

7-30-1859

## Letter to Bishop Bedell

Charles Pettit McIlvaine

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59-07-30

Bp: McShane  
various information <sup>to Balch</sup>

Cinc. July 30. 1857

Rev. & dear Mr.

I am very much indebted  
for the kindness of your letter of  
the 21<sup>st</sup>, particularly for your  
kind request that I will lay  
aside all cases which can be  
committed to you, after your  
consecration - I am now abstain-  
ing from work & care as entirely  
as is possible - I feel the benefit of  
it - & am encouraged to hope that,  
in due time, under God's blessing,  
I shall be able to share with  
you, by thy, a good deal of work -  
You would not suppose me an



injured, to look at me - I  
have very much my accustomed  
appearance - & my muscular  
strength is not more diminished  
there might naturally be the  
case at my age, without disease.  
It is only when I put my head  
to work that I feel that something  
is wrong - A very little occupation  
of mind, beyond a letter - causes  
the upper-house - "the keep" of the  
castle, to show signs of distress.  
I may anticipate becoming, by  
suitable abstinence from care &  
labour, so far restored ~~as to be~~  
able, with an effort, to do a  
good deal of work - while without  
me, my mind would not be

content not to do more than  
a brain vice effected could  
sustain -

In regard to the visitations -  
Since April last, I have visited  
all the parishes on the Ohio River  
from Cincinnati to Hendersonville, excluding  
the latter - though I expect to take  
that on my way to the <sup>Gen</sup> Convention  
also - many of the parishes in the  
centre of the State - & with one  
exception, all in the North West  
from Cleveland to the Western  
border - The visitations longest  
behind, are in the North Eastern  
& a few quarters of the Diocese,  
with none in the middle  
section - embracing some of the



smallest - I must perble ~~have~~  
& the greater number of the vacant.  
They are all too far East for  
Bp. Lee to reach conveniently -  
Between Nov-1 & the 20<sup>th</sup> we  
have much in Ohio - & in  
the northern part, as well as  
the southern, a very delightful  
season - I have observed for  
many years that the beginning  
of broken weather - verging towards  
winter, is from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the  
20<sup>th</sup> Nov. After that, it is more  
or less cold - as with you - Nov  
before that, all the visitation  
of the parishes in the N. East as  
far South as Memphis could  
be made - And after that,



It would be easy for you to  
take the rest - not visited this  
year - belonging to the middle  
part - at your leisure - I trust  
you know so well what duties  
are made of, as to be prepared  
to see parishes small - often very  
feeble & struggling - sometimes  
without a minister - or a church  
demanding of the Bp. all kinds  
of patience, help & hope - I have  
found one of my most pressing  
& anxious cares in the needs &  
fluctuations of such parishes - es-  
pecially when, as in this state,  
population changes so much -  
It is "a work of faith" requiring "the  
patience of hope" & "the labour of love" -



I think it would be best for  
you (as I suppose you contemplate  
living at Cambridge, where you  
will have a great opportunity  
of quiet, unsexacting usefulness,)  
to make that your first stopping  
place - There a house must  
be built for you - For this use  
have no funds - To raise them  
now would be difficult - Dr. McKim  
I think, told me that he & Dr. Allen  
too mentioned to you the way Mr  
Wharton's house had been built -  
he advancing the means - on  
certain conditions - & that you  
seemed pleased with it, in  
reference to a house for yourself -

I with some good people in  
N. Y. - would take it into their  
heads to present you with a  
house - that is - the cost of one -  
My idea is that the owner you  
could select a site for a house  
to suit you, & get a plan fixed on  
& get the building going, the  
better - I would suggest another  
idea - Suppose your friends should  
take it into their heads to build  
you a house - & that you should  
not build on college property -  
which would make the house  
college - property - <sup>in law</sup> but on a lot  
purchased from the college - (the  
cost would be small) then it  
would all be yours - in fee simple



I could be sold or milled - at  
your pleasure - It would be  
easy for y<sup>e</sup> - to return to  
N. Y. - for a few weeks after  
the 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. - Very likely I  
shall be able then to do a  
part of the visitation - if any be  
proposed - I think it can be  
so arranged that you can  
come straight to Cambridge after  
the G. Conv. - spend time enough  
there to select a lot &c. - then  
come to Cincinnati - as your chief  
city - & thence go on a visitation  
to the N. E. - & thence to N. York  
again - Of the details we  
can write or converse more

patentably hereafter.

We are exceedingly desirous  
of supplying the place of Rector  
at Cambridge - a most important  
one as you may easily conceive  
requiring much good sense -  
earnest piety & zeal - special inter-  
est in young men - & civil good-  
ness &c. It is a very difficult  
place to fill - because we  
need a considerable man &  
cannot give more than from  
\$1000 to 1200 salary - ~~than we~~  
I will be obliged to you to look  
round & think where is a good  
man to be got - we have been  
told of Mr Dalton of Maine -  
Do you know him? ~~Can~~



you ascertain his fitness &  
whether there would be any  
chance of getting him?  
We have come pretty much  
to the conclusion that our  
Diocesan paper the Western  
Episcopian, must die - It  
has about 2000 subscribers - but  
Mr Bader the Editor & Proprietor  
has no means at all - &  
all our efforts to sustain him  
are exhausted - It seems almost  
impossible to sustain such  
papers - with few exceptions,  
by subscribers - they pay so badly -  
I shall feel the loss very deeply -

It has been well edited -  
on decidedly evangelical grounds -  
it has been identified with  
the Diocese from the first of the  
diocesan history - & I fear the  
N. Ch. party in the West, will  
at once, either here, or at  
Louisville, or Indianapolis, set  
up a substitute -

Please remember me  
affectionately to Mr Bedell &  
your mother - The gracious  
Lord bless the co-operation  
in which we soon hope to be  
to His glory & the promotion of  
His blessed gospel -

Yours very affectionately  
C. P. McNamee -