

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,