

Oxford, Nov^r 19th 1839.

My dear Sir,
Yours of the 18th Inst. ought to have
re^{ce}ed^d earlier attention, having been to hand now
better than a week. It met me on my return
home from Hamilton, when I had been in attend-
ance upon our Conservative Convention, & the ab-
stract of the proceedings you will see published
in the next No. of the "Peace-Maker". In the
"Addrs to the Churches of the West", which
forms part of the doings, you have in condensed
form my argument on the subject of Exclusion
Acts, &c, &c, &c.

As to the subject of your letter. Your
proposition, I must confess, is very tempting. But
I do not know that it would be worth while for
me to come to any decisive determination on
the subject ^{at present}, as you may yet probably hear
from Mr. Amman, — perhaps have by this
time heard from him. If it were, I confess
~~confess~~ I should be somewhat hesitant about
declining it. It is true I have got settled, and
acquainted, and — as the folks say, — my home
is here, I am anchored by a pretty heavy prop-
erty, — heavy, for my means; I have a respectable
steady support if I win but free from embar-
assment; and, as is natural, with all the

impressions, and things not just as one
thinks in the place, circumstances, & social
measurably comfortable in my present situation
the usual local attachments which grow with our
age, have begun to exercise a pretty vigorous grip. If
every thing about me therefore presented something like
a settled state; if the prospect of the future were
perfectly unclouded and then were assured that
tomorrow should be as this day, and still more pro-
perous, if not "abundant," it perhaps would, and
perhaps ought to take something much more eligible
and promising much more extensive or more fertile
new opportunity of usefulness, to unsettle me from
my present situation, or take me from my pre-
sented sphere of action. The truth is, I am in
a chance place of residence, and vision, and
the elasticity of youth gives place to the more
staid feeling of riper manhood, I find the dispo-
sition to change diminishes; — Physiologically,
the organ of habitableness becomes more devel-
oped.

Yet I do not know but I may have to change
nolens, volens, before very long, if Madame Romain
speak true. And sometimes you know her reports
become the means of self-verification. Not how-
ever that I would be understood as apprehending
attack direct upon myself personally.

I have commencing agitation, from our po-
litical & ecclesiastical, as well as social at-
mosphere, around our little college world, threat-
ning hurricanes & storms; in the midst of which,
who knows how or where we may be lost & blown?
Rumours of revolution & change have become very
rife among us of late, and the possibility is that
should they come, I might be put into such a situ-
ation that I should consider it unpleasant or de-
grading to remain. Our secondary bodies are in
this respect rather unpleasantly placed, that we
have often to submit to, and partake of the catas-
trophes which befall the system, without having
that purchase in it by which we may maintain
the equilibrium, and prevent the evil.
Among other things, I had just a modest hint
from one of the wiseacres of our Board, that in-
as much as there was some jealousy on acc^t of
my receiving so much more salary than any
other professor except the President, I might
perhaps calculate ere long to have it just raised
down a little, (say \$100) as an Irishman would
say — which I should undoubtedly take as bad.
My hint that I was not so essential to them,
but that they could do without me. And I
should feel disposed to embrace it — that is,
it opportunity offered.

My apprehension of such things then leads
me to entertain your proposition; — I could

you still continue not to hear from me
and therefore feel authorized to make it
definitely & formally. In the mean time I have
despatched a letter or two as preludes to our
members of our Board, etc. to what we may expect

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Rev. A. Wylie D.D.

Bloomington

Indiana

John W. Hunt

1839 Nov 19th



in order to be able to answer more definitely, when
the time comes. My respects to Mrs. Wylie & the
family, — also to Prof. Wylie, Mr. Hawley, and
any other of my acquaintances there who may inquire
for me. With grateful feeling I acknowledge to you
the renewed expressions of your kindness &c.
I remain, Dear Sir, yours sincerely
Rev. A. Wylie D.D.