

1028/75/10

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

Retiring

"The Parsonage"
Weston 14 Oct. br 1879

My dear Jim,

A thousand thanks for your affectionate letter & all its fears, offers, & sympathy. About my having "Stone" I do not think there is any truth in it. Old Phil could not find any. No doubt there is something wrong, or not in a healthy state with the smaller intestines: still no pain to the touch, but an absence of bile, & an inclination to take on a little dysentery every few weeks. I am much better on the use of "Plummer's pill": but still find it difficult to eat enough to support me. My fever has left me & since that I am better. Today I am much better, indeed some days I almost forget my ailments. I imagine fever has been at the bottom of my trouble; then rheumatism in the hips & pelvic bone, and dysentery, present more or less, with me since the cholera season of 1854. My age alone has made me decide to give up, & I am looking about to purchase some little spot in or near Toronto & retire there to subside. This is the best step I can take, as it will be far cheaper than renting, & end in leaving more property to my heirs. If I happened to find a suitable place I would probably move at once, if not, I may delay a little while.

Now about yourself. Why do you not go in for that examination & be done with it? Every year you delay is only hindering you. If you prefer England & can live comfortably, by all means stay there. As to this country, if you only have a good standing, you can make money quite too quickly. Every student I have known that has any brains & steady habits, are really well off. See Arthur, Osler & the like. Get your degree do, & be done with it; then the world is before you, & your present experience will be a blessing to you. It would be a nice thing to see you, & Arthur, & Willie, each doing well on his own hook in this country, & influencing others for good. It is a joy wh I do not deserve; strange, indeed, were it to happen!! The city of Toronto, at this moment offers a grand opening for advanced men in the three professions. They must be imported, whenever they appear. There are none among us. Again thanking you for your loving affectionate letter, & hoping to hear soon again; & Oh! do let me hope still to hear about that examination, then your constant slavery at a moments notice, will only have been a benefit to you. I remain

Ever your very affectionate father
W. A. Johnson