

Washington. March 6th 1839.

My dear friend. I thank you for letter
& Address. I put the latter just
now in the hands of a great friend
of mine & Webster (Currier of New York)
to prepare an article of comment
for the Intelligencer. I saw Gales
this morning & he will give room
to copious extracts. It is one of
your best efforts, and in a new
vein, I think, though no better
for being so. I don't mean to
make a return quite by sending
you my last. Ye Classics! - how
some parts of your Address hit
me. But, my mind! Father, mind
ye, I have not attended to style
for years. I have had to get
truth out crop-wise, any-way,
roughly or rudely, so I got it out
and can't get praise for a smooth
period, or a finished idea even
sometimes. By the by, I desire very
much now to quit politics & law
for about 5 or 6 years & give myself
back again to the shades of private study. Then

Come out in my new armour upon
the arena of public life again —
it might be to go into the higher
service of a Better Master than the
People. You know I was lazy, leaped
ahead of myself & was never a
claspie. What do you think of it?
I am yet young & the thing could be
done to some purpose & effect. Your
Addup has made me burn to do so —
set that down to its influence.

Herod, your representative — a
true friend of yours — told me you
were beset with friendish foes. You
are a brave man & a philosopher
— you must not pret. Don't you
know it is one of the devices of
the day to form sects and parties
in every thing for the selfish pur-
poses of low minded men. They
cant depend upon principles —
principles cant live by them, and
they become outcasts and fall
to their level directly when called
to promote any thing higher than
the ends of faction. Faction then
must thrive or they fall — they foment
& must foment — they are of no con-

sequence if they don't. Present
importance is what alone they
seek, and they hesitate not to
appeal to that very ^{map of} ignorance,
prejudice & vice which true
philosophers & Christians are seeking
to overcome & dispel. You must
mind such, to overcome them as
you would vice, ignorance & prejudice,
but never let them throw you out
of trim. Overawe them - bluff
them! They are impudent, but
cowards.

My health is bad - overworked
by these infernal defaulters and
their worse overseers. Is it any wonder
that a man in my situation, without
the grace of God but with his share
of common honesty at heart, should
be accused of every excess in discharging
his public trust? - You have proved
firm & true to me in my trials - How
can I can serve you in yours? - I
think I have won a victory over
public opinion this winter - May you
be even more successful. God bless
you & yours - Write to me & I will
Yours faithfully - Henry A. Wise

Free
H. A. Wise

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