

Your Excellencies



Patronage and Bounty has so very essentially contributed to the growth and respectability of our school, that it would be highly blamable and impudent in me, who am supported by it, to think of undertaking any thing which might have the smallest probability of injuring it, without taking the liberty of consulting you. Especially as your approbation or disapprobation of the measure would render it injurious or the contrary. And upon this principle shall either put my design in execution or not, as your Excellency shall think proper to advise.

I from several letters which I have lately had from my Father it appears to be highly necessary both to my interest and happiness that I should visit my native country in the course of the ensuing year. The nature of my present employment however is such that I

33  
I should scarcely have thought it practicable had I not received a letter a few weeks ago from a young Gentleman who informs me that he will be in Alexandria next Spring. He is a young man of liberal Education, and unexceptionable Moral Character and would no doubt give satisfaction to the Trustees, if I can persuade him to supply my place for a few months. I should not propose being absent more than six, or at most, eight months during which time I design to visit some of the principal towns both in Ireland and Scotland and should make it my business to enquire particularly after a good Mathematician. (a person much wanted in our School) a good Writer is also much wanted. I should also establish a connection by which I could have a constant supply of such books as we want which at present cannot be got in N. York Baltimore, or Philad<sup>a</sup>. The People whom I have consulted upon this matter willingly agree to my going if I will promise to come back. This I am fully determined to do. So if I can only meet with Your Excellencies approbation I shall go with a cheerful heart looking upon my interest as secure

Please to pardon the liberty I take in troubling you with my private affairs and believe me to be

Your Excellencies  
Most obed<sup>t</sup>

Able Serv<sup>t</sup>  
W. M. Whist

Alexandria Dec<sup>r</sup> 24<sup>th</sup>

334

Received of Mr. J. M. ...  
24th Dec. 1787.

Mr. Excellency  
Gen. Washington

