

My dear William

De ejus in Vietnam emmigratione

May 1760.

I could not let slip so favorable an Opportunity, without letting you have a Line or two from me. After a tedious ride from  $\&$  to New York  $\&$  also to Burlington, I returned safe to the City on the Monday succeeding the Day of your Departure. I left all Friends well. I have experienced a good Deal of Anxiety since I saw you, or I may rather say, an undetermined, dubious, restless frame of Spirit, about an affair lately proposed to me; in which I have had an additional Experience of the want of your faithful Breast to advise with. I had resolved to write you some time since on this head, to get your Sentiments as well as your dear Fathers, but I have had a small Chat with him personally. The Case is this. Mr Stockton proposes, that I shall take out my Licence to practice, next August Term; after which take Lodgings at Freehold;  $\&$  take upon me the Office of Clerk of the County, which he supposes he can easily get. On the other hand lies the Danger of encountering the World, especially in my Business, so inexperienced; my Youth, not being yet of an Age sufficient to oppose many Things which I ought to be capable of. The important Trust of a Practitioner of the Law. The Risk I run of the Business of a County so far retired, not being sufficient for an additional Practitioner  $\&$ . On the other hand, lies the particular Circumstances of my Family. I am now of no Service

31  
to Mankind at all, but the prospect would enlarge as my Sphere enlarged. Do give me your deliberate opinion in Answer on these matters. As Gilbert is teasing me to go to bed, being with him in his Room & late, I must bid you a good night.

I am as always

Your most affectionate  
Elias Boudinot. —

New Market February 3<sup>d</sup> 1761

My dear William

Altho' so often unfortunate, I have been so happy this Evening as to be here at the arrival of Dr Scudder by whom yours of yesterday came to hand. My missing of an Agreeable meeting with my dear William was also accompanied with its Mortifications, which was not lessened by the remembrance of the same hard fate, when you went from home.

Dr Scudders return in the morning, prevents me from descending or rather ascending to particulars. All I can say is that Present Affairs wear a very dull aspect. Our worthy President is dangerously ill, God knows what awaits us. We are the Children of his Power; It is our Part to be resigned to his Will. With all the Zeal of disinterested Friendship I congratulate you on your return to your dear Parents. Thankful Hearts, & new Lives my dear William is a Tribute, every Hour (may moment)