

Copy letter: Thomas Allis to Earl Fitzwilliam

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To Earl Fitzwilliam
Rushmore, Wexford

Revere^d Mr York
10th Mo 18, 1841.

As the present
Surgeon of the York County Lunatic
Asylum is about resigning his
situation in consequence of ill
health, I take the liberty of addressing
myself to ^{the Governor} ~~the Governor~~ to state the claims of a friend of
my own who is desirous of obtaining
the situation. The young man in question
is named John Pitching a member
of the Society of Friends. He was educated
at our public school at Ackworth
his Parents having a large family
& being unable to provide ^{him} with a
classical education; from Ackworth
school he came to reside with me
as an apprentice, he remained with
~~me~~ ^{me} ~~at~~ ^{at} Ackworth he distinguished
himself by his good conduct & abilities.
I found him very attentive to his
duties, at the same time possessing
a great desire for increasing his
own knowledge & great facility in
the acquisition of it; finding this I
provided him with such facilities
as lay in my power, & thus aided he

acquired a good knowledge of the French
German, Latin, Greek & Hebrew tongues.
He resided with me for 11 years, always
attentive to his duties; during the latter
part of the time he was assisted by our
Visiting Surgeon; He received the greater
part of his Medical Education
at the York Medical School. There
his attainments & industry were
as conspicuous, as they had previously
been at Ackworth; the first ^{session} ~~year~~ he
attended the lectures on the practice
of Physic he obtained the first prize,
altho every other competitor had
^{attended} two or three previous sessions.
Some of his competitors had obtained
the second prize in the previous years.
He obtained either a first or second
prize or a highly honourable testimony
in every class; in London he attended
only one session, there also he obtained a
silver medal at University College over
the heads of several competitors who
had attended the same class for two
or three previous sessions. There
also he obtained a prize or a highly
honourable ^{certificate} in every class in which
he competed; he would there have competed

from a prize in some other chapter but
the state of his health interfered with
his studies during part of the spring; after
losing his examinations at the Apothe-
carys Hall & the College of Surgeons in
a highly creditable & satisfactory man-
ner, he spent a few months in Paris
to improve his Anatomical knowledge,
as well as that of some other branches
of his profession. He afterwards went
to Germany purposely to visit some
of the more celebrated Lunatic Asy-
lums; especially with reference to the
work of Dr. Jacobi's on the subject
of Lunatic Asylums, which he
had translated from the German
under the auspices & at the request
of my friend Lord Luke, which
has lately issued from the press.

Having been brought up in this
Institution he has a knowledge of the
Insane & such few young men can
possess; he is but short in stature, but
I consider this as much more than
compensated for, by his knowledge
of the insane; by the self command,
tact & judgment which he possesses,
believing as I do that he is more
competent to undertake the situa-

tion, how almost any other point
man who could be met with, I am
anxious to secure his services; at
the same time I do not wish to
offer for, or secure a humane
I suggest in his behalf; on all
good elections, I think it best to
best course for the election & have
early promises, yet the time of
election & good promises for
to suggest the reason they think highly
the highest claims; but thinking it
very likely that you would be obliged to
from promises of support from all
parties; I thought it best to suggest
them early to the fact that I am
in this position & suggest
some that I say in his behalf &
will go for nothing, further than it
is backed up by the testimony of all
be able to preserve from his way
and medical teaching, speaking
as his independent facilities within
my own immediate sphere of influence
it may seem early & ally for out-
right, before the present danger has
given his orthodoxy; but a humane
friend of his not made the other
to me & do make up his mind

to resign, & asked me if I knew of any
clever & well qualified young person
I could recommend to succeed him. Still
we did not like to take any step till
we had seen the surgeon. He ascer-
tained from himself that ^{our} ~~it~~ was
the fact, having done that, & the thing
having been mentioned to me in
the way it was & without any kind of
favor or collusion between us,
in fact having no particulars accom-
panied ^{or furnished} with him ~~on~~ for I feel that the
way is perfectly & fairly open to
advance the claims of my friend,
without, at all soliciting any promise
of support for him, I venture to
say that the character I am able
to give him honestly, may not
be without its use, if a contest for
the situation should ensue.

Trusting that the desire to ad-
vance the well-being of a deserving
young friend, at the same time
that I feel that I am serving the interest
of the Institution he is desirous of entering
may prove a sufficient apology
for my thus troubling thee, I beg
to subscribe myself very respectfully
Thy friend
Superintendent *Wm. A. Ellis*

