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Title: Letter from John Zug to Margaret Hood

Date: December 16, 1839

Location: I-Friends-2013-8

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Carlisle Dec. 16th 1839

My own dearest Margaret,

Strange have been some of my feelings since I left you on Sabbath week. I was sick then, and but for my indisposition I should not have left you on Sunday & so soon as I did. I felt that I was being taken severely ill, and had better be at home - I was not disappointed, in my notions of my health, for I had scarcely got home, when I was half roasted with a violent fever which continued until the next day - I was more or less sick for several days, and probably worse than I would have been, because I suffered business to keep me in my office or in the street or in the Co. House, where a sick man never should be found. From your father I suppose you heard the issue of our famous trial Grand Neville - It was not my case, but of Adairs cooking - I was merely called in to help to eat the dish when cooked - the whole amount of it was that - Mr. House had not prepared the right kind of testimony -

I don't know - whether you knew it or not - But your father before he left Carlisle on Wednesday last, made himself my client, by giving me a case - It is a case of collecting money from Mr. John Moore, my first client - I also had another client this morning - who entrusted to my care the bringing of a writ against Jacob Weibly - So that I think I need not despair - having had four clients already - But I tell you, my dear, this practice of Law is not the easy, pleasant kind of business men imagine it to be - To one of my warm & ardent temperament it is almost dangerous - So much care, thought & anxiety on so many different

Subjects all in the mind at the same time, weigh it down, or fret & excite it to such an extent as almost to break it to pieces. When I have important cases on hand I know they will always be fretting & exciting my brain, so as almost to split it. And then this excitement almost invariably produces headache. The little that I have done shows me plainly too the moral difficulties in the way - So many temptations to take advantages, where in strict morals I am prohibited - but thus there is no necessity of doing; and I am convinced that I may be a practicing lawyer & a devoted Christian at the same time. Whenever I find it otherwise, my Law shall go to the dogs, & I'll adopt a more honest means of obtaining a livelihood. But I apprehend the greatest ill I will find, will be the character of the Company I am compelled to keep - All or nearly all our lawyers here are ungodly men, not only irreligious - but most of them profane - These are my companions often - too often - My purpose is fixed however to have no more to do with them than need be - & above all to maintain my own integrity, & not be "ashamed of the Gospel of Christ" - My daily prayer to God is that I may stand fast - immovable - "always abounding in the works of the Lord" - and that no temptation may lead me to adopt the devices of the enemy.

I have during the past week written to our good friends Moore, & Bowman, & expect answers before a great while - I urged Bowman to use all his influence with Matilda, to induce her to go to Mt. Joy. My own impression is that both of you would find it pleasant & improving, &

that you never either of you, could regret the time you spend there. My own mind is made up. All the influence I can use, shall be exerted in persuading you both to go.

As I before remarked, - I have suffered no little from sickness during the past week - My own impression is that my constitution is very much out of repair - and that I need a regular system of conduct & diet to restore me to that vigor of health, ^{with} which I have long been blessed - Though I never was constitutionally strong - I intend to be careful with my health - habits, diet and do all I can; Indeed I am now taking a course of prescribed medicines, and intend living less flesh & more on vegetable food &c. than formerly -

I am taking a very pleasant kind of pectoral gum, called "Irish Moss" - I find it quite delightful to take - -- on the whole though not well yet, I ^{I am} feel getting stronger, & can & do cheerfully attend to all of my business - I don't read a great deal of hard reading at this time - but have ^{me} taken up some light reading - & such as will make "laugh & be fat".

With all the sentiments of love which I can cherish I write myself

Yours
John -

Dear

Miss M. A. Hood

Stoughton,

Cumbeſland Co

Jan 2



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Carlisle Dec. 16th 1839

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