

4) ISAAC WATTS'S REPLY TO DODDRIDGE'S 'ACCOUNT'

[f. 1]

Upon reading over the whole of this Letter I am sensibly struck with y^e following Thoughts

1: How wonderfull & extraordinary a Man was y^e late M^r John Jennings! The little acquaintance I had with him made me esteem & love him, but my Love & Esteem were vastly too low for so sublime & elevated a Character. The World & y^e Church know not the Dimensions of that ^mourn full^ Vacancy which they sustain by his removall to y^e upper Regions.

2: How necessary is it that two persons at least should be engaged to fill up all the parts of that office which this Ingenious Writer has devolved upon one. The Diversity of Genius, y^e Variety of Studys, y^e Severall intellectuall, Morall, & pious Accomplishments, y^e Constant daily & hou^r[^]ly Labors necessary to fulfil such a post can hardly be Expected in any one person living.

3. Yet if there be One person capable of such a Post, perhaps tis y^e Man who has so [f. 1v] admirably described this Scheme of Education. And as he seems to have surveyd & engross'd y^e whole comprehensive View and Design, & yet supposes together with its ^constant^ difficulties & accidentall embarrassments, and yet supposes it to be practicable, I am sure I can never think of any person more likely to execute it than himself. ^Tho if an Elder person joind with him at lest for y^e Reputation of y^e Matter, 'twould be well^

The beauties & Congruities of the Scheme are so many & various that if I should have made my remarks upon them as I have done (En passant) upon some little improvables, I must have filld a quire instead of a sheet of paper.

I must confess I am hardly so sanguine to hope for such an Academy, but I bless the future Youth if any shall be so happy as to enjoy so compleat an Education.

[f.2]

Remarks

^A most agreeable variety & diversification of studies is describd in^ p. 8, 9. ^But^ Why no Latin poets till y^e 2^d half year, nor Greek poets till the 3^d half year, when Lads come fresh from school with the Latin & Greek Poets in their memory? Not y^t I would have any of these entirely left off till y^e third half year. I see this attend in p. 41.

Why Oratory once a week in y^e 2^d half year, & not cultivated a little toward the end of y^e Course, when the Pupill should be taught to preach? [PD's hand: vid Not. 1]

p. 14. Why not render y^e Greek author into Latin & then into English? [PD's hand: (N. 2)]

p. 140. If in y^e 1:st half year popular arg:^{ts} were turned into an Algebraic form, would it be amiss in y^e 2^d or 3 half Year to turn y^e same into a Logicall form [PD: 2⁽³⁾]

p. 16: Upon y^e whole I cannot but think ^M^r Jennings's^ ~~the~~ treating Logic in ^a strict^ Mathematicall Method is very improper, and tho I mightily approve ^of many things in his 3^d: book of Logic and^ of the perpetuall references to Authors in M^r Jennings's logic that the pupills might read them in private, yet I have given my best sense of the ~~Logi~~ forms of Logic in w^t: I have written. Nor do I think so universall a Contempt should be [PD: vid No. 1 4] poured on y^e Ontologicall part of y^e Old Logicks as some have done. ^Human nature is too ready to run to extremes.^ I wish there were a good system of Ontology ^treating of^ [expunged word] Ens, & some of its absolute affections, & some of its relative affections so far as is usefull set in a good light & regular short Method. 50 or 60 pages would finish it. [PD: vid N. 5]

p. 20. I would not chuse any part of our English Drama's: for tho y^e female scenes were omitted in publick, yet they do no good to be read in private among Lads of 17, 18 or 19. [PD: (N.6)]

[f.2v]

p. 24, 55. I query whether Ethics or any practick Science should be delivered in a Mathematick form: It may be done I know: but I fear tis not y^e best form for such studies, tis more tedious, and less naturall. [PD: N.4]

p. 48. Are Sansons Maps the best? [PD: N.7.]

p. 59. Tho there might be some good hints lost for want of transcribing &c. Yet I hardly think it necessary to Copy out & preserve those ^young^ Academical exercizes. It will fill up time both in transcribing & reviewing which might be better employd.

p. 62. At y^e End of this Course I do not find ^this^ one thing mentiond in the whole of it which must be granted to be very necessary & ought not to be omitted. (Viz) that y^e whole Scripture should be read over in y^e 4 years time ~~with y^e Tu~~ perhaps at Morning & evening prayer, with y^e Tutors remarks on y^e difficult texts, both Criticall & Controversiall. Whatsoever is omitted this ought not. NB. Page 100 answers this.

And another thing I think was very usefull in y^e academy wherein I was educated, & that is that plain Easy books of Divinity should be recommended to the pupills to be read in their own Closets ^on Saturdays^ from y^e very beginning of their studies, such as Grotius de Veritate Rel. C^{hr}: The Assembys Confessions & Catechisms, &c. And that Nothing but practical Divinity should be read in their own studies on Saturday ^afternoons or^ evenings, & all ~~day~~ the vacant hours on y^e Lords day, for when all is done tis a good acquaintance with practical divinity will make the best Christians & the best Ministers. ffor this reason our Tutor never read lectures on Saturdays. [PD: N.9]

[f.3]

p. 69, 70. But as you have lads coming from many Grammar schools, & you can't persuade all these schools to fit scholars before hand for your method of Academicall study, & therefore the perfection of Grammar & Algebra, & Geom. &c. should be y^e business of y^e 1st Year at y^e academy. [PD's hand: N.10]

p. 71. I fear y^e proposall of 5 years will belong only to those Gentlemen who educate their own sons at Academies: the paying a less price will hardly be accepted by Tutors. [PD's hand: N.11]

p. 87. I do not think y^e leading ^of^ pupills sometimes to the Church of Engl. could be done as things now stand without greater danger than benefit. One might teach them Catholick principles without that danger [PD: N.6]

p. 99. To read Lectures to 4 Classes from 7 or 8 to 11 in y^e morning requires Herculean Strength. might not one lecture be daily read in y^e afternoon? [PD: N. 6]

p. 98. Query - whether leaving time for their secret prayer in y^e morning before breakfast & Lecture would not be better on many accounts. Only some of y^e more negligent perhaps would not rise till their presence were requird. [PD: N. 6]

p. 100. Whether a Constant reading y^e same portion of Scrip. In English as well as other Languages would not be necessary before prayer &c. & that for many reasons

[f.3v]

(viz) (1) W^t: is read in English would look more like worship, & help y^e engage y^e heart, whereas reading in y^e learned languages looks more like Learning ^for the head.^ (2) Reading in English would habituate the Ears & the Tongue more to those

Words w^{ch}: we must on all occasions use in y^e ministry & in Life, & woud Stamp y^e English text more on y^e memory. (3) The Household who are not learned would profit more by it. [PD: (N^o. 12)]

p. 101. I cant approve of Laws exprest with some Ambiguity. There will be room enough for doubt & debate about the infringement of them after y^e exactest expression, because of y^e infinite variety of incidents & circumstances [PD's hand: N^o 6]

p. 112. are y^e hands of enemies so effectually chaind up from offering us any violence? Can they not indict or persecute you under y^e notion of keeping Schools? I know some School masters have met wth: difficulties [PD: (N^o 13)]

p. 117, 118. Whether a Person that gives himself up to be a Tutor may not as well continue single if he so think fit, & let himself & his pupills board together in some house fitted for that purpose. Then the Tutor would not be encumbred with domestick Cares: then he would not appear interested in y^e domesticke affairs, & consequently ^might^ pronounce ^upon^ & decide any little contests & irregularitys in that matter with more universall approbation & submission. This was my Tutors Practice. And after all If it be possible to find a Tutor so admirably qualifyd as the Author describes, It is 500 to one if he meet with the one only pious prudent & invaluable partner so admirably accomplit. [PD: N^o 14.]

[f.4] [*The rest of the document is in PD's hand*]

Notes on these very obliging Remarks

- (1) I think that provided for in the Lectures on y^e Art of preaching referd to y^e 6th or 7th Half Year.
- (2) I acknowledge it to be the best Way & intend it
- (3) Q. whether by Logical be meant Syllogistic. If it be only Analytick & Synthetic tis what we did at M^r Jennings's & I am sorry that I omitted to mention it
- (4) It is with the humblest Deference to the vastly superior Judgement of D^r Watts that I still think M^r Jennings's Method of Treating Logical & Ethical Subjects of all others the most proper for Academical Lectures. Yet I am highly sensible of the Value of y^e D^{rs} Logic. which will afford me an opportunity of enriching my Tutors System with some of the finest References & some of the Largest I have in View.
- (5) I highly approve of the Addition propos'd & would earnestly intreat the Doctor to prepare a few Lectures on that Subject for which I will not fail to make Room in my intended Course.
- (6) Allow'd in its full force. I <propose> to alter that Circumstance
- (7) I am since convinc'd that Mortiers are better. I find many Deficiencies in & some Mistakes in Del Isle's Ancient Greece especially the Southern part & in his Theatrum Rom. Imp. especially that part w^{ch} describes Africa where he had Room to have been much larger. I am yet at a Loss for a very good Map of Ancient Asia Minor.
- (8) I should therefore incline to find out at a Medium. The plain Short Hand w^{ch} will be one of the first Things I sh^d teach might obviate much of the objections with Regard to English Exercises.
- (9) I acknowledge this to be a useful Hint & hope my pupils will allow some Time to practical Writers Every Day as I have done (unless when accidentally prevented) for more than ten years
- (10) I propose y^e perfection of Gram^r Alegbra Geom &c for y^e Employm^t of the first year
- (11) I fear neither parents nor pupils would approve of y^e Scheme for a fifth year but I ~~hope~~ ^surely^ no Man who offers to be a Tutor would refuse the Concessions I propos'd on his Side.

[f.4v]

N^o. 12. These Considerations might make it convenient to read y^e Scriptures perhaps one part of the Day from our English Translations but can not persuade me it would be proper for us to confine our selves to it in y^e Family. I fear we shall <lose> too much of it when the Lads are reading from y^e Originals.

N^o.13. I know not how it may be in other places but about us I cannot discern so much Fury in y^e Clergy. Nor do I imagine they could make any thing of a prosecution. It was once attempted to y^e Shame of y^e Undertakers with Regard of M^r Matthews of Mount Sorrel

N^o 14. In Answer to this Terrible Query I must observe that whereas I know but one Family in which a Tutor & his pupils could conveniently board I know near Half-a-Dozen of y^e Fair Sex who do in the Main Answer the Character I drew from the Life. While I ~~continue happy in y^e~~ am so happy as to continue in y^e Family of the excellent Original I shall probably remain Single but should providence remove me from thence I shall prefer the Example of my own Tutor whose Wisdom & Happiness I knew to that of the Doctors as to whom I am a perfect Stranger

N^o. 15. I should be very glad of the Concurrence of a person capable of taking a part in the Course if I publickly under<take th>e Work of a Tutor. In the mean Time I propose by the Divines Assistance to make a private Essay with ~~the~~ a few young Gentlemen who have no dependance on our publick Charities. I shall not expect immediatly to bring y^e Course to any Thing ^{near} ~~of~~ the perfection that I have describ'd nor can I hope ever to do it fully. Yet I trust that if God favour me with anything of y^e success w^{ch} my Friends encourage me to expect, the Attempt will be for my own Improvement & that of my pupils: & tho I am aware of Numerous Defects I hope many of them may be supplied by perfecting their Education elsewhere. I earnestly desire the Advice & prayers of all my pious & learned Friends, & peculiarly of D^r Watts, to whom I acknowledge my self exceedingly indebted for these Remarks & his other Favours.

NB. The hope I have of Assistance from M^r Some who honours me wth his daily Converse & intimate Friendship is a great Encouragement to me in undertaking this Work from which I sense of my own Insufficiency for it might otherwise have deterr'd me.

[in left-hand margin, in a third hand:] For M^r Neal