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Title: Letter from William Irvine to Callender Irvine

Date: April 9, 1795

Location: I-SpahrB-1963-11

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My dear son $50/4$

Carlisle April 9th 1795

Your mother received your letter last night, by M^r R Blaine with a 100 Dollars inclosed - when you trouble or intrust any person with money it, will be better to give them the money, or at least inform them & indorse the amount on the letter, to prevent mistakes as letters are sometimes mislaid, this however came perfectly safe.

I wrote last post in answer to yours by M^r Bostwickwaite. By what you say to your mother, you appear quite impetuous I am vexed & grieved to find you so, Good God do have a little patience & temper - it will not do for you to appear as if ~~your~~ every thing dear to you depended on a moment - I can add but little to what I have already said on this subject, but more 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 I am at a loss 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, & more of it afterwards as an itinerant preacher - or - as to making a living by it, that is out of the question. Physic is I think 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 can not give you a Capital - perhaps you may
humble yourself to stand behind a Counter in a little shop -
doubtless very good men have, & some make well out - I 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 line
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 your
self - 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 any thing 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 vents I
will receive them calmly and endeavor to judge dispassionately
which I entreat you to do also, may I desire & enjoin 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 Drusuffle, law -
I wish to be out of suspense about it, that is, whether I will go or
not as soon as may be - neither have you made answer as

to the mare or Colt - 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 ingrow
all your thoughts - your Mother joins me in love &
in prayers for you. I am your affectionate Father
Wm. Greene

P.S. your Mother would have written but has a sore eye
which can not well bear candle light - She & I were down this
afternoon to see our neighbor Mrs. Sam^l Lyon, 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. Callender Swine

Carried by
Chas. Alex. M. M. C. C.

Philadelphia

Philadelphia

[Faint, illegible handwriting at the top of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]

[Faint, illegible handwriting at the bottom of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]