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5-11-1797

## Letter from Samuel Hopkins to George Sibley, May 11, 1797

Samuel Hopkins

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Newport, May 11th, 1797

Dear Grandchild:

Your kind letter of the 20th March came seasonably to hand. I am pleased to see you able to write so good a hand, & hope you will make great proficiency in learning, now you are at the Academy. It is of great importance to you that you should improve your time well, rise early, and attend to your business, and avoid every thing should render you idle and vicious. You should always remember that you depend upon God for all good, and pray constantly to him, for his assistance and blessing, who always looks upon you, and knows all that is in your heart, and all you say and do. You cannot pay too much regard to the Bible. By attending properly to that, you may become wise, and be happy in this world and happy forever.

You will, it is to be feared, find some youths in the Academy who are inclined to be unruly and wicked, who speak bad and profane language, and are disposed to be idle and perhaps, spend time in --- and are quarrelsome and mischievous, I advise you to shun them as much as possible, and by no means follow their bad example, and resolutely resist their persuasions to join with them in their wickedness. Be honest, true and kind and faithful in all your words and actions. Carefully obey rules of the school, given by your instructors, and endeavor to please them by your fidelity, industry and advances in learning, always showing respect to them, and paying a careful regard to their people, and be a comfort and credit to all your relations and friends.

I enclose to you a letter which Mrs. Osborn put into my hands some time ago, to be sent to you. She is now dead, and we doubt not is gone to heaven. She loved your mother, and loved you, and has doubtless prayed for you a thousand times, that you might live, and be a wise and good man, a real and excellent Christian, be useful in the world and happy forever in heaven. She desired me to send this letter to you, and one to your brother, as a token of her love to you. It was written by her, and printed many years ago, and has been lately reprinted. I hope you will make good use of it.

With my best wishes for your good, I now bid you Farewell: Expecting you will often write your affectionate Grandfather,

S. Hopkins.

Master George C. Sibley,

Note: The printed letter here alluded to was received and carefully kept for many year. But has been lost by reason of some of the many moves and movements to which I have been subjected since I came to the Western Country in 1805.

G.C.S.