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Charles Pettit McIlvaine Letters

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5-23-1863

## Letter to Bedell

Charles Petit McIlvaine

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shall see fit to have the three  
read in Rope Chapel on the Ev-  
ning appointed by their vote, instead  
of the Sem- Chapel. I shall make  
no objection - My chief objection is  
not to the place, but the time  
last year - bringing them amidst  
the hurry & confusion before the  
sort of audience created by the  
Commencement - It would not be  
for the purpose of having a large  
audience that I should consent  
to Rope Chapel - for I do not believe  
that of importance - It would be  
because of the greater room to those  
who would attend - & the better  
exercise in delivery to the young  
men. One thing I have ~~strongly~~  
banned in the students - a decided

Op. Med. L.  
about time of Ord.

630523

Cincinnati May 23  
1860

My dear Bishop -

I am in receipt of yours  
of the 18<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> - I am very well  
differ so much about the best  
time for ordination at G. & the  
delivery of Sermons there - The  
tending of College Officers & arrange-  
ments to override or ignore the  
Sem- I have always seen & resisted;  
It was especially manifested under  
Douglas - It must be resisted &  
resisted - The importance of making  
the Sem- more prominent in the  
eyes of the Success. I know - But I  
differ as to the manner of doing it -



I do not think the delivery of  
theses before a miscellaneous audience  
on some great public occasion is the  
beneficial way. Considering what sort  
of themes they must be compared to  
those out of place would be any  
thing like aiming at mere display,  
considering moreover how with such  
themes, the greater number of theo-  
logical students must appear to  
the mass of those who would  
attend, the result I think would  
be an audience not interested,  
students engaging in the exercises  
unwillingly & without stimulus &  
motivated in the aspect of feeling of  
the audience, & the reputation  
of the Seminary injured. I believe  
it impossible that by any such

public exercises the Sem. could  
do itself justice in the view of a  
miscellaneous audience. Hence I  
know of no ~~Sem. that~~ Sem. that has  
such a Commencement. The Gen-  
eral has an address by - Bp-  
& the delivery of diplomas - Princeton  
has nothing but the Annual Exer-  
cises. Andover I believe the  
same. At Alexandria, if any  
thing more than an address by  
some clergyman or Bp. it was to  
a small select audience in the  
Sem. Chapel. It has been a sub-  
ject of consideration with me all  
the time I have been in Ohio & I  
have never been able to see what  
better could be done than to  
have things as before. If the Faculty



board at Mr. Auburn. They provided  
a horse & buggy - there being no bridge  
house here & no body willing to take  
care - They will have to find out  
something of the difficulty of getting  
a minister - Because Mr. Lloyd  
stayed so long - & lived at Mr. Auburn  
they think it easy to get a successor -  
I have advised Judge Mitchell to  
think of Leavitt, for Pequea - where  
to send Charles I do not know -  
On some accounts, I should prefer  
his beginning not in my district - On  
others, otherwise - I saw Potter in  
Phila. - & had a talk - & he - consented  
to review the case, but I see no  
ground for hope - He told me that his  
father thinks highly of <sup>the father</sup> ~~him~~ but I  
did not like to ask him, but I should  
soon to give up his son - I called twice

evening to any exercise con-  
-sponding to that of the public returns  
of the College Commencement -  
Now about the day of ordination -  
I have so strong an attachment to  
ordinations at Cambridge - on a Gene-  
-ral Sunday that during the short  
time I have yet to spend in  
the ministry, I must decline  
a change - I do not know that  
there is much benefit to be had  
in getting a number of clergy to  
attend - any more than whenever  
we can worship & commun-  
-icate together - What I seek is not a  
large congregation for the occasion,  
but quietness & that special pleasure  
which I always find in the order



simplicity & solemnity - the retirement  
seclusion & absence of curiosity &  
men coming to hear some man  
preach. ~~And~~ of the Gambia  
congregation - I now when enjoy the  
worship as I do there - I now when  
ordain with the same feelings  
of quiet peacefulness of mind as  
there - To have the ordination  
on any other day than Sunday,  
especially a day of Commencement  
week & amidst the preparations  
for Commencement, would be  
to me a breaking up of expectations  
for a life of enjoyment which I  
would fain avoid - As to the  
preferences of the young men, of any  
year & of the Faculty & Congregation

I should suppose, there could be  
no doubt - The old man clings  
to old ways -

About Convention - Merrill  
preaches the sermon - I shall  
deliver the charge either on  
the Ev. of the first day or the  
Morning of the second - but not  
during a session of the Convention -  
I have not been accustomed  
to make any any announcement  
of who is to preach the sermon -  
& see no use in it - The Charge will  
be long - perhaps longer than can  
be well delivered - At any rate, I  
shall rest myself in the course of  
it, by having a hymn sung -  
Clements has declined Clepton & I  
do not wonder - They would have to



to see Powers about Short but  
suspect him - I had only Sunday  
& Monday in Phil<sup>a</sup>.

The son of Mr. Lugsen of Brooklyn  
having taken his affairs in hand  
in consequence of his state of health  
will pay the \$1000 which he engaged  
to pay in money or a Brooklyn lot  
and I was getting the foundation  
some years since of a Professorship  
the Bedell Scholarship -

Yours affectionately  
C. R. K.

I will thank you to send me by  
next Mail your ordinations - just the  
names & orders also any consecration  
for Church - I am making out a list of  
clergy for the Deacons of Cong. & Presb.



not where to put Young - who I believe  
was ordained by you during my absence.  
Dyer said he could say no more  
of Seymour than he had written you.  
He spoke well of A. W. Wylic of  
Brooklyn - in reference to St James  
Church - Before recommending him  
I should like to know what you  
knew of him - Dyer thought you  
had acquired an objection to him  
arising out of his not going to  
Newark - & in which he was ex-  
-cused - He speaks of him as a  
man of decided talent, who has  
been improved by experience -  
of fine appearance - & calculated  
to take a strong position -