

Philadelphia July 6th 1851-

My Dear Friend

Yours of the 3rd ult. is to hand, and as I have a few leisure moments, I think I could not spend them more advantageously, or at least more satisfactorily, than in writing to you, it is with no reluctance that I catch up my goose quill interpreter,

I am very sorry to learn of your illness and sincerely hope that you may be speedily restored to health, I know what it is to enjoy good health, and it cannot be duly appreciated except by those of adverse fortunes, i.e. those who have endured the main pains of disease,

Since I last wrote you I have had an attack of Cyanche parotitis - deca - or Mumps. that gave me great pain, I was confined to my room for a week, could not go out, even to evacuate the rectum but could do nothing but roll and hollow. I am almost confident that I have had the mumps before, but my system is one of queer manufacture, seems to be susceptible to recurrence of almost all contagious diseases. I had the measles twice and I suppose if I were to be able to go where a person had measles again, I would be certain to take them again, but this doctrine of contagion is strongly opposed by our professor

of the Theory & Practice of Medicine, he says that he thinks that Sin syphilis & Sma are contagious but furthermore the depon saith not.

The period is near at hand that causes the trembling of many students of our college to wit, the final examination & Dr Mitchell, Professor of Theory & Practice of Medicine will examine about 20 of the candidates next Saturday morning at 9 o'clock, but as I am not in the ranks for the battle I will save ammunition until July, before the examination comes on. I intend to have my bladder & rectum perfectly empty so as to preclude the possibility

of any involuntary discharges - In regard to my graduating
in July I have only to hope that I may succeed. You passed a
greater compliment to me than, I think, you were justifiable in
doing, in relation to the rapidity of the acquirement of knowledge.
I can only say - "Praise from thy lips, tis mine with joy, to boast.
They best can give it, who deserve it most"

Since I received your last letter I wrote to you at the
University of Va. taking it for granted that you were still
there, and since I wrote that I rec'd a letter from my
Father stating that you were in Amherst and had some
disease of the bladder - I reckon the P.M. at the University
will forward you the letter, if he does not it will be
a clear gain to you. You wrote as if you did not expect
to go back to the University until next fall - I would
have exceedingly happy to have met you after the
close of your session and congratulated you on the ac-
quirement of the degree of M.D. (mule driver), but as you
such is the fate of all human calculations, does Mr
Storley still pursue that narrow path up the hill of medical
science. Do you think he will return with a commission
to kill? Give my respects to all the ladies about the
great thoroughfare of the nation as old mum used to say -
I have commenced my thesis and expect to finish it
between now and the beginning of the next session which
is the 17th of March. I have written 8 pages on Fever
but expect I will write on something else -

Write soon

Yours Sincerely

Thos B. Key

Seeing that there is
no linen rules on this
paper you will per-
haps be obliged to enclose
some red wax -

I wrote to brother John today in regard
to some money (\$5.00) which has been
sent me and I have not received it
I cannot imagine what has gone
with it. Tell him to write me im-
mediately in regard to it

Thos B

I heard some time ago that John Mundy had
commenced studying medicine - Does he study
at home or does he stay with Dr Swyman -
Give him my best respects tell him I would
like to see him in Philadelphia in March
proposed to attend the summer course of lectures
Does Ned Gills stay with brother Peter yet, I
have not heard from any of them for several
weeks -

Thos B Key
By the way

Dr Swyman

Philadelphia

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper.]

[Illegible signature]
John Austin Eog-
Elk Furnace
Nelson County
Virginia

I would
to some
sent me
I cannot
with
affair