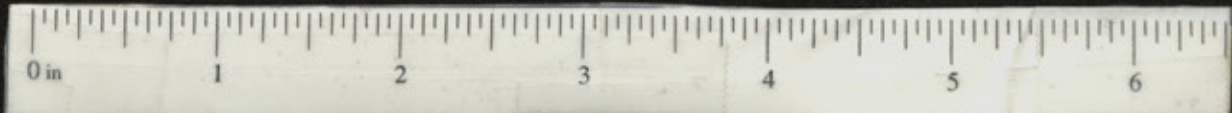
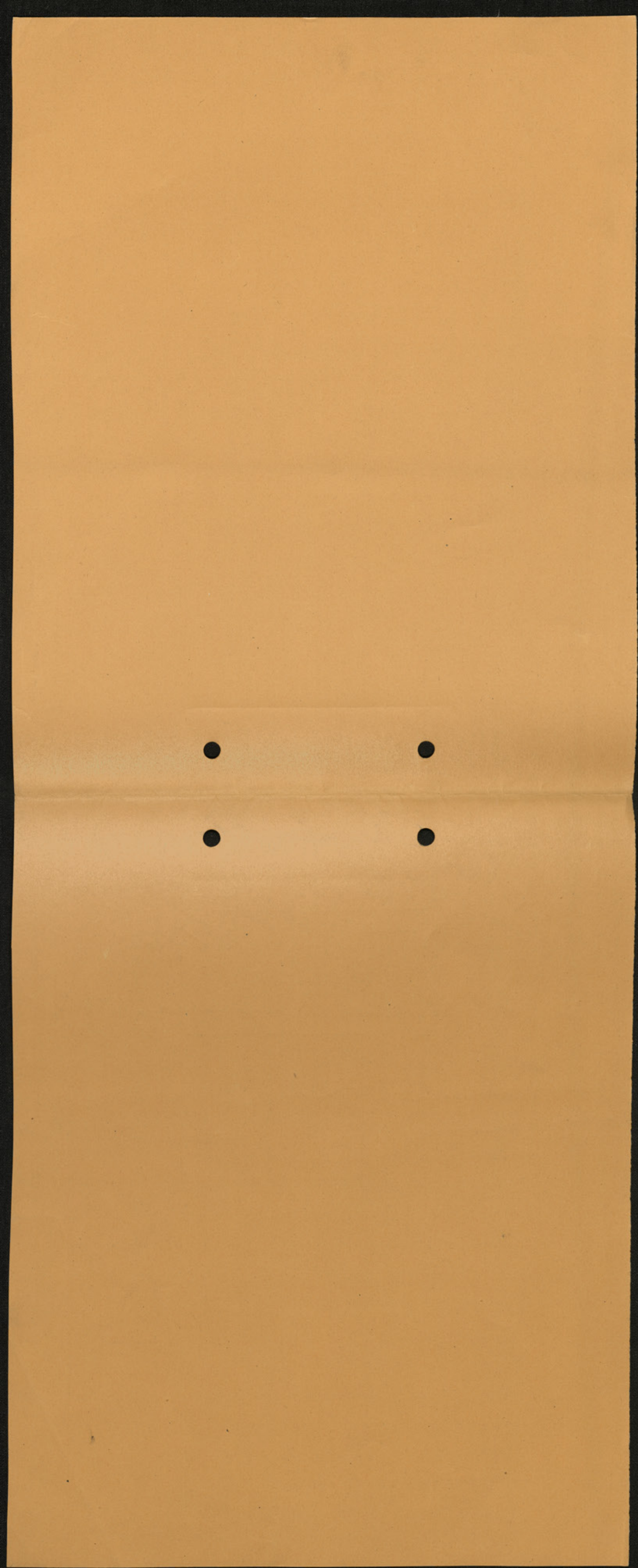


Charles H.
a story for children
original manuscript

Vol 6, No 24.



Charles H.

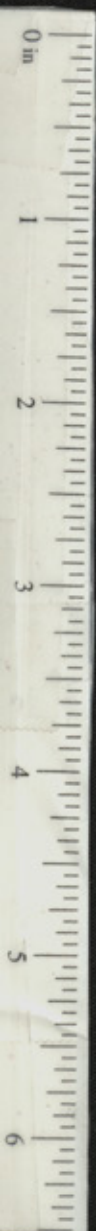
1

(A)

In early life I had a young friend whom I very much admired.

He was a year older than I, very careful in his deportment and always particular about his dress. We first met at the academy or there when I was fifteen and he sixteen. At first I was deemed by him rather too much of a boy to suit his taste ^{in spite of his diffidence} but ^{very} soon struck up a peculiar friendship which has lasted these many years, even to the present time, with scarcely a jar & never a complete break.

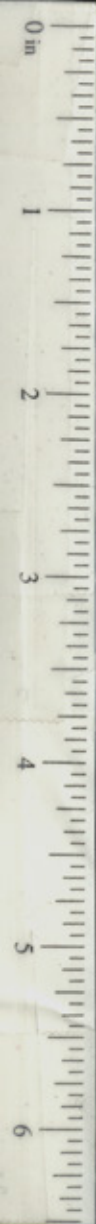
Now ^{springing from} ~~genuine~~ friendships, ^{very much} ~~like~~ ^{intimate} ~~the~~ ^{between} the sexes, are initiated. Opposites in characteristics ^{seem to} find the easiest adjustment. The impulsive ties to the cool & deliberate. The ^{over-}generous & careless seeks to mate with the ^{careful &} prudent. Charles H. was just the young man



(A)
 I needed for a correction. He just fitted
 into my needs and I soon loved him
 as a brother. There was nothing very eventful
 in our Academy life beyond the ~~usual~~ ^{ordinary}
 work interspersed with the usual
 fun & frolic. After a time we
 separated Charles became a Merchant
 & I went into the army. We kept up a correspondence.
 While I was stationed at Old Fort Brooke
 I became very much interested in contempla-
 ting the lives of Christians, both those
 named about me and those of which
 I read. I began, too, to make the Bible
 a study more than ever before. Letters
 from friends who were far away from
 me and the promptings of unusual
 longings within me pressed me more
 & more to make my outward life
 conform to the teachings of ^{the} Scriptures.

At last a new joy burst upon me
 and a new hope took possession of
 my heart.

How natural it is, especially for a young



(A)

3

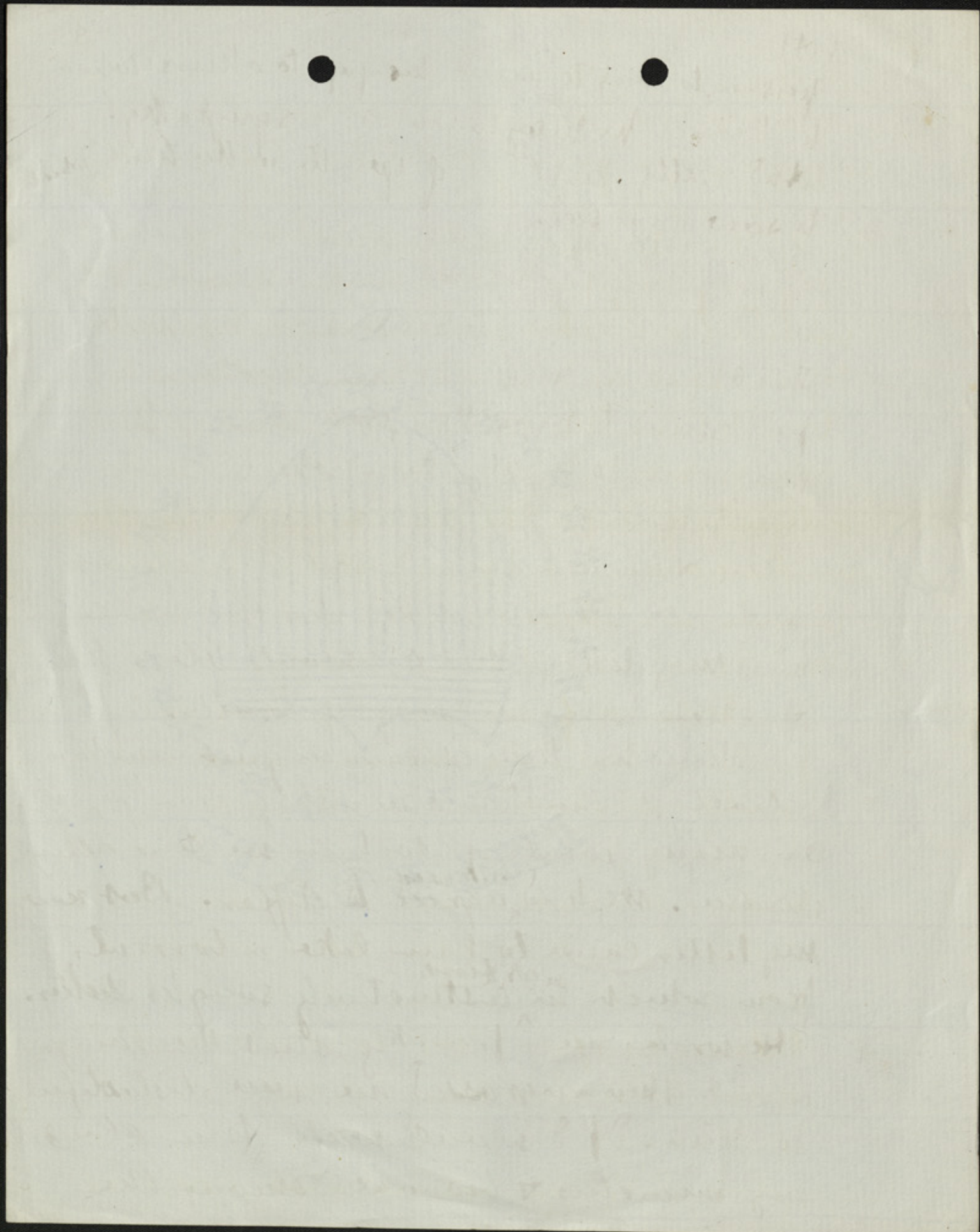
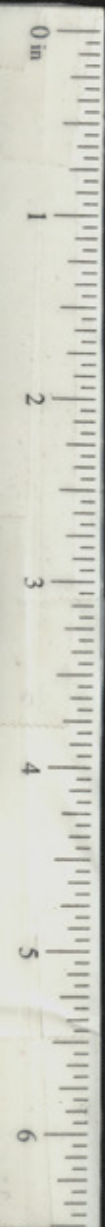
person, to long to impart his joy to others whom he thinks he may touch with sympathy!

And really that time of speech is the time ⁱⁿ which to sow good seed.

I desired to impart to my friend my new-found joy - to tell him how it came about and to urge him to seek for it. With this object in view, I wrote Charles very fully; and, taking the promises of the Saviour to apply, those which made a petition in his name sure to be heard & answered. I urged my request with all my might viz: that God would bless my letter, that God would bless him & show him the way of truth.

Charles had been educated in quite another school of Christian philosophy than myself. On many points of doctrine we had always disagreed. We had ^{as it were} agreed to differ. But now my letter came to him like a torrent, from which he ^{at first} instinctively sought shelter.

He wrote me ^{at} frankly, that the things which then engrossed me were distasteful to him. If I would write him about my marches & bivouacs among the



(d)

Indians, who would enjoy the correspondence, but that religious matters were better left to one's own quiet meditation. The less said or written on these subjects by him & me the better. Such was the substance of his reply - of course I did as he wished & wrote ^{occasionally} about other and more indifferent topics. But as I loved him & earnestly desired that he might see these the most important matters, the very subjects of life, death, & the hereafter in the same light as I did, I continued to ask my ^{much} ~~dear~~ ^{dear} courted bow at the throne of divine mercy.

After a few months my longing for him became almost unbearable.

At last, trusting to the influence of our old friendship to prevent a rupture, I resolved to venture another letter. So I wrote again telling him how much I longed for his conversion & how constantly I had prayed for it.

Judge of my astonishment, when at



[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

(A)

5

the expiration of some three or four
weeks I received the following beautiful
answer.

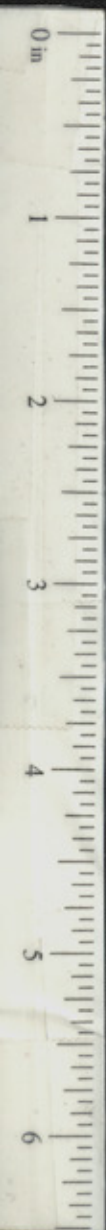
May 5th 1858

" Friend Oliver: Your letter of April 14th
" came duly to hand. Though you
" have neglected to write me for a long
" time still judging from your letter
" you have had your time well
" occupied. x x x x x x x

I have not forgotten you but
on the contrary have wished many
" things that you were here to talk
" with me. I commenced attending
" the morning prayer meetings this
" spring and my mind & heart became
" interested in the subject of religion. The
" more I thought of the matter, the more convinced
I became that this life is but a
preparation for the life to come and
that it was my duty to live differently -
that I was young, strong and well
with many more blessings than lots of
men are enjoying - ^{and} in the full enjoyment

A

[Faint, illegible handwriting throughout the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]



(A)

6

= of all these things I felt and did pray
" to God to pardon ^{all} my numerous sins -
" giving up all to Jesus to take him as
" my Redeemer and Saviour - to bow my
" stubborn heart & say, from this time forward
" I ~~will~~ ^{would} do as near as I could what
" would be pleasing in His sight. I feel
" happier than ever before in my
" life; and now I think I have ^{been}
" to live for than ever. It seems like
" commencing anew; but I can &
" will, by the cheering presence of my
" God who is ever near me & who I
" feel will give me strength, steadily move
" forward in the Christian course.
" Oh yes, it is very pleasant to gather
" my family about me morning and
" evening and quietly sit down to
" read a chapter in the Bible and
" then, with all kneeling, to pray to God
" to keep me aright from morning till
" evening and from my lying down ^{until}
" till my rising again, - and feeling sure
" that He will do so - that all who come

1871

(A)
in meekness and sincerity he will in
no wise cast out. x x x x
Olive, pray for me and mine and
I will tell you more when I see
you. x x x x

Very truly Yours

Charles K. —.

This good letter indicated a complete
revolution in my friend. His life was
indeed changed. He soon employed himself
actively in special christian work,
becoming the superintendent of a
fine Sunday school. He was afterwards
called to suffer family affliction and
unexpected reverses of fortune but through
all he has always given evidence of
his strong undeviating faith in his
God. It is true that other instrumentalities
than mine brought my friend to
the Christian's hope & joy, yet I
have felt that God did hear my
my morning prayer for his
conversion. And I am glad.

