

Bloomington Oct 23^d 33

Rev & Dear brother.

It is long since I wrote you. but I think of you with great regard every day, & frequently often each day, & perhaps good may come to you from these kind thoughts, especially if they are mixed up with effectual prayers — for prayers of some sort they are mixed up with — more good than from writing you epistles. But as there is reason in every thing & I have kept my peace at least a reasonable time I must now trouble you with a glance at our affairs here. Last week Synod met at Ind.^o The chief thing before us was the state of the Ind. P. by. They had judged one of their members the Rev J. R. Whellock guilty of certain offenses — such as holding to Pres. Edward's scheme of "the general or protest good-federal representation" & the enormous heresy of using the word "guilt" not as the Orthodox hold it to mean liability to punishment but as the same with personal criminality a thing which therefore could not be transferred — and were about, as we guessed to hang him — to prevent which he & his friend left the house without a Clerical quorum suff.^t (only Montfort & Seikle, being left) to do business. The Synod resuscitated the dismembered P. by & they referred the case of Whellock to Synod. Then came the "try of battle" between the Hyper-ultra-old-school men & the opposite party, one side eager to condemn the other to acquit — of heresy. I was forced — in order to do justice & prevent a dissolution

of Synod to take a more active part than I am
wont. The matter was brought to where it ought
to be the Yankee acquitted of heresy but censured
for ill language. The victim thus escaped the Ultras
& they prepared to break their vengeance on the
man who had rescued him from their jaws.
which they did, by passing a decision on
Harney's case (he had been censured by Seneca &
P. by) remitting it to session, & thus virtually
saying to church members "when your preacher
becomes obnoxious to you report him to the world
for a liar a hypocrite & knave & then
when the session takes you to account for it
you will be the accused & he the accuser, &
let the cause proceed accordingly. The matter
was brought to this result in part by the active
exertions of Dr Blythe. But it is carried up
by appeal to the next Gen. Assembly, where,
or on the way I should be extremely happy
to meet with you.

As to the gentleman of whom we wrote me
some hard thoughts some time ago, I know not what
to think. He took a sad step for his first step
& I should not therefore be surprised at his taking
others. I have lately heard, from very good authority
of his carrying Harney's misstatements to
Washington. I have written him on the
subject that I do not know how to believe

it, which is the truth. Yet if I should have
convincing evidence of the fact I shall not
be greatly disappointed. There is a certain
other left-handed friend of yours a Hyper-Ultra
- old school - would-be - great man, who - but
it is not worth while to shed either ink or tears
on such subjects. It is some time since I found
that little souls are necessarily envious and
consequently when they safely can they will attack
the object of their envy - when they can -
not they will flatter & fawn & bask in the
sunshine of their superior's influence
Yet what have I to provoke such passions
with my poor "parvis facultatibus"!!

The Cholera touched us, but it passed over
my family by. There were 7 deaths 20 or 30
cases, 2 cases, mortal, students. A great panic.
Those who were panic-struck almost all had the
disease. It has ceased here but remains in a
militant form in the country.

What think you, if there must be a division
of the P. & O. church, for all impartial men to
combine on principles such as will exclude fools
on both sides & leave at least some of the ministers
of Jesus Christ from the reproach of being educated
paupers. Wm W. and myself

Yours truly
Wm W. and myself

Bloomington Ia
Oct 23rd

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Rev. W. H. McGuffey

Exford
Ohio

