

Indiana, June 30th
The weather is so bad that I cannot go out. I would have gone to Richmond from the Convention with a view to your case. As I am weak from the effects of ardi-
um, which however has now nearly left me, and as the road is so bad, and the weather, I have concluded to return home on Monday.
You and mother & the rest of the family are exceedingly anxious that you should come home & be nursed. So indeed am I. But yet there are considerations on the other side not to be overlooked. Were you at home, & nothing to do, your mind would turn in & prey upon itself. And it would be difficult for you to get into any train of thought & action which would give your mind a healthy action. With this view of the matter Mr Fiske concurs. In short, let me earnestly entreat you to look upon this event (I mean your sickness) as being, on the part of God, sent for a gracious purpose — sent to teach you your dependence on Him; to call off your desires from earthly things & to turn them into the channel of pious resignation, Faith & Hope & a Divine Charity. The message had not been sent had you not needed it. You were in danger greater than common & it required a greater means than common to rescue you. You were, though you may not have perceived it, beloved by the family & by almost every body. Your talents and personal appearance were more in your favor than is common with young men. In your case also there was a native modesty which spoke in your favor. Nothing was wanting to encourage & justify ambitious aspirations. You probably felt these too strongly. This I infer from the fact that, as you say, your life has not been a happy one. There were many things in your life, I mean as to its circumstances calculated to render it happy compared with the most. Compared with what was mine it was highly prosperous & fortunate. Through

the whole course of my youth up to manhood I was
acquainted with privation labor & hardship. By teaching
at intervals, first in the primary school then in one of a
higher grade then in an Academy then as tutor in college
I gained the scanty means which enabled me with the
most rigid economy to complete my education. You were
brought up in ease and affluence compared with the state
in which I was placed. If outward circumstances were able
to give happiness you would have been happy, as happy
certainly as the most favored & fortunate. But they are
not. Of this I am quite sure that happiness is in the mind
And of this I am also sure that He who said "Come unto
me all ye that are weary & heavy-laden & I will
give you rest," can confer true happiness to the
mind. He by his teaching puts the mind at ease by
satisfying its Essential wants and placing it a
bove its Enemies. See W. Fiske. He is happy in
the religion of Christ with nothing almost but
this to make him so. And indeed this is one of
the Marks of truth which every thinking person
must perceive in the religion of Christ that it is
suited to the wants of our Moral nature & that
it gives to this moral nature a noble aim & ex-
ercise. If, then, my Dear Son, this visitation of your
Heavenly Father be sanctified as a means of detaching
your desires so far from worldly objects of pursuit as that
they shall no longer be regarded as necessary to your
happiness - no longer adhered to & loved with an idol-
atrous affection - no longer put in the place of God
but only sought from Him & in humble submission
to His Holy will - if, I say this present visitation be
so blessed to you and improved by you as to have this
effect, you will have reason to thank God forever &
ever for sending it & should it please Him in whose
hand our life & breath are to remove you by means
of it out of this world your surviving friends will not
have cause to mourn as those who have no hope
Mean time I desire you would make use of the

best means that you can for the restoration of your health. Of medicine I know but little, & in truth I have little confidence in its power in such cases as yours. Diet & exercise in the proper time & degree with your naturally vigorous constitution & temperate habits may effect a cure. While with us at home I observed a tendency to inert - indolent, ways I will not call them for indolence is in the mind. Your languor had its origin in the body. Still the effort of mental energy rousing ~~itself~~ may drive off the torpor of the body. But while I hope you will take regular exercise every day when the weather is favorable I would protest most earnestly against your exposing yourself to the night air want of your necessary rest. I am in hopes that by using your strength & not abusing it, you will gain more & more & that the degree of engagement & interest you will feel in the performance of your professional duties (so far as you may feel it prudent to engage in them) may be of use as a wholesome stimulus to the mind. But for this single consideration I should agree with your mother & the rest of the family in the propriety of your coming home. — This is Sunday morning & I must now cease teasing you & prepare for the public duties of the day. I have written you no news. That you can learn from Mr Fiske.

Praying continually — not for your recovery — that may not be on the whole best for you — that will be best which will be most for your eternal salvation — but that God would have you in his holy keeping & prepare you for his Eternal Kingdom I am

Your afft father

A. W. Fiske

Dr John A Wylie

Richmond

Dear Sir
Yours
J. A. Wylie

