Title: Letter from William Irvine to Callender Irvine
Date: April 9, 1795
Location: I-SpahrB-1963-11

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My dear son

Earliest April 17th 1795

Your mother received your letter last night by Mr. P. Blaine with a 100 Dollars included - when you trouble or intrust any person with money it will be better to give them the money or at least inform him to endorse the amount in the letter to prevent mistakes as letters are sometimes mislaid, this however came perfectly safe. I wrote last post in answer to yours by Mr. D. Booth last night.

By what you say to your mother, you appear quite infectious for vexed & grieved to find you so. Good God do have a little patience & temper - it will not do for you to appear as if everything dear to you depended on a moment - I can add but little to what I have already said on this subject, but mere repetition and to express a hope that a very moderate share of deliberation will bring you to think more favorably of the business - But let me also repeat that I presume you must have thought of some other business what it can be gem at all to conjecture, however will make a single observation on the other learned professions - If you had a fortune and was religiously inclined you might spend part of it, in three or four years study, 2 more of it afterwards as an itinerant preach ev - ev to making a living by it, that is out of the question. Physic is thinks a more agreeable study than either Law or Divinity, but the practice is laborious, high trust, unhealthy and not very profitable, a bare existence is all that most can make it also ties a man down to a spot more than any other business.
as to merchandizing—I suppose you have no idea of that you know I cannot give you a habitat—perhaps you may humble yourself to stand behind a counter in a little shop—doubtless very good men have. I some make well out—grant that any business at which a man can make an independent living is reputable and fair, and all have a right to choose the kind of life they like best, if it can be accomplished. The time you have lost is most to be regretted, as it is barely possible that can ever be retrieved—I know of nothing you could do that would not take three or four years to fit you for providing for yourself; however as I already said you may possibly have something in view that I know nothing of—whatever it is, propose it—I will make me very happy to learn anything to your happiness—I shall most certainly give way to any decent rational project still I think you will change your mind once more & labor on at the old business—however I only think so from the view I have of the subject, and I have turned it in all possible points of view that has occurred to my mind, but I will suspend judging, and think as little on the subject as possible till I get your proposals perhaps they may clear the mist from my mind—in all events I will receive them calmly and endeavor to judge dispassionately which I entreat you to do also, may I decently injoin you as you value my esteem that you will pray to God to grant you true light & knowledge & direct your way—you promised to inform me what progress was made in the Bronquvile law—I wish to be out of suspense about it. That is, whether I will go or not as soon as may be—rather have you made answer as
to the manner best — it is true this is comparatively a small
subject — yet small things must occasionally be mixed with
great; I hope you will not let any one thing on earth go
all your thoughts — Your Mother joins me in love &
in prayer for you. Join your affectionate Father

D. J. Wins

Did your mother would have written but has a sore eye
which cannot well bear candle light — She was down this
afternoon to see our neighbor Mr. [illegible], who has been extreme
ill for three days, she was then dying, since we came home.

Certain accounts followed, that she is actually dead —

I know of no other domestic occurrence worth relating.
Mr. Callendar Irving

Phuladelphia

Sawed by
Wm. Alex. Nicket