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Charles Pettit McIlvaine Letters

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8-28-1862

## Letter to Bedell

Charles Petit McIlvaine

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Cinc. Aug. 28 1862

Dear Bishop,

I have just recd  
a letter from Mr. Wharton  
containing the enclosed which  
will explain itself. He  
writes that our friends in  
Phil<sup>a</sup> think we have lost  
nothing in Groden's declina-  
-ture, because of his lack  
of doctrinal positiveness. He  
also writes that Maxwell  
strongly recommended to him  
Pres. Allen of Grand Allego - about  
whom the enclosed was written  
- Wharton says "P. Allen has the  
advantage of being a layman &  
a man of great wealth - I do  
not know him - but his reputation  
is very high - He never or may



leave Girard College where his  
salary is \$5000. from his un-  
willingness to co-operate with the  
present Com. Coll. Adm. & the  
influences which are making  
the control of that institution."

All seems favorable  
as regards Mr Allen but what  
Maxwell says of his con-  
science - I send the  
extract that you may  
examine.

Yours affectionately  
C. R. M.



1  
Private

K. M. C. I. 620828<sub>2</sub>

1505 Euclid Avenue  
August 22<sup>nd</sup>/62

Bro: Wharton,

Since my return from Cape May, I have sought and obtained an interview with Pres. Allen. I can, hence, answer some of your inquiries in a way which may prove more satisfactory than would have been the case, had my reply been furnished at an earlier date.

You propound the following inquiries. - viz:

1<sup>st</sup> Would he do as a teacher and disciplinarian?

I answer, - Some years ago he was regarded as the ablest teacher or Professor in one of our Eastern Colleges. - Lately, his circumstances



as Pres. of Girard College have afforded him no considerable opportunity in that connection; but this I make bold to say, - that he is equal to all the demands which Kenyon Ch. may make upon him, either as teacher or disciplinarian.

2<sup>nd</sup> As a thinker?

I reply in the language which I heard another use in relation to him - "Pres. Allen is the broadest man with whom it has ever been my good fortune to meet. He is not only extraordinary as a profound and accurate thinker, but the range of his thinking is wider, and he is conversant with more subjects than any individual I ever knew" -

I think these two answers will be fully sustained by A. C. Coffin Esq. (who was for many years a Director of Gir. Ch.) if you will call upon him, or refer to him.

3<sup>rd</sup> Would he do as an Episcopalian? - He assures

me, he is very partial to the Epis. Ch., and would have united with it but for the force of circumstances. To my knowledge, he is a pew-holder, and frequent attendant at St. Matthew's Ch., and his eldest daughter, his only adult child, died recently, a communicant of that church. Should he be elected to Kenyon, I am certain he would soon gratify his "partiality" by a visible union with the Epis. Ch.

2<sup>nd</sup> Would he come?

I rather think so, from my interview with him. At least I know he would, if elected, give the matter a very earnest consideration. He appeared gratified at my approaching him on the subject. - (I must not omit to say, here, that when I mentioned the name of Dr. Allen to you in connection with the Presidency of Ken. Ch. - it was without any previous conference with him, in any book or any knowledge



on his part of my intention to do so. Should you elect him & prevail upon him to visit those classic grounds, I feel little fear, that the rest would follow, and then, you would all be justly proud of your great Trust.

I may add, his manners are cordial and well suited to Xenon. He is much like Pres. Andrews - only, in my esteem, a much greater man -

Lastly, (as the parson says,) you ask, "Do you consider Prof. - an Evangelical man?" I consider him one of the lourest Calvinists and it has been my mishap to hear in many long years. I think too, his views being the result of deliberate thought and study, I would be pressed.

All the foregoing is sacred with yourself, Bishops Mc Grovaine and Bedell -

Pres. A's address is Wm. H. Allen Esq.  
West. Grand College

Affectionately yrs.

Gordon Maxwell