

The Gazette

MONTREAL

April 1st, 1959

Dr. W. W. Francis,
The Osler Library,
McGill University,
Montreal.

Dear Dr. Francis,

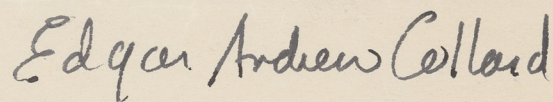
I am so very pleased to have the verses by Tennyson. Not only is it of interest to me to read them (as I had never seen them before) but they express so completely the theme I had in mind.

Your other references to Osler's remarks on wisdom and humility are a treasure.

It was a great pleasure for me to meet you again, and to experience once more your wonderful graciousness and learning.

With all my best thanks and good wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Edgar Andrew Collard
Editor

EAC:jc

OSLER LIBRARY,
13th Nov., 1943.

The Reverend Sister St. George,
College of Notre-Dame,
Congrégation de Notre-Dame,
4873 Westmount Ave.,
Montreal.

Dear Madam,

b At the suggestion of our good friend Miss McCrory, I am glad to give the accompanying manuscript to your College. It is an illustrated ^{mini} copy, in its original vellum binding, of the liturgical Order for the Taking of the Veil. In the Venetian style, it was written almost certainly in Northern Italy and, I think, in the 18th or perhaps the 17th century. If one could identify the three coats of arms they would probably tell us the convent which originally owned it and which may not have survived the Napoleonic Wars. The third one probably is the arms of Urban VIII, having the Papal crown and the three bees(?) of his family, the Barberini, like those on the baldacchino (which he gave) of the high altar of St. Peter's. But he died in 1644 and the writing looks more recent than that. Also the first coat of arms, with the Austrian double eagle, suggests the next century.

It was given to me by my uncle Sir William Osler to whom it came with some 17th-century medical diplomas, written in similar style, in which he was more interested and which are now here in his library.

Please accept it as a token of my admiration for the history and good work of your Order and of my gratitude for a very interesting afternoon we librarians spent at St. Gabriel's Farm a few years ago.

Yours sincerely,

W.W.F.

W. W. Francis, M.D.

OSLER LIBRARY,
5 Sept., 1950.

Mr. James B. Colton, II,
63 Academy Road,
Albany 3,
New York,
U. S. A.

Dear Jim Colton,

In "Bulletin of the History of Medicine", July-Aug.
(just come), there's a good article, vol. 24, pp. 352-77, by
Harry Keil, of N. Y. Post Grad. Med. School, "The historical
relationship between the concept of tumor and the ending
-oma." It includes an enlightening history of "apostema",
pp. 358-60, with a paragraph on its meaning in the Middle Ages.
Have you access to that Journal? If not I'll have the
paragraph copied for you.

Theodoric, e.g., 1498, Bk. 5, ch. 5, fol. 97, classes
some varieties of cancer as apostema melancholicum, and he
(ch. 5, fol. 126) and others discuss cancer under two heads,
first as apostema and ~~reasonably~~ as ulceration.

scarcely
I haven't found Galen on pulsating veins yet.

Nice to meet your family. We did enjoy having them.
I lost my heart to Susan and her hearty appetite. Next time
she comes there'll be TWO frigidaires trays of ice cream.

W. L. F.

WLF:ed

Colton

63 Academy Road, Albany 3.
Saturday, Oct. 7, 1950.

Dear Dr. Francis,

The other day we sent off a St. Nicholas anthology in your direction, with the hope that it would please you, though belated. The little address sticker inside the cover and the check marks here and there are, I admit, to make it second-hand and avoid the duty. If this does not turn out so, I should like to know. No one in Albany, least of all the post office people, could tell me how to prepay the duty, and all consulted said, "That's silly; read it yourself and send it off. It will be second-hand." So it is such, and I hope you will not mind, having delighted in association with the books of men of consequence. After all is said, the book is the thing; and this seems to me quite charming and nostalgic. ~~###~~ Take out the sticker; there is no nostalgia about that!

Your loan of the Blankaart has eased my task in a hundred ways. And the old fashioned phraseology is not the least of its virtues. I give thanks every time I use it.

We have finished book one and are beginning on the second. Sometimes I wonder if life will last till we finish all four. On the day we do, I shall get drunk, if perception be not already so dull as to make it a waste of money.

School has started in at its usual rapid rate. I have one class in first year Latin, three in Caesar, one in Cicero, and one in Vergil. When one adds the conference periods (2) and a half hour for lunch, the time to pick up Teddy and do a paragraph or so just never seems to come round, though I take him~~#~~ to school nearly every day, in hopes of a spare moment.

Enclosed you will find a snap~~#~~ of Chuck in his Academy uniform. This is the way he and Tommy look, nowadays. You never saw such shining of shoes, pressing of pants, or hours spent in fashioning neckties. I must say that I enjoy it, though I don't care for uniforms, or uniformity, either.

By now you must know of Dr. Brown's passing, last week. The family all went down to Baltimore, except Tommy, who stayed with us. It has been a

63 Academy Road, Albany 3.
Saturday, Oct. 7, 1950.

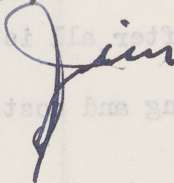
long trial for all.

The weather has now taken a change for the better, and we have fine days, with only the nights and the declining sun to remind us that the fall is really here.

Do write to me when you have time. Every note is a new charge for my battered battery.

The whole outfit joins me in cordial greetings to you and Mrs. Francis.

Yours,



6 Sept., 1950
A.A.

Dear Dr. Francis,

Just a line while I am proctoring an entrance examination.

We all had a wonderful time in Montreal, and of course the high point was the dinner at your house. The children and Ruth have not yet ceased to talk about it. I cannot thank you enough for taking us all in as you did, and on such short notice. Mrs. Francis is a dear. But you know that of course.

Ruth has just stopped by and delivered your letter. I shall call Cam to see if he has the "Bulletin". If not, I am sure that the Med. Sch. Library has, or can get it. Thank you for calling our attention to it. It sounds most enlightening. This man Keil, by the way, has asked us to speak in December (I believe) on Theodorin at the N.Y. Academy. It's a small world.

I hope to finish Bk. I before school starts (Sept. 19).

In Bk. I, chaps. XX + XXI, Theodorin uses nervos over and over in a way which makes it (I think) difficult to translate it as muscle. He keeps referring to the connection which the nervos have with the cerebrum. This makes me all the more uneasy about one of those chapters which I left with you. When you get to it, will you read it with the possibility of nerve in mind, rather than muscle, and tell me what you think?

Time to start a new test.

Yours,
Jim

Postmarked
26. V. 5

Dear Doctor Francis,

As Flaviennus said. Is my face red.

Really, my intentions were of the best. Apparently it was not the heat but the stupidity.

Herewith I have enclosed my best efforts at a facsimile of that strange passage. My calligraphy would never pass for a scribe. I am tempted to do something such as:

for since good wine, as Phy (?) says, has to be generated into blood directly (with nothing in between, as it were), good blood is the substance of flesh. However, the generator, and the craftsman, so to speak, is Nature: Therefore I say (whatever others may proclaim) that the surgeon wishing to cure wounds ought to have hope principally in the two (^{blood &} good wine + nature?); first and especially in the former in whose keeping rest life and death, ^{heals what is pierced and repairs what is wounded} which pierces and heals, wounds and repairs; second, in Nature; only since Nature can accomplish nothing whether in small wounds or in large ones without nourishment which generates good blood, one ought, as has been said, to ~~also~~ prescribe for the patient ^{hard} foods which produce good chyme, in order that Nature may be enabled, et c. —

What I may have passed along as text can well be doubtful, and I kept no copy of what I sent you. I took the qui in 8 to refer to the blood, though how it pierces and wounds I wit not. Perhaps its antecedent illo(?) means the Almighty, though he has not been called on recently.

that line(?) at the end of 8 occurs fairly frequently at the end of lines, but I have taken it to be a rather nondescript kind of abbreviation, sometimes for ~~the~~-lis, etc.

Handnote #2 arrived today and I am astonished and tickled with your findings. As you suggested earlier, many prescriptions could best be filled in the brewery with the aid of some red ink from the library or counting house and soap from the laundry. That aque luminosa is a dilly. I can't help but wonder if he means phosphorescent water obtained either by alchemy or perhaps from some natural source where algae predominate. Of course, sea water is sometimes phosphorescent, and he uses aqua marina in other places.

Well, there are papers to correct.
I have enjoyed the chat. Yours, Jim Colton

1 Sz ęlitas faciēdi ex eis unguētū ē vt lięfiat cer.
olei cōi: deīn supponant pulveres medicatę: 2 fiat ex eis
unguētū: 3 nečitas ę

- 1 C Et ex medicinis carnē gñantib⁹ 2 2glutinantibus
- 2 3m magistrū Hugonē p̄dictū virū: nihil laudabili⁹
- 3 bono vino: bonū vinū enī sicut dicit Phyl. Quasi nullo
- 4 medio cū sit in sanguinē generāde carnis mā est bonus
- 5 5 sanguis. gñans aut 2 ęfi artifex ē nā: ęre dico qcquid ęly
- 6 cantet ęp ī duob⁹ 03 p̄cipalr cyrurgicū volētē curare
- 7 vulnera spē h̄re. In illo p̄mo 2 p̄cipue in cui⁹ manu vitę 2
- 8 mors 2sistit: ę pcutit 2 sanat vulnerat 2 medet. Scđariol
- 9 nā: vñ cū nā absq̄ nutrimento boni sanguis gñativo tā in
- 10 parvis ę in magnis vulnerib⁹ nihil p̄fecte^{valeat} ępari: 03
- 11 Cibaria laudabilia boni chimi gñativa: sicut ~~dr~~ dr miffrare ifirmo
- 12 vt natura sufficiēs sit ad carnis generationē etc.

9/10 really put
and the Francis

disregard verso's time re
belonging 11
from which P.

63 Academy Road,
Albany 3, New York.

April 10th, 1950.

Dear Dr. Francis:

Cam and I have finished our first draft through Chapter Ten.

In the process, some of the problems which vexed me in the first four chapters have come clear, particularly in the cases of individual words. But I am still rather at a loss to know in every case when a quotation ends, although it seems to me that often they are not really quotations so much as references. Cam has lent me his copy of J.R. Coxe's epitomes from Hippocrates and Galen, and that has been of great help in beginning my education in the true importance of such things as humours, bodily constitution, purges, bandages and the like. In another twenty years, with persistent study, I may be fit, deo volente, to undertake this work.

Will you return the copy of the prologue and chapters 1-10 ?

I want to go over them in the light of what I have learned since, together with whatever comments you may have been able to make. Thereby we can arrive at a kind of uniformity, I hope, which we can pursue throughout the remainder. And, in addition, we shall have a unit to present for consideration, something which I should like to do in the near future.

When we were in Montreal, Mrs. Francis asked if I had pictures with me of our children. I did not, so am enclosing one taken just before they set out for the annual costume ball of the local dancing class. Chuck is 11 and Susan 8 years old.

Spring seems more reluctant and tantalizing than ever this year, whether because of peculiar weather, my age, or the Democratic administration I do not know. I hope this finds you both well and ready to welcome the summer.

Yours,

James B. Colton

April 19, 1950.
63 Academy Road,
Albany 3, New York.

Dear Dr. Francis,

Yours of the 18th is at hand and a source of great comfort and encouragement to me. I have already gone through the translation and text quickly, and though I find, as you indicated I would, confirmation of lessons that I learned in 5 through 10, there are in addition many examples of such skill and insight as to make me ever more grateful to you, and most appreciative and admiring.

I had hoped that you would be willing to read more of our conjectures, and therefore hasten to add that as soon as I can digest your comments on 1-4 and apply them to 5-10, I shall forward a copy of those to you.

Please accept my thanks for the hours you must have spent over our product. When the school year ends and things slow up a little, I hope that I can come to Montreal and discuss Theodoric face to face with you.

We have had encouraging news from the N.Y. Academy of Medicine. It would appear that they will be really interested when they can read a substantial piece of our hero's magnum opus. I hope to have Book I done by June. But in the meantime I must get six classes ready for examinations and coach a little baseball. Poor Theodoric doesn't get me when I'm fresh, I'm sure.

How I wish I could do what you can do!

Yours,

Jim Colton

OSLER LIBRARY,
18 April, 1950.

Mr. James B. Colton, II,
63 Academy Road,
Albany 3,
New York,
U. S. A.

Dear Jim Colton,

Herewith chs. 1-4 of Theoderic in photostat, transcript and translation. As Galen and Avicenna both say, "He who has kept it so long might be supposed to have tested every word", but I haven't. And no doubt if you have got through ch. 10 you are by now much better able to revise 1-4 than I. However, you will see my scrawl here and there and a few of the suggestions may prove legible and almost helpful.

As far as I can judge you have done much better with the medieval medical jargon than could be reasonably expected of a Ciceronian layman. The main thing now is to put it into idiomatic English, without worrying too much about the meaning. To translate the words is one thing, their contemporary connotation is another!

Abolish quotation marks. You can be quite sure that G. and A. no more used the words Th. ascribes to them than the ones I do above. The indirect method, as Hippoc. says, is the only safe one, and you don't have to know where the alleged quotation ends. The whole work is probably 90 or 99 per cent quotation anyway.

The picture of the bonny bairns is delightful, of the fockey and the Bo-peep. Don't tell Chuck that I hate horseback. I'd rather fly; and rather walk or swim (any distance) than fly. On the other hand I adore lamb and shepherdesses.

Mrs. F. joins me in greetings to you and Cam and in hopes of re-seeing you.

Let me be of any (further?) help I can, reading chapters or cracking nutty nuts, and I'll try not to be so retentive next time!

Yours sincerely,

L. W. T.

WWF:ed
Encl:-

23rd ranked nut #2. for prescription

OSLER LIBRARY,
16 May, 1950.

Mr. James B. Colton, II,
63 Academy Road,
Albany 3,
New York,
U. S. A.

Dear Phrontisticus,

You must love Cam and his family almost as much as I do to suffer all this Barbarolatinity for his sake! I got four apparently blank postcards this morning and thought one of my Albanian acquaintances had had too much (of one or the other). Even after opening them up, I must return the (in one sense) thoughtful halves. The present King George assures me that he would be only too happy to conduct Mistress Martha Washington back over the border, if he were not unavoidably detained in London, and he dare not entrust such a distinguished dame to the ignorance of his minions in the Montreal Post Office. So we smuggle her back, under his portrait.

As for the hard nuts, despite your Festinanter I must retain #1, 2, and 4 for further study. #1 is utterly unparsable. I bet you can't guarantee the text. How about the contractions? Much the same for #4, where al's suggests animalibus.

If you have any regard for your own or your readers' sanity, skip lightly over medieval prescriptions. Paraphrase them to a mixture containing rosewater dregs, verdigris, red ink, earthworms, burnt copper, &c. Nobody's going to get them made up at the modern soda fountain!

I enclose all citralinearly usable blanks and the hard-nut side of #3, which was easy, except for "Sandra" - I've guessed at her character! I've ~~misread~~ ^{misread} (alias Sandarac) in crossword puzzles.

More anon (I hope)

Yours most fully
W. L. F.

WWF: cd
Encl:-

OSLER LIBRARY,
12 Sept., 1951.

Mr. J. Colton,
63 Academy Road,
Albany, 3,
N. Y., U. S. A.

Jacobe mi,

Salutem plurimum (lots of) to and fro these days! Yours of
"Later the same day in bed", which I see is Colton Calendar for 9 Sept.:

(1) The Song of Solomon doesn't help - "How beautiful are thy
feet with shoes, O prince's daughter!" But "princeps" per se, in
medieval medicine meant Avicenna, so I suspect this may be Theodorico's
pet name for the authoritative Canon, a rather hefty daughter! There is
a lot of chiefly Greek surgery in the 4th Book. Possibly T. made his
own abstract of this and called it filia A?? I never heard of the title
before, and intitulavi shows it to be a name given by T. to a work of his
own or of someone else.

(2) I say to your laudable guess, "essential" that organic
vein is an old name for the "vital" or jugular. In this case the great
Oxford Dict. is more useful than Blanchard. It refers also to "organal"
and quotes Froissart, 1525, "The speare heed dyd entre into his throte and
dyd cutte asonder the orgonall vayne". Also the glossary at the end of
Grit's hist. of surg. gives vena guiden, s. organica s. organalis as the
ext. jugular.

Delighted with your litterae, Do you mean you could really
festinate such a composition? But stop verberating the kids and make
Susan mundeficate the pammi; it might discourage her from matrimony and
enable you to keep her longer. I hope Eliz. got a goofy letter from me?

Did we
look at this?
It should be
unique exp.
for it has
deformations.

The don't need to answer it for 5 years if she
the first of address "T. on a d. sub."

at the end of.

Quia n. is videtur."

T. Vester
L. W. F.

(29 Sept. 51)
L.V. 2

Later the same day -
in bed.

Dear Dr. Francis -

Two new hard nuts to crack.

In Bk. II, Chap. XI (De quolibet vulnere in carne
universaliter) our friend says:-

① ¶ Et qui diligenter attenderit
librum istum quem intitulavi. filia principis. magnam
partem eorum que in cyrurgys modernorum scripta
sunt auctoritate veterum et ratione evidentissima —

Have you ever heard of any such work?
Is this significant? - etc. etc. - you see at a glance
all the ramifications far better than I.

② In Bk. II, Chap. XIII (De vulnere vene
^{Arteriae. V. 62} Organice) the master speaks of this Vena
Organica as being "in guba" and wounded
by an arrow. He says such a wound is pericu-
losum, and yet he was often cured & seen Don
Hugo cure such. He does not mention periclas
here, as he does in the next chapter. From the
Blancard you lent me, I judged vena organica to

be any important "vein" anywhere in the body. In this place we translated it "essential vein". What do you say to this?

I am sorry to hear that your children are off to Minnesota. But I have ~~heard~~ heard it described as a bracing climate. And who knows, after three years there, they may return with not only a Swedish accent but also with physiques like the great Paul Bunyan.

You may well believe I was sorry not to get up to see you this summer. But it has been popping here. Classes at State Teacher's College at 8, 9 + 10. Classes at HH 11:30 to 1:00 + 1:00 - 2:30. Then office & admissions work till 4:30. Theo got some attention in the evenings.

But all here are well & thriving, so I hope you, both are. Chuck & Susan love the baby, and are great helps. That announcement was by Ruth's order, reminiscent of a course interesting this summer. Yours,
Jim

J.B. Colton

A. B. Colton

Annex, N.Y.

4-2 N.Y.

Blankaart 8061 received by Mr. Post. 21.1 x 5.4. with no wind
with p.c. calculation. 6000.
and said that you *Amid* (back of 2nd p.) which I hope continues forever.

Monday, November 2nd, 1953.

Dear Dr. Francis,

Cam called today to say that he had a missive from you in which you asked about the Blankaart in English which belongs to you and which I still have. As Plupy Shute would say, I am ashamed enough to admit it, though mostly because I have kept it so long and not reported either our progress or my need, nor yet begged your indulgence, of which I have had full measure, pressed down and running over. Now I can beg only your forgiveness, and have no title to that.

The fact is that the book is nearly always with me. I carry it with me in a zipped-up brief case to and from school and elsewhere. Whenever I have a few minutes I can get a little done. It has been invaluable; indeed, you are well aware of how many letters it has saved you writing to straighten me out and put me on the track again. It ~~was~~ is in good condition, though; I think as good as ever. If it should be returned, however, I shall send it along to you. If not, I should be grateful for having it.

We are now well into Book Three, having slowed down a good deal in recent months. Most of last year was spent in going over and over Books I and II to get them ready to pass on to Miss Annan and her cohorts. The last word was that we might expect publication to get under way this winter. But we were warned not to hold our breaths because it is a long business. This I am ready to believe. The last stumbling block was getting a decision on using some of the illustrations from a Ms in Leyden.

These nice long sheets of paper I am using to type up a Caesar frequency vocabulary which two of my students made. We are going to have it printed by photo-offset and use it in the school.

The Rally girls reported a wonderful time while they were

with you, and said that you were in good health, which I hope continues forever.

The outfit here is very like ~~##~~ Tigger, viz., bouncy. Chuck is playing center forward on the school soccer team; he will soon be taller than I. Susan has eyes both bigger and browner than ever and thinks of herself as a young lady, except when Chuzk has something she wants. Elizabeth manages us all with one hand and runs her own cunning affairs with the other. Ruth is well, though often a little weary, as I guess it is the lot of mothers to be. No double-entendre intended.

In August we got a new (?) car. The old '39 Chevvy was about to collapse. We gained nine years on this exchange. The present model is a '48. I think that arithmetic is right. Now we feel for the first time in five years that it would be safe to drive farther than to the store and back. By golly, nothing would give me greater pleasure than to drive up when the long-awaited day occurs, as I am persuaded it must, and put a copy of the opus in your hands. You have had so much to do with its proper proportions. I am minded to do that.

Our very best regards to you and Mrs. Francis. Tell her that the children's eyes still glow when anyone mentions the evening that we spent with you. The more I think about this the surer I am that we must bring Elizabeth to see you. The best she can do with the name so far is Sps-sps; but that does very well for a nickname.

Tell me if I should send on the Blankaart, and I shall do so. I am really very sorry to have been so thoughtless and remiss.

My greetings to Miss Desbarats. Three months in that calm room of yours and hers and I could have this done!

Halcyonii dies!

Yours
Jim Cotton

Typed & printed 5 xi 53.

with you, and that you were in good health, which I hope continues forever.

Be it known to all cars, Colton, and Albanique petrie is (now)
The outfit here is very like the Tiger, viz., downy. Chuck is playing center
that the non-terminable loan of the Esler Lhany's

forward on the school soccer team; he will soon be taller than I. Susan has

English. Blamkard is much renewed

ad usum. Prodonce et ~~agave~~ ^{st. inter. p. inter. inter. inter.} ~~inter. inter. inter. inter.~~

except when Chuck has something she wants. Elizabeth manages us all with one

forth pace of our further custom, subject always
hand and runs her own cunning affairs with the other. Ruth is well, though often

to peremption well and occasional spot
a little weary, as I guess it is the lot of mothers to be. No double-entendre
of continued ~~reality~~ ^{med} ~~therefor~~

intended.

In ~~fact~~ we got a new (?) car. The old '39 Chevy was about to collapse.

Nil
Car
Curtain

We gained nine years on this exchange. The present model is a '48. I think that

P.S. Lou told Blank and especially to form y-
that it would

young Susan.

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Our very best regards to you and Mrs. Francis. Tell her that the children's

eyes still glow when anyone mentions the evening that we spent with you. The more I

think about this the surer I am that we must bring Elizabeth to see you. The best

she can do with the name so far is 32-a-32; but that does very well for a nickname.

Tell me if I should send on the Blankart, and I shall do so. I am really

very sorry to have been so thoughtless and remiss.

My greetings to Miss Desbarats. Three months in that calm room of yours

and here and I could have this done!

Halcyonite dies!

John Colton