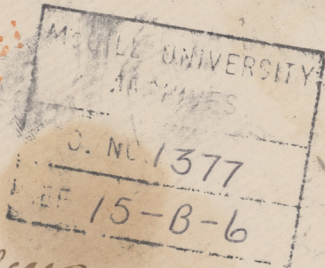


Feb 18/47



Miss Mercer
11 Amston Place
Newington

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1847

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Thursday Morning

Dear Margaret

I have read your
friends' letter, and con-
sulted a great deal with
of the principles it asserts.
It is the best wisdom
to trust in god and
to seek to go on in be-
lieving obedience to his
will; and it is also
true that he often denies
us in mercy the gratifica-
tion of wishes which would

injure us. It is a
hard lesson to practise;
one of the last that our
poor natures can be brought
to learn; but Gods grace
is sufficient for this also.

I have times without
number approached God
in prayer on this matter.
It has been a constant
subject of prayer for a
long time past, and often,
when far away from you,
I have earnestly besought
God to take the guidance of
^{my} mind in it, and to lead
me in the way that would

be best for us. I have
thought, as I have often said
before, that the dealings of
His providence with me were
brighter than should encourage me,
I may have been mistaken,
but at all events I cannot
accuse myself or you of
not having employed all the
powers of discernment that
have been given us, in
endeavouring to discover
the true and right path;
and when in doing so, we
find obstacles that we
cannot surmount in con-
sistency with what we believe
Gods will to be, we must cast
our burden upon him; and

perhaps his present dealings
with us are just intended
to constrain us to do so, and
in this way to lead us to
greater good than we can
anticipate.

I hope to see you father
to day, and if I can find
time, will try to call on
Mrs Bell to day & to morrow

As you mentioned no
time for calling on Saturday,
I shall, unless you direct
to the contrary, come out
~~about~~ at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 11, as for
me, to day and to morrow
I must work hard.

Yours William