

12 Oct 1800  
John Thomson Junior Esq

14<sup>th</sup> October 1800.

My dear Cousin,

If repentance which produces good works is not sufficient to entitle you to forgiveness I am not yet divine enough to tell you what it is, accordingly on the receipt of your friendly letter during the vacation, every unpleasant idea which your silence had given rise to, was forgotten. It was indeed the letter of a friend. your advice was not esteemed impertinent on the contrary it was so wholesome & so agreeable to my own thoughts that I never had occasion to recur to the motives which dictated it. The uncertainty which you so justly condemned, & from which I suffered, you have no doubt heard is removed. My future sphere of life is determined, to fulfill it with comfort to myself, & some little advantage to others, must be my care. I am uncertain whether my determination, has met with the approbation of your self & Mr P., I can only hope it has. The motive which principally influenced me is a love of retirement, I conceive it to be conducive to happiness & indispensably necessary to the improvement of the human mind. I remember the choice



of a profession, was frequently the subject of friendly debate last  
summer but amongst the multiplicity of opinions then delivered  
I cannot charge my teachers and memory with recollecting yours  
in particular, I hope therefore you will not spare any remark &  
I will assure you of its welcome reception. I desired my Uncle  
to contradict the report you mentioned respecting Mr Walker,  
it hurt me a good deal, not that there was the least tittle of  
truth in it except that Mr W. was then on a visit during the  
vacation to his daughter Lady R., but that any such report  
should have prevailed whether it originated from mistake  
or malice. Did he know that I was writing to you I am sure  
he would have desired his remembrance to you as he had  
not unfrequently mentioned you with pleasure. The Trustees  
have it in contemplation to remove the college to Bampton (a  
small town in Cheshire) as Manchester is very expensive &  
there are a great many amusements & other inducements to  
tempt the students from their application. I have scarcely a  
wish on the subject this or any other place being equally in  
different, excepting that a country situation would be more  
pleasant. I wish with Mr W. any excursions of a few days to  
reconnoitre, the house & gardens (which are very large) are  
convenient & well suited to the purpose, should we remove I  
cannot spare for the time. But enough of self & the concerns  
of self. I have participated with pleasure in every account

of your happiness & the happiness of your friends at William. You  
have lately also been happy in the company of my Uncle & Aunt.  
I have not heard from either of them since, but expect that  
pleasure daily. I had an affectionate letter from your  
sister a few days ago, she felt your absence at home very  
much, she spoke feelingly of it, but the pleasing account my  
Aunt & Uncle brought her, very soon dispelled regret.  
I am afraid my visit to my little room must be delayed for some  
time, yet the hope & probability are frequently at variance, I  
cannot help indulging the idea of having that pleasure some  
other. During my vacation I enjoyed the  
company of Miss S. Harris an, Miss Blessing, & Miss T. Walker  
who were on visits successively to my sister, you will perhaps  
recollect the two former & the last is equally lively & agreeable  
you will say I endured a hard siege, but I am perfectly  
sane I assure you. Our friends at Th are now however only  
their own dues & are plying drawing round their family fire  
side to enjoy the winter. I believe I shall not again join the  
party till summer. Mr Rotham & her boys are well. The  
two older are at Sedburgh where you & my Aunt parted with  
my Mother & Pan, the other day William (who is the favorite)  
having half a days holiday, would walk over to see his Mother, 11  
miles was a good deal for the poor little fellow's legs. Mr Higgins  
is still with us, he is going to settle with a respectable congregation  
near Manchester, his Public Services are much approved I hear,  
but for my own part I have never yet seen him in the Rotunda



Admire Mr. P. for my return, his postscript to your last letter was gratifying  
Believe me interested in your welfare.  
I remain my dear friend remain yours  
Thomson

Mr. W. W. Thomson  
Jacob Parkinson's Esquire  
Northam  
Essex.

John Thomson  
Oct. 14. 1800

20 OCT 1800  
IN OFFICE  
LONDON

London Oct 12. 1800.

May like for the pleasure of hearing from you soon?