

Letter to John Arundel, 2 July 1839

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Dear Sir

Having been informed a few days ago by M^r Cecil, that there had been some intimation of a wish on the part of the Directors, that I should be employed in the West Indies in preference to South Africa, and being desirous to enter upon that sphere of labour, and, I trust, that only, in which I may be able most efficiently to advance the great cause of our Blessed Redeemer; Permit me to state the following particulars for their consideration, previous to coming to a final decision on my case -

When first I felt the expansive benevolence of the gospel in my heart, It became an interesting question to me, How can I spend the remainder of my days in bringing my fellowmen to the enjoyment of the same happiness and peace? After much prayer for the Divine direction, it appeared to be in accordance [with] the will of Providence that I should attempt to obtain a medical education in order to render service to the cause of missions. by that means; After much exertion and overcoming considerable difficulties, in which I was sensibly assisted by the good hand of providence, I spent two years in that study, all which time, in the event of my being sent to the West Indies, might be considered as lost, For I could not use the knowledge which I have obtained

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without in all probability incurring the displeasure of medical men who have gone thither for the sake of gain, and it is well known how easily medical men can destroy each others influence and usefulness, when an unsuccessful case occurs, as many hundreds of young men have experienced in this and other countries; In this manner might not only that means which I had hoped to have exerted to subserve the cause of religion be rendered inoperative, but likewise my moral and religious influence be weakened-

Added to this I may be permitted to mention, that settling in the West Indies has always appeared so much like the ministry at home that my thoughts have not at all

been attracted in that direction, but always to other parts of the world

I beg leave to state likewise in reference to a proposal to send me out in the present year, my earnest desire for more education, This has always been my wish and the more I contemplate the magnitude of the work, the greater does the necessity of good preparation for it appear to be; even when commencing study in prospect of being a missionary, so fully was I convinced of its importance, that it formed no part of my plan, to offer myself to any society, untill suitably educated. Lest I should be sent out unfurnished for the work, and I at length did

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