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Title: Letter from William Wilkins to His Children

Date: May 17, 1835

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It Petus buy . Junday -May 17th 35. My de un Sine Shil shear yested by I work to Mathe complaining of bing a little unwill and depropried in spirity - Joy the hat he have doon on - but it is a relief to me were
to somplet we were going to have fine weather - but he day
it is colde of this morning (19th elling) it again showed a
little - This morning the first steam touch fook its departure for fubrik - flash wing the first boat from the h flave arrived hore - and a happy arrival for me - It hought me letters from morker, maine and thereby , dated on the 21" & 29ch of Much - and acknowledging the act. of my long letter to Maria datel on New years day -By this it appears my letters are a very long while on the way before they reach you . Letter, are juneally read here in 5 + 6 weeks from New york by the Much auts. My dear Maria -I thank you for your letter - it jave It is written in the way you should al-The much places une -Talk to me, all the Talk to the , all the little news and whatever come into your head - I down with great satisfaction, that you are improving at school and inting to leave . you must undustred me - that I have not intinded to rebute you, or find fault. I love you clearly, and are anxions, day and hight, for your improvement. I am solicition that you should be industrious now, and leave all you can at your frequent yourself - more liescre for pleasure of my ing ment when I nature to be your beach. I am place to find by your letter and mothers that you can work tapesty as well on the youry Lading of this city - I shall tom or our assure myself in funch asing for you hatteres and worsted your which will be sent in the box for mother by the first American vegoch. In that box you will also find for yourself, a port folio, a watch chain of hook. I am pick - ing up some other their for your which I shall easily home with nor that of your mother - I derine both - but I sometime, think that my scalling and complaining letters are not always read. lacking are horrible things - you should selway s recollect that, what is worth buying and sending a great distance, is worth preserve ing . We shall see - your little secretary , you watch of fort folion He will be an experience te upon you . My dear Charles. To you also, my son, I am incluted for a kind

and affectionate letter. For this letter, It ank you ; but I thank you still more for him sa gener a log - de other always with for the how prosent and stration t you are . Sortine so, by clear lay and travan rurance you! I wish you could half fully know how pleased, how delighted, how happy I am when I have if your continued programs. I am place to hear from your thome you are joing on at school - I am very auxion, about your having the linguages - you are how in Vinjet, & I hope you have some mental, or very some will commence the greek - you till me of your interestion to riche to the passe - Take care What homes you mount. Aun no risk with a will or stand nough horse. Jull tooth.

- in the most witch you will in this particular - So - Ha.

- in tilly me old lot Conais is deare, and one of his song
has been another of in jail for mer der of has flect! There
is a lipon could are example for your my dear son. Su the est to which beach young must come ! See on this we for trust your series the consequences of buil disobedient - of froliking and of digripation and tiller-fo! In the love I have mentermed your will find for yourself, to coat, a cap and a she will find for yourself, to coat, a cap and a she all gold watele - The watch, is such to comince you that I believe you to be a pood bay - you must, there for noth to securely about my special or effor. If on est me to bring you have a steamformalland cay - I will, if I can produce one - I believe after by breek one is dispicult to be obtained . I saw a very laye of from tifed jet black one at the forthis fate of that work in England the fire seat of the Bush of brown have . I specially with I had . I substitle you are better with me . I oftentering wish I had . I substitle you are better with more with me . I oftentering wish I had . I substitle you are better whom work your mother or I should always have been aftened of your fatter works, and there of sure would be have had not true a contiched home. I can only always by telling you to had not one to me the true called the sure of the property with out their long of you of chining to see your and the law of the property with out their law to the first one of the sure of the form of the sure to the total one of the sure of the form of the sure of the first one of the sure to see you and antions by longing for my home . It is in ale - court of that only home - for you all, my beloved this claim that I am here and suffering the pain of super tion . has been showing all day! See what a climate your father lives in - Tell Main that he day I went out in the storm and bought for her patterns, can ap and yare for imbroiding. I haid for their one have duite routher, that is, twenty dollars. This, shows how dear way thing is here - but, take a history to do way thing in my power to please of gratify my shilling - This ene all In very find . Do you often them to of the of the of the I have just been duly had to accive from Bottom a basket full of how for face, books of hand the state of the of hours of h of hurspector, books of paraphlit sunt to me by elle Hindham. the is very kindle . he the Book ing chear Let, I shall sund your ring a ... lacket . with both of which, I know, you will be 1066 a1166 My dear Bidd. Home is about to remove his school wack to the Hill, for

you will then again to able to visit you home none for . cap. I shall such the copie of chothe & two of hair. hat there may be the detter chance of fitting you of Buff. Give my affectionale recommendent to your forth france ier. Biddle, and tell him he is a Shally tollow for siving up his beary - This come, of revally in farming - the is spited breause he finely be can't love main me in a practicul agriculturist. My dear Tophy for my pet when I not - home - I suppose the like here to the off to the here you off the love of the freits hereth to to leave Astronomy, to be fathers pet any more - buson still fet of at day light, stir the fire & leave some lyon? In the Box Man will be for you some coral beach med rings for your dear little frigues -My dear Hett. I suffer e you an otile a spechel child, were ing wifter so other of her Dat: Well, kip wother for your father and talk the Box will contain some more lines (the not, article) to be here here who a conjunctile price I may uneralle ving which I have have that theade for h of which will open, of which the will som don has where the sees it, and I know with water and chaigh it . I small you also, my dean little Hett, could brack for your mick of rings for your frage and Tous - Kip your auch Holling, unte for me and all you am to and weels & coursely and, in that, all short cake of coffee falls. This letter will the all likele bood, over bake letter to mother of last sections any, as I shall sund the steam bank of tomoren, widnesday, the 20 God they you all my them the your affectionate father. (Mm Wilkins

2 maybrana. 2 tobush Mrs mMilling

My dear six children -

Yesterday I wrote to Mother complaining of being a little unwell and depressed in spirits. I ought not to have done so — but it is a relief to me when I complain. This evening I feel quite well again. I thought we were going to have fine weather, but today it is cold and this morning (17th May) it again snowed a little. This morning the first steam boat took its departure for Lubec and last evening the first boat from that place arrived here — and a happy arrival for me. It brought me letters from Mother, Maria and Charles, dated on the 21st and 23rd of March, and acknowledging the rec't of my long letter to Maria dated on New Year's day. By this it appears my letters are a very long while on the way before they reach you. Letters are generally rec'd here in 5 &6 weeks from New York by the Merchants.

My Dear Maria,

I thank you for your letter. It gave me much pleasure. It is written in the way you should always write to me, familiarly, and telling me, as you would talk to me, all the little news and whatever comes into your head. I observe, with great satisfaction, that you are improving at school and anxious to learn. You must understand me -- that I have never intended to rebuke you, or find fault. I love you dearly, and am anxious, day and night, for your improvement. I am solicitous that you should be industrious now, and learn all you can at your present age, so that you may have more time hereafter to amuse yourself - more leisure for pleasure and enjoyment when I return to be your beau. I am glad to find by your letter and Mother's that you can work tapestry as well as the young ladies of this city. I shall tomorrow amuse myself in purchasing for you patterns and worsted yarn, which will be sent in the box for Mother by the first American vessel. In that box you will also find for yourself, a portfolio, a watch, chain and lock. I am picking up some other things for you which I shall carry home with me. I rec'd the measure of your person, but not of your foot nor that of your mother. I desired both, but I sometimes think that my scolding and complaining letters are not always read. This is not the place from which to send you any dresses. They are dear, and the material, brought from France. Do you take care of the little things I send you? Or are they very soon broken, and thrown carelessly into a drawer, accompanied by that abominable family phrase, "I don't care"? Careless and slovenly young ladies are horrible things. You should always recollect that. What is worth buying and sending a great distance is worth preserving. We shall see - your little secretary, your watch, and portfolio will be an experiment upon you.

My Dear Charles,

To you also, my son, I am indebted for a kind and affectionate letter. For this letter, I thank you; but I thank you still more for being so good a boy. Mother always writes to me how good and obedient you are. Continue so, my dear boy and Heaven reward you! I wish you could fully know how pleased how delighted, how happy I am when I hear of your continued goodness. I am glad to hear from yourself how you are going on at school. I am very anxious about your learning the languages. You are now in Virgil, and I hope you have commenced, or very soon will commence the greats. You tell me of your intention to ride to the farm. Take care what horses you mount. Know no risk with a wild or dangerous horse. Tell Mother she must watch you well in this particular. So Maria tells me old Mr. Cowan is dead, and one of his sons has been arrested and in jail for murder and has fled! There is a lesson and an example for you, my dear son. See the end to which bad young men come! See in this unfortunate young man the consequences of being disobedient — of frolicking and of dissipation illness! In the box I have mentioned you will

find for yourself a coat, a cap and a small gold watch. The watch is sent to convince you that I believe you to be a good boy. You must, therefore, not be uneasy about my opinion of you. You ask me to bring you home a Newfoundland dog. I will, if I can procure one. I believe a finely bred one is difficult to be obtained. I saw a very large and beautiful jet black one at the porter's of Chatsworth (?) in England, the fine seat of the Duke of Devonshire. You seem to regret much I had not brought you with me. I oftentimes wish I had. But, still, you are better at home with your mother. I should always have been afraid of your getting unwell, and then you have had in me a wretched nurse and a distracted parent. You ask me about my coming home. I can only answer by telling you that not one moment of life passes without thinking of you and desiring to see you and anxiously longing for my home. It is on account of that very home, for you all, my beloved children that I am here and suffering the pain of separation.

My dear Pet,

This is Tuesday, the 19th of May, and it has been snowing all day! See what a climate your father is living in. Tell Maria that today I went out in the storm and bought her patterns, canvass and yarn for embroidering. I paid for them one hundred & 18 roubles, that is, twenty three and 3/4 dollars. This shows how dear everything is here. But, I am anxious to do everything in my power to please and gratify my children. They are all so very good. Do you often think of me and talk of me? I have just been delighted to receive from Boston a basket full of newspapers, books and pamphlets sent to me by Mr. Henshaw. He is very kind. In the box, my dear Pet, I shall send your ring and locket, with both of which, I know, you will be pleased.

My dear Bidd

I am glad to hear on your account that Mr Stone (?) is about to remove his school back to the hill, for you will then again be able to visit your home more frequently. I shall have for you in the box a new coat and a cap. I shall send three caps, one of cloth and two of hair, that there may be the better chance of fitting you and Hett. Give my affectionate remembrance to your good friend Mr. Biddle, and tell him he is a shabby fellow for giving up his dairy. This comes of rivalry in farming. He is spited because he finds he can't come near them as a practical agriculturist.

My dear Sophy,

Tell Kit I mean to turn her off and have you for my pet when I return home. I suppose she thinks herself too old now, as well as great things since she has commenced to learn Astronomy, to be father's pet any more. Do you still get up at daylight, stir the fire and learn your lessons? In the box there will be for you some coral beads and rings for your dear little fingers.

My dear Hett,

I suppose you are still a spoiled child, running after Mother and her Pet: well, kiss Mother for your father and tell her the box will contain some more linen (the only article to be had here at a reasonable price) and an emerald ring which I have had made for her and which will open, and which she will understand when she sees it, and I know will value and cherish it. I send you also, my dear little Hett, coral beads for your neck and rings for your fingers and toes. Kiss your aunt Hollingsworth for me and all your aunts and uncles and cousins and, in short, all "short cake and coffee folks".

This letter will in all likelihood overlalse a letter to Mather of last Saturday, as it shall send it on the steam host tomorrow, wednesday May 20 God bless you all, my dear children.