

W.A.J.'s medical work
in parish

1028/74/9

CUS 417/74.10

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

"The Parsonage"

Weston 4th Feb^y 78.

My dear Jimmie,

I have love enough my dear boy, if I had money at my command to send you anything. Your's of Jan^y 19th shews me you are low in pocket. It is not my fault though. I have warned you all, & you especially dear fellow, not to look to me beyond what I promised. I really believe I have done what I promised & you wrote me you would want a little money about x^tmas & in New Year's week I sent you a little. I thought I was doing just what you asked me, though I had great difficulty in finding it then & have not been able to meet my other bills in consequence. I was going into Town tomorrow to risk sending a little more, if I can get it. The urgency of your letter shews me it is all the more necessary for me to do so. You see I suppose now, if you had passed you might as well have been in the receipt of a competent income either in England or here, or any where else. This error will of course abide with you long enough, indeed it is for you to say what you can do at all without your degree. The making a living is by no means hopeless, but it must always be in some secondary way, or in Canada or U.S. rather than in England I suppose. Your year of opportunities over, & lost, I can not promise any more money; but will send it if you write me about it, if I can. As to my neglected to write you, this is a mere mistake, I believe I have been as regular in writing letters as I intended to be. I wrote every week for the year you left us, & after that one a fortnight. I was not able to imagine what on earth you were doing. Your letters were dated from anywhere but from the neighbourhood of your work, filled with new plans, & no regrets at past failures & I found when I wrote it is was always complaining of something, & now & then wrote long letters to you & tore them up again, sending only a line, because I felt it was all hopeless & now I have made up my mind not to destroy the pleasant recollections I have of you but just let you take your way. If you write me you are in want, do my best to send money; & meanwhile pray God you may see the absolute necessity of supporting yourself & to this end pass your examinations & take the first reasonable offer you meet with or return to Canada if you prefer it. If all be well I will send money with this tomorrow.

I see with much regret the position your dear sister is in, but do not see how she as a married woman can do otherwise than go with her husband or stay as he sees fit. Our heavenly Father would teach us, if we would only learn, that we need very little in this world to make us happy & that little seems not even to diminish if we use it for the welfare of others first & ourselves afterwards. So the prophet taught the poor widow of Sarepta & us through her. My health is rather better, but Arthur tells me I am threatened with ulceration of the bowels & must take a change. If there was only some way of compelling D^{rs} to accompany their sage advise with the means of carrying it out one would seldom object to it. I asked him yesterday what would be the consequence of staying where I am & he said four or five ys. of pain & suffering before death. I think I will write tonight to D^r Uer in New York & see if I can find some one who would exchange with me for three months & then I would not be so much out of pocket. Is it not probable that some of my letters may have gone astray at a large place like London Hospital? I wrote you last week & mentioned how long it seemed since I had heard from you, yet I do not see why any of your letters to me should have gone astray

I am sure I will gladly try to do better if I can. God knows you are always in my thoughts & the more so, because whenever your name is mentioned it is always accompanied with enquiries as to what you are about, if you passed, are you going to return &^c & I can never give a satisfactory answer.

There is not any thing new hereabouts all going on as usual.

Wishing you every prosperity & God's blessing, believe me

Ever your very affect^{te} father
W. A. Johnson

P.S. Turning to my Cheque book I find my last to you was £10 Stg dated 7.i.78 & the one previous £15. dated 22.x.77. As I have written & rewritten again & again I have promised nothing (ie) no definite amount at certain dates since your first year was out: but I have said as I say now, write me if you want anything & if I can send it I will & as soon as I can. You tell me of the treatment of sores or cuts, wounds &^c with spirits & water. I have poured Spts Turps into large wounds, such as thumb cut entirely through the thick part & dressed it with it, & it got well at once. Also large wounds from an axe such as in the calf of the leg & through the whole foot cleaving toes & bones. All heals nicely with turp^s only. The patient does not complain of much pain from the Turps I just pour it in & bind up closely leave bound for two or three days & keep it well soaked with Turps. Rather original ways!! but suited to a wooden country & among Pines. They tell me "Canada balsam" pure & simple is better yet: never fails. For colds, coughs dysentery &^c it is invaluable, taken pure in the teaspoon. In a severe attack of conges- tion of lungs, a teaspoonful of Turps every third hour, will cut the disease short in a night.

W.A.J.