

1028/62/11

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"The Parsonage", Weston, March 4th 1875

My dear Osler,

I suppose you are getting to the close of a first term now & are getting a little breathing time. I never seem to forget you. Like a boy who has learnt a lesson well, there is some spot where it stays, despite of all else he does & learns; & when least thinking it comes before him again & again. How much more may this be the case, where we have formed affections, & encouraged hopes for the future, — hopes not for a period, or even for life alone, but for ever. There are few, very few, conditions in this world, in which men may not, & do not jostle one another, cross one another's path, get into one another's way, so to speak. Friendships may be formed, but circumstances interfere with them. The nearer our calling or occupation or profession is alike, the more likely to cross one another. I always had, & have still the highest esteem for our mutual friend Dr. Stowell as a Dr. but I do not ^{know} how to address him as a Priest. With his medical opinion I could not differ; ~~one~~ do as he told me to: it is not so with religious opinions, there might be different opinions leading to different ends or doctrines, & diverging or crossing courses of action. It is pleasant to have a friend in whose case these things can not occur. It is pleasant to feel that what your friend is doing, is right (for you can not even surmise it is wrong) & ask a blessing on it. This is the kind of spot left in my memory of yourself. I see & hear nothing to change it; & the spot ever & again recalls you as one

in whose welfare I am intimately concerned; & in whose path
through life there is nothing that can cross my own, or excite a
wish but for its present & future peace & happiness. If you were
Moralist a little, & of course you do; how strangely few friends
we have (visible ones, I mean) of whom we can say this! How ear-
ly we learn to use our neighbour as a stepping stone for something
we want; & measuring others by our bushel, think they are doing the
same with us. I really intended, & earnestly hoped to be able to
spend a week in Montreal last autumn. It would have ^{been} very plea-
sant for me. If it please God to remove me from here, I hope he will
open my way to spend a few days with you yet, & see Mr. Wood
& others in Montreal. I am still as much interested as ever in the
"book of Nature"; though with less time to observe it, & fewer opportunities.
This seems only to make me more eager; but alas! this curiosity
about many things, in which the sight is the chief sense occupied, does not
minister much, I think, to devout meditation. Perhaps it is intended
to be only as a "pool in the wilderness"; a resting place for an hour;
a wholesome recreation. Be it so, it is ^{is} refreshing, & delightfully new at every
turn. Are you working specially at ^{any} one point this winter? I look for a
specimen or two; anything: it will be interesting, & always serve as a
remembrance. How is Jimmie doing? By his letters I have been
hoping he has worked; with what success, his examination must
show. His brother Arthur wants him to pass at Trinity School
of medicine this spring. In my own I do not see the point very
clearly, but it may be fairly argued I can not, because I do
not understand anything about it. What do you think of it?
If you see any benefit please let him (Jimmie) know it,
& me too. I tell him I will furnish the money, if he finds it ne-
cessary. The word money reminds me that Jimmie has

re Jimmie.

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three or three mentioned, when sending an of. of fees paid or un-
paid, that you had given him his ticket; & intimated or said,
it was not necessary to pay for it. I know your kindness would
suggest this, but you are not indebted to me in any way to war-
rant such a deprivation. Of course any thing you can throw in
his way, or any thing you can employ him in, will be a great &
additional kindness to me, & I shall be ever thankful for it; & doubt-
less he will too, for he is not generally insensible to such acts
of kindness; but I have no reason to look for a remission of fees.
I suggested to Jimmie, it was a mistake, but he is imperative
in thinking he must not offer to pay. If the boy is mistaken, let
me enclose it to you, & that would satisfy us, please him in igno-
rance; if not, I can but thank you, & add it to many kind
remembrances I enjoy, both of yourself in particular, & of your very
kind friends.

I suppose you must have noticed that, to all appear-
ance, I did not do the kind things to your dear Father & others
on the Com^u. w^h the Bp. appointed to find charges against
me. Whether you thought so or not, there was good ^{reason} from all the
public has seen, to think so. I was very peculiarly plac'd, &
saw no way but ~~to~~ ^{to} meet it. I am writing the Bp's decision
before writing a last letter, apologizing for securing none, & show-
ing why that was the only course open to me. Two most important
principles were assailed, I told the Bp. I dare not be a party
to the proceedings. He tried to force me. I could not submit.
I must meet the Com^u - or ~~it~~ ^{my case} would go by default: I could not
appear, or the principle was compromised: I could not touch
the subject by way of evidence, or reason upon it, because it had
not been heard. & having assured the Bp. he had no authority

whatever to create the commission, irony was the only way to
show I meant all I said, & defy further proceedings. I know iron-
y & sarcasm drive away one's friends, therefore you had better
never attempt to use them: but they have their time & place, & looking
at ^{it} now with calm & unbiased view, I still think I did well, & if the
same cases arose would treat them as I did them. The private
correspondence between the Bps. & myself is the only means of under-
standing the matter, but this shall never be made public with-
out my consent alone. The poor Bp. whose kindness to me is un-
recoried & real, expressive of high praise also, is really in a "tight"
"place". I have promised to obey his orders immediately without
a murmur; but neither to gainsay or accept his opinions. I have
removed every obstacle to his decision that I know of, & I hope daily
to receive it.

Is there any chance of your coming up this way after
Easter? I suppose the small-pox hospital keeps you more or
less busy; but the number of patients decreases a good deal
towards spring & summer, so you might get away for a trip
to see, & gladden old faces again. Everything much as usual
here. I have not paid the Stumber Ponds a single visit this
winter, & now we are snowed in in every direction. With my
best wishes for your success, health & happiness, & hoping to
have a line, when you have time & inclination.

Believe me, as ever,
Your sincere & affec. friend,
W. A. Johnson