

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES ROME [copied from original]

[To: Lewis Duval, Esq., for Mrs Duval, Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.]

Whitecottage, September 1, 1835.

Private

Dearest Addie,

I have put off writing to you for several days past from my unwillingness to tell you what I know will give you great trouble. Pierce has resigned his parish - he has laid aside the active duties of his ministry to examine at leisure and with care the distinctive doctrines of the Roman Catholic religion. The attacks upon the Catholics have led him into a laborious study of the controversy and he begins to doubt whether they are not more near the truth than we. His health is considerably injured by his late labours and he is now suffering with a constant pain in his breast - but I trust in God that rest, care and exercise will in a little time restore him. His parish show great regret, at his resignation and give him stronger proofs than ever of their confidence and affection - are very anxious for him to continue to live amongst them at any rate. They are going to have a gold cup made to be presented to him. I need scarcely point out to you, dear Addie, the importance of the step he takes - the immense thought and labour he has undergone or the great sacrifice of feeling as well as interest that he makes - his salary is \$1500 - fees within the last eight months \$580 and presents to the family, during that time, I have estimated at upwards of \$700.

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But, dear Addie, what are these things? He must do his duty and I do not fear, under any circumstances, that God in his Kind Providence will find a way for him to support

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His family without going back into the world again. He intends preaching his farewell sermon next Sunday and then taking the first boat for St. Louis to see Bishop Rosati. Of course he will not take any further step without long and careful deliberation. As our future movements are uncertain we determined it was better he should leave us here - he will return as soon as possible. Our property will probably be sold in five or six weeks - we may possibly go to Europe but everything is at present uncertain - 2 or 3000 dollars spent there will give him the opportunity and leisure to pursue the studies he desires - will be of great service to his health and will still leave us about 8000 dollars from the sale of our little property, every single investment of which God seems most mercifully to have blessed.

Do not be unhappy about us, dear Addie, and do not be too anxious, I have perfect confidence in the piety, integrity and learning of my dear husband, and if you mistrust my judgment recollect that he has the increased confidence and esteem of the best and first men of this parish. I will write soon again. May God bless you, dear Addie, and lead us all into the truth, for His dear Son's sake. Mary and Pierce send you all a great deal of love. The children are well. Pierce thinks little Addie is like you. Mercer talks about you and sends kisses to you. I cannot answer for his distinctive ideas of you. Goodbye again, my own dear Sissy. How much I wish you could pay us a visit this fall - for let our movements be what they may, it is out of the question for Pierce to think of encountering a northern winter. Keep perfectly quiet about all I have told you. You will before long hear it from other quarters - but at all events the least said about it the better, at present. We are looking anxiously for letters from you. Dear Addie, I have so much to say to you that I can scarcely stop writing but have no more time to spare.

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Believe me ever

Your affectionate Sister,

C. Connelly.

P.S. There is no cause for uneasiness respecting the disturbances in the South. We had not even heard the particulars until we read them in the Northern papers. The slaves are quiet and submissive; and as to the Vicksburg business I do not think it half as bad as the Charlestown business in principle tho' more atrocious in fact.

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