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1817

18: 1817 February 12: [William Dunbar, Jr.]  
(Philadelphia) to Mrs. William Dunbar "Dear  
Mother" (Forest, Natchez)

William Dunbar Jr.

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My Dear Mother

Philad Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 1847

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 &  
leaving up lee way as the saying is. However only one more  
more of this hard work & then I'll go and take a peep  
west 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 <sup>convey</sup> 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 <sup>the</sup> whole Marble were filled up with  
it could not convey one half, one millionth part  
of the ~~world~~ <sup>world</sup> knows of him — As to the picture-frame  
it is ~~not~~ <sup>from</sup> but not ~~by~~ the same ~~frame~~ <sup>frame</sup> 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 comment  
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 Eliza 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 11<sup>th</sup> March  
1847



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Mr. William Deane

Freetown

M. Smith,