clock, meeting was held in a grove – sermon by Bro Slicer after which the ordination of the deacons. In the P.M. at 2 o'clock it was put on me to preach

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after which the ordination of the Elders. God blest me with a good degree of liberty. To night preaching in the Church by Rev Silas Comfort of the Oneida Conf.

Contrary to expectation when I first came, I have enjoyed myself very much. There has been an extraordinary stir among the people & the preaching has been attended with great power. On Friday night there were more than 20 conversions & when I left the church to night mourners were coming forwards in crowds. The people of B. will long remeber this Conf.

Yesterday I secured in Conference the object for

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which I came. The Wyomissing Conf. has wheeled into the ranking & made itself one of the patronizing Conferences of Dickinson Col. They have treated me very handsomely & of course I am bound to think highly of them. In appreciating me they have thrown their good sense!

Last night I had the pleasure of hearing Dr Durbin in a missionary speech. As I had never heard him, this of course was a great gratification. It was a happy, brilliant speech. I now see the secret of the Dr's reputation & power.

Tomorrow morning I expect to start for N.Y.in company with Dr. D. bro Slicer & others. My plan now is for

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Middletown where I hope to hear from you. I think a great deal about you & am impatient to turn my face heavenward. Be of good cheer & the blessing of God be with you. Love to the children. Good night

Affectionately

Yr. C. Collins

My Dear Wife From Brookly a in Mond ay to Great Bend, from G. B. to N. York 200. mile on the N. Y. & brie with lightming free - from No y to Meddleton by 10 clck P.M. Tuesday. Heard Prof. Hoven of Michegan Newcount address the Edlectics at night - stand with De True - Wednesday hurning, joined the procession + attended Commencement. No Speeches except from graduales Ment & executingly dull. But me Superior performance of that the val edictorion. Ou Dickenson Conomice ment was decidedly superior both in The maint of composition & along recess
of delivery! Addleton is a lovely place. No Shot in the world combines to many they t please The taste - such land scape beauties of fuch intermingting of works fast. I wish we could transplant it to Carlisle. I was delighted to Lee many oto friends. President Smith has a Lever at night but the kings busewels"

you kur, require haste". At 6'à took Cars for Boston & arrived about 1 ordh Thursday Muning - got a few hours arrived in time for dennes. And here I am - the family all will. you letter of July 31t was duly got yesterday - thank you It gave weed much vilief - glad to Leal Mich forher fulfilles his purpose of visiting you that you enjoyed it to much. I now have Friday, Sal. I Sunday la Spend here. To day will be sufficient for my busements tomorrow, vinding daw in preaching of henday for home. bycure my hearty - take the promos ap when I get home, I have you may dear - want to see you very wuch shall probably make us stop except a day in It y to see the Chaystal Palace the at home by Wallace day a Thursday yes as and C. Collins into fast will a content to a some of the region of the Conting of the fact of the fact of the some of the sound of the so



# My Dear Wife

From Brooklyn on Monday to Great Bend, from G.B. to N. York 200 miles on the N.Y. & Erie with lightning speed – from N.Y. to Middletown by 10 o'clock P.M. Tuesday. Heard Prof. [Harris?] of Michigan University address the "Eclectics" at night – staid with Dr True – Wednesday morning, joined the procession & attended Commencement. No speeches except from graduates & these were not of a high order of merit & exceedingly dull. But one superior performance & that the valedictorians. Our Dickinson Commencement was decidedly superior both in the merit of Competence & eloquence of delivery.

Middletown is a lovely place. No spot in the world combines so many things to please the taste - Such landscape beauties & such intermingling of works of art. I wish we could transplant it to Carlisle. I was delighted to see many to friends. President Smith had to leave at night but "the Kings business"

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you know "requires haste." At 6 1/2 took cars for Boston & arrived about 1 o'clock Thursday morning – got a few hours of sleep & at 7 was off for Portland – arrival in time for dinner. And here I am - the family all well. Your letter of July 31<sup>st</sup> was duly got yesterday – thank you. It gave me much relief – glad to hear that Joshua fulfilled his purpose of visiting you & that you enjoyed it so much.

I now have Friday, Sat. & Sunday to spend here. To day will be sufficient for my business – tomorrow, visiting - Sunday, preaching & Monday for home. Excuse my brevity – take the principal facts – the comments & filling up when I got home. I love you my dear – want to see you very much – shall probably make no stop except a day in N.Y. to see the Chrystal Palace & be at home by Wednesday or Thursday.

Yrs as ever C. Collins