

My dear
Capt. Ryder,
Believe me
always your
affly. friend
J. Keble.

Worcester 12 Nov.
1855.

Captain Ryder,

So pray think of me as of one
who has been full of thoughts for you
ever since the sad account appeared.

I longed to write something to you, but
what could one say? one could only
remember in whose hand you are.

He will guide you, I doubt not,
for the best in your present per-
-plexity. I wish I was more able
to advise regarding it: but you
will readily suppose that I am

256
very ignorant of the Value & feelings
of the Naval Service, which, as I
suppose, are a main consideration
in this case: & on the other hand,
I cannot be supposed quite able
to cater into the feelings of a Fa-
-ther. On the whole, as well as I
am able to strike the balance,
it seems to me at present, that
I should be glad to hear that
you had made your election to
remain in the Darrells for the

297
present. It will be very trying, I
am quite aware: but the people
there are in a manner committed
to your charge. So, of course, I must
more, is your child: but I cannot
help thinking that the dangers you
apprehend for him, if frankly &
casually stated to those who, ^{w?} have
the care of him in your absence,
so? in great measure be obviated.
You might at any rate employ some
one in whom you had confidence,

to which I report to you: I show
 what you now only dread was begin-
 -ning to be a reality, you might do
 what you are thinking of. Of course
 I speak only on the broad state-
 -ment - there may be circumstances
 which would quite alter my view
 if I knew them. May the best of
 Hopes & Comforts be with you, which
 -ever way you determine. I thank
 you much for your mention of Wallace,
 for all you have done for him. Miss
 Gardner said something of my writing to
 him on his new prospects, I also about
 his money matters - If you had time I sh^d
 like to know how he stands in those respects.

P. S.

Do you know any Officers
of the 1st Corp, which I
believe is now or was lately
at harbor? There is a person
on board here, whom I am
anxious to have spoken to, as he
has used a few Sacristians of
mine very ill, & perhaps if
he were spoken to seriously by
a professional superior, it might

have a good effect: but of course
it is not every one that one could
ask to interest himself in
such a thing, or whose inter-
-ference would bring with it
real influence.

Do not trouble yourself to
write about this unless any
thing occurs to you to suggest.