

MARYLAND

HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

VOL. XXXI.

SEPTEMBER, 1936.

No. 3.

LETTERS OF A MARYLAND MEDICAL STUDENT IN PHILADELPHIA AND EDINBURGH (1782-1784).

By DOROTHY MACKAY QUYNN and WILLIAM ROGERS QUYNN.

William Quynn was the son of Allen Quynn (1724-1803), long a resident of Annapolis, — a member of the Committee of Safety in 1775, holder of several city offices in succession, and an agent for the Council in transactions concerning the billeting of troops and purchase of supplies during the Revolution. The family occupied a house in Cowpen Lane (now North West Street), a house which still stands, and which is known as the Johnson house.¹ Of the son William, little is known, for there are no public, church, or family records mentioning him, except for these letters, one item concerning his service in the Revolution, the obituary notice in an Edinburgh Newspaper, and the burial record.

Born in all probability between 1760 and 1765, he began his medical studies under Dr. Murray of Annapolis, probably as his apprentice. He knew Dr. Stewart intimately and may have worked with him also.²

¹ *Maryland Historical Magazine*, XIV, 269.

² Dr. James Murray (1739-1819) was one of the leading physicians of his time, a founder of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland. He is believed to have studied at the College of Philadelphia and at Edinburgh, returning to practice in Annapolis in 1769. Many men who were later famous began their work with him. (E. F. Cordell, *Medical Annals of Maryland*, p. 575). William Quynn says in his letters that Dr. Murray

On November 20, 1780, he was commissioned as surgeon of the privateer brig *Cato*,³ which only the day before had received orders to cruise with a fleet down Chesapeake Bay "to protect the trade of the State and defend the inhabitants thereof from the deprivations of the enemy." Presumably he sailed with the ship and took part in her only engagement two months later.⁴

The first four of William Quynn's letters were written from Philadelphia, between October and December, 1782. Leaving behind in Annapolis, a reputation for gaiety and extravagance not at all unique in that eighteenth century town, he went to Philadelphia to continue his medical studies. His letters deal for the most part with matters as typical of the fourteenth century student or of the twentieth, as of his own contemporaries, for they speak of his courses and his professors, and are vague as to other activities. They contain the inevitable pleas for money, because of the high cost of living and studying. They emphasize at length his devotion to his work and his isolation from the town and its diversions. But in addition, they give us an interesting picture of life and work in the Medical School of Philadelphia during the Revolution.

William Quynn's plans for an education were typical of his day, if we are to judge from the careers of the great physicians of his time, many of whom studied in Philadelphia, Edinburgh and London, and then travelled on the continent. In August, 1783, he sailed to London with Samuel Chase, who was an intimate friend of his father, and who apparently took

was a graduate of Glasgow, but had studied in Edinburgh. He revered him greatly and planned to dedicate his thesis to him.

Dr. James Stewart (1755-1845), a graduate of Edinburgh University, practised in Annapolis and later in Baltimore. (Cordell, p. 580).

³ *Archives of Maryland*, XLV, 17, 217, 218.

⁴ Early in January the *Cato* was ordered to Havana where she was to exchange her cargo of flour for military stores and soldiers' clothing. With two other ships she was forced ashore "between Cedar Point and St. Jerom's Creek." The *Cato* was blown up, part of her crew lost, and some of her cargo destroyed. (*Archives of Maryland*, XLV, 262-263; XLVII, 37-38).

the young man under his care when he left for England to lay claim to some Bank of England stock owned by the State of Maryland, but removed by Royalists. William Quynn's letters refer several times to Chase's errand and to his lack of success. Chase had promised to pass on to the boy some of the money he hoped to gain, money much desired because of the loss Americans suffered through the exchange. Chase advised the boy about his work, and was often an intermediary in his correspondence with his father.

While in London, William Quynn witnessed the celebration of the signing of the Peace Treaty. He left in October for Edinburgh, where he studied for more than a year. He lived just below the Castle in picturesque James Court, which faced the High Street opposite the Lawn-Market, but which opened also on the cliff above what are now the Princes Street Gardens. His lodgings were "twenty-five feet under ground," that is, below the Court and not on the cliff, or open side of the house. He wrote of the crowded conditions in the "Old Town" where he lived, the "nauseus" odors, the "mercenary" character of the people, contrasted with their well known "hospitality," and of the severity and simplicity of Scottish life compared with that in London. He was impressed with the importance of the Medical Department of the University and with the increased enrollment which necessitated the enlarging of one amphitheater and the removal of one course to the Episcopal Church. He had some original ideas as to the reasons for the introduction of many new theories in medical teaching.⁵ His appeals for money are more interesting than those from Philadelphia, for he had the exchange as an excuse, as well as the fact that his pride suffered when he was in company with some friends, "young Gentlemen from Virginia," who were supplied with Tobacco, "a more profitable remittance than Bills."

William Quynn had some difficulty in transferring academic

⁵ Dr. F. C. Nicholson, Librarian of Edinburgh University, kindly searched the Matriculation Registers, and found William Quynn registered in December, 1783, for Anatomy, Surgery, Chemistry, and Medical Practice; in December 1784, for Anatomy, Surgery, Medical Practice, Clinical Lectures.

credit from Philadelphia to Edinburgh, where there were certain residence requirements for the medical degree. He had therefore made up his mind to take his degree at St. Andrew's or Glasgow, go to London for some hospital experience, and then to travel for a time on the continent. His plans were cut short by his death from a "putrid fever" on December 14, 1784.⁶ He was buried three days later in Greyfriar's Churchyard "three double paces south from Richard Dobies tomb."⁷

All of the letters in this collection, except two, were written by William Quynn to his father in Annapolis. Most of them deal with his life in Philadelphia, London, and Edinburgh. Some are letters of introduction given to friends en route to Annapolis. One letter is addressed to Samuel Chase but eventually reached Allen Quynn, who preserved it with others from his son. The last letter, concerning the death of William Quynn, was written to the boy's father by an Edinburgh student who had known him there.⁸

Duke University,
Durham, N. C.

Dear Father/

Philadelphia Oct^r 23, 1782

Immediately on my arrival in this City, I took a retrospective

⁶ Probably typhus. During his last illness he was attended by two of the greatest physicians of his day, Doctors Cullen and Gregory, his professors.

⁷ This record was kindly sent me by Mr. John Smith, F. S. A. Scot., Curator of Greyfriar's Church, who found it in the manuscript record of Greyfriar's Churchyard. He writes "As may be expected, there is not the slightest trace of the exact spot where he is interred, but . . . he lies near one who was in his day of great use to the citizens of Edinburgh, he being Dean of the Guild and a Bailie in the Town Council. The monument to Richard Dobie is erected against the east boundary wall of the Churchyard and is one of a series there that were built under his supervision as Dean of the Guild in 1614." There was a notice of William Quynn's death in the *Edinburgh Evening Courant*, December 17, 1784, "Mr. William Quynn, son of Mr. Allen Quynn of Annapolis in America, and student of physic in this University, died here on the 14th of December, 1784."

⁸ Four of these letters are in the possession of the writers of this paper. The others were kindly loaned by Mrs. Harry Quynn, of St. Louis, Missouri.

view of my Perfect conduct, & finding that my foolish dissipation had at times incurred your Displeasure, was determined to reform such Idle Practices. Dear Sir/you may rely on my Perseverance in Study not only as it will be useful to myself but also as a Pleasure to you — I am conscious how inconsistent my perfect conduct has been with regards to my own Interest as well as Incompatible with your desire. But you must make allowance for the follies of youth & the number of acquaintances I had in your City which at times diverted the attention of my studies. Notwithstanding my own Idle Practices I am induced to believe that your resentment was exaggerated by men of your City whose Venomous tongue actuated by a malevolent heart would stick at nothing to cause a Fathers displeasure with a view of ingratiating themselves into your Favour. As I have given you a small detail of my Perfect conduct & Intended reformation, so I shall inform you of the Improvements I expect to receive in this City. Doctor Shippen Lectures on Physiology Anatomy & Surgery which I expect to acquire great improvements from but pay dear enough for it i. e. twelve Pounds a Season. Dr Coone Lectures on Midwifery another useful branch of my Profession for which I pay Six Pounds & if Dr Hutchison Lectures shall pay equal in proportion. I have procured board at a Guinea a Week exclusive of Wood & Candles which are very expensive. I am obliged to subscribe to the Library which is 16/ p^r Quarter to procure books & must purchase papers & several other Articles. Indeed the Expences are innumerable However, you may rely on the greatest Oeconomy as I shall leave no stone unturned to save a Penny. My Journey from Baltimore here was very agreeable as it was composed of several ladies & Gentlemen of Distinction, which caused the expences to be higher than I could have wished — Mr Chases Introductory letter was very agreeable, Dr Shippen professed a great deal of Friendship for him & was happy to instill whatever knowledge he was capable of in the Minds of any Person he recommended. Dr Shippen sent his son with me to procure Lodgings which was a mark of Friendship, to me a stranger; every thing here

is dearer than Annapolis — Shoes at 18/9 a pair Hats 6/0 () in proportion — The little idea I can form of (the people) is that they are prone to Luxury & Pride however () on my avoiding such practices as they would () subvert my Intentions. Remember my love () to my Mother and all the Family &

believe to be your
Obedient & Affection(ate)
W^m Quynn

P. S. I just have a visit from M^r N.
to () & offers his service
to any thing I want.

Dear Sir/

Philadelphia. Nov. 11th 1782

With the most pleasing sensibility, I received yr's of the 8th instant, wherein you inform me you will send up two pair of shoes by Th^s Stain, which will be very acceptable. I called on M^r Fox according to yr direction, but he had not received any letters from M^r Dorsey,¹ pertaining to the 7 half () you speak of; You can more readily conceive than tis possible for me to express; the anxiety & uneasiness I have been under since my departure from Annapolis; waiting daily for the Remittances you promised to send immediately after me. The Lectures commenced last Thursday when I was obliged to call on M^r Fox. for his assistance as I have informed you in two letters committed to his care. The Prices of the Different Lectures come to £30 which far exceeded my expectation. The only manner, young Gentlemen have in this place of Introducing themselves into Genteel Company; is from the appearance of a fine Garment; which is the only Criterion, by which they form an opinion of a man's vice or Virtue. Tis with the

¹John Dorsey & Co. owned a large shipping business with offices in Annapolis, Havana, and other ports.

greatest pleasure I inform you that we have prevailed on D^r Shippen to attend the dessecting Class; without whose assistance we should be frequently led into unavoidable digressions. Altho the dessecting of an animal body; seems to carry with it a certain degree of inhumanity; yet every reasonable being, must be conscious of its Utility; as it not only renders a Person more capable, of obviating the progress of a disorder in a similar case, but gives him fortitude and resolution to exercise his knife upon a living Animal, with more ease and safety. Inform Betsy I am greatly obligated to her for her kind favour. & will answer by the next private opportunity. I am very sorry I neglected Informing you in my other letters of my Boarding house; It is at M^{rs} Pancosts at the Corner of Third & Spruce Street; which be pleased to inform D^r Murray of, when you send him the within acc^t of the sales of Medicine. D^r Sir I am much concerned at the Extravagancy of the different Charges here as I am afraid that you will be of opinion that the Expences will be increased by my conduct, but rely on it, that I will render you an exact acc^t of all Expences that shall occur during my stay here. I am happy to here of the Families Health. And. Believe me to be Y^r Affect^{ate} Son

W^m Quynn

My Remembrance to the Family

Dear Sir/

Phil^a Nove^r 21st 1782

M^r Eastern, A Gentlman from this City, sets off to morrow for Maryland, by whom I take the opportunity of dropping you a few lines, informing you of my Welfare. I received yours by the Post, and am happy to find my mother has recovered from her Indisposition and that all the family are in good health. Th^s Stain who you spoke of in your letter has not come to this place yet. The money you committed to M^r Dorseys care, came by the last Post, which I was much in want of. I am happy to

inform you that the Professors of the College, seems to have a desire in improving Youth in the Medical Department; as they are very attentive and explanatory in all their Lectures; We are employed the whole day & part of the night in attending the different Professors, and a very Capital thing that adds to our Improvement; is their Interrogating us every night on the preceding Lecture. People who never attended Anatomical Lectures, cannot conceive the Improvement which must naturally ensue. You have the minutest part of the Animal Oeconomy unravelled & explained to you which it is impossible to comprehend by the closest application to books. Study & application are not wanting in the Students; nor is attention and pains absent from the Professors. It is unfortunate for the Students that the dissention which subsists between D^r Rush & D^r Shippen; prevents Rush's Lecturing on Chymistry, a branch, Indispensably necessary to constitute a Physician. I committed to the care of Major Brice of Baltimore Town: two Pounds of the best Peruvian Bark,¹ with a letter to Doctor Murray, am fearful he has not received it by not hearing from him. If he has not received it should be glad you would Inform him, that he may get it by some of the Packetts from Annapolis. I am in hopes it will not be long before I here from you. With my Love to the family

I Remain Y^r Affet^e Son
W^m Quynn

Dear Sir/

Philadelphi^a (December) 9th 1782

The letter you committed to Th^s Stains care was forwarded from Baltimore by the Post- He being detained there upon business; he has since arrived by whom I have the two pair of shoes; I spoke to Ned concerning Mr. Chase's Nigro who says

¹ A product of the Cinchona tree, from which quinine is also extracted. The bark was used in its raw state prior to the discovery of quinine.

he know's nothing about her, nor did he ever know her. The People in this City were much disappointed yesterday in their expectations, by an express from Boston to the President of this State; who brings the disagreeable news of Gibraltar, being relieved on the 30th of September. — The Combined fleet being separated in a Storm. The news arrived in Boston by way of a vessel from Calais.¹ There was a fire broke out yesterday in this City in the midst of a square; but by the amazing activity of the fire Company, together with that of the Inhabitants, its progress was prevented. I am almost afraid to inform you, that the money I had when I left Annapolis, together with that received by M^r Dorsey, is entirely expended in defraying the Expenses of the Lectures together with the Books, paper, Wood, Candles, and several other things indispensably necessary to the prosecution of my studies — You may Imagine that this Crowded City, With its Busy Societies may tend to divert the attention of my studies; but rely on the contrary — for as solitude & retirement, are the only resources of Wisdom, so depend on my assiduity to attain that, by which alone I am to be carried thro' the different stages of Life. And as my present course of living, is to lay the foundation of my future happiness, so I shall avoid all these imaginary Pleasures, which only tend to relieve the Unthinking. You were no stranger to my unprepared condition, when I left home, to enter into this City as a student of Physick, — as half my clothes were not made up which has incurred expences — The Pleasures of the City I am a stranger to, and as my present avocations will not admit of any, so I bare it with fortitude — M^r Fox's kind attention, to my Interest deserves my warmest Gratitude & esteem, he has offered anything in his power to serve me, but as I would wish not to receive any favours, which would lay me under obliga-

¹ The Great Siege of Gibraltar began with hostilities July 6, 1779, and lasted until the news of the Peace Treaty came, Feb. 6, 1783. The most important attack began on September 13, not September 30, 1782. The English succeeded in firing almost the entire hostile fleet but this did not end the siege. It is perhaps this episode which resulted in the news mentioned, the mistake in date being an obvious one, especially if news travelled verbally.

tions unanswerable in my present situation, so I have deferred accepting any. I hope it will not be long before I hear from you — With my Love to the Family

I remain Y^r Affectionate Son
W^m Quynn

My Dear Father/

London Sept^r 9th 1783

After an agreeable passage of twenty Six Days we arrived at Dover, seventy two miles from London; and after visiting the Castle with admiration departed for Cantiberry; however cannot pass by Dover without informing you how great my astonishment was, at viewing the subterranean Dwellings.¹ At Cantiberry we were no less struck with the Ingenuity of the Ancien () nothing attracted by attention more, after () seeing many Ancient Monuments in the Cathedral, than the Image of Edward the Black Prince; cut from marble where I saw the very Armour he bore at taking the King of France.²

Two days after my Arrival in London, I presented the Introductory Letter to Mr Johnson,³ whose Civility & Attention I acknowledge; he promises everything in his power & am in hopes to continue in his Friendship. Dr Shettleworth is not yet in the City therefore I shall not depart for Edenburgh until he's consulted — It is easier for you to conceive than tis' possible for me to describe, the reluctance with which I left my

¹ The underground works of Dover Castle.

² In Trinity Chapel of Canterbury Cathedral may still be found the "Monument of Edward the Black Prince (d. 1376) with a brazen effigy; above hang the prince's surcoat, gauntlets, helmet, and shield." (Baedeker, *Great Britain . . .*, Leipsig, 1910, p. 29).

³ Mr. Dielman, of the Peabody Library, has supplied information about Joshua Johnson from Niles' Registry. Johnson had been a merchant in London before the Revolution. He lived in France during the Revolution, and returned to London as American Consul General in 1783. Records of the Episcopal Church in Frederick, Maryland, suggest that he or members of his family had lived in Frederick. It may have been there that he knew Allen Quynn, who was born in Washington County.

Native Country; but upon reflection, bore it with fortitude, as the only object of my future happiness was the motive of my departure. Your great exertions to promote me in the literary World, I am in hopes will not be fruitless & you may rely on it that Oeconomy & assiduity shall Characterize me here; that on my return my Enemies shall have no occasion to triumph. The money you gave me at my departure, I lost considerably by, as I was obliged to sell it all for old gold; the Guineas being cut & the Portugal Gold not passing — I visited a Play last night at the Hay-Markett ⁴ with M^r Chase & the rest of my Fellow Passengers, but must confess they did not equal my expectations — I have seen no one yet that I know, except Ja^s Brokes & Col^o Forrest who desire to be remembered to you. Make my Love & Affection acceptable to my Mother & sisters & Brothers & inform them; I still bare in remembrance their effusion of tears, which set so strong upon my Bosom, so soft upon my soul, at my Departure. My Compliments to the Worthy M^{rs} Brices & M^{rs} Gassaway's Families ⁵ & wish them all health & happiness human nature can possibly expect — I Write by way of Philadelphia, to you Golder & M^r Green. Inform M^r Clarke I have not seen his Brother yet as the ship has not yet arrived & have forg(otten) address; with my Compliments to his Family — D^r Sir the Love & affection of

Y^r Sincere Son

W^m Quynn

P. S. I am in hopes to hear from you shortly.

W. Q.

Dear Father/

London Oct^r 9th 1783

Enclosed you have a letter for M^r Jo^s Clarke, who was so

⁴ The Theatrical Register of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. 53, pt. 2, July-December, 1783 shows that the bill for the evening of September 8, 1783, at the Haymarket, included *The Spanish Barber*, *Seeing is Believing*, and *Gretna Green*.

⁵ Friends of the Quynn family in Annapolis.

kind as to give me an Introductory letter to Mr Russels¹ Family; by which I have experienced many favours & I flatter myself you will shew that young Gentleman every respect, and civility, due him on my account. I make no doubt you will be amazed to find me still in London, but it could not be avoided, as my state of health would not permit me to pursue my journey, any sooner — I set out to morrow morning, for Edenburgh by Land, hoping to have an agreeable Journey. The mode of travelling in this Country, is very pleasant & expeditious, tho' extravagant, however going in company with two Gentlemen will in some measure alleviate the burthen — The Declaration of Peace was on Monday last a sight, grand beyond discription, & in the Evening an illumination, which to the confined Ideas of an American appeared brilliant.

Be pleased to inform Mr Joseph Clark, I have seen his Brother & delivered the Packett; the Bill from Mr. Brown in Annapolis on Holland was rejected — This is the third letter I have wrote you, shall expect to hear from you shortly; no opportunity shall be omitted by me in informing you of my welfare & happiness — With the greatest concern for you & the Families Health —

I Remain Y^r Affectionate Son
W^m Quynn

P. S. After my Love & Affection to my Mother & Family remember me to all Friends — make Allen write

Dear Father/

Edenburgh Oct^r 26th 1783

After being detained in London a month, thro' Indisposition & in settling a Correspondence, I have at length arrived in Edenburgh; the great Luminary of the medical department — Here I design residing about Eighteen months, in which time,

¹ A business man in London, possibly an American himself. He apparently acted as London agent for several Maryland firms.

I am in hopes to have my Ideas so much enlarged, and experience improved, that I shall be able to walk the London Hospitals, with much greater advantage — I mean before I go to London, to cross over to St. Andrews, & graduate as a Physician, for the regulation of this College is such, that you cannot attain a Degree, unless you attend the Professors three years successively, a Law, which ought to be obliterated from the records, of that great Body — I make no doubt you will think it strange, at my passing thro' London, without giving you some small account of it, but if you consider the magnitude of the place, & the many objects that daily present themselves, are so apt to deface the impression of the former; you will certainly allow him a few months, to regulate his thoughts & reduce his observation to a proper order — This, I flatter myself will be sufficient to extenuate my Conduct, in passing thro' London unnoticed. The Towns that intervene between London and Edenburgh, you can expect no description from an hasty Itinerant, — & therefore let Edenburgh be the subject of this Epistle — The Old Town is situated in a Valley, badly built, much crowded — it is surrounded by several mountainous hills from whose summit you have a Beautiful prospect, of both the old & new Town of Edenburgh, together with Leith, & its harbour. There is a Castle situated to the eastward of the old Town, which is the repository of Arms & Ammunition; it is guarded by a few Soldiers — The Houses in general are built upon the declivity of a hill so that the declining side is fifteen or sixteen story high while it's opposite side is not more than four or five — A Number of Families living in one house, frequently renders it extremely nauseous, & disagreeable — The new Town is well built, regular, airy, & of a more modern construction; it increases daily — In size nearly as large as Annapolis, altho' not more than twenty years in building — People in general seem mercenary; tho' treat you when invited to their houses (w^{ch} is but seldom) with the utmost hospitality & indeed I have seen them proceed to extravagant Luxury — I have not yet seen Man Woman or Child, that I have the slightest impression of, I board with one M^{rs} Mollison East entry J^s Court, about Twenty five

feet under ground. This subterranean dwelling, I think well calculated for one who has the only object of his profession in view as he is here divested from the rumors of a crowded City — The expences of Edenburgh is not so great as in London, but I am sure even here 100 Guineas, is a narrow limitation, unless one keeps himself in mean obscurity; which I would not wish to Characterize me — Any Letter that you may write, had better be directed to the care of M^r Joshua Johnson, he know's my address & will forward them immediately. Be pleased to let me know what remittance you make him, as I must cut my Coat according to my Cloth — Please to make my respects acceptable to all Friends & Acquaintances — & my warmest Love & affection acceptable to my mother sisters & brother; wishing you & they may enjoy all the Felicity of Social Life

I remain Your Affectionate Son
W^m Quynn

P. S. My compliments to D^r Sweart¹ & am happy in the acquisition of an Acquaintance who he was so good as to Introduce me to —

My dear Father/

Edenburgh Nov^r 12th 1783

I have just received a few lines from you, thro' M^r Chase & am happy to find that you & Family, are well. I arrived in this City, a week previous to the Commencement of the Lectures, & am happy to find that this University, flourishes more now, than has been known' since its first Institution — The Number of students, that appeared at the three first Introductory Lectures, where to the number of 500—and they are now so numerous, that D^r Monro¹ is obliged to enlarge his Theatre & Cullen² lectures in the Episcopal Chaple.

¹ Dr. James Stewart.

² Alexander Monro, secundus (1733-1817), distinguished anatomist, Professor of Surgery.

³ William Cullen (1710-1790), brilliant Professor of Materia Medica, who gave clinical lectures at the Infirmary as well as university lectures on the theory and practice of medicine.

I find Scotland entirely divested of that Luxury, dissipation, & extravagance, with which London abounds. Erudition, seems to be as much the object of contemplation, here — As Theatrical Amusements are the attraction there — You may depend upon my Prudence, & Oeconomy And as my future progress and happiness in life, depends upon the manner, in w^{ch} I employ these short two or three years, so you may rely on my applying myself, with unremitting ardour, to accomplish the object of my wishes — The Royal Medical Society of this City, where all Medical matters are discussed, I shall have the Honour of being a member of on Monday next from wh^{ch} I am in hopes, to derive great advantages I have wrote you several letters, wh^{ch} I am in hopes you have received — I mean next September if I find myself qualified to go either to Glasgow or St Andrews & take a Degree — so return to London next winter where I can acquire a much greater degree of knowledge in Practical Anatomy than I can in this place — I have been very well in health since I arrived here; tho' much impaired from my Indisposition in London I Board with one M^{rs} Mollison East entry Ja^s Court, — at 45£ per Annum/—50 is the common standard — I am much Indebted to M^r Russel, for his letter of Introduction, as by them, I have Inculcated the acquaintance of two or three Gentiel & agreeable Families, I have not yet seen a Person that I have the slightest impression — Write frequently)

With my Love & Affection to the Family Believe me to be
Dear Sir

Y^r Affectionate Son
W^m Quynn

P. S. Remember me to
all Friends.

Dear Father/

Edenburgh Decemb^r 15th 1783

I have just received a letter from M^r Rutland, at London,

who informs me that he has remittances for me, which I have desired him to deliver to M^r Joshua Johnson, being obliged to draw on him, upon the letter of Credit, I had from Me^{ss} Wallace & Muir — previous to Rutland's arrival. Be assured it gives me no small uneasiness, that I have not had a line from you by this Ship — He informs me, he has a Letter for M^r Chase, am in hopes you have enclosed one to him; He is now at Bath & know not when I shall receive it.

Edenburgh is so unfruitful in occurrences, and my Sterile Brain too dull at Invention, to afford anything worth transporting over the Atlantic. There seems to be a great spirit of Emulation, prevailing here among the Students, who shall excell in Medical researches they seem to be Indefatigable, in their pursuit after knowledge, & am in hopes they will have their labours rewarded with Laurels they deserve —

There is a great spirit of Controversy among our Professors new Theories appear daily, but I believe they commence Authors more for a display of ingenuity — than from any real benefits that Society can possibly derive from it. There was a man and his wife found dead the other day at Glasgow they slept in a Room that was new painted, with a fire in it — Tis supposed that the Room smocked & suffocated them. But this is a mere Hypothesis, and I think it might be better accounted for, by considering the known effects that Paint has upon our Bodies — There have several Children, been found dead, in different parts of this City, great rewards offered, for discovery; but none has yet been, apprehended.

For me to enter into Politicks, would lead me into such a train of Metaphorical Confusion, that I should hardly be able to extricate myself with decency, so I shall leave for M^r Chase who write you frequently — I sympathize with you at our states being de () lately, by some Epidemical disorder —

Annapolis must derive many benefits from Congress' sitting there — Give Betsy the inclosed — I long to see you all, but wish never to return, un(til) I have accomplished the End for

which I have (crossed the) Atlantic; rely on my Assiduity —
And

Believe me to be your
Affectionate Søn
W^m Quynn

Remember me to all the Family — & enquiring Friends —
Write as often as opportunity occurs — We have lost one of our
fellow Passengers Poor Chamberlaine is dead —

My Dear Father/

Edenburgh Decembr 20th 1783

I received yours of (the) 19th Sep^t by M^r Rutland's Ship —, and am happy to hear — that the Family has escaped that Pestilential disorder, which has been so fatal to your Neighboring Town — Be assured, I shall pay attention to your advice, & am in hopes my Conduct here, shall be regulated in such a manner, as to leave no room for my Ennemies to Triumph; or my Friends to regret — I hope any People that know me here, will be able to render you a satisfactory account of my conduct.

You may be assured, that an annual remittance of £100 will not be sufficient to defray the necessary Expences, — it will barely pay my Board Professors & Washing — And there are many other expences that accrue from Purchasing Book paper & Library etc. As for Cloathing, I find it equally as dear here as it is in Maryland. All I ask is that you would supply me with barely a sufficiency — I do not ask profusely, nor would I wish to appear meanly — M^r Chase I make no doubt can inform you, of the expences of Europe — And D^r Stewart in Annapolis is a good judge what the expenses of a student will be in this Place. I would rather shorten my time, than to keep myself here buried in mean obscurity.

A Young Gentleman of one of the first Families in Edenburgh is to be Publickly Pillared here next month & banished

the Country, he was guilty of Perjury — Inclosed is a letter for Dr Stewart. With my Love to the Family

I Remain Y^r Affect Son

W^m Quynn

P. S. I wrote you a few day's ago.

My Dear Father/

Edenburgh February 9th 1784

I wrote you some time ago informing you of the receipt of yours of the 20th November; since which I have received your's by Capt. Richardson dated the 12 of same month, and am happy to find by both that you are all well. The Young Gentleman who delivers you this, together with a letter of Introduction that I have given him was Introduced to me by A M^r Wallace a Banker of this City; who is connected with D^r Stewarts¹ family by marriage. He comes to your City with Recommendations from Dr. Stewart — in a mercantile line & I hope you will show him every Civility & attention that his merit deserves — It is needless for me to recapitulate to you, the insufficiency of One hundred pounds per Annum for my subsistance & to carry on my Studies as I could wish — this you can be convinced of by M^r Chase who I make no doubt can give you a pretty just estimate of the expenses that will accrue — The young Gentlemen who are here from Virginia, are supplied with Tobacco, which I imagine would be a more profitable remittance than Bills — Tobacco I am told sells to a Shilling Sterling per Pound clear of duty however the Gentlemen who delivers you this, can inform you more fully upon that head — I am happy to inform you, that the same professors who lectured here, during D^r Murrays residence in this City, still continue to lecture — By which I find an utter revolution to have taken place in the Practice — by their endeavoring to obliterate the Doctrines they

¹ Another Dr. Stewart whose home was in Scotland, probably related to Dr. Stewart of Annapolis.

formerly advanced, and which I find Dr Murray seems to have imbibed —

My Dear Father; you seem to be over anxious for my attaining a proficiéncy in my Profession. be assured for my own honour, & your satisfaction; do I never wish to return untill I have accomplished every desirable end — It will not be sufficient for me on my return, to acquire Honours, but I shall endeavor to merit and deserve them — I begin to be much of Dr Murray's Opinion with respect to practice here & in the London Hospitals — for I find the Physicians here much more attentive to the deseased Poor than they are in London — However, London being a place so famous for Anatomical Operations — I design going there the Winter after next, by which time am in hopes to have accomplished every thing to my own desire and your satisfaction —

Your Hint with respect to the present Opportunities that offer will be embraced diligently, as time is irretrievable. We have had a most severe Season in this place a greater quantity of Snow has fallen, than has been remembered for some time past —

My compliments to Mrs Stevens & Miss Neilson. I dined with their mother & Sisters last Week. they received letters from them by Mr Rutland's ship — which they have since answered. They express a great desire of coming to America & I believe, one of their Sisters will — Daily ro(bberies) are committed on the high way, adjacent the () there was a man Executed the other day for it. I enclosed several letters which you will be pleased to d(eliver) My compliments to Mrs Brice & other Acquaintances with my Love to the Family and the warmest wishes for their Health & happiness

I Remain Y^r Affectiona(te)

W^m Quynn

Dear Father/

Edenburgh Feb 10th 1784

This will be delivered to you by M^r Giddis A Young Gentleman from Scotland who means to reside some time in your City. He will be an entire Stranger and totally unacquainted with the Intercourse and communication with your Neighbouring Towns; Give me leave therefore to recommend him to your notice. And your advice, friendship, and civility, toward this young Gentleman will ever oblige

Y^r Affectionate Son

W^m Quynn

My Dear Father/

Edenburgh Feb^{ry} 20th 17 (84)

By a Young Gentleman who is just going to London I take the opportunity of transmitting these few lines under cover to M^r Chase — I wrote you a few days ago by a M^r Giddis who left this place immediately for Annapolis — Where in I suggested to you, the advantages which I might derive from your remitting Tobacco. perhaps M^r Giddis can inform you more fully on this head —

I shall avail myself of every opportunity that occur's in informing you of my situation — and likewise to assure you of my diligence in the prosecution of my studies. Very little has transpired in this place worth communicating, Political Convulsions daily occur in London; which I suppose M^r Chase informs you fully of —

I hope Congress have settled among you and that Annapolis flourishes as I would wish — I am sorry that my Brain is so sterile at invention so not to afford something more agreeable to your Perusal. however as it portend my health & happiness I hope it will suffice untill I am able to afford something more

entertaining. With my Love and Affection to y^r Family Believe me to be

Y^r Affectionate Son
W^m Quynn

P. S. My Compliments to all Friends.

My Dear Father/

Edinburgh March 4th 1784

Your's of the 25th of December has just come to hand; which gave me no small satisfaction, as it announced the Families health and am happy to understand your City is in a flourishing Condition. — The Conduct you have laid down for me I shall endeavor to pursue but am affraid your remittances will be inadequate to accomplish it. The supplies you think you will be able to furnish me with amounts to £400 — this you may rely upon will not be sufficient — The expences in this Country are not near so inconsiderable, as you imagine — Before I arrived in Edinburgh twenty three Guineas of my Bill was exhausted so that I was obliged to draw on Mr. Johnson for money to defray necessary expences — It will cost me above thirty Guineas from this to Paris — if I go by land — However I intend to return to London, on my way to France by water which will save ten or fifteen pounds. I am almost afraid to inform you what supplies may be necessary, and indeed I am uncertain what sum will answer. There are several Gentlemen in this City from Philadelphia with whom I am acquainted — & who have spent two winters in Paris — they inform me, that with the strictest Oeconomy they could not live in any part of Europe and carry on their studies for less than 200 Guineas a year — this I make no doubt will far exceed your expectations & I'le (avow) much surpasses my wish.

This summer I did intend to Stirling to see D^r Stewart ¹— but shall defer it; and apply myself diligently to French; that

¹ The same person mentioned in the letter of February 9, 1784.

I may be enabled to travel to Paris by myself without any servant — & by that mean's avoid accumulating unnecessary expences — Several who have left this City for Paris were obliged to take servant's owing to there Ignorance of the french Language & thereby prevent Imposition — An Experiment was made here a few days ago in imitation of the air Balloon's at Paris which I make no doubt you have heard of — They succeeded to their wish and are now about to construct one of a much larger size The one they set off here ascended as high as your Steeple — Your quotation from the celebrated M^r Pope speaking of particular Geniuses adapted to particular Professions I fully understand — And give me leave to remind you what the Spectator say's speaking of the following lines from the same author

that directing Power

Who forms the Genius in the natal hour
That God of Nature who within us still,
Inclines our action, and directs our will. Pope ²

The Spectator say's that the natural disposition to any particular Art, Science, Profession or Trade is very much to be consulted in the care of youth And studied by man for their own Conduct when, they form to themselves any scheme of Life — This I think applicable to myself and as the Study of Physic was my own choice so it will be my own fault if I omit the present opportunities that offer's to Qualify myself for the Practice of my Profession with safety and honour — I informed you some time ago that I thought tobacco would be a more profitable and advantageous remittance than Bills; and I am certain Johnson would like it much better. Any ships that come to Glasgow or Grenock — I should be happy in receiving a few

² Spectator, no. 157, Thursday, August 30, 1711. The passage is from Pope's imitation of Book II, Epistle II, of Horace, lines 278-281. William Quynn quoted the last line incorrectly. It should read "Inclines our action, not constrains our will."

American Ham's of Bacon by () if convenient — With
Love to the Family —

I remain Y^r Affectionate

W^m Quynn

My Dear Father/

Edenburgh March 16th 1784

Filial affection, actuates me to avail myself of every opportunity that occurs of informing you of my situation and Welfare. Upon taking retrospect of your letters, and considering your Paternal advice, the more am I impressed with a sense of my Duty to you and to myself — Be assured that my ambition here is not to gratify sensual pleasure, but to attain that which will afford more durable and Permanent felicity — I mean a thorough knowledge of my Profession — The Plan you have laid down for me to pursue, will afford an ample field for speculation and experience, but am afraid your remittances are too limited, to accomplish the end — I have not only maturely deliberated on it, myself, but have ask'd the advice of several Physicians in this City. and upon calculation, am of opinion, that £200 more will be wanting, to execute every thing to my wish & satisfaction. This at first sight, will appear an extravagant request but let me assure you it will be no more than will enable me to conduct my Studies with reputation. It is not to gratify the Luxury of a deluded imagination; but barely to afford the necessaries of Life.

“ To breathe, is not to live, but to do well —

There has been several People at Glasgow bit by Mad Dog's, one of them died from it, but the rest seem to be on the recovery. There seem's to be a great distraction of Sentiments in London, but enough of this — With my Love & Affection to the Family

Believe me to be Y^r

Affectionate Son W^m Quynn

P. S. Make Allen write to me.

To Samuel Chase in London

Dear Sir/

Edenburgh, April 22nd 1784

The last letter I received from my Father, he informed me you would deposit One hundred Pounds with M^r Joshua Johnson for my use — if you succeeded in your Agency — Should be glad you would inform me if may I expect any assistance from you in that respect — I am really affraid the expences of Europe will so far exceed my Fathers expectation; that he will think me dissipated and extravagant — It will not cost me less than two hundred Pounds the first year, with the strictest Oeconomy — The expences of Edenburgh are far greater than is generally represented. When you write to Annapolis, do inform my Father, I shall not be able to accomplish the Plan he has laid down for less than two hundred Pounds more than he mentions — that is, to go to Paris next Spring and continue there the summer & then return to London to stay the following Winter. It will not cost me less than fifty or sixty Guineas to travel from this to Paris & back again to London — When did you hear from home? I have been waiting for some time in anxious expectation. Remember me to all Friends;

Ever Y^r most Ob^t Serv^t

W^m Quynn

My Dear Father/

Edenburgh May 15th 84

I have wrote you such a number of letters lately, that I am almost exhausted for subjects to write upon, but as I think it my duty to avail myself of every opportunity that presents, so I think it incumbent on me to inform you in what manner I mean to conduct my studies this Summer — Our Anatomical classes are now terminated, and the summer Classes¹ in the

¹ Pennant, Thomas, *A tour in Scotland, 1769*, 4th edition, London, 1776 III, 247, says that each session lasts about six months beginning in Novem-

different branches of Medicine and Pharmacy will commence next week — I mean to attend three of them viz — *On Mid-Wifery* — *Botany* and *Materia Medica*. These with my application of french, will employ the summer, When I am in hopes to make such a progress as to enable me to dedicate the greatest part of the following Winter to Anatomy and Surgery — Mr Chase informs me that it will not be in his power, to deposit any money in Mr Johnsons hands for my use — Mr Russel having filed a Bill in Chancery against him — He likewise advises me against going to Paris — however your determination shall be predominant — The Remittances you inform (me) I may expect will nearly be sufficient to defray the expences that will accrue in the prosecution of my studies, but when you reflect on the many necessaries that will be wanting on my return (& wch I have before informed you of) I hope you will endeavor to enlarge them. I have drawn a Bill on you in favour of Mr Rutland for £20 which, was not for want of money, but because I am apprehensive of difficulties which might attend your remitting regularly — He has been kind in offering me an advance of any Sum but have deferred exceeding twenty Pounds for fear it might embarrass you. An Air Balloon is constructing in this City, which is to carry up several Gentlemen of Distinction, With particular Instruments to navigate it in the Air, how far it will succeed I am at a loss to say — My Love & affection to the Family, with my constant suppl(ication) for their health & Happiness — My Compt^s to all acquaintances — and Believe me to be

Dear Sir Y^r ever Affectionate Son
W^m Quynn

My Dear Father/

Edenburgh July 15th 84

I wrote you a few day's ago by way of Philadelphia, acknowledge. Lectures in botany, and attendance on the infirmary continue through the summer, many students remaining for these courses.

edging the receipt of yours of the 19th of april — I have since received letters dated in May by the Nonesuch — and am sorry to find among them none from you — Dr. Wetherspoon¹ arrived here a few days ago, when a Public Dinner was given him by a number of American friends- The toasts were sent to press for Publication, but were refused a place in the paper — He set off a day or two ago for Glasgow on his way to America — Dr Franklin has arrived in London is in perfect health — I am sorry I did not get a letter of introduction to him from Mr Chase which might perhaps be of some advantage to me should I go to France — I have inclosed a letter to Mr Rutland, which I hope will be delivered — Very little here worth communicating — Make my Love to the family & Believe me to be ever
Your affectionate Son

W^m Quynn

My Dear Father/

Edenburgh August 2nd 1784

I have just received a letter from Mr Chase who informs me he is about to leave London and to whom I commit the care of this letter I have received your's of the 30th of August 19th of September 12th & 20th of November and 25th of December, all which I have answered three fold — In my last I was undetermined wether to go to London immediately, and I remain still in doubt. I have consulted the different Professors of this University, but their decision was for me remaining another winter here, but as their private interest was concerned, I placed no great confidence in their determination. I have wrote to Mr Chase, to collect the Opinion of some Gentlemen of the Profes-

¹ Dr. John Witherspoon (1723-1794), presbyterian clergyman from Edinburgh, who had become principal of Princeton College in 1768. He was an active supporter of the American Revolution and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. In 1783 he went abroad to solicit funds for Princeton, but found so much feeling against the Americans that he had to abandon his plans.

sion in London and inform me. I shall weigh both sides and choose for myself.

I am at present no judge what advantages are to be derived in London — Edenburgh is certainly one of the best Theoretical schools in the World.

I have informed you of my association & my flattering prospects (I likewise intimated the expence) which I trust will be satisfactory I have give you an account of a little Woman who arrived here some time ago; since which have arrived two twin brothers from Ireland quite the reverse — they are eight feet high & proportionable I could walk with great ease under their Arm-Pits. I the last Week took a ride round the suburbs of this City in Company with some acquaintances from Virginia when we touched at Roslin Castle & rode thro' the Duke of Buccleugh's Park & likewise viewed his Palace,¹ which is by far one of the most Elegant buildings that I have seen since my arrival in Scotland — There is to be races at Leith, about a mile from this city the following week — When a Balloon as large as Col^o Lloyds house² is to be set off and some men to ascend in it. This will be the first attempt of the kind either in England or Scotland — I suppose you have heard ere this of the Death of old D^r Stewart make my Comp^{ts} to all friends & with my Love to the Family I remain Y^r Affectionate

Son W^m Quynn

My Dear Father/

Edenburgh August 6th 84.

As I think it my duty to communicate every thing with respect to my conduct in Europe. so I shall omit nothing which

¹ The Palace of Duke of Buccleugh at Dalkeith, and Roslin Castle across the woods from it, were among the most interesting spots to the south of Edinburgh. This drive is described in Smeaton, *Story of Edinburgh*, London, 1805, Ch. XXVI.

² This building had been the only three storied house in Annapolis before the Revolution. It is now known as the Chase House, having been built by Samuel Chase in 1769, sold to Edward Lloyd in 1771, served for a time as the Governor's Mansion, and acquired again by the Chase family in 1847.

if misrepresented to you — might create uneasiness — Know then that Five young Gentlemen & myself have collected a sum of seventy Guineas with which we mean to explore part of Europe not only as it will afford great satisfaction, but that we may be able in the ensuing Winter to undertake our studies again with greater alacrity — I believe we shall go as far as London and if we find it more conducive to our improvement we shall continue there otherwise we shall return to Edinburgh — and partake a little more of metaphysical reasoning I have been waiting a long time in expectation of hearing from you. I shall be able shortly to give M^{rs} Caldcleugh a satisfactory account of her son as we shall either go or return by Dumfries. With my Love to the Family & friends I remain ever Y^r Affectionate

W^m Quynn

My Dear Father/

Edinburgh Sept^r 20th 84

This will be delivered to you by M^r J^s Burn of this City, who comes to Annapolis with a view to find employment in the Capacity of a Clerk or any other Genteel avocation — I have received many Civilities from this Young Gentleman's Father & Family & therefore recommend him particularly to your friendship, hoping you will exert exerything in your power toward his Interest — If any merch^t in the City should want an assistant I hope you will not hesitate a moment, in recommending this Young Gentleman to their attention — Being fully convinced, he will meet with a favourable reception; I remain ever your

Affectionate

Son

W^m Quynn

My Dear Father/

Edenburgh Sept^r 29th 84.

The fourth day after I wrote you from London I arrived in this City — I intima(ted to) you, that I expected some money from Capt. Ste(wart)¹ which would detain me a day or two, however (since) my Company was anxious to get away; I re(ceived) but Nine pounds Sterling, acknowledging (a) receipt on your account of Fifteen Pounds Maryland currency —

I dined with M^r (Wallace) a few days ago who acknowledged your fa(vorable) reception of M^r Geddis — The classes do (not) commence untill the 29th of October so that I mean to spend a week or two at M^r Stewarts² seat at Argaty untill they begin — Edenburgh at present is very dull as every body almost have retired to the Country. I wish to God you would prevail on M^r Chase to write to D^r Shippen in Philadelphia for my certificate of having attended the College and transmit it by the first opportunity He told me he was Intimate with D^r Franklin & a letter of Introduction to him would be of service to me — There was a scene which presented itself in this city the other day which was exceedingly Laughable — D^r Graham³ appeared & gave notice that he was to give a public Lecture in a few days — Accordingly he appeared, carrying with him his usual absurd Customs, with the (affec)tation of superlative wisdom to a ridiculous (extr)eme — His Garb, Gait & Gestures were (grotes)que & resembled that of a magician or Conjuror — He was Comparised in an enormous Whig with many other Paraphrenalia — In short he made his Lecture & was

¹ Captain of a ship from Annapolis.

² A Scot who was apparently related to some of the Stewarts of Annapolis.

³ James Graham (1745-1794), a notorious charlatan who had studied at Edinburgh, but had probably failed to qualify as a physician. He travelled to America and practiced there, returning to England in 1774 where he became a fashionable quack, widely advertised by himself and others. He was in Edinburgh in July 1783, was imprisoned there, and was finally expelled on August 22, 1783, according to the Dictionary of National Biography, XXII, 323-326, which quotes the *Caledonian Mercury* as authority. He must have reappeared a year later, when William Quynn saw him.

immediately expelled the city. About fifteen day's ago — A Mr () in this City ascended to a height of One M(ile) in Air Balloon to the admiration of every Spectator — Inform D^r Stewart that I can procure him a young man well versed in chymical Pharmacy; but he (is) desirous of knowing what encourage(ment) he may expect. I enclose this to Capt Stewart, who I flatter myself will fo(rward) it the first opportunity — A Gentleman leaves Edenburgh for London in a week by whom I shall transmit a Packett — My love and affection to the Family I

Remain Y^r Affection(ate)

W^m Quynn

My Dear Father/

Edenburgh Oct^r 3rd 84

There was a young man who left this City some time ago and sails for Maryland with Capt. Stewart; He is desirous to get with some merchant or any other genteel employment. His Father is acquainted in the Family that I live from whom I have experienced many civilities. I have therefore Recommended him to your notice and flatter myself, you will render him every service in your power (I have) wrote to Capt Stewart requesting he would let me have the amount of the young man's passage which his (father) will advance me immediately provided (it meets) Stewarts approbation. () I shall acknowledge it on your account-

I wrote you some time ago, requesting, you would prevail on Mr Chase to write to Philadelphia & obtain a certificate of my having attended all the Professors in that University, particularly D^r Coones Lectures on the *materia medica*. I could wish you would exert yourself in procuring it, as it is not clear to me by that means I may take my degrees in this City — But should it be impractacable, I shall repair next spring to Glasgow, where D^r Murray took his and stand Candidate for the Doctoral Cap. as D^r Murray was the man under whose Auspices I first

commenced the study of Medicine, I think I am greatly indebted to him for any advancement that I have made in the Science — I therefore think it my duty as an acknowledgement to dedicate my Thesis (to him). I should write him by () I would not wish to burthen him with a Packett — I could wish you would make Interest with M^r Chase for a letter to D^r Franklin as it will be of infinite service to me should I go to Paris — There was a man yesterday to have ascended in a balloon but the wind being very high it blew down the Pole to which it was affixed, but which accident a Boy got killed & several wounded — He is to attempt it again this day. You will be pleased to excuse this disrangement of lines; but why should I apologize? When I have the authority of Chesterfield to justify it — I am (greatly) surprised not to hear from Betsy, I expected (to) have had all the Tea Table Chat of the City. With my Comp^{ts} to all Friends and with my Love to (the Family I)

remain Y^r Affectionate Son
W^m Quynn

From Alexander Innes to Allen Quynn.

Dear Sir,

Edinburgh Thursday 30th December 1784

At first view of this Epistle, I make no doubt, but you will be not a little surprised, at my adressing myself to you, being totally unacquainted, but I flatter myself, that upon perusal, the surprise that may have arisen, in this respect, will be somewhat allayed.

I as a most intimate friend and acquaintance of your Sons, could not refrain, putting pen to paper in this present juncture, tho' the powers of Epistolary correspondence, are not alike liberally given to every one, and as the present purport of this letter, requires a person experienced in the World, to delineate, still the feelings of my heart, somehow naturally dictate for the present.

How vain are all the designs of Man? Unmindful of his transitory state, he lays plans of permanent felicity, he sees the purpose of his heart ready to prosper, the air drawn building rises, he watches it with a beating heart, it touches the very point at which he aimed, the very summit of imagined perfection, when an unforeseen storm arises, and the smiling deceitful structure of hope, is dashed in one moment to the Ground. It is not by resisting, but by soothing grief, that we must heal the wounded heart. There is a particular pleasure in relieving the grief of others, to divert if possible their attention, from the mournfull objects, which may at times ingross them, we must find out the retreats of Woe, we may point out distress, which it may sometimes be in our power to alleviate. But in vain does the pride of human Wisdom, seek to explore the counsels of the most High, certain of the paternal care of our Creator our part is submission to his will. When youthful and promising Virtue finds an early tomb, tis just for every friendly heart to share, those unexpressive pangs of human Woe, the anguish of a Father and cares of a Mother, commands a sympathetic tear. Oh! relentless Fate! thus to be snatched away in bloom of life, must *he* become thy Prey, and fall a Victim to thy arm? How short is the Journey from our natal hour to the endless precincts of eternal day. What are all the enjoyments here below, when still precarious fate does domineer?, For in Pleasure's Grip, the dregs of Woe are mixed, and none can vaunt of a lasting comfort in this World. But you shou'd not repine beneath the stroke which heaven has given, shall human wisdom tax the divine power, and murmur against the decrees of Heaven. Pardon, *Dear Sir*, this mournful detail, but the particular share of attachment, that was mutually exchanged twixt your *Son* and I, engages me, to open my heart to you. — My sensibility is my pledge, he was never a friend by halves, for a true friend is rare to be met with. — On Monday 6th Dec^r, my dear and sincere friend and companion, your Son, Dr W^m Quynn was siezed with a fever.

From day to day it heightened progressively upon him, and

indeed he was very sensible till about the sixth day. During this period he was very apprehensive, and often regreted, being so far from home, and what a severe stroke it wou'd be to your Family shou'd he not get better, and how his Fathers hopes wou'd be blasted and^c — In such a pathetic strain did he continually express himself — On Monday evening 13th the fever got into his head and continued stronger until 6 oclock next morning, *Oh! for I shall ever remember the fatal hour! he expired.*

The recollection of the fatal moment forces tears from my eyes.

Little did I imagine that the date of my dear friends existence was so nigh, and death coming on with such hasty and gigantic strides,

He stayed in a M^{rs} Mollisons, a widow lady of this place, who I can assure you, from the day he was taken badly, till the day of his death shewed a maternal care towards him in every respect and on all occasions. D^{rs} Gregory and Cullen two of the most eminent Physicians in this place attended, but it was a putrid fever of the most inveterate kind that ever they had been witness to, and which at this same time is raging considerably. A M^r John Fyfe Banker in this place took charge of the funeral, and indeed every thing was conducted with the greatest regularity. — Your son when in life, was wont to get his money from him, and he, I understood reimbursed himself on M^r Joshua Johnston of London.

The last honours were paid to *him* on Friday 17th Dec^r at One Oclock when he was interred in the Gray friars Churchyard of this City. — M^r Alex. Wallace, Banker in this City, stood chief mourner.

You may rely, that every article that belonged to your Son will be properly looked after by M^r Fyfe, (who is a Gentleman of an unquestionable character) & properly dispatched. — I can no longer share his most agreeable company and friendship. — He fell soon indeed the ill fated prey of a rapid and inveterate trouble. — Little did I imagine that my dear friend's glass was

run. Why do I say so? I hope in God he is now happy, *thrice happy*, now enjoying the fruits of his thoroughly understanding the awfull lessons of divine Wisdom. — Believe me, Dear Sir; I really share with your grief, in the loss of such a promising young man. — I can form ideas of the tenderness of your heart; I know how much, *how very much* his death will affect your extreme sensibility, but let the single consideration, of *his* retreat from sorrow and anxiety, to eternal bliss, repress the turbulency of your, unfeigned sorrow, and if perchance busy memory shou'd intrude, on your, more important reflections, and trouble you with a thought, of your *dear Son*, drop one tributary tear, over his silent grave, as you may then think; from his too early secession from the gay & busy World. At the same (time) I can freely say, that he was universally beloved, by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and is now universally regretted. —

Cruelly indeed am I deceived from such a Stroke! Now alas instead of enjoying the pleasure of his agreeable company and conversation, no less distinguished by solidity of remark, than polished elegance of diction.

But alas! the death of your much loved Son, can never, I dare say, be driven from your most solitary retreats.

In every particular which constitutes the (endearments) of life unhappy, you need not repine, fortify your mind with patience & wait with perfect resignation for that day, when the Soul shuffling off this mortal Coil, shall awaken into happiness compleat & joy eternal.

From your own experience I dare say, you may find, that happiness term'd sometimes our beings end and aim, tho' often searched for, is seldom found. Environed by perplexities and dangers, it eludes the activity of the most vigilant observer, endued with the Coolest & most deliberate mind, and enjoying the full exertions of vigorous faculties as well as the rude attempts, of the untutored Sons of nature, attempts projected without thought, and disconcerted with facility —

I flatter myself you will at once perceive my motives for

writing you on this present mournfull occasion, as I assure you they were from an untainted friendship & regard I had & still have for your Sons memory. —

I have directed this to the care of Mess^{rs} Wallace, Johnson & Muir London, to be forwarded by them, for you, first opportunity, and which I hope you will receive safe. — It will afford me a singular satisfaction, if you would take the trouble, to let me have a few lines from you upon the receipt of this, as I will be anxious to hear if it reaches you safe. —

In the mean time attending to your answer,

I am very respectfully, and with much regard,

Dear Sir Your Most Ob^t Serv^t

Alex. Innes.

P. S. You may please direct for me care of William Scott Esq^r Old Assembly Close, Edinburgh. Should you not favour me with a few lines, I shall conclude from your Silence, that you have lookt upon my letter, in an officious point of view, tho' God knows the warmth of my heart.

A. I.

GOVERNOR HORATIO SHARPE RETIRES.

PAUL H. GIDDENS

Allegheny College.

“It is with equal reluctance Lord Baltimore dictates, and my pen transmits his Commands,” began Secretary Hamersley in a letter to Governor Horatio Sharpe of Maryland on July 20, 1768, which informed him of his dismissal from the chief executive's office.¹ In the next sentence, Hamersley named the

¹ Horatio Sharpe, *Correspondence of Governor Horatio Sharpe* (Archives of Maryland), William Hand Browne, editor, Baltimore, 1888, Vol. III, p. 515. (Hereinafter referred to as *Sharpe Cor.*)

To the Editor of The Maryland Historical Magazine:

The footnotes to the interesting article, "Letters of a Medical Student in Philadelphia and Edinburgh," in the *Magazine* for September, 1936, indicate some confusion as to the identity of the "Stewarts" mentioned. Under date of October 26, 1783, there is this sentence: "My compliments to Dr. Stewart." This is Dr. James Steuart, of Annapolis and Baltimore, who is buried in Old St. Paul's graveyard in Lombard street. He was the father of Dr. Richard Sprigg Steuart. Again, in the letter from Edinburgh of December 20, 1783, there is this sentence: "Dr. Stewart in Annapolis is a good judge what the expenses of a student will be in this place." Here, again, the reference is to Dr. James Steuart. Under date of Edinburgh, February 9, 1784, a letter says: "He comes to your city with recommendations from Dr. Stewart," and a footnote says: "Another Dr. Stewart whose home was in Scotland, probably related to Dr. Stewart of Annapolis." Here the writer refers to Dr. George Steuart, who settled in Annapolis about 1720 and married Ann Digges of Warburton Manor. He returned to Scotland at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. He was the father of Dr. James Steuart of Annapolis.

On March 4, 1784, the writer speaks of his intention to visit Dr. Steuart at Stirling, and on August 2, 1784, he mentioned Dr. Steuart's death. Both references are to Dr. George Steuart.

Under date of September 29, 1784, he writes of spending "a week or two at Mr. Stewart's place at Argaty," and the footnote calls this Mr. Stewart "A Scot who was apparently related to some of the Stewarts of Annapolis." This "Mr. Stewart" was George Hume Steuart, son of Dr. George Steuart and brother of Dr. James Steuart of Annapolis. Dr. George Steuart, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, took both his elder sons, George Hume and James, to Scotland to be educated. James was graduated in medicine and returned to Annapolis to practice. George Hume Steuart changed his name to George Steuart Hume and took up his residence at the baronial estate of the family, Argaty. Dr. George Steuart changed the spelling of his name from Stewart to Steuart in compliment (according to family legend) to his sovereign, Charles I, who was sentenced to death as "Charles Steuart."

R. D. S.

R. D. Steuart,
703 West University Parkway.
