

Charles Pettit Mcllvaine Letters

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1-24-1862

## Letter from Dr. William Heathcote to C.P. Mcllvaine

Dr. William Heathcote

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### Recommended Citation

Heathcote, Dr. William, "Letter from Dr. William Heathcote to C.P. Mcllvaine" (1862). *Charles Pettit Mcllvaine Letters*. 250.  
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Miss Mason & Shole's mission is under-  
stood to be such a basis of pressing this  
question upon our government - but a  
much more formidable pressure is  
preparing for them in the North & as it  
seems to be admitted that the black-  
code is sufficient I do not see how  
they can resist such pressure - He  
is in the hands of One who over-  
rules all things, but as far as man  
can see there will yet be war"

Jan 24 1862  
Wm. Lloyd Garrison  
Miss Mason

Hurst Park  
Jan 24 1862

"My dear Bishop  
Many thanks for  
your letter - I have been much en-  
gaged, & I would not have delayed  
my answer even for a day -  
Pray believe that no one depines  
more than I do, that the cloud has  
passed away, which hung over our two  
countries when you were with us - I  
rejoice too that the newspaper writers  
& readers of the class to which you allude  
have not had their own way; but I  
must confess (you will let me speak  
freely) that Mr. Seward's despatches  
lead me to one of two inferences. viz. either  
that such people have an influence be-  
yond what you attribute to them, &  
are to be conciliated by the enuncia-  
tion of principles, & the assertion of  
claims, which your Government  
well know to be without foundation;  
or (which would be a more serious  
& alarming alternative) that your  
Government is really in earnest in  
those despatches, & they believe in  
those principles & claims; in which  
case I cannot but tremble for the

future peace of the world -

Letter from Dr Guest, Master of  
Carr's College Cambridge -

Jan 27 -

"My dear Bishop Mr Hoare -

I did not write to you when I first learned the issue of the American difficulty for I felt like a man who has just escaped a great coil, but who sees before him other just as menacing & almost as immense - I may take a gloomy view of things, but I hardly think six months can pass away without a declaration of war by one or other of our two countries. I judge so from the temper now prevalent in these countries - from the measures of future vengeance which reach us from the other side of the Atlantic & from the unwillingness to meet them, which I find among my own countrymen - Any trifle would precipitate us into a war; but there are two sources of ~~misunderstanding~~ <sup>mischief</sup> which at the present time seem to be

the most threatening -

1<sup>st</sup> La Russell rested his case on the fact, that the Trent was on "an innocent voyage" - Mr Seward says that the circumstance of her sailing from a neutral <sup>port</sup> to a neutral port, was of no consequence, & that Captain Wilkes was merely guilty of an informality in not taking his prize into port for condemnation - If this is to be the platform on which the question is to rest, I do not see how war can be avoided - We have mail packets in almost every quarter of the globe, & they will continue to take passengers, be they federates or confederates, civilians or military men, & if the voyage be "innocent" that is according to the usual course of traffic, the Government will protect them & if they all carry a rate New York, war will no doubt follow -

2<sup>nd</sup> Our Government has been strongly urged by France & I believe by another great continental power to declare the blockade of the Southern Ports ineffectual & therefore illegal - Our government is naturally reluctant to do anything which may appear like interference between the two belligerents