

M. 19/8

Lauderdale Park Dec^r 9. 1825 -

My very dear Joseph,

All my endeavours to persuade your dear Father to permit you to pursue your studies for another twelve months, I now, begin to fear, will be unavailing; therefore you will be under the necessity of applying yourself very diligently, when you can gain a leisure hour from business; how much do I lament your great deficiency, and I fear from the want of practice you will entirely lose the little you may have obtained; you must never waste one moment of your precious time; how would your dear Grandfather lament was he now with us - many very many prayers were offered to Heaven, that you boys, as your years increased, might grow in all knowledge, both Human and Divine, - unless you accustom yourself to read and write a little every day, you will gradually feel no inclination or relish at all for reading, and that will lead you to neglect it altogether; now, if ^{you} could but withstand the stopping up so late at night - you might rise at five the light mornings, and one hour in the morning is worth three at night; when I was about your age, I well remember rising very early to pray as well as to read, and

and those were some of the pleasantest hours of my life, and that
time I can now reflect on with much pleasure; most of Mr
Wesley's, and some of Mr Fletcher's works were read when my dear
Father and Mother thought I was in my bed, and frequently have
I feared lest my Father should hear me, and come and send me
to bed again, for he was most tenderly kind to his children.

my Dr Joseph, remember though you are yet very young, your
life is passing imperceptibly away; in the morning of life, be
sure, you spend every moment of your ^{time} in improving your
mind; you can never recal a lost day, hour, or moment; be am-
bitious to gain that knowledge by which you will become a
blessing to your friends, to society, and the world at large; by
that means you will ensure your own present and eternal
happiness. Be dutiful and obedient to your Father, and remem-
ber his interest is your own; let your integrity in business
be always evident; never forget to commune with your
own heart, that is always ask yourself what are your
motives, if you act from pure motives or sincere intentions
your conduct will never be very far wrong. - you have very
many advantages, others of your age are deprived, be sure you do
your utmost to improve them. -

Your very affectionate
Mother
Susan Mather

Give my love to your brother. I shall be pleas'd to
see them down here, being confident, their behaviour
will at all times, merit my approbation. —

Grand

Am. Prothier
Lambertville
9/25/1824

Joseph Mather

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