

Worcester April 10th 1843

To Dear John P. Green,

Sweden, as you will be
for on your voyage when you open this
letter. I hope it will meet you in good spirits,
& full of the hopes of making a pleasant, & very
prosperous voyage, & I am glad that your friends
have been willing to afford you that friendly
aid, & counsel, which may eventually be useful, &
so far beneficial, as to enable you to make yourself
useful, & beneficial to your fellow creatures when
-ever Fortune may place you - I have always since,
& long before you were born, calculated on the man
who should bear up my late honored father's name
should be a physician, & should inherit the old home
focuss, it was the wish of your uncle Timothy
& plan he laid when he, & I were settling the old affairs
of the home estate, that the next son I might have should
be called John, & that he should be bred a Physician, &
inherit the old homestead, this calculation was made
while Lucy's mother was living, & after her decease before
I saw or knew your own mother, that the next son
born to me, should bear the name of John, & be
bred a Physician, & you will perceive from the
fact, that the plan by me has always been adhered to.
You have had friends raised up to you far beyond
the most sanguine expectations of my former hopes

Letter from William E. Green to John P. Green

April 10th, 1843

[John P. Green Mss. – A.L.S.]

Worcester April 10th 1843

To Doc[to]r John P. Green,

Dear Son,

As you will be far on your voyage when you open this letter, I hope it will meet you in good spirits, & full of the hopes of making a pleasant, & very prosperous voyage, & I am glad that your friends have been willing to afford you that friendly aid, & counsel, which may eventually be usefull [sic], & so far beneficial, as to enable you to make yourself usefull [sic], & beneficial to your fellow creatures wherever fortune may place you – I have always since, & long before you were born, calculated on the son who should bear up my late honoured fathers name should be a physician, & should inherit the old home farm, it was the wish of your uncle Timothy, & a plan he laid when he, & I were settling the old affairs of the home estate, that the next son I might have should be called John, & that he should be bred a Physician, & inherit the old homestead, this calculation was made while Lucy's mother was living, & after her decease [sic] before I saw or knew your own mother, that the next son born to me, should bear the name of John, & he bred a Physician, & you will perceive from the part, that the plan by me has always been adherence too[sic]. You have had friends raised up to you far beyond the most sanguine expectations of my former hopes[.]

Finding, on the attempt of the settlement with brother James
& John, that both of them were embarrassed, so that they could
not hold the Old Estate, for the benefit of Mother, Sisters Mary & Betty,
& the three younger brothers Nathaniel, Brown, & Isaac. and, as I had by
prudence, & care, saved or free hundred dollars, there was no one
to step forward to take charge of the place by means of the
brothers Samuel & Elijah having gone south. Nathaniel to the West
Indies, Brown to Europe, & Isaac in College at N. York. I found out
the only one, so situated, as to be able to look to the affairs at the
Old farm, and although I was bound for brother John to the
amount of six, or seven thousand dollars at the time, I supposed
he was rich, but hesitated to collect his debts for fear of giving offence
to his customers, & by that means involved himself by thus being
out bound, & when he died at the age of 44 yr he left his family
destitute, & John the present Dr.^g just commencing practice to
take charge of his ^{medical} business. I then had been appointed executor,
with Nathaniel Wheeler, & Dr. John to brother John's will, & had to take
the charge of settling the Estate I tried hard to get bro^r. Wheeler to
give bonds, & settle the Estate, as Dr. John wished for the situation
for getting the practice, & to me, & collect the debts would give
offence to those who employed brother John, in his lifetime,
& by that means prevent their employing Dr. John. I thought
a great deal of the matter, & on the whole concluded to give
bonds, & settle the Estate, as well, as I could, and, as the Lyons skin
was not long enough I borrowed the Foxes to see it out, &
begged to hold up the Idea that there were ~~was~~ immense
estate of brother John's, provided for the family, as well as I
could repaired the Taylor's furnace house, & kept the appearance
of great willingness to assist on those, who owned the Estate
only to have them settle, & give notes on interest, & for three
years only need three persons to prevent losing their debts -
due the Estate, & when I could hold out no longer, & the creditors signed

Finding, on the attempt of the settlement with brothers Timothy, & John, that both of them were embarrassed, so that they could not hold the old estate, for the benefit of mother, sisters Mary, & Betsey, & the three younger brothers Meltiah, Bourn, & Isaac, and, as I had by providence, & care, saved a few hundred dollars, there was no one to step forward to take charge of the place by reason of the brothers Samuel, & Elijah having gone south, Meltiah to the west Indies, Bourn to Europe, & Isaac in Colledge [sic] at N[ew] York. I seemed as the only one, so situated, as to be able to look to the affairs at the old farm, and although I was bound for brother John to the amount of six, or seven thousand dollars at the time, I supposed he was rich, but hesitated to collect his debts for fear of giving offense to his customers, & by that means involved himself by their being outlawed, & when he died at the age of 44 y[ea]rs he left his family destitute, & John the present Doc[to]r just commencing practice to take charge of his medical business. I then had been appointed executor, with Theophilus Wheeler, & Doc[to]r John to brother John's will, & had to take the charge of settling the estate I tryed [sic] hard to get Esq[ui]re Wheeler to give bonds[?] & settle the estate, as Doc[to]r John wished for the situation for getting the practice, & to see, & collect the debts would give offense to those who employed brother John, in his life time, & by that means prevent their employing Doc[to]r John. I thought a great deal of the matter, & on the whole concluded to give bonds, & settle the estate, as well, as I could, and, as the Lyons skin was not long enough I borrowed the Foxes to eke it out, & began to hold up the idea that there was an immense estate of brother Johns, provided for the family, as well as I could repaired the Taylor farm house, & kept the appearance of great willingness to wait on those, who owed the estate only to have them settle, & give notes on interest, & for three years only need three persons to prevent loosing [sic] their debts - due the estate, & when I could hold out no longer, & the creditors seized

on my estate the Crooked and given to my Jeremiah Robinson
& Dr. Elijiah Dix; demands against the estate of another John, and
had given any note to them for the amount due them
I was obliged to give up the Executorship, & my father took
the affairs into his hands, & closed the settlement of another
John's estate, & I lost about 2 or 3 hundred dollars, but had
delayed the settlement, & kept every thing every until John
had got the practice well run into his hands, & they
all owed him, & he had made sufficient to take most
= yours, & had enough due him to have relieved me from
all embarrassment, but let me tug on, & do the best I
could, & when I wanted to have him buy the estate of
his father, which was sold at auction, he gave out that he
would not buy it of me to give any thing more than
I gave for it, & I offered to divide the loss I had made on
settling his father's estate, & he gave me in addition to what I
had bought, that estate for, one half the loss (about four hundred
dollars) more than I had bought for, he would not do it,
& then I had to sell, & put the estate out of my hands
making the purchase ^{agree} always ^{to} give John the first offer,
& finally by negotiating, got the estate into his own
hands at about $\frac{2}{3}$ of its real value, & he, & his mother has
never thanked me for any thing I have done for them, it
is true, I do not know that he ever charged me with
any practice, or insolent said for my family, & do not feel
under the least obligation to him for that, he having always
acted like an enemy rather than a friend towards me,
& his mother has often testified my for urging his father to assist in
raising money to pay when I was bound for him, as in one
instance when we raised money to pay another John's notes out

on my estate the Crawford farm to pay Jeremiah Robinson & Doc[to]r Elijah Dix's demands against the estate, of brother John, as I had given my note to them for the amount due them I was obliged to give up the executorship, & Esq[ui]re Wheeler took the affairs into his hands, & closed the settlement of brother John's estate, & I lost about 7 or 8 hundred dollars, but had delayed the settlement, & kept every thing [*Ms. illegible*] untill [sic] John had got the practice well secured into his hands, & they all owed him, & he had made sufficient to take mortgages, & had enough due him to have released me from all embarrassment, but let me tug on, & do the best I could, & when I wanted to have him buy the estate of his father, which was sold at auction, he gave out that he would not buy it of me to give any thing more than I gave for it, & I offered to divide the loss I had made on settling his fathers estate, & he give me in addition to what I had bought, that estate for, one half the lien (about four hundred dollars) more than I had bought for, he would not do it, & then I had to sell, & put the estate out of my hands making the purchaser agree always to give John the first offer, & finally by menauvering [sic], got the estate into his own hands at about 2/3 of its real value, & he, & his mother has never thanked me for any thing I have done for them, it is true. I do not know that he ever charged me with any practice, or medical aid for my family, & do not feel under the least obligation to him for that, he having always acted like an enemy rather than a friend towards me, & his mother has often [*Ms. illegible*] my for urging his father to assist in raising money to pay where I was bound for him, as in one instance where we raised money to pay brother John['s] notes at

born by way of Daniel Johnston who took Louisa
& killed himself we lost about 4 or 5 thousand Dollars in
all, (but let it go, she was an industrious, but ignorant
woman, & did not know enough to quarrel with, & I
have always suffered from a kind of prejudice from
them both), & I have lived, as you know through many
embarrassments, & much trouble. but hope you will
steer clear from all these troubles, & if possible I hope you
will accumulate sufficient property to live, & hold the old
ground, & always have it a point, & place of resort for
all the children, as long, as they may live I hope you
will be, so successful in your present pursuit that you will in
the course of a few years make sufficient money to return
independent, & let nothing prevent you from doing all
the good you wish to your fellow mortals when you can
safely afford them aid - I have written thus far to let you know
under what difficulties I have had to act, & the little thanks I have had for
my exertions, to endeavour to keep the old homestead, & to keep the
family united. I have succeeded far beyond my expectations, & it has un-
= wined me that with proper exertions, & a determination to do
what is right, a man may effect a wonderful deal of good -
In my first conversation I was deprived of a sincere good, & beloved
companion while I was was a free man, & in my mind by the
= demerment of my second wife, I had many troubles, & embarras-
= ments, & when Lucy was about 8 months old I was called to mourn
the loss of one of the best inventors, & most affectionate of women, she
= seemed still dearer to me after she was restored to her right mind,
& I felt if possible she was more useful than the first. The third year
= mother, a more exact, sensible, affectionate, woman, no man ever
= had, & after all my trials, & disappointments with my two former, I felt
as though Providence had made up every loss, & she was spared
long enough to educate some of her children, so far, as to enable them
to take charge, & bring forward the children, so far that the
= 2nd part present

banks by way of Sam[ue]l Johnson who took Laudanum & killed himself we lost about 4 or 5 thousand dollars in all, (but let it go, she was an industrious, but ignorant woman, & did not know enough to quarrel with, & I have always suffered from a kind of grudge from them both), & I have lived, as you know through many embarrassments, & much trouble but hope you will steer [sic] clear from all these troubles, & if possible [sic] I hope you will accumulate sufficient property to live, & hold the old farm, & always have it a point, & place of resort for all the children, as long, as they may live[.] I hope you will be, so successfull [sic] in your present persuits [sic] that you will in the course of a few years make sufficient money to return independent, & let nothing prevent you from doing all the good you can to your fellow mortals when you can safely afford them aid – I have written thus far to let you know under what, difficulties I have had to act, & the little thanks I have had for my exertions, to endeavour [sic] to keep the old homestead, & to keep the families united. I have succeeded far beyond my expectations, & it has convinced me that with proper exertions, & a determination to do what is right, a man may effect a wonderfull [sic] deal of good – In my first connection, I was deprived of a sincere good, & beloved companion while W[illia]m was a few weeks old. In my second by the derangement of my second wife, I had many troubles, & embarrassments, & when Lucy was about 8 months old I was called to mourn the loss of one of the best hearted, & most affectionate of women & she seemed still dearer to me after she was restored to her right mind & I felt if possible [sic] the loss more severely than the first. The third your mother, & more exact, sensible [sic], affectionate, woman, no man ever had, & after all my trials & disappointments with my two former, I felt as though Providence had made up every loss, & she was spared long enough to educate some of her children. So far, as to enable them to take charge, & bring forward the children, so far that the present

^{present}
2^d ^{strict} situations in which all our friends bear the strongest
evidence that her plan of bringing up children never very
correct, & good for your Sisters Lucy & Mary & John
& Lydia all are very exemplary, & are, & will I hope
be always women who are & will be respected.

I shall with much anxiety wait to hear from you
in your new location, & hope that let whatever mis-
-fortunes may attend you, that you never will be
in the least discouraged, for, as long as you have health
& life, & an unrestrained reputation you may always
expect, & hope for success; ^{with proper exertions} You undoubtedly will have
many obstacles to encounter, & one habit you have,
which to succeed generally well with, you must con-
-quer, "that is letting people discover what your feelings
are when any thing occurs which does, or does not
please you. you are too apt to look grim, & show
your feelings to hostility - whereas a proper degree of con-
-fidence, ^{& pleasant manners} artfully shown to your fellow creatures,
will gain theirs, but if you are cold, & distant they will
be apt to be the same towards you, which chills
those warmer feelings of the heart which gains the
confidence, & good will of our fellow creatures. As I have
full confidence in your talents, as a Physician, & Surgeon,
& your strict honesty, for which you have ever been noticed
by all your friends, you must not let your diffidence, or
for overcome your natural benevolence, & nice sensibility

situations in which all are placed bears the strongest evidence that her plan of bringing up children was very correct, & good for your sisters Lucy Mary Julia & Lydia all are very exemplary, & are, & will I hope be always women who are & will be respected.

I shall with much anxiety wait to hear from you in your new location, I hope that but whatever misfortunes may attend you, that you never will be in the least discouraged, for, as long as you have health & life, & an untarnished reputation you may always expect, & hope for success with proper exertion you undoubtedly will have many obstacles to encounter, & one habit you have, which to succeed generally well with, you must conquer, "that is letting people discover what your feelings are when any thing occurs which may, or does not please you. You are too [sic] apt [sic] to look green, & show your feelings to[o] hastily - whereas a proper degree of confidence & pleasant manners outwardly shewn [sic] to your fellow creatures will gain theirs, but if you are cold, & distant they will be apt to be the same towards you, which chills those manner feelings of the heart which gains the confidence, & good will of our fellow creatures. As I have full confidence in your tallents [sic], as a Physician, & surgeon, & your strict honesty, for which you have ever been noticed by all your friends, you must not let your difidence [sic], so far overcome your natural benevolence, & nice sense of action

as to prevent you from doing your duty on all occasions. I have known men who had not half the acquirements, which I know you have, from whom I have learned, from those, who know your medical acquirements, better than I do, make a great display, & put themselves forward, & make a great show, when actually they were poorly informed in the first rudiments of a profession, which of all others requires a man to be well skilled in, as human life is concerned, & may be often endangered from want of knowledge -

I hope you have some plan as which you mean to set, in your present pursuit, & that when you have arrived at your point of destination, that you will immediately look around you, & familiarly with a becoming openness, & confidence make such inquiries, as will enable you to begin business in a right way, so that you will not have to learn from a fear that you have done wrong -

You have the best wishes of all your friends for success, & we all hope that you will prove not only ^{honestly} successful in your practice, but that you will be eminently so: that you may obtain a fortune, & when you have safe opportunities to remit any property you may acquire, you have brothers to whom you can safely intrust every thing you may wish to send home, & have it, if good, sold, & the amount remitted by Montserrat, as if to be sold, & goods

as to prevent you from doing your duty on all occasions. I have known men who had not half the acquirements, which I know you have, from what I have learned, from those, who know your medical acquirements, better than I do, make a great display, & put themselves forward, & make a great shew [sic] when actually they were poorly informed in the first rudiments of a profession, which of all others requires a man to be well skilled in, as human life is concerned, & may be often endangered from want of knowledge - I hope you have some plan on which you mean to act, in your present pursuit, & that when you have arrived at your port of destination, that you will circumspectly look around you, & [Ms. illegible] & with a becoming openness, & confidence make such enquiries, as will enable you to begin business in a right way, so that you will not have to learn from a far that you have done wrong -

You have the best wishes of all your friends for success, & we all hope that you will pursue not only [Ms. illegible] successfull [sic] in your practice, but that you will be eminently so; that you may amass a fortune, & when you have safe opportunities to remit any prosperity you may acquire, you have brothers to whom you can safely entrust any thing you may wish to send home, & have it, if goods, sold, & the amount secured by mortgage, or if to be sold, & goods

promised to be sent you, that things were sent it to you
safely, & keep insured. If possible I would get an insurance
my life for a number of years, at the life insurance office,
& place the Policy in your sisters hands, that you might in
case of any accident to yourself, have something to reward
them for all their kindness, & care. I have written therefore
not knowing that you will ever take pains to read
what is here written, but, if we never meet again,
to let you know something what I have gone through
& to give you my views on your present course of
conduct. You have my fondest wishes for your
success happiness, & prosperity, & were it in my
power I would not have failed to furnish you
with every need necessary comfort, &c which
your present voyage might require, & if you
succeed I shall feel happy, & if not I will endeavor
to have things kept, so that you may return
to the honor of friends who will not fail to
treat you with kindness, & respect.

Never be discouraged, but act with a prudent
confidence, in the measures of your own opinion
- trust, trusting in the support of that GOD
who is able from the smallest to make the
most powerfull. I hope to hear from you often
as time, & opportunity may offer - I am, as ever
most sincerely, & affectionately your friend, & father,

Mrs. R. Green

purchased to be sent you, that they can send it to you safely, & keep insured. If possible [sic] I would get an insurance on my life for a number of years, at the life insurance office & place the Policy in your sisters hands, that you might in case of any accident to yourself, leave something to reward them for all their kindness, & care. I have written thus for not knowing that you will even take pains to read what is here written, but, if we never meet again, to let you know something what I have gone through & to give you my [Ms. illegible] on your present course of Conduct. You have my fondest wishes for your success happiness, & prosperity, & were it in my power I would not have failed to furnish you with every deeded necessary comfort, & c[etera] which your present voyage might require, & if you succeed I shall feel happy &, if not I will endeavour to have things kept, so that you may return to the honor of friends who will not fail to treat you with kindness, & affection. -

Never be discouraged, but at with a prudent confidence, in the resources of your own acquirements, trusting in the support of that GOD who is able from the meakest [sic] to make the most powerfull [sic]. I hope to hear from you often as time, & opportunity may offer - I am, as ever most sincerely, & affectionately your friend, & father,

W[illia]m E. Green

Dr. John. D. Green

To be read within next one
month or sooner if he chooses
Wm. Sperry
N.Y.



[Addressed]: Doc[to]r John P. Green

To be read when out one month or sooner if he chooses

New York

N.Y -

Transcribed by F. Michael Angelo and Emily S. Dunster