


1817

19: 1817 May 8: William Dunbar "Son" to Mrs.
William Dunbar "Dearest Mother (Forest,
Natchez)

William Dunbar

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Philad Feb 22nd 1847

My Dear Mother

This is Sunday & Sunday as it is, I scarcely have time
to say Jack Robinson. About 1 month ago we came to the
most serious part of the lectures, viz. the "practice of medicine" &
since that time I ~~have~~ never in my whole life time have been
so hard a student; I very seldom get to bed before 2 o'clock & rise
before 10 o'clock; and after all I am obliged to employ Sundays in
laying up lee way as the saying is. However only one more
more of this hard work & then I'll go and take a peep
down to heart: (how delightful!) But before I do this I will
attend to your commissions: I really cannot do it now
not matter as the river is completely closed & the
times very cold. Until Christmas as I mentioned in
to you, we had an uncommonly mild winter, when
we had had
of snow had fallen. But since then, a regular
after by cold weather that the system almost
You have thrown upon my shoulder

-possibility by not having positively determined upon the
words of the Epitaph: however I don't think I shall make
any alteration. It is right for us to be modest upon all
occasions; and we may as well be so upon this. How often
have we seen the most flattering Eulogies upon the most tri-
fling characters whilst on Earth? And on the monuments of
most exalted personages we very generally meet with not
more than the most modest & brief notices of their worth.
And the bare name of the latter will, ^{convey} more,
the most laboured composition on the former, with the
therefore I am for nothing on our Dear father. I have
the tomb-stone of the great American Philosopher Ben-
Franklin. Nothing more is inscribed upon it, than
his name (now if ^{the} whole Marble were filled up with
it could not convey one half, one millionth part
of the ~~world~~ ^{world} knows of him — As to the picture-frame
it is ~~not~~ ^{from} but not ~~by~~ the same ~~frame~~ ^{frame} which made
it would be as difficult to find him as a needle

in a hay-stack — I am extremely happy to perceive that
there is a great probability of all things being well adjusted
respecting Helen and her Lover. Give my love to her
say to her that I have received her letter which was
very pleasant one & that I shall write her an answer
in about one month from this time: I suppose she
will not be much offended at my delaying it so
long. — My Dear Mother & as I said in the beginning
of this letter I hardly have time to say J. Robinson

You say that lately I have spoiled you all by frequ-
ently writing: as it is 3 or 4 weeks now since
I suppose I have nearly lost my good character.
you, if I had time, I feel all the disposition to
ruin you all completely. — My Dear Mother, &
sweet heart Annis will certainly make a great sorrow
when she leaves this; for she is a most affectionate girl
happy in being beloved & loved by all her relations:
I cannot but feel unhappy when she thinks of the time
that she will not all love her very much, it will be a terrible cha-
racter.

Answered 11th March
1847



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Mr. William Dumbas

Freetown

M. Smith,