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Letter, Jane Grey Swisshelm to Henry Z. Mitchell [October 14, 1872]

Jane Grey Swisshelm

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Recommended Citation

Swisshelm, Jane Grey, "Letter, Jane Grey Swisshelm to Henry Z. Mitchell [October 14, 1872]" (1872). *Jane Grey Swisshelm Letters*. 6.

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Jane G. Swisshelm to Henry Z. Mitchell, October 14, 1872

[Mitchell MSS. -- A.L.S.]

Zozonia Oct 14, 72

Dear Brother Harry

I have just returned from sending my mail down to the office & it occurs to me that I owe you a letter & want to talk to you about family matters. I mailed a letter to "Gib" which I hope will bring him here by the end of this month. There is no use waiting until after election. That is settled now & his place is waiting for him. He is needed now, I wrote also to Mary to know if there is anything in his habits that has hindered his success. He goes into a very responsible place here on my recommendation & I want to understand what I am doing. No matter what his fault may be I shall stand by him to the end & try to help him overcome it, for your children are mine. Do you & Elizabeth deal frankly by me, for this is addressed to both. I think he has told me the truth himself so far as he knows it; but there is no one whom we so constantly deceive as ourselves. I think I see abundant reason for his failures without any fault of his, but I may be wrong & there is no time to lose in getting him properly started in life. Then, about Charlie. I have just counted up & find that he is 17 next month. Almost a man while his late letters show that in education he is still a child. Your Western schools, generally, are miserable humbugs those in St. Cloud excelling in this respect. Your whole West is deluged with business & professional men who are starving each other out. The Capital is in the old states & there are ten openings here for a young man for one there, in other words western emigration has been overdone

may the Lord give you all reason to thank him for "a living mother & a living child" & may the little one be a blessing.

Remember me to James McKelvy, Mr Campbell & wife, Mrs Barnes, Mrs Taylor & Tuttle Mrs Allen owes me a letter, please remind her of it. Nettie joins in love to you & Elizabeth & all the young folks. I hope Gib is prospering in his new business & cannot think what you were all about when you permitted him to risk anything in a venture with that little black-eyed York State Yankee. Why, she could skin the whole connection & ten more connections of the same size & force & Gib is not to be blamed for failing in such a hopeless struggle. I know nothing of the particulars but simply take it for granted that she skinned him, & expected nothing else. Do not get out of patience with him There are a great many good people who lack the money-getting & money keeping faculty & a great many mean people have it. The mail will be along soon, goes past on a horse with a boy on it three times a week. With much love your sister

Jane G. Swisshelm

[Receipt enclosed in envelope says:]

Received of James Kennedy Seventeen dollars & fifty cts (\$17. 50)
100

in full of interest on notes up to May 13th 1872.

Jane G. Swisshelm

Zozonia July 29, 72

[Addressed:] St. Cloud, Minnesota

Gen. H. Z. Mitchell