

Oxford. Sept. 22nd 1840.

My dear & respected Friend, Your esteemed favour of the 21th Ult. by Mr. Christy has come to hand, though not until a very few days since, owing to his circuitous route home, and to my being absent at the time, and for some days after his arrival.

Deeply, my dear friend, do I sympathize with you under the late repeated stroke of a wise & holy, though mysterious Providence, by which you have again had torn away from you, so unexpectedly & so prematurely, another of those dear objects upon which your affections and hopes centred, and your very existence was in a certain sense bound up, when just ripening into maturity. I cannot hope to say one word that will soothe the wounded bosom, or staunch the flowing tear of parental grief. These are wounds too tender & sacred for the rude touch of the hand of man, — fountains of bitterness too deep and overflowing for human power to dry up. We have to leave it to time, and the kind hand that has inflicted the wound, which alone can do it, to soothe the bleeding bosom, and repair the desolation which has been made by such a bereavement. When we have done our best, "miserable comforters," as one said of old, "are we all". I trust you feel in this sore affliction the sustaining hand of that kind heavenly parent by whom it has been sent, and that you are enabled to see in it the ~~hand~~^{direction} of an all wise and beneficent Father who unerringly orders all things

for the best, and is ordering this dispensation especially, severe as it is, for the ultimate & highest good of you and all yours; — weaning your affections thus from earth & this transitory state of being, and transferring them to heaven and that glorious eternal state where sorrow & parting shall be no more.

I rejoice to hear that a brighter ray is beginning to beam upon the prospects of your institution, and I trust that the result of the coming meeting of your investigating committee will be as favourable as in the former case. When will this world be done with agitators! And so you have begun to feel too the effects of bigotry & narrow church-ism from a certain quarter which has had so much influence elsewhere. The Rev. Turner it appears has at length proved traitor, & joined his influence with other malignants against you. How sectaries of every stamp, — antipodes to each other & ultras each for their own peculiar notions, can bury their antipathies & join hands to put down any moderate or liberal man. Herod & Pontius Pilate could be made friends together on a day when a Saviour was to be unjustly condemned & crucified. O the inexorable, indefatigable, traitorous spirit of party. God grant you a happy deliverance from all its machinations & efforts.

We are still far from being in a settled state. It is doubtful whether Young will accept; or rather I believe it pretty certain he will not, and if not then we are adrift upon the waters again, and there is no knowing what harbour we may make. There are certain contingencies,

— and some one of these may very probably happen, — in which I shall remain no longer in the institution than till I can get comfortably away. So that I consider myself as but loosely anchored, & fast on the wave and ready to be drifted, I know not whither, as Providence may direct. I may therefore some time ere long have occasion for the kind interest & aid of my friends.

But it was not my intention to have said anything at present about myself. I wished however to say a word in behalf of a friend, — a common friend to us both. The gentleman appointed to the vacancy in our Professorship of Latin language has declined, and our friend, Graham, — whose support by the congregation by the way is entirely inadequate, and who is now planted here with a house & property on hand, — has thoughts of applying for the place. You know his former standing as a scholar, when a student & a graduate. I can assure you he has kept up & improved his Scholarship in a way in which few preachers, devoted to the pastoral life alone, have done. I consider him a first rate linguist, both in Latin & Greek. I understand by him he has written to you for a recommendation. I hope you will give one to him, as warm as you can conscientiously, — immediately, as our Board will meet in a few days. But I am interrupted by a call, and must go. Peace & the blessing of heaven be with you and yours. Mrs. Scott wishes to join

with me in the expression of her respect & sympathy
for yourself & Mrs Wylie. Yours as ever
Rev. A. Wylie D.D.

J. M. Scott

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Rev. A. Wylie D.D.

Bloomington

Indiana



Refused to pay
July 1850

J M S