

Bloomington May 29th 36

Dr Friend

Your letter was peculiarly gratifying on two accounts, first as proving that I was not mistaken in my opinions of character. It shows that you will do as I expected & that your worthy correspondent will do as I expected of him. & second, because it shows you in a state of both outward prosperity & inward enjoyment.

I am happy of your recovery. I often wish to say Take care of your health. The continued & vigorous working of the intellectual machinery will impair the bodily organization. I have some times been ready to conclude that, with you, exercise is rest. But your late sickness I think ought to compel you to moderate your efforts.

I fully reciprocate your feelings of regard. Time has brought you in the race of life to my side & should it enable you to get ahead or even out of sight, I am sure it will never remove you one hairsbreadth from my heart.

Unless I am deceived the dissatisfaction in the Board is confined to Foster & Ballard

The former because I did intimate to the Board that unless he were removed, I would (this I suppose is the threat Ballard refers to) the latter because he is a fool & a hypocrite. To give you a specimen; he proposed to me privately with great force of argument that a certain professorship should be called "The Westleyan." In writing to a friend in the Legislature I mentioned the circumstance & of course, as I did not care it should, the thing came to Ballard's ears. The principal opposition to him on my part however arose from his incessant attempts to meddle with the appropriate business of the Faculty.

There may be for ought I know a feeling of something like jealousy in the Board but I should have them, which I do not seriously design to do, unless they should in their treatment of me place themselves so clearly in the wrong that the fact of my removing or removal might not operate against my prospects of general usefulness. I feel the want of some congenial spirit here, & would have obeyed, ere this, some of your invitations to visit Cin.^{te} in order to indulge myself in your company, but a fear of kindling the above named jealousy, added to my dread of bad roads & steam boat explosions & other reasons, has hitherto prevented me.

I shall be candidate for a reelection here in

the fall, unless indeed Ballard & Foster, who are raging like a bear bereaved of her whelps, should blow up such a dust of rabble & Methodists as to convince me that my experiment of managing the Institution on the principle of "Religion without Sectarianism" cannot succeed here. Then I shall turn my eyes elsewhere.

Your letter I shall shew to no one without your permission. If published to the world it could not but redound to your honor, provided any exigence should arise to require it, & if so, unless you forbid me, I shall publish it within such a circle as it may concern carefully preserve Ballard letter.

Ad ever, yours

Amyie

Washington Jr R-

Mar 30

President W. H. Taft

Washington

D.C.

