

Ashburham Aug 20 1826

Dear Nephew.

Yours of the 2<sup>d</sup> inst came to hand in due season. we most sincerely sympathize with you in the death of your Bosom friend & Companion. You have been called to drink deep of the Bitter Cup of Affliction. You yet remember it was mixed with Gall, your Soul hath them still in remembrance, & I trust is humbled within you. But you are to consider who it is that gives you this Cup. It is God who has declared that He does not willingly grieve & afflict the Children of men but chasten them for their profit. I wish & pray that you may have those consolations which God only can give, & which are neither few nor small. One more link of the Chain which binds you to Earth is meted away. The Time is short, & they that weep should be as though they wept not. God is abundantly able to make up this loss with better things, even with Himself, & if He is the portion of your Soul, it will be better than the enjoyment of any & every earthly Good. Time is on it wing - death is approaching with steady steps. Our great concern is to be in readiness. The monitory Language of this providence to you is, "be you also ready". I know that ~~my~~<sup>the</sup> time of my Departure is at Hand, for next Wednesday I shall have lived 77 years. All my Contemporaries in this region are gone off the Stage,

There is one minister in this County my Senior - one in  
Essex Dr Darg. your neighbor Alden, one in Berkshire & one  
in Middlesex Dr Cummings, part of this faldon preach.

at present I enjoy a good degree of Health, tho' I have not  
recovered the strength & flesh which I had before my  
sickness last year. I was laid by from public labors  
from 4<sup>th</sup> Sabbath in Jan till the 2<sup>d</sup> in September.  
my Lushing is in a very feeble state & has been  
thus for months or more. She is wearing away.  
She is more than a year older than I am. It is  
not probable that Her life will be prolonged a year.  
we have lived together almost 52 years.

My youngest Son Thomas, has been to England &  
back this year. My Daughter Cooledges Son  
went this week to live with Tuckerman & Cus-  
hing. The firm has been Tuckerman, Moyer & Cus-  
hing, but Moyer has gone out.

My Son Henry has gone into New York State  
200 miles above Albany - has found a wife  
and is going into the Distilling Business. He is  
in a Town of Gotham 4 miles this side Canan-  
daigua.

The season with us has been very fruitful - it is now  
dry not having had rain for a fortnight.

I send a couple of Sermons of mine, one to your  
Bro Nathaniel. perhaps you may find some-  
thing that may administer consolation to you in  
your affliction. accept of our sympathy & affection.  
with love I subscribe your Affe<sup>d</sup> Uncle  
John Cushing

D.S. I felt myself in imminent Danger of Death the 3<sup>d</sup>  
Wednesday of June by lightning. It was in the evening  
on my return from Westminster & Town adjoining  
The lightning appeared on the Ground right under my  
Horse, which made him cringe & start back a little  
and before the light was gone a report followed like  
a Volley of pistols, which did not appear to be more  
than the rods from me & not 20 feet from the  
ground. my Horse started immediately round &  
I was seized with a pain <sup>in</sup> my stomach & small  
of my back, so that I could hardly breathe - I was  
within a few rods of a House - when I got to it I  
called, & two men came out & helped me out by  
my Chair & after getting a little while & drinking  
some spirit of pain subsided, & I got Home safe  
but felt the effects the next Day. It is a wonder  
that my Chair was not struck, but it was in open  
land & did not strike any where that I could find,  
for I was in 2 or 3 Days on the Ground & could feel  
no Effects - It is in God we live & move & have  
our Being

Notion Stone Egg.

Seven

[1826-08-28 John Cushing; folded letter, addressed "Nathan Stone Esqr, Dennis":]  
Ashburnham Aug 28 1824

Dear Nephew.

Yours of the 2<sup>d</sup> inst came to hand in due season. we most sincerely sympathize with you in the Death of your Bosom friend & companion. You have been Caleed to drink deep of the Bitter Cup of Affliction. You yet remember y<sup>e</sup> wormwood & the Gall, your Soul hath them sill in remembrance, & I trust is humbled within you. But you are to Consider who it is that gives you this Cup. It is God who has declared that He does not willingly grieve & afflict the Children of men but Chastens them for their profit. I wish and pray that you may have those Comsolations which God only can give, & which are neither few nor small. One more link of the Chain which binds you to Earth is melted away. The Time is short, Y that that weep should be a though they wept not. God is abundantly able to make up this loss with better things, even with Himself, & of Him is the portion of you Soul. it will be better than the enjoyment of any & every earthly good.

Time is on y<sup>e</sup> wing – Death is approaching with steady stages. Our great Concern is to be in readiness. The monitory Language of this providence to you is, “be you also ready. I know that the time of my Departure is at Hand, for next wednesday I shall have lived 77 years<sup>[58]</sup>. All my Cotemporaries in this region are gone off the Stage. [next page] There is one Minister in this County my Senior D<sup>r</sup> Sumner – one in Essex D<sup>r</sup> Doann. you neighbor Alden, one in Berkshire & one in Middlesex D<sup>r</sup> Cummings, part of them seldom preach. at present I enjoy a good degree of Health, tho’ I have not recovered the strength & flesh which I had before my sickness last year. I was laid by from public labors from y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> Sabbath in Jan till the 2<sup>d</sup> in September. M<sup>rs</sup> Cushing is in a very feeble state & has been this six months or more. She is wearing away. The is more than a year older than I am. It is not probable that Her life will be prolonged a year. we have lived together almost 52 years.

My youngest Son Thomas, has been to England & back this year. My Daughter Cooledges son went this week to live with Tuckerman & Cushing. the firm has been Tuckerman Rogers & Cushing, but Rogers has gone out. My Son Henry has gone into New York state 200 miles above Albany – has found a Wife and is going into the Distilling Business He is in y<sup>e</sup> Town of Gorham 4 miles this side Canandaigua.

The season with in has been very fruitful – it is now dry not having had rain for a fortnight.

I send a Couple of Sermons of mine, one for your Bro<sup>r</sup> Nathaniel. perhaps you may find some thing that may administer Consolation to you in your Affliction. accept of our sympathy & affection which I subscribe  
your Affe<sup>e</sup> Uncle

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<sup>58</sup> The date of the letter, 28 Aug 1826, was a Tuesday. This would make Rev. Cushing’s birthday either 29 Aug 1749, or 5 Sept 1749, depending on the word “next”.

John Cushing

[over page:]

P.S. I felt myself in imminent Danger of Death the 3<sup>d</sup> wednesday of June by lightning. It was in y<sup>e</sup> evening on my return from Westminster y<sup>e</sup> town adjoining The lightning appeared on y<sup>e</sup> Ground right under my Horse, which made Him cringe & start back a little & before y<sup>e</sup> light was gone y<sup>e</sup> report followed like a Volley of pistols, which did not appear to be more than two rods from me & not 20 feet from the ground. my Horse started immediately round & I was seized with apain in my stomach & small of my Back, so that I could hardly breathe – I was within a few rods of a House – when I got to it I called, & two men came out & helped me out of my Chaise & after setting a little while & drinking some spirit y<sup>e</sup> paind subsided, & I got Home safe but felt the effects the nexxe Day. it is a wonder that my Chaise was not struck, but it was in open land & did not strike any where that I could find, for I was in 2 or 3 Days on y<sup>e</sup> Ground & could see no Effects – It is in God we hlive & move & have our Being



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