

My dear son,

Suffo July 29th 1829.

The multiplied engagements which have occupied my time for many weeks have totally precluded me from answering any of my dear boy's letters; having just finished a letter to your dear mother, who, now at old Point, under the hope that the use of the salt Bath, will renovate her shattered constitution, I now devote my time to you: I carried your beloved Mother down a fortnight this day (Tuesday) and remained with her till Friday last. she was something better, and I hope by divine permission that she may yet be restored to her once accustomed health. She has been very sick since I last saw you, her health is extremely debilitated, and she is still feeble and emaciated: I wish her to remain some time yet at the point, and thereby make a satisfactory experiment with the Bath &c. It is probable that she may continue 10. or 12 days longer, then, and on her return will rest in Ipsos for a few days. Your sisters Maig^t Sue & Maria Louisa are in Suffs. at your Aunt Breckin's. They and your sister Marianna are quite well, with the exception, that Maria Louisa has the "whooping cough" which prevented her from accompanying her mother to the Point. Your brothers are all in health, and send love to you: Robert received your letter today, he is much pleased with it, and I think will make a grand exertion to answer it.

Several acquaintances, who attended the Camp meeting at Ipsos, inform me that they had seen you: some said you looked very pale: on my return home on Saturday night, I found your favor of the 14th inst. apprizing me of your having been sick, it was the first intimation which I had rec^d. of your indisposition and I thank heaven, that your attack has been comparatively slight: Take good care of yourself, avoid the heat of the Noon sun and night dews - I have the most perfect reliance however upon Colo. Woodley's & Mrs. Woodley's directions, as also that of Dr. Woodley, and if you will follow their directions, I am persuaded you cannot fail to do well. I hope to see you at the next I. of Wright Court: It is certainly very delightful for your father to hear of the tickets you have won by your diligence, attention & good conduct, and it cannot be otherwise than be gratifying to him to hear of your prosperity. You remind us of your birth day, yes, my dear child it was not forgotten by your parents, and your dear mother regretted that she should be absent, otherwise she would have made a cake and sent you: I am pleased with your letters, the letter ones have not been written so neatly as I wished. always takes your time & you will please me more. Your brother send love to you. My friend Mrs. Hamet was much pleased with your letter. she has been sick - my best respects to Colo. Woodley & Lady, & family & affec^t. father
Joseph Bents.

Received in August 1803

Y^{rs} Obedt^l Servant
J^r Woodley
July 28, 3
Paid Oct 3

Master Joseph Burtis

at Cole Woodley's Seminary

single paid

to Mr. W. W. Woodley
thirty first of Sept 1803

near

Smithfield.