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Dear Father:

I am sorry indeed to learn that Nat is dead. Poor fellow, I sincerely trust he did not suffer much. Yes, all parties concerned in the religious discussion were very ridiculous; indeed absolutely foolish to fight over a God who so greatly confuses them. An infidel could have wiped the earth with them in a few seconds, & it is a great pity that Pascal did not make use of an infidel's argument - instead of mixing his mouth up with them in the way did, "Infidel" Now gentlemen don't fight, but stop & think a minute, You both believe that the Bible

contains the infallible truth & that
he who reads it prayerfully is led
by the Holy Ghost to the knowledge
of the infallible truth" "uttered" "Yes
that is true, it is the very groundwork
of Protestantism" "Infidel & Methodist" "Now
are have you not read this book prayer-
fully? I am sure you have, and
according to your own system, has not
this Holy Ghost led you to believe the
infallible truth, that infant baptism
is necessary? I can not doubt it,
And in what more do you want?
You have the word of God which
is the infallible truth & you can
well afford to leave your brother
alone" The Methodist ~~leaves~~ is well
satisfied, turning then to the Baptist
the ^{infidel} says, "You have the promise of
God that the infallible truth shall be
possessed by the man who reads

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prayerfully His word. Now you have
so read His word & the Holy Spirit
has led you to condemn this ab-
surd practice of infant Baptism,
What more can you wish, when you
~~are~~ always to carry around with
you this mighty truth. This promise
of a God. Gentlemen you see you
are both very foolish to think of
fighting, when you both possess
the that is required to take one
straight to heaven, the infallible
truth. Gentlemen according to your
own systems, you both are right.
Let us hear no more of these dis-
graceful proceedings. I told Elias
to be careful in charging the car-

bonating apparatus, though sometimes they
do break, even with the greatest care,
& it, of course, might have been
the case, in this instance. I was for-
tunate that nobody was around. I
had an explosion of Hydrogen gas
last night, but it did not in the
least surprise me. I always expect
one when I think I have the least
reason to look for one. The consequence
is I have never yet hurt anybody or
anything. You did not enclose the
letter, which you said was compli-
mentary to yourself. I suppose you
forgot it. You may be sure it al-
ways delights Maria & me to receive
such, & that we can fully appreciate
the motive that prompts you to send
them. I am sure you can not doubt.

Love to all.

affly
JM