

¶[PROLOGUE]¶

August 1850

St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Alexis,

Without reference to my past efforts and disappointments, without reference to expectation of ever obtaining your services again for the purpose of experiments, upon the proposals and conditions heretofore made and suggested, I now offer to you in faith and sincerity, new, and I hope satisfactory, terms and conditions to ensure your prompt and faithful compliance with my most fervent desire to have you again with me. With me not only for my own individual gratification, and the benefits of medical science, but also for your own and your family's present good and future welfare.

I propose the following—\$500 to come to me without your family, for one year—\$300 of this for your salary, and \$200 for the support and contentment of your family to remain in Canada in the meantime—with the privilege of bringing them on here another year. I submit this, my final offer, out of the principles of Justice and Fairness.

I can say no more, Alexis. This is my final letter—you know what I have done for you over many years—what I have been trying, and am still anxious and wishing to do with and for you. You know what efforts, anxieties, anticipations and disappointments I have suffered from your nonfulfillment of my expectations. Don't disappoint me more, nor forfeit the bounties and blessings reserved for you.

*Sincerely,
William Beaumont, MD*