My dean & Cut 239 you will think it a long while to wait for an answer to your letter, but trust you will excuse me, as you know of some events that have transfired since receiving it For a long line after I heard aft from clear feorgies death my mind mad so much occupied with it I was unfit for writing; Nout no coult you have heard af our contemplated move before this and if I would answer yours, I must no it soon, I have redd several letters from I ap late, the last about a week ago, and last Sabbath I reca one from our long lost Jusy my heart was made exceeding glad in consequence, To God I would give all the fraise for it is through his abunding morey and good news the this life hours been sheled

E Plainfield Oct 23 ⁶⁴
My dear E
You will think it
a long while to wait for an answer
to your letter, but trust you will
excuse me, as you know of some events
that have transpired since receiving it

For a long time after I heard of poor dear Georgie's death my mind was so much occupied with it I was unfit for writing, But no doubt you have heard of our contemplated move before this and if I would answer yours, I must do it soon, I have rec'd several letters from L of late, the last about a week ago, And last Sabbath I rec'd one from our long lost Josy my heart was made exceeding glad in consequence, To God I would give all the praise for it is through his abounding mercy and goodness that his life has been spared

I hope we shall all have the privilege of seeing I before many weeks but you will hear more concerning him soon But you will allow me to tell you that I feel very anxious soncerning the state of mind you are in, you may think there is no course for insciety but clear & ife you ere in the wrong futh it will end wring, But be surl you are hear if you only follow any But you say you have never felt the striving of goes spirit to be sensible of it, and I really fear you have never seen the fogue afe your own heart, and according to ite telecting of foil's word it istablete by interspensible in order that we may understand his word, Now you will allow me to be plain, and it is allow me to be plann, Vend it is and of the strongest evidences of an impegenerale heart that we have no real love for his word, and you ad-

I hope we shall all have the privilege of seeing J before many weeks but you will hear more concerning him soon But you will allow me to tell you that I feel very anxious concerning the state of mind <u>you</u> are in, you may think there is no cause for anxiety but dear E if you are in the wrong path it will <u>end wrong</u>, But be sure you are in the <u>right</u> one and then you need not fear if you only follow on, But you say you have never felt the striving of God's spirit to be sensible of it, and I really fear you have never seen the p^lague of your own heart, and according to the teaching of God's word it is absolutely indispensable in order that we may understand his word, Now you will allow me to be plain, and it is one of the strongest evidences of an unregenerate heart that we have no <u>real</u> love for <u>his</u> word, and you admit you do not enjoy it

But & I will tell you what I think is the greatest difficulty in your case, you have spent too much of your time in reading light and useless reaching, and I can't help thinking you have molated your conscience in so doing, I sent a little fumphlet to Julia What treats whom such reading and its effects) which I would like to have you get and read carefully once prayenfully. you ask if you all do not fail in their attempts to live a Christian life, I would answer yes more or less, but since should reby whom their gover mirks for sal merits of a cruifica Redeemen ence good works will be the fruits of south faith, you wowe some of the sms of moundwald and if it not enough to sicken any one of profes -sons while they will fray for you and

But E I will tell you what I think is the greatest difficulty in your case, you have spent too much of your time in reading light and useless reading, and I cant help thinking you have violated your conscience in so doing, I sent a little pamphlet to Julia that treats upon such reading and its effects) which I would like to have you get and read carefully and prayerfully. You ask if you all do not fail in their attempts to live a <u>Christian</u> life, I would answer <u>yes</u> more or less, but none should rely upon their good works for salvation No [no*] but faith in the mer merits of a crucified Redeemer and good works will be the fruits of such faith, You name some of the sins of individuals and ^ask if it not enough to sicken any one of [profes -sons*] while they will pray for you and exhort you to get religion, and you

Rum they are practicing what you would not, No I don't think it ought, for the Bible teacher that there are hypocretes and self elecervers, and It also leaches that there one those that one walking in the frear of God one enjoy his Smiled once alerobation. Now I really peer you are lorking low much at the inperfections of propessors, cand they are altigether to mife. feel molead of seaching ofter year own duly, But you say you wint Know how to lake the first step, now I think the find step for your would be repentence towards face, you may say you don't know what to repent of, so I will just grave an illustration, you say you love your husband deerly and if he should the it would kill you, now supposing the se wailed will you, mon supposing the letters he search you, you should treat with indifference over reglect to read them, do you suppose I could have and long long to 1

know they are practicing what you would not, No I do'nt think it ought, for the Bible teaches that there are hypocrites and self deceivers, and it also teaches that there are those that are walking in the fear of God and enjoy his smiles and aprobation. Now I really fear you are looking too much at the imperfections of professors, (and they are altogether too imperfect) instead of searching after your own duty, But you say you do'nt know how to take the first step, now I think the first step for <u>you</u> would be <u>repentance</u> towards God, You may say you do'nt know what to repent of, so I will just give an illustration, You say you love your husband dearly and if he should die it would kill you, now supposing the letters he sends you, you should treat with indifference and neglect to read them, do you suppose I could have much faith in your love for him?... [fragment letter ends here]