

LETTER FROM HENRY JENNER TO WILLIAM MITCHELL, ESQ. OF NEW YORK - APRIL 22, 1818 -

*What follows is a transcription of the manuscript letter held at Killam Library, Special Collections
Call number QW 805 J515m 1818*

Dear Sir

I was favor'd with your letter this morning and lose no time in forwarding you some excellent pure vaccine infection taken lately (the? 17th ?) from a fine healthy little cottager which may be depended upon and have sealed it up so that I hope and expect it may prove efficacious when you reach America as it has frequently done when sent there.

The Lancet should be held in a slanting or horizontal manner and a slight puncture be made so as just to draw blood, when (2 punctures in each arm about an inch apart) a point which is charged as arrows are poison'd shd be pushed into the wounds and suffer'd to remain for about a minute to dissolve the matter and if the infection is given (one only taking effect will answer) a slight inflammation will gradually come on and the part regularly inflame and produce the disease but I advise the operation to be performed on a fine healthy child and from that child have yours inoculated. I shd like to receive another letter from you saying you safely rec'd what I now send and saying when, how, and where I may send and direct to you in America, when I will forward some more lest this after such a time before it can be used shd prove inactive but some sent to a Medical Gent'n in America return'd it observing the first reach'd him and answer'd and that he would return it to have tried in England and even after going & coming back proved efficacious so that I hope and expect this will.

I am much obliged to you for your kindness in promising to send the Turtles &c &c. (the one you gave me is still living but does not yet eat and I fear I shall not be able to preserve it much longer as it seems unhealthy). The skins of birds may be taken off leaving the Beak & legs on and sprinkled over with alum will preserve them from any putrefaction - The apple kernels are coming up could you send some other sorts - some grafts I think would grow.

You complain'd of being occasionally afflicted with xxxx [sic] write your case and I will send my opinion upon it. - I shall be happy at all times in any way to serve you and am obliged to you for the fdship [friendship] & kindness shown me by yrself and fd [friends?] when I had the pleasure of seeing you at the Greyhound Inn in Bristol. And I beg you will present my respects to him, Lt. Bailey, who was with me desires I would respectfully remember him to you both also -- I am obliged to send you a hasty scrawl not to lose tomorrow's mail - therefore wishing you a safe & prosperous voyage and the enjoyment of your health

I remain dear Sir

Yr sincere and very

Obliged

Henry Jenner

Berkeley, Gloster [Gloucestershire, England], Ap. 22d 1818

The? letter to be directed as the last but a parcel from America - Dr. Henry Jenner at the Greyhound Inn, Broad Mead, Bristol.

The vaccine infection shd [illegible] be put into the hands of a medical Gent'n under whose guidance and management it shd be conducted.

To
William Mitchell Esq
of New York
Manchester

An Englishman & one of the first N.Y. merchants

[Note on the original artifact: 2 leaves (57 lines) ; 33 cm. x 41 cm. folded to 33 c.m. x 21 c.m.
Watermarked: "Milton Fine"; crown on top of an oval depicting a seated woman with a shield?
Holding three leaves in her right hand and a staff in her left.]