

Little-Britain, Dec: 30th 1767.

You may perhaps be surpris'd Ist at my ad-
:dressing myself to you thus by letter, when I have such fre-
:quent opportunities of doing it by word of mouth: but I am
rather inclin'd to take this method, that you may see at one
view the nature of our connections & be inform'd more
fully as to the plan of an University-Education.

When young Gentlemen have attain'd to the
age of 17 or 18 years, it is time they should be releas'd from
the kind of discipline & confinement us'd in Schools; that
they should gradually be introduc'd into Company & begin to
think & act for themselves; that is upon the conviction of
their own reason & not merely because their Master says so.
To accomplish this design with honour & credit to themselves
& their friends I think no method of compleating their Edu-
:cation so favourable (to those who go with a real desire of
improvement) as a residence for some time in one of our
Universities. This method hath been approv'd of by you & your
sons are accordingly made Members of Trinity-College &
in consequence are under the care of a public Tutor,
Mr Postlethwaite. One of his chief employments is to manage
the money-matters of his Pupils; to give them what pocket-money
their friends think proper to allow them & to pay their bills once
a Quarter, except those for wine & from Taverns & Coffee-houses.
Besides this it is his proper business to inspect the general
behaviour of his pupils & to see that they conform to what the
superiour Members of the College think decent & becoming: he
is likewise to read Lectures to them during the latter half of each
Term. - After this care of the public Tutor numbers are left en-
:tirely to themselves & I can't but say, that those who have an
inclination to study need no other instruction. However many
there are, who take private Tutors likewise; and it is their business
to read with their pupils one hour in the day, while they are in
College, which is about 7 or 8 months in the year. You I have
chos'd to proceed a step further & to have a Tutor to attend on
your sons, as well out of College as in, and mean to reward
him handsomely for giving up his whole time & attention to
them. I shall consider myself therefore, as more deeply interest'd
in your sons' behaviour than any common private Tutor
would do (whose only business is to read with them for an hour)
& shall be ready to instruct them whenever they will come to my
rooms (besides our staid hours of reading) and to give them the
best advice I am able upon all points of their behaviour: but
still from the nature of the place they must be left a great deal
to themselves & to their own prudence, whether they will follow
wholesome advice & what sort of Company they will keep. - I
can only caution them as I see occasion against idle &

Mr P. Postlethwaite

30 Dec 1767

Enclos'd

To

Thomas Hall Esq;

at
Harrison in the Hill

Middlesex.

Postlethwaite

OT
DE

Drinking companions & point out to them such as seem to me to be of a studious & serious cast, but it must be their own real desire & resolution by which they will be enabled to avoid the former; without will the latter be over-forward of making any acquaintance with them, till they have dopt their connections with the idle & dissipated, and by their own sober & regular behaviour shew themselves deserving their notice. — And here I can't but lament the total loss of time of your sons at Ston; — a loss the more to be regretted, as it must necessarily have connected them with the idle & less-deserving part of the School; from whose Society I can't pretend to keep them clear; unless they themselves will have resolution enough to follow my advice. — As to the nature of their Studies likewise; — a far superior knowledge in all school-learning than (I am sorry to be oblig'd to say it) your sons are endued with, is expected from every young Gentleman, who comes to the University; and therefore the Classical Lectures are chiefly design'd to explain the critical beauties of an Author. You may reply "it is my business to make them able to attend these with pleasure & profit." — but indeed, I, without a most extraordinary application on their part & a real desire of improving in the Language, it would be impossible, since we must totally begin again with what they ought to have known ten years ago & this would be more likely to set them against all reading than to do them any good. In my opinion therefore it will be much more advisable to keep them entirely to reading good English Authors & to the Study of Mathematics & Philosophy (which is indeed the proper business of the University); this will be more than enough to employ their studious hours & will sufficiently enlarge & improve their Understandings; and I am the rather inclin'd to pursue this method, as both your sons (but particularly your eldest) seem to take to the study of Euclid with pleasure & a desire of being better acquainted with what follows from his Principles. — As to the method of their reading — unless a young man will determine to read by himself & Digest in his own rooms the instructions he receives in public, not all the Lectures in the world will ever make him good for any thing: since he then attends to them only as tasks, is glad to take all opportunities of avoiding them & thinks there is no necessity to open a book out of their Tutor's presence: whereas the principal use of a Tutor is to read with them at stated times; to direct them in the choice of books, to explain difficulties & by frequent conversations on the subject to find whether his pupils really understand their author's meaning; but the fund or stock of knowledge can only be gain'd by private meditation & reflection. — I have thought proper to mention these circumstances now, least (through an ignorance of University-matters) you should expect from me more than from the nature of my situation I am capable of performing. Serious advice & an attention to their general behaviour shall not be wanting on my part, neither shall a readiness to instruct them in the Studies of the University; but the success of both must unavoidably depend on their own prudence & their own application. —

I have one thing more to mention, S^r, before I conclude, which regards myself alone. — The conditions mention'd in Mr Fuller's letter to Mr Whiston, upon which I was to undertake the Education of your sons were, that I was to live at no expence in your Family & to have 100 Guineas of year Salary. I have not only liv'd hitherto at no expence, but have been entertain'd in the most agreeable & affable manner by yourself & every part of your Family; for which polite

behaviour I can't but acknowledge myself much yours & their Debtor. But as you seem to intend that your sons shall soon go to reside in College & with them, my situation will then be much at alter'd & that Salary, which was thought by you & acknowledg'd by me to be very handsome, whilst I liv'd in your Family at no charge, will prove but just sufficient to discharge my necessary expences upon living on my bottom in the University on your sons' account. This I rather take the liberty of mentioning, lest you should think that being Fellow of the College, I was at no expence there, which is far from being the case. I submit myself entirely to your generosity in this affair, only begging of you to take into consideration the following particulars:

That before your Proposals on were made to me by Mr Whiston, I had determin'd to leave residing at College & had actually undertaken the care of my Father's Church at Glastonbury. —

That in consequence of this I had provided myself with no rooms fit to reside in after I was Master of Arts & Fellow, and therefore when I return with your Sons, I shall have an immediate expence upon me of at least 50 pounds, to take & furnish rooms; as those I have my eye upon (which are the only ones vacant) will be to be furnish'd entirely by myself.

That my necessary annual expences upon residing 6 or 7 months or more in the University with your Sons must be at least an Hundred Pounds & the first year fifty more on account of Rooms.

That as I return to College entirely on your Sons' account I am thereby prevented from making any Addition to my Income by having other Pupils or undertaking the care of any Church.

Lastly that whatever you think proper to allow me (which I submit entirely to yourself) it would greatly enhance the value of it, if you would be so good as to let me receive it Quarterly, as I would chuse to have no Demands upon me of a longer Sort.

I hope, S^r, you will excuse the trouble of this long Epistle & consider it in the light in which it was really writ; which was to make you acquainted with the true state of the case & to submit the issue of it entirely to your Judgement. I am, S^r, your much oblig'd humble Servant Charles Moore.

P. Please to let me know by a line directed to me at the Rev^d Dr Moore's in Little-Britain, London, when it will be agreeable to you that I should return to Harrow & I shall be ready to obey the Summons.

Hall Family Papers and Sugar Plantation Records

1709 - 1892

MSS.0220

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**CORRESPONDENCE - Charles Moore
[tutor] to Thomas Hall, 1767 December 30**



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