

Bloom. Dec^r 3^d 1845

Dear Son:

Because you do not get frequent letters from home think not that you are "out of mind." No: far otherwise. You are in our hearts and in our prayers daily. I am no less anxious for your wellbeing than for that of any other of my children and I am sure I feel far more concern for them than myself. But I can do but little. If I had millions and the bestowing of it would avail I would give it freely. But it is not money that will answer — and if it would, I have it not. I am, and expect to be, poor. To make the end of the year meet is as much as I can do. The funds of the Institution are in a disordered and precarious state. My last quarter has been due more than a month and nothing can be got. It is very likely that there will be a curtailing perhaps entire suspension of payments for some time. I must therefore act with caution. Your books — which, though you have written me nothing to that effect — I suppose, have been received — and books ordered for Sam — amounting together to \$150 I must pay for in the course of the year. An old debt with interest incurred to Johnston, at first of \$500 is yet to be paid to the Bank of Bedford to which he assigned it: 100 and upward yet remains to be paid. The expenses of the family are great. So that even if my salary should be paid it is doubtful whether I could set you on your feet again — unless indeed I should resort to a forced sale of property which in present circumstances would be to make a great sacrifice. Yet that must be done rather than leave you to pine in prison or to be doing nothing and to be unable to get away is to be

in prison. Where you could go to is also a serious & difficult question. I have thought of Lafayette - and other plans. Possibly however your prospects where you are are by this time beginning to brighten. If not you would perhaps do well to try some other employment where you are for the winter which would enable you if not to get out of debt, not to get further in. - What you have found out respecting the population of your city is true to the letter of mankind the world over with a few exceptions they care only for themselves; to get and to keep are their two main cares. And to some extent this is right. For every man is to himself No. 1. and those who have families must besides care for them. - I am glad that you have discovered the fallaciousness of those notions with which you set out. I saw that they were too high. You have it may be some further lessons yet to learn. What the Bible says of them that will be rich is confirmed by all experience. All cannot be rich. It may be the will of God that you should be poor: if so be assured that will be the best for you and to submit to it, however hard the lesson will be easier than any other way you can take. Consider this well. "Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven and the righteousness thereof and all these things shall be added unto you" is the best counsel that can be given to any, to those sitting out in life especially. - We had a long letter from Andrew lately. His Kentucky lands he found to be - gone. He is more of a fool than I think him to be, if he is much disappointed. I had also a letter from his wife lately: she is at her father's - he in Pittsburg trying might & main, to bring back his business. He & the rest of you, I know, regard my views on certain things as too

severe & old-fashioned. I know they are true. I refer to what is called high life riches and pleasure & all that. Caroline is one of the loveliest and best of all that I have ever seen of that class to which she belongs. Yet sooner or later she must discard certain notions feelings & views with regard to this present evil world or it will be worse for her & him also in the end. On this subject I have feelings which I cannot express. — Slavery is an Institution which has in it a blasting withering influence. The Curse is wrapped up in it. I wish my children to keep aloof from it. I fear I did wrong in sending you to Louisville. I should not however do the like again. — The Quakers have their peculiarities. So have all sects and classes. They have many excellent qualities however. Learn to view them on the side of these. They are clannish. So are the sects of every name. I am some what of an Eclectic. I expect to find some good every where and do not hope to find it all any where — not even in The Church for there are silly people & bad people no doubt even in The Church. I formed a good opinion of Judge Staunton. Give him my respects — & to his family my thankful remembrances — On the whole — as to your self — you must do as you think best. It is hard I am aware to push one's way into any of the professions they are so crowded. Some succeed beyond expectation and get employment at once, perhaps because they are not choice of their company nor care much where they begin. Young Murphy for instance has got into business more than he can do — but it is in a place where one of refined feelings must be very unhappy. So, inter nos, I think it would have been with you at Torre Haute. — where Graf. Cookerly flourishes.

Dodd has got one patient, a student with a sore leg - but he will get more by & by - The family are well - all in glee with hog-killing - sausage chopping - fat-boiling. so that it is now getting dark and dinner is not yet. - Write soon and say more definitely how you are - how much it will require to get you away from among the Quakers &c &c
 Your afftⁿ father A Wyllie

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Bloomington Ind
 Dec 3

Dr John Wyllie

Richmond

Indiana



My shoulder is not swelling right yet - I don't suppose it will ever be - but it don't hinder me from doing the most of what I have to do with tolerable comfort.
 Yr afftⁿ