

Saturday Oct 8. I Collect My

~~I have opened my heart, and put down~~ ~~and will not to send it, and it is~~
instead the wish that as formerly I rank as your friend — But No! for
I should only know you again, — again to lose you, and gather renewed thorns
around the pathway of my life — It is better that we should meet no more, and
I leave to you to appreciate and think worthily of my motives —
Let not misconstruction erase me from your kind remembrance, but
think of me as of one who in the enjoyment of much was very unhappy, through
a crazy notion, which he cannot shake off —

I know not but I may offend in offering to Miss C. should she condescend it
my purse — In the spirit of brotherly feeling is it offered, and you may
well rely upon me fully — My own wants are but few, and do not swallow
up half of my available resources, and as there are phrases in the lines of
all, you may oblige me sometimes with calling upon me to redeem my promise
to do them.

Your Antient Friend

H

To Miss Charlotte Schuman

I have said you was talented, you are more, you have strong & decided genius (I flatter you not, this is an hour when I never play the Country (It's past midnight) — but you have within you all the materials of a great mind in a higher rank, than the one you have chosen. Now I would dwell in the luxurious employment, of forming the elements of your mind into a perfect and harmonious order of literary grandeur, to open for you, the doors of the Temple of Knowledge, and watch your spirit, catching at, and embodying the decided leaning of the Past — I have not speculated idly upon your character — you have powers to cope with & conquer the empirical proportions of literature, to surmount the sophistry, and to have the philosophy of learning, and a few years of study, would give to you far higher claims to the admiration of the world than you can ever hope to otherwise enjoy. Believe me I am sincere in all this there is an originality of conception, a freshness of thought, a poetical arrangement of ideas in your developed temperament, which if directed aright would create a Column enduring & graceful — The lines you handed me this morning, are really good, when we take into consideration the corollary circumstances — Your letters are determined, graceful & spirited, and show that the mind is there, and all that is wanting is assiduity and care, and you must reap the benefit of your fort, so long as you stand connected with the stage, you cannot devote your time to study, of an advantageous character — and I fear me that talent will be wasted, that are in the essential most truly excellent, Pardon me, but you know not, cannot know the interest I take in your welfare, despite my wish to forget you — You have almost become to me a sister, and isolated as I now am from the endearments of my own family Circle, I have cut my heart in twain, and given one moiety, and a large one, to you — As a brother then I speak, and as a brother, I say, that next to ~~my~~ my own talented sister, you have been my admiration by the developments of your mind — It is my only test of woman, and I have judged you by the standard, and most fully do I asseverate, that you are second to none, save her I have alluded to, in the primary elements of your genius —

I could worship you as a Goddess, in the same ratio that I now view you as a woman

I have alluded to, in the primary elements of your genius —

I could wish you as a factor, in the same ratio that I now view you as a crown and would be willing to give up Fame, Ambition, every thing, to lay a pathway for you, along the thoroughfare of life — I am a perfect slave to this idiosyncrasy that throbs in your factory in woman, for she alone can perfect it in the floor, and clothe it with spirituality. I cannot blame myself, but I can appreciate the merit in others, and probably can estimate its real worth, better than others can. — If God in his wisdom had gifted me with the power of creating my soul in you, I should have been willing to forego my present fortunes, and lay my head at your feet —

You will probably leave Albany for Philadelphia — and as I do not wish to meet you again, I shall send you on your expressing me of your intention of going to the latter place, such letters as will be of service — This I feel bound to do because I have so promised — What you may be fully successful in whatever position in life you assume, is my earnest prayer, and that you will I can have no doubt, — My stay in this Country is limited, for I shall undoubtedly go to France in June and shall remain abroad for several years — by the end of which I trust I shall have worn away the silly emotions that now make my town a miniature hell. When John Miss Fishman shall have settled down into the Matron, the wife & the mother I shall joy to con our with her the page of the party and drag from their members many of the absurdities which now call a blush of shame to my cheeks, —

I am but too apt to be rude, of which unfortunately you have had cause to complain but much must be forgiven to one, who is wayward, young, and bretched, and who laughs because he is in pain — There has not been a night for the last 18 months, that I have not gone to my couch the victim of a monomania, as torturing as famine — It is this feeling which has caused me to write you this gross, nonsensical, and impertinent epistle — I cannot sleep, and inflict upon you the result of my wakefulness — And now as I am at the end of my sheet, permit me to ask of your abolition in your mind for any faults I may have committed towards you, and believe me, they were not intentional, and in conclusion take with you my prayer that God will bless you — and may you never meet one who esteems you less than does your once friend, and still in the spirit of kindly feeling —

Your Unworthy Correspondent
A. Burke Kirk