

**NOTE:** The original of this document is in the Stevens Family Papers, #1210, at the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library, Ithaca, New York 14853.

750927-A.AWS

**TO:** Frederick C. Stevens

**FROM:** Augustus. W. Smith

Manchester, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, 1875

My Dear Grandson,

What an undertaking I have taken upon myself to attempt to write to a collegiate, but such thing must be done or Uncle Sam will be short of funds. Now I can see you almost as distinctly (sic) with your hand against your face, as I have seen you at M. when shooting that little gun at a candle box. But your aim is at another object -- to be learned man is important when compared with a marksman. Now my dear boy (pardon me for the expression) I shall look forward to the time when you will come forward from that institution under full sail (Democratic, I suppose), but I cannot doubt but every pound of freight will be labeled Republican in sentiment, the Country as it is only out of debts. Now before you hoist your flag and throw its folds to [the] breeze, think Lincoln, Webster, Grant and all the great men of the day. Don't you remember Lincoln lead the coulerd (sic) group to the promised land, and Grant, as waters of the South roled (sic) back, took them softly over when the land flowed with milk and honey. With all these blessings will you now praise the past and aid the future with means and ability? I know you will to the last.

And as you buffet the rough watters of science may you be abundantly paid by sailing over the still waters of Manchester river in Burley's yacht.

We are all well. Have our harvest mostly harvested, with a good stack of coal. Shore people about leaving. Dr. B. thinks of selling some land to Prof. Fowler<sup>1</sup>. Some others talking and Fowler think of having the Island House another year. If we should go to Attica this winter we would be delighted to see you and will get up some classics. I think that will pay. You will please write often and not wait for me. We all join in sending love to you and doubt not but you will succeed in all attempt.

---

<sup>1</sup> "Dr. B." refers to Dr. Cyrus A. Bartol, a minister at Old West Church, Boston, who bought the Great Pasture of Smith's Point from A. W. Smith in 1871, and then divided it into lots.

"Prof. Fowler" refers to Prof. Orson Squire Fowler, a phrenologist, who believed that octagonal houses gave one happiness. Prof. Fowler did indeed buy a lot from Dr. Bartol in 1877, right across Proctor Cove from the Island House. However, when Prof. Fowler had his house in Manchester built, only the dining room was octagonal. This house burned in the late 1880s."

**FROM:** Letter from Frances L. Burnett, Manchester, Mass., to Robert C. Stevens, April 2, 1991. Miss Burnett also wrote that she was interested that Prof. Fowler had rented the Island House, as her grandfather, Charles A. Read, bought the house and the island land from the heirs of Capt. A. W. Smith.

With love and best wishes of all, I am truly as ever,

A. W. Smith

I received your letter on Friday, will write in a few days. We are having beautiful weather but cold. This Mr. Ryder is your Uncle David's<sup>2</sup> brother-in-law.

Auntie Lee

---

<sup>2</sup> Uncle David was David B. Kimball, the husband of Fred's mother's sister, Harriet Knight (Smith) Kimball.