

My dear Sir,

Washington Aug. 13/42

Will you pardon my remiss-
ness? Your friendly letter was received some
time since and ought to have been answer-
ed immediately. Within two days after
my arrival in this City I was placed in
the Chair on the Great Tariff bill and
there was kept day in & day out for
five or six weeks. Our sittings were six,
eight, ten and sometimes fourteen
hours per day. You may readily con-
ceive that in the evening, I would be
so much fatigued that I was disposed
to do little business and not much
in the humor for writing even to a friend.
Since that we have been so perplexed
and confounded by our unfortunate
controversy with his accidentality, with
whom Providence has afflicted the coun-
try, that I have had no heart to write
or do any thing else.

We have a deplorable state of things.

and how or when our difficulties will
be removed God only knows - ^(the President) He seems
determined to do nothing, but thwart
and defeat all the efforts to carry out
their measures of those who elevated
him to power. It seems we can't be
isolated at all unless we do so accor-
ding to his will. It is humiliating
in the extreme to be placed in such
circumstances. He defeated at the
extra Session the bills to establish and regu-
late the currency, ~~and now~~ ^{and now} ~~he~~ ^{is} ~~the~~ ^{one}
of them was drawn exactly according
to his wishes, and now within a few
weeks he has put his foot upon two
tariff or revenue bills because they were
not passed according to his dictation -
This is almost beyond endurance - we
will at last, I expect have to break up
without doing any thing effectually and
refer the matter of controversy to the people.
If they will say that their Reps shall
pass such laws only as will gratify his
whims & caprices, instead of such as com-
mend themselves to their own judgment
& conscience, so be it -

I had heard sometime since of your quitting
the good old faith and embracing the doctrines
and forms of the Episcopal Church. All
our friends at Brownsville (who are good
Episcopalians) are gratified with the accep-
sions of your talents and piety in promo-
ting the success of the true church, as you
call it. The change has, ^{been produced} no doubt, by
the conviction of truth in your mind
and is right. I hope that your sphere
of usefulness may be enlarged and that
you may be the instrument of doing
much good in your old age - You
talk about being old; but, I suppose, are
now about in the vigor of your intel-
lect -

My poor brother James is still in de-
licate health altho somewhat better than
he was last fall. He spent the winter
at Cuba and in Louisiana and has
understand improved somewhat in
health & strength. He has been con-
victed to quit preaching and is now
out of employment - He is apprehensive
that he cannot stand the confinement of
teaching to which he now thinks of turning

his attention for a living and I don't know
what the poor fellow is to do. He is now
with his family at his father in laws in
Licking County Ohio (Granville) where
he will remain till a kind Providence
opens some way for him.

I hear frequently from home (where I would
be delighted to be today) but know of nothing
~~that~~ there which would ^{be} worth commu-
nicating - Except the deaths and marria-
ges that have taken place there, are
pretty much as when you were there.
I have just rec'd a line from Col. A. M.
who informs me that his father is
wearing away pretty fast. I should not
be surprised if he should be gone be-
fore I get home. His disease has been of
many years standing and his sufferings
have been severe. We were greatly feel
his loss as a citizen and neighbor - He
had his faults but he is ~~a man of~~
a warm hearted man and an active
and very useful citizen -
we have as our pastor at present a
Scottish clergyman - Smith is his name.
He is a man of talents and thorough edu-

cation, classical and theological - He writes well; but he lacks something in voice and manner to make him a very interesting preacher - Our people generally are, I believe, well pleased with him. altho some of the old ladies grumble a little occasionally -

We have in this City a preacher who figures largely ~~and~~ who became very notorious in the West. I mean the Rev. Mr. Moffit, of the Methodist Church, who is one of the Chaplains to Congress and about the most disgusting preacher I ever heard - I went to hear him twice - the last time I was put up, as I did not know he was to preach - all that hear him are utterly disgusted with the affectation of his manner and the rhetorical ^{that he gives us} air & flourishes that he makes. Still he ~~throws~~ immense overflowing sounds. The Hall of the House is generally so crowded that it is difficult to get a seat - -

will to make up for my apparent ne-

that I have written you a long letter if I
have not said much.

And I was about closing without saying
any thing about my own family - Wil-
liam is practicing law in partner-
ship with me and is doing well.
Barnum is concerned in a store
in Brownsville and is a correct,
business man - My third son gra-
duates this fall and intends teaching
some place for 2 years before he stu-
dies a profession - Our daughter has
grown to be a large girl and our
fourth son is a stout, hearty boy - that
we still have another and that is
the pet - a sweet little daughter of about
9 months of age, after an interregnum
(as an old gentleman once wrote me)
of about 11 years -

And now I must close by bidding
you to remember me kindly to Mrs.
Wylie and each & every member
your family -

Yours very truly
Th. M. S. McKim

Rev. A. Wylie D.D.

Th. M. T. Whelan
M. T.



The Rev. S. W. Linsley
Bloomington
Indiana.

