

This letter was written to the Rev. George Meek of the General Conference when Helen Keller was thirty years old and living with her newly married teacher, Anne Sullivan, and her editor-critic husband, John Macy. It should put to rest any further claims by biographers that Helen Keller's radicalism, then at its height, compromised her religious convictions.

The Rev. George Meek

My dear Mr. Meek:

Your letter reached me Christmas Day when we were all up among the snow-clad hills in the State of Vermont. Since our return, I have been struggling with some rather tedious work, or I should have replied sooner to your kind message.

I am always glad to hear from one who teaches the doctrines of the New Church. I have read only a few books that explain them; but my heart is in all that I know of the doctrines. Besides Heaven and Hell I have read The Divine Love and Wisdom, Intercourse Between the Soul and the Body, On the White Horse Mentioned in the Apocalypse, Doctrine of the Sacred Scripture, a book of selections about the proprium prepared by John Bigelow, numerous extracts from the Arcana Coelestia, including explications in full of the twelve tribes of Israel. All these were copied for me after I left college, and that enables me to study them more easily. They are a constant source of help and delight to me. The precious truths they contain have banished the sense of isolation that used many times to weigh upon my spirit. All things about me have a new brightness because I understand more clearly how it is that the keenest vision belongs to the soul. If we will but see and listen, behold, there is companionship, light and music "at our own clay-shuttered doors!"

I have no pictures now. I intend to have some more taken later. But I gladly enclose a sentence from Swedenborg.* It is one which cheers me when I get discouraged thinking how little my circumscribed life permits me to do for others.

With cordial greetings, and with best wishes for your work, I am,

Faithfully yours,

Helen Keller

Wrentham, Massachusetts

[Handwritten] January 22, 1910

* Alas, we do not know what sentence it was from the Writings that Helen enclosed.