

New York Nov 22 1820

Sir I am sorry to trouble you with my
concerns. I have liked to see how little such a
poet as I am is valued - I was read enough to
think of retreating as a writer to a stranger
village with only 5 Dlls - But I soon saw
the world was of the present - I returned here
and I have amply tried how much is my
influence with the Bookellers - I have been most
affixed and embarrassed more than I ever was
before - I am now in a situation, that has tried
me well - For Heaven, take assist me if you
can make all the use you can of the
paper I sent you - any sum you please
to obtain me on the strength of it, will be accept-
able - Were it not that I am determined to
return to Charleston and that I believe I have
friends there who will do me justice I would
not give two cents to live any longer - I would
not for any consideration go thro, what I have
done the past week - I have nothing on hand
in cash that is mine - I get nothing for my
books - I have been called by the Americans
public Bids first post and get that public
would let me alone - I hope better things
of Charleston - but I cannot even raise the sum
necessary for my passage by all the intellectual
or poetical wealth in my possession \$50 would
now be to me invaluable - If you are willing to
comply with my request I beg you to lend it so
that I can receive it before Thursday next when
a Charleston Packet sails
Yours. James P. Bertram

3 Letters of the
American Poet.
Praval.
1821.

Will my young friend accept these lines by one of her
favoured countrywomen? — It is hoped they will derive
some interest from this circumstance, in addition to
their being so just & spontaneous a tribute to the worth
of an excellent Pastor, and in so entire an accordance
with the sentiments of your friend

A. Hampden

Praval.

Boston Feb 10th 1825

Dear Sir

I was not influenced in my determination by the requisitions you stated to me, I am perfectly satisfied with them, and if I was not placed in such circumstances as I am, I should be happy to comply with them - I am equally convinced with you, that there is no other profession, which offers me any chance of happiness, but that of theology - I would willingly embrace it if I was more favorably situated - I will just state to you how I am situated - I have no property but my books, which I am unwilling to part with - I am dependent for my subsistence on the place I hold under government and I dare not leave it - This is to me a very disagreeable place, I am required to examine the recruits in every part, particularly the armer & pudenta and to bear with the insults & brutality of every part drunken fellows they choose to bring before me - Some may bear this but it is to me a torture - It has almost completely broken down my spirits - I am sure I cannot appear any thing honourable or respectable as long as I am forced to depend upon this for my subsistence - I left it, last summer and retired to Berlin, but the situation of my relations compelled me most unwillingly to return here - I will be plain with you - If I could in any way support myself in Connecticut at Hartford or New Haven

by some employment which would leave me
sufficient time to study the profession with
the bad health I have - I would rather there
and at once comply with every requisition
I propose to you, it is my wish to engage in the
profession, if I could only place myself in a
situation to accomplish it - I feel in my present
situation, a degree of wretchedness which I cannot
describe - I must leave here, as soon as the season
will permit - I have requested a friend in
Virginia to look for me a place of private
tutor there, I have sought that situation
with the hope, that it might ultimately lead
me to the result I wish - There seem to me
insurmountable obstacles to my studying
the profession here, but if I were in concert with
your encouragement, I think I should not
hesitate to go forward - I think I can assure
you that I have been entirely sincere in all I
have written, and ^{that I} am sincere when I now say, that
I should consider myself happy, if I could ~~now~~ now
go forward, and unite myself to your profession -
But first it does seem necessary to me to
find some other means of subsistence, than the
one I now have, and I think it would be greatly
for my advantage, if I could exchange my
residence for Conn. - Unfortunately I can
put no reliance on literary labours - Original
efforts will yield me nothing, and I have not health
to become a bookseller's drudge - I had better support
myself by teaching - I should find it less fatiguing
& better compensated - I might now receive a
considerable sum from the edition of my poems in
New York, a bookseller has offered to take them of me
for cash. But Wiley refuses to deliver the copies, and
besides will come to no settlement & give me no

information as to the sales - I have frankly stated
to you my situation, and my feelings under it -
I would most willingly engage in your profession
and do the best my health would permit, if I
was not situated as I am - and I am fully convinced
that it is the only means of extricating myself
from my present feelings of depression and
wretchedness - I do feel that the first step is
to leave my present employment - I cannot
reconcile it with my the pursuit of such a
profession as theology - I have some talents, some
knowledge - I would willingly employ them in
supporting myself while studying your profes-
sion - but I am convinced that in no way
could I expect a compensation for my labour, but
in teaching - I believe I have said enough to
render my feelings & wishes intelligible to you -
~~I have communicated everything with me~~
to them - I should be very happy to hear
I remain with sincere respect yours

Redd W. Humphreys

J. L. Peckal

Isaac Or



PAID

Dr

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