

# Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from George Frenner to Christian Humrich

**Date:** August 1851

**Location:** I-Original-undated-15

### Contact:

Archives & Special Collections  
Waidner-Spahr Library  
Dickinson College  
P.O. Box 1773  
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)

If you receive the letter please forward it -

August 11<sup>th</sup> Aug 1831

Dear Christ -

Gully Putnam has just come  
to town and informs me that he is going  
to Cadwell and I snatch these few  
moments to inform you that I am  
well. I am at the law and very well  
satisfied so much so that I fear I  
will not have the pleasure of returning  
to College. I would like you to do a  
little favor for me - you will if you  
please get the key to my old room  
and see if you can find a letter  
now there directed to me. Macomber  
had prepared a letter to send to  
me by Blake. Nelson containing  
some money of which I stand very  
much in need at present  
and probably in haste neglected or  
forgot to send it. My reason for making  
this request is that the servant may  
come across it - and pocket the  
contents - In great haste  
I am sorry that I had not known  
that Martin was going home  
yours George

Dear C

In fulfillment of the promise I made you I sit down to  
drop you a few lines. You will remember what that promise  
was, but I have other reasons for writing so soon - you must  
know that I am anxious that you should stay with your  
friends as ~~long~~ as possible in order that you may have a large  
share of enjoyment and pleasure. You know likewise that  
almost every one that knew of your going away prophesied  
that your <sup>visit</sup> would be short - that you would get  
home ~~sick~~ <sup>in come home</sup> ~~very~~ <sup>^</sup> ~~soon~~ every body wanted to know ~~whether~~ how long  
you were going to stay whether you intended to stay all win-  
ter or a few months or a few weeks, you gave them the  
proper answers to such questions - that if you liked it you  
would stay for some time, and if you did not that you would  
be home shortly. Every body seemed to think that you ~~would~~  
~~get home sick~~ must of necessity get home and consequently  
Come home soon. You will remember that I always spoke against  
this, and said that if you could stay one week, you could  
remain six months.

You no doubt will have much pleasure, see much  
and learn much and thus be immensely benefited by your trip.  
Your Cousin John and your other friends will do all in  
their power to make the visit an agreeable one and  
I am determined not to let you get home sick, if  
any writing or instructions of mine can prevent it.  
This home sickness is all folly, ~~and~~ <sup>it</sup> will be new and strange

and interesting all tending to amuse and instruct. you  
friends are within a days ride and you may be in daily com-  
munication with them (by letter) if you please. There is nothing  
near which wears and disgusts which is the cause of the sickness.

The only cause if there be any will be on account of your ed-  
ucation - that in company of those well educated you will  
feel backward and not at home. This may be so. but I  
know that you have a mind that with little education ~~and~~  
combined with the information you will pick up there (may if  
there be not of the first order in a short time take the  
lead. I know of the character of your mind from ob-  
servation and I know too that with a common English  
education you would have nothing to fear from any society.  
Remember ~~that~~ this is not flattery nor do I utter it as such  
but I wish to give you a little self confidence and assu-  
rance for this you should have in order to get along. ~~But~~  
It is hardly necessary to warn you against becoming con-  
ceit - you will not I know.

As you have a good memory you may learn much  
that will be of great benefit to you in after life.

Jones is perfectly correct treating us like gentlemen & students  
I have often thought he erred through ignorance rather than  
design based upon a knowledge of the treatment due a student rather  
than from a professor. ~~then~~ a design or desire to be arbitrary. I think he  
has a mild disposition which to say the least would point out such  
a course as a necessary consequent (all other things being equal). I am  
afraid we set a bad example - as I learn that the postmen clap  
three off half a page of Greek & kissed a man for volunteering to scribble  
upon it. James was ~~quite~~ refractory ~~to~~ but shortened the lesson  
to the usual length. He is likewise more sociable and entertaining  
in the recitation room.

With feelings nearly akin to fear lest I may have worn out your patience  
with my delay, I now sit down to drop you a few lines. The causes of that delay  
are many & various. In the first place, about the time of the receipt of your letter  
my mind was absorbed engrossed with the idea of having in a few days to prepare  
and pronounce a chapel speech - that was the absorbing - all exciting topic  
for the time being - Correspondence must be neglected, studies must be neglected  
in a word everything has to be laid aside for the time being not so much  
<sup>to secure</sup> for time for thought in regard to the speech in ipse but to contemplate the  
the occasion, the idea of a speech - to justify myself - and secure the  
courage to the sticking point, that point <sup>or gathering the speaking point</sup> being secured, next the preparation  
of the speech, and that after a deal of scratching, scraping, merrily & wishing  
that the affair was gone through with was at length produced in the shape  
of about five pages and a half (letter paper) on \_\_\_\_\_ I shan't say what  
subject, suffice it to say that I began at the epistolary era and brought  
down all things fair & square to the present. And last & likewise  
least the production before a crowd of admirer's ears - ~~to the looking~~ of  
every variety of attainment from the astounded look of Carle to the indifference  
of the senior. I ~~however~~ went through ~~not houses~~ without having to refer  
once to my manuscript, that over I must have some little leisure  
to receive congratulations, hear opinions expressed & various other minutiae  
consequent upon a debut upon the chapel stage. I have now passed  
this fiery ordeal - and if I can but prepare them - may get along without  
much trouble. In respect to our studies ~~we~~ we are left rather busy, indeed so  
and joined to the fact that college life for us this year is so monotonous  
that there is nothing of interest to communicate, ~~we~~ had at least a tendency  
to cause me to put off the reply from day to day the intended reply - hoping that  
something might turn up, that would afford a topic for half a sheet or more.  
We ~~do~~ do as much as we please - to throw off starchy lines of Greek was nothing.

If you discover the letter please forward it –

Hagerstown Aug 1851

Dear Chris,

[Tully Roper?] has just come to town and informs me that he is going to Carlisle and I snatch the few [illegible] moments to inform you that I am well. I am at the law and very well satisfied so much so that I fear I will not have the pleasure of returning to college. I would like you to do a little favor for me – you will if you please get the key to my old room and see if you can find a letter in there directed to me. [McCeney?] had prepared a letter to send to me by Blake Nelson containing some money of which I stand very much in need at present and probably in haste neglected or forgot to send it. The reason for making this request is that the servants may come across it - and pocket the contents ----- In great haste I am sorry that I had not known that [illegible] was going sooner.

Yours George

[page break]

Dear C

In fulfillment of the promise I made you I sit down to drop you a few lines. You well remember what that promise was, but I have other reasons for writing so soon - you must know that I am anxious that you should stay with your friends as long as possible in order that you may have a large share of enjoyment and pleasure. You know likewise that almost every one that knew of your going away prophesied that your visit would be short - that you would get homesick and come home. Everybody wanted to know how long you were going to stay whether you intended to stay all winter or a few months or a few weeks. You gave them the proper answer to such questions – that if you liked it you would stay for some time, and if you did not that you would be home shortly. Everybody seemed to think that you must of necessity get home and consequently come home soon. You will remember that I always spoke against this, and said that if you could stay one week you could remain six months.

You no doubt will have much pleasure, see much, and learn much and thus be immensely benefitted by your trip. Your cousin John and your other friends will do all in their power to make the visit an agreeable one and I am determined not to let you get homesick if any writing or instructions of mine can prevent it. This homesickness is all folly, everything will be new and strange

[page break]

and interesting all tending to amuse and instruct. Your friends are within a days ride and you may be in daily communication with them (by letter) if you please. There is nothing here which [wearies] and disgusts which is the cause of the sickness.

The only cause is their be any will be on account of your education - that in company of those well educated you will feel backward and not at home. This may be so, but I know that you have a mind that with little education combined with the information you will pick up there may if theirs be not of the first order in a short time take the lead. I know of the character of your mind from observation and I know too that with a common English education you would have nothing to fear from any [society?]. Remember [tear in page] this is not fitting nor do I intend it as such but I wish to give you a little self confidence and assistance for this you should have in order to get along. It is hardly necessary to warn you against becoming [conceited?] – you will not I know.

As you have a good memory you may learn much that will be of great benefit to you in after life.

---

[James?] is perfectly [illegible] treating us like gentlemen and students-

I have often thought he erred through ignorance ~~rather than design based upon~~ of a knowledge of the treatment due a student from a professor. There's a design or desire to be arbitrary. I think he has a mild disposition which to say the least would point out such a course as a necessary consequent (all other things being equal.) I am afraid we set a bad example - as I learn that the freshmen class threw off half a page of greek and hissed a man for volunteering to recite upon it. [James?] was most [refractory?] but shortened the lesson to the usual length. He is likewise more sociable and entertaining in the recitation room.

[page break]

With feelings nearly akin to fear lest I may have worn out your patience with my delay. I now sit down to drop you a few lines. The causes of that delay were many and various. In the first place about the time of the receipt of your letter my mind was absorbed [engrossed?] with the idea of having in a few days to prepare and produce a chapel speech – that was the all absorbing – all exciting topic for the time being – correspondence must be neglected, studies must be neglected in a word everything has to be laid aside for the time being not so much to secure for time for thought in regard to the speech in ipse but to contemplate thus the occasion, the idea of a speech – to fortify my self – and screw the courage to the sticking point or rather to the speaking point, that point being secured next the preparation of the speech, and that after a deal of watching, [illegible], nervously, and wishing that the affair has gone through with has at length produced in the shape of about five pages and a half (letter paper) on -----

I shan't say what subject. Suffice it to say that I began at the Christian era and brought down all things fair and equal to the "present hour." And last and likewise least the production before a crowd of admiring hearers - of every variety of attainment from the astounded look [illegible] to the indifferent senior. I went through, not however without having to refer once to my manuscript. That over I must have some little leisure to receive congratulations, hear opinions expressed and various other minutia consequent upon a debut upon the chapel [tear in page]

stage. I have now passed this firey ordeal - and if I can but [propose?] them - may get along without much trouble. In respect to our studies we are kept rather busy and joined to the fact that college life with us this year is so monotonous that there is nothing of interest to communicate. Had at least a tendency to cause me to put off from day to day the intended reply - hoping that something might turn up, that would afford a topic for half a sheet or we do pretty much as we please - to throw off thirty lines of greek was nothing.