1028/74/8

(W.A.Johnson to Jas.Bovell Johnson)

"The Parsonage"
Weston 9h Jany 1878

My dear Jimmi

I enclose a bill of Exchange for 10 Stg. I got your last from London Hospital saying you had seen MPS Hayward. I hope she may recover & find the trip beneficial to her. Some how or other my friends and acquaintances seem to be very far apart this year. A letter from Miss Forbes has just come to hand from Santa Barbara, a little south of San Francisco, Ca. She sends some very pretty samples of Marine Algae gathered on the Pacific coast. I have picked some nice diatoms out of them. Every one is fleeing from Weston. Whenever I look round & take time to think I feel like packing up & going too Nancy has written to me too. I was very glad to hear from her. I have a sort of inward unknown liking for her as for a favourite sister & always hope to see her yet again, still I do not know any reason for it. Surely my time here is about over. I have been here nearly a quarter of a century & alas: how little I have accomplished. To my sight weeds, weeds, nodding vainly in the sum, & scarce a plant of the Lord's planting, & even when there is one, it dare not shew itself. The Ch. is in a slow dead alive state in this Diocese. We must have patience notwithstanding.

I am looking daily to hear something of your Examination. It will give you a standing, enable you to take a practise or any other position & open the way to a future living. You may not be any better Doctor for it, but you will have fifty times better chance to make your way in the world.

Your dear Mother, Arthur, Willie, Dr. Bovell, all well when I last heard. Mrs. Howard Bovell has a daughter I think. Osler was with me a few hours two or three days ago. He is going to Germany next spring again. & to New York to read an article on the Hog disease of America on the 23 in before the Pathological Society there. Miss Goldie and Miss Stonie well, and the T.G.H. beautifully decorated from Kitchen to Garret. I went to see it. They have spent no end of labour on it. Miss Stonie promised to come & spend a week with me. She was out here last Summer & it did her a deal of good. The little Church has done well. Every service well attended even all the extra services. The two or three we have are faithful. Mary Ann Lyons is turning out well. We have abandoned the Hill Church. My weekly periodical "Fuel" on the Ch. door every Sunday Evg is a success. Every one runs after it. I have been scribbling against time. Your New Year's card was very pretty, quite a treat. Wishing you every blessing

Your very affec - father
W. A. Johnson