

1820

22: 1810 July 5: William Dunbar (Philadelphia) to William Dunbar "Esteemed Parents" (Forest near Natchez)

William Dunbar

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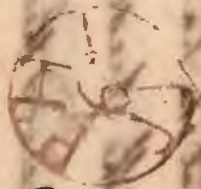
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Phil: 5th July 1830

Dear Beloved & esteemed parents did I think I should receive
 a letter as arrived last evening but I am too confident that I ^{must} answer
 you think so, I do sincerely avow that I never had the least idea
 that I was offending you, untill last evening when your letter
 came, which then shewed me in what I had misbehaved, Dear
 Parents I hope you will pardon this first offence, altho' I know
 it is unpardonable, I am absolutely at a loss how to make
 an apology, if you could only hear my heart, I think you
 would forgive me, I am surpris'd you did not sooner
 aware me of what I was doing, this disagreeable thing would
 never have happened, at which I am so perplexed that I can
 scarcely collect words to write. As to the Diction in writing
 which you find fault with, I am obliged to confess to my
 great shame that it was carelessness, a thing that ^{with} you
 dear father is not excusable, so how I am to apologise
 for it I know not, I must therefore leave it to your mercy
 which knowing it to be great, gives some hopes to me.
 You say you are fearfull of my having fallen in with bad
 company, but I have not, nor hope ever will, tho' I am
 slightly acquainted with persons at our Seminary, from
 whom I have heard the most wicked language that ever
 was heard, speaking disrespectfully of their parents, the authority
 of their existence, to whom they owe every thing for their pro-
 felicitations

but I beg that My Parents will never entertain such an
of me who will ever refrain from such language respecting
you whom thro' my carelessness I have now offended.
If you may have received any letters before this one, in which
you discover more of this, I sincerely pray they may be
excused, for I promise never hereafter to displease willingly
-ly or knowingly. God helping, on the contrary It shall be
utmost endeavor to please & gain your approbation which
I esteem as the most valuable gem in the world. If you
think it is want of Study My preceptor can testify that he
very seldom finds me deficient in my lessons or exercises.
For you Papa I have always felt great anxiety on account
of your indispositions but I never could express it, or wished
to express to ^{you} ~~my~~ ^{mother} ~~any~~ ^{as 'twould} be the means of mak-
-ing you more so, & increasing your fears. I can always
congratulate or rejoice with words, but I do every
thing to the contrary in silence. Therefore Dear Maria
I hope you will attribute my hitherto silence respecting Papa's health
to inability of expression, and what I have said above, rather than
to indifference which truly ^{would be} an astonishing thing in a son towards
an indisposed father, which I never was possessed of. When you
said that Papa had gone out in the Chair twice, ^{times} exactly
at a five six New Day, ^{after} a long & heavy storm, ^{you} ^{entirely}

Good that he is so far recovered & it is my earnest prayer he
soon regain his former state of health; Mr Vaughan is
an elderly man & of very weak constitution too, but still by
his regular habits which are like clock work, & a great
deal of exercise he keeps himself in perfect state of health;
he has such a quick step that I have seen his friends obliged
to exert their utmost to keep pace with him; he is a very
gay man, known & respected throughout, I believe I may say,
the United States; 'tis probable that your own might be but
good also by exercise, but you are a better judge of
yourself. A fortnight ago I asked Mr. V. about the letter
that I left at his lodgings, & he said that he had himself an-
swered the letter & sent along with it the prescriptions of
Doctor Physick, but if you ^{have} not received them before
this time they must have miscarried, & I will therefore
beg Mr. Vaughan to procure some more immediately; I
will likewise make enquiry about the tea, garden seeds
& Linen & they shall be if possible sent by the first opportunity.
As for roots, I believe they cannot be ~~to~~ got, & fresh seeds difficult
to be gotten, but I will exert myself to get them. Immediately
on hearing of A's residence at Orleans I wrote him by a vessel
then going to sail, 2 weeks ago I wrote you by a vessel also. To
some tender things you wrote me I cannot indeed reply, & others, I hope will be
excused untill next letter; From your affectionate & obedient
W^m Deussen



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William Dunbar Esq.

Trust was

Natchez

Mississippi Terr.