

Aug. 28, 1812

Mr. William King,

Sir, permit me to inquire, whether it would be in your power to assist me in obtaining such an education as I am otherwise unable to pursue. This request Sir, may at first view appear surprising to you, and rather degrading to the spirits of a man, who has a spark of ambition to try to excel in what he undertakes to learn. But when you know my situation in life, it may possibly appear a pardonable request.

I humbly confess I am not worth a farthing, excepting my books. I began 3 years ago, to attend to study, with not enough to pay the expenses of one quarter's schooling; have, by instructing schools to defray expenses, prosecuted scientific pursuits to such an extent as I presume, would entitle me to an admittance, into any of the neighbouring universities. But without the liberal patronage of some person, you readily perceive Sir, I cannot become a graduate of any College,

At Rhodisland, where I propose entering, the expenses
by calculation will amount to about 300 dollars, as I
expect to enter one year formore, and that sum, together
with ^{what} I could earn during vacations. I presume would
be sufficient to pay all expenses.

Should you, therefore think it compatible with your own
feelings, to assist me in climbing the slippery pathes
of science, I will not promise to pay the debt of grati-
tude due to such a benefactor, but will sufficiently
repay every pecuniary expence, should my life and
health be continued. Not being personally acquainted
with you, but hearing of some acts of your liberality
I have dared thus to address you. Should it meet
your approbation, you will much oblige your sincere
friend and humble servant; otherwise you will
receive his cordial thanks for the trouble of reading
this and returning a short answer to

Samuel Glidden

Bath August 28, 1812

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