

S.H.C.J. ARCHIVES – ROME

[Copied from manuscript copy of Original]

Spetchley Park
Wednesday [Aug. or Sept. 1846]

My dear Merty,

What a very nice letter you sent me today: my dear boy this is just the way r like you to write and it makes me so happy to know that you can laugh when you want to cry & so put off getting angry. You will see how much trouble this will keep you out of & how good humoured you will grow, and you will soon love everybody and make everybody love you. And then it is so very sweet to be always in the presence of God internally & externally; driving away very quickly all naughty or deceitful thoughts before they have taken possession of our mind or have made us waste our time, besides if we reject them before we have consented to them we are saved so much time & trouble in our weekly confession & can keep ourselves free from sin if we are very vigilant. The devil tempts all of us with bad thoughts, but then all we have to do is to reject them & purify our intention and love God - love God and then we can do all we want to do & say all we want to say - for we do not want anything then but just what He wants - I am so very glad you did not get angry about the pebbles. You might throw a few back another time as an act of charity to do the will of another rather than your own, to play with one who wants to play, this is what Our Lord teaches us and is giving up our own will. Then after you have played a little while with good humour you could call off his attention to something else and return to your book or whatever you are doing or good naturedly ask him to do you some little kindness. You will see how much of God's sweet charity we can gain by such little acts & how much more humble we become when we are in this disposition. Did you ask my love for a very little time for your meditation

Continued below

only ten minutes or a quarter of an hour that you may make a little prevision for the day & so watch and pray a little that you may not be led into temptation unprepared to meet it. You will soon see what a good thing it is to make ones resolutions for the day & offer them to God. He will then help us to govern ourselves & to do what we are doing.

Tell me when you write how you have begun your studies & if you drive off all useless thoughts. I hope you have written to your dear Papa & told him how much you thank him for all the anxiety he had about your passing your vacations pleasantly & beg him to thank dear Lord Shrewsbury for the pleasant time you had at Alton Towers & for the pony too - If you have not written, do so at once before you write again to me. I got the pretty little wafers & gave them to Ady as I only use wax.

Love from all

Yr affect^{ly} in J.C.

C. Connelly.