

Oxford May 3rd 1828

Dear Sir I did not design that my representation in relation to the Indiana University, should be entirely unfavourable. Though the manner in which affairs had been conducted at the time I wrote, was not adapted to make one any more favourable of the future. Since that period they have obtained their charter, and can now go on in any other, permanent course. I hope they may choose that which is judicious. I do not know anything scarcely of the Prof. of Languages, nor very much of Hanney, the Prof. of Mathematics; so am not able to give you satisfactory information respecting them. Hanney was sometime a student of ours. He is I believe pretty well versed in the Mathematics; but has studied on the old system, in which the student committed the rules to memory and then applications, without examining the rationale of the Science. This is much the easier system on which to teach; but in my opinion is utterly deficient in regard to that which is of most importance in education, — the cultivation of the pupils mind. The French on this subject are very far in advance of the English; and the best mathematical works in our language for the advancement of the great object of mental

culture, and translations from the French which have been made and published at Cambridge, Massachusetts. Indeed in relation to the science of education in general, the French are as far before the British as in the matter of mathematics.

I saw Mr Jennings, while on a tour on the Presbyterian in Connecticut. He arrived there on the afternoon of the seventh of April. The steamboat delayed only a few hours, so that we enjoyed his company but for a very short time. Himself and family appeared to be in good spirits, but said it was very trying to leave Washington.

What has taken place in the congregation? I know not enough of the particulars to give any advice, even if I had experience and were competent to assist you by my opinion. I suppose however that the people would be as likely to unite under your care as under that of Dr. Brown, who, you say in your letter to McGuffey, is picking for the situation. Still there is this difference; I do not think you are qualified to be a popular man. Dr. B is, and in this way in time he might heal the divisions.

But this would probably happen also under your ministrations; and as there certainly must be a very large majority in your favour, and as you might be instrumental in bringing others into the church, why I don't know how you can avoid accepting, if elected by the people. The case is certainly a very different one. a divided church

I should imagine must be a very uncomfortable
field for monastical labours. The Pastor needs to
have his hands supported by the prayers and love
of all his people. It is unfortunate for religion as
well as literature that these two institutions should
be so near each other, when rivalry is converted
into enmity, and the intercourse of brethren and work
is embittered.

I thank you for your remarks on
my metaphysical difficulty. I have almost
filled this sheet already, or I should perhaps
have taken up the subject again. A happy escape
say you from a longwinded discussion of
evanescent quantities, that only exist to bewilder.

I am fond of speculation in that sense, and
if our new paper, the Literary Register, should be com-
menced, I may perhaps pursue the subject of
sensations more at length. I believe McGuffey has
requested your aid in supporting the literary
department of our paper: I would add my particu-
lar request. McGuffey and myself are to be Editors
alternately. I will have the care of the publication
for the first three months; and then we will take it for
the same length of time. I am afraid that we
will not have obtained a sufficient number
of subscribers to bear the expenses, so as to be able

to commence the paper by the first of June. If this
should be the case we will ~~then~~ publish the first
number as a specimen, and defer the prosecution
of the undertaking, until it can be ascertained whether
the public will support such a paper. Give my Com^{ts} to Mrs Wiley.

I remain yours very truly
John C. Sumner

1844

Oxford St.

May 6

Collected of Henry

Rev. Doctor A. Wiley

Washington

Pennsylvania

