

148 West 15<sup>th</sup> St — N.Y. Oct<sup>r</sup> 31<sup>st</sup>/87.—

Col W<sup>m</sup> P. Johnston,  
Dear Col<sup>l</sup>

Your two last letters of Sept 19<sup>th</sup> from Staunton, and Oct<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> (my dear husband's birth day) from N.O. was only received a few days since, as you directed it — "39 Broad St N Orleans La" — was only received a day or two since as it went back to your city, and was returned to me again. I arrived from Lime Rock on the 13<sup>th</sup>, the very day the H.S.N.M.C. — was opened; and have <sup>been</sup> very busy in getting fixed for the winter, but do hope all will be well. The person I lived with at 13 West 22<sup>d</sup> St, did not want any invalids, or delicate persons in her house. While I know I am delicate, I am not an invalid, as I am not helpless. — I received the news-paper you sent me with a half dozen

others, and am so happy to know all is so satisfactory to you it is so encouraging and spiring.— I read Catharine Cole's account, but Col<sup>l</sup> are there no rooms to be appropriated for a chapel and reception room? As I have <sup>two</sup> portraits I intended for the H.S. N. M.C. one taken at four years of age, and one at the time of her death; and also a very excellent photograph of Mr N, and other pictures, and many books, and some ornaments. The Chapel I will furnish & finish, as I wish it simple but very pretty, & would like to know from you, all that is required. I was in hopes to have seen M<sup>rs</sup> Richardson before her return South. — she has my true sympathy for her two nieces; her Bro's only child, renounced her Church, her country, & her fortune, to become

the wife of a R.C. Italian Count, & reside in Rome Italy. The other her only sister's child, Mrs J. B. Potter, commences an engagement at the Fifth Ave<sup>n</sup> Theater <sup>Oct 31<sup>st</sup></sup>. I am told Bishop H.C. Potter feels deeply for his Bro<sup>r</sup> Howard, who is the Father-in-law of Mrs. J.B. R.

I am most happy you are so truly encouraged, at the opening of the Tulane University. — I do pray both may ever give you, all the comfort & success you ever desire. —

What a glorious triumph was the close of your Uncle's life, such a solace to his relatives and friends. To see our dear ones so resigned to go, & so filled with Faith & Hope, — relieves & soothes the last parting, but nothing but His love, & care, & time, can heal the wound of the broken heart.

Our weather is clear but cold.

Very truly & sin<sup>lv</sup>. Jo. L Newcomb

*Editors' note*

This letter appears in Harriet Swift, "'Being Entirely Alone & Unprotected' Mrs. Newcomb in Letters," in Susan Tucker and Beth Willinger (eds.), Newcomb College 1886-2006: Higher Education for Women in New Orleans (Baton Rouge, 2012), 51.