Lea Hurst
Matlock July 13

Yes, it was very nearly
what I expected—nearly,
but not quite.

I acknowledge the truth
of every word you have
said. It is a matter of
fact that the Catholic
Church has done all the
things you say & that no
other church has done so.
These are facts of history.
Would I could believe
in more. Empirically but
not scientifically—I believe
in her. She has no more
fervent disciple than I.
I believe in her with all
the power of my eyes, as

the early Chaldeans believed
in the return of eclipses
which they could ascertain
by observation, but could
not account for.

You will say, as my
dear Madre at the Trinità
used always to do. And is
not that enough? What
would you have more? She
is too beautiful not to be
ture. Ye shall know a tree
by its fruits.
But there is a difference
between conjecturing empiri-
cally & knowing certainly.
My observation shews me
the uniformities which exist
in the Catholic Church of
faith, of simplicity of aim,
of love & self-sacrifice as

the observation of the
Chaldeans shewed them the
uniformities of the celestial
motions. But I hesitate
to rely, for want of being
able to believe their theories,
as we waited till Kepler
told us the law, which
the Easterns had only
mistaken.

You would have me
snatch at the blessing
the Catholic Church has to
give, without having given
her my unconditional
allegiance—& make my
own conditions (tacitly)
instead of receiving hers.
So have I done all my life
with the Anglican Church.
I have snatched her
Sacraments (a faithless
child—but she never
asked me why) tacitly
making my own conditions
to myself.

I stand now trembling
where I stood from before.
Those I have known left the
arms of one Church but to
go to those of another—a
more faithful mother. I
have a precipice behind me
If I do not reach the Church (letter cuts off
here)

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
(written upside down) This horrible system
dooms
some minds to incurable
infancy, others to incurable
tacticity.

Transcription developed by Monica Oliver