

Letter from Edward Miner Gallaudet to J.H. McFarlane:

When I was a boy of ten, my father was sixty years of age; but he never seemed an old man.

He was always good company with me, and we had many happy times together.

He took me with him on several journeys and I remember with what pride and pleasure I rode with him on top of a stage coach from Hartford to Norfolk, Ct, 30 miles away. We played "fox and geese," that is, each of us counted the living creatures we could see on our side of the road, and the one who got the largest number in a given time won the game.

I remember another journey I took with him to Springfield, Amherst and Mount Holyoke, all in Massachusetts. At Springfield, we visited Mr. Merriam, who was the publisher of Webster's great dictionary; and the book is still printed under the name of George and Charles Merriam.

At Amherst we visited the college, and when we had passed through the principle building, my father said with a comical smile, "Eddie, you have been through Amherst College; are you not rather young for that?" Mount Holyoke is a beautiful hill some two thousand feet high, not far from Amherst. My father asked me if I thought I could climb it with him. I said I was sure I could, so we cut some stout sticks and made our way to the top. The walk was not quite as I expected, but we accomplished it without any difficulty, and I remember to this day how I enjoyed the magnificent view we had at the top.

My father was excellent company for a boy of ten. I was the youngest of a family of eight children, and we all looked on our father as a real comrade. He loved children and had, up to his last days, the spirit of youth.

[End letter]

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