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2-9-1797

**Letter from Samuel Hopkins to George and Samuel Sibley,
February 9, 1797**

Samuel Hopkins

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1p

ALS S. Hopkins, Newport, R. I.

To: Grandsons, Masters Geo. & S. Hopkins Sibley

Fayetteville, N.C.

My dear grandsons,

Newport Feb. 9. 1797

Your grandfather is pleased to hear by your father that you were alive and well the beginning of last December. He wishes you may __ remember that God __ your lives and gives you the health and strength you have; and that it is your duty, and your __ to be thankful to him and be willing to love and serve him. Always keep it in your minds that you must die, and how soon you know not; and that, as you are surest, you must __, unless you have an interest in Christ, who come into this world to save sinners, and often to save all who repent of their sins and trust in him. – And be opened, that they who are enlightened and good men, are the most happy in this world, and will be happy forever. I hope you read the Bible daily, which if you understand and believe it, will make you truly wise.

I am sorry to hear that you have no good school which you may attend. I hope you will not spend your time foolishly; and will avoid idleness: __ and that __ most wicked language, what too many use.

I should be glad to see you, and to have you live with me. But my circumstances, age and infirmities, will not admit of it. Your father, I trust, will be able to give you a good education. And I wish you may by your good conduct, and diligent improvements of all the advantages you have, encourage him to do his utmost for you.

The good people here, who knew and loved your mother, and were witnesses to her giving you up to Christ in baptism, remember you with affection, and have been, and are praying for you, that you may escape the snares and evils to which you are exposed; and conduct so as to be useful and happy in this world, and be blessed forever. This is the daily prayer of your aged, affectionate grandfather.

Masters George and Hopkins Sibley

S. Hopkins