

Galveston Tex. 20<sup>th</sup> 1872.

Mr J. V. Stevenson.

Dear Friend:

Your Pre-dated Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> came to hand yesterday. I hope the date is not intended as an intimation that no other communication is to come until after the expiration of that time. — I am glad that you succeeded in entering an advanced class & especially the Theological, & whatever of service I may have rendered will be amply repaid by present devotion to study & after consecration to the Ministerial work. — In regard to study, in each department, select some Profound Thinker, & read & study him until like the iron enters into the blood, his thoughts enter your Mental constitution. Read few books, & let the few be the best. The Man of one Book will invariably be the scholar. Read very slowly, & re-read until you feel the thoughts as well as understand them. — In Hebrew you will find no great difficulty. When you become acquainted with the forms, & can write them, then a few rules of Syntax & a little familiarity with the simplicity of the construction & etymology & the work is accomplished. — In Metaphysics, I would take Hamilton & Edwards on the Will, especially the

latter, make them the principal Masters, & go over  
them until you understand every distinction & every  
principle, & there will be no difficulty in understanding  
others. In this Concentration on one Author is indispensable.  
— In Greek Testament, if you can get Alford it is the  
best — both as to the Text, idiom, & interpretation with  
which I am acquainted. Its superiority consists in its  
condensation. Were you farther advanced I would advise  
Gouge. — Nothing has yet superseded Paley in Natural  
Theology for comprehensiveness & completeness. Mc Cook  
in some departments is admirable. — I do hope that  
as you have time you will remain until thoroughly  
prepared for your great work. While improving mentally,  
don't neglect your spiritual interests. Commune in spirit  
much with your Saviour, & cultivate systematic devotion.  
No ability you may acquire will compensate for the want  
of this in the work of the Ministry.

The Schools here, both white & colored are nearly all  
broken up by the Free School System. Capt Senoole  
has charge of them & has exhibited an intelligence &  
an energy in putting them on a proper basis which  
is wonderful. I have not heard particularly from  
Barnes Institute.

We are moving on as usual — have had a very healthy  
summer, & business is brisk.

Write often.

Yours sincerely  
Wm Howard.