

MS. A. 9. 2. 11. 11. 11. 11.

OLIVE

Miss Olive Wilcox

Warrenton

Connecticut



Boston, Sabbath Evening, Dec. 11th, 1836

Dear Friends — You will no doubt be surprised to learn that we have not yet sailed. The missionaries have for the most part for several days been ready but the vessel has not been fitted for sea so that we could embark. It is now however nearly ready. We expect to set sail on Tuesday next. Every thing in our state rooms is to be got in readiness tomorrow, so that we may sail sometime in the forenoon on Tuesday. My acquaintance with our missionary Brethren has been slight; yet from what little I have seen of them I have formed a very favorable opinion of them. I have no doubt that the time we shall spend together will be pleasant I hope that you will have no distressing anxiety on my account during the voyage. I find the Board disposed to do every thing for our comfort which they can. They have furnished us with many articles of comfort both for our voyage and for our residence at the Islands which I did not expect. Indeed I think that parents would not, and ought not, to do more for their children than the Board have done for us. In case of sea sickness we shall be well provided for. The Rev. Mr. Wilcox of Greenwich Ct. who came to Boston to see some of his missionary friends embark, said to me — "you must never complain of the Board, for I have witnessed such a disposition and effort on their part to do and provide every thing for your comfort that should any of you hereafter complain, I can never have any charity for you."

~~The~~ The delay of the vessel has given me an opportunity to look about and visit the country a little. On Friday, the weather being remarkably fine I in company with the son of Dea. Noyes with whom we stay rode out to visit Mount Auburn a distance of 5 or 6 miles. We stopped at the University at Cambridge

to look at the college buildings which I think are not remarkable. But it is in one of the most beautiful places I ever set my eyes upon. But Mount Auburn baffles all description you will remember, I think, reading something about it in the newspaper a year or two since: it is a burying-ground covering 108 acres. It is chiefly a forest interspersed with family burial places. I never saw the surface of an equal extent of ground half so uneven as this. It is covered by little hills and valleys by 2 or three little ponds (which have been greatly beautified by art,) and by circuitous paths running over the whole. But a small part of the land has yet been sold out into family lots but those which have been sold have been fitted up at great expense and with much taste. Most of the burial places are inclosed with an iron fence or railing and every grave is a bed of flowers. In the centre usually stands a monument with the names of the deceased inscribed thereon. The surface of these burial places is usually elevated in a pyramidal form about 2 feet above the surrounding surface. There are many vaults in the sides of the hills, which are very splendid. In one inclosure, there is the representation of a temple; it is built of white marble and must have cost thousands of dollars. Yes I have no doubt that thousands of dollars have been expended upon single family burial places occupying but a few feet of ground. It occurred to my mind while viewing these splendid mansions of the dead that they were much better provided for than the living at least than many of them. I hope you will never go within 10 miles of Mount Auburn without visiting it and if you should visit it I assure you that you will think if you do not say that one half had never been told you.

I went out this morning in company with several others by invitation to instruct a sabbath school class of convicts in the State Prison in Charleston. The number who receive sabbath school instruction is about 140 and are very interesting. A number give indications of piety.

Monday evening the 12th

Dear Friends the vessel which is to convey us to the Sandwich Islands is to sail tomorrow at 10 o'clock A.M. Eliza and myself with the others have been on board this afternoon and evening fitting up our state rooms and making all necessary preparations for the voyage. We find our rooms rather small yet so far as they go, convenient. I think we shall fare very well. We have 2 physicians on board and are well supplied with medicine so that in case of sickness we shall not suffer. Make yourselves easy on our account the privations we shall endure on board I think will be as nothing in comparison with what some have endured. That Almighty Being who has watched over us ~~on~~ and provided for us on land can take care of us when on the mighty Deep.

But it is late and I must close. May you and I live near to God then we shall all be one firm and still and shall one day have a joyful meeting.

And now dear Parents Aunt Brothers and Sisters I bid you an affectionate farewell.

Abner Wilcox