

Tolson

Brooklyn Conn.

May 11. 1870.

Dear Friend

I am greatly obliged for the honor done me by placing me among your particular friends.

I am very grateful for the beautiful token of love dedicated by yourself to the memory of your most excellent and dearly beloved wife.

You had at the time of her death, and still have

the warmest sympathy of my
wife and self, for we both
dearly love you both -

We were by your side, with
thousands of others, all through
that terrible conflict, we were
sorry for all the obloquy
heaped upon you, and rejoiced
at all your successes -

No man could have fought
the battle you fought, without
the support of a happy home
and a brave and loving wife,

You must be among the
very few that know her when
a school girl - I remember her
as long ago as the early winter
of 1825, when in the deepest
trouble - I had a dearly
loved and noble sister then

who, by exposure, in looking at
a fire which consumed all my
property, was thrown upon a
sick bed which she never left
until death removed her; It
was at this time that I first
knew the Benson family, and it
was at such times that the
poor and afflicted, all over
town, became acquainted with
them, for they made it their
business to go about doing good.

Although that was fifty-one
years ago, it seems but yesterday,
and from that time until now
I have loved to remember them
as brothers, sisters, and friends.

I would like to add very
much more but can only
thank you again for your

Kind remembrance, and the
honor conferred in numbering
us among the friends of one
whom "to know was to love" —

Dear Mr. Garrison.

I have written the
above at Father's dictation. He
wished very much to address you
in his own hand-writing but the
condition of his head is such
that writing is often extremely
painful to him, therefore I have at
his request, relieved him —

I cherish as one of my pleasantest
remembrances the short stay at your
beautiful home last June, feeling
it a great privilege to meet those
whom I had been taught to revere
from childhood — Mother joins in
love and sympathy, she always
regrets your absence. When she visited
you here last — Respectfully Yrs
Mary S. Stearns.