

(30)

Washington Mar 13 25

Dear Sir

I believe I owe you a letter & one to Mr Scott. Let this do for you both for a while.

I still remain in suspense - about accepting the appointment at Bloomington. The act of the Trustees, those by which professor Harney was within one vote of being displaced, continued my suspense till things here began to assume such an aspect as has made it doubtful whether I may not yet abide in the old ship. There is certainly a strong interest taken here & by many through the country generally to detain me. Next Thursday the congregation here will meet to determine whether to invite - "the cedar that was in Lebanon" - will it be? or the bramble? "to be pruned over the trees." What strange destiny! First my name was proposed to the good folks. They postponed. I withdrew. Dr B's was then brought forward. He was elected by the congregation, about 15 opposing openly & 30 staying away dissatisfied. The Board acquiesced, & he was invited, it was said Unanimously in the papers - but this was false - to take charge of both. He consulted his Cardinals - & refused to

accept. A reaction took place in favor of
your humble servant. A week more will show
the result. It will be humiliating to accept
then call should it be unanimous, which
I do not expect it will, but possibly it may be
my duty. To change positions often is not good.
When it is done the advantage ought to be clear
& decided. When a man is thought to be given to
change he loses respect. Bloomington lies down
stream. With the current a lubberly fish may
go. Simpson is the only fish that ever swam
so far up it as from Oxford here, that I know
of — except professor Annan — who like a sword
fish shot by a single jerk even to Princeton.
— but that was by the aid of a counter current.
At Bloomington I would have but a few persons
to preach to on the sabbath. I would be like a fel-
low beating the air — the materials on which I could
operate would be so sparse. It is more out of the
views of the world than this plan. Perhaps it would suit
me better for that. It seems like a duty to de-
feat the plans of intriguers when you can do it
without any trouble. There are there & other con-
siderations which make for my stay, provided
the plan they have now on foot should succeed.
There are considerations I know on the other side.
I never felt myself so much at a loss. Strange
impressions some times govern us. When I came
here I had a strong conviction that I was acting

from right motives & obeying what I then thought
the leadings of providence. Now if providence
sent me here I have not yet seen what for, & have
always expected yet to see it. To be guided entirely
by events is I know a ticklish mode of proceed-
ing when we would form an opinion of what may
be duty. Yet events must not altogether be neglect-
ed. I have bothered you a deal on this subject.
Yet, I want to hear still if you have anything
more to offer. & Icott - but I hadn't time to write
him, now.

I have been over at Pittsburg this week &
ending a meeting of the Board of Directors of the
W. T. Seminary. You never saw or heard of the
like. The Devil is among them fairly. Dr. Lane
whom they elected because he could afford to teach
the boys gratis & support the seminary by donations be-
sides - if he pleased, that is to say - has had a salary
of 15 hundred for himself & 500 for a son, an assistant
- 4 or five pupils - & now they have found out - I mean
Dr. A. Dr. B. Dr. C. & would be Dr. D. E. F. &c &c - that
he is a rascal & his son worse - & he has resigned - & they
are going to have a Mr. Halsey of Princeton College
& a Mr. Somebody else at Roden. who are just
men - really - said to be - to fill their places. In the
next place the title to the ground is not voted. What
will come of it, I know not. Give our love to Mr. &
Mrs. S. & Mr. & Mrs. M. Doctor Bishop &c
Mr. H. H. McGuffey

Yours sincerely
Andrew A. Phelps

N.B. The bible & hymnbook belong to Obediah
W. Kee in Wheeling. Will you be so good
as to send them there to him when conveni-
ent. — Horner has been vergeth — gone home
was some better the last account.

Wm. W. A. M. W. W. W.
Wm. W. A. M. W. W. W.
Wm. W. A. M. W. W. W.
Wm. W. A. M. W. W. W.

P.S. I expect to have an addition to the consumers
in my domestic Empire in the course of a month
we feel anxiety as the expected event approaches
W. W.