

Washington City. March 7th 1841.

My dear Sir.

It is perhaps best for you to be kept where you are victorious over the "wicked." I meant, with that good fellow Sest, to serve you, expecting, however, from what you had written to me not to be successful. You had better now push your advantage with the Legislature and build your College up on a sure foundation.

You have been afflicted; so have I been. You have entered into new and better lights of the soul; I have at least the earthly joys restored to me. Why should either of us so far complain? - (Yes: I am again married, and I may say to you as I was at first - to an angel very like my first wife and you know what she was. Such a being is necessary to attend my existence. You may never have known it, but there has been a great strife in my nature for much good or much evil. A wife has been and is a guard to my fate. God is kind to me in giving a preserver in time. His indignation & wrath will be just and His displeasure lost, if I do not rely upon the Eternal Preserver. I required strong guards around about me, and He has placed them there. What if a Citadel thus defended should be overcome? - It will be utterly destroyed! This often comes over

me, and makes me with no little
Consolation pray - "Let me trust in
Thee and never be confounded." -
I don't like any of the churches, but
they don't drive me away from
the closet. Nor do politics. I am
not a politician as you will see
by the sacrifice lately made by the
spirit I send you. And I am
reminded often of your favorite
doctrines of "the love of virtue for
virtue's sake". That was impressed
on me by you, and has given me
always the power of Truth. Politicians
don't understand that sovereign, sub-
stantive, independent and indestructible
power at all. I never was a Calvinist
- I was always, I feared, too much of
a free thinker & free willer - I know
of no other way to express my claim
to think and act always with re-
ference to the certainty of the power
of Truth. What Truth is, is taught
to me more by instinct than study.
The latter introduces one to the schools,
the former to God. The latter leads
through mazes of error a long way
where some are founded and from
which some emerge - strengthened
it may be as you have been; but

the former takes a short cut directly
to the light. There is a great dread in
my mind to beginning the study of
Theology lest I may stop short or be
cut short of the end. You have gone
through it - How long - how anxiously
have you been travelling in doubt or
in false security? - Have not false lights
at times made you comfortable in the
certainty of the truth? I fear, if your
faith is metaphysical now, that
you cannot be certain. The heart
leaps, the understanding crawls. I leave
religion to the heart, and the road
to the understanding.

I don't know whether you
will understand this, but
I will read Wemberton's "Divine
Legation," and try to understand
that.

Love to you & yours
from —

Yours as ever
Henry B. Wier



Geo. A. Rice
St. Albans
Vt.
Bloomington
Indiana