

5-10-1859

Letter to Francis Wharton

Charles Pettit Mcllvaine

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Recommended Citation

Mcllvaine, Charles Pettit, "Letter to Francis Wharton" (1859). *Charles Pettit Mcllvaine Letters*. 26.
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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

popularity of talents will have but a subordinate and very subordinate influence in the choice; last of all the consideration of a man's having means of supporting himself to some extent. Our standard is at the mast-head now, and has always been, and to that we owe all. It must not come down one inch to please anybody, or gain anything. Such as —, I think a good deal of, and probably he would be a good choice in New Jersey—as good as could be arrived at there,—to avoid much worse—but we must have a more household man,—one who is more grown a great deal in the stature of gospel strength, and boldness and decision—one to be a Captain when spiritual boldness and decidedness for Christ are the great qualifications.

“Yrs. very affect'ly,

“C. P. McILVAINE.”

“PIQUA, May 18.

“MY DEAR MR. WHARTON :

“Just before I left home, I rec'd yours acknowledging my last. I had some conversation with Mr. —. He thinks Dr. A. would secure a larger vote than Dr. B., would be more easily supported, and would accommodate himself more readily to the Gambier plan. I like the idea of the Assistant residing at G— if a suitable person, and I like Dr. A. for that purpose, but either would suit me. Dr. A. is Calvinistic, and in his strong positiveness of view suits me. Dr. B. you know has a prayer-meeting in his Sunday-School room, or at least it began there, and he intended, if it grew large enough, to have it in his Church. I was at them both. He is good there. A dash of Calvinism as A. has, gives definiteness, fixedness, strength, confidence in evangelical views, and saves them from dangerous neighborhoods and mixtures of uncertainties. But I love both— B. would bring us an increase of N. Y. interests in Gambier. Mr. — says there is great activity for L—, and that he thinks they can count on a good many. I cannot imagine who they all are, but care must be taken that none whom we desire stay away— for want of knowing that they are called to a special and most important work. Much depends on an un-rent garment. But there must be much calling on God—“*Shew whom thou hast chosen.*” He can bow all minds to one. Let us feel our need of His guid-

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.

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