



Mr. Marco. St. Augustine Florida
January 25 - 1893.

Walter Rankine

Best thanks for letter of
Jan. 15. It was indeed an interesting of the
beginning of a new year & gratefully prized by
me. It was too so kind of you to have thought
out so carefully your father's case & suggest
aids to increase the recovery of his strength. Dr. Blackwell
did what he could to direct him how to care for
himself, but the emphasizing of some things by
you had a most beneficial effect - your father
at once got more & more & began to take it
& has been more careful to raise his feet at
every opportunity & it is quite evident that in
proportion to his attention to this the swelling of his
feet decreases. He is very well - sleep well - eats well,
but this does not mean that he has recovered the
strength he had before his illness. A little overfatigue
may cause shame distinctly. & while speaking

of him the one day, then merely simultaneously George, Anna & Joe, in addition to myself, suggested the appropriateness of the present opportunity for his writing his autobiography. Accordingly by this pressure he wrote to Bernard to send over the materials & rough copy he had already made. Curiously enough we have been & are reading the "Life & Letters of MacAuley". A good model & I have persuaded him to rewrite the first part & give more incident & narrative to its style. It is really very delightful work to go one's life in a quiet work undisturbed & undisturbed; indeed this is all that, for the present, Joe Parker is able to do & I do not back proceed with sanguine hope to the possibility of his resuming Collyer work - however it is perhaps too soon to judge of this. In George's last letter, Jan 8th, he said he was still extremely busy but though he tries makes more we find him a little more at leisure, but I dread you have now returned to London. I know more about him than we do. Dr. Crick, from whom papa had a letter

yesterday says that he is better here than
 his strength returns very slowly. The letter has
 some College business in it so that I cannot
 enclose it as I wd have liked, but in answer
 to your father's mention of you as having taken
 up skin diseases & what prospect the Victoria Hospital
 was likely to offer he says "I shall only be too happy to
 be of use to Rankine when he returns. I think
 he has chosen wisely in selecting skin diseases
 for his specialty. It is a field comparatively un-
 occupied on this Continent & his success in it
 may be taken as assured". (assured). I may
 also tell you that when your father was
 Convalescent, & N.C. while paying occasional
 visits, he spoke confidentially to him about this
 pressing need of more room in the Med. School
 & his private wish to purchase Pappe's property to
 use the house at once for the pathological work,
 & add afterwards buildings as means of the same.
 As usual the difficulty is want of money. Pappe,
 still weak, left the matter in G^d hands & he employed
 a valuator & has put (we all think) a fair price

pour upon it, but Craik's illness has prevented
 any further steps being taken. In this letter he tells
 Papa that now he has called a meeting to
 lay his scheme before their society, & personally,
 he thinks that as there is no prospect of outside
 help he will advise that they all should put their
 shoulders to the wheel & advance. As far as we
 can see this will be a good thing for us. I
 never thought our money will be realized from
 their property - only Anna not being dissipated in
 finding another suitable home. But we will all
 be glad of your help at a juncture like this & it
 will work in with your plans. I am writing as
 quickly as I can to catch the "Aurora". I Papa seems
 a walk before it is later in the day. We are delighted
 with St Augustin & have lovely quarters looking out
 on the sea. It is still cold for this part of the world
 but to us it is pleasant we can walk farther than of I was
 warm. We are in the midst of orange, asparagus, peaches,
 guavas, persimmons & apples. The Smiths have been here for a
 few days & we have seen a good deal of them. They have
 left this night. I am sorry to find so short a letter for I have
 too much to say but I must stop. Write much more love
 to you from. Mother