

[Letter Elihu Burritt to Almira W. Strickland, March 28, 1851]

3 Winchester Buildings, London, March 28, 1851

My Dear Sister,

I have been so much pressed of late, that I have not written to you as often as I would. You will have seen from the last Citizen, that I have made a tour in Scotland, and you will rejoice in the sureness which has attended my efforts in forming Olive Leaf Societies. I never before felt so much pleasure in the work as in the new Mission of the Olive Leaves. I am now [crossed out word] almost exclusively operating among cultivated & benevolent ladies, and esteem it a great privilege to [indecipherable] such cooperation on their part. I do feel it a great privilege to live and labour in this blessed country of benevolence. In every town and village earnest and sympathetic persons may be found, ready to engage in every enterprise of philanthropy. I feel my mind more and more concentrated upon New Britain, as my home in America. I live over my experiences there with a new luxury of memory. Do write me frequently, tell me anything about New Britain, about your own circumstances. Are you [underline in original] enjoying good health; are the children good and happy? and how are the rest of the family—[indecipherable], Clarissa & her boys, Mary and all the cousins. I received a nice packet of letters from Cleveland by last steamer—from George Burritt, his wife, and Mrs Augustus North. And now, next after our own family, stands your Olive Leaf Society in my affections. It is the first jewel of my crown of rejoicing. Is it alive, and active? Do tell them that my heart and hand are strengthened by their sympathy, approbation and cooperation more than they can conceive. I think of them daily & wish I could write more frequently; but I have now a vast correspondence extending all over the civilized world. I shall write a few lines to them by this steamer, if I can get time. I enclosed a note from dear [indecipherable] Colgate to [indecipherable, she is a most devoted spirit to me and the cause. Give my dear love to Nancy & Louisa, and to all our family; and do write me often.

Affectionately yours,

Elihu Burritt

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I have enclosed a letter for Mrs Sanders [underline in original] expressing a hope that she will join your society; and I have asked her at least to accept an invitation from you to attend one of your monthly meetings. Would she not be an excellent representative from the South Church, and work harmoniously with you? She is an interesting and energetic woman, and, unless you have some particular objection, I would be glad if you would make a special effort to win her into your circle. Will you forward the enclosed letters as early as you can. You see I have sent a pretty good packet of them. I hope to write to other family in New Britain ere long. Hope also to get a packet from your circle soon, and that all will write.

Have you heard from Sister Eunice recently? She has not written to me since I left America! How is Isaac? Do you see him occasionally? I wish he would write me more frequently; he has plenty of time. How is Deacon Whittlesey[?] ?

E.B.