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Title: Letter from John Armstrong to James Armstrong

Date: April 30, 1772

Location: I-SpahrB-1968-4

Contact:

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April 30th 1772 Dear Jamey Being favour dwith MM Haddells letter from his Mother, informing one that he could not come to Carlisle Timmediately how up to fart Armstronge where there had an agreeable interview with Mon Waddell and from whence Inow write. your letter of the 10th Jours gave your Mother of Jak Once a lup of pleasure panciety but the former preponderates as we think you un der some mistake thro'a defect in patience peapersence assiduity & Character must precede large expectations in Mway & in almost every Other way, there in proper time will under the common influence of heaven yell every honest Man a decent Support. Tonpatient againty for any worldly matter is a dangerous disposition. Tree you are mending you hand write which is so far well if you persevere. Your letterfalthe on the whole agood one) is too general, a vais ety of facts however mixed or illustated they may be is more satisfactory expecially When an Opinion or Judgment is to be formid upon them - you mantain an equal Stile or dection the ynletter of one of the Sentimento are good others very exceptionable _ On that of tryale of differenties your should not only vay they may be designed to quicken our derset they excite to larged industry se but also to lead to adependence on the Source of all our comforts, to perhaps to prevent the evil that but too often accompany or result from a scene of prosperity. Seither reason nor Religion requires a Man to throw away himself, his time nor has aggivement, nor on the other hand should be be too ambitions. Restless is the mind of Manindeed, but let me tell you in one word that the whole universe wond not datisfy the extensive of eraving desires of one human mind nor can any thing give volid rest but aspiretual union to the lord tesses by faith, whereby the Buce Stronging Soul is brought back to god the only Center of its Rest, hear the vise of gracious invitation Comeunto me ally that labour and are heavy laden pye Shall find rest to your souls - no matter what this labor This tops a dipatisfied Situation may be provided it is mental the invitation or callisto suchabne geagthere are thowards of manking perplece deaccedingly Seeking rest or a happiefying portion where it never will be found, the labour es all fruitlefo because they mistake the Object - and yet various Subordinate comparts are to be lought after pare promis doo, to Such as seek first or above all other things the hingsom of god. Again on that resolution of yours respecting submission to the will of God or the gefts of his Brovidence, you thinking you were to make an attempt in the toest Indies which you would call Governors first you have great cason fordubmission prosignation in the

noments, tis animmediate duty his not a lepost pon'd, you must not make cons tions with god; in the great patron pepitony of praych bether take of the person what it will you find the Setition is the will be some. 20 mistake if god hour Try you as you describe of disappoint you 3 attempt, do you think you could com mand that quiet resignation of whilehy uspeak? Twishyou werlbetter agnorn ted with your own breast, don't trust of own abilities to procure or command such apricions Tewel as resignationes, the Regist of god no it won more proba bly flee from you fan as the golden Objects of puremet, leaving it's opposite in pof reprompperhaps Innory other acompreses of the Same trind. Our common friend M? Wa dell whoo Indgment Tomachesteen thinks you can dovery well where you a great tobe clearer in the propriety of your tarry -ingen Virginia than either y Mother or Francailly agree to, but for any that get appears et as doubtlefs outy to tarry there until the misdle of November next, about that home we whall expect a that visit from you for farther consultation on various important things pin the mean time I htreatyou not to determinary thing of con sequence without a previous consultation with M. Waddell who will ready talk with you on any convenient Subject of twenty take pleasure in contributing to your ofsistance in those vices which his experience enables him togive. I'm pleas of to hear of M. M. Coskerys agree ble profrects, some of which as may be in magin'd from your letter have set you han edge Hoy no absolute prohibition in mothers of that hind only that those has are undoubtedly premature in every preparticularly the proffee tille de prento bevery favourable dupporte by good council as an act of that Sort may never my yower to alter or amen Doctor Towin has not been able line you daw him to Ride a road or lead his House till about tendays ago ges yet but weak altho' the disorder he told me once if those attacks were represted he would go to Sea y afterward settle in treland, this naturally open a afull conversation in regard to y Mettle ing here which ifound in this that none would come so agreeable to him, that he would desire to live on good terens - that his practice had not been vogod for two years post as formerly the hernew not the reason that if you conord evidently do better where you were you might farry here when you should come topay the next post, but that if the Jermans continued to buy lands here even one Do would hardly be supported be your hourd have wrote the Doctorafero lines as you left him sick. I'm much inclin'd to your returninsome prudent space of time. M. Waddell thinks it would take at least another year to enable to form aright Judgment of that you may enlarge of district by cropsing a River towards Potomach, yet freshaps November next may aford Sufficient light pray take care toguard ags! The ague next fall as that would be agreat praignoise toyou. Med Filgh mans friend the Dris Dead David Thear moved into Queenstown Jaid to be afine Seat Mejors Then Tilghman blam'd you for going a way Savis is now inesteems ther are two ordinary Buch fellows as Corliste, and there were many a Mes when the Sonwas asling

what mention of the Soctors going to treland is an entire uncertainty ets litrely he will attempt Hatronorey this next Fall, but whether his mark be Baltimore or the month of Letorts Spring is yet uncertain. Mys Betsey Callandard Match lately on foot with Tarfon Andrews is the to go back on the part of her delfand Father. Asto my own Jamely Circumstances they are much as they were aty ngoing away only that from one quartery another my debt have swollen high and and Thave not sold my land hear the Town am much difficulted on that are my publick Ofices being at this time vearer worth naming - Thave paid At! Waddell and two offices Bill in This and one Bill to whomaker in Philaday n Taylor also brought me in a Bill of about & 14 but my money being estausted Jeon'd not pay him. The new Governor treated me politely in the stile of an Oldfricho, he is about this time to be marry I to Mil Masters your friends in Philada are ingeneral well Foined with D. Morgan who com -plains that you don't write him a single letter pray write him - he askidm if you were preparing for a Doctor Degree, Itold him youlld tate of health and tops distration Timmagin's would prevent at present especially as he Said it wou'd require y personal attendance. Di Auch has at least five ap - prentice y has lately printed som ing on Health dedicated to Cadagan Parson Ramsey is Dead whis Forothe untero bree astrant in the More on who have Thow forget has wrote apions y celebrated Enloginmon the beca -con which is prefixed to Mr greens termon it you have any opportunity to Philada it's worth Sending for pray write by the way of Baltimore it you pos Jibly can, Tohall write you before the Fall ordoring to be drop'd at wibana Att Tohn Campbell has by some means Ithink Sent his Father Several letters Since last Fall. Poor Armstrong Buchanan was lately found Dead in his Bed it was thought to ocofan appropliary, no person present:

you be the erude & hasty manner in which thave in order to be
alittle particular. Eat no Fale Bread if you have few Calls to the Sich you have important Studies to pursue both for this world and that we is to come this is the time for improvement, learn to Prive early of commit to god of the word of his grace. and am dear tamey your very affectionate tather John Armstrong It ony fine Grey Colfis dead of the how has the Grey Mare provid or are there any better pastures where you are moved Mr Waddell Thinks that M? Instes will naturally wait until you can conveniently pay him y that it is only a common case my longliments to M? Melosher Thave afoisted his ainthingetting avery good hot adjoining her House.

Dear Jamey

Being favour'd with Mr. Waddells letter from his Mother, informing me
that he cou'd not come to Carlisle, I immediately Rode up to Capt. Armstrongs where
I have had an agreeable interview with Mr. Waddell and from whence I now write.

Your letter of the 10th Inst. gave your Mother & I at once a cup of pleasure & anxiety, but the former preponderates as we think you under some mistake thro' a defect in patience & experience- assiduity & Character must precede large expectations in yr way & in almost every other way, these in proper time will under the common influence of heaven yield every honest Man a decent Support. Impatient anxiety for any worldly matter is a dangerous disposition. I see you are mending Yr hand-write which is so far well if you persevere. Your letter (alth'on the whole a good one) is too peneral, a variety of facts however mix'd or ill stated they may be is satisfactory especially when an Opinion or Judgement is to be form'd upon them -You mantain an equal Stile or diction thro' Yr letter & some of the Sentiments are good others very exceptionable- On that of Tryals or difficulties you shou'd not only say they maybe design'd to quicken our Sensibility, excite industry &tc. but also to lead to a dependence on the Source of all our comforts, & perhaps to prevent the evils that but too often accompany or result from a Scene of prosperity. Neither reason nor Religion requires a Man to throw away himself, his time nor his acquirements, nor on the other hand, shou'd he be too ambitious. Restless is the mind of Man indeed, but let me tell you in One word that the whole universe wou'd not satisfy the extensive & craving desires of One human mind nor can anything give solid rest but a Spiritual union to the lord Jesus by faith, whereby the Once Straying Soul is brought back to god the only Center of it's Rest, hear the wise & gracious invitation -Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden & ye shall find

rest to your Souls -no matter what this labour this toss'd dissatisfied Situation may be provided it is mental, the invitation or call is for Such a One. Yea there are thousands of mankind perplex'd exceedingly Seeking rest or a happifying portion where it never will be found, the labour is all fruitless because they mistake the Object- and yet various Subordinate comforts are to be Sought after & are promis'd too, to such as Seek first or above all other things the kingdom of God. Again on that resolution of yours respecting Submission to the will of God in the gifts of his Providence, you think if you were to make an attempt in the West Indies which you would call your 3d attempt & yet be disappointed you cou'd then Sit down with great resignation to the Divine Will & eat brown bread & water. My dear Son here are two obvious errors, first you have great reason for Submission & resignation in the current moments, 'tis an immediate duty 'tis not to be postpon'd, you must not make conditions with god; in the great patron epitomy of prayer be the state of the person what it will you find the Petition is thy will be done. 2d mistake -if god Shou'd try you as you describe & disappoint your 3d attempt, do you think you cou'd command that quiet resignation of which you speak? I wish you were better acquainted with your own breast. don't trust yr own abilities to procure or command such a precious jewel as resignation is, it is the gift of god - no it wou'd more probably flee from you far as the golden Object of pursuit, leaving it's opposite in possession & perhaps sundry other accomplices of the Same kind.

Our common friend Mr. Waddell whos Judgment I much esteem thinks you can do very well where you are-seems to be clearer in the propriety of your tarrying in Virginia than either y^r Mother or I can easily agree to, but for anything that yet appears it is doubtless duty to tarry there until the middle of November next, about that time we shall expect a short visit from you for farther consultation on various important things & in the meantime I

I entreat you not to determin anything of consequence without a previous consultation with Mr. Waddell, who will ready talk with you on any convenient Subject whatever & take pleasure in contributing to your assistance in those advices which his experience enables him to give. I'm pleas'd to hear of Mr. McCoskerys agreeable prospects, some of which as may be imagin'd from your own letter have set y^r teeth an edge. I lay no absolute prohibition in matters of that kind only that thoughts are undoubtedly premature in every respect unless He pro

to be very favourable & Supported by good council, as an act of that sort may never be in y^r power to alter or amend.

Doctor Irwin has not been able since you saw him to Ride abroad or leave his House till about ten days ago & is yet but weak altho' the disorder is removed, he told me once if those attacks were repeated he wou'd go to Sea & afterward settle in Ireland, this naturally Open'd a full conversation in regard to y' settling here, which issu'd in this, that none wou'd come so agreeable to him, that he wou'd desire to live on good terms-that his practice had not been so good for two years past as formerly tho he knew not the reason that if you cou'd not evidently do better where you were you might tarry here when you shou'd come to pay the next visit, but that if the Germans continued to buy lands here even one Dr. wou'd hardly be supported &tc you sou'd have wrote the Doctor a few lines as you left him Sick. I'm much inclin'd to your return in some prudent space of time. Mr. Waddell thinks it wou'd take at least another year to enable to form a right judgment & that you may enlarge yr district by crossing a River towards Potomach, yet perhaps Novembr. next may aford sufficient light -pray take care to guard agst. the Ague next fall, as that wou'd be a great prejudice to you. Ned Tilghmans friend the Dr. is Dead -Davis I hear mov'd into Queenstown now said to be a fine seat. Messrs. Chew & Tilghman blam'd you for going away, Davis is now

in esteem, there are two ordinary Duck fellows at Carlisle, and there were many calls when the Dr. was ailing-what I mention of the Doctors going to Ireland is an entire uncertainty -its likely he will attempt Matrimoney this next Fall, but whether his mark be Baltimore or the mouth of Letorts Spring is yet uncertain. Miss Betsy Callandars Match lately on foot with Parson Andrews is like to go back on the part of herself and Father. As to my own Family Circumstances they are much as they were at y going away only that from one quarter & another my debts have Swollen high, and as I have not Sold my land near the Town am much difficulted on that acct. my publick offices being at this time scarce worth naming. I have paid Mr. Waddell and-two-other-Bills-in Philad and One Bill to Shomaker in Philada . yr. Taylor also brought me in a Bill of about 114 but my money being exausted I cou'd not pay him. The new Governor treated me politely & in the Stile of an old friend, he is about this time to be marry'd to Miss Masters. Your frieds in Philada. are in general well I din'd with Dr. Morgan who complains that you don't write him a Single letter, pray write him -he ask'd me if you were preparing for a Doctors Degree, I told him y" ill state of health and toss'd situation I immagin'd wou'd prevent at present especially as he said it wou'd require yr personal attendance. Dr. Rush has at least five apprentices & has lately printed som[e]thing on Health dedicated to Cadogan, Parson Ramsey is Dead & his Brother in once with Dr. Morgan whos name I now forget has wrote a pious celebrated Eulogium on the Occasion , which is prefixed to Mr. Greens Sermon -if you have any opportunity to Philada it's worth sending for, pray write by the way of Baltimore if you possibly can. I shall write you before the Fall ordering to be drop'd at Arbana, Mr. John Campbell has by some means I think sent his Father Several letters Since last Fall. Poor Armstrong Buchanan was lately found Dead in his Bed it was thought to be of an appoplexy, no person present.

You see the crude & hasty manner in which I have wrote in order to be a little particular. Eat no Idle Bread if you have few calls to the Sick you have important Studies to pursue both for this world and that wch is to come, this is the time for improvement, learn to Rise early. I commit to God & the word of his grace, and am dear Jamey

Your very Affectionate Father
John Armstrong

P.S. My fine Grey Colt is dead of the Strangles or common disorder how has the Grey Mare prov'd or are there any better pastures where you are mov'd Mr. Waddell thinks that Mrs. Eustes will naturally wait until you can conveniently pay him & that it is only a common case. My compliments to Mr. McCosker I have assisted his Aunt in getting a very good Lot adjoining her House.