

Charles Pettit Mcllvaine Letters

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5-28-1836

## Letter to Mcllvaine

C. P. Buckingham

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Mount Vernon May 28<sup>th</sup> 1836

Rt. Rev. Sir

I have been seriously considering for some weeks whether I ought not in justice to myself and the College propose to you <sup>to withdraw myself</sup> to retire from the institution - The inconveniences occasioned by the distance of my residence from Cambridge are so great as to render it impossible for me to pay that close attention to the interests of My Dept<sup>h</sup> that is due to it, without sacrificing my health <sup>& comfort</sup> to an unjustifiable degree - For example, on Wednesday and Thursday I suffered in the cold damp recitation room a severe pain in the breast and took a violent cold - yesterday & today the storm has prevented my going out altogether - so that for two days of this week I have attended to duty with great personal discomfort & two more days I have omitted them altogether, to the great detriment of the College - And I find it impossible from the very nature of the case to secure the little conveniences at the College which are absolutely essential to a proper and comfortable discharge of my duties - is the weather cold? I arrive at my room and without the privilege of fire, sit shivering for 2 or 3 hours - is the weather hot? I arrive exhausted and in a perspiration and enter a room with an atmosphere 30° or 40° below that which I have just left and in that state must abstract my mind from every thing but some dry mathematical investigation - is it rainy I must stay at home or in addition to my other discomforts sit with

damp and perhaps wet clothes on - I find also that during the warm weather I get so fatigued by the time ~~that~~ I arrive at home that the remainder of the day is about lost - I am totally unable to take any part in the government of the institution and thus a burden is thrown on my colleagues greater than they ought to bear - On many occasions when if I resided at Gambier I might attend to my duties I am too unwell to ride out and must neglect them entirely - These are some of the difficulties which lie in my way - Should I remain attached to the College I must not only in effect lose all my time, but serve the institution in a very imperfect manner.

My reason for presenting this subject at this time is, that I understand Mr. Wisley is now free from any engagement and wishes to come to the west, and as you have already expressed a desire to have him connected with the College I thought perhaps he could be obtained as my successor, and if I resigned at all I had better do it now while he can be got -

In all this my own feelings are as much as ever interested in favor of the College, but I am not only unable to provide a <sup>constant</sup> faithful discharge of my duties towards it, but am certain that my attention

to my claps must be extremely irregular —  
with this understanding whatever course you may see  
fit to take with the matter will perfectly satisfy

Yours Truly

M. P. Buckingham

St. Rev. B. McKim  
Sambor

The

Mr Buckner 8

May 28, 1836

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proposing to resign

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