

recollection of I ever knew, but he was
 then a member of the Presbyterian Church and
 spent most of his time when in the house read-
 ing the Bible. From an incident which I have
 heard my father relate, I conclude that his
 mind was a little inclined to Superstition.
 One Sunday he was walking out towards
 his barn, partly to look after his cattle, but
 chiefly for relaxation & exercise, and in
 his walk was near stopping upon a Snake.
 I know not whether the reptile was venom-
 ous or not, but his impression was that
 he had run a narrow risk of being bitten,
 and that it was a warning to him not to
 violate the Sabbath day again. From that
 day to the end of his life, it is the testimony
 of his children, that he never left his house
 on Sunday except upon calls of duty. His
 observance of the Sabbath was not more
 strict than his regard for his other Christian
 duties. My father has often related to me that
 the severest whipping his father ever inflicted
 upon him was for saying "Confound". It
 was his habit to have family worship at noon,
 as well as morning & evening, on Sunday. I have
 supposed that my Grandmother probably had
 some influence in the formation of so decided
 a religious character. She was a woman of a
 strong, masculine turn of mind, and must
 have exerted great control over a man of the
 placid turn of my grand-father. The maiden

name of my grand mother was Martha Wilson. Her parents came to America from the North of Ireland, and were of Scotch descent, and confirmed Presbyterians in faith & practice. I recollect her as a stout old lady, bordering upon 70, with strong features, a heavy, projecting brow, rather large nose, and full, grey eyes. I remember her as having been always with a book in her hands, of a somewhat stern, commanding mien & manner. She retained the accent and dialect of the Scotch-Irish people, while there was nothing in the speech of my grandfather to arrest my boyish attention.

When these old people came from North Carolina to my Father's in 1815 they had been married nearly half a century. They came to make a new settlement among their children, the last of whom was about to migrate to Tennessee. They lived more than ten years among their children in their new home, on the Ridge in Sumner County, where grandfather died ~~on the 14th of November 1824~~ ^{in the month of 1824}. I have a lively recollection of a tender letter, ^{from my father} to me, a student of Medicine in Baltimore, ~~from my father~~ announcing the death of his venerated parent. Grand mother survived him only a few years.

These simple, honest, pious people, beyond whom I am not able to trace my paternal lineage, acted with their honorable part in life, rearing a large family of children in the discipline of their church, & giving

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to their education as much care as their limited means would allow. Ten of their children, six sons and four daughters, grew up & were married, and all survived them but a ^{single} daughter. My uncles were Samuel, William, James, John & David. My father was their fourth son. My Aunt's uncle who married a man of the name of Kirkpatrick, Mary, afterwards this Mr. Chord, Jane, whose husband's name was Allen, and Martha, who married James Park. All these have died & are dead, and only a few days ago I met with a young soldier, at Corinth, of the name of Kirkpatrick, a grand-son of my Aunt, who recognized

He says - "On the 14th of Nov., my dear son, I lost the best of fathers! He died rejoicing in the Christian's hope. He reposed upon those who entrusted the scene to prepare to meet him in glory. He was a righteous man" and he gave to his children a righteous man's reward. Now that he is no more, his example, maxims, & precepts strike my mind with redoubled power. His very songs to his infant children were spiritual. The hymn of Dr Watts beginning, "Hush dear boy, lie still & slumber, Holy angels guard thy bed," was his favorite cradle-hymn. And he repeated almost daily to his little children the lines - "Behold how good a thing it is, And how becoming too, To see such as brethren are In unity to dwell."

his family. His wife family. now be I should like that very interesting father had three children. His children are all in the county. I left him. My uncles all large. I have

Be intimate with one" (meaning God),

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while there was nothing in the speech of my
grandfather to arrest my boyish attention.

When these old people came from North
Carolina to my Father's in 1815 they had been
married nearly half a century. They came to
make a home.

"Deal justly with all, Speak evil of none"
was with him a favorite practical max-
im. And Solomon's advice to his
son, "Remember now thy Creator in
the days of thy youth," &c. he gratefully
indulged upon his children. In
short, his Bible was his guide, and
he lived & died in the service of his
God, who will reward him ac-
cording to his works.

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ried, and all survived them but a ^{single} daughter.
My uncles are Samuel, William,
James John & David. My father was their
fourth son. My aunts are ^{who}
married a man of the name of Kirkpatrick,
Mary, afterwards Mrs McChord, Jane,
whose husband's name was Allen, and
Martha, who married James Park. All
these are descendants, and only a few days
ago I met with a young soldier,
at Corinth, of the name of Kirkpatrick, a
grand-son of my aunt, who recognized
the name (Grandchild) as that of his family.
Uncle Samuel & Uncle William had large fami-
lies, and their descendants must now be
numerous. When a boy 9 years old went
to school with their children, but since that
time have met with them rarely, & at long inter-
vals. Uncle James, who resembled his father
more closely than any of my uncles, had three
or four sons and two daughters. Uncle John's
children, one son and six daughters, are all
still living around him in Gibson County.
Aunt Kirkpatrick died young and left but
few children. The families of my aunts
McChord, Allen and Park were all large.
Uncle David, the youngest child, had four
sons & one daughter. The daughter then

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are living, and she (Mrs James McCullough)
is the only representative left of our family
in Butte & County where so many of ^{us} ~~us~~ once
lived.

My uncles, like their fathers, were plain,
industrious, working-men, all of them -
and undistinguished, and their children
Indians, are generally like them. I never heard
of an act of any of them that would cause
a blush of shame ^{to mantle} ~~upon~~ the cheeks of their
children. * Wilson, Wendell, named

children. * Wilson Yandell, named
my father, ~~Calvin Wilson~~, after his mother's
family, was born in Mecklenburg County,
near Charlotteville, North Carolina, Dec. 17th
1774. He was the fourth son of my grand-
father & grand mother, William and Martha
Yandell. Of his early youth I know nothing
beyond the fact, that he toiled with his bro-
thers upon his father's farm; pursued his ele-
mentary studies at the same school, and
was destined for the same humble life until
a failure in his health, about the age of 18,
made it necessary for him to seek some oc-
cupation demanding less physical strength
than the labors of a farmer. This accident
to his health, which resulted in turning his
thoughts towards a profession, was occasioned
by ~~him~~ going into a stream of cold water when
heated by severe exercise. The sudden chill
induced brought on some disease which
ended in aneurism (see over, p. 326)

* Sunsford Pitts was my maternal grand-father. He was a native of Virginia, and his father, his
 his, John, was born, not far from Richmond
 on James River, but his father was a native of England.
 My grand-father inherited some ideas from his father,
 from which I infer that he was born to an inheritance
 which placed him above the necessity of "earning his bread in the
 sweat of his brow," and my recollection of him is of an old
 gentleman leading a leisurely life. As a boy, I was struck with
 the difference between my grand-father's ideas of
 family government. As I have said of grand-father Gaudin
 he was strict to penitential severity. Absolute obedience
 to family rule was the law of his children, and he
 showed no infraction of it. Grand-father Pitts was
 the most indulgent of parents, and if he ruled his
 children at all I think it must have been when
 he was out of temper. My impression is, that when
 he was in an amiable mood, it was nearly impos-
 sible for him to deny his children any wish, much
 less any parental discipline. The training of his
 children must have fallen very much into the
 hands of my grand-mother, whom I remember
 as an active, industrious, energetic old lady. Her
 name was Elizabeth Crutcher, one of whose bro-
 thers settled in Kentucky, and was the father of John,
 Thomas, Edmund, and Henry Crutcher. My mother
 was the sixth child and the fourth daughter of my
 grand-parents, and was called after her mother
 Elizabeth. My oldest uncle, Barton, died in Georgia
 a middle-aged man, having from occupying office
 from inactive & free living before his death. Henry,
 the 2d son, died of cholera in 1835 or early in 1836.
 I saw him at my mother's, on Craggy Bluff, in
 the fall of 1835, suffering with that disease. Uncle
 Sunsford, the youngest son and child, died about
 the year 1824, comparatively young - leaving, I think
 but one child, a daughter. Uncle Barton left three
 children, two sons & a daughter, the younger of whom
 died many years since. Uncle Henry left daughters,
 but no son.

Sarah, my oldest aunt, was married to
Charles Featherston. Fanny, the 2d daughter
married Saml P. Black; and Judith, the 3d
daughter, my uncle John Goodell. ^{Edward, 18 years writing a Scott's}
^{3 in number} Sons are all somewhat distinguished, my father
Scott having been twice a representative in
Congress from Missi, and been promoted to a
Brigadier-Generalship in the Confederate army
for brilliant services rendered his country at the
battle of Secburg. Aunt Black's ~~children~~
still live in Bartholomew County, near Newbern
town, on Stony River, where they were born,
and their youngest sister resides upon the farm
where her father & mother are buried. The
oldest daughter, Eliza (Mrs Wilcox) lives in the
neighborhood of Winchester. Aunt Judith's children,
six daughters & a son, live in Gibson and
Dyer Counties, and many of their sons are in
the Southern army.

Grandfather Pitts came from Virginia to
Tennessee about the year 1800, and settled upon
a farm a mile north of Hartsville on the line
between Smith & Sumner Counties. He died
of cancer of the face about the year 1814.
My grand mother died two years before. She
was a member of the Baptist Church. I think
grand father never made a profession of religion.

My mother was born in Virginia, and emigrated with
her father to Tennessee about the year 1800. She was
a woman of comely features and quick apprehension,
with much decision of character, great
fluency in conversation and a voice clear &
pleasing. As a mother she was tender, gentle, devoted,
but too indulgent. It was hard for her to deny her
children any gratification altho' her judgment did
not approve of it. She was not blessed with the buoyancy
of spirit which my father had, but inclined to look
on the dark side of things, and made herself unhappy
many times by anticipating evils by which she was never

overtaken. She had the appearance of enjoying better health than my father, but like him she was subject to cruel headaches and in her case they persisted to the end of her life. In fact, for many years before her death she ~~suffered~~^{was} seldom exempt from the malady, and it was with a pain in the head that she seemed finally to be worn out. She died on the 17th of February 1840. I was in Louisville, confined by my duties in the Medical Institute at the time of her death, and was denied the privilege of ministering to her in her last hours. Her end was peaceful and full of hope. After the death of my father she left the Methodist Church & connected herself with the Baptists, never having been fully satisfied ^{as} to the validity of baptism by sprinkling. Her mother had died in communion with the Baptist Church, and but for the decided preference of my father for another denomination, into that she would have gone when she first professed religion. Of her six children, the one who from his earliest boyhood manifested the most affectionate attachment to her was my second brother, Henry, and he was decidedly her favorite. In our boyish excursions for fruits or nuts, whenever we fell upon any unusual delicacy his remark always was, "I am going to take some to Mother." She repaid his love with all the fullness of a mother's deathbed affection, and his premature death in 1835 planted in her bosom from which her spirits never recovered. She was a devoted mother and rejoiced in every step of her children that promised to lead them to good. When my sister Martha made a profession of religion not a great while after the death of my father, she told my sainted S. that she could not resist the desire to go to his grave and there pour out the emotions of her grateful heart to God for his great goodness to her and her children. She enjoyed only brief intervals of cheerfulness after the death of my brother, and there cannot be a doubt that the abiding grief impaired her health and shortened her days. She could not

rest contented until, at great expense, she secured the removal of his remains ^{from} to the family burying ground on Craggy Bluff. Her education had been that of an indolent Virginia Planter. My father's was that of a strict Presbyterian. He was for discipline - she for indulgence. Both were industrious, provident, frugal; both loving, tender, assiduous; but she would often join with us in importuning "Papa" to do or suffer something which, ~~though~~ ^{though} pleasant to us at the time might not be for our ultimate advantage. In matters of principle she was as firm as he was - no one could be firmer; and in respect to physical courage, my belief is that she was surpassed by few of her sex. She was of a medium female height, corpulent rather than thin, of a fair complexion, light hair, and blue eyes. Her movements were quick & elastic, her manners gentle and retiring. In her family & among her intimate friends she loved to talk, but was reserved among strangers. Her spirits were not equable. After breakfast she was very different from herself before breakfast. Judging from myself, I have inherited many of her mental & physical characteristics. She suffered all her life from nervous irritation the result of imperfect digestion.

By a good Scholar I mean that he acquired a considerable knowledge of the Latin & some knowledge of the Greek language, and mastered the branches of science taught in Mr Doek's School, embracing several departments of the mathematics, Natural & Moral Philosophy, Logic, Rhetoric &c. His knowledge of these subjects was considerable. He was a man of varied & accurate information. Owing, however, to neglect of early education he never wrote with correctness, and frequently mis-spoke. This defect in his education he never had the leisure to remedy.

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minded in anemica, and he continued to suffer
in years with this condition of system. He gained
very early a taste for books and continual ac-
tivity of mind. His leisure hours were devoted to
reading. He read with avidity such works as
his father's library contained; and among his
father's neighbors there ^{were} some gentlemen with
valuable collections who gratified his taste by the
loan of books. It was when he was
about 19 years of age that, with a slender
education and very slender pecuniary
resources, he set forth to improve his health
and his education in the new State of Ten-
nessee. His father gave him the horse he
rode on, and he was also supplied with a
few dollars in money. He was attracted
by the fame of a school taught by Par-
son Doake in the neighborhood of ~~East~~
Greeneville, E. Ten., and sitting his horse
& saddle, he entered this school, where
he continued to apply his mind vigorously
to the study of the Latin language, ~~the~~ ^{other studies}
mathematics, until his funds were ex-
hausted. Not satisfied with the extent of his
attainments when it became necessary to quit
Parson Doake's school, he became himself a
teacher of boys and girls for some months,
and thus procured the means for renew-
ing his studies. Thus alternately teaching
and taught, he pursued his course of study
until he made himself a good scholar.

327 His perseverance in Scholastic
Studies was exemplary and has few
parallels among the Students of ~~this~~ day.
Beginning his academic course
at so ~~late~~ ^{young} an age he was nearly twenty-
eight years old before he entered upon
professional life.

For six months after quitting Mr
Doake's School he devoted himself to the
study of the Law, that being the profession
which he had chosen. The reason he assigned
for abandoning his early choice was that
he remarked in his attendance upon the
courts, that lawyers were often compelled
to advocate causes which they knew to
be unjust, and to make the worse appear
the better reason. He said he thought such
a life must end in confusing one's per-
ceptions of right & wrong, and in silencing
the admonitions of conscience. Medicine
was then chosen as the pursuit of his
life, and the study of this he pursued
chiefly in the office & under the tuition
of Dr William Hamilton of Sumner
County, Tenn. Few young students of medi-
cine attended medical schools from
the backwoods of America in that
day, and he was clothed in the manner
necessary to that end. He was a diligent
reader of such books as Dr Hamilton's medical
library contained, and by accompanying

his preceptor on his visits to his patients acquired a substantial fund of practical knowledge concerning diseases & their treatment. About the time he was ready to quit Dr Hamilton's office & engage in the practice of his profession, he was attacked with Bilious Fever, which was protracted, & left him not only debilitated in body, but in mind so much prostrated that he had forgotten all he had learned. He was in a state bordering upon despair - poor, his worth gone, and ignorant. Dr Hamilton encouraged him by his assurances that as his strength was restored his knowledge would return with it. He feared this to be true, and not a great while after recovering his health, he commenced the practice of physic in connection with his preceptor. Dr Hamilton, however, died not long afterwards, and my father removed to Dixon's Spring, on the Cumberland River where he remained until after his marriage, May, 1804. For a few months after he was married he lived ^{with my mother} in the family of Capt. Grant Allen, in the neighborhood of Dixon's Spring. The letter written to me in Lexington, Kentucky, which I had left home for the first time to write among strangers, gives a history of some of this mental struggles and triumphs at this interesting period of his life:

Craggy Bluff, Feb. 25th 1823

"My dear Son, I had not till you that the promotion of my children & the happiness of my

329/ family have ever been the objects nearest
my heart, next to the salvation of my own soul.
I need not therefore apologise for too early ad-
dressing you in a precautionary manner
than to observe that my concern for you in
your new position results from a recol-
lection of the dangers to which I was my-
self exposed when first setting out in
life, and the hair-breadth escapes I made
from ruin.

Most medical ~~students~~ ^{students} suffer some
injury from the immoral & irreligious
sentiments prevalent about our modern
medical seminaries. In them, students
from different parts of the world are con-
vined; — some for improvement; some
to spend their fathers' hard earnings;
some to consume precious time in dissipation;
some for one thing, some for another. The
period of life is one in which the vital flame
burns brightly, and each student brings
with him his individual vices, which in-
crease by combination. Happiness is the
aim of all; but happiness is utterly incom-
patible with the goadings of a guilty con-
science. One's practice must be regulated
by his faith, or his faith must conform
to his practice, or he will be miserable.
As Christianity, then, requires not only
clean hands but a pure heart, infidelity
seems to be necessary to the repose of vicious
men. This I know in part from experience.
Yrs, dear Son, I have been tossed on the vor-
tuous sea of youth, where, conducted

331 and the Deafie in the last hour. Whilst the former departed
rejoicing in the hope of his sins forgiven, and of an immor-
tality to be spent in the enjoyment of the purest
felicity in the presence of his God, and admonishing
all who heard him to embrace the dictates of his
Cred; the latter closed his eyes upon the world in dis-
spair, or in bitter repentance; and generally exhorting
others to shun the rock upon which he had split.
One I remember well who, in health, had decided
religion as a farce, and sneered at the preachers
as hypocrites; who declared that he only kept a Bible
"for fools to swear by" - that his Bible was Paine's
"Age of Reason", and Don Quixote his sermon-book.
who protested that he would rather be George Washington
than Jesus Christ - him I remember as calling upon his
weeping wife, when near his last, to pray for him. Riddle-
istical friends were about his bed-side, but their compan-
ionship could not silence the voice of conscience whose
monitions were made more impressive by the light of a
single candle in his dark chamber, in the stillness
of the night which was only broken at intervals by the
crowing of a cock, and the consciousness that death was
near at hand.

Such scenes staggered my infidel creed.
However it might flatter men in health, I saw that it
afforded them no consolation in the inevitable hour.
"Fools we may live, but fools we cannot die."
Still, my religious convictions had been unsettled &
I continued to doubt. I was a man of mature years,
settled in life and prosperous - the owner of a beautiful
farm, happy in my marriage, with a promising son, and
popularity as a man & in my profession; and yet I was
not happy. I felt an "aching void" which none of these blessings
nor all united could fill. The retrospect of my life was
not satisfactory, and the future was gloomy. The re-
collection of my youthful vices & follies pained
me; and if all the comforts which surround

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me now fail to under me happy, what, I could
not help asking myself, will be my chance for
happiness when youth is over, and I begin to
descend the hill of life, with the loss, it may be,
of health, wealth, friends & reputation? Besides,
I reasoned, 'if the Deist is right, what does
he gain even in this life? If he is wrong, what
does he not lose in the next? And if two ways
claim to lead to the same goal, ^{between} ~~one of which~~
you must choose - one rugged, thorny, muddy,
but none repenting, of their choice who took it, &
are happy at its termination; - the other smooth,
easy, joyful, but ending in gloom and fearful
apprehension to those who pursue it, which
would reason enforce us to select? Certainly
that pronounced, on all hands, the safe one.
I am doubtful that the Christian's path is a safe
path, and if it ends in disappointment he is
better for having walked in it, and is no worse
off in the end than the infidel; while, if he is
right and the infidel wrong, how dreadful the mis-
take to the latter. Even in this life, however, there
are advantages in the practice of wisdom; and
I was forced early to see & to admit. The Christian
holds a higher position in the confidence & es-
timation of his fellowmen. His health is not im-
paired nor his estate ruined by dissipation;
nor are the morals of his family contaminated
by his bad example. And when he arrives
at the end of his well-spent life he is persuaded
that he has a ladder on which he may as-
cend to endless day. The infidel's end weakens
the incentives to virtue - diminishes the trust

333 of men in his integrity, and worst of all
fails him at a moment when he most needs
the support of a firm belief. With him, all is
darkness and doubt, when the soul demands
an undebating faith.

These, dear son, and reflections similar to
these, brought me to a wise choice—to a resolution
to "cease to do evil then to do well." And in-
stead of reading such books as Hume, Voltaire,
Tom Paine, & Volney, I took up & read Scott's
vindication of the Scriptures, Simpson's Plea,
Soame Jenyns' Intemal Evidence, Fletcher's
Appeal, &c. When cultivating my sceptical no-
tions, it had been my practice to slip over
the strong and dwell upon what I regarded
as the weak points of Christianity; and to slip
over the weak and rest upon what seemed to
be the strong grounds of infidelity; but now
I resolved to be candid with myself and to
reverse this course. Is it true, I asked myself,
that a belief ⁱⁿ a future State of rewards & pun-
ishments is necessary to the good govern-
ment of Society, as to good morals and individ-
ual felicity? The candid did not himself being
the judge, it is. Without such a belief, ~~they~~ he
is free to admit, the masses of mankind would
be more profligate & abandoned than they are. Oaths
would be nugatory, and concealed crimes would
pass without punishment or rebuke even from
the dictates of conscience. This argument also
weighed with me: How is the necessity of this faith to
the well-being of Society reconcileable with the

perceptions of Duty, supposing the faith to have
 no foundation in truth? Falshood infallibly implies
 moral defect. Could an infinitely pure & holy God resort
 to a deception for the government of the world? If the belief
 of a day of judgment is important to the moral regulations
 of society, is not such a day appointed by the Judge of all the
 earth; and if God has ordained such a day, will
 he not give us direct evidence of it as well enable us
 to accept the fact with confidence? Justice requires that he
 should, and the perceptions of Duty guaranty the existence
 of such evidence. Has he not recorded it in the books
 which claim to be inspired by Him in the Bible?

I might add much more by way of illustrating
 the arguments which finally brought my
 mind to rest firmly in the doctrines which
 I receive from my good father & mother - as
 that the Christian religion lends a spur to duty
 in our profession, by holding out the prospect
 of a reward for our labors in a better world,
 (holding no other reward in this world, too often,
 than the approbation of our own minds,) and
 that it puts it into our power, many times,
 to administer a most welcome cordial to
 a dying fellow mortal, when no human
 aid or consolation can assist a voice. But
 it is growing late and I am much fatigued
 by professional labor, and so must close my
 discussion of this important subject for the
 present, praying God that the arguments here
 set forth, together with such others as his own
 understanding with happy success may have as
 happy an effect in fortifying my dear sons
 against infidelity as they have had in country

335 from it his affectionate father

It is true to infer, from this account ^{of his early life} of his early life and the remembrance of feeling in view of it which made him think of suicide, that my father was not a very wicked man, nor should I commit a great mistake. He was never, a dissipated or vicious, but always a moral, industrious, serious man. But his religious instruction had been the strictest, and his conscience was tender, and sins which to most young men would have seemed venial appeared horrid in his eyes. And this caused him to pass a judgment upon himself, first in the eyes of God and in the forum of his Conscience, ~~but~~ which his friends would have been far from ratifying. Tenderness of Conscience was characteristic of him. I never knew any one who exhibited this sensibility in a higher degree - never any one who was more anxious of spotless purity of life & character. He could have avowed most conscientiously with Socrates on his death bed that he never designedly injured any man.

Soon after settling at Dixons Spring he made the acquaintance of Col. William Martin, who was from that time to the close of his life one of his most useful & steadfast friends. They met, first, at a religious meeting in the woods. The only seats were round logs, upon which sitting during a long sermon proving to be so much that weary, my father assumed the recumbent posture. This attracted Col. Martin's attention,

who construed the act of sketching, being
upon the log as an evidence of indiffer-
ence to religious worship, and accordingly
an ^{animadversion} upon it to my father. But to
prove to his new acquaintance that he
had not been a careless listener, he began
and rehearsed the substance of the sermon
just delivered. Col. Martin, who was his
senior by several years, discerned in him
at once qualities of a high character,
and the intimacy which grew up between
them was ^{such as is not} ~~often~~ ^{often} seen among
men. A few months after his marriage
my father removed to Goose Creek, within
a mile of Hartsville. where he had erected
a commodious house in sight of my
grandfather Pitts' residence, where I was
born on the 4th of July 1805, and in suc-
cession three brothers and two sisters. There,
as physician of farmers, he continued to
reside for eleven years, in a laborious
practice, the foremost man of his neigh-
borhood, and the foremost physician of
his portion of country. His dwelling was
about midway between Gallatin & Carthage,
and fifteen miles ^{distance} from either, in which
vicinity his many professional rivals
when he commenced practice. His rides
were often as far as fifty miles. Once he
rode this distance, much of the way thro' a cane-
brake loaded with snow, along a narrow
path, and on reaching the house of his

337 patient late in the evening, found
that it consisted of a single room, and
with a fire-place in which was a hole so
large that a dog ^{could} jump in & out thro' it. There
was but a single bed in the house except the
one on which his patient lay. His charges
during all the time that he resided on Grove
Creek were a dollar for the visit & 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cents
a mile, so that for this long ride his emolu-
ment did not probably exceed seven dollars
a ride of a hundred miles, occupying the
principal part of three days. Still, so great
was the value of money in those primitive
times, that my father, at these low rates of
charging, was able in a few years, to purchase
a tract of land of 100 acres, the live stock
on a farm to stock it, and tax on some improvements.

I remember the institution of family worship by
my father, which must have been as early as
the year 1810—perhaps a year earlier. In 1812
he was drafted a soldier to fight the Creek
Indians, but my uncle John volunteered to
take his place, in consideration of my father's
rather infirm health. The greater value of
his time. Uncle John was among those who
aligned with Col. McIntosh, that they ^{voluntarily} were en-
titled to a discharge at the end of 3 months,
and the efforts of this right brought him
into disfavor with Gen. Jackson—the
Controversy creating a bitterness of feeling
on the part of my father towards Gen. J.
which he never entirely overcame.

His public spirit impelled him to take an active part in all the political questions of the times, and while he was never ^{himself} candid, yet for any office of honor or trust, he would warmly enter every election for officers of the State and ^{of the} general government. He took a deep interest in schools, and assisted to build a school-house and support a teacher in his neighborhood, before ~~he was old enough to see Sept~~ ^{I was old enough to see Sept} ~~he was old enough to see Sept~~ to school. His knowledge of the Law, and his active benevolence manifested at all times towards his neighbors, caused him to be applied to often for legal advice, and to be appointed in some instances the executor of estates, in which capacity he became involved in two or three tedious & most vexatious law suits. When I grew old enough to be observant of my father's habits, he was a most laborious country practitioner - almost all ways on horse-back - leaving home after breakfast, and seldom returning ~~home~~ until after dark. He was at that time often man-
 grand afterwards a great sufferer from head-aches, for the relief of which he resorted constantly to emetics, generally of tartar emetic. When an emetic did not bring him relief, he took a second, and then mounting his horse started on his professional rounds. The habit of vom-
 iting ~~was~~ rendered ^{the process} to easy ^{after a typical} ~~by the use of tartar emetic~~, that the sight of a tin-cup, in which he dis-
 solved the emetic, was often sufficient, after swallowing a simple dose, to provoke an emesis. Goose Creek, ^{in the village of} ~~in the village of~~ which most of his practice lay, was at that day subject to the worst forms of bilious fever, and he used his head-
 aches in part to malarial poison.

339 There was a still more serious objection
to his residence in that region. A disease,
the source of which, after more than half a century,
remained as profound a mystery as it was
when it first attracted the notice of men - Mr. Mike
Sickness - prevailed in his neighborhood; &
he believed that a sister-in-law, my mother's
youngest sister (Aunt Polly Pitts) died of
the disease. His children were arriving
at an age when they must begin to visit
their young friends, and he was fearful
they might contract the complaint. As to
his, he felt that his professional charges
were too low for the advances which had
~~been~~ ^{taken} place in the price of property; but he
could not easily in Cum gratia his land ^{practised among} ^{the people} ^{in the midst of whom} ^{while he}
long labored. These considerations induced
him to change his residence.

On the 1st of January 1816 he got his family
and live-stock in motion for Bathurst
County, which he reached in the afternoon of the
fourth day. We stopped the first night at Squire
Harts, near the Cumberland river & only a mile
& a half from our old home. The next day
we crossed the river, which, on account of
the rapids, was a tedious operation, & came on
to Major Figures', 7 miles. The day following
we reached John Cammings', and the fourth
day arrived at "Pebbles Hill", which had
once been the residence of Genl. Blount.
His neighbors testified in every possible way
his regret at his removal. He had come to
a neighborhood where his reputation had
preceded him, & it was only a few days

until he was as busy in the practice as ³⁴⁰
he had been for so many years on Goose Creek.
The winter in which he settled on Stone's
river was the one in which the fatal ep-
idemic, Pneumonia Typhoides, styled by
the common people "The Colic Plague", made
its appearance in Tennessee. Its prevalence
was the most widespread of any disease
that had visited our country, and the cause
of all physicians were turned to the utmost.
My father's labors were incessant, and
for many weeks he was absent from
home, ^{almost} night & day. My recollection is that
he was successful in his management
of the disease, and I knew that, ^{among his}
chief remedies were emetics. He was
wonder to those who had never resorted
to it in this epidemic did some of his
other practitioners, particularly Dr. Samuel
Hargrave, a highly popular physician, who declared that
his patients should not die of the disease - he would
blind them to death first. My father belonged to a
class of practitioners not so much esteemed by the
profession in his day and for some years later, as
now - the class who trusted to gentle remedies, & the
repercussive power of nature. If he ordered any
single class of medicines, it was Emetics. He esteem-
ed them pretty far, giving them in most
attacks of sickness as he used them freely for his
own headaches. Not long after commencing
practice on Pebble Hill he was prostrated by a
complaint from which he had been suffering many
months before - a chronic enlargement of the
prostate gland. It was attended with much pain
and ~~was attended with much pain~~ and
treated by most various and queer aids. I

341 will remember his depiction ^{the disease} under ^{it} for
I had never seen him depicted before. His fear at
first, was that the affection was Stone in the
bladder; but gradually the severe suffering abated
he was able to resume business, and, before
summer, was as a truly unimpaired man, tho' always
after, to the end of his life, the motion of riding on
^{his back} ^{was} somewhat painful to him, & he was obliged
to ride very slowly.

My father was strongly attached to the country
and nothing ^{in the shape of pecuniary advantage} could have induced him to
reside in a town or city. One ground of his
decided preference for a country life may
have been his anxiety to bring up his sons
in industrious & moral habits. It may be
truly said that he entertained a horror of idleness.
Rather be employed in work without profit,
he would say, than be idle. If my hands
had nothing profitable to do, I would rather
see them carrying stones from one side of the
yard to the other, to be gathered up & carried
back again, than to see them doing nothing.
He often quoted to us the remark of Darwin
that "it was only those of industrious habits
who feel the pain of inaction," and the strong
but homely saying of Bunyan, that "an idle
man's brain is the devil's workshop." Living
upon a farm and being himself always in-
dustriously employed, he was strict in requiring
his sons to be busy.

In the autumn of 1816 he removed to the farm
on which he continued to reside till the day
of his death - a beautiful tract of land on
the east bank of Stone's River, then almost an
unbroken forest, known afterwards as
"Craggy Knuff." Here he spent eleven years

in the enjoyment of as much earthly prosperity & 2
and happiness as falls to the lot of most men.
In his family he had all the elements of domestic
enjoyment. His children were healthy and, in his partial
eyes, all that could be desired. His health continued
steadily to improve. His practice was always
as large as he could attend to. He was the ~~the~~ most
popular physician in all the counties around, &
a citizen of influence & note. The calls of his pro-
fession were ~~more~~ ^{increased} more encroaching than he
would have supposed, ~~and many of them~~ ^{and many of them} ~~would have~~ ^{would have} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~refused~~ ^{refused} that
from that cause he was too often kept from the
house of God on the Sabbath day. His office
hours were the early hours of the morning. During
which, in the hotly season, a throng of appli-
cants for advice or visits used to be seen at
his residence; and many a time I have
seen with meation very late at the break-
fast-table filled by strangers, by which my
brother & sister with myself were forced, with our
keen appetites, to extend our fast half an hour.
He was an early riser, and ^{was almost sure to be} in his office in
time to attend to the first applicant. He wrote
out his prescriptions fully & in language easily
by understood by plain people, and, of na-
turity, the medicines were dispensed at his own
shop. Sitting forth after breakfast he rarely
returned home before late in the evening, having
calls enough when leaving home in the morning
to occupy the whole day. The applications made
in his absence could rarely be answered before
the next day, and not infrequently, in sick-
ly seasons, patients waited two or three days
before he was able to visit them in person. He would
prescribe in these cases from the descriptions of
his friends. Many patients passed their lives without
ever being visited by him, relying upon his prescriptions,
or the services of his ~~disciples~~ ^{students}, of whom
he was seldom without two or three in his office.

343. Two men were ever more devoted to their profession
and it seems to have been an early purpose with him ^{that} his
oldest son, should adopt his calling. He was most ambitious that
I should enjoy advantages denied to him, & rise to a high rank in
the profession in which he had acquired so high a reputation. He
had precluded his attendance upon lectures delivered in the
medical schools, the nearest ^{to him} of which ~~was~~ ^{was} that of Philadelphia.
My departure from home on the 20th of Oct. 1823 for Transylvania
University, in Lexington, Ky. where I was to pass the winter, was
an event in his life as well as in my own. Nothing could
excite the tenderest of interest evinced in his letters
in respect to the preservation of my health & my escape
from the evil influences to which he supposed
I was exposed. His first letter to me had been
given - one that followed breathed a spirit of
pity & fatherly affection which made the ^{dearest}
most salutary impression upon me. I think
when I was at any time tempted to go astray, the first
thought that occurred to me was, How would my fa-
ther act in such circumstances? how would he
feel if he knew I had yielded to such temptation?
And my belief is, that I owe whatever is valuable
in my character & useful in my life more to a
knowledge of the deep affection he cherished for
me than to any other influence. In a letter dated
Nov. 30, written a fortnight after I left home, he writes thus:-
You will, I trust, have received a long letter on the
subject of Christianity before this, in which I spoke
of Ecclesiastes & Solomon's Proverbs in terms of com-
mendation. I have ever prized those books highly,
not only because they are well suited to the con-
dition of youth in every age, but because they show
the best of mankind of the wisest man, ~~but~~ ^{and} thus
give us a clue to the difference found among men - i. e.
the difference in the degree of their love of wisdom. Solomon's
wisdom thoughts were constantly about wisdom, into much
that in his youth he dreamed of it when asleep.
It would have been well for that wonderful man if
his thirst for experimental knowledge on the subject of vice
& folly had been less. In Ecclesiastes, written towards

the end of his life, he tells us that "all is vanity," and adds, "Beware, O young man, in thy youth; let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, stoop in the ways of thy heart; it in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment." ~~with thee~~ Do not infer from these quotations & remarks that I suspect you of being remiss in duty or application to study, for it is just otherwise. There is more danger of your impairing your health, if not the powers of your mind, by excessive application. I would only add in reference to Scriptural reading, that the Epistle of James is one of the most practical in the New Testament. He regarded the tongue as almost untameable. Not that I think you in uncommon danger from that quarter either. But experience has taught me that it is extremely difficult, at least when much excited, to avoid improper expressions. And as that Apostle expresses it, we are often compelled to exclaim, "Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" I have but little to say to you on the subject of bad company, as you have no taste for it. But it will be well to remember the lines of your favorite Pope
"Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,
As to be hated needs but to be seen,
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

I do believe that it happens thus with most naturally well-disposed young men who make shipwreck of their hopes & prospects; hence nothing can be wiser than the Caution of Paul - "Shun the very appearance of evil." Your affectionate father, ^{Wm. Charles}
I had expressed the idea in a letter, that the constitution might be injured to almost any amount of labor or privation by gradual increase, as the young ox, it is said, may be accustomed to incredible burdens by an increase of the load from day to day - To this my father replied -

345 "But, be assured, if you act too far upon the
idea of the young ox with its increasing load, you may
utterly ruin your constitution. Besides, however im-
posing the fancy that endurance may be carried so
far, it is in reality as absurd to suppose that the
load may be increased ad infinitum, as that by placing
matter by single atoms in ^{the scale of} a well adjusted ^{balance} you might
pile on mountains without disturbing the equilibrium.

There is a re plus ultra in the acquisition of strength
by exercise beyond which fatigue is induced and debili-
ty both of body & mind. There is also a point beyond
which each constitution cannot bear confinement with-
out the same result. Here, as in so many cases,
extremes meet. "God prosper you, my dear Son." W. J.

My father was conscious of an infirmity of temper
which, tho' it leaned to virtue's side, involved him
in many unpleasant controversies - an undue
earnestness in using his opinions - an ardour in
the support of his friends & what he esteemed the right
a freedom of remark both about men & to men,
which often gave deep & lasting offence. Against
this temper he was anxious to guard me. In one of
his first letters to me at Lexington, he wrote thus:

"No doubt you have taken the right side in the
metaphysical controversy in the University; but, as
I said in a former letter, taking too deep an interest
in political & other controversies has been amongst
the greatest errors of my life. In myself, & probably
also in you, it is constitutional to be extremely
pressing in what I deem to be right, whereas
moderation commonly succeeds best in all things.
Be wise, be prudent; support your views with dignity, but
with calmness. Undue warmth betrays a want of self-govern-
ment, if not a want of ^{confidence in one's} ~~self-govern-~~ abilities &
the justice of one's cause; and besides these enemies wh. we
make under such circumstances, are not easily made friends."

all his letters breathed this spirit of solicitude 346
for the formation of ~~my~~ character & religious principles
which would secure my success & happiness in life.
One from from Lexington, dated Jan 4th, 1824. ~~con-~~
~~cludes with the following~~ closes thus: "I conclude in

the words of an old man to Abul Haffan: 'Trust
not too much in your own strength, but put your trust
in God'. As Gibbon relates the incident, Abul Had
sah was Monarch of Persia & the greatest archer
in his Kingdom. He had with some difficulty
taken a rebellious town & captured its commander.
When conveying the captive to prison he ques-
tioned him about his wicked conduct and was
answered by the prisoner with insolence. The in-
sulted Monarch exasperated by such behavior
ordered the Criminal to be fastened to ~~the~~ stake
and there left to starve. Upon this the prisoner
sized a concealed dagger and rushed towards
his Captor. His body-guards raised their battle-
axes, but were ^{commanded} ~~ordered~~ by their ~~master~~ to desist.
He drew his bow with unusual force expect-
ing to chase upwards his enemy's head, but
his foot slipped & he missed his aim. ~~The~~ ^{the} con-
demned prisoner plunged his dagger into the
bowels of King. Where dying he exclaimed
an old man once told me to put my trust in
God, & not too much in my own strength, but
I despised his admonitions, & now I die the victim
of my own folly, by the hand of an assassin!"

Jan 19th he wrote: "Saturday's mail brought your
interesting letter of the 6th instant - interesting because
it brought the news of your having been sick & being well
again. 'No chagrinement', says Paul, 'for the natural
tendency to be angry but grievous, nevertheless afterwards
yieldeth the peaceable fruits of righteousness to them
that are exercised thereby.' And David says 'It is good
for me that I have been afflicted.' I had some
astray! This should be the case with us all. I doubt
the correctness of the idea entertained by some that our
nature is pure; for tho' we have conscience and

347 ~~So~~ well as moral disposition left, yet I think the
Scriptures hold out the idea of our sustaining injury
in all our faculties by the dissipation of our
first parents, & that experience shows a great propen-
sity to evil than to good even in children. But more
of this hereafter. I thank Dr Caldwell for his fatherly care
over you. His Craniology has nothing ~~to~~ my mind
tending to materialism; but yet, I confess, I am getting
as tired of the subject as was poor Mr Ashfield, in
the "Letters from the South", of hearing his wife repeat the
name of "Mrs Grundy". The institution must suffer by
the disunion of its principal professor to a subject so
little connected with the healing art. Numbers of
students will go to other schools, nevertheless, who
would have returned to Transylvania, but for
Holley's Ethics & Caldwell's Craniology. But I will
notice your letter more fully in a few days, &
meantime proceed to give you other news.

You have long been aware of the attachment
subsisting between Dr Bector & your sister, Eliza,
and of the views of the family regarding it, as well
as of my ~~opinion~~ ^{opinion} ~~in~~ ^{on} the solemnity of marriage contract,
and of ~~that~~ ^{my} ~~fully~~ ^{fully} of making a frolic of it. The doctor
was losing time riding backwards & forwards to
Manchester. His interest was to be consulted. In
short I could not with propriety object to the match,
and so they were married last night without any
parade. No one was present except your aunt Fleeth-
rston & her three daughters, your aunt Black, your Cous-
ins Eliza, Thomas & Sanford, brother John's family,
including a man who is building his Chimneys,
three of Squire Bector's sons & his daughter, Peter
Smith & our worthy friend, the Rev. Ebenezer McGowan.

The nuptials were celebrated with much solemnity,
and after it was over, two of brother John's young-
est children were baptised. This is the manner
which according to my judgment & conscience such affairs
should be transacted.

The time was approaching when I was to
leave Lexington, & my father had expressed his
pleasure at the thought that I was soon to be
in the shop again where he needed my assis-
tance. I was naturally impatient to return
home, and intimated to him sometime in Jan'y
that I should start ^{with my friends} a few days before the close
of the lectures. In reply to this suggestion
my father wrote to me as follows:—

As to setting out before the best valedictory
is delivered I think a little reflection will have
convinced you that such a step would be wrong,
because it would be used by your enemies, if you
have any, as a proof of childish anxiety to see
your father & mother, or as a proof of your
having been bad boys & so compelled to quit
the school prematurely. Besides, the Professors wd
be dissatisfied. Valedictories are the most improper
oration on all subjects. A farewell sermon, a
resignation or farewell address of any kind re-
minds us of the final consecration of cele-
stials, & makes a most favorable & pleasing im-
pression. I wish you to have Lexington with the ex-
treme approbation not only of the professors but of
every citizen of that place, as well as your own
as for the sake of your younger brothers, some of whom
will probably attend the lectures after you. And I
trust your conduct will be a recommendation to
them. Do not infer from my saying so much on
this subject, my dear son, that I do not wish to see
you. So far from this, you are almost always in my
thoughts. It is my love for you & for my other children
that induces me to rejoin upon you another week's
absence, tho' there is no person on earth that I desire
so much to see. But, as I have said to you more than
once, no privation shall be wanting on my part to
make you good & great. No slip or error shall be
chargeable on me. For next to the salvation of my
own soul, my children occupy the place nearest
my heart.

34 349 In the same letter he makes the following dis-
criminating remarks on the subject of Phrenology.
"I have read the pamphlet on Phrenology (by Dr
Calderle). It coincides in research & observation. There
is no doubt some truth & some error in it. The doctor
understands Phrenology, perhaps, better than I do.
However, I am glad you sent us the pamphlets. Martha
says money will keep me merry till you return,
at least; but I intend to give it a more ^{careful} & thorough
perusal and ~~can~~ ^{will} then be better able to determine
how far the doctor's conclusions are deducible
from his premises. I confess that as I now under-
stand it, he makes Spirit too dependent upon matter.
I like Beattie's views on that subject better."

His last letter to me at Lexington ~~is as a~~ ^{is as a} ~~character~~ ^{character}
little as any he ever wrote, showing his great con-
cern for my comfort & safety, & his benevolence
regard for the feelings of men of all conditions.
He says: — "I am ^{now} ~~on~~ ^{on} tip-toe to be
off; that you have practised your silvers & your
horses, called for & paid your several bills, bid
goodbye to your friends in the country & in the
distant parts of the city, including your quondam
landlady; have made friends with all in whose
feelings you may have unintentionally or otherwise
injured, have looked at all things interesting about
Lexington; in short, that you have quit taking notes
& reading books, & are preparing for the amalgam
& pleasures of your journey to the State of your
nativity & future abode. On your journey you will
ride moderately the first & second day at least,
lest you & your horse tire from not being used to
travelling. You will not ride deep waters, nor on storms
if any should threaten. You will only put up at
the best public houses; will be neither extravagant
nor niggardly when you leave the city & on the

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However, I am glad you sent us the pamphlet. Martha
says money will keep me merry till you return,
at least; but I intend to give it a more ^{thorough} perusal
and ~~can~~ ^{will} then be better able to determine
how far the doctor's conclusions are deducible
from his premises. I confess that as I now under-
stand it

I like B. During the summer he had two of questions very in-
teresting both to himself & to me to decide - first
whether I should attend lectures the next winter,
and 2^dly where. ^{He} ~~He~~ ^{finally} settled in the af-
firmative, and as to the School Baltimore was the one
selected. Three of his best students had ~~attended~~ ^{attended} the lectures
of that institution - M^r Gay, Thompson & Beaton, and had
impressed his mind very favorably, with its advantages.
In addition to this, the honorary degree of Doctor of
Medicine (M.D.) had been conferred on him by the Uni-
versity & Faculty of the University. These things in-
clined him to the Baltimore School and made me
favorable to it.

quarrels with all in those
feelings you may have constitutionally or otherwise
injured, have looked at all things interesting about
Sooington; in short, that you have quit taking notes
& reading books, & are preparing for the exor-
dinary & future career. On your journey you will
ride moderately the first & second day at least,
but you & your horse will not be used to
travelling. You will not ride deep waters, nor in storms
if any should threaten. You will only put up at
the best public houses; will be neither extravagant
nor niggardly when you leave the city & on the

350

way. Those servants who have done
their duty should have a slight remunera-
tion tho' you do not expect ever to return.
The creatures have feelings & should not be
neglected tho' you have paid their masters
their full charges. In short, bid a cordial
farewell to all who have done their duty, &
thus leave a favorable impression, not only
for the sake of other servants, but for
your own sake; & the sake of propriety.

He was much concerned at the con-
dition I exhibited on my return of impaired
health. The change of life, from the coun-
try where I took the most active exercise
every day and went early to bed, to the city
where I listened to lectures from early
morning till dark, and continued my
studies far into the night, had told the
most upon my health. I was, certainly, a
wretched dyspeptic & had become greatly
emaciated. My father's practice was
very laborious and during the vacation
I assisted him ^{not only to relieve him but for the benefit of his patients.} in many of his patients.
He decided that I should attend lectures
in the University of Maryland the ensuing
season; and ^{consequently} on the 29th of Sept.
he saw me leave my friends in the stage
coach for Baltimore. I had hardly gained
any ground during the summer and was
still a dyspeptic, pale & thin. His letters,
written to me a few days after my departure,
contain the strongest expressions of his love &
his anxiety. Oct 15th he wrote:
"I have already commenced a kind of diary
which shall be a transcript of my feelings.
Altho' not only your mother & Billy, but all my pa-
tients, so far as I knew, are mending. Yet it

251) Somehow turns out that I am tenfold more
depressed than I was when you wrote last fall,
to Lexington, and have ~~so~~ severe an attack
of indigestion, that I have just now thrown
part of my yesterday's dinner. But he vomit
has flayed, & injured my head. The morning is
cloudy, cold, & foggy, and I am figuring
to myself my son upon whom I have spent
no proper pains, & on whom I have doted
from his infancy on account of his opening
virtues & talents, blasting all my hopes, & his
prospects of future usefulness & distinction
over the sickly midnight lamp, by preventing
the proper development of his system, thus
laying the foundation for some incurable
malady. And these miserable thoughts cling
to me like my shadow, so that I am sorely
hypod and refuse to ride today even to my
good friend Mr. Cleary's. But why more
depressed this year than the last? Because then
he left me in ignorance he aeth, & returned stunted
in growth, ~~his~~ impaired in constitution, & as
lean as a whippoorwill, and now has gone
away debilitated, trawling in an extremely rough
whirl that will not rest night or day, to go
to a place where his ~~study~~ ^{management} will be as
great as last winter. My friends Mr. Cleary, &
Black & my brother John express the same fears
and confirm my melancholy apprehensions.
Reason says to me, but he who never prevar-
icates, who never disobeyed a preceptor much less his
father, has promised you to be careful of his health -
to avoid excessive study & late hours - to exercise
& amuse himself as his health may require. He
would obey you for your sake if he had no interest
himself in the question. I knew all this; but I am
depressed, & my fears alarm me. My sister sickens me.
I will write no more for an hour.

12 o'clock. Reflection says 'No youth ever 35.2
attended more to a father's admonitions than
my son Leonard. He went to Lexington when yet
a boy against his feelings if not his judgment, be-
cause I thought it best for him to go, & there con-
ciliated the friendships of the good & great amongst
the world in a manner beyond his age. He
now has the ^{advantages} experience of experience - he will be
a member of the family of one of the first med-
ical professors in the world, who will pay a father
ly attention to his health, manners, & morals, as
to his medical studies. So that now my hypo-
chondria begins to wear off, and I fancy
you at the end of a fortnight arrived at Dr
Partridge's in improved health. Your letters of auto-
education & your good conduct will cause you to be
well received in his family, and by all the professors,
whom you will make good friends as those of
Transylvania University. I know you will be, as
heretofore, duly attentive to the advice of your great-
est earthly friends, who enjoin you to drop
as the inclement coldness of the climate de-
mands - to exercise & amuse yourself liber-
ally - You will visit Washington City during the
winter, where you will be respectfully treated by
the Tennessee delegation, particularly by Judge
Isaac, Col. Allen & Mr. Baile - probably
also by Genl. Jackson & Cooke, & Mr. Blair.
You will not forget your duty to your near-
ly Benefactor, who has bestowed upon
you all that is desirable. Set nothing shake
your morals, nor your faith in the Christian
religion. Pardon the contents of the first letter
I wrote you at Lexington on that subject. Now
consolatory to reflect that my dear son is
Christianity under the protection of his divine
Parent, who never will suffer the upright
to lose the reward of their doings.
Oct. 2d My hypochondria still abates, and
I am about to visit a patient. Pity is greatly
mended, & had no headache yesterday or today.

353, He says he thinks he will be too strong for you when you return if you are not more of a Carnivorous animal; & do not take more sleep & exercise than you did last winter in Saxifrage. I think you had best take no private ticket except Dr David's, and not write out your notes until you return home, or at the most do it only in a very brief manner!"

On the 6th he again wrote to me:— No doubt, my dear Son,
parts of my last letter appeared to you very old—woman-
ish; but not a word the scene of your departure was to me
a trying one. The dark night, rendered more gloomy by an over-
rating fog, your pale countenance + emaciated frame, the
result of excessive application to study, the rough, curtained
vehicle in which you were to travel with its glimmering taper
that scarce revealed your form, accompanied by the mel-
ancholy blast of the diurnal trumpet, the occasional crowing
of the distant cock, were circumstances calculated
to remind one of a final separation, or of the last day,
and might well be expected to sink a father's spirits. And tho'
I am getting over the shock I will soon enjoy my former
animation, yet on a retrospect of your whole life, & reflecting
on the subject of the letter, I believe, tho' the days may be
exceptionable, the cautions it contained are not amiss.
However ambitious of fame & distinction, you must not disregard
the teachings of Physiology, which says that all parts of
the ~~system~~ ^{body} must be fully developed in order to a vigorous
exercise of body or mind; that with a view to this
sleep, diet & exercise are essential. The physician
then admonishes you, that the period will soon
be past in which your constitution is to be
formed. No doubt my convictions on this subject
are the deeper for having just read ~~at this season~~
~~of interest~~ ^{moments} Johnson on the Diseases of Tropical
Climates, who, you know, says so much about
Cold, fat, bright air, want of sleep &c, as enervat-
ing the system, & paving the way to the most
dreadful diseases!!

He wrote on the 2^d Nov. 1824: - Your letter of the 35th
1824-15th ult. has been read with all the avidity
with wh. a fond parent might be expected to read
letters from a most affectionate & dutiful son
in a distant & strange land. You mention
that in passing Charlottesville you saw Mr Jefferson
at a distance, standing near the University of Virginia.
I hope before you return you will have a near
view of him, for he must now be on the borders
of 90 years, & in the course of nature must
shortly change worlds. La Fayette is probably
on his last visit to the U.S., and here too I hope
you may meet and be introduced to. Your de-
scription of the young ladies of Dr David's family
is almost too glowing, as I think, tho' I am too
old to be thought a competent judge in such mat-
ters. To me, it seems to evince too much sus-
ceptibility, and shows you too much affected by
personal charms. Your flattering mention of
Dr David & Mr Fielding Lucas is highly gratify-
ing to us, & is calculated to promote the interests
of the institution to wh. Dr D. belongs & of wh. he
is the highest luminary. That dissension sh^d
has arisen among the Baltimore Medical
professors (on the subject of private teaching)
is to be deplored. But these difficulties seem to
be common not only among medical pro-
fessors, but among competitors in every profession.
Competition naturally excites party spirit, & then
follows malice, envy, & almost all the evil
disfrading passions of the human heart. But I
am extremely pleased with your determination
not to give intentional cause of offence to either
party, not only because that is the best policy,
but because it has the sanction of the highest
authority. "As much as lieth in you," says Paul,
"live peaceably with all men." Indeed, morality and
of the question, to be perpetually unhooking our
selves in quarrels, is not only a waste to no pur-
pose of happiness, but indicates low bending & malignity

355 of disposition. "Leave off contention before
it is meddled with," is the injunction of the wise
man; the meaning of which I take to be, use no
language nor do anything that will give just cause
of offence to any one. I hope, dear Son, you will
act constantly upon a maxim I once heard you
say you had determined to adopt, namely, "Never,
without good cause, to speak evil of anyone." For,
as the Apostle says "The tongue is an unbridled evil,
full of deadly poison, sitting on fire the course of
nature & is set on fire of hell." This is the period
of life for practising your maxim, for your habits
will soon be formed & habit is an imperious master.

The admiration expressed by Dr Quincy, for your
brother-in-law, Dr Bector, was not a little flat-
tering to us all, and the doctor, I hope, will endeavor
more & more to merit his good opinion.

I have read the political pamphlets you sent
us. The letter of J. L. Adams on the Embargo had
the credit of reconciling me to that measure
and word, I remember, at the time culled from
Maine to Georgia. It first gave me an exalted
opinion of his talents & worth. It was written at a time
when it was believed the weight of his influence would
have turned the scale - at a time when a strong
faction wished a dismemberment of the Union in
favor of Great Britain. To prevent such a calamity,
I strongly urged the Tennessee Delegation in Con-
gress, & particularly our Representatives, Felix Grundy,
to use their endeavors to have war declared
against England as the surest remedy. And, after
all the electioneering, I pray God Adams
may fill the Executive Chair. He it is who
draws his maxims of action from the highest
source. He it is whose example & encourage-
ment the radii of the Bible, & inspire the principles
of morality & Christianity, and give them a place
the proper place in the mind of the nation. Still
I shall not be hurt if Crawford is elected."

I intend to supply your pecuniary demands,

knowing they will not exceed the occasion. 356
I know you are doing well, if you are duly occupied
of your health. You are much inquired after by persons
of all ages & sexes & conditions. The poor blacks are
inquisitive about you as hantogues. But I must
hurry off to see a patient above Newburytown. "

In a letter dated Oct. 24th he says: - "Dr. Hurdman
will administer the Sacrament of the Supper in
his Church, at Newburytown, today; but I shall
not be able to attend ~~the~~ Church, for which I am
sorry. I share with Dr. Bush, that one of the princi-
pal causes of secessions amongst physicians,
is their non-attendance on public worship; it
that the externals are essential to the life of dis-
cipline. However, every pursuit has its disad-
vantages; and if a physician is not a Chris-
tian, not only theoretically but practically, he is
without excuse; for who so often as he witnesses
scenes in which the consolations of religion
are all-important? "

I suppose I had been offended with Prof. Cat-
ton on account of some ceremonious remarks
I wrote the letter to which the following is a reply:-
Nov. 9th Last Wednesday's mail brought your inter-
esting letter of the 20th ultimo. That your European
professor should be ceremonious & punctilious
was to have been expected. He is aware that
on half of his seeming greatness is owing to the
mystery which he envelops himself. His moral
character has never pleased me any better than
than his supercilious manners. Still, no doubt after
he has taught his pupils the awful distance
which they must keep from him, as well as his
vast importance and the value of his "words," and
given them an insight into European manners,
he will become more accessible & courteous.
That you would have been as happy or happier
at Lexington, I would have supposed much
or more, I have no doubt. Medical Science &
Medical practice are as well taught there, and

357. and the climate & diseases of Kentucky are more like ours than those of Maryland. But it is necessary that you should see something of the world & it is on that account chiefly that your present situation was proposed. You can now see foreigners, visit the Capital, & the Ocean, &c. be introduced to La Fayette, Jefferson &c. To be sure, your response will be great, but your father is able & willing to sustain it. My solicitude about your health has no doubt been increased by reading Johnson on the Morbi & raditiones who, speaking of Sleep, says: "Nature will not be cozened with impurity. Whatever we detract fr. the period of ^{our} natural sleep, will abundantly be deducted in the end from the natural length of our existence, independently of the predisposition to disease wh. is thus perpetually generated." I must ask you, my dear son, to read occasionally that invaluable work this winter. You must make large allowances for the unintentional coloring & exaggeration in wh. we old men are apt to indulge when telling of our nocturnal literary exploits. Suffice it to say for the present, that I would a thousand fold rather see you return in the Spring in good health & without a diploma, than see you come home with one & a ruined constitution.

Your cousin, Col. Edw. Featherston, is re-elected to the House of Representatives of the Georgia Legislature & is a decided Crawfordite. I am so doubtful he is correct in his belief that Crawford will receive every electoral vote of that State. Georgia elects its Electors by the Legislature, & of the 29 members ^{now} ~~which~~ whom Edw. had heard, only 8 were divided between Jackson & Adams. You will see in the papers the result of the polls in this State, & you will remark that the vote was small. Most of those who declined taking part in the election were probably like myself unwilling to vote for and not willing to vote against the candidate of our State.

He wrote to me: Nov. 29th, as follows:

My dear Dr. Sumner, your most excellent letter of the 27th inst. was brought by last mail, & was read with peculiar interest on account of the assurance it gave me of your increasing health, strength, & knowledge of things. For some in your present course, my dear son, your wife & I will, tho' I would prefer that you should go to bed at 9 & rise at 6.

I have no doubt that Dr. Dudge is one of the best of men as well as first of physicians, but permit me to hint that there may be danger ^{that} of the "sentiment of regard bordering upon kindred affection" which you confess to feeling for his family, may grow to such a height for some of his fine nieces as to place you in the predicament of my poor patient, Lawrence Sutton, whom, as I have told you, I had, blistered &c. so cruelly with only palliating efforts, & who, finding his "heart would burst," determined to blind himself to death - from which sad catastrophe he was only rescued by the hand of Miss Gibson!

I am not disappointed, much less displeased, at the growing attentions of Prof. Pattison to you; nor yet that you have so conducted yourself as not to offend either of the parties in the Faculty. This was true wisdom. It was your duty. It was as low breeding & a bad temper to be getting unnecessarily into broils. Nor can there be wise policy there to quarrel with our preceptors who are to sit in judgment upon our cases. Besides, it is easy to make real enemies, but difficult to obtain sincere friends, and most difficult to make such of our enemies. And what a miserable world this would be - what a howling wilderness without friendship! I have often thought that Ishmael's lot - his hand against every man & every man's hand against him - was ^{far} ~~more~~ ^{more} as enviable than that of Cain, with the mark upon his forehead, & driven out from amongst men. I will discharge your duty to your Maker & your fellow-creatures. God bless you, my dear son. Your affectionate father
William G. Sumner

His letter ^{was} always ~~containing~~ answers 358
to mine, and as I naturally had much to say
of my teaching, he speaks thus in one of
dated Dec. 12th of Prof. John B. Davidge:

"As I have repeatedly stated, I consider Dr. Davidge
the first physician of our country,
not only in point of skill & the healer, but
also in point of moral worth. The ad-
ditional expense incident to living in his
family will be more than compensated by
~~the advantages you will enjoy for im-~~
~~provement & social happiness.~~ Money, to
be sure, is harder to procure & worth more
in England than in Maryland; but I agree
with your mother who says that she will
not mind the expense if she can see her
son return home in health, with his anti-
cipated improvement in knowledge. I am
much more pleased at your prospects of
improved health than of your receiving a diploma.
I know you will do more the latter. The for-
mer I have feared your excessive application
would ruin. But in proportion as I find you
improved with the force of my admonition
on that head, my anxiety is relieved. You
now, in my recollection, cast me an anx-
ious thought, except on the subject of your
health. ^{My} ~~My~~ ^{father} ~~father~~ what a fond father always
experiences in the absence of a blood child."

Dec. 28th he wrote. We have a very dull morn-
ing. Burton is gone to Squibb's, Henry & Charles
then to your uncle Featherston's with their mother,
and Billy and I occupy the shop alone for the
first time in our lives. He has written on a letter
to you till tired, and I am left to my own reflec-
tions. So, having fatigued myself over Bichat
on the nerves, I commence this letter to you.

Dr. Geo. Thompson is on a visit to Ruth-
ford, ostensibly to procure some money for

John W. Hamilton, who is going the way of most
of our modern traders, but in reality to learn
what are his prospects for success as a physi-
cian in Memphis. He was high dying in
struggle with Fever, last fall, and says "death on
a near approach had greater terrors for him
than he had supposed when in health." He
is an instance of talents & acquirements being
kept in the back ground ~~by a want of~~ ^{by a} want of prudence, & getting patronage
at the outset. His former class-mate & fellow-student,
Dr. Wm. McGe, is an instance of a man of first
rate abilities & acquirements failing from defects
of temper and habits of intemperance. Able, patient,
ized at the beginning, & acquiring reputation
rapidly, he grew vain, refused to profit by the
experience of his friends, going contrary to their
advice occasionally, it may be, simply to show
his independence, endeavoring for failing men,
and, worst of all, taking to drink, he became em-
barrassed, unpopular, & unhappy. But he now moral-
izes well - says it is unfortunate for a young professional man
to get much business at first, &c. He has quit the Law, to
which he had most unreservedly devoted his attention for some
years, quit drink, and is now nearly as well to do
in the world as when he started. Dr. Sharpe affords
an example of success with moderate abilities and
acquirements unaided by the advantages enjoyed by
either of the others; and this he owes to prudence,
industry and popular manners. He had but
slightly for a time, but he now has a solid reputa-
tion, he has made property, & is unembarrassed &
happy. There is truth in Dr. Mc's remark, that "it
is unfortunate for a professional man to get too
much business at the start." I call to mind many
instances illustrative of it."

My father was exceedingly desirous that ³⁵⁰
I should visit Washington City during the sitting
of Congress, and had suggested that I should
waile myself of the Christmas holidays as
a favorable time for the journey. But a sharp
spell of sickness made it impracticable for
me to carry out our plans, and a letter
to my father - in care, Dr. Becton, in which I
alluded to my illness in much lighter terms
than the case justified, called forth the ex-
pressions of parental tenderness contained in the
following - Dated Craggy Bluff, Jan 10th 1825

My dear and dearest, Your excellent letter of
the 12th ult. was detained by high waters till
Wednesday last, that of the 24th reached us on
Saturday evening. Dr. Becton had received the
one to which the last alludes a day or two
earlier. Martha had been to town to attend
the wedding of Miss Vanshure, and was
told by Mr. doctor that you were sick. He had
left home without showing your letter to either of
your sisters. Imagination was busy with both
your mother & myself as to the severity of your ill-
ness, and as might have been expected, we
put the worst construction upon Dr. B's words.
We concluded that our dear boy had at last brought
on fatal disease by his undue application
to his studies, & indeed himself obliterated our hopes.
Your mother sighed, groaned, & turned in bed
most of the night. I sometimes imagined you
you had been stricken down by apoplexy, or were
in consumption, or some equally dreadful
malady. In vain did I close my eyes to sleep.
In vain did I philosophize & seek to quiet my
alarm by argument, as that you had gone by
choice to Baltimore - that you might have been
attacked at home - that afflictions are the

inheritance of man. In was even the
aid of religion. He was virtuous, I said, God
will make him happy. I shall meet him in
heaven, when sickness, sin, & sorrow will be
unknown. "Whom the Lord loveth he chasten-
eth," he. In short, I closed my eyes in vain.
Sleep was gone, & I was tempted to exclaim
with Jacob of old - "My life is bound up in the
lad's life; if mischief befall him, ^{it will} ~~be~~ ^{falling}
down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave."

But yesterday morning I started off to town
and on seeing your letter to Dr B. I found
that you had only been suffering with a
slight attack of rheumatism from exposure
to cold. The relief I felt is indescribable.
The doctor was much surprised at my
alarm, but he will understand it better,
perhaps, some six months hence when
he has experienced what are the feelings of
a father. I am truly sorry you could not go
to Washington at the time proposed, but hope
you will be able to be there at the election of Presi-
dent by the House of Representatives. When you
go, find Col. Allen straightway. As an assurance
of the kind reception you may expect from him
I make the following extract from a letter I received
from him a few days ago, and which, until I
learned the contents of your letter to Dr B., increased
the poignancy of my grief. My Esteemed Friend,
I have this moment the pleasure of reading a letter
from you which brings to my mind recollections of times
past but of friendships not forgotten. It was but
yesterday that we were brought together, cast upon the
world with nothing but hope & resolution to give as
a passport amongst strangers. Now, I am in hourly
expectation of being introduced to a son of your
entering upon the world with every advantage
that education, family, & fortune can give.

I need not tell you that it will afford me
pleasure to see him, & that nothing shall be
wanting on my part to make his stay in
Washington agreeable."

The writer of this letter I could trust as a brother.
The facts are correctly stated by him. Your ad-
vantages over those he & I enjoyed are immense,
and you have suitably improved them. My soli-
citude about your health is painful, but, I
hope, not well-founded. I intend to send you a
hundred dollars to be disposed of as you ^{may} think right.
I was amused at your remarks to Dr. Foster about
surgical instruments. It is true, Dr. Packer & I
did amputate a woman's thigh with a shoe-
maker's knife & a ten ^{inch} saw, & that she was
able to milk her cow in three weeks from the
day of the operation. Write to Col. Allen the
cause of your failure to visit Washington at the
time expected. He writes me that he thinks Gen.
Jackson will be elected President. Well, I hope
he will do well. Your generosity towards your sister
Eliza makes you over-rate my expenditures
upon you and forget that I have not ^{even} a
charlisk with her education or otherwise.
She was sent to Mrs. Coulter's & Mrs. M. Knight's
schools, & had the benefit of Dr. Green's & Mr.
Black's instruction after having been taught
by good teachers in excellent primary schools,
and is, in truth, a fine English scholar. By
the time she rejoins, I shall give her, as I ^{do} create,
you will not have had so much the advan-
tage of her as you represent; but I am pleased
with your liberality. Now had I, & I think, never
did. I know, a better daughter. But it is late in
the night, and as I can now sleep, I will close. We
have this respect to you, including the poor blacks.
Your affectionate Father Milton Candlish.

This, dated Feb. 1st, is in the
 same strain. "Yesterday's mail brought
 us an interesting & excellent letter from you.
 Your apology of a want of interesting matter
 was unnecessary to fond parents, & affectionate
 brothers & sisters & friends. We always read
 over your letters several times, and would
 pay more than the postage to read the
 single sentence, "My health is good & my
 strength improving & I am employing my
 time, as I think, to advantage, and am con-
 paratively contented & happy." As remarked by
 Lord Chesterfield ^{to his abson. Son;} whatever ~~affairs~~ ^{your} friends
 morals, manners or health or prospects is
 interesting to us. We are happy when we think
 you are so, and depressed when we hear that
 you are afflicted. You have described with much
 force your feelings of isolation on arriving
 in Baltimore, and given a lively description
 of the death & burial of you. Harper. It was
 natural that you should feel lonely & sad in
 a great city, far from home, with not a face
 to greet you that you had ever before seen. The
 dread of sending you so far away, & of going,
~~and~~ preyed upon my spirits all last summer
 & was one of the causes which prevented my
 making timely preparation for the trip. But
 the advantages promised by the course justified
 the sacrifice. Your manly spirit encouraged
 me to believe that you could bear up under
 all the trials. I knew you would soon make
 friends; and that in the wider field of obser-
 vation there you would gain more knowledge
 of your profession, as well as of men & things; and
 I never thought any privation I could endure too
 great for the advancement of my children. So
 two weeks from the time this note finds you, you will
 be free. When the toil & anxiety are over,

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You will be more happy; and when you
return, or will "kiss the fatted calf" - not on ac-
count of a returning prodigal, but for a blessed
Messiah. I know you are governed by the
best of motives; and feel how different your
situation is from mine when, at your age,
I left my father's house manacled by poverty,
to beset the streams of adversity without a
friend to advise me; and that you have
that father, two mothers, and that affectionate
mother, who, under a beneficent Providence,
has opened up to you so fair a prospect
for usefulness & rational enjoyment, to
let your ambition for literary distinction
thrust their hopes."

Feb. 14th he wrote: This is the last letter
from me that can reach you before the
close of the Lecture. Of this I am glad, not
only because of your increased opportunities
for research, but because you will be
no longer annoyed by the discord of pro-
posals so unhappily united. And truly, from
what I have read of his Journal, it would
seem that the mind of our great & good
friend, Dr. Baile, had become not a little
soured. Nor is it strange that a work so
hampered with the blemish of a particular
my very professor and physician who
differs in opinion with its Editor should
not meet with extensive patronage. There
is no cause for complaint when one's opinions
are combated fairly in the argument; nor
should person or feeling be worried by such
criticisms. But when the keenest ridicule
is employed the case is otherwise. I am
not sure that the Medical Journal has not

365. injured the prospects of the institution of
which the Editor is the brightest luminary. Nor
am I sure that some of the ^{graduates} ~~students~~ of that School
will not succeed the ardent thing professors
for the discord that prevailed while they were
students in it. A moroseness of temper must
necessarily be engendered by association
with human hedgehogs who are bristling,
snarling, & snapping at every thing that
comes in their way; and without care this will
cling to us thro' life, rendering us unhappy
and disagreeable to all with whom we associate.
You, however, who by nature are happily disposed
and who, on your return, will have such
advisors & companions as Mr. Wendell, your
uncle John & Uncle Black, can much more
easily break off the disagreeable association
than those who unfortunately acquired them
in a differently situated. I trust you have not so
far entered into that spirit which would
make a hell of heaven & is the offspring
of ~~the~~ ^{disagreeable} ~~temper~~ ^{disposition} as to endanger a just
appreciation of your medical acquirements
and hazard your obtaining a diploma.
Sooner would I that you had remained at home
with your former amiable disposition and
industry, & commenced the practice on the
stock of medical knowledge you had gained
before going to the University of Maryland.
My father was made to feel keenly the weight
of a bad temper by my unfortunate brother-in-
law, Dr. D., whose petulance was a source of great
grief to him as long as he lived. It was under the
influence of some outbreak of his peevishness
that the foregoing was written. A week afterwards
the following cheerful, hopeful letter was written:

Craggy Bluff ^{Monday night 8 o'clock} Feb. 21st 1828.

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My dear Sam Linsford, or Thompson brought from the post
office last evening your most interesting & welcome letter
of the 2^d inst. The description given of your party at
Dr. Davis's is humorous & amusing. I am highly
pleased with your arrangements & hope, as far
as time admitted, you have executed them all -
that you were present at the Presidential Election
were introduced to the great men of the Nation,
were welcomed by your father's old friend, Col.
Allen on the great theatre of the National Le-
gislation, and that before this reaches you, that
you will have witnessed the august ceremony
of inaugurating a President of the United States
into office. Your visit to Philadelphia & N.
York will be something more than one of grati-
fication. Your worthy patron, Dr. Caldwell's
letters of introduction, will insure you a per-
sonal acquaintance with the Medical
Professors of those cities, & you will thus have
the means of forming your own opinion
as to their relative talents. Your absence is
a painful privation to us, but the advo-
cate held out by the cause reconciles us to it.
I confess, I begin to dream of your return - of
your telling me that on the 1st of March you
are to be examined for your degree, &c.; but still
whilst we learn that you are well & in the
laudable pursuit of knowledge - are pious
& contented - we are comparatively happy. Let
me remind you, however, as I have to often im-
pressed upon you, that mind without consti-
tution - life without health, is scarcely worth a
worth.

Let who will file the Executive Chair of the
Nation, it will be our duty to support him,
so long as he supports the Constitution of this Country.

367 If Mr Jackson, he is our Countryman
and will not overlook the interests of Tennessee.
If it be Adams, he is great & good, & will pre-
side with dignity, honor, & usefulness. You already
know he is honest and we will soon know. I received
a very polite letter fr. Gen. Houston to day, who
refers to your proposition visit to the Capital in
approbatory terms and will treat you with
marked attention. Nothing has happened
in the neighborhood of interest except the
falling of a negro man of Porters, Chappins
from the top of a house & breaking his neck, and
a fight between Jas St. Porter & der Sewin. The
latter resulted from a quarrel about a sheep. Porter
alleges that Mrs Sewin borrowed a ram
from him last summer, and it seems that
he was unmarked & was strayed off. Porter
sent a negro boy to her with a request that
she would have the animal hunted & brought
home; but the messenger confounding the
parts of speech said "She must hunt
the ram & bring him home!" This was
too much for human nature, not to say
for the son-in-law of a Periodical Editor,
so Sewin drew his French knife & marched
over to Porter's farm, where a fight ensued.
Sewin got the worst of it. Dr Porter was called
in to dress his wounds, & I have seen him
twice in consultation. Porter will be heard of
before the Ecclesiastical, & Sewin before the
Civil Court of this County.

Dr Rucker is reported by some ladies to have
criticized the practice of Dr Porter in a case
of measles when the eruption was slow in ma-
king its appearance - the use of sudorifics and
and keeping his patient warm. But the patient
is recovering, while a brother of hers is very ill.

and likely to die from Pneumonia com 368
tracted by exposure to cold soon after getting
over measles. Whether Dr H. authorized his in-
dig out the cold day on which he laid
the foundation of his dinard, I know not; but
if Dr B. is prudent the result of the two cases
will be favorable to him. But it is certainly
by wrong untimely or prematurely to resist in-
juries. I am always busy trying to mend
my own affairs. I need not add, that
I am using my best exertions to promote
the welfare of my neighbors, friends, &
family—especially of my dear children.
God bless you. Your affectionate father
William D. D.

Dr. D. added the following characteristic P.S. to
the above letter: "Dr L. I wish you to inquire of Dr
Dodge, all the Propriums you see, - every physician
you see, if there is authority for tapping a man
who has a distended abdomen, from which
is the last stage of Typhus fever, & whether there
is science, prudence, or propriety in doing
so? Ask Dr D. if such a practice is not
murderous, unprecedented, & non-scientific."
Dr. Dodge always retained the habit of spelling words
that end in C, & Dr B followed his Magnus Apollo.

In answer to my letter from Washington
giving the result of the presidential election, &
my impressions of what I there saw, he wrote
me as follows: - "The incision of your corporeal
& mental vigor affords us a picture which
none but those placed in like circumstances
with ourselves can conceive of. Your description
of men and things at Washington shows that you
are 'wide awake' there. That you made good
use of your Cranio-logical requirements. Your de-
scriptions increase my faith in that science. You
visit to Washington will prove for the time a most

369 in them; the most improving of your whole
life. You have seen & will see the heroes & Statesmen
that adorn our Country. You will see something
of the pomp & parade of Courts, and the inau-
guration of a President of the U. S. - a spectacle
more sublime than the Coronation of an Emperor.
In short, you will have seen the world in
epitome. I know not whether this will reach
you before you will have set out on your
travels Eastward, but if it should, I would it
suggest a caution about respecting yourself
unavoidably to storms at sea, if you should
travel by water. Your life becomes more valu-
able as you are better qualified for useful
travels. But I shall so often caution you,
and you have had so much experience, that
my admonitions begin to appear superfluous.

I have just finished reading President Lindsays
Inaugural Address. It is, I think, the most schol-
arly & able production that ever emanated from
the Nashville College. But you will judge of it
for yourself when you return.

I was married in 1825, and with my
young wife, sister, & sister-in-law, had gone
a second time to Lexington to reap the harvest
as a graduate in the University. On the 20th of
Nov. he wrote to us, as follows.

Craggy Bluff. November 20th 1825.

My dear Children, Your letters by Aaron were received
and read with much interest. I was particularly
pleased with the punctuation, orthography & diction
of Susan's, & so obscure that it had not a single
blot. It contained one sentiment however which
is not just, & which I hope was the consequence
of the moment. It was, "that she thought
she should return from Lexington unimpaired."

370
Assuredly you will not, my dear daughter.
You have the most ample field for improve-
ment that ever you enjoyed, and stronger to im-
prove than ever around you here. You are in the
family of a respectable Minister of the Gospel &
teacher of a Female Seminary, with access to the
best library in the West, and a devoted Companion
who is thought to have the finest literary attain-
ments of any young man of his age in the coun-
try. Knowing as I do, that your Capacity, Taste,
& Education were over-balancing considerations
in his choice, and that your cultivation is
essential to your mutual happiness & advan-
cement in the world, I will not suffer myself
to doubt for one moment, that you will be
thoroughly improved. On the contrary, I per-
suade myself you will have renewed the
most interesting & pleasurable part of your Sci-
entific Studies - will have read much in
history, biography, the Sacred Scriptures, &
works of taste, among the rest, & olden's Sat-
urday papers in the Spectator. (And if you pay
some attention to the best works on the Education of
Women & Children, the better.) And as you
are to become a House-keeper, attending more
to the substantial affairs of life than to society
and show, I am no doubt you will pay some
attention to the domestic economy & even the
cooking of those with whom you live. In
short, you will retain much improved in
the accomplishments of a married lady.
But I have gone too far, the poor old man
is delivering me a lecture or sermon on a single
thought. I will drop the subject then with a
single remark - that I am sure you are making
my dear daughter, with as wise my suggestions to the
right cause - anxious solicitude for the usefulness, honor

and happy young children.

and happy
 You, my dear son, have an important
 "Charge to keep" a charming young wife and two
 promising sisters. Seldom has such a Charge
 been confided to a minor. Aware, as you are,
 that the female Character, like white paper, is
 easily stained, & that the stain & its effects can-
 not be removed - that youth is ardent & un-
 suspecting, you can hardly be too attentive, or too
 circumspect. Our confidence is fixed in your
 affection, prudence, & prudence, & trust left
 in them, and under a kind Providence,
 all will be safe. In doubt not that Susan
 will look upon you as the orb around
 which she is to move, & from whose
 light she is to receive her chief lustre
 this life - that your sisters will look to
 you as a preceptor & father during your
 absence; and that none of you will
 be unmindful whence is all your suf-
 ficiency. In this confidence, we are as
 well satisfied as such parents as we are
 could be expected to be, under such circum-
 stances. My dear children attend to the
 advice of a father who has nothing, ex-
 cept the Salvation of his own Soul, so
 near his heart, as the Temporal & Eternal
 welfare of his beloved Children. May heav-
 en's choicest blessings attend you all is
 the sincere prayer of beloving grandfathers.

The following letter shows that he had already become as vain of his young daughter-in-law as of her husband. It is dated Dec. 18th 1825.

"On my return, last evening, Billy handed me Susan's letter to her brother David with some strong ^{encouraging} ~~concerning~~ ~~duties~~ ^{on} of it, & with it yours to Mr Wendell, of the 9th inst., & one from Martha to her sister. I need hardly say how much

I approve of the sentiments contained in Susan's 372
and of the manner in which they are expressed. I suffice
it to observe, that after reading it, I had Henry & Burton,
and the small boarders called into my room, and after
charging them to consider the letter as addressed to each
one of them individually, & on a most important subject,
I read it to them very deliberately, and, with a view to
impressing their minds more forcibly with the truth of the
made such comments upon it as I thought appropriate.
Taking Susan's letters to be written without help, Sum-
ford's opinion is, I am convinced, correct - that she is,
or may become the best epistolary writer of her age &
sex in the country. But as I have already been charged
with being vain of her capacity & attainments, I must
be more reserved in my remarks. I heartily agree
even in Sumford's opinion as to the cause of the ap-
parent collapse of the female mind after marriage -
that it is owing "to a want of suitable intellectual
exercise; and also in the idea that it gives a su-
perior zest to the mental enjoyments of a benevolent
husband to have his wife participate with him
in them. Nor will I suffer my self to doubt that this
will be his happy lot. But permit me to caution you
both against becoming so entirely intellectual as to
neglect or destroy your health, a boon without
which all your attainments can afford you but
little felicity. Respect ad finem be your
motto in all things. As you might suppose, I
am already consulting about the plans which will
be best for your future or your return in the Spring.
It seems to be the opinion of your friends generally,
that it is not advisable for you to open an office
in New Brunswick. Drs. Prictor, Wilson, Thompson & Mary
think that it will help to prevent the increase of
competition there. And Mrs. Wadell, who, like my-
self, as you know, is always contending for her children's
welfare, thinks you had best have a shop on the lot
she has bought for Susan, & occupy a part of their
spacious dwelling, as part of their family, for the first

373/ season. In this, I incline to think with her, since by that
arrangement you would have less care, more time to read, &c.
God bless you, my dear children. Your affectionate father Wilson Wendell

The last letter of my father in my possession is
dated 8th Jan'y 1826, and was written to my wife

My dear Daughter Susan, your most acceptable letter of the 28th

ultimo was received day before yesterday and is duly
appreciated. The modest allusion it contains of flattery
in my last to you is, I think, unfounded; unless indeed
frankly to speak what one believes to be true can be called flattery.
And to assert that some of your letters are the best that I have
ever seen in the handwriting of a female is but simple truth.
Flattery in the true acceptation of the term is, when used
by men at least, the result of design, and too often when
bestowed upon ladies, the design is base. But you my daughter
have linked your destiny with a son who from his
earliest infancy has been the proudest hope of my heart,
and may therefore expect my utmost sincerity, and if
my letters appear to you a little too high-colored, attribute
it to the partiality of a fond father. Suffice me to add, that
it is amongst the greatest consolations of my declining
years that it is the good fortune of my son to have for
his bosom friend one whose capacity & opportunities
and taste render him every way so worthy of him. That
you may both pursue in the road of virtue,
honor and science, is amongst the most earnest
wishes of my heart. I am not a little pleased with
your attentions to my daughter Eliza. A better child
was never raised. I never had occasion to reprove,
much less to punish her: a better woman does
not live, and your deportment towards her will
have a good effect upon others. I have recently
had some conversation with your father in regard
to your course on your return. He thinks with your mother
that it will be best for you to live with them for a while
on many accounts, & all his plans meet my
approbation.

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I have been greatly harassed with professional
neglect, and sometimes with on that account
for my son's keep; but I believe it is his interest to
remain in Lexington till the ~~close~~ of the lectures, &
this consideration decides my choice. And now,
that you may be as happy in that union by which you
became my daughter and that you may confer as
much happiness on that dear young man who is
to be your companion for life as present appearances
induce me to hope you will; and that you may so
improve your time & talents as, at the consummation
of all things, to be worthy of that most welcome ap-
proval from a benignant God, "Well done good &
faithful servant; enter thou into the joys of thy Lord!"
is the sincere prayer of your affectionate father
and mother. Wilson & Elizabeth Gaudell

P.S. The respects of all the connection are directed
to you. Even the poor domestics wish to be remem-
bered to you, who are one day to have the man-
agement of some of their children. I shall send
Reminders for you in the Spring if desired. Give our
love to Sanford, Martha, & Matilda, & make our
respects acceptable to her & Mrs. Ward, Miss
Clifford &c. &c. Yours in much haste. W.G.

The incomparable daughter-in-law to whom
these words of affection were addressed bore testi-
mony in the last ~~in the last~~ lines written
by her pen to the happy influence of ~~her~~ father's
precepts & example upon her character & happiness.
Writing from Memphis to her son, David, two days be-
fore she was confined by her last illness to bed, she said:
"I used to look forward to an old age of rest; but my
life has been such a continual strife, and still con-
tinues, that I have grown serene & happy in spite
of the turmoil; so that while I carry smiles

375 and sunshine on my brow, smiles & sunshine
dwell within my heart. The world & everything in it
seems ^{to me far} more beautiful & bright than when I was younger.
Riding thro' the country yesterday with Sunny, the
grape, the flowers, & the trees & cores of magnificent
magnolias covered with their gay, sweet-scented
flowers - made, it seemed to me, a world beautiful
enough for the dwelling of angels. I owe to your
Grand Pa, Granddaddy, a great deal of my happiness.
He was always cheerful in his family, no matter
what cares pressed outside, & enjoined it upon me
to cultivate a spirit of cheerfulness - a thing I had
never thought of, having the usual opinion, that
some are born cheerful & others morose. Go you
and do likewise!" S. J. Y.

Towards the end of February, a few days
earlier than our friends ~~wished~~ ^{wished} me to quit the lec-
tures, we returned home from Lexington, and found
my father oppressed under the weight of his business.
He was with a pain approaching to remorse of feeling
that I saw him weighed down by toil, and thought
of the years of anxious labor he had passed in
accumulating the means that had enabled me
to spend so much time from home and enjoy all
the comforts that wealth could bring. He had one
case on hand which caused him peculiar
anxiety, for he supposed it might demand
a surgical operation. It was a case of ^{irreducibly} ~~incurable~~
inguinal hernia, perils overall, and the
symptoms ^{exciting fear that} strangulation had taken place.
I visited the patient next morning, with him, leaving
my wife & sister-in-law to go with my mother
to my friends in town. My father was aware

to the practice of Surgery, and, I have no doubt, to his great mortification, he discovered, that morning, at the side of the first patient at which he had met since my medical education was fairly complete, that I had no more taste for it than himself. The condition of the lady was such, that in my judgment an operation was advisable; but I did not operate. True, the instruments ~~was~~ for an operation were not at hand, but I should not have attempted one if I had been in possession of ~~all the instruments in the world~~ ^{all the instruments in the world}. I trusted my anatomical knowledge. I was afraid to operate; and, ~~this~~ morning, nearly forty years since the event occurred, I have a lively recollection of the mortification with which I covered up my ignorance from my father as well as I could, and backed out from the case.

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If he divined the cause of my reluctance to operate, he was too amiable to mortify me by alluding to it. Fortunately, the vis medicatrix naturae was adequate to the ^{omission of the case and} ~~remedy of the case~~ ^{overway} the obstruction, without the assistance of art; the tumor, which was excessively tender, when I first saw it, subsided, after a few days, and the patient recovered.

His interest in my success when I became a candidate for practice was all-absorbing.

It seemed to be the chief business of his life to advance me in my profession. There can be no doubt that he carried this too far, & that his other children were infinitely affected by his overweening solicitude on my account. My brother William, in particular, I have never known, was eluded by his partiality for me, and blind, as long as he lived, that if some

377 of the paternal pride & interest which overflowed for me on all occasions had been shown for him, his position in life might have been happier than it was. My mother saw & felt this evil tendency, and remonstrated with my father against the exhibition of such favoritism. She was herself conscious of the weakness, and often spoke of the necessity of guarding against it, but it had been cherished too long to yield at once to the dictates of his sound understanding, and, in fact, continued to exhibit itself to the last.

The winter after I established myself in New-York (1826-7) he was seriously ill at my house. He had been previously very sick, with some obscure form of fever, and was summoned to town as a witness in an important Criminal Suit before he had sufficiently recovered. The case (The State of Tennessee v. Dr. Albert Kibbe for the murder of Peyton Randolph) was one in which he took a deep personal interest. He made a great effort to attend the sitting of the court. The fatigue renewed the fever and it became necessary for him to take to his bed as soon as he left the Court house. That night I administered to him a dose of jalap & Cream of tartar, hoping that it would relieve him of a fullness of the head which was distressing. At that time but a single room in my house had been completed, & my father slept in my office, distant a few paces from my dwelling house. I shudder now to think of his having ^{spent the night} slept alone in that apartment & under the operation of such a medicine. He told me on my calling to see him, next morning, that its operation had been very drastic, and that

at one time; such was his exhaustion 378
from it, he thought he could not live thro'
the night. My kind & estimable mother, in last
proposed to remove him to her house, and there,
under her good nursing, he was in a few
days so far recovered from his disease, & the
effects of the unfortunate purgation, as to be able
to return home. His practice, always laborious,
grew with his ability to ride, which had been
increasing now for several years the affection
of the prostate gland seeming to decline as
he gained flat. During the summer of 1827
his labors were very great. He was ~~from~~ ^{on} his
professional rounds from early morning until
night, & often far into the night. In the month
of Sept. a distant relative of my mother's (Mr. Cathey)
was attacked with bilious remittent fever,
then very prevalent in the country, while on a
visit to my uncle, John Gardell, whose resi-
dence was only a quarter of a mile from my
father's; and it was in his attendance upon
him that my father ^{probably} contracted the fever, which
was destined to end his life. ^{My mother, for the first time, who}
^{was kind enough to extract his disease by the use of the catheter}
~~was kind enough to extract his disease by the use of the catheter~~
~~and~~ ^{was able to cure} my uncle's return home,
my father had been prostrated by the fever, and
while he was breathing his last, my uncle's life
was ~~threatened~~ ^{in danger} by the same disease. Saturday
night, the 22nd of Sept., before taking his bed, my
father came to my uncle, after visiting a patient
in town, complaining of feeling much indis-
posed. His wonted Chagalmys was gone, and
on retiring to bed he was seized with a severe
rigor. He rose early next morning and made
preparations for going home, telling me that he
was sure from his sensations he had the
prevailing fever upon him. He rode the
distance, 5 1/2 miles, on horseback. I visited

379) him next morning and found him under the effect
of one of his favorite emetics, of tartarized antimony.
I was anxious about him, but not alarmed. Next day
I was called to visit a patient 22 miles ^{distant} off, and it
was 11 o'clock at night before I was able to see him. He
had been seized with another chill that morning &
had sent a messenger to my house for me after I left
home. His disease was plainly making progress; and
no wonder; for it is now too painfully apparent to
my mind, that no remedies were administered that
had a tendency to check its fatal march. I left his
bedside very early Wednesday morning, after agreeing with him
upon the course he should pursue, and did not reach
it again till 9 o'clock in the evening. Another chill had
come on, ^{during the day} and I met ~~him~~ my faithful servant ^{personally} ~~post~~
after one. Next morning, while sitting up in bed
to take some nourishment, he was seized with a
fainting fit which greatly alarmed us all. It lasted
but a moment, but was followed in a short time by
a severe chill; and from that time his case
assumed the most alarming features. Friday, the chill
came on at an earlier hour. Friday night I watched
^{by his bedside} ~~him~~ alone: It was a night of intense agony of
feeling with me, for I foresaw too clearly what was to
be the issue of my dear father's disease. From that
time his case appeared to me to be ^{hopeless}. He died
the following Sunday, the 18th of October, at 3
o'clock in the afternoon, in the 53d year of his age.
As in ^{almost} ~~many~~ all cases of a acute disease in which
death takes place after a few days' illness, from an
oppression rather than exhaustion of the vital powers,
his death was hard, and his groans protracted
through more than half the day. Monday pierced me
with an agony I can never forget. On Thursday
he conversed with his children for a few moments
in the afternoon with tenderness concerning their future
course and prospects in life, & exhorted them affectionately to
cultivate love for and help one another. On Friday

he spoke of the charge before him as "a ³⁸⁰ leap in the dark, & no help for it." "I have been ^{striving} ~~living~~ this life to do right, but often going wrong," are words which he addressed to me. Rev. Mr. ^{Benjamin} ~~Robert~~ ^{Gowen}, a Methodist clergyman for whom he felt great regard, was present and conversed with him. I was too much pained to remain in the room during the conversation, but on returning and asking him if he was as much oppressed as ever he replied, "Yes, as much oppressed, but not so much depressed." The sense of oppression about the heart was dreadful, and was not to give way while consciousness remained, but his depression of spirit was alleviated by the conversation of a number of his judicious friends. He said but little afterwards on the subject of his departure.

I have always felt that it was a misfortune that my father's religious views were so deeply tinged with Armenianism. That he was a most conscientious & humble Christian, I have not the slightest doubt. I have never known a man who was more sincerely bent upon discharging his whole duty to his fellow men and his Maker who exhibits, in all his relations, more charity - who had a deeper concern for the honor of religion & for its establishment in the hearts of his children - who was more punctual in ~~the discharge of~~ family devotions or in his attendance upon the public worship of God when he had it in his power - It was a remark of his friend, Rev. Mr. ^{Gowen}, that "the object of his life seemed to be, to do good." His religious feelings were as strong, as his religious convictions were deep & clear. He loved to converse on religious subjects and introduced them often in his family & amongst his friends, in letters & in conversation. In a word, he was such a Christian as, ^{all} ~~every~~ ^{would} society would say, might look forward with "confident hope" to hearing his heavenly Father ^{say} ~~say~~ "Well done good and faithful servant: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

381 Christians the most eminent for piety, it is well known, are not always vouchsafed the happiest deathbeds, naturally as we look for a triumphant end to a ~~life~~ life devoted to good works. It is related of Whitfield that he once replied to a young preacher who expressed a wish that he might be present when he died since his death ~~could not fail to be~~ ^{could not fail to be} a triumphant one. "No; it is for such ~~obscure~~ days as you to die a triumphant death - I expect to say but little then". And I believe it was so. I believe there was nothing remarkable in the ~~passing~~ death scene of this eminent servant of God.

Still, my conviction is deep that the last hours of my ~~word~~ father would have been cheered with brighter hopes, if he had looked entirely away from himself to the Cross of Christ. He was a believer in that dear name and rested upon the merits of the atonement for salvation; but he had felt this all his Christian life, that he had a work to do - that he was to "work out his salvation" - and at the close, he felt but too deeply that he had not done it, ^{as he had wished.} ~~well~~. He was ~~too~~ conscious of his own unworthiness ~~and~~ in the prospect of ~~appearing~~ before a righteous Judge, and while he looked to "the Lamb that taketh away the sins of the world", he could not forget his ~~own~~ failures in duty; but after ~~his mind had been directed by~~ ^{his mind had been directed by} ~~der de Groom~~ ^{der de Groom} to the true ground of confidence he became more cheerful, and der de. expressed himself to me as much comforted by his ~~appearances~~.

The religious education of my father had been strictly Calvinistic. His father was a rigid Presbyterian and his library was composed chiefly of works on divinity, among which I have often heard my father mention ^{Ridgely's body of divinity &} Boston's Fourfold State. He liked the Presbyterian discipline, ~~the strict observance of the Sabbath, the order, the economy,~~ ^{the strict observance of the Sabbath, the order, the economy,} ~~the church,~~ ^{the church,} but he injected the Cardinal Presbyterian doctrines - Election & The Final Perseverance of the ~~Saints~~.

My dear Sir, in the extract of her letter given on a previous page, to my father's cheerfulness of spirit, which, indeed, was one of the striking traits of his character. Defeated he must have been often by sickness & misfortune, but ~~Moody~~ ^{more} morose he was never seen. The benevolence of his nature was overflowing, and whether in general society, in the Chamber of the Sick, in his own family, or ~~in the~~ ^{visiting to} see the sick in company with ~~the~~ ^a negro messenger, his full mind ~~was always~~ ^{he would be talking on some subject suited} out in he would be talking on some subject suited to the place, and to the capacity of his companions. Much of his time was necessarily passed in solitude as he took his long rides thro' the country, but and his easy, affable manners made persons of all ranks feel at ease in his presence and rendered him a great favorite with children, for whom he always had some anecdote, drawn ^{generally} from his own experience, calculated to interest them and ^{to convey} ~~to~~ instruction to their minds. He never trifled in conversation any more than in action; but whatever he said, in however

DeTarell's fess

Johnson's fess

Chalmers' Discourses on Abolition

Paley's Natural Theology

Sumner's Sacred History of the Jews

Encyclopedia Americana

DeTarell's General History

DeTarell's History

DeTarell's History

DeTarell's History

DeTarell's History

DeTarell's History

DeTarell's History

DeTarell's History

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apparently light a vein - and he was eminently genial and humorous in society - had a serious & practical aim - was meant to instruct and improve. In all my intercourse with men I think I never met with one whose turn of mind was more decidedly to the useful, and who sought more undeviatingly to make all his words as well as his behavior tell upon the comfort and welfare of his fellow men.

From an early period in his professional life he renounced upon principle the use of spirituous drinks and was a most ardent advocate of total abstinence from intoxicating liquors. It may be said that he delivered daily lectures on temperance. The poor inebriates had a salutary dread of these lectures. I remember visiting one, a physician, & otherwise a most estimable man & pleasant gentleman, whom the press of my father's business compelled him to decline visiting, and to send me in his stead. "I am glad to see you, Doctor," he remarked when I entered his chamber - "I am glad it is you that has come - If your father had come he would have hacked me to death, or so near it, there would have been no fun in it."

In the preparation of our tinctures we were obliged to purchase a supply of ^{spirit} ~~alcohol~~ from time to time; but the whiskey jug containing the remainder was quickly given over into the care of my mother to be kept out of the sight of "Uncle" & "Aunt" (an old family servant who loved his dram) and of all others who might be tempted to taste it. None was ever kept in his office, nor was ever a friend invited by him to drink at his hospitable house. No patient ever had an excuse for drinking that he had contracted the taste for it under my father's medical treatment; nor could any pupil or friend, or son, charge him with an example which led him to intemperance.

^{He found a large} ~~He found a large~~ number of anecdotes relating to intemperance, some touching and some ludicrous, ^{and with these he illustrated his homilies} ~~which he used to relate~~ on the destructive vice. One of his patients, named Deba, had lost his foot from exposure to cold in a drunken fit, ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{thus} they were just bitten, & he became a tax upon his family.

This was the case of a female. While yet a ^{young} ~~young~~ practitioner he was sent for in great haste to visit Mrs Kirkendoll at a distance of eight or ten miles from his house. The report of the case given by the messengers was, that Mrs K. had fallen from the top of her ~~mother's~~ house, and in her descent to the ground had encountered the branches of a small tree standing hard by, by which her ribs were

19. Walt. Brown's Geography. ... The air is uncompressed with an immense quantity of vapour from numerous plants; the vegetation from the Volcanic animals, is 17 times greater than that from an equal extent of the surface of the human body. What the result is the influence of heat will first be seen in any country still can be seen with a few observations. Carbonic Acid gas. Called fire dunt - likewise many inflammations are - called of the lung - its effects proving to that hydrogen gas is as water by mass 9 to 1. The gas as 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 - 13 - 14 - 15 - 16 - 17 - 18 - 19 - 20 - 21 - 22 - 23 - 24 - 25 - 26 - 27 - 28 - 29 - 30 - 31 - 32 - 33 - 34 - 35 - 36 - 37 - 38 - 39 - 40 - 41 - 42 - 43 - 44 - 45 - 46 - 47 - 48 - 49 - 50 - 51 - 52 - 53 - 54 - 55 - 56 - 57 - 58 - 59 - 60 - 61 - 62 - 63 - 64 - 65 - 66 - 67 - 68 - 69 - 70 - 71 - 72 - 73 - 74 - 75 - 76 - 77 - 78 - 79 - 80 - 81 - 82 - 83 - 84 - 85 - 86 - 87 - 88 - 89 - 90 - 91 - 92 - 93 - 94 - 95 - 96 - 97 - 98 - 99 - 100

13. Excerpt. Many letters and much company are incompatible with authorship, and the one as much as the other. Cooper shall always observe, that sensible people are best pleased with what is nature and unforced. It is the perfect illustration of this, I have never found since. Non-observance his money, his treasure is in heaven; barish him his country, he is an inhabitant of that heavenly Jerusalem: cast him into hands, his conscience is free: kill his body, it shall rise again: he fights with a shadow that continues with an upright man. Non. S. Barton's what the 2. l. 43. Gold and silver are too heavy metals for him to carry that he likes heaven. It is necessary to Quakers, the mark -

In manners he was awkward, but as his friends Col. Martin observed, his awkwardness was ^{in it} ~~not~~ ^{and grace of manner} ungraceful. He often laughed at his want of ease, and told diverting instances of it. His ~~awkwardness~~ ^{clumsiness}. When a boy, he said, "he was once eating breakfast at the house of a neighbor who had a daughter with whom he was quite well acquainted. A tin cup of milk was set before him without a handle. The diameter of the cup was too great for the length of his fingers and when he attempted to raise it, this happened unhappily shot across the table into the lap of his sweetheart. In his embarrassment his first thought was to excuse himself for what seemed so awkward a feat; and he exclaimed as the unfortunate vessel slipped from his hand, "That cup must have been greasy." Another instance of his awkwardness he related often. He and Col. Martin were invited to tea at John W. Hall's, an accomplished scholar and lawyer of Gallatin, whose estimable lady was the daughter of Col. Edward Douglass, of Sumner County. In the midst of an animated conversation with the agreeable host, his lady and her brother, Col. Harry L. Douglass, a servant maid came along with a waiter, plates, knives & forks. In due time a second servant presented herself with butter & ~~bread~~ biscuits, cakes, etc. Presently the first returned with tea and coffee. This," said my father, "said was more than she could manage," and he called out, "Stop girl, let me go to the table - I shall scald myself." Col. Martin declared that he must follow the doctor, and to the table they went, laughing as they could not avoid doing at the ludicrousness of the scene. But they soon saw that their estimable hostess was annoyed at the incident, and Col. Martin to restore gravity to the company remarked to Col. Douglass, that things were a good deal altered since he (Col. M.) used to live a boarder in his father (Col. D.'s) family, where their dependence for supper was often what might be secured by the rifle during the day's hunt. "One coming," (turning round)

Dead & Animal Life from Great Atlantic works on Mt. West.

Col. Martin went on to relate, your father re- (389)
turned late home without any game. He was
fatigued, ~~hungry~~ and out of humor, ~~but~~ ^{so hungry} he
eat any of the pumpkin upon which your mother
and I made our supper - It was all there was
in the house, and he got on very well."

In dress my father was scrupulously clean, but most
careless as to the fit or texture of his clothes. He dressed, for the
most part, in the plain clothes which were manufactured
at home, and it was seldom that they fitted him well.
He never wore boots, and his shoes made by his own
shoemaker, were coarse and unshapely, and this while
he indulged his family liberally in the dress which he
enjoyed the means of ~~clothing~~ gratifying all his mod-
erate ~~passions~~ ^{desires}. It was not that he affected singularity,
but he was careless of his own personal appearance
and chose to practice economy in this direction
in order that he might have ~~another~~ ^{another} means for
the education & the promotion of his children. He was
equally careless in regard to his food - He was gener-
ally a hearty eater and enjoyed what was set before
him; but it was with none of the fastidiousness of an
epicure, for he neither thought of ~~what he~~ ^{what he} was to eat
before his meals nor remembered what he had eaten
afterwards. A cup of coffee (sometimes, perhaps, generally, two),
corn bread, & ham, or whatever meat was on the table,
made his breakfast. Corn bread again at dinner, he
wished, and any species of meat, pork, bacon, beef,
mutton, fowl, and with these any of the vegetables of the
country commonly seen on the tables of farmers, suf-
ficed for his comfort. When he returned home to supper he
could tell where he ^{had} dined, and with what company, &
the turn, tone, & substance of the conversation, but rarely
of what his dinner had consisted. For supper, he was
contented with the corn bread again, and a cup of
coffee, or a glass of milk. In short, he was the plainest
most frugal man, of the simplest manners and tastes, to
have been found, in his walk of life, in all the country of
which he was a citizen.

390 He had no amusements - played at no game -
 sought no recreation. Occasionally, at my father's
 recollection, he went into the woods to shoot
 squirrels; but this was prompted by utility rather than
 a love of sport - it was to procure a delicacy for
 the table, or to protect his cornfield from depredation,
 or very possibly it was for my amusement & gratification.
 Angling appeared to him a scandalous waste of time,
 and he was very severe upon ~~his neighbor~~ Billy Holt,
 the shoemaker of the neighborhood, for spending so much
 time fishing in the Cumberland. But when ^{he was overtaken by} the affection
 of the bladder which for several years compelled him to
 circumscribe his practice, he found himself ^{often with} with some hours
 of leisure ^{in the} long summer afternoons, and ~~indulging~~
 on a beautiful stream which abounded in fish, he in-
 dulged in angling with me and my brothers until he contract-
 ed quite a taste for the sport. ^{soon} ~~He gave it up as soon as~~
 his health enabled him to enter fully into professional
 business again his fishing rod & line were given up for the practice
 of physic which held more interest for him than any recreation.

The late Dr Hugh Smith wrote the following tale of a
 Quaker.
 Q. M. Jones
 What can be known by kind witnesses of veracity and of uncorrupted
 honesty has occurred to him for some time. The fact
 often present in the country, nor had any other dog but an old
 when hunting, all the best and finest dogs. There was no
 master, and would be to run with the common hounds; but
 was leading, and the shot in a few months came again into
 and the whole with the few other dogs. The master, with the dogs
 no master, with the master, after going the usual time she kept,
 dog that the common hounds, he carried a horse & later than
 that a copy of the master upon the horse, would make a better story
 than any, as he had been in Kentucky for many pastures. Thinking
 him a long, the master while in the south was equally as good in
 coming to move to the south, he determined that he would carry
 the master, a friend of mine, gave a fine horse, and
 the master, from the other day, the master was not, 23

the most noble of all -
 with eyes - The most noble of all -
 of the family is universally known - This is a fact
 circumstance is what the first friend of the
 * Dr. Jones writes that the most fortunate life

His letters to me show how much his heart was bound
 up in his children. He was unwearied in his efforts to inculcate
 moral & religious truth upon their minds, and the regret which I re-
 member to have heard him express oftener than any other
 was, that his profession had so entirely engrossed his time
 as to have left him but little leisure to direct their religious
 education. No doubt, he appeared to the world, & especially to
 his brother physicians, an ambitious man, and in one sense
 he was ambitious. He aspired ^{to eminence} ~~to excellence~~ in his profes-
 sion, and ^{earned a becoming regard for} the approbation of society. But the predominating
 impulse of his heart was parental love. The desire to promote
 the happiness of his children was his ruling passion. His
 benevolence was distinguished. As a master he was
 indulgent to the last degree. I have heard more than
 one of his ^{slaves} say that he was as good to them as
 their father could have been. His kindness to the poor,
 was exhibited not only by his professional services to
 them rendered gratuitously, but by the sympathy he evinced
 for them in their afflictions, and his interest in their ^{domestic}
 concerns, was remarked by all. I am perfectly sure
 that, in the daily rounds of his profession, there was
 no distinction made between the rich & the poor, but
 that every call was equally regarded ^{in person} whether there was
 promise of a emolument or not. He often quoted the remark
 of Boerhaave, that "the poor were his best patients, for
 God was their paymaster." But, as poverty is too frequently
 in our country, at least, the result of vice, he had many oppor-
 tunities of delivering a wholesome lecture to the husband & father
 of the afflicted family, who was generally, if not himself, the subject
 of sickness, the messenger, and therefore his companion on the way.
 He used to say ~~to~~ on such occasions, that he had once heard
 a preacher divide the poor into two classes. One class had

391 been unfortunate, ^{said the preacher,} and tho' poor, are virtuous
and godly. These were God Almighty's poor. The
396 other class, ^{he said,} had brought the poverty upon themselves
by idleness and dissipation. They were the devil's poor.
But the class made no difference with him. He was as
prompt to obey the calls of ~~the~~ the poor wretches
who had ~~induced them to~~ ^{induced them to} fatal sickness ~~upon the~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{by} drink ~~as~~ ^{as} of his wealthiest ~~wealthiest~~ ^{wealthiest} neighbors.
"It is God's province to afflict," he was often saying,
"and for his Creature man to afford all the relief
in his power."

393. I was born, ^{one mile north of} ~~near~~ Hartselle, in Sumner Co. La., on the
5th of July 1805. The house in which I was born was
in a good state of preservation when I visited it the last
time in the summer of 1842—a building of heavy logs or rather
boarded, with shingled-roof & stone chimneys. I suppose I
must have been born with a slender ^{frail} & rather delicate ^{constitution}
for among my earliest recollections is having been called
by the negroes "Spunkle-shunkle." I was also subject to croup in
my infancy, and when I was still too small to be capable of
setting my bird-trap, I remember to have complained to my father
of a distressing sensation which he told me was heartburn,
from which I infer that I had thus early become a dyspeptic. As
the first child, my birth was an event of the greatest interest to my
parents, and the name I was to bear was a question ~~of some~~
which was not settled without some ^{controversy}. My father's admi-
ration for the great philosopher & Statesman who ~~had~~ ^{was} one
to draw up the Declaration of Independence which had made
the day upon which I happened to be born ^{immortal}, inclined him to name me ^{to} Benjamin
Franklin. My mother, tho' preferring ^{to call me for} ~~the name of her father~~, acqui-
esced, but some time afterwards hearing that ^{the son of one of her neighbors} ~~her~~ ^{neighbors}
~~child~~ had been named Benjamin, she ^{thought} ~~resolved~~ ^{that her son should}
~~have a different name~~ ^{too} ~~and called him~~ ^{was called} Sumner Pitts. No doubt the name
had its influence upon the ~~heart~~ ^{character} of my ^{young} ~~old~~ grandfather,
for from my earliest childhood to the day of his death
I was his pet among all his grand children. My mother
was far too indulgent, but my father ~~was~~ ^{was} after interposed
to ~~prevent~~ ^{the art} her needless exercise of authority. If I could
escape from her to him after the commission of an act
likely to bring punishment upon me, I was sure of escaping,
and as his house was ^{but a little way from} ~~near~~ my father's he that I wanted
was a ~~little~~ few yards the start ~~and I felt secure~~ ^{and I felt secure} to place me
under his protection. My first trouble in life was occasioned by the
marriage of my aunt Judith to Uncle John Gaudin, who had
come to my father's a short time before from N. Carolina. Aunt Judith
was three years older than my mother, and had conceived as
just ^{a long time} ~~an attachment~~ for me as my grandfather. I thought that
in marrying her my uncle was about to take her from me, and
I remember going into the room ^{at home} where he was dressing for his marriage
and ~~saying~~ ^{protesting} that he should not have Aunt Judith. My feelings
were in no degree soothed by seeing my aunt descend the stairs
at my grandfather's with ^{on the morning of the wedding} ~~tears~~ ^{streaming down} her cheeks.
I was then about four years old, & wondered why my dear
aunt cried.

A few months before I was seven years old $3\frac{1}{4}$
I was ~~sent~~ ^{sent} to a school taught ^{by the neighborhood} by Thomas Donoho,
an indolent, amiable young man who, with many
scholars older than myself to look after, gave very little
attention to me. My mother had taught me my letters
before I ~~was~~ started to school, and it was a long time before
I advanced much beyond ~~my first~~ ^{the alphabet} A B C. The book placed
in my hands was the "Spelling Book" of Noah Webster, and
my impression is that I had thumbed out & destroyed three
copies of it before I could read its easiest lessons. ~~I think~~
It was towards the ^{middle} ~~end~~ of the first year of my pupilage
that the Master gave my class, consisting of my sister Eliza,
Jefferson Donoho & myself, the word little to spell. We failed
utterly in our attempts and ~~the~~ ^{that} good-natured teacher
dismissed us with the threat that if we were not able to
spell the word next morning he would whip
~~us all~~ ^{as all} ~~my mother's child~~ ^{that evening} ~~and~~ ^{I left} ~~and~~ ^{remember that} ~~that evening~~ ^{my mother}
~~leaving~~ ^{leaving} the school-house with an anxious heart.
It chanced that my father ^{was} returned from his profes-
sional rounds just ^{as my sister & I} reached home, and ^{we} ~~my sister~~
myself hastened to ~~submit~~ ^{submit} our difficulty to him. ~~What~~
~~presented our minds~~ ^{I remember that} ~~my mother~~ ^{that}
What had seemed to me so perplexing, was resolved with so
~~much ease~~ ^{became} ~~another~~ ^{another} of the labors which I remember to have
apprehended me was the formation of written characters. How
old I was when first sent to the writing desk I am not
able to determine with perfect precision, but it must have
been in my second year. My immediate teacher in
penmanship was Lucy Thompson, a pretty, blue-eyed
girl with whom I was deeply in love. I had loved from
my earliest recollection. She was my admiration ^{in every thing} for
the fluency of her reading & the style with which she
directed her pen; not less than for her personal beauty.
I have the most vivid recollection of the fusing of dis-
pens with which I saw her trace the letter ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ my
copy-book of writing able to perform all the
gyrations that pertain to that letter.

It was in the first months of my pupilage that I
was plagued by Mr. Donoho for an offense of which I was
innocent. The rule of the school was that only two
pupils could leave the house at one time. In a

395 School of 30 or 40, it required what seemed
396 to thirsty boys just in from reaps, an unconscionably
long time for all the scholars to get out to the Spring,
and it was customary for those whose turn to go out
had not come to send bottles, jugs, or buckets by their
friends for water. I had borrowed a small earthen jug
one hot summer afternoon & sent it to the Spring by one
of my fellow-students. Whether I found when it started or
not I have no means of determining, but it returned with
a hole in its side, and tho' I had not used it except to send
it to my friend, I was charged with breaking it. What defence
I set up, or whether I attempted anything beyond a bare de-
nial of the fact, I have no recollection; but I have still a
lively recollection that ~~the~~ the master inflicted three stripes
upon my back in presence of the whole school. My re-
membrance is of the distress of feeling at being so disgraced
for an act of which I was innocent, not of any pain caused
by the whipping which was too light to have given me much

One day during reaps the tidings were brought to school
that "Mr Donoho had gone to fight the Indians & the school
was closed". I returned home with mingled emotions - of joy
at my ^{temporary} liberation from the tyranny of a school-master, and
alarm at the thought of Indian warfare which seemed to be
coming so near us.

My second teacher was an Englishman
named Chasen, and my ^{experience} ~~experience~~ with him differed but little
from that under his gentle predecessor. I sat on the hard
benches and talked most of the time when in school with my
friend J. Donoho, recited two or three times a day in my
spelling book, and found nothing in my lessons to in-
terest me and made hardly any progress in learning. It
was in my third year, I think, that I began to read
the new Testament. One book, in all that time, &
only one, I had found interesting. I would give a
good deal now to remember the title of it, but it
has been gone from my memory ^{many a year} a great many years.
It was an oasis in the midst of a desert of books.
It delighted me, & was the only book that ^{was} ~~did~~ ^{bring} ~~the~~ Gold-
smith's "Animated Nature" fell into my hands some years later.

396
But, tho' I made very little progress in
useful knowledge, I shewd myself apt in
learning the sports of the school, some
of which were not the most innocent. I was
not only one of the foremost boys ~~at school~~
of my age in all the games played, but took
a leading part at the end of Craven's term
in turning him out of school. I was one of the
ring-leaders tho' then not nine years of age, &
remember to have been reproved by one of the
girls, younger than myself, for unbecoming
language and dapped thro' a chink of the house
to the mortified teacher. An older girl, a sister
in law of the pedagogue, rather increased me in
my obscurity, but the reproof of my more youth-
ful schoolmates stung & checked me.

After Craven had been barred out of the school
room and left the country (for he went off leaving
his young wife & a child behind him), a ^{named Howard} ~~man~~,
respectably connected, but of a quick, haughty temper,
was employed to teach the children of the neighbor-
hood. Frightful stories of his severity to his scholars
had preceded him, and I entered his school room
with dread; but the year rolled round without any
acts of cruelty on his part, and with but little
mental improvement on mine. I was to be ad-
vanced now as to be able to read the New Testa-
ment, and one of the incidents which I remember
to have occurred while I was in this year, was selling
my Testament to Miss Chapin for a peach-pie, after
I had torn off its leather binding. My next teacher
was the Rev. John Wiseman, & after him John Stubblefield. At the
close of the third year of my pupilage my father removed to
Rutherford County, where I was placed under the care of W. T.
Rucker, a cultivated young man, who afterwards studied
medicine with my father.

397 This estimable gentleman commanded my
398 regard and I began under him to make some
399 advances in learning. Mr. Wiseman was a man
of talents & dignity but his manners were more
& repulsive to me. Stubbfield was a plain far-
mer who only took the school temporarily for the
accommodation of his neighbors.

In the Spring of 1818, a few months before
I was thirteen years old, I was set to study the
Latin Grammar, and at this I haunered away
in the country, reciting to Mr. Bucker or my father
fishing & shooting in the long intervals of study,
until the following December, when I was entered
a student at Bradley Academy, in Murfreesboro,
of which the Rev. Robert Henderson was tutor. My father told
me with some marks of displeasure, that Dr. Henderson
shook his head and remarked that I was a "latter back-
ward", while he ^{mentioned} ~~to~~ ^{me} my age & attainments. I felt the
truth of the remark, however, when I heard his son Ramsey,
^{who was three years my junior} ~~a few days afterwards~~, reading Xenophon with a fluency
that appeared to me wonderful, and found myself in
a class with boys five years ^{younger than} myself.

One of the most successful teachers of boys ever known
in Tennessee was my uncle, Saml P. Black, and with him
it was expected that I would pursue my classical studies, but
unfortunately for me about the time that I commenced the study
of the Latin he was elected Cashier of the Murfreesboro Bank and
gave up teaching. He was a finished scholar, of the finest literary
taste, and possessed of that patience and love of teaching without which
no one can become a successful teacher. Altho' now under his
instruction I believe I am more indebted to him than to all my
schoolmasters together for a taste for learning and the proper
direction of my studies. Dr. Henderson was a man of robust &
cultivated mind, a sound divine, and powerful pulpit orator,
but he was not an accurate scholar, and teaching was
a subordinate business with him. I attracted his attention
early by my accuracy in spelling, having risen ^{nearly to the head} ~~high~~ in the
school before the end of the first week. As a disclaimer

I made a poor figure, but I received a full 398
measure of praise for my compositions. The sub-
ject of my first essay was the Abuse of ardent
spirits, and for the matter of it I most of the
language I was indebted to one of the lectures
of Dr Rush. One of my fellow students had chosen
the same theme, and had drawn as largely as
myself from the great Philadelphia professor, but
the coincidence seems not to have struck the mind
of our venerable tutor. He not only did not advert
to the circumstance, but in reading my essay ~~and~~
returned and ^{re-read} the sentences in which, copy-
ing Dr Rush, I described the dilapidated proportions of
the drunkard, his house without window-glass, his
fields without fences, &c.

I blundered thro' the first ~~three~~ ^{two} Latin books in
the curriculum of the Academy - Caesar, Sallust,
and Virgil, (after passing ^{Saturnian} thro' the Colloquies of Cor-
derius, Aesop's Fables, & a work of Erasmus, all
of which were translated) catching only a glimpse
of their beauties and most of the time with rather
a vague idea of their meaning. When I reached
Horace I was happy enough to meet with Smart's transla-
tion, and then ~~afterwards~~ my course was easy. I read
that fine poet with delight. I was now facile princeps in
my class. I have been an advocate for translations in
the study of the languages ever since the day that I was
blessed with the sight of Smart's Horace. I wonder that
teachers are generally so opposed to their use. I had no
difficulty with Cicero's Orations; and in the Greek I got
on pleasantly because in all our books we had Latin
translations. My amiable old preceptor was ^{warm} ~~really~~
in his exhortations on my attainments in Greek.

My father's residence was over five miles from the
Academy which was thought too great a distance to ride every
day, & accordingly it was arranged that I should board at my
Uncle Black's from Monday morning till Friday eve each week.

399 It was on a Monday morning, and I

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think the 17th day of December, that I reached
this trying stage of my life. I had passed the holi-
days of many a Christmas ^{at my uncles} with my Cousins
happier than the days were long; but then I
was free to return home whenever inclination
moved me. But now I had come to stay
most of my time from home. I deemed to be banished
from home, and by Wednesday evening the exile hall
became insupportable; so, sitting out at the close
of school, I determined to walk home. On the way, I
was overtaken by Saml C. Rucker as twilight was
coming on, and kindly asked ^{me} to ride behind him as
far as he ^{was going} on my way. I reached home
about nightfall, and I believe father & mother
were both gratified to see this evidence of my
great love of home. This decided the question
of boarding me out. I was henceforward to ride
from home, and thro' cold & heat, sun & fire &
storm I kept it up as long as I was a pupil of
Bradley Academy. I was not an idle boy at any time
at this school and, in fact, had never been behind
the ^{my own} school; but it was not until after
the Christmas holidays of 1820 that I became ^{really} studious.
I was ^{in my fifteenth year} ~~then~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{in the} ~~year~~ ^{year}. I was made a student by
disappointment in love. She, who ^{in the eyes was to be} ~~was~~ ^{8 months before} the partner &
solace of my life, had returned, a blooming girl of thirteen from the ^{dear} ~~school~~ ^{school} at Saline, N.C., the fairest vision that my eyes had ^{with} ~~seen~~ ^{seen} or my
fancy ever painted. I had heard many descriptions of her person and
character from my Cousin Eliza Black before I saw her, and her mother, at
whose elegant ^{dinner} table I had ^{sat} ~~sat~~ for a year in her absence, was the loveliest
matron I had ever known. My admiration for the gentle, ~~and~~ ^{more} dignified,
mother was transformed in advance to the daughter, and I was
deeply in love with her before we met. I do not believe that ever
~~since~~ on any occasion in my ^{life} ~~life~~ ^{since} I been ^{more} agitated by
~~more~~ turbulent feelings, than ^{on} ~~on~~ the memorable evening on
which I was introduced to her by my aunt Black. She could
not have been long discovering my passion ~~before~~ ^{already}, and
for a ^{short} time ~~she~~ ^{she} returned it; but she was ^{estimated} a young

lady ^{and} ~~was~~ ^{there} already in society, much courted and
flattered while I was but a school boy with still
many ^{before me} years of ^{laborious} preparation before ~~me~~ for the ac-
tive business of life. It was therefore natural that her
flame should be short-lived. Her partiality for others
older than myself soon became ^{but too apparent to} ~~me~~ ^{my} ~~romantic~~ attachment continued ^{nevertheless} I sought
in vain to transfer my affection to others, or to over-
come it by summoning up feelings of pride and
resentment at his ^{feebleness} ~~goldsmith~~ ^{goldsmith} ~~angelic~~ ^{the} ~~deep~~ ^{deep} emotion
would not down. It was after the Christmas referred
to that I returned to my quiet home in the country after
spending with Zimmerman on Solitude in my pocket
to read down the storm of passion revived by spending
the holidays in her society. I took up the book in a spirit
of disparagement, but soon became deeply interested in
it, the fervid sentiments connected with her ^{whose charms I admired} ~~growing~~
a brighter glow to the author's sentiments & descriptions.
Study was ^{in this state of mind} ~~now~~ a necessity with me. It was only in the
charms of literature that I could forget my hopeless
fascinations. I read to forget it, or to alleviate the passion of loss
by paying my imagination with poetic images. I do not
remember by what chance it was that I was led to bor-
row Johnson's Lives of the Poets from Samuel B. Saughlin, Esq.,
but I obtained possession of that splendid work soon after
~~I had read~~ ^{completed} Zimmerman, and the delight with which I
read it was intense. After the Lives of the Poets came the
Poets themselves, and I luxuriated ^{for many months} in the pages of Milton, Pope,
Swift, Gray, Dryden, & Goldsmith. I had ascended into a higher
region of enjoyment. I read with avidity & delight. From that
day forward - the day when, sad & workful but not dejected, I
turned my back upon that gay skating party at Kempford -
to lose remembrance of the delicious scenes ~~which I had~~ ^{which I had} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ
books - I was a student. Then I began to acquire knowledge.
The use of books remained with me still. Up to that time I
had read a good deal for a boy, not stimulated to read
by a variety of books. Among others, I had read, in the vaca-
tions of the school, most of the Spectator, some small school
histories, and two or three volumes of Ruskin's works; but, except
the coarse lines in the Spectator, which the frail lady was
required to repeat as they were the "black room" in order to
repair her profits, ~~for the purpose~~ I cannot now remember

401 / a single passage in prose or verse which
I committed to memory before the ~~period~~ ^{period} ~~up~~ ^{up} ~~to~~ ^{to}.
I had committed more than one speech to memory
~~one of which I had~~
~~and had~~ ^{spoken} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ public; but all
have faded out of my mind as completely as
the talk with which I killed away the dull hours with
my playmates in school. All that I gained in edu-
cational knowledge up to this time was but the scaffolding,
or more properly, the foundation of my education.

Much of syntax & prosody I had learned, something of the struc-
ture of Greek & Latin, something of Arithmetic, and a good deal
of the orthography of my own language, but I was destitute
of literary information. In the years that immediately
succeeded I must have made good use of my time,
for when at Lexington in 1823, ~~and before~~ ^{and before} ~~I had reached~~
~~only three years afterwards~~, ^{my letters} ~~much~~ ^{should} ~~Black~~
~~declared that~~ ^{was the} ~~finest~~ ^{finest} ~~talented~~ ^{talented} ~~Scholar~~
~~in the country~~ - a compliment to which I ^{was} ~~was~~
~~very far from being~~ ^{justly} ~~justly~~ ^{entitled}, but one evin-
cing the high estimate of my attainments formed
by the most literary man in ^{our} ~~that~~ ^{neighborhood} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~County~~.

It is surprising to me, as I look back upon my first years
at school and remember how slowly ^a ~~my progress~~ ⁱⁿ ~~learning~~ ^{that}
my father should have been satisfied with my ^{progress} ~~accomplishment~~.
But I have reason to know that he not only was not discour-
aged but on the contrary was proud of my capacity. Col. Martin,
who was a man of shrewd observation & large experience of the world,
^{good natured} ~~had~~ ^{told} ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~many~~ ^{many} ~~a~~ ^a ~~time~~ ^{time} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~father~~ ^{father} ~~perceived~~
~~eyes detected~~ ^{marks} ~~marks~~ ^{of} ~~of ^{mind} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~my~~ ^{my} ~~boyhood~~ ^{boyhood} ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~could~~ ^{could} ~~never~~
see. I suppose that as I kept pace with the moving columns he con-
cluded that I must be advancing well. In truth, there was nothing
in the apparatus or system of those schools to favor mental ac-
tivity or progress. My only book for at least one mortal year was
Webster's Spelling book, and of instruction in anything from my
teachers I had absolutely none. Spelling was my sole business
during all the months of the first year of my pupilage - the
spelling of syllables, of words as void of meaning to my boyish
understanding. From early morning till noon, & from 2 in
the afternoon till ~~the~~ ^{near} ~~sun~~ ^{sun} ~~set~~ ^{set}, spelling book in hand,
with nothing to engage my mind ^{but} ~~but~~ ^{the} ~~the ^{long} ~~long ^{columns} ~~columns ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~meaning~~
less words. It is not wonderful that ^{made} ~~made~~ ^{so} ~~so ^{little} ~~little ^{proficiency} ~~proficiency~~ ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~and~~
but for the companionship of my friend, J. P. Donohoe, I do not~~~~~~~~~~~~

now see how I could have lived thro' the 402
tedium of those long days on those hard benches.

About the first of March 1822 I quitted Dr Henderson's School having been under his care a little more than three years. Mr John R. Wilson, a student of my father's, took a school of boys & girls near us, and I wasted about three months with him committing to memory Euclid's Elements of Geometry. Except as an exercise of memory I derived no profit from the study of Euclid, for I am pretty sure that I never comprehended one of his theorems. Besides myself there were at this school a number of lads approaching towards manhood, and as we sat in a little log cabin remote from the school-house most of our time was spent in disputes about the relative speed of our forebonds. It was not long before I began to feel uncomfortable at this mode of spending my time, and accordingly about the middle of June I proposed to my father to enter upon the study of medicine. It was to this profession that my mind had been turned from my earliest boyhood. Indeed I cannot remember the time when I was not ^{in the family} spoken of as an embryo doctor, and all my studies had been directed with reference to the medical profession. My father placed in my hands as an introduction to the study of anatomy Do-
mestic Medicine, saying, that "the youngest student would be expected to know as much about the practice as the old women". My attention was next directed to Chemistry, but in the absence of all instruction & means of illustration

Education from the hands in Government. 9th copy 18.6

London: Printed by the late printer in the Aldgate - 18.5

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Laurea - How prepared for diet -

403 I was soon involved in as profound a
darkness as that which overtook me in my attempt
to master Euclid. I could see my way as far as
complex affinity, but after that all was night and
I gave up the study in disgust. During the follow-
ing winter I read Bell's Anatomy in two vol-
umes, and here too I groped in darkness
nearly all my way, as every student is
obliged to do who studies anatomy without
plates or the subject. While engaged in this
unprofitable study of anatomy I read Robin's
Ancient History, and have to make the lament-
able confession that the time thus spent was hardly
more profitable. I had not then discovered that I have
no memory for historical events. I retained no distinct
knowledge of Robin's narrative, and today am
as ignorant, for all that I can discover, of the em-
pires of which he wrote as if I had never read
his history. The summer following I was a diligent
if not a ~~for~~ successful reader. Much of the time
it was my practice to read twelve hours a day.
From the time that my good old preceptor, Dr. D.
bestowed so much unmerited praise upon my first
composition I took pleasure in writing, and this sum-
mer I indulged in it largely. Among my school friend-
ships that for ^{some} ~~an~~ ^{years} ~~centuries~~, withy had several years
older than myself, ~~John H. D.~~ was the most ardent,
and for several years after he parted our correspond-
ence was close & voluminous. I wrote letters to him
of the most unconscionable length - letters of 16 pages ^{from copy}
full of sentiment, love, & all such matter as usually
make the staple of a young man's letters. This I now
deed of abnormal life, extracted from works on that point. A. 10.

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[illegible]

405 attraction I was not at my ease and had
39 begun to wish myself out of such a crowd.
Presently a pause occurred in the singing, &
the master rose and directing his looks towards
me called out "Strafer! Come down here. We
want to see you." This struck me as an intoler-
able insult. I thought the fellow meant to make sport
of me before his whole school, and in my indignat-
ion I quickly replied "I didn't ^{come} here, Sir, to be
looked at," and indignantly stalked out of the
house. I was immediately followed by two or three
cousins apologising for the rudeness of the song-
ing-master, and explaining that a female
cousin sitting near him had expressed a wish
to see me, and that he had taken this ungracious
method to convey her wishes to me. But I was
too thoroughly mortified & affronted to receive any
apology, and morning ~~my horse~~ ^{my horse}, Pompey, rode
back with Carter Tommy to his father's. This
was all ungracious enough, but it was not the
worst of that morning as soon as I could get my
breakfast I sought out the obscure dwelling of
old Tombs, whose rascality had imposed so
much trouble upon my father & afterwards in-
volved me & my brothers & sisters so much loss, &
having obtained the signature of his claustrous
to the deed, descended the Ridge without visiting
my aged grandfather & grand mother, or one of
my uncles. I wonder now that I could have felt
such indifference to these dear people whom now
I would, if alive, ^{ride} many miles to see. But it was
homesickness that caused my unnatural behavior.
I had never before been so far from home, and
felt thoroughly desolate & wretched in the society of
"the Ridge."

Having now spent a winter & two been 406
more reading Medicine I was deemed fit to at-
tend Medical Lectures, & accordingly on the 20th of
Oct 1823 I set out for Lexington in company with two
young friends, John R. Wilson & Arthur Bays, also students
of medicine. The weather was fine, and the journey was one
of great interest to me. On the last night of our journey at
Shakertown, on the Kentucky river, where we attended one of the
religious meetings of this deluded people. I was deeply im-
pressed by their violent bodily exercise & wild songs.

I bore letters of introduction to three of the Medi-
cal professors, Caldwell, Blythe, & Brown. The appearance
of mammals & conversation of the former took me captive
at once. I had never before met with so splendid a
man. His reception was as cordial as I could
asked, and far more paternal than I could have
expected. There was nothing in the bearing of Dr
Blythe to please. He was grotesque in appearance,
cold & stiff in manners, and figid in conversation.
Dr Brown was a man of fine colloquial powers,
of a graceful address, and a memory which
never forgot a face or a name. But neither
of these charmed me as did Dr Caldwell. I availed
myself of his kind invitation to visit him often,
and five days passed while I was in Lexington
that I did not spend an hour in his study. His
style of conversation was so different from anything
I had ever heard before that I listened to him as to
an oracle. I was at once a convert to Phrenology
which formed the leading topic of his lectures, and de-
voted too much of the winter to its study. If I had
chanced to take the fancy to Dudley or Drake that I
did to Caldwell I should have left the knowledge of medi-
cine gratified for the practice of medicine & surgery
than I was after four months very laborious
study. I was a student that winter. Besides the six
public lectures which I attended daily I attended the pri-
vate lectures of Caldwell, Dudley, & Kelley, President of the
University - the latter on Mental Philosophy - making
for at least four days in the week, nine hours a day
in the lecture room. This extended into the night,

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and two or three hands were then devoted to trans-
cribing my notes of the lectures. This was too much
for my constitution & I became a confirmed dyspeptic. Among
my friends -
the boarders went by the name of the Secretary.