

**Letter to William Campbell from his son John (Misc 315)**

Ripley 27<sup>TH</sup> February 1816

Dear Parents,

You will perceive by the date of this letter that I am now arrived at the town which I set out for. You will most likely know from my friend William McTurk that I only left Dumfries on Thursday morning, paid 2/6d from my passage to Carlisle. Got into it by 3 o'clock afternoon, ?exited and stopped at the Golden Fleece and paid 26/- to Wetherby. Left Carlisle at 5 am Friday morning and got to Wetherby at 4 on Saturday morning. I got into the inside of the coach during the night by paying the guard an extra shilling or too. I was well supplied in a great coat by my friend W. McTurk and came to Otley to my dinner on Saturday four. The Scotchmen all well, stopped principally with J. McTurk until this morning. As Alex came home last night, being the only night except the Saturday which he gets home and it seems only once in the month, I left Otley this morning, came here and have been enquiring concerning the place since people recommended it as being likely place. They have surgeons here before which did very well, but they are chiefly supplied by a countryman from Harrogate and another surgeon from Knaresborough which come regularly twice a week. I intend to go to Harrogate in the season and give my advice as it is only 3 miles distant if I succeed. But it will take some time before that be known. There is a gentleman that lives beside this town, (but he is not at home at present) which if I could ever get into the families, might be of great service. I know as little how I shall succeed as you do, and it may be some months before I can say ought about it. Therefore I delayed this letter until I saw the part that you need not be anxious for another until some time.

I found John McTurk equally kind as his brother – he is a very active, kind and pushing young man – no doubt of his doing well. I got a present of a sixth handkerchief from him and he is willing to do everything in his power. I got a top coat made at Otley. James and Alexander are much more serious – but equally pushing. There are a very great change taken place in them. There is undoubtedly something very good in them, but they are rather too rigid. They went to the chapel four times last Sunday. John and I got to it once, but I never heard such a blocked (?blockhead) in my life. He could not even say a decent prayer. But the boys said he was a good man, and wished well. He told us he was born a second time, that if he was to die the night he was certain of going to heaven. If he was walking upon the street, when he was ? upon and converted – he was some stationer from Bradford. They have done much good in one respect. The people lead ?much more regular lives, and they swear none. You may perhaps hear of me turning Methodist too for the whole of the Scotch people laugh as much at their ?sermons ? at first as I did. But the gentleman that I spoke of before will not allow them to preach within this town tho' they do it without the place.

Have no mention of this to Mrs McTurk.

Give my kind respect to all friends. I have been writing this besides a number of people who are like to thank me deal with their voice. Be not surprised if you find a number of Yorkshire ?visitors ?

I am quartered in a Mr Mills – Star Inn – tonight, tho' I am not quite certain of remaining here. They have the curate of the place boarded in this house which already takes up a room.

If you are writing you can write 'Surgeon Ripley' or if you please 'the care of Mr Mills, Star Inn'.