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5-25-1869

## Letter to Charles Petit McIlvaine

Hamilton Fish

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Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, to Bishop C. P. McIlvaine.

CONFIDENTIAL

Washington, May 25, 1869

My Dear Bishop McIlvaine,

A Letter from Mr. Winthrop of Boston mentions your intended visit to England. Our relations with that Country just now cannot be called critical, but they are embarrassed. I have little doubt of a pacific settlement, and yet intemperate speeches or publications in Parliament or in Congress or in the Papers on either side of the Atlantic may arouse a state of feeling that may add greatly to the difficulty of the settlement between the two nations. Expectations may have been raised higher in this Country by some things that have been said or written, than the irritations & pride excited (perhaps by the same things) on the other side may be able to concede. It is important that discreet men on either side remain discreet, & calm men retain their thoughtfulness.

You exercised a very important influence on a very important occasion during our late war. If it would not incommode you too much to take Washington in your course, I think that a knowledge of the general views of the Administration with regard to the pending question might enable you, during your visit in England, to remove some misapprehensions which otherwise are likely to take possession of the popular views in England, & to bring some of that thoughtful class with whom you will largely move, to a more favorable appreciation of the views entertained by the government here.

I am not sure as to the time of your intended departure, but I would like very much to have a conversation with you before you sail.

May I ask the favor to be advised when you leave home on your journey. I expect to be in New York about the latter part of June or early in July. Until then I think that my \_\_\_\_\_ here is fact.

Very faithfully yours,

Hamilton Fish