

Bloomington March 14th 1846

Dear Son.

We are glad that it has pleased the Almighty arbiter of our destinies, to restore you to a state of convalescence such as gives promise that we may see you again in good health. Dr Dodd's letter, received yesterday cheers us with this hope. As to the plans he suggests I cannot advise. You must use your discretion & his. I will suggest some things for your consideration. W D. & Sam. know the state of the roads. Would it not expose you to the danger of relapse to come home in the stage which goes all night? Would it not be better then for Sam to leave you so soon as you think it safe and come with Dr Dodd and return for you in the buggy or some covered vehicle & so return making easy stages and avoiding the danger of the damp night air? He could ride your horse home & so save stage-fare. Or might not the horse be sold at Richmond: so that should you think of locating at Cincinnati, as I suggested in my last letter - in which case you will not need a horse - the proceeds of the sale will help to pay your debts. Possibly it would be even advisable to sell your books - they can be replaced when you are settled - rather than be at the expense of carrying them about with you. Probably, too, I may think it expedient myself to go early in the vacation to Richmond to settle up your affairs. that is if you think still of leaving that place. - I make these suggestions. Dr Dodd Sam. & your other friends at Richmond (if you have any there whose opinion you would value in these matters) can consider them and then do as shall be thought best.

We are all well. We will see that Dr Dodd's family wait for nothing till his return.

Give my best respects to W Fiske. I shall add a postscript which

I am can tear off and hand him.

It will occur to you that your affliction has not "grown out of the ground," but has come from some cause and besides has been sent for some end important to you which without ^{it} could not have been accomplished & whether it shall answer this or not will depend on yourself. But as of yourself you can do nothing it will be your duty humbly to look to God for grace to enable you to use it aright. David said it was good for him that he had been afflicted: & Jeremiah says It is good for a man that he bear the yoke (by which affliction is meant) in his youth. These truths have been verified in the experience of men in all ages. I am thoroughly convinced of them myself. There are two errors to be guarded against in such cases: the one is that of thinking lightly of afflictions, suffering them merely but not considering them: the other is that of brooding over them in a gloomy desponding way. The one St. Paul calls despising the chastening of the Lord; the other fainting when rebuked of him. See Heb. XII. 5. The whole chapter I would earnestly recommend to your prayerful attention so soon as you are so far recovered as to be capable of meditation. As to the physical cause of your disease I have conjectured thus: You had, as I saw by a Richmond Paper, been requested to make a speech on some public occasion - you confined yourself too closely while preparing it and so took not that amount of bodily exercise necessary. This of course is but a guess.

We expect W. D. sometime next week. If however any delay for any cause should detain him we expect he or Sam. will write. All send their love & it would be great pleasure to them to see you reinstated in health which may God grant you soon to be.

W. L. H. Weyer

Your affl. father J. W.