

Washington Aug 4th 1826

Dear Sir

It is now six months nearly since I received your last letter. I wrote you before, sooner, considerably, than, in order, I should have done. This time, there was no particular reason, except that plaguay greek, why I should write soon. I therefore put it off from week to week, which I was induced to do the more readily, from a consciousness that I had not failed, before, in this respect, as well as a secret apprehension, that when I should write I would have to write largely. Your Greek I have not been able to find in its connexion. But the translation I would give is, "The best development is when, as in the Oedipus, the catastrophe takes place at the same time. For there are developments of different kind. A development may take place in reference to things inanimate, & events that are merely casual. And the development is equally such, whether the subject of it be action or not."

My reasons for this translation of the passage you sent me from "the Staggyrite" must remain with myself. I could not indeed give them without filling the remainder of this sheet, which would be irksome to us both. For the future I must say "sine cortice nabis."

The dysentery rages here. Three of our students have been taken off; two, Mitchell (of Paris) & D. Ashen, by this disease, & Taylor by the consumption. The death-bed experience

of young A. who, you know, was but a child, was truly astonishing beyond any thing I have ever known. If Mr Linnings' sermon on the occasion will be published, as I hope it will, I shall send you a copy. Our youngest child is now under the influence of the same disorder, & I can hardly expect its recovery. I am almost exhausted with anxiety & watching.

Our college is in "statu quo." A correspondence is going on between professor Scott & Mr Duncan, of Paris, relative to the principalship of the Academy there. I expect we shall lose him, either by the issue of this correspondence or on some other occasion, soon. He is unhappy here, in consequence of unpleasant reminiscences belonging to, or arising out of his matrimonial manœuvres. That was an unfortunate business. This is "inter nos." — If he goes, we shall not, I fear, be able, readily, to supply his place. In short, I am not sanguine in my expectations respecting our college. But I shall not give it up hastily. Another reason why I anticipate the loss of Scott, is, that he has been neutralised by certain prospects held out to him by the tempter, I do not mean Satan, but a near relative of his at Inf. Col. I gave you a hint of this, before you left us. Since, I have been confirmed in my suspicions by the growing intimacy & visits which have taken place between them; & indeed by the candid admissions of Scott himself. Millar is growing old.

— But "a watched pot is long a boiling" & perhaps our friend may think "a bird in the hand worth two in the bush." Indeed, if he should leave us, I would not blame him all things being considered; though I should regret it, for Scott himself is a man for whom I feel a sincere attachment. But I think his rushing into matrimony without consulting those whom he had a right to consider his best friends & who had an opportunity of forming

a more correct opinion than he could do on the subject, was to say the least, a manifestation of such a want of prudence, especially after the experience he had but a short time before of the danger of things of this sort, as lessened my opinion of his good sense very considerably.

I send you, by this mail a copy of a discourse delivered on the 4th of July last. If you have already been furnished with a copy from any of your friends here, send this one where you may think it will do the most good. The thing did not undergo but a very short process of gestation before it saw the light, & according to analogy I should suppose it will not live long.

But "no nostrage debemus morti;" & I think I can sincerely say that I feel more & more sensibly the vanity of life & of all earthly things; but whether from right principles is another question. May God be merciful to you & bless you.

Yours, sincerely

A. W. P.

to Mr. W. P.



Recd 11th August.
Under the umbrella
in depot

Mr. Wm. W. G. G. G.
Denton

Ohio