

[To Elias Carr, Raleigh, D.C.]

Tarboro N.C. Dec 4th 95

Dear Friend

In as much as the kindness of you and
one, more dear friend, have relieved me of the fear
of want caused by delay of collections due my wife, I take
this opportunity of expressing my thanks and giving
you some idea of my trouble condition ~~and~~ ^{which is} suffering going
on in my mouth from ulceration of the bone, and the conse-
quent growth ^{as it were} of little particles of bone in the roof of my
mouth which are constly falling out causing me
great pain suffering in convenience and the long short
of it is, that sooner or later my whole mouth will be in such a
condition, I shall be unable to eat at all, and I thank you again for
your timely aid and there is but one thing for me to do, To wait
trust in the Lord, and as hope has ^{ever} been the main spring of
life, may it be my comfort and support in the hour of death,
and as my sins have been many, my trials hard ~~misfortunes~~
heavy, I ask for forgiveness of my sins, and sincerely forgive all
who have done or wish me evil and with all my sufferings
my heart "by the power of God unto salvation" over flows
with love for all who are affected or distressed in mind

body or estate and may they have a safe deliverance from all
their suffering and afflictions, I pray, and may "The Lord" be with
us all, to the end, as it is plain to me the whole world is nothing
compared to the salvation of our souls.

My suffering is mostly at night & in the day reading and writing is
all I ^{can} do, I read the papers and then amuse myself in making
verses on these two deluded fragments & to give you some idea of
what it is I enclose you a specimen and do not be too hard on your
judgment of my abilities in this line for altho it amounts to nothing
for I never show them, yet it takes me over many hours of great
suffering by keeping my mind off of my heavy affliction I know I am
growing weaker every day of my life for I cant stand alone or walk
What I send you is in the way of a satire on fiction and heroes and
I touch up C & books & others yet may be I will do more, however
you will not show ^{but keep it for my sake} it for I mean no harm to any of them but
in the long run ^{hmm} I feel that as a party we are all wrong we must
put out & begin again, In 19 days I shall ^{be} 80 years old & the oldest born
white citizen of this place & today I cant write as well as usual
on account of last nights suffering.

But I must now close should you wish excuse the weakness
of a feeble & feeble old man who longs to be at rest, "on the portals
of the best!" With love & best wishes for you & yours I am truly yours

B D Macmillan