

November 15, 1948

Mrs. Priscilla Koelb  
3718 Brandywine Street, N.W.  
Washington 16, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Koelb:

I appreciate your good letter, and I wish that I could be sustained by my faith, as you were by yours when you lost your dear husband. My mother had a sublime faith--she seemed to walk hand in hand with God, and this companionship was able to sustain her through great trials and privations. I have long sought a similar confidence and faith, but I am sure it has never been granted me, to the degree, that was secured by my mother.

I have always believed that anyone was good enough to do any good thing for a worthy purpose. I think many have been deterred from such action by the fear of being hypocritical, but all my life, I have tried to do the things that I thought I should do, although my compliance at times, undoubtedly, was imperfect.

I prayed so long and so fervently for Mrs. Simons' recovery, and her life was such a beautiful one, that I cannot reconcile myself to her being taken. She was always so good to everyone who was in trouble and so helpful that it seems unfair that she should have to pass away, after making a heroic effort to get well.

Often I have said that we can be philosophical when the death is in someone else's family, but such philosophy seems to fail in the case of those near and dear to us.

I am endeavoring to hold on and hope that a greater measure of faith may be mine. At times in the past when troubled in some manner, I have always tried to not let it interfere with any good work with which I might be engaged.