



Portland Nov 5th/80

Prof H. Lyman
Forest Grove

Dear Sir

Your letters have both been duly received & again I feel that I owe you an apology in so long delaying an answer but I can scarcely realize that it is nearly a month since the date of the first - the time has flown so rapidly away. At the Sunday School Convension I was both delegate & committee on refreshments which we served at the church two days in succession & immediately after that I was invited out to dinner four days in succession & that was followed

with a two days sick headache besides various other things have made demands upon my time still all this ought not to have prevented my replying to your letter & would not have done so had I been decided in regard to what I ought to say to you. I had purposed to comply with your wish to make a visit to the grave but the invitation which I had from the Cornelius family is of so long ago that I have felt somewhat delicate about going unless I should see them here in town as I frequently do & they should renew the invitation but I have not seen any of them this fall. But all this is not to the point "To be or not to be that is the question" I am to decide, I might say simply Yes or No as the case might be & keep back from you the thoughts which crowd themselves upon me

& perhaps you would be better pleased if I should do so but to me this is a momentous question & I feel that I have no right to cast it from me without becoming fully persuaded that I am doing just what God would have me do. My life I trust is ^{an} entire consecration to Him to be or to do just what He would have me & so I can but be in sympathy with you in the work which you are doing & still I don't feel sure that I should be any help to you. But while I stand alone as a distinct & separate individual my influence for good may be much more potent than when merged into one whose power & influence are so superior to mine. If I felt in the least restless or dissatisfied with my present place in the world I should not find it so difficult to decide

Portland lady does not give me
to make a change I have just
received a letter from my sister
in reply to one I wrote her telling
her of your proposal to me & giving
her all the facts in my possession
in regard to yourself & family. She
says to me if you do not accept that
offer I think you will be very unwise.
Why she says do you persist in living
alone in the world & you know she
says I have often told you you ought
to be a ministers wife & then she
would feel so much better about
me if I had a good husband than
to have me here all alone. But I
have been alone so long that it does
not seem anything dreadful to me &
I think I grow more & more fearful of
making a change. If you are tired
of my indecision & desire to drop this
I shall accept it as all right, but if
you desire to write me or visit me
again you are at liberty to do so

Yours sincerely Mrs A. E. Torrey