

*William Williams to Edward Bickersteth*

Southwell Sept 19th 1820

Dear Sir

As you expressed a wish to hear from me occasionally, it is high time I began to think of complying with your desire. After leaving London, on my way home I stayed nearly a fortnight at Mr Marsh's at Nuneham, & I hope the time spent there & in London, has not been thrown away, & that I shall ever bear in mind the good counsel which was then given me. In addition to the books you recommended for my perusal, Mr Marsh mentioned several there & laid down a general plan for the employment of my leisure hours, which if properly attended to, will prevent me from wasting so many previous moments, as I did before. From his last letter to me it appears to be the wish of the Society, that I should pursue my medical studies. Every opportunity of improvement in this profession which offers itself, must therefore be embraced, but as little is to be acquired here, my brother advises me to pursue the directions he gave me, were they do not interfere. I take this opportunity of [f] testifying my willingness to go out in whatever capacity, & to whatever part of the world, the society shall see fit to send me, trusting that God will assist me to perform my duty therein. The memoir of Henry Martin is extremely interesting & instructive. I fear I should be found greatly wanting if exposed to the same temptations in which he was placed, but I doubt not, that the Almighty power on whose aid he relied, will support me under every trial. It gives me great pleasure to be able to tell you, that our Penny Missionary Society in this place, is rapidly increasing, & though none of our clergymen

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have at present come forward, yet the daughters of four of them have become subscribers. God grant that the time may not be far distant, when this cause shall be encouraged by every member of the church. I shall always feel thankful for your advice & instructions, but I must not trespass too much upon your time, who have to many more important calls to attend to. With compliments to Mrs Bickersteth & Mr Pratt I remain your obedient servt

W Williams.