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Title: Letter from Charles Stinson to His Father

Date: September 15, 1841

Location: I-DayL-1972-1

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Dickinson College Sept. 15th 1841

My Dear Father

After a long and tiresome journey I reached Carlisle about 5 O'clock last evening, I met with 2 or 3 others that were going in the same cars, so I fell in with them, these had been here before therefore they took me and gave me introductions to quite a number of the other students, at length one of them took me to the Pres^d and after a very few words he requested me to call this morning, which I did, and passed an examination and the conclusion is as expected that I am wholly unprepared to enter the Sophomore class, so here I was without knowing scarcely what to do. Mr. Durbin stated cases that he had witnessed himself of a person that had joined the same way that I would have done, and the conclusion was this, that he studied day & night almost, became impotent, and had to give it up at last for a bad job, but here I was yet, he told me it was altogether impossible to overtake them in the languages, for in Greek they are at least 2 years ahead of me, then he advised me (as also the other professors) that I had better join the Freshman, so I thought it would be altogether contrary to your advice and very far from meeting my own also, but rather than to leave the college immediately I ~~will~~ join the Freshman and of which I have a certificate to enter that class this evening, now you see where I am situated and if you think it will cost too much money to give me the whole course, why you had better direct me to return and go to farming, well then I had to look and inquire for some furniture I spoke to the Pres^d on this subject and I told him my circumstances that I proposed renting for the present session, but he said that all the students had their own and rent I could not do for them

was none to be had, then of course I had to buy rather than to be without
so one of the professors took me to look at some that a student left there
which he had the power of selling and which I thought would answer
my purpose very well, and which I got for about half what it cost he told
me my whole furniture cost me \$7.50 but I have not got enough yet of
clothes for I expect I will want to have a change of shirts of which I have
only two and ~~an other covered~~ this what takes money and trouble but
I did not pay for them I expect it will all be in the hands of the
General Treasury, & in regard to the \$50, I gave it to Mr. Durbin and he
was not for taking it at all at first but when I told him it was your
directions for me to do so, well then he took and said he would
arrange that business for me, in fact I could not get any satisfaction
from him but he took the \$50 the rest I will hold on to myself and of
which there will be but little left I am afraid, as I have to buy
oil, ink, lamp and a great many more like this, I only wish
I would have known all this before I started from home, it would
have been quite probable I would have never seen Carlisle

I saw a great many strange sights on my journey the greatest one
was the bridge over the Susquehanna, which we could see very well as
the cars went over very slow, we saw but very little of Harrisburg as
we merely went in and out again I did not get to see the capital
without it was just the cupola and I had not time go to
see it for the cars stopped just as long as the baggage was changing
which was only a very few minutes, neither the baggage nor passenger's
cars changed until we got to Harrisburg and there changed both,
I was very much pleased with my journey as far as it went,
but I was exceedingly tired in the evening & slept very sound indeed
upon the borrowed bed which I succeeded in getting I was almost
afraid at first I was not to get any bed at all I very soon found out

that I ~~found~~ had to take care of myself if not to be imposed upon
though the greater part of them appear very clever fellows
I have succeeded to obtain a very clever room mate and the Dr.
tells me as good as I possibly obtained for he says he is very
studious, had to leave once I believe on account of studying
to hard, the Dr said he has been seen studying untill 11 & 12 o'clock
at night, ~~and~~ will be able to study that way I presume I will be
able to keep along with my class at least I will try very hard to
Dr Durbin said the manner of payment would all come right
he seemed to intimate something about it being pretty long
for he said there would be no difficulty in sending money by
some correspondent of Mr. Symore the Treasurer, this I asked
him very little about for I can tell you I did not feel in a
talking humour after what he told about entering the
Sophomore, ~~he~~ said was very sorry for my circumstance
but he could not let me enter the Sophomore, then, when
one of the profes. examined me on Latin & Greek asked me what
my intention was in trying to enter the sophomore, I told him
that I thought 3 years was as long as I possibly could afford
to spend a college, then when I passed the examination they
(the professors) consulted together I suppose nearly an hour before
they could come to a conclusion and at last told me what
I have told you above, they pretended to feel for my cause
but whether they actually did or not I can't say, Dr Durbin seems
to be a pretty nice man he talked to me in a very sociable
like manner, and also the other professors, No doubt but when
you read this letter you will be greatly disapointed, this is the
reason I write so soon, for now you have the preceeding of what
I ~~write~~ ^{something about what they say} ~~you~~ ^{think} ~~it~~ ^{lets me remain} ~~for~~ ^{the things which I thought}
I have ~~done~~ ^{done} ~~all~~ ^{for} ~~you~~ ^{please} ~~write~~ ^{write} ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~soon~~ ^{soon} and tell me - your son C. W. Steer



Robert Hindley Esq^r
Fostonville
Northampton County
Va

Handwritten signature in red ink.

Dickinson College Sept. 15th –41
My Dear Father

After a long and tiresome journey I reached Carlise about 5 O'clock last evening, I met with 2 or 3 others that were going [t]here in the same cars, so I fell in with them, these had been here before therefore they took me and gave me introductions to quite a number of the other students, at length one of them took me to the Presd and after a very few words he requested me to call this morning which I did and passed an examination and the conclusion is as I expected that I am wholly unprepared to enter the Sophomore class, so here I was without knowing scarcely what to do. Mr Durbin stated cases that he had witnessed himself, one of a person that had joined the same way that I would have done and the conclusion was this, that he studied day+night almost, became impotent, and had to give it up at last for a bad job, but here I was yet, he told me it was altogether imposible to overtake them in the languages, for in Greek they are atleast 2 years ahead of me, then he advised me (as also the other professors) that I had better join the Freshman, [so?] I thought it would be altogether contrary to your advise and very far from meeting my own also, but rather than to leave the College immediately I ~~would~~ joind the Freshman and of which I have a certificate to enter that class this evening, now you see where I am situated and if you think it will cost to much money to give me the whole course, why you had better direct me to return and go to farming, well then I had to look and inquire for some furniture I spoke to the Presd on this subject and I told him my circumstances that I proposed renting for the present session, but he said that all the students had their own and rent I could not do for there was none to be had then of course I had to buy rather than to be without so one of the professors took me to look at some that a student left there which he had the power of selling and which I thought would answer my purpose very well, and which I got for about half what it cost he told me my whole furniture cost me \$7.50 but I have not got enough yet of clothes for I expect I will want to have a change of sheets of which I have only two and an other coverlet this what [?] takes money and trouble but I did not pay for them I expect it will all be in the hands of the General Treasury, [O?] in regard to the \$50, I gave it to Mr Durbin and he was not for taken it at'lll [?] at first but when I told him it was your directions for me to do so, Well then he took and said he would arrange that business for me, in fact I could not get any satisfaction from him but he took the \$50 the rest I will hold on to myself and of which there will be but little left I am afraid, as I have to buy oil, Ink, lamp and a great many more like this, I only wish I would have known all this before I started from home, it would have been quite probable I would have never seen Carlise

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Treasurer, this I asked him very little about for I can tell you I did not feel in a talking humour after what he told about entering the Sophomore, he said was very sorry for my circumstance but he could not let me enter the Sophomore, then when one of the Profes. examined me on Latin + Greek asked me what my intention was in trying to enter the sophomore. I told him that I thought 3 years was as long as I possibly could afford to spend a college, then when I passed the examination they (the professors) consulted together I suppose nearly an hour before they could come to a conclusion and at last told me what I have told you above, they pretended to feel for my cause but whether they actually did or not I can't say, Dr Durbin seems to be a pretty nice man he talked to me in a very sociable like manner and also the other professors, No doubt but when you read this letter you will be greatly disappointed, this is the reason I write so soon for now you have the preceeding of what I have done thus far. Please write very soon and tell me something about wheather you think to let me remain or not for the things which I bought I can I think get rid of without much ~~much~~ difficulty ~ Your Son C. H. Stinson