

2-15-1865

Letter to Charles Petit Mcllvaine

William Heathcote DeLancey

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Rt. Rev. Wm. Heathcote DeLancey, Bishop of Western New York (consecrated 1839) to Bishop C. P. McIlvaine. It should be noted that Ep. DeLancey was a distant cousin of Bishop McIlvaine.

Geneva W. N.Y.
Feby. 15, 1865

Rt. Rev. & Divine Bishop:

Your letter of official action in the cases of Richard Holden & Peter Hoff, Jr. ((Huff)), with the letter to Bishop Corge ((?)) to be addressed to him was duly received.

The letter was mailed to Corge, No. 64 East Twenty first St., N.Y. & has doubtless reached him. I regret the necessity of such painful discipline & pray God to sanctify these sad cases to the Church.

I thank you sincerely for your condolence & sympathy under my affliction & your congratulations on my Assistant supply. Providence has dealt more mercifully & favorably with me. I was disabled by gout & quinsy about a year ago in January, I began my work again in the spring as if I had not grown older, but soon gave way, & on my second attempt broke down entirely & had to stop in June & abandon the work altogether. The gout _____ my back, though the pain was not severe. I could do nothing of active duty but attend the services in the College Chapel, wh. I was spared & enabled to do all summer. Finding myself disabled from work, with some half a dozen churches to consecrate, six clergymen to ordain, the Central, North Eastern & Western sections of the Diocese to visit, & myself not fit to go to Convention, & advised against it, I determined not to wait for a further break down, consulted my physician, who examined me, decided that I had the heart disease, might die suddenly, or might last a few years with care & avoiding exposure to _____ over work. I met the Convention of the Diocese, stated the facts, & asked for an Assistant in accordance with the long practice of the Church in this country. The subject was referred to a large committee of fourteen from all parts of the Diocese, who reported that I was unable by reason of bodily infirmity to discharge the duties of my office & the Convention resolved to proceed to the election of an Assistant Bishop. I declined naming any clergyman for the office, confidently throwing the Convention on its own choice. On the first ballot they elected Dr. Alloxé ((?)) by a decided majority - a most happy selection, on who we may implore & hope for, the divine blessing. He was consecrated on the 6th of January this year & commenced his work most acceptably on the second Sunday in the year & has given a winter visitation, to my relief, & to the great joy, benefit & satisfaction of the Diocese, the immediate pressure of my work having been most kindly & acceptably met by our brothers of Michigan & New Jersey, who visited in September & October some sixty parishes for me, ordained seventy ((?)) clergymen & consecrated seventy ((?)) Churches. I am now principally affected & incapacitated by weakness in my back & movements & in no pain, pretty much shut up in the house & with abundant reason to be thankful, _____ & contented, under my privation. Whether again to be permitted to engage in active duty, providence must determine. I submit to the Divine will in faith & patience, relying on Christ for pardon, acceptance & salvation.

I trust yourself & family are all well & rejoice in your escape from the great peril at sea, for who God be praised.

Commending you & yours to divine grace, I remain

faithfully yr fr & brother
W. H. DeLancey

Rt. Rev. Dr. McIlvaine
Cincinnati