

Geneva. Switzerland.
January 12, 1857.

Rev. Mr. Hill,
Dear Sir,

Hoping you will pardon the liberty of a stranger in addressing you, let me say I have been encouraged to do so by learning from Prof. Brandis, of Bonn, Germany, that you are a fellow countryman, an American, & regard it as a privilege to give information to such when opportunity offers.

It has been my purpose for more than a year past to spend the present winter at Athens, but an unexpected event last fall prevented it & I stopped at this place.

My object in writing you now is to inquire—

1. Whether prudential considerations respecting life & health should deter a stranger, the accomplishment of whose object would all depend upon good health, from spend

ing April, May, June & July. at Athens or Piræus? Please state also what is the greatest heat you experience there.

2. Can a person obtain there a private teacher in Ancient Greek one or two hours a day? & if so, at what price? The medium of communication being either English or German?

Could you engage to render such assistance yourself? I wish to read Demosthenes de Corona, with especial reference to Syntax, & still more especial to his choice of words, why he has used one word instead of another of similar meaning. My object is to learn the nice distinctions in definition & use of such words.

3. Can I obtain board there with some family for myself & wife? & at what cost? Or can I perhaps obtain lodgings so that we may get our dinners at a Hotel or Restaurant, as they do in France & Germany? Can you, perhaps, afford us accommodations for three months, & at what price? We desire the cheapest & most ordinary accommodations that would be regarded respectable. We are here to learn & not to spend money uselessly. I may also add, our habits are very simple. We desire good wholesome food, well cooked, but prefer to dispense with all extravagant luxuries as not contributing to mental strength & vigor. We drink no wine, & I no tea or coffee.

Will you also be kind enough to add how the University Students line there & at about what cost?!

Pray excuse me for making my requests so particular. I fear I shall trespass too far upon your generosity, but if you will have the kindness to answer these questions, as nearly as is convenient, without giving yourself too much trouble, you will confer a very great benefit upon one who has the greatest anxiety to visit & spend a few months in your classic city.

I am, Rev. & respected Sir,

Most obediently,

Yours,

Thomas Holmes.

Prof. of Gr. Lan. & Lit. Antioch College, Ohio. U. S. A.

Rev. Mr. Hill,

Stans.

P. S. If you can without trouble or extra expense would you be so kind as to send me a genuine Athenian newspaper in the Gr. language. Many, many thanks!
T. H.

From Prof. Holmes

1854.

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]