

Bloomington, Nov. 1st, '37.

Dear Sir:-

Permit me in this way to say to you a word on the subject of the Presbyterian church in your place, in which I believe you once took, and perhaps still taken, an interest. I have had no conversation with you on the subject heretofore, and I may now be thought perhaps impertinent in addressing you. But my opinion of your moral worth is my apology, and the regard I have for the Rev. Ia. W. Kinnan, who I am informed is to be settled as pastor of the church. I know something of the difficulties you and others have had to bear, owing to the dominancy of a certain influence in church matters. I hope with proper care things may be yet brought into the right channel and that division may be prevented. Mr. McKinnan is an old school man, but of an excellent spirit, and if proper pains be taken he may be induced to pursue such a course as may not be offensive to men of liberal views and at the same time prevent mischief from the ultra orthodox.

I wrote sometime ago in answer to certain inquiries put to me by Mr. McKinnan, a letter rather encouraging him to come. At the time I knew nothing of the difficulties which I suppose have taken place in relation to a new church, which, from what appeared before Synod in Mr. Newbury's case, I suppose it is the wish of some to erect. Had I know this I would not have writt en to Mr. McKinnan so encouragingly as I did. Should he come, let me, my dear Sir, entreat you,



if you consistently can, to give him your countenance. But I know nothing of your circumstances and would in any case be the farthest in the world from dictating. But, I wished to say to you that Mr. McKinnan is a man of the strictest honor and integrity.

There is a report here that at the Methodist Conference measures were taken to have an imposing petition before the Legislature on the subject of the college, and I have been told that I am even to be accused, on the testimony of a Methodist brother, of preaching sectarianism in the college - a thing which I did suppose I would not readily be charged with. I have given myself no trouble on the subject of these rumors, yet I do not know but that the matter may assume such an aspect as may make it my duty - a duty to the college - to attend to it, and as I know of no one in whose opportunity of information and discretion I could rely rather than on yours, I concluded I would request you, as I now do, that if the affair should be likely to receive the serious attention of the legislature, in a way that might prove injurious to the college, you would let me know. The college is certainly prospering as well as, considering the wretched start that it made, etc., could at all have been expected. Our present number is about 100. But legislative interference, especially in the way that the petition demands, would put an extinguisher upon it.

Yours truly,

Andrew Wylie.

Saml Merrill, Esq.