

Dr Norman Chevers concerning possible appointment to Professorship at Army Medical School

Publication/Creation

Jul-Oct 1860

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
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11 Mysium Row L.P. 40/
Calcutta
July 4th 1860

My dear Longmore.

Your very kind and welcome letter of the 29th May, reached me a few days ago. It contains matters which I ought to answer - but, first, a few words about domestic occurrences. I ought to have written to you before to say that Mrs. Chennas having given me another little boy - we christened him in April last, naming him after the three friends whom I most esteem Herbert Longmore Grant. I should have wished to ask you leave first, but that was, of course, impossible. I am indeed most-grateful for your kindness in thinking and acting so kind for me in re the Professorship. It is very curious that last winter either Sigristwood or Webb told me that he heard that I had been offered a P.P., but had refused it as the acceptance would have shut out better prospects - I answered truly, that I had not been given the chance, and felt much disappointed - that is - tantalised by the glimpse of home without much reflection upon a matter beyond speculation. To be at home with a competence, would, certainly, be very delightful, but I really do not see how I could fix it. My

position in the Department is really, most
unpleasant - only 12 years' service in Worcester.
Now, if I went home, for good, the Medical
Retiring fund & I should, inevitably, fall out.
I should have gone up my annuity - true
I must live & subscribe for 12 years more to get
that annuity, but, after 15 years & 4 months
service, I have a right to it - and three hundred
a year is no trifle. Then, on the other hand,
I have fair expectation that, if I live eight months
longer, I shall be Principal of the Medical
College. Estlin is going on six months leave
and does not wish to return & I have Frey's
good word for the vacancy. On the other hand,
nothing there is to happen, some months hence,
is quite to be calculated upon. Dr. Forsyth
has the hot weather (just past) in a way
which, I suspect, will discourage him from
trying another - and I, certainly, will not
be anybody else's leg. If I can possibly
creep out of it, might it not be practicable
to get 2 or 3 years' furlough (wh. I could
claim at any time) & take the Professorship
for that term? I really think that, if Estlin
was coming out again and Forsyth going home, I
should be strongly tempted - but, as you see, my
position is a very peculiar one - so far from be-
travelling. And the whole plan is novel for me
in this service. That I can only say that,
should an opening occur & should you be able
to do anything towards having it opened to

me. I'd be very grateful. Should the
question come to me at any moment, I shall
be able to give a prompt & decided reply. The
Furlough plan seems the only feasible one. They
could not make me a D.P.O. without creating
a yell - only 12 years in the service constitutes
Now my word upon it. He is a man of such
delicate feelings that I shall not say anything
to him on the subject but, seriously, if made
the amalgamation system, there is to be no
official voice in the Medical Direction at home.
The voice of all men is foreign. It is not plain
to me. Still you know I have watched every
step of his conduct for two years and a half -
his administration justifies and right
things are perfect. He is only fifty one
years old and would be in all human pro-
bability, quite admissible for twelve or 14 years
more. I am full of vigor - and, personally, he had
told me of the Alexander. For the appearance
of him to have all his highest qualities in the
highest degree. It would be a thousand pities
that so much experience & wisdom should
be shut off from useful action when he
leaves. I'd much hear for you. Poor Clutter is
dead. He went in a steamer, bound for Japan,
and was found dead in his bed about
three days out. There was great talk about his
will. He left his money between the Bellinger
College & the London Society of Arts, and said nothing
about his aged mother. I hope, however, that
he might have, previously, furnished an Antislavery
for her in Waukegan. The other society would not
have required more. No tidings of George yet, of
course. Hebb and Sigelwood came to see things
in London recently, but please as to the situation

Payne, whom you disrespectedly call a pluralist,
in great trouble - poor fellow - he has got caught
place 1000 staff, the Emigrant Depot 250 a
month (likely to be increased to 800) and is vexed
that they won't let him keep the very same prices
(400) - isn't it hard!! I gave him a rough
piece of my mind, at the time, which I think he did
not like - but I really could not hold it in -
still there is no blame to him. Baillie & his
wife delighted with their Baby. B is hard
worked and not strong. Grant & his sister
thin but hearty - after their fashion. I hope you
got the last no. of the Annals which I deemed
desperado to send you. You will see the notice
of the Alexander. I am now writing head on
an interesting subject. Hospitals - Annals
not doing well. A new Madras Med Quarter
springing up. The ~~Madras Times~~ Indian Standard
flourishing - They say that Ricketts has, actually,
cleared £500! Our last Annals' Printer's
bill was Rs 1000 - and our subscriptions do
not cover that & Rs 700. but we must publish
a thin number next time.

Now my dear Longmore, I must say how truly
grateful we are to Mrs Longmore & your sisters
for their kindness to our poor little boys - pro-
bably no Indian children hardly have so few
relations & friends as they have, and we feel
their kindness very deeply. Maclean has an excellent name, a slow mannered
man. I hear, but real grit. He is what I think.
in a good Madras berth and, if successful in
practice, might not care to quit. Duncan Macpherson
is his brother in law. Duncan has come to some grief
in being an old beastly S.S. whom he got turned out
stupid bull-headed man is M. Give my duty to
Sir R. Martin. Now my dear Longmore, farewell -
after a very selfish epistle - (pursued from kind thoughts
fulness) - With our kindest regards to Mrs Longmore your sisters
& yourself believe me ever truly your affectionate brother

And the prospect of just the work of
all others in the world that I should
like best and for which I feel the
best fitted, are considerations which bring
down the scales at once. Only I need
not tell a surgical Professor that a
man has considerable difficulty in moving
about without legs. - Between ourselves,
you might say - why should he not
borrow money, as half the cabal-
tins in the Service do? but that is
against my caste. I have lived
most of my life avoiding it and I
have the same objection to a poor a
decent Char - woman has to entering
the Union.

Now for a little public & domestic
news. Annie has married a Captain
Maarssen of the R.A. He has charge of the
Adjutant General's Office here and is a
clever, popular & rising officer - although
a precious ugly little coon. but that
is nothing to me. They are very happy
together. By the mail which brought
you last I had a letter from Angus
who is at Harpenden, Herts. He is

strong, but still spit up the con-
tents of that hole in his liver - can
eat capitally but, whenever he drinks
wine - he coughs up nothing but
blood - a remarkable proof of the
inflamed & irritated state of the
liver - and very hard upon his
poor fellow. Your name child throws
a - pace and I advance in Steatorrhea
his Cheeks very lined. I would, at
the earliest possibility of going home &
seeing the poor boys - little John as
delicate. But Baillie has not been at
all the thing, with repeated re-
curring dysentery since the rain
set in. I saw his private
patients for him, morning & even-
ing, for about six weeks. He says
he is all right now, but looks
thin. This is the beginning of the
end with many, and I wish that
he would go home, but it would

11 Uxbridge Row, Belgrave

September 13th 1860

My dear Longmore,

(2 pp)

L.P. 40/2

Your letter of the 8th -
ultimo has thrown me into great ex-
citement. First I read with interest
my kind old friend and fellow student
next anxiety as to what may happen
and how it may be brought about.
In reply to your letter of the 24th May
I wrote to you fully by return of
mail - got on 10th July. You will, of
course, have received that almost immedi-
ately after the despatch of yours of 18th Aug.
That letter gave you as clear a vision
of what was going on in my mind
as the great uncertainty of the whole
question admitted of. I did not keep a
copy of what I said, but I dwell main-
ly. I think upon my inclination to
take three years furlough and try my
gate in the appointments. The school
opens in October. You cannot keep the
Professorship long vacant - therefore,
I apprehend, that if I have any
chance of the appointment, I shall hear

by next mail or the next after
at latest. Therefore, it is, probably,
too late for correspondence with you.
I told Nelson all about it, and he
wished me to telegraph to you - but
I am not quite in a position to
say "I will come". If I receive
an invitation to come before I can
hear from you, I shall, at least,
go to work hard to get my anchor
up - but I don't see exactly how it
is to be done - on pecuniary grounds.
My pay, just under £1000 when paid,
& income tax are paid, is just the
very narrowest gettable poverty in this,
now, enormous expending place to a
married man, with children &c at home.
Selling my whole party home, in the
provinces, broke my bank. And I
shall not be out of debt in February
next. So, if the proposition comes
now, I must do whatever is possible;
but, if you put an acting man in, &
the question is still open when you receive
this - Please to say that I am so

poor a man that I could not leave
this in receiving an advance of half a
year's salary from Government. If I
felt it to mean Government would,
according to reputation, advance me £120
passage money - and (advance) half staff
& pay to the amount of about £170 more.
But nothing is done for me. I must go
except, I can't get any advance of my pay. I must go
on private furlough. I know how
it is an effect condition, from one whom
the authorities are disposed to favor, have
half such a plan, my position.
Then, if all that could be got over, it
would remain there I would join you in
mediated I could learn, and would D.V.
work my 3 years furlough out with you,
if the Government would not consent to
allow my time to count as service. I should
then have to come out here again, as it
would be impossible to resign the service
& become a civilian on dear hundred a
year with no hope of pension & with
mine before me immediately I hope down
in health. However, now that we are
amalgamated, I trust that the time would
count as service for promotion & pension.
Then I would, most joyfully devote

myself, heart & soul, to the School
for life. Such a position would be
my highest ambition. My present
position is as follows. Dr. Satchell has
gone home on six months leave. In Jan-
ary next, if I am alive, I shall, in
all human probability, be Principal of
the medical college, with 1475
a month, quarters, & board, &
practice. A nice position, for this
country, but then it is in this country
and that makes all the difference. Sat-
well has no wish to return, but, having
the option to return, if he will, he natu-
rally does not renounce the privilege. For-
geth has recommended me to the Govt.
having been formally consulted. The Pro-
fessors wish to have me. And, upon my
suggestion, it has been arranged that a Pro-
fessor should act for the six months, as
Principal, at the end of which time, I
go in - if Satchell does not come. This ar-
rangement was indispensable, as my leaving
to act there for six months, would have
caused utter confusion in my office. Thus,
although I have not at much to sacrifice
as Dr. Maclean has - my move to England
would be a great pecuniary loss. But my
Home, my little children, and my health

be a great sacrifice, at present.
I dined with Wardie last night.
Dr. A. Anderson and a lot of
Society Officers there. Dr. A. is
now off - for Oxleyton, who is
away at Ceylon on two months
P. Leave. Of course, we are all
tremulous until we know what
amalgamation will bring us. It is
hard that so large a body of people
should be kept so long in suspense.
My own and nearly everyone else's
notion is that, in the main, the
change must hurt us - but, possibly,
we don't know how. I hope
I can tell you a continuation
on Hospitals - a good subject, at
which I am working carefully. I wish
I could be present at your introduc-
tory lecture - That was a sad fate
to close poor Addison's career.
Angus writes me that he thinks

himself an area rail. Well
I am uncharitable enough to
hope that Maclean will not
close with you. You must have
misunderstood about the amount
of his salary - doubtless his in-
come, including practice, may amount
to £3000 but his salary can-
not be much above Rs 1000
a month. I was very glad
to hear that Sir R. Martin
had, at length, received honors
which he has much more than
deserved. Pray present my duty
to him. and do let him know
that the report which got about Cal-
cutta, that I had been offered &
had refused one of the Professorships - &
which must have reached him, de-
stroyed & tantalized me greatly. And
now, my dear friend, accept our gra-
titude & kindest regards. ^{which are very much}
^{from} ^{your} ^{most} ^{kind} ^{friend} ^{Wm. L. G.}

kindly wishes are
 saying how you could
 have prepared your
 lectures - and looking
 at high educated young
 men put out of the
 crack schools, is no
 slight thing - while
 they were leading you
 that ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~suburban~~ life
 under ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~advantages~~
 Baileys, Grant, Pappas,
 Anderson - Webb - Mc
 wired a letter well - the
 latter has had opportunity
 to look things up. Mrs
 Chivers says we in best
 regards & believe me
 always have ~~devotedly~~ ^{devotedly} yours

I had calculated upon
time to write to you to-day,
the last of mail, but have
not got a minute except the
few last. I got your kind line
through Webb. John Macpherson
(who has a wonderful faculty of
knowing all that is going on) saw
Maclean lately at Madras. The
latter told him all about his
dealings with the Home Authorities.
Macpherson understood him that
he was invited to take the

not subject to trial or
appeal. or donee & bene-
ficiary, or something of that
kind! - And was warned
either that he would go out
in five years or was liable to
have to do so - under the new
order regarding staff appts.
Of course these things get dis-
torted in the telling. but it
seems that Madan naturally
demurred at giving up his
hard-earned position in India
to undertake a new & very dif-
ficult duty in grappling with
which, instead of looking for easy

aid and consideration, he might
expect to be put out, with pre-
cious loss of credit. to return to India
damaged in every way - Should he
fail to come up to somebody's un-
known standard. I of course write
to you as fully as I think, and
Macpherson may have got hold
of the wrong end of the stick although
that does not ^{often} always happen
to him; but if this be correct,
I cannot imagine how the au-
thorities could have had the face
to put such a question to a
reputable man. It is useless
to try to get a man from India
if they have not the fullest con-
fidence that he would sustain
their purpose. rejection, under

Such circumstances, would
be hopeless disgrace & ruin.

He was very anxious to learn
what the next mail would
bring him - as I also am,
but, should such a proposition
be put to me - I should,
(in modest doubt of my own in-
fallibility and power of giving
universal satisfaction) feel so
shy of being visited, in my
lecture room, by a committee of
approval consisting of - say an
ultra memorialist, a handy &
salt enthusiast and a mediocre
military martinet. That I should
at once cry *Nolo Episcopari!*

I was truly vexed to hear that you
had been treated so ill. What pain