Private.

E. Hermon Leg. M.O.
My dear Son,

With this letter arrives the account for last term. It looks very high and I fear you will be angry, but it includes wine and spirits—

I have only to say what I have already said—that in obedience to your wishes I have not kept a strict watch upon his living at hospitality provided he submitted to one condition—a certain amount of work.

As you know he has passed another
examination - and this is a substantial
proof of work.

Equally with yourself I deplore extravagance such as this ill betokens,
but you will understand the difficulty
of the case, and you will see that,
his work continuing as it has been
with me, I more terms will lead
him upon his degree - i.e. some solid,
tangible return for all this expenditure.

To repeat my old argument,
allowing 'even that he spends twice
as much a term as many others do,
if he passes all examinations in
half the time many others do,
it comes to the same in the end.

Not that I wish for a moment
to defend extravagance - but it is
Simply this— if all my energy is directed to one end (work) success is more likely to follow than if, dividing my energy, I employed half in the Cause of Economy, and half in the Cause of Work.

Moreover the one aim would interfere with the other—my influence becoming in some and no longer allowing him to work. As before, if you settle the account—you will defray my fee for tuition.

Please tell me if you are dissatisfied as (much as I should regret leaving a work half-finished) I should never feel happy if I felt I were labouring under your discontent.

Yours very sincerely,

Alfred Somervile

E. Hermon Esq. M.P.
P.S. Enclose 2 receipts —

There is a third to come from

Guy Dervile.

Which I will send for. They are the accounts which

I settled with the money you

sent me at the beginning of

this last term.

[Signature]
County Hall, Oxford,
16 March 1873.

Sir,

I am desired by his Grace the Lord Lieutenant to enquire whether it would be agreeable to you to be placed in the Commission of the Peace of this County, with a view to acting as a Magistrate.

I have the honour to be,

Your faithful Servant,

John M. Davenport

To Edward Herman Esquire M.P.