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## Letter to Francis Wharton

Charles Pettit McIlvaine

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the work in his heart. The Lord be praised for His grace. He is reading the Scriptures regularly, and wishes to be guided to the best mode. You cannot serve me in any way more nobly than by endeavoring to promote in him the right way of becoming more and more enriched by, and in love with the Scriptures. Be his help in that. He is systematic in secret prayer, and has become fond of spiritual, searching reading. He mentions especially his sense of the value of, and his love for the little book, 'Advice to a Young Christian,' which I gave him, and which I much value. I am here in the S. E. of Switz'd—having come here to-day by Lakes Zurich and Wollenstadt, and thence S. E. If you take a S. E. line from the head of the latter till you meet the Rhine in lat. 47°—you will find my whereabouts—among the sources of the Rhine, and near to the baths of Pfeffers, celebrated for fine Alpine scenery; etc. This is an excursion from my main route. Now good-night. The Lord be with you all.

"Very affectionately yr's,

"C. P. McILVAINE."

"CINN., O., April 29, '57.

"MY DEAR BRO.:

"I have written a letter for the Vestry, and another for the man of the two named, whom they may choose. I hope one or the other may be got. I am now trying what I may be fit for in a visitation, and I find my head more disturbed than I hoped would be the case. I do not see that I can expect to endure, and escape a sudden and entire break down, except I can restrict my preaching to about once a Sunday, and perhaps once in the week (on visitation), and be exceeding quiet in the intervals. The latter is quite as difficult to effect as the former. Incessant talking—the worrying needs and infirmities of small parishes—the expectations which I cannot gratify—the troubles which I cannot relieve—seem to wear on me as much as preaching—at least on my spirits much more—so that I think my prospect of much more work, except in a very quiet way, is not good. I hope I am to have a son in the ministry, who will take up the message as I am dropping it. I have such a sense of the danger of leading in advance of the Lord, that I have purposely avoided putting the question of the ministry before him till within two or three weeks. I only want the Lord

to lead and he with a glad mind, to follow. I trust he will feel himself called by God, and ready to say, 'Here am I, send me.' He is now *in* the question, and I pray for him to Him who only can teach him. I hope he may escape his weakness of eyes this Spring. We were delighted with his spirit at home. He was, as before, disappointed and troubled (as much for my sake as his own) about his grading, and thinking he was placed lower in Butler than he deserved, and I should not wonder if it were the case, because with honest and independent men, situated towards me as the Professors are, the temptation, instead of being unduly to favor my son, will be so to show that they do not—that unconsciously and unintentionally they will err on the other side.

“Yrs. affectionately,

“CHAS. P. McILVAINE.

“F. WHARTON, Esq.”

“ELYRIA, May 10, '59.

“MY DEAR MR. WHARTON :

“As you are the only one who has introduced the matter of an Assistant Bishop to me since I went to Europe, I will communicate a little that is now on my mind *to you* as to that matter—not to speak of other reasons, for which I have special facility in writing to you on so delicate a subject. . . . If I am to have an Assistant to give me real relief, of course it must be one in whose harmony of views, spirit, and policy, I can justly rely. How many good men might be selected, in whom there would be peculiarities that would give uneasiness instead of the reverse. Again, the welfare of the Diocese, its position as to the whole Church, and the position of the College and Seminary before the Church, require, on the part of the Assistant and my successor, such a character, that there will be no letting down, no moderating away, no indistinctness or indecision as to those features of doctrine, action, influence which have placed Ohio where it now is. We can gain nothing by more moderation, less positiveness, more churchiness,—less prayermeetingness, etc. I have learned in three quarters that some talk of —. I do not know *who* thus talk. It may be they imagine that such a middle man might carry with the evangelical men, and thus they would secure eventually what they want—one of whom they hope that the mitre and some antagonism would make him go up higher. I hope there will be no looking after any such man, and I hope