

*Henry Williams to Josiah Pratt*

Nuneham July 6. 1820

My Dear Sir,

By this time I presume you may be in expectation of hearing some account of me— We left Cheltenham on the 22<sup>d</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> and entered our dwelling on the 23<sup>d</sup> which is about a mile distance from Mr Marsh as I considered it most prudent to bring necessary furniture our rent is trifling— at present the house is only ours till Michaelmas— and as I have now cast off all my late engagements we desire to be considered entirely under the direction of the Society & shall thank you to enform me your intentions respecting me. I commenced with Mr Marsh on the 27<sup>th</sup>— it would be a great satisfaction to me to know how far you may wish me to proceed with Latin & Greek. With regard to present expences I feel it will be necessary to request some assistance from the Society the removing of furniture & Family came to nearly £10. My funds are at present exhausted by the payment of those sums which I mentioned when in London— therefore in future I shall have only my half pay to rely upon independent of the Society I remain

My Dear Sir

Yours most truly

Henry Williams [f]

Nuneham July 7.1820

My dear Sir

As Henry Williams is writing to you, I take the opportunity of requesting permission to consult you upon his case and that of his brother William. I am

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glad to find you have had some personal communication with William, who has also since that time passed ten days with me. You probably found him much in want of instruction and guidance. But I believe him to be altogether seriously minded, and fully bent on edifying himself and others through the blessing of God in the love and knowledge of the gospel. He will value the few hints you gave him for the right employment of his time; which I have also taken the liberty of expanding into a more settled order for private study for the purposes of classical proficiency, theological knowledge, and practical devotion. One thing however still remains to be done. His apprenticeship to a surgeon will expire next Christmas twelvemonth. He has a small sum, bequeathed to him, which with assistance from private friendship may be sufficient to help him forward in his present profession, but will not certainly be enough to enable him to change it: and accordingly, before I heard anything of his present views, I had engaged a very desirable situation for him with an eminent surgeon in Oxford for a year and a half, that so I might both have him near me for a period, preparatory to his going to London, and also do that for him, which I thought would be most conducive to his professional success. The question to be determined therefore is, whether this engagement shall be set aside, and any [f] encouragement immediately given to William devoting himself to the service of the Church Missionary Society. It is necessary that this should be promptly decided, as, unless some assistance can be procured from the friends of the society towards the expence of his education, no option remains for him, but, however reluctantly, to continue his present profession;

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and in that case the society will lose (I have no doubt) a faithful and steady servant, on whose economical use of their bounty and exact obedience to their directions as well as on his desire to promote their truly christian object, the utmost reliance may be safely placed. I shall be happy to communicate any further particulars, that may be required. But it is necessary to come [to] an explicit determination; and what [I] should most wish is, that means should be afforded to place him either at Magdalen hall or some other situation in the university of Oxford, where I may have him under my own eye, if it should please divine Providence to spare my life, and see the direction and wishes of the committee carried into effect.

With regard to Henry, he is now applying himself to his Latin grammar with diligence. But, if it is the wish of the committee, that he should prosecute that study with any advantage, not only must a considerable portion of time be allowed for that purpose, but his attention must be almost exclusively confined to that object, and consequently withdrawn from those more sacred occupations, which seem the peculiar business of a missionary. He is however at your disposal, and will do precisely whatever you direct him. In the mean time you have one other point for your consideration. [f] He has now two infants, one of them only two months old. But, if he waits, till he has become a Latin scholar, here is no knowing how much space in a ship must be put in requisition for transporting him and his family. I mention all these particulars, that the committee may have accurate information to proceed upon, when they meet on Monday. Whatever may be their instruction, I shall count myself in

MS. 498/88

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being able to do anything towards giving effect to them, and indeed cannot be enough thankful for being permitted to see two of my near relations ready to devote themselves to so laudable a work. With my sincere prayers for a blessing on the labours of the society, I remain, my dear Sir, your obedient & faithful servant

Edward Garrard Marsh