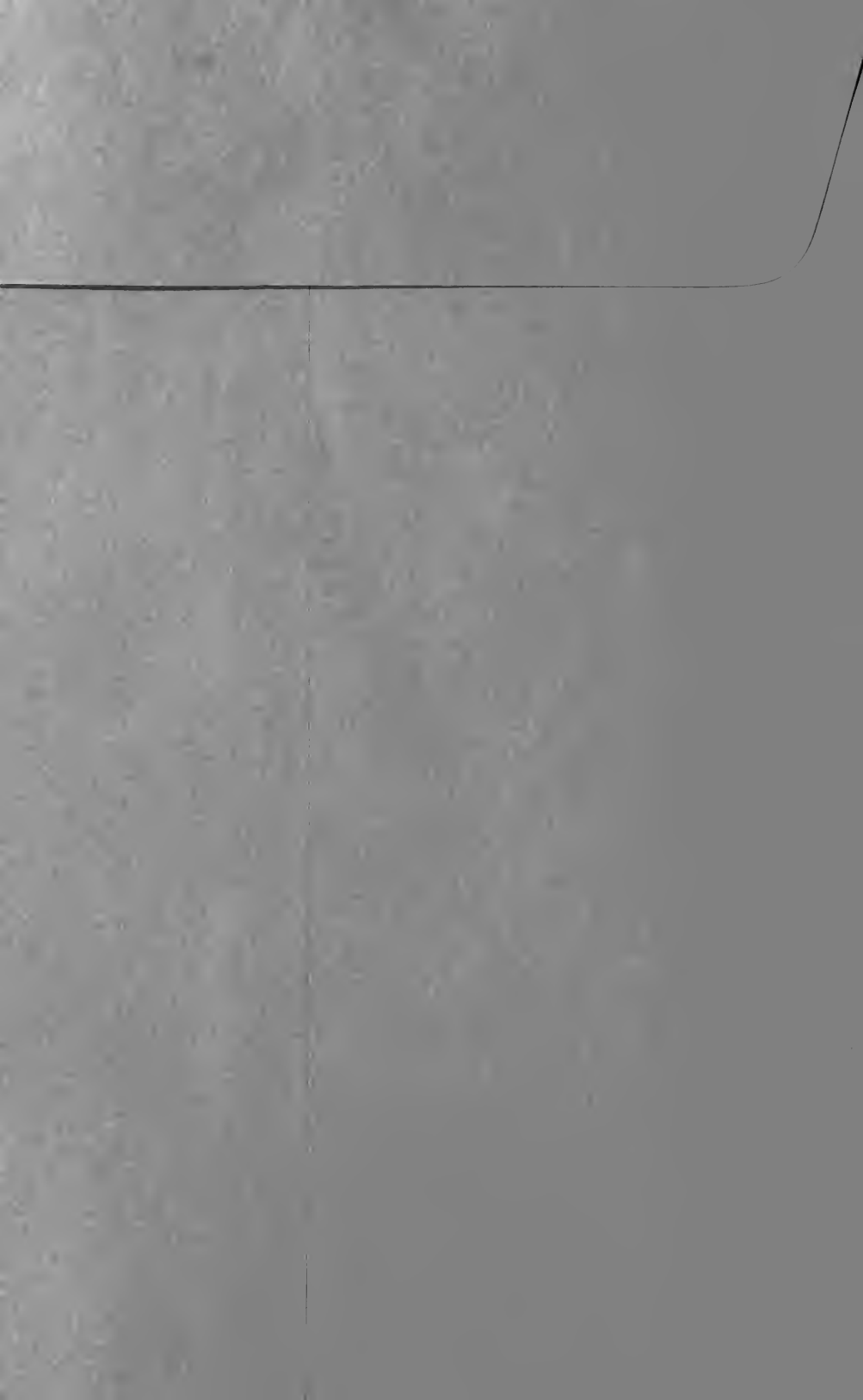


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1844



**STATEMENT**  
**OF**  
**FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES**

**CONNECTED WITH THE**  
**REMOVAL OF THE AUTHOR**

**FROM THE**  
**PRESIDENCY OF KENYON COLLEGE.**

**BY**  
**D. B. DOUGLASS, L. L. D.**

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**PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION.**

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**1844.**

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## STATEMENT, &c.

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THE friends and patrons of Kenyon College, and others of the literary public to whom the last Annual Catalogue of that Institution has been communicated, will have noticed on a fly leaf inserted at the beginning, the following announcement ; viz. :

“ A vacancy having occurred in the Presidency of the College, since this Catalogue was printed, the name of D. B. Douglass is to be erased where it appears. The Rev. Samuel Fuller, D.D. is now the acting President, until a permanent election can be made,” &c.

The cautious language in which the leading fact of this announcement is conveyed, leaves the mind of the reader in doubt, whether the vacancy had been caused by the resignation, or dismissal of the late president. The first actual impression seems to have been that he had resigned ; and it was accordingly so stated in some of the church periodicals at the time ; but as there could be no reason why that fact should not have been stated in the usual way, if it were a fact—the reservation of it, when it came to be noticed, gave ground for suspicion, particularly among those who had any knowledge of the previous working of the system at Gambier, that something of painful interest must again have occurred at that seat of the Episcopate of Ohio. To many it was known that President D—— had but recently removed to Gambier, in the interest, and at the earnest solicitation of his old and confidential friend Bishop McIlvaine ; that he had changed his plans of life, and abandoned his professional pursuits at the east, with considerable sacrifice, for the express purpose of “ consecrating himself to the service of Kenyon College for life ;” and it had been heard in various ways, that since his connexion with the Institution, he had devoted himself unceasingly to the promotion of its best interests. To all such, the announcement of a vacancy, whether occasioned by resignation or removal, was, in the absence of explanation, equally mysterious.

All these different forms and degrees of interest have been abundantly exemplified in the inquiries which have been addressed to the present writer since the publication of the catalogue ; nor have they materially abated even now. The uncertainty as to the particular manner in which the vacancy occurred, has indeed been removed, by the explicit disavowal on the part of President D. himself, of any participation in

the responsibility of that matter. It is now understood to have been wholly the work of the Board of Trustees ; but on what ground it proceeded,—how it was brought about,—who was the mover,—and why it was that Bishop McIlvaine, the president of the board, did not protect the friend who, in reliance upon his assurances had placed himself in a situation of so much responsibility, remains to this hour unexplained.

It would be vain to expect any very just sentiment as to the *merits* of the case, when there is so entire a deficiency of correct information as to the *facts*. Almost the only fact certainly known, is, that President Douglass was removed from an office generally considered permanent ; and the natural inference from it is, that such removal must have been intended as a punishment, and punishment generally implies crime. “No doubt this man is a murderer,” said the barbarous Islanders of Melita, of St. Paul—“who though he has escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.”

The obligation of the writer to supply this deficiency of information, and to justify his own position in the eye of the community, by a full and explicit statement of the whole affair would seem under these circumstances hardly to admit of a doubt ; and yet it has not been contemplated by him, but with extreme solicitude and reluctance. Constitutionally a lover of quietness and peace ; most unwilling at all times to obtrude himself, or his interests, upon the attention of the public ; and more than all, realizing the peculiar obligation of Churchmen in these times of agitation and party strife, to abstain from whatever would unnecessarily add, either new occasion or new bitterness to the topics already existing ; he has only presumed to overlook these considerations, when he became fully convinced that it would be a compromise of higher and more imperative obligations to yield to them. Greatly as he deprecates all contention and party excitement, he feels that no apprehension even of these evils should restrain him in the present instance, from the exposure of essential wrong, mildly and charitably indeed, but at the same time faithfully and fearlessly ; and then if irritation or strife be the consequence, the accountability is with them who have given the occasion, not with him who is but the innocent and involuntary subject of it.

Another and an important consideration which has influenced him in the publication of this statement, is to be found in the remoteness and isolation of the Institution and community at Gambier ; and their consequent exemption from the ordinary influences of public opinion. In the vicinity of large, populous, and mixed communities, public opinion operates by a silent and secret influence as a restraint upon wrong doing before the fact, and upon misrepresentation, after. Under such circumstances, flagrant violations of personal right, if not entirely prevented, are, when they occur, so thoroughly exposed, and so summarily redressed, as to render an open and direct appeal to public sentiment, seldom necessary. But the case is far otherwise in situations remote and secluded, like that of Gambier. There, public opinion has no such conservative influence. *The independent public are too far off*, and too little informed, and the *local, too little independent* ; abuses of the kind mentioned may be perpetrated therefore, with comparative impunity ; and

when perpetrated ('*haud indoctus loquor*,') the injured party has no disinterested community at hand, upon whose sense of right and justice he may fall back, and feel himself sustained. His only hope of redress, is in an appeal by facts, like that now contemplated, to a public elsewhere; and even then he needs to be "*thrice armed*" in the truth and rectitude of his cause, if he would maintain it successfully against the arts of a disciplined and systematic detraction.

The history of the Institution for a few years past, did it come within the scope of the present design, would amply illustrate the force and significance of these remarks. For the present, a brief reference will suffice. In the lapse of about six years now just passed, there have been no less than ten professors, and other high officers of the Institution, arbitrarily removed from office;—more, it is believed, than have been so removed from all the colleges of New England together, in half a century; of which removals, it is not too much to say, not one could have taken place, as it actually did take place, had the Institution been under the proper restraining influence of an enlightened and independent public opinion. Some of these cases were indeed, covered by the *formality* of a resignation; but without any claim on that account to be considered as exceptions to the remark here made. *Two* of them were affected by a process too instructive in the present connection, to pass without a special notice. Kenyon College, an organized part of the institution since 1826, and specifically endowed by public donations at various times since, was, for the occasion, *extinguished*,—put out of existence, and instantly *revived* again, by an entry on the minutes of the Board of Trustees. No student was in any way affected by this proceeding, or probably aware of it; the system went on as usual, without any *visible* interruption; nor was there in fact any external evidence of change, except only, that *two Professorships which were filled before the process, were found vacant after it.*\*

Surely no one can hesitate in the opinion, that where such facts as these have transpired, and such artifices been used to disguise and mystify them, without exciting strong public reprobation, there must either have been great deficiency of moral acuteness to discern what is right, or of independence to act and speak out under the impulse of that discernment.

The last of the removals to which reference has been made, was that of the present writer from the Presidency of Kenyon College, of which we come now more particularly to speak.

\* It has been argued in reference to this transaction, that as Kenyon College was not separately incorporated by law, it had no real corporate existence, and could be altered or extinguished at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees. The reasoning is believed to be unsound; but whether it be so or not does not signify, in the present case. The question is not,—what are the constitutional powers of the Board of Trustees in the abstract, but whether they could rightfully use those powers as they did, in the premises. If Kenyon College *was* a real corporate entity, either by the terms of its endowment or otherwise, the Board of Trustees had clearly *no power* over its existence, and the whole proceeding was illegal. If it *was not*, then the ejected Professors were not officers of *it*, (but of the Theological Seminary,) and could not be affected in any way by its *extinction*.

The manner in which this fact was announced—by a fly leaf prefixed to the Catalogue as above stated, must have given to the minds of the readers of that publication, some intimation that the proceeding was one of haste and suddenness; and this will be the more manifest when it is known that all the original part of the catalogue was drawn up,—the matter arranged,—and the whole publication to the very last line, superintended,—*by the President himself*. With this fact in view, the pages of the publication bear evidence that there could have been no uncertainty or apprehension in the mind of the present writer, either as to the Institution or himself, at the date of its publication; and such was the fact. At no time since he had exercised the Presidential office, had his mind been so entirely at ease on all subjects for which he was in any way responsible. The general condition of the College—the moral tone and deportment of the students—the zeal of ingenuous scholarship—the absence of all those evil influences which could give uneasiness to the mind of the most fastidious parent,—were most conspicuous. The delinquencies of a whole term were scarcely more numerous, *ceteris paribus*, than those of a single week in times past; while of grosser offences, there were none whatever; not even a private admonition had been called for in the way of discipline, for nearly two months. In all these respects, the great ends which had been placed before the writer in the tender of the office, and regarded by him in its acceptance, and which, with the unanimous approbation, as he supposed, of all parties, he had since steadily kept in view, seemed now to be fully and satisfactorily realized.

Not only was he free from any, even the slightest apprehension of censure, but the whole current of his anticipations and feelings were the precise opposite of such an apprehension. He may be allowed to say, that never in the course of his public life, had he felt more confident of having deserved the approval of his constituency, by the faithful and effectual discharge of his duty, than on the occasion now referred to.

Nor was there any thing in the communications or conduct of those around him, or to whom he stood in any relation of duty, that was not equally calculated to lull the fear of evil from others. In the Faculty of the College, every thing had been for a very long time, without an exception, harmonious and happy. From the Board of Trustees, he had experienced nothing but marks of approbation and confidence. With Bishop McIlvaine, the president of the Board, his relations had indeed been, sometimes, strangely and mysteriously clouded, but never for two years past, apparently less so than at present. More than ordinary pains had been taken by the writer during the preceding season, to remove and guard against all ground of misunderstanding in that quarter; and especially after the Bishop's second visit to New-York, the intercourse between them had been marked by unusual courtesy on his part, so as in a great measure, to remove any apprehension on that account. Finally, the social relations of "the Hill," not always free from the leaven of uncharitableness, had never *appeared* more so since the writer's acquaintance with it, than at this time.



Such was the state of things, and such the tone of the writer's feelings at the epoch of the publication of the Catalogue on the 28th of February. The Board of Trustees were in session, having been called, as the writer was given to understand, for the purpose of hearing the Bishop's statement of his doings in New-York, and taking further order for the extinguishment of the debt.\* The Catalogue was ready for distribution towards evening, and copies were immediately placed by the author on the table of the Board, in Bishop McIlvaine's study. An informal business interview, of about an hour, ensued, after which tendering to the whole Board an invitation to dinner on the following day, the President withdrew. The whole conversation was most amicable and friendly, without the slightest intimation that the character or conduct of any one was called, or likely to be called, in question.

It was not till near nine in the evening that any hint of the real sentiments and intentions of the Board was communicated to the writer, and then not by themselves. Professor Ross, about that time, called into the President's study, and asked him, with some earnestness, "whether he knew what the Board were doing?" Being answered in the negative, except as to the facts above stated, he proceeded to inquire whether the writer had not been waited upon, during the day, by a committee, and if so, what had passed? To which it was answered that a committee had called in the morning and conversed, for a few moments, on the statistics of the different Institutions, and the probable causes of the diminution of number in some of them; but the conversation was wholly impersonal, and in no respect such as to excite any particular attention, or even a second thought. "Let me tell you, then," said he, "that all their conversation to *others* was about *yourself*, and that they are probably *now discussing*, if they have *not already decided upon your dismissal from office.*"

The effect of this sudden and alarming intelligence upon the writer, can better be imagined than described. It was sometime before he could fully apprehend the urgency of the case; and not till the fact had been reiterated by the Professor, with a friendly admonition to go immediately and see to it, which he accordingly did. Arriving at the Bishop's, he

\* The Board of Trustees, under the ex-officio Presidency of the Bishop, were the Rev. E. Burr, of Portsmouth; Rev. E. Allen, of Dayton; Rev. W. A. Smallwood, of Zanesville; Rev. R. Bury, Cleveland; Rev. G. Denison, Newark; Rev. S. A. Bronson, Granville; and Messrs. W. K. Bond, Cincinnati; E. H. Cummings, Springfield; A. P. Pritchard, Granville; C. Delano, and T. W. Rogers, Mount Vernon; and J. L. Reynolds, Massillon; the last three new members. Most of these gentlemen, residing at a distance from the Institution, and visiting it seldom, and then in a hurried way, knew very little of its interior concerns. The previous policy had been to keep them at a distance. "The less we see of them, the better," was the reply, when the writer, in 1842, complained of there having been no meeting at Gambier during the first eighteen months of his presidency. Only two such meetings had transpired in the three years anterior to the present one; both almost wholly engrossed with the fiscalities of the Institution, in which the writer was understood to have no part. They always met in conclave, in the Bishop's study, apparently taking no interest in the affairs of Kenyon College, except that a committee on buildings generally came down and walked round the edifice. Nor was there indeed, anything in the past experience of the writer, to indicate that *he* or the *College* had any concern in their present deliberations.

found the Board still in session; and having obtained a private interview with the Committee that had waited upon him,—Messrs. Bond and Smallwood,—he stated to them what he had heard, and requested an explanation. Col. Bond stated in reply, that on a verbal communication made to them, in the morning, by Bishop McIlvaine, relative to an alleged diminution of numbers in the Institution, a committee of six had been appointed to make inquiries; that they had accordingly visited a number of persons on the hill, (whether responsible or not responsible, interested or disinterested, hypochondriac, or busybodies in other men's matters, he did not say,) and obtained answers to those inquiries, on which they had come to the conclusion, viz., That the President was unpopular, and that his unpopularity was the cause of the diminution referred to; and that unless he anticipated the action of the Board by resignation, he *would probably be removed!*

The first remonstrance of the writer was, against the mode of the whole proceeding, as being contrary to the plainest precepts of justice and humanity; and he was proceeding, at some length, to enforce this position, when he was stopped by Col. Bond with an intimation, in effect, that his language was a violation of privilege. "Are we a Board of Trustees," said he, addressing himself to his colleague, with a peculiarity of manner not to be mistaken, "or are we not? I thought we were; but, perhaps, I am mistaken." The writer, thus rebuked, endeavoured to justify himself, by stating that he was not calling in question the constitutional powers of the Board of Trustees, but only the *equity* of their present mode of proceeding under those powers; which last was deemed to be, at all times, a proper subject of discussion, *unless they assumed incontrovertibly, the right to do wrong.* Some pains were taken to enforce this distinction, but without any very clear evidence that it was appreciated, as the same language was afterwards used by Col. Bond, when speaking to his colleagues on this part of our conversation.

A second remonstrance was made generally, against the charge of unpopularity, if true, being taken as a ground of accusation. Surely it was not, in itself, any evidence of wrong doing. The best and most faithful of men were often unpopular. The same charge had been brought against Bishop McIlvaine, when chaplain at West Point, seventeen years ago; at which time, being then one of the senior officers of that Institution, the writer personally interested himself, by drawing up, and obtaining signatures to, a certificate in his behalf, on the ground that the charge was, in its nature, sophistical and invidious.

He quoted also, from recollection, the substance of the argument then used by the Bishop, in a case, and under circumstances precisely similar to those in which it was now attempted to place himself.\*

\* The following are some passages of that argument;—"The writer would ask, whether popularity is the test to which the labours of a minister of the gospel should be brought? Is it conclusive, or even very strong evidence, that a minister is faithful, zealous, and eminently spiritual, when he can be styled a popular minister? Is it a very strong evidence that a minister is *not* faithful, zealous, and spiritual, when it *cannot* be said of him, that he is a popular minister? . . . . What would St. Paul have thought of such a test for his ministry? . . . . That apostle was rather unpo-

But what, it was asked, is the nature and state of the unpopularity alleged in this particular instance? Was the writer in ill favour with the mixed community of "the Hill?" If so, it might easily be accounted for without involving the slightest dereliction on his part. But how could such unpopularity affect the external patronage of the Institution? If it were supposable that such persons could indulge their malevolence by using influence for the diminution of that patronage, it would be a strange perversion of justice to visit upon *him* the penalty of their unnatural wickedness.\*

Was he unpopular with the college faculty? Impossible! The idea of unfriendliness or antipathy in that quarter was irreconcilable with the evidences of approbation and confidence he had steadily received from them for more than a year past, without supposing a degree of duplicity which had not yet fallen within the range of the writer's experience. But even if the fact were so, how could the covert hostility of those gentlemen operate upon the external patronage of the Institution in any way to inculcate the writer? With regard to the students, [if that were a proper reference in such a case] it was hardly to be expected—the writer had never presumed to flatter himself, that in the responsible situation in which he was placed, he should be able to command the unqualified approbation of those who were the subjects of discipline. The burden of this department had, under peculiar circumstances, been thrown so entirely upon his shoulders, that it would have been most extraordinary indeed, if he had not incurred a great deal of unpopularity.†

He was by no means indifferent to this consideration, but he had never allowed it to intervene when the course of duty was plain. His

pular at Damascus, when he escaped over the wall in a basket; and at Lystra, when he was stoned and drawn out of the city apparently dead. . . . Would it not have been a much more evangelical procedure to inquire whether Mr. McIlvaine had manifested a deep concern for the souls of men; and a lively zeal for the glory of the Redeemer?" &c., &c. The force of these quotations would evidently be none the less, were the phrase "*minister of the gospel*," changed to "*President of a college*;" in either case, the character of the individual is to be weighed, by the essential merit or demerit of his *actions*, not by the uncertain and variable incident of popular favour.

\* Some conversation occurred at this stage of the interview, in reference to certain *peculiarities* in the social state and organization of "the Hill." It was shown, for instance, to be in the power of certain leaders there, to affect the local unpopularity of any individual upon whom they might think proper to bestow their attention, of which examples were quoted. Col. Bond seemed to have a just apprehension of this state of things, and suggested to the writer that a change of position could not but be conducive to his own happiness. "These people," he remarked, "are incapable of appreciating you, and will always make you unhappy." He had recently returned from the East, and on a previous occasion, at Cincinnati, had expressed a preference for the society and associations of New-York, which he now strongly reiterated; but the suggestion was respectfully declined.

† Professor Ross was averse to the administration of discipline beyond the limits of his own lecture room, and took no part in it except as it came up in the meetings of the Faculty. Professor Sandels and Dr. Thrall resided at some distance from the College, and the latter was also prevented by his professional duties as a physician. The tutors were generally recent graduates, and but little accustomed to exert, without support, the authority usually exercised by that grade of officers in eastern colleges.

steady aim had been, the establishment of a sound parental discipline ; and whatever difficulties he might, for a time, encounter in the prosecution of it, he did not doubt—he had in fact begun to realize, that it would certainly secure, not only the permanent interests of the Institution, but the confidence and approbation of all its intelligent and right-minded pupils.

Another subject of remonstrance in the course of this interview was the assumption of the writer's unpopularity, supposing it granted in any sense, as the *cause* of the diminished numbers. The relation of *cause* and *effect* necessarily implies some correspondence in circumstances, between the *terms* so related ; which correspondence did not appear in the present case, to exist. The Institution commonly so called, is constituted federally, of four subordinate Institutions ; the Theological Seminary proper ; Kenyon College ; the senior Grammar School ; and the junior Grammar School. Now, the diminution of numbers, if caused by the unpopularity of the President, would clearly be most conspicuous in, if not wholly confined to that particular Institution of which he was President ; whereas, it was notorious in fact, that Kenyon College, among all these elementary Seminaries, was precisely the one which had experienced no material diminution. It had been avowedly undergoing the process of purgation for two or three years past, and yet, was upon as good a footing as to numbers as at the commencement of the present Incumbency ; while the two grammar schools had fallen off—one fifty, and the other seventy-five per cent. ; and the Theological Seminary, including in its list one of the college tutors, and an undergraduate, transferred expressly to fill up, numbered *but five students*.

Some questions were asked in the course of the conversation, implying that the discipline, in regard to the dismissal of students, might have been too peremptory. No particular instance was stated, and the allegation could only be met therefore in general terms. Dismissions, it was observed, were always the work of the Faculty, not of the writer—no one of that body was more earnest than himself to save students from that penalty, when it could be done without endangering the permanent well-being of the Institution. In many instances he had expressed his aversion to the punishment of dismission, when his colleagues were unhesitatingly in favour of it ; and very rarely, if ever, '*vice versa*.\*' He was the only parent in the Faculty who had actually trained up sons to man's estate through all the vicissitudes of college life, and was more likely, therefore, by the recollection of his own feelings, to sympathize with the anxieties of other parents.

Finally, if the Board of Trustees, or the President of that Board, thought this punishment had been resorted to unnecessarily, they were competent to restrain it. But so far from having yet done so, they had actually passed votes of approbation, in the severest cases

\* In one instance, by parental management, he had been instrumental in saving to the Institution and to themselves, an entire senior class—eight in number ; and of reclaiming by similar means, in another, no less than fourteen, who had unfortunately connected themselves in an unlawful combination.

which had ever occurred. And Bishop McIlvaine, *very* far from disapproving it, had, in repeated instances, urged a degree of severity in the use of it, greatly beyond what the writer was disposed to inflict.\*

In the progress of this interview, the other members of the Committee of six were called in, viz. Cummings, Dennison, Reynolds and Pritchard, and took some part in the conversation that ensued. The conference continued somewhat over an hour, and embraced a variety of incidental topics besides those above mentioned.†

It terminated, however, without any definite result, calculated to allay the anxiety which had given rise to it. No reasoning the writer could use, seeming to make the least impression upon the Committee. It became at length evident to his mind, that his removal, by any means, was the thing decided upon, and that the plea of unpopularity was only adopted as the most plausible pretext under which to accomplish it. Thus in the brief space of a single hour, his convictions had passed from the extreme assurance that he should certainly spend the balance of his days on "the Hill," to the opposite certainty that he was to be dismissed forthwith; and *that*, by a process concocted wholly in the secret councils of the Bishop's study, without an accusation or charge of any kind alleged, or pretended to be allegible, against him. Some enemy had evidently had a hand in this matter, but the proceeding had been developed to the mind of the writer with such suddenness, that he found it difficult, for a time, to reason calmly upon it.‡

The Committee, looking at their watches, had already withdrawn and joined their colleagues in the study, before the writer was fully awake to the realities of his situation; he then retired from the house, and after two or three turns on the walk, became sufficiently composed to communicate the sad intelligence to his wife. \* \* \* \*

On the following morning, (Thursday, 29th February,) Col. Bond and General Cumming called upon the writer, in an apparently friendly way, being about to take leave. They stated that the committee of

\* A remarkable case of this kind occurred during the preceding summer vacation, (1843,) in reference to a clique of southern young men, seven or eight in number, some of whom had incurred the discipline of the Institution. It was urged by the Bishop, with no little earnestness, that the whole of them should be dismissed forthwith; and he went so far as to say, "that he could not leave home contentedly," (on his second visit to New-York,) "except this was done." Reasons were given for this severity, but, as some of them were of a personal nature, it is not thought expedient, at present, to quote them. It was in consequence of this sentiment, so strongly expressed by the Bishop, that the departure of all these young gentlemen, on various grounds, was favoured by the writer, when, in some instances, he might have retained them. And *this*, it may be remarked, was the extent of *all* the *diminution* in the College classes, [save one,] from the session of the Board in Sept. 1843, to the date of this conversation, Feb. 25th, 1844.

† It is not pretended that the discussion was carried on in the precise order of the topics, as here enumerated, nor always, except when quoted, in precisely the same words. The writer has aimed to give the *substance* merely, in the order and language best calculated to convey a clear and correct impression of it, and for that he stands pledged.

‡ "I will be hanged if some eternal villain,  
 "Some busy and insinuating rogue,  
 "Some cogging, cozening slave, to get some office,  
 "Have not devised this slander."

six had made their report, and the Board would undoubtedly remove the writer if he did not resign. Col. Bond again urged him, in the most persuasive manner, to tender his resignation, not because there was anything against him, but because these people\* would make him very uncomfortable, and he might be so much more agreeably situated in an Institution at the East.

The writer stated, in reply, that under present circumstances he should be governed by no consideration of this sort; if "these people" chose to persecute him, they could do so; but he would not endorse their wickedness by any concurrence whatever. As to resignation, it was totally out of the question: "if I am to die," he said, "I die in harness."

Such was the conclusion of that overture, after which the two gentlemen took their leave. In about half an hour after, Col. Bond returned with Mr. Smallwood, representing themselves as a Committee to communicate the following paper:

"Whereas, a report has been made to this Board, by a Committee appointed to ascertain the causes of the diminution in the patronage of the Institution, which report charges, in part, the loss of patronage to a defect in the government of the College,† and recommends a resolution requesting President Douglass to resign. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to wait on President Douglass and make known to him the foregoing facts, and to inform him that the Board are ready and willing to hear his defence, in the premises, if he desires it; and that the committee appoint time and place for the examination."

The perusal of this paper gave rise to the following dialogue, substantially, between the writer and the Committee. "Gentlemen," said he, "you speak of a *defence*, will you please to tell me what are the charges against me?" Mr. Smallwood, on the part of the committee, observed, that "the paper spoke of a *defect in the government of the College*." "Well," said the writer, "is that a charge against me? if so, what is the meaning of it?" Mr. S. replied, "we have seen a letter from a gentleman in Kentucky, who *has heard* that there is some licentiousness in the college, and fearing there may be some defect in the government in this respect, he writes to inquire." "And is this," replied the writer, "the foundation of a capital charge against me? I thought a charge was generally founded upon fact! Let me understand you, gentlemen! last night you were speaking of my discipline being too severe; now you would imply that it has not been severe enough; you cannot make

\* He was understood to refer to some particular person, or persons, on "the Hill," who were hostile, and the nature of the hostility was illustrated by the parallel case of Dr. Fell, quoted by Col. Bond.

"I do not like you, Dr. Fell,

"The reason why I cannot tell;

"But this, at least, I know full well,

"I do not like you, Dr. Fell."

† The report itself is inserted below, and will be seen to contain no such charge. The disagreement is of little consequence in itself, but it shows very plainly the shifts to which the Board was reduced in their effort to find out a plausible ground for their contemplated action.

both these issues together. However, if you choose, I can answer them both. Tell the gentleman in Kentucky, that the case to which he alludes, [I know very well what it was,] was punished with instant expulsion. I presume that will be sufficient. And then, if any one thinks we were too severe, tell *him* that ——— was dismissed for so and so, (stating the case.) Was *that* too severe?" "Certainly not," was the answer. "Very well then gentlemen, *that* matter is disposed of; anything more?" Mr. Smallwood then inquired, whether the writer "had heard the statements made to them by Professor Sandels;" and not receiving an immediate answer, [the writer being somewhat amazed by this reference,] he was proceeding to state some of the particulars, when he was stopped by Col. Bond, and went no further. "Col. Bond," said the writer, "will *you* tell me what are the charges against me?" "Nothing at all, sir," said he, with strong emphasis; "I have not heard the beginning of any charge against you whatever." "Then," said the writer, "I have no defence to make. When I am called in question for any official misconduct, or impropriety of any kind, I shall be ready to respond to it in a proper manner. At present, the idea of a defence is absurd; nor would you, Col. Bond, as a lawyer, advise me to make it." Nothing further, of consequence, transpired, and the gentlemen took their leave.

Three of the gentlemen came to dinner, viz., Smallwood, Rogers, and Delano. Just before going in, Mr. Wing, Secretary of the Board, called, with another communication, as follows:

"At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Theological Seminary, &c., held this day, the following report and resolutions were unanimously adopted, and secretary requested to communicate the same to President Douglass, and report to the Board his answer at two o'clock, P. M.

"The Committee, which has had in charge the inquiry into the causes that have produced the existing diminution in the number of the students belonging to the classes of Kenyon College, and Preparatory Schools, has had the subject in anxious consideration, and made all the investigation in their power, and REPORT, that, in their view, two facts have mainly led to the present state of things—one is, the high charges in the Senior Grammar school, whereby that department is almost reduced to a nonentity. The other they mention with great reluctance, because it attaches to a most excellent man, well worthy of universal respect and affection—the point to which they refer is the unpopularity of the President. In regard to the justice of this difficulty, the Committee do not pretend to speak; but it is believed, by us, to exist, and to operate prejudicially to the Institution over which he presides. The Committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. "That the charge for tuition in the Senior Preparatory School be reduced, &c.

2. "That, while we sincerely deprecate the necessity, we are constrained, in view of all the circumstances of the case, respectfully to ask President Douglass to resign his official relation to this Institution;

assuring him, at the same time, that the Board, as a body, and individually, entertain for him the kindest feelings of regard.

3. "That the salary of President Douglass be paid him to the first of September next."\*

After looking over this paper, the writer informed Mr. Wing that he should probably not answer it; but when Mr. Smallwood went up from the dinner table, he had changed his purpose, and requested the latter to say that he would write a few lines and wait upon the Board as soon as he had done so. Accordingly, about four o'clock, P. M., he went to their place of meeting, and read the following paper:

*Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees, &c.*

I decline acting upon your suggestion, communicated by Mr. Wing, for reasons which I cannot but believe your sense of rectitude and justice will approve.

In the first place, I am not unpopular in the sense assumed by the Board. Most men in public stations, and especially those who have discipline to administer, are unpopular in some sense, and so I may be, but not in a way to impugn my character or usefulness as an officer of this Institution. The Board has made out a case, it seems, satisfactory to itself, but by a process secret and inquisitorial, and in the highest degree oppressive and unjust. No public character, in any station of responsibility, could stand before such an inquest; and I here respectfully, but solemnly, enter my protest against it.

Secondly, the circumstance alleged, if true, is no ground of proceeding against me. Popularity in itself, is no test of faithfulness; it may be impaired by causes, for which the party concerned is not in the slightest degree responsible; in some instances it may be even an evidence of

\* 1. The process by which this Committee pretend to have arrived at their conclusion, was wholly secret and ex parte—conducted by persons little, if at all acquainted with the domestic economy of the Institution, or with the social condition of "the Hill," and incompetent therefore, to test, if they were so disposed, either the credibility, or the weight and bearing of the statements they received. It consisted of a few hasty visits, generalized just so far as to avoid exposing the agency of accomplices, but without embracing in its results, any of the statements of the uninitiated, except as they happened to suit, or could be wrested to the contemplated end. This miserable mockery the Committee have the hardihood to call an "investigation," and the shallow survey founded upon it, a "view of all the circumstances."

2. Why was the process secret, and without notice to the party concerned? Should it be said there was no party concerned prior to inquiry, this would answer the second member of the question, but not the first: nor can it be explained why the President of the College was not called, *ab initio*, to the deliberations of the Board, on such a subject, except by the fact that there was a presentment anterior to all inquiry. Let any president of a college realize the case.

3. The *merits* of the alleged unpopularity, the Committee do not profess to have inquired into; yet this is precisely the question, and the only question which, in reference to the President's official character, they ought to have investigated. "St. Paul was rather unpopular at Damascus;" was he criminal therefore? The martyrs who in various ages have witnessed, or suffered reproach for the faith, were they malefactors? Such, however, would be the verdict of this Committee.

4. The report contains no explanation whatever for the diminution of fifty per cent. at Milnor Hall.

5. The third resolution is mere surplusage. The President is entitled to salary for the balance of the academic year, and could recover it at common law.



*unfaithfulness.* This point was well argued by Bishop McIlvaine, when the same allegation was made against him as Chaplain at West Point, in 1827; and fortunately there was not wanting, on that occasion, a friend, ready to stand forth in his behalf, in the face of a deeper seated hostility than can be conceived of here.\*

Thirdly, the circumstance alleged, however it may be true in fact, is wholly insufficient to account for the facts of which it is assumed as the cause. The falling off in numbers is not in the College classes, but in the Grammar schools. The effective number in those classes when I came here was *thirty-seven*, it is now *thirty-nine*, and has not materially varied from that number in all the intermediate time. In the senior Grammar school however, there has been a diminution from *forty-two* year before last, to *twenty-four* last year, and *eleven* now. So also in the Junior Grammar school, from *fifty-four* last year, to *twenty-seven* or *eight* now. But what is that to me? I have nothing to do with the internal affairs of those schools; I took no credit for their increase, and I protest against being held in any way responsible for their decrease. The real causes I apprehend in both cases, were very easily ascertained, if that had been the object of your committee.†

I might state other matters appropriate to this subject, but I forbear; the time is short, and I am already, perhaps, extending my privilege too far

Conscious as I am, of entire rectitude in the performance of my duties; of sincere and unhesitating devotion of heart and soul, to the interests of Kenyon College, which no one can deny has greatly improved under my administration;‡ certain I may add also of having the love and es-

\* The writer lays claim to no merit for the part he took on that occasion. He believed it to be the part of justice and humanity, and as such, performed it willingly; yet, in point of fact, he did incur the censure of several of his old professional friends; some, with whom he had even passed the "Baptême de feu," of 1814. Even the signers of the certificate were displeased, not having anticipated the use to be made of it.

† The heads of these Institutions, were Professor Sandels, in the Senior Grammar school, and Messrs. Blake and Badger in the Junior, at Milnor Hall. A visitatorial office was committed to the writer—of which he was not aware, till after his arrival at Gambier—but which he faithfully discharged. His visits to Milnor Hall, in particular, were frequent till he had reason to believe they were regarded by the heads of that institution with jealousy, and then after a conversation with one of them, they were in part discontinued. His official relation to the Senior school, was of the same nature, though in practice somewhat more intimate, from the fact, that the pupils occupied part of the college building.

The causes of the decline of both these institutions were no mystery: that of the Senior Grammar school, had been a frequent subject of expostulation with Professor Sandels; and those of the Junior Grammar school, not only spoken of to the principals, but in part, confidentially to the Bishop; and thus it was believed, and is still believed, the visitatorial responsibility was fully discharged.

A bishop would hold a very unenviable position, if he was held officially accountable for the decline of every particular parish in his diocese.

‡ In the three years of the writers incumbency, the interior of the College edifice, which had become disgracefully dilapidated and filthy, was overhauled and put in thorough repair. A large portion of the plaister and joinery work entirely renewed, rooms neatly painted and papered, and furnished with bedsteads, straw mattresses, wash-stands, tables and chairs—a system of police was also introduced, by which these articles with the rooms and appurtenances, were minutely registered, and the

teem of a large portion of those under my charge ; nearly half of them being my clients by their own voluntary choice ; I cannot consent to give up the high ground on which I *feel* that I am standing, by the tender of my resignation. The Board may pass an ostracism upon me—be it so. With a firm and reverent reliance upon that Providence which has covered my head in the day of battle, I shall endeavour to meet and bear the blow ; but *I will never cease to protest against it, as an act of flagrant cruelty, injustice, and oppression.*

(Signed) D. B. DOUGLASS.

Gambier, 29th February, 1844.

The writer withdrew immediately after reading this paper, and in the evening, while he was with his family at the Thursday evening lecture, Mr. Wing, again called and left on his table a package, containing the final proceedings of the Board, as follows :

“ At a meeting of the Board of Trustees, of the Theological Seminary of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the Diocese of Ohio, held at Gambier, this 29th February, 1844 ; the following resolution, was, on motion, unanimously adopted.

“ *Resolved*—That in the opinion of this Board, President D. B. Douglass, L.L.D. has ever bestowed his best endeavours to promote the interests of the Institution over which he presides ; and that as a Board of Trustees, we entertain for him a high regard, as a gentleman of integrity and moral worth.”

Certified Copy. M. T. C. WING, *Secretary.*

Also on a separate paper, with the same caption, the recital and resolution following, viz :

“ Whereas, President Douglass, for reasons specified to him, has been requested by this Board to resign his office as President and Professor in Kenyon College ; and whereas, he has declined to do so ; therefore,

“ *Resolved*, That the connexion of D. B. Douglass, L.L.D. with Kenyon College as President and Professor thereof, be, and the same is, hereby dissolved.”

Certified Copy. M. T. C. WING, *Secretary.*

These papers were accompanied by a caveat, signed by the members care and accountability of them *identified*. An entire reform had also been effected in the general and personal discipline ; of which the Patronage system, the Matriculation system, and that of merit, and of College honors, as set forth in the Catalogue, are a part ; and of which the benefits were strongly exhibited in the improved department and character of the students. Improvements had also been made on the grounds of the College. These had hitherto lain open in commons ; and around the doors of the edifice were defiled with wood piles, ash heaps, and rubbish of every description ; now, they were inclosed and cultivated as a College Park. More than 4000 trees and saplings, were taken up by the roots, and the undergrowth cleared out—1 or 500 tons of stone picked up—the Campus cleaned off, smoothed and seeded with grass—shrubby planted—walks laid out—and an avenue of stone and gravel carried out, about 500 yards from the front of the College, with a handsome gate way of cut stone erected at the end of it.

False reports have been circulated as to the expense of these improvements to the College, of which notice will be taken hereafter.

of the board present, setting forth that the bishop had taken no part in their proceedings; and doubtless intended to convey the idea that he had no part in the *subject matter*.\*

On the receipt and perusal of these documents, about nine o'clock—the work of the Board being now complete—the writer assembled his family, and communicated to them the intelligence of their common calamity. He will not trespass upon the feelings of the reader, by more than a mere allusion to this most trying and painful occasion. Many of those interested had previously known nothing of the events which a single day had been bringing forth; and to them therefore, it was the utter and instant prostration of their whole scheme of life. In the midst of it all however, it was our happiness to enjoy a more than ordinary sense of reliance upon divine Providence; and this, with the absence of all occasion for self reproach, kept us from an excess of sorrow. Honour had been saved, though all else had been lost.

The news of the writer's dismissal created, as might be expected, a very considerable sensation in the College. For some days study was in a great measure suspended, and although nothing was known of the real merits of the case, and there was of course room for the wildest rumors, it was evident from the deportment of the students generally, that there must be, to some extent, a feeling towards him of sympathy and kindness. To what extent he did not yet know. He had been dismissed for *unpopularity*, and in the absence of distinct evidence, for he had never hitherto asked the question, he presumed that he *must be* unpopular, at least among those to whom the restraints of government were irksome. The experience of a week, however, served to dissipate this impression. In the course of this time he had received from every member of the College and Senior Grammar school, personally, the most decided expressions of confidence and regard;† and eventually by their own spontaneous act, the following letter, dated—

“*Kenyon College, March 14th, 1844.*”

“D. B. DOUGLASS, L. L. D.

“*Dear Sir*—We, the undersigned, students of Kenyon College, in consideration of the late unfortunate change which you have experienced in being suddenly removed from the Presidency of said Institution, take pleasure in bearing our testimony to the diligence and zeal with which you have pursued such measures as you deemed condu-

\* The board may have been sincere in this belief; but if so, they must have known very little of the politics of Gambier; and it will be seen hereafter, that even the bishop himself does not sustain them as to the fact.

† An attempt has been made to cast censure upon the writer as having assembled the students at his own house; and excited them to insubordination, &c. The statement is wholly untrue. The classes were permitted to call upon him in compliance with their own request. It was granted without hesitation, as the writer had neither committed, or was accused of any crime, and why should he refuse? So far from having stimulated them to insubordination, he publicly cautioned them in the chapel *against* anything of the kind, and admonished privately to the same effect, those who were his clients. He did indeed, read and explain to them the documents which have been quoted, but it was the opinion of Professor Ross that this might have been done in the chapel, publicly.

cive to the interests and welfare of the Institution ; also to your sincere kindness and hospitality in endeavouring to enhance our comfort and happiness, and to secure our affections.

“We would also freely express our entire confidence of your strict integrity, and in your gentlemanly character ; our high respect for your eminent attainments in science, your moral and religious worth, which do honour to you and to your country. In taking our leave, we feel the liveliest interest for your future happiness, and also for that of your family ; and do assure you that you carry away our sincere respect, and our most earnest wishes that God would abundantly prosper both you and them, in basket and store, body and mind, to the end of life.

“With this expression, dear sir, of our sentiments and feelings, we bid you an affectionate farewell.”

(Signed by 51, being the *whole number* of College and senior Grammar School students, including one or two passed students, resident on the Hill, and *not* including the two sons of the writer.)

It will be understood by the intelligent reader that the above letter is not published as a voucher of the writer's character, but simply as an evidence of the kind feelings of the students, unanimously, towards him ; and in this aspect he never can cease to regard it, coming as it does from those among whom it had been his duty to exercise, in some instances, even the severities of a parental but unyielding discipline, but as one of the most valued and pleasing testimonials of filial confidence and esteem. With this letter, the writer ventures to rest the question of his unpopularity.

Whoever shall have read with attention the following details, can hardly fail, it is believed, of perceiving that the allegation of unpopularity must have been a mere pretext—*non causa pro causa*—to cover up and excuse an arbitrary and violent proceeding ; and he will most naturally look for some other cause ;—perchance a human motive and human agent, to account for this so singular and sudden ejection of the head of a College from office ; not only without accusation, but in the face of a unanimous vote of high approbation.

That the reader may be enabled to form some judgment of that motive and agency, the writer will now submit a brief statement of facts explanatory of the circumstances under which he became connected with, and held office in the Institution.

The first occasion of interest felt by the writer in the seminary at Gambier, dates back as early as the year 1826-7—the epoch of Bishop Chace's effort to raise a College endowment, in addition to that previously raised for the Theological Seminary. In the winter of that year, while the Bishop was endeavouring to obtain a grant of land from Congress, the writer met him at the table of the then Secretary of State, (Hon. H. Clay,) at Washington, and received from him a most interesting account of what he was doing and expected to do, for the Institution : And it was in the power of the writer, through his class-

mate and intimate friend, Mr. Kane, (Senator from Illinois,) to contribute somewhat towards the interest then beginning to be felt in that behalf.

The next occasion was in the year 1832, when the Rev. Mr. McIlvaine, with whom the writer had long been upon terms of the most unreserved intimacy, was elected Bishop of Ohio; and this interest was not a little increased, when, on his (the Bishop's) first visit to his new field of labour, before the removal of his family, he caused it to be intimated through Mrs. M., that a Vice Presidency would be instituted, which *he intended expressly for the occupancy of the writer*. This idea was strongly enforced by the Bishop personally, after his return to the East; and in his appeal to the liberality of the community about that time, it was publicly announced in the following terms. "The office of Vice President has recently been created, to which will be attached the Professorship of Natural Philosophy. This has been done for the purpose of relieving the Bishop and President of all other than a very general superintendence over the College proper. He will act in relation to it chiefly through the Vice President; and he is happy to say that a pious layman of the Episcopal Church, of high reputation for science, and of much experience in college education and government, is expected to take that office."

Under the Bishop's earnest solicitation the writer was induced to accept this office; and a few extracts from the letters of the former, after his removal to Ohio, will show the interest with which that concession was regarded by him. Under date July 27th, 1832, he thus writes:

"Every thing promises well—much arrangement and organization are wanted, but the materials with which to do it are at hand, and good—it is the precise condition for which you are wanted, and in managing which, you will be in your element—you will be rejoiced at coming—your family will be more happy than ever before—your usefulness will be very great."—"We only want a little time, and *you* to come on and take the lead, to be exceedingly effective."—"We are at a stand about the church," &c.—"How we want you for that purpose and for other churches—we are afraid to do any thing for ourselves in such a work—do not delay any longer than is absolutely essential."—"You will have full sweep when you come."

Aug. 12th. 1833.—"I am preparing a new code of laws to be laid before the Trustees—a work in which I would give more than I can tell only to have you alongside of me for consultation—dear me, how I need you on all sides!"—"I have given out that you are to have classes in Civil Engineering and Architecture," &c.

In the summer of 1833, after the writer had his furniture nearly all packed for removal, circumstances connected with his professional business intervened, and obliged him after some little delay, to write to the Bishop retracting or deferring his acceptance. The following extract from the Bishop's letter in reply, will further illustrate the state of his feelings at that time, on the whole subject.

"Alas! the disappointment—that you are not to come for a year—

*what a blow!*—I reel under it.”——“You are the pivot of the whole machine—it tumbles to pieces without you.”——“The prospective character of the College is associated in the public mind with your being here next term—students come on that account—the Church is satisfied with my Presidency *only* because you as Vice President are expected to sustain the duties of President.”——“We shall be almost ruined if you remain in Brooklyn.”——“I shall be in despair.”——“Dear Major, I have no idea that your condition will be materially bettered by this new project.”——“Here, by yourself, your expenses will be almost nothing, and I will share my last shilling with you—alas! alas! what shall we do? The Professors to whom I have mentioned your letter, are panic-struck—what shall we do? is the universal exclamation.”——“It cannot be, dear Major, it is not duty to do so much hurt.”

Under date of 18th October, 1833, he again writes as follows :

“Major, your coming out this fall is perfectly indispensable; consider that you have been regularly appointed by the Trustees, the Vice President of the College, and Professor of Natural Philosophy; that the appointment was made for the particular purpose of your taking immediately the government of the Institution;—that the whole Diocese depends upon you to take that charge from my shoulders; that the whole organization of the College has been framed with special reference to you as its executive head, and is almost a nullity without you; that the present interest so generally felt in the College, arises out of the supposition that you are to be here from the commencement of next term,” &c.——“The Trustees will censure me for having brought the College into such a dilemma—the donors will accuse me of having held out false encouragements to induce them to subscribe—it will be universally concluded that you are not to come at all, and I shall think so seriously, for whatever your anticipations, I do not believe you will be any more at liberty in another year than you are now.”——“You are well known in the Reserve, where I have just been, and the public eye is on you as a great acquisition to the West.—‘When is Major Douglass to be at Gambier?’ I was frequently asked. I answered, in spite of your letter, ‘we expect him at the beginning of next term.’ Am I to undergo the affliction and mortification of being disappointed?’ &c. &c.

In the course of the following winter his (the Bishop’s) urgency became so very pressing as to be painful to the writer, and he was obliged to remonstrate with him on the subject; after which he desisted, and in his address to the Convention of 1834, the subject was disposed of in the following terms :

“The apparatus of the department of Natural Philosophy has been increased by valuable donations from D. B. Douglass, Esq. who, though affectionately attached to the Institution, has been unavoidably prevented from becoming, as was hoped and expected, its Vice President.”

A further occasion of interest to the writer arose from his placing his two sons in the Institution, in the year 1834—both of whom re-

mained to graduate ; one in 1837, the other in 1838, and who, during their continuance there, enabled him by their correspondence, in addition to that of Bishop McIlvaine, to realize current interests and events, nearly as if he had resided upon the spot.

In the year 1840, the Bishop renewed his proposition to the writer to take office in the Institution, not as Vice-President of the Theological Seminary, but as President of Kenyon College ;—the mixed faculty, composed of Professors in Arts and Theology, having been resolved into two ; with separate Presidencies, for the Seminary and College. The terms in which this proposition was communicated, will further illustrate the views and sentiments of the Bishop towards the writer, at that time. Under date of August 10th, he writes thus :

“ *Dear Major*—I wrote you hastily, yesterday, announcing your appointment as President of Kenyon College, with a salary of \$1,000, house, and ten acres of land, &c. I write now to say, the appointment is exceedingly popular, only it is predicted by certain, who would not be a *little* pleased to see my plans fail, that you will not come. I say you will, and all with me depends on that.”—“I do hope you will consent to consecrate yourself to this work for life”——“You must come ; I am killed if you do not,” &c., &c.

Under date of August 19th, he again writes as follows :

“ *My Dear Major*—I have received one letter from you, and think it encouraging—I do exceedingly hope that nothing will prevent your acceptance.”

Sept. 5th, as follows : “I am looking anxiously for a letter from you. I cannot go from home, nor fix upon anything ahead, till I hear your decision, which I do earnestly hope, with the most *anxious* hope—will be *yes*, and immediately. Yours, most affectionately,” &c.

Sept. 8th and 18th, to the same effect. Sept. 21st, as follows : “I have been greatly relieved, to-day, by yours of the 14th, by which I conclude, as on the strength of it, I have given out that you are coming ; all sorts of rumors had been spread that you had declined.”——“I could only hope, but I have suffered great anxiety.”——“The questions you proposed, as to the interference of the Board, &c., may all be answered in one sentence—they have never interfered in such things—all has been left to the Faculty—all under you will be—so you are left at ease on all such heads.—Therefore, I conclude that you will certainly come—and, Major, I do honestly believe, that it is your duty to the church—to your usefulness—to your family.—I know you will never be as happy in Brooklyn as you may be here—I chose you because I wanted you for the College—but believing also that it would be good for you.”

Other letters in the same spirit follow—sometimes two in a week, embracing various subjects of information and discussion, until the treaty was concluded by the writer’s unreserved acceptance.

It has been thought necessary to give some extension to these extracts, inasmuch as an attempt has been made to disparage the motives of the writer, and misrepresent the views and circumstances under which he was appointed to, and accepted the Presidency of the College. The at-

tentive reader will hardly need to be told that it was in no selfish spirit, nor for considerations of private or personal advantage, that he was induced to remove to Gambier. Many of his intimate friends will bear him witness that it was, in fact, his long-cherished, devoted, and uncompromising attachment to Bishop McIlvaine, that chiefly actuated him in taking that step. It had been understood from the Bishop's lips, as well as from his correspondence, that he was surrounded by enemies at Gambier; and that he was likely to become the victim of a systematic and unscrupulous opposition. All his talk with the writer, during his visit to the east, just before the Convention of 1840, was of resigning the Episcopate, in case he should not be able to command, in that Convention, the influence he desired.\* Such were the circumstances, *in the view of the writer*; and though he was anxious, certainly, to fill up the measure of his usefulness, and not unwilling to afford to his family the blessings of that peaceful retirement so eloquently portrayed in some of the Bishop's letters; his chief and inciting motive was, to rally for his friend, to stand by him, and hold up his hands in the struggle in which he was *supposed* to be engaged, and to sustain, to the uttermost in his power, and upon principle, the honour of the Episcopate.

The strength of this motive may be evidenced by reference to the sacrifices made, and difficulties encountered in carrying his acceptance into effect. He was engaged in one of the most interesting and pleasing employments with which he had ever been occupied—the laying out and improvement of the Greenwood Cemetery. His professional income was at the rate of from \$2,000 to \$2,500 per annum—the latter sum at the moment of leaving. These were to be relinquished. On the other hand, his connections with various pecuniary interests in the cities of New-York and Brooklyn, at a time when the business of those cities was at its lowest ebb, were not to be dissolved but with very great difficulty, and at great sacrifice. His actual sacrifices—in the disposition of *personal* property amounted to more than one thousand dollars. And the removal of his family was itself, no inconsiderable item; yet all this was encountered, and encountered cheerfully, under the influence of the disinterested sentiment just quoted.

The Ohio Convention of 1840, at Mount Vernon, broke down the organization of the party opposed to Bishop McIlvaine, and established him in full power. "All now," he observed in one of his letters to the writer—"all now see that I am head." It was evident however, at the date of the writer's arrival at Gambier in March, 1841, that this circumstance had not *entirely* neutralized the elements of hostility at that place. The actual ebullition of party strife had indeed, subsided, but it needed not the intercourse of many days, to see that the leaven was still there; social intercourse was at a stand; suspicion and distrust seemed to pervade every thing; and in the midst of it all, it was apparent that anything but a feeling of good will existed towards

\* The writer was wholly opposed to the alternative of resignation, and argued against it.



the Bishop; though some, whether from duty or policy, made a considerable show of external respect.

To this community, thus circumstanced, the writer was introduced under the chaperonage of the Bishop himself—*receiving from him*, on the one hand, all his impressions of the recent controversies, as well as of the parties concerned in them; and *being identified with him*, on the other, as his avowed friend and partisan—and so participating, of course, in all the odium of the discomfited party towards him. But this was not all. The new President and Faculty had come into office in the shoes, as it were, of the antagonist party—and the writer, in particular, as the head of the Academic body, had an invidiousness to bear, on that account, independently of his partisanship for the Bishop.

It is not to be supposed that the writer had more than a very slight apprehension of the perils and difficulties of his position, as here exhibited, during the first period of his residence. He was aware—he had been so, even before he left Brooklyn—that he should be associated with a community somewhat distracted and demoralized by previous dissensions; but he was greatly in the dark as to the extent and real character of those dissensions, and wholly blind as to the invidiousness of his position relatively to them: Or if he may have had some slight fears for himself, on any of these accounts, they were neutralized by his implicit reliance on the firmness and reciprocal attachment of Bishop McIlvaine.

His first intercourse with the community at Gambier, under these circumstances, necessarily involved some degree of antagonism. Almost every body had something to say about the Bishop, and some were loud and unreserved in their denunciations of him; *these*, when the writer was thrown in contact with them, were mildly checked, and if not so restrained—avoided. Others, more reasonable, and especially those whom the Bishop had expressed a desire to conciliate, were approached with arguments, for the purpose of removing prejudice, and correcting ill feelings; and the effects of this regimen steadily pursued, were soon apparent in the improvement of social intercourse, and a better state of feeling towards the Bishop.

We come now to an important crisis in the affairs of the writer. In the course of the first year of his residence, whether under the influence of the action just mentioned, or from a change in the tactics of the malcontents, it began to be noticed that those who had previously been active in their opposition to the Bishop, and in regard to some of whom he had expressed to the writer his want of confidence, had become, in a very particular sense, his active and apparently devoted friends. The writer was, at first, gratified, in observing this *seeming* evidence of good feeling, but he presently found, that as *it became more decided, his own position became proportionably equivocal*; and such was the progress of this change, that, by the summer of 1842, he was thrown back to a relation of bare civility, while the former enemies and opponents of the Bishop were enjoying the noontide beams of his Episcopal confidence and favour. It seemed as if the latter, after placing his ally in the “fore front,” had consulted his own interest by going over to the enemy. But

the theory of this movement will be better understood by a brief reference to the writer's own official situation, relatively to the Bishop, at the period referred to.

In the propositions made by Bishop McIlvaine, during his treaty with the writer, nothing could exceed the largeness and liberality of his assurances;—the powers of the Presidency were to be most full and ample, without any fear of undue interference in the academic administration of the College, from the Board, or anybody else. It was to be *really*, as in any other case, a *Presidency*. Soon after the writer's arrival at Gambier, finding that the constitutional character of the Institution, in conformity with the new organization, had not been fixed by any written code, he took an early occasion to converse with the Bishop on that subject, and to make some suggestions as to the elements of such a code. To his great surprise, the overture was received with marked impatience and displeasure; and so much excitement shown, that the writer, in some alarm—not only at the *temper* exhibited, but at the apparent disposition *not to realize* the expectations previously held out—actually meditated countermanding his directions for his family and furniture to follow him. While seated in the Bishop's study, however, on the next evening, with this thought in mind, the latter came in, with a very changed air, and putting his arm familiarly over the writer's shoulder said, "Dear Maj! you are a good fellow after all." Being reminded of his language of *yesterday*, he apologised for it, and proceeded—"you understand all about these matters (college organization, &c.) much better than I do. Only give us a little time to breathe, and you shall have it all as you desire." "As much as you please," the writer replied, "so we only understand each other," &c., &c.

Reassured by this conversation, the writer dismissed all thought of countermanding his arrangements, and entered with alacrity upon his Presidential duties. There was no lack of employment. The bishop had prepared the writer to expect a field of more than ordinary responsibility and labour, in the various improvements of the college; and that expectation was soon abundantly realized. His office was not the less pleasing, however, on that account; the greatness of the labour in a work of so much intrinsic dignity and importance, rather gave a stimulus to his ardour, and being relieved from all doubt, as to the hearty concurrence and co-operation of his friend, the Bishop, he gave himself unreservedly to its multifarious duties.\*

In the progress of the season of 1841, the writer began to look for some movement on the part of the Bishop, in conformity with the assurance above quoted; and the more anxiously, as he began to experience some of the inconveniences of the undefined position in which he was placed. He thought it possible something would be moved, at the

\* The writer has no design in these or any other of his remarks, to disparage the labours of other members of the Faculty, in their respective departments. In some instances, these were most unexceptionable and praiseworthy. But he owes it to himself to state, what was the fact, that those gentlemen were all of recent appointment as a College Faculty, and but little accustomed to College administration; and that, except himself, not one of the professors had been *through College*, or received an academic degree *in course*.

meeting of the Trustees, at commencement in August, 1841; but to his astonishment, though several of the members had intended to meet the new President at that time, a circular was sent by the Bishop advising them not to come, and there was no meeting. He then looked to the meeting at Chillicothe; but, except to approve of some of the writer's plans for the improvement of the College and grounds, and transferring the care and preservation of them from the agent, to the President and Faculty, nothing transpired; and so far as the writer could judge, no movement was contemplated by the Bishop, in reference to the particular matter referred to. The writer, at last, spoke to him on the subject, and was not a little pained to observe with what instant address it *was evaded*. Another meeting of the Board took place at Cincinnati, in the spring of 1842, from which, however, as the writer was not present, he expected no action; but as the next convention, (1842,) was to sit at Gambier in September, he looked forward with confidence to *that*, as the proper occasion for defining all unsettled points, and establishing between the constituent and administrative bodies, such relations as were necessary for their successful and harmonious joint action.

It was in the prosecution of these views—through Bishop McIlvaine—in the precise manner stated, and always looking to him, *and to him only*, for the initial action—that the writer began first to experience the repulsive coldness and hauteur of that gentleman.\* The first realization of this treatment he need not say was an occasion of deep grief to him; he looks back upon it, even now, as one of the severest afflictions of his life; not so much for the thing itself, but for the motive and policy by which it was evidently prompted. It was the revelation of a trait in the Bishop's character, which, however, it may have been apprehended by others, had not been revealed to the writer in all the previous intercourse of sixteen years.

For a long time he pondered his mortification in silence, nor was that silence broken by him, till the subject became a matter of remark to others.†

In the mean time, another feature of most refined and subtle policy began to make its appearance in the connexion of these events. Vague rumors were put in circulation, that the President had some *new and strange* views about the Institution, in opposition to the Bishop; that he was discontented with the present state of things, and contemplated some *revolutionary* movements—wishing to obtain more power—get a seat in the Board of Trustees, &c.

It were easy to have shown the utter falsity of these rumours,‡ if

\* There were indications about the same time, that the Bishop's self-love had been wounded by the interest with which the improved state of things in Kenyon College, began to be spoken of; but whether this or the motive stated in the text had precedence, it would be difficult to determine, nor does it signify.

† "He is a strange man," said one of the Professors, (not unfriendly to him,) with apparent knowledge of what had taken place; "he will treat you with the utmost cordiality to-day, and without any visible reason, make a stranger of you to-morrow; you never know where to find him, and that is just the source of all our troubles here."

‡ The writer at an early period of his incumbency, on one or two occasions, ran, hypothetically, a parallel between the organic structure and design of the Institution at Gambier, and the constitution of one of the English Universities; both being The-

that could have been a circumstance of any avail ; but their influence in the small artificial and excitable community at Gambier, where the writer was comparatively a stranger, had been better calculated by him, or them, who gave them circulation. Almost before he was aware of it, the writer had been placed in a position so false, as entirely to preclude self-defence ; while, as if by a previous concert, the alarm sounded, on the pretence of his antagonism to the Bishop, brought out the remnants of the old opposition—the faction which only two years before had crowded the Bishop to the verge of resignation—with holy horror to rescue the Episcopate.

The writer has no means of knowing, to which side of the coalition, belongs the moral responsibility of this most adroit and politic movement. The Bishop may have been deceived as to the facts, but if so, his mind must have been in a peculiarly susceptible state. His actual part in the proceedings, whether original with himself, or suggested by others, is shown by *his* letter addressed to the writer, 16th of May, 1842, of which the following is an extract :

“ I have found while away, and at home, that there is *very great* fear on the part of excellent friends of the College and of us, that certain views or aims of yours as to the Institution, will so clash with the present constitution, and with me as the head of the constitutional organization, or my sense of duty in that relation, as to injure yourself and the Institution greatly, and *cause a difference and alienation between you and me*, if not begun already, in case your views are attempted to be pushed.”

The purport of all this is so plain, as scarcely to need a commentary. It was an interposition, partly by authority—partly by management, and in direct opposition to all former professions—to frustrate a legitimate exercise of the writer's mind and influence, for the benefit of the College. No object could be more desirable than to fix and establish the organic relations of the Institution, and define the duties and responsibilities of its different functionaries. The writer's “ views ” on this subject were open to discussion. He neither held them up to the consideration of

ological in their object : both founded by the donations of pious men for the benefit of the church ; both federal in constitution, having a collective unity, embracing several distributive unities ; with a scheme of Government to correspond. And the perfection of the system had been illustrated *con amore*, by an account of the actual working of it, in the foreign example. The writer knew no reason, nor does he yet know, why he should not be at liberty to speak on such a subject with the utmost freedom. His acquaintance with academic organization, had been one of the very considerations under which he was called to take office in the Institution ; and yet it would seem, that the utterance of these thoughts, as a matter of theory only, was *at Gambier*, and for the occasion, a ground of serious reprehension. As to the charge of wishing to obtain a seat in the Board of Trustees ; it is not a very serious one. The exclusion scarcely exists in any other College than Kenyon, and is not even there, justified, upon principle. It was represented to the writer by one of the Trustees, as having been enacted after Bishop McIlvaine became “ head,” for the purpose of excluding Dr. Sparrow and his party. The charge, however, so far as regards the writer, was *totally false*. He had no wish on the subject. He thought, and *still thinks* the President of the College ought to have been *present* at all deliberations affecting that Institution ; he had been accustomed to a similar relation in corporate bodies, as a civil engineer ; but even this he did not urge as a personal wish. The Trustees were much more interested on this subject than himself.

others, or valued them himself, except as they were conformable to the *terms of donation*, [which he considered to be the fundamental law,] and the *views* of the original founder. So far from having any personal interest in them, they would, if realized, have transferred from him to the Bishop—without the slightest equivalent—several of his most dignified and responsible powers.\* Yea, and this very circumstance was the chief consideration urged by the writer upon the Bishop in favour of speedy action; since, if *these* were the *true* “*views*,” it was not likely that *another* President would be willing to make the concessions necessary to carry them into effect.

The Bishop’s note not only restrained all further attempts to carry out the “*views*” of the writer in regard to the formation of a fundamental code, but gave also an ominous intimation of what, in the Bishop’s “*view*,” was to constitute the “*infallible rule*” of the Institution, instead of such a code. It was not pretended that the *writer’s views* were *wrong*; but, that they might “*clash with me* (the Bishop) as *head of the Constitutional organization*, or with my (the Bishop’s) sense of duty in that relation.”

“*Sic volo, sic jubeo, pro ratione voluntas*,” was to be the test; nor was the penalty of unsubjectiveness left in any very dubious obscurity.†

There was yet remaining a hope, though a faint one, that some more determinate rule might be adopted, when the Board met in September, and to that therefore, the writer looked forward with interest in proportion to the hope. But the time at length came, and *the hope* was—wholly “*deferred*.” Although the writer had been in office nearly two years, and this was the first meeting of the Board at Gambier during that time, they met and re-met, and appointed their committees, (one of which inspected the College edifice,) with as little reference to the writer as if he had been the janitor or the sweeper. Exceedingly mortified at this want of common courtesy, and equally anxious to effect some intelligible relationship with the board, he at length, on the third day of their session, addressed to them, through their President, the following note, dated,

“*September 10th, 1842.*”

“*Sir*—The administration of Kenyon College has been now a large part of two years in my hands as President. The present being the first meeting of the Board of Trustees which has taken place during that time, I have been in the habit of looking forward to it as an occasion of conference and consultation on the interests of the Institution—the *views* and principles under which it has been conducted,—its present circumstances and future prospects. It seems (to me) manifestly fit and proper that some such communication should take place, and yet my situa-

\* Presiding at commencements, and on other solemn occasions; conferring degrees; and all executive functions of a general character, would have been vested in the Federal head or Chancellor, not in the President of the College.

† The writer might waive perhaps, for the present, any question as to the *rectitude* and *sincerity* of these “*views*” on the part of the Bishop; but in so doing, he would necessarily impugn his (the Bishop’s) *frankness*. For if he really and sincerely entertained them, there appears no excuse for his not having so informed the writer, before he called him from the East. The office to which he was called, under such conditions, would have been a Clerkship rather than a Presidency.

tion here is so very anomalous, that I hardly know how to proceed in regard to it, without seeming to be obtrusive. With a view to understand my position accurately, I last year requested a copy of all the acts of the Board relating to Kenyon College since the 16th March, 1839; it was not furnished however, and to this hour I have no means of knowing what is my relation to the Board of Trustees, or in what manner the interests of the Institution, of which I am President, are represented in their session. In fact, I have had no official intercourse with them since your note, announcing my election, in August, 1840. Within a few weeks, I have learned incidentally, that a resolution was passed, last year, in relation to my being present at the sessions of the Board, but even this has never been communicated, and not having had any notice of the times and places of meeting, I conclude that my information must have been erroneous.

"I state these particulars not in the spirit of complaint,—although I confess the awkwardness of my position is a subject of painful reflection,—but to excuse myself to the Board, if peradventure I may have seemed uncourteous to them in not attending their meetings, and to elicit also some information as to whether the Presidency of the College does place me in any practical relation to them or not.

"Very respectfully, D. B. DOUGLASS."

This letter was answered by a resolution, referring to the constitutional exclusion of the President as to membership, but inviting him to communicate with the Board, on the interests of Kenyon College, as he might see proper; *without* defining however his official relationship to the Board in general. But although no very tangible result was realized from this note, in regard to the official relations of the writer, it was pleasing to observe a somewhat improved state of feeling towards him, on the part of the members of the Board. One of them detained him in the Chapel after prayers on the following morning, and very earnestly solicited his confidence, observing that there was evidently something wrong in the Institution, and expressing fears that the Episcopal influence was unfavourable to its prosperity; and finally, that it was the duty of the writer to communicate freely and fully with the members of the Board on this subject. The reply of the latter was, that he had been appointed to office on the nomination of Bishop Mellvaine,—that for many years there had been the most familiar intimacy between them, (the Bishop and the writer,) and although the latter deeply felt the painfulness of his present position, he was unwilling to make it,—as he thought he should make it, by such a communication still more false. He would rather, if it came to the worst, resign. The member referred to, expressed his sentiment very strongly against resigning, and recommended to make further trial, and see whether it would not grow better. &c. Other members expressed themselves in similar terms, personally, and by letter.

The workings of the Bishop's mind, at length, in the latter part of October, 1842, reached something like a crisis.—The writer calling upon him at his study about that time, on a matter of business purely

incidental, and without apprehension of any unpleasant occurrence; the Bishop, who seemed somewhat excited from the first, adopted a course of remark calculated to disparage the services and labours of all other officers of the Institution, and to magnify his own;—referring, among other things, to the ways and means for discharging the College debt. The writer took no notice of the disparagement, but admitting the greatness of the Bishops labours, in the matter referred to, suggested that he should call upon some of his friends to assist him, and very frankly tendered his own services in any way in which they could be useful. The proffer seemed strangely to give offence, and rising from his chair, he replied in a very haughty and imperious tone: “You! what can you do toward raising thirty thousand dollars?—you can’t earn your own salary.” The writer replied firmly, but without irritation,—“Pardon me, Bishop! I do earn my salary, and that most faithfully.” He replied with greater vehemence, “you do not, sir!—you do not any of you.” The writer again repeated his assertion, both for the Faculty and himself, and was again flatly contradicted. Seeing that the Bishop was greatly exasperated, he then took his hat, observing that he did not wish to be spoken to in this manner, and would call at some other time. This movement seemed still farther to aggravate the Bishop’s excitement, and placing himself nearly in a line between the writer and the door, he commenced a strain of personal invective; more violent and inflammatory, than was ever addressed to the writer by any other man, or on any other occasion of his life. It would have been more than human not to have been excited by this unprovoked and most intemperate attack. The writer does not hesitate to say that he was excited; and that though he answered the Bishop in deprecative terms, he answered him *strongly*. Certainly not more so however, than the case warranted, and in no other way—disrespectfully or unbecomingly to either party—and the moment he could disengage himself from the encounter he did so.

This was a sad crisis, but the most cruel part of it was yet to come. Three days after, on a Faculty night, and after the members had actually assembled, a letter was put into the writer’s hands from the Bishop, to be laid before that body, which, on reading, he saw clearly could be only intended to create or excite a breach between them and himself. It was a severe rebuke for their not having acted on a subject which he professed to have referred to them, in a former communication through the President, with some advice as to the mode in which it ought to have been treated. The policy of this paper will be apparent from the following facts. The communication to which it referred was not addressed to the Faculty, but to the President;—it was subscribed familiarly, and, under the circumstances, could not have been intended or thought of as a communication to the Faculty; the subject to which it related, though it had been yielded in courtesy, to the Faculty’s action, was, in strictness, and exclusively, *Executive*.\*

\* It related to the preparation of the annual Catalogue, of which no mention being made in the laws of the Institution, it was, of course, vested in the President. See

Had there been any latent feeling of jealousy in the mind of any member of the Faculty, it could not have failed to be roused by such a communication ; and the heat of any recrimination to which it gave rise, would have been greatly increased by the Bishop's tone of rebuke. They appeared to see through it, however, and merely appointing a committee with the President to act on the subject matter, they committed the answer of the Bishop's letter, with full powers, to the President alone.

All these occurrences of necessity, produced a wide separation between Bishop McIlvaine and the writer, during which the latter had ample opportunity to survey the difficulties and perils with which he was surrounded. Feeling the necessity of some disinterested counsel, he employed himself in part, in drawing up a detailed statement of matters and things, in the form of a letter, to a friend which, though never sent, is now valuable as containing an exhibition of his views and sentiments at the time. The following extract from this letter has relation to the period and circumstances of which the writer is now speaking.

"You have little idea, Sir—living as you do in the ordinary relations of society, how cruel such suggestions are in a community like this, where every thing seems to go by party influences and discipline ; and my exposure to them without the possibility of self-defence, is not one of the least painful circumstances of the situation into which I have been drawn. Nor is this the only way in which I am defenceless. The Board of Trustees may from misapprehension or otherwise, (I say not with *intent*,) be led to pass ordinances most oppressive or unjust, in their operation :—I have no means of preventing it, nor any effective remedy but to resign. Bishop McIlvaine may at any moment neutralize my proudest and best efforts in behalf of the Institution—excite a personal feeling between me and the Faculty, or disaffect the community in which I live :—I have no means of redress or escape, but with broken down spirits to retire from office. Even my seat in the Convention depends upon the vote of a vestry—a majority of whom may at any moment be converted into a cabal against me. These are no imaginary cases—many of them have actually occurred—the last within the past week in electing delegates to the forthcoming Convention."

The circumstance last mentioned in this quotation, was connected, as the writer soon after learned, with the project then extremely popular on "the Hill," of selling the College lands. A movement on that subject had been observable for some time past, and from the increased interest manifested after the call of the Newark Convention, the writer has no doubt that a systematic attempt to that effect was intended to be brought out on that occasion. The subject had several times been mooted in his presence, with the evident desire to make him a convert to this policy ; but as he always expressed himself uncompromisingly

Laws, Ken. Col. ch. 1, art. 4. "The President shall exercise a superintending care over all the departments, &c. All matters not referred by law to the Faculty, nor otherwise provided for, shall be subject to his direction."



against it, it became an object with the parties interested to exclude him from the delegation, in which they were very nearly successful.\*

In the belief that the Bishop was the dupe of the design here spoken of, and wishing at the same time to relieve himself from the burden of the jealousy and unkindness, of which he had unfortunately become the subject, the writer, in the early part of December, determined to seek an interview with Bishop McIlvaine, and if possible, clear up at any sacrifice, whatever of difficulty there might be between that gentleman and himself. It was hardly to be expected after what had transpired, that the confidence of former times would be entirely restored, but it was an object to live upon such terms as would not interfere with the harmony of social intercourse, and a still higher one, to defeat the designs of self interest, in regard to the broad acres of the College domain. He accordingly addressed a note to the Bishop, requesting an interview, and the latter concurring, he called on the same evening, and by concessions and explanations, embracing every point which he could remember, or conceive of as a ground of unkindness, succeeded in removing, apparently, from his (the Bishop's) mind, *every unfavourable impression*; and in guarding him, as far as the writer could do so, against the designs of his old enemies. This interview was effectual to the fullest extent in restoring the relations of *external courtesy and respect*. It afforded no very distinct evidence, however, of a conciliatory disposition on the part of the Bishop, nor had the writer any assurance from his subsequent conduct that the bias of his mind was materially changed. He was still as susceptible as ever to oblique impressions, still suspicious and secretive; the writer was frequently indebted to *accident* for the knowledge that unfriendly impressions had been received, and could not but infer that others were often so received without any opportunity on his part to explain; and finally, he had *unequivocal* evidence that his (the writer's) footsteps were watched, and his words scanned to obtain evidence against him. His only hope under these circumstances, was in the simple and faithful discharge of duty, often sounding the Bishop's mind, and anticipating by explanations and concessions to the utmost in his power, any supposed or supposable ground of hostility or unkindness, and from this policy he never swerved.

Such was the state of things at the assembling of the Convention in September, 1843; an event to which the writer had looked forward with considerable interest, as affording him an opportunity of consulting with some of the friends of the Institution, in regard to the course

\* The writer derives no greater satisfaction from any thing connected with his official life at Gambier, than his persevering and steady opposition to this policy; though if he had yielded himself a convert to it, he has no manner of doubt that he would still have been President of Kenyon College. As it was, (and he recurs to it with profound thankfulness,) he was enabled in attending the Convention at Newark, to originate and sustain the policy under which 30,000 dollars have since been raised towards the payment of the debt. And in the succeeding General Convention, to record a solemn declaration against sale,—now or ever. An efficient, business-like management of this noble domain would, in the opinion of the writer, very soon put the question of sale at rest, beyond the reach of discussion.

of his duty under the difficult circumstances in which he was placed. He singled out for this purpose, Col. Bond and Gen. Cummings, two members of the Board of Trustees, and friends of Bishop McIlvaine, both of whom had previously solicited the confidence of the writer on *all* subjects connected with the Institution. He cautioned them especially, that his object was not to make any complaint against the Bishop, but simply to state a few facts for the purpose of asking their friendly counsel and advice; and he is conscious before God, that he did this as a lover of peace, in a perfectly frank and submissive spirit, insomuch, that if they had required him to make a confession and apology to Bishop McIlvaine, he would have done so without a moment's hesitation. But they did no such thing. They approved of his conduct in every respect; commended his Christian forbearance; expressed great thankfulness that the Institution was under the Presidency of one who could thus deny himself, and encouraged him, in strong terms, to continue in the same spirit—corroborating at the same time, the Bishop's action—by the analogy of their own experience in the Board of Trustees—as arbitrary and overbearing.\*

Nothing further occurred after the Convention to alter materially the aspect of things on "the Hill." The Bishop parted from the writer, on his second visit to New-York, with ordinary courtesy and met him again on his return in the latter part of December, with something *more than ordinary*; and from that time till the writer's dismissal on the 29th Feb., 1844, his (the Bishop's) deportment was characterized by all the *external* marks of courtesy and kindness. It now appears, however, that while such was the *visible* demonstration, the Bishop was actually, at this very period, arranging with his confidential advisers the *modus operandi* of the impending and final proceeding.

By a letter of his to a friend in Brooklyn, which at his request was communicated to several others, it is revealed that he (the Bishop) returned to Gambier, notwithstanding his great success in raising funds, *with a heavy heart*; having been apprised of a serious diminution in the number of the College students, and finding on his return, instead of the flourishing Institution he had anticipated, that the College was fast declining.† The letter goes on to state that he (the Bishop) upon this view of the case, immediately instituted a *secret* inquiry, and finding the Professors and teachers (of whom he inquired,) unanimous with him in the opinion that the President's unpopularity was the cause of the diminution, he called a meeting of the Board of Trustees to take action in the premises, &c. &c.‡

\* The writer's motives and conduct in this interview having been misrepresented, he is *compelled* to go into particulars. The Rev. Mr. Allen, also a Trustee, was present during part of this conversation, and concurred with the other gentlemen.

† With regard to the fact of the diminished numbers, it will have been seen in a preceding part of this statement, that but *one person* had left the College since the last Convention, besides the clique for whose dismissal the Bishop expressed so much anxiety before he left home; while in the Theological Seminary and two grammar schools, there was indeed great cause of discouragement on this account.

‡ The writer is obliged to quote this letter from the recollection of some of those to whom it was read. He wrote to Bishop McIlvaine for a correct copy of it, but the latter, probably anticipating his intention, returned his letter of request unopened.

Two or three questions naturally suggest themselves in reference to this statement of the Bishop's, viz. : Why was not the President himself consulted in some part of these proceedings? Who more likely to understand the subject of the inquiry? Why was the inquiry secret? Who was the Bishop's informant as to the fact? Who were the Professors and Teachers who corroborated his (the Bishop's) opinion with such entire unanimity? The answer to these questions is instructive. The privy council it now appears was composed, in part at least, of Professor Sandels, head of the Senior Grammar School; and one or both the heads of the Junior Grammar School,\* with the Bishop. In other words, *the heads of the three diminished seminaries* (the Theological Seminary, Senior Grammar School, and Junior Grammar School) *were unanimously of opinion, that the President of Kenyon College was the cause of the decline in said Seminaries.* What disinterestedness! What purity! What magnanimity! Let no one now ask why this process was secret: it speaks for itself.

But other things have been brought to light, in the connexion of this most extraordinary proceeding. It is now known that the design and purpose of the writer's dismissal was distinctly shadowed forth, and *spoken* of, in terms, *long before* the date of the Bishop's return from New-York. That even on the last days of the Convention, or immediately thereafter, members of the Board of Trustees were polarised in reference to that end. And this leads us to notice a circumstance in the proceedings of the Convention, upon which, in the opinion of the writer, the whole movement has had a special and immediate dependency.

The writer, it will be recollected, was one of the committee of eight, elected by the Convention to report upon that part of the Bishop's address relating to the ordination of the Rev. Arthur Cary; of which Committee Messrs. Bond, Cummings, and Smallwood, (trustees,) were also members. But it is *not* generally known, that the action originally reported for the adoption of that Committee, contained a judicial declaration in regard to the doctrinal fitness of the candidate, and to the action of the Bishop of New-York in the premises; and that said report was only brought to the form in which it was finally adopted and published, after a protracted debate, in which two members of the Committee, the writer being one, were opposed to the other six. It is not necessary to go into the particulars of this debate at present, nor even to specify the grounds on which the minority insisted; they may easily be apprehended by any one at all acquainted with the first elements of ecclesiastical jurisprudence, and the canons of the church. The debate was perfectly amicable, and generally in order, with the exception, however, that reference was several times made to the opinions and expectations of the Bishop; and the minority, during a part of the discussion, were rather invidiously held up as hindering the action of the Committee. The writer protested particularly against the last of these points as an invasion of right, and admonished the majority to

\* Professor Sandels acknowledged this fact to the writer as to himself, and the other, when questioned. did not deny it.

proceed by Parliamentary rule ; but the disagreement of the Committee was at length obviated by the substitution of an *abstract declaration*—moved by the writer, instead of the one originally proposed,—for the second resolution. And in this form, with a few verbal alterations in other parts, the report was carried into the Convention. The writer believed at the time, and was confirmed in that belief by a considerable number of the clergy and laity of the Convention, that in taking the position which he felt himself conscientiously bound to take, on that occasion, he was instrumental in saving the Convention from a very unpleasant division, and the church at large from an occasion of much fruitless agitation and controversy ; but whether this be the case or not, he is firmly convinced, from the evidences before him, that his conduct was noted by one at least of his constituency, and that his removal from office, in February following, was a regular sequence to the issue then and there made.

The end contemplated by the writer in this part of his narrative has been, as the reader will perceive, to throw some light upon the question as to the *real* agency and motive of his removal from office. He trusts he has done this ; and yet the subject is by no means exhausted. Some of the most impressive facts of the case, have been held back, in his desire to avoid as far as possible all particularities of a personal nature. The following letter, and a few remarks suggested by it, will conclude what is now to be said ; dated, and received on the day following the act of removal.

“ *Gambier, March 1st, 1844.*”

*My Dear Friend*—I beg to express my deep and affectionate sympathy in the affliction which the result of the meeting of the Trustees must have caused to you and your whole family. You will not expect me, considering my relations to the Board, to speak of that result in any way but with reference to its painfulness. But as to the *effect* of any of the action of that body upon the feeling and happiness of yourself and family, I am not only free to speak, but feel irresistably compelled to speak to you at this time. All that you could expect of me, in that aspect of the matter, from the long and intimate associations between us, under such various and interesting circumstances, be assured I do most truly feel. I can readily conceive, however, that you may so interpret the action of the Board, that this assurance may seem inconsistent. I rely upon the letter signed by the several Trustees, (which you have received,) to convince you how perfectly that action was uninfluenced by me ; how perfectly it was the spontaneous conclusion of the Trustees, acting without suggestion, direction, or influence, from any quarter but that of their own investigations. But still I shall not wonder if you should think hardly of me as being negatively involved in it, because I did not resist what is to you and all so painful. Probably it is not to be expected that, in your circumstances, you should think otherwise. I will not complain if such should be the case. I would, indeed, that I could extract some of your sufferings, by being willing to endure patiently the supposition, on your part, that the proceedings alluded to

are inconsistent with my profession of the most undiminished interest in your happiness, and sympathy in whatever afflicts you. But I must ease, a little, the pain of mind and heart which I do most acutely and oppressively suffer on account of the action of the Board, (leaving its merits out of the question) by begging you to be assured, that in me is still your old friend; the same heart toward you and yours, as ever; and that nothing of a personal kind which could be expected of any body, to serve you can be asked of me in vain, if I am able to do it.

I remain as ever, your affectionate friend

C. P. McILVAINE.

D. B. DOUGLASS, LL.D.

If the reader should find some difficulty in reconciling the profession of this letter with the previous action of its author, he will not be surprised to learn that the same was also experienced by him to whom it was addressed. There was no sentimental bias against its reception; the voice of sympathy and kindness would have been an "angel's whisper" to him in his deep distress; but the assent of his understanding was wanting. The events of the two preceding years had left "foot prints" in his memory—not very easily to be obliterated.

But if he could even have closed his mind against the remembrance of the past, the Bishop's conduct, *after* the writing of this letter, showed but too plainly that he could not have been entirely sincere in the professions of kindness by which it is so remarkably characterized. The ink was scarcely dry when, in a formal audience with a portion of the students, he took up, in review, the life and character of the late President—embracing a great many particulars of private and personal interest, wholly unconnected with the recent transaction,—for the evident purpose of rendering *him* odious and contemptible in the eyes of his former pupils. Nay, even those passages in his letter of condolence, which were noticed, on its first perusal, as pointing rather ominously, to the rectitude and intelligence of the Board's proceedings, were now discovered, by the use made of them, to have been ingeniously designed as *petitiones principii*—sophistical make-weights to sink the victim a little lower.

In a similar spirit, letters were written, (to ladies!) to be circulated among the friends of the President, in Brooklyn and New-York, containing a series of allegations, for the most part wholly irrelevant to the matter in hand but, of no doubtful import, as calculated to defame and vilify his reputation and character in that quarter.\* Whether

\* That the reader may see upon what grounds these statements are made, a few of the allegations referred to, with the answers, are here quoted.

1. The writer is said to have borrowed money from the Bishop for payment of transportation on his goods when he first went to Ohio, which money has only recently been refunded. *Answer.* The writer has the agent's certificate to show that this loan was refunded on the 10th January, 1842—seven months after it was borrowed, and more than two years before the date of the allegation!

2. The writer is accused of meanness (by implication,) for having made out a charge of some sixty-five dollars for services in vacation. *Answer.* This is too bad!

these allegations were true or false, is not now the question. Were they such as could have been made and circulated by a sincere and sympathizing friend? Were they consistent with that "unabated interest"—that "pain of mind and heart so acutely and oppressively suffered?"—or that yearning to "extract some of the anguish" from the bosom of a stricken brother, of which the foregoing letter is, in profession, so liberal?

The writer might press this matter much further, but in obedience to the rule heretofore laid down—he forbears. He has had no desire to make out a case against Bishop McIlvaine further than was absolutely necessary in exposing the wrongs which have been so gratuitously heaped upon himself. Many of his friends have urged, and perhaps

*All his vacations* as well as his spare Term-time were devoted, most laboriously and unceasingly, to the repair and improvement of the College buildings and premises. His services in this way, on any public work, would have amounted to at least 1500 dollars; not a cent of which was ever charged or intended to be charged. The little bill to which the Bishop alludes, was made—not as the allegation implies, to put this paltry sum in the writer's pocket;—but to balance a bill of timber and fencing stuff, *used on College premises*, which had been wrongfully charged to him; all which was fully known to the Bishop at the time, and appeared to meet his entire approbation.

3. The writer is said to have incurred heavy expenses for improvements, &c. for which he afterwards brought in bills, without any right or authority for so doing. *Answer.* This relates to the College walk and Gateway, and Fence adjoining, built in 1843. The last-mentioned was erected at the specific request of Bishop McIlvaine! The other two (costing together about 320 dollars,) were undertaken by the writer with a deficiency of present means for the whole work, estimated at about 140 dollars; which Bishop McIlvaine on his return from New-York in August, —approving in very strong terms of what had been done,—promised to make good. The writer accordingly applied to him after his second trip to New York, and was advised in the most *friendly* and *approving* manner to make out all the bills: and bring them before the Board at their contemplated meeting then near at hand; which he did. With regard to other improvements mentioned in a former part of this narrative, [except those for repairs and furnishing the college in 1841, which have been publicly approved by the Bishop,] they were almost entirely defrayed from the pocket of the writer; *upwards of 800 dollars having been laid out by him in this way, during the three years of his incumbency.*

(It is proper to add by way of parenthesis, that since the Board of Trustees have *repudiated* the tenure of office under which these expenditures were made, and the writer is thus deprived of the use and benefit of them, *without any failure on his part*; he has been advised to bring this and other pecuniary claims to the test of a legal adjudication.)

4. Another of the allegations was, that the writer endeavoured to make a party in the Faculty, against the Bishop. *Answer.* This is wholly unfounded. The Bishop's unkindnesses were sometimes spoken of in the confidence of personal intimacy, particularly to Professors Ross and Sardels; the former as an old and intimate friend, who had been nominated to his present office by the writer; and the latter, as apparently a sympathizing one. The only instance ever quoted to the writer, as ground for this charge was on his part really, a *deprecation of blame brought against the Bishop by another*; and which was so explained to the satisfaction of the Bishop, at the interview in Dec. 1842. There was a considerable movement of the Faculty in the winter of 1842-3, in reference to the *agent*, Mr. White; but it did not originate with the writer, nor was the step proposed, (*viz.*, a general resignation,) countenanced by him.

5. It was said further, that the writer had called meetings of the students and excited them to pass resolutions of censure upon the Bishop and Board of Trustees. *Answer.* Utterly false; diametrically contrary to the fact.

6. Also that the writer had extended the bounds of the College Park beyond the Chapel on the north, without authority and even in the face of authority. *Answer.* Dia-

expected him to give a full and general exposition of the administration on "the Hill." This, as a donor, it is unquestionably his right, and may at some future time be his duty to do ; but not now.

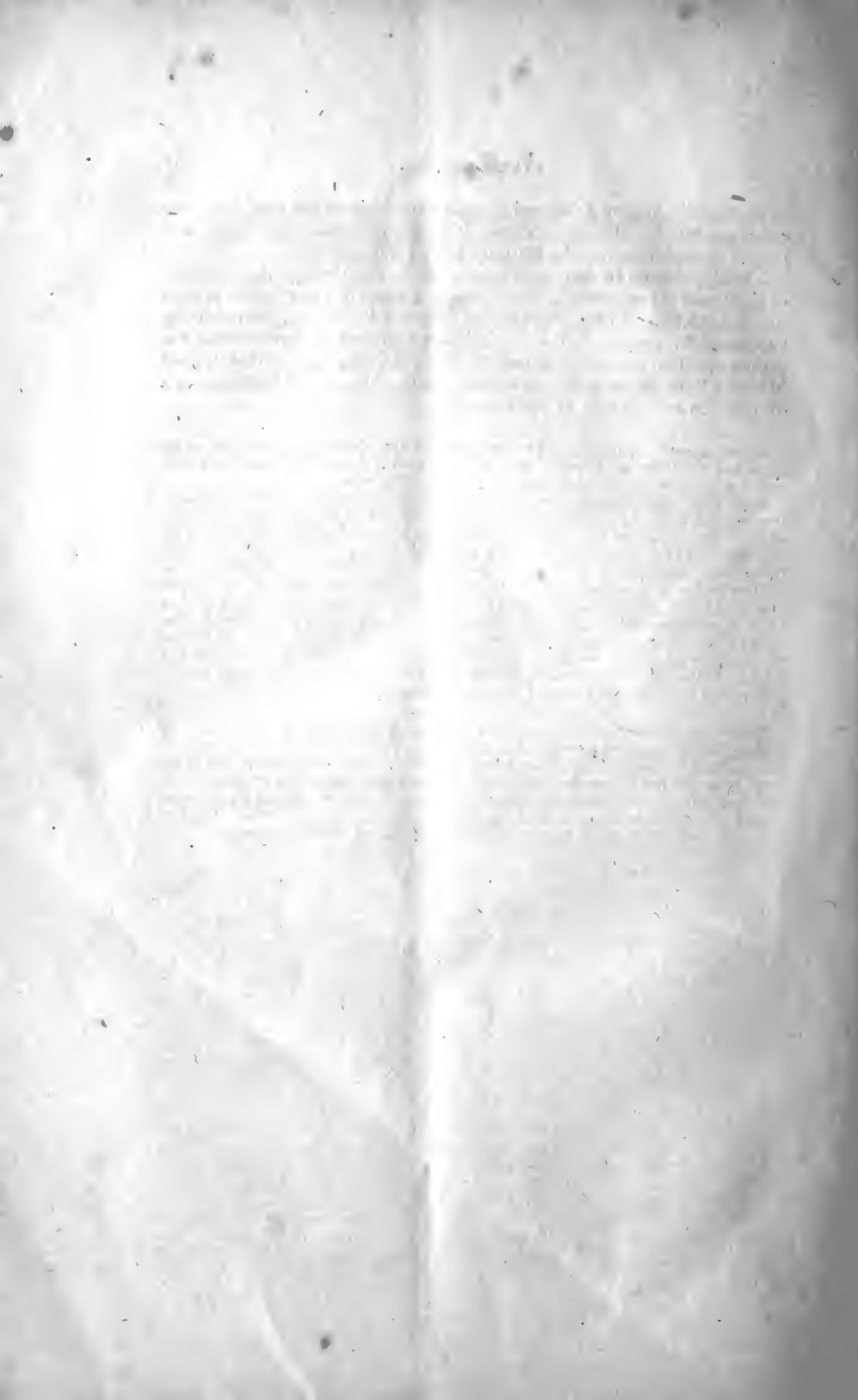
Finally, though he has been drawn into a controversy on a question of right and wrong, with a Bishop of the church, (how much against his will is known to the Searcher of hearts,) let it not, therefore, be supposed, for a moment, that he holds in lightness or irreverence, the proper spiritual office and authority of his Diocesan, or other "chief Minister," or places any low estimate upon his own obligations, as a dutiful son and servant of the Church.

metrically opposite to the fact. The Park bounds were defined by the writer, at the request of the Board of Trustees, exactly as he wished them to be ; and the extension was made *at the particular request of Bishop McIlvaine.*

Many other allegations were made in the Bishop's interview with the students—touching the writer's pecuniary affairs in New-York, during the commercial troubles of 1837, &c.—his taste and judgment in regard to books—the Bishop's doubts of his competency at the time of his nomination!—and finally, that he, the writer, was *not entitled to any credit for the improvements and repairs* about the College!! &c. &c.

How he was held accountable for the *expense* of these improvements, and yet not entitled to the *credit* of them, passes the writer's understanding. But what had these allegations—any or all of them,—to do with the writer's dismissal? The Board of Trustees, having power to choose their issue, placed that act on the ground of *unpopularity.* They made no charge of official misconduct or failure of any kind ;—on the contrary, they expressly disclaimed every pretence of any such charge, and passed *unanimously,* a vote of unqualified approbation.

The writer has been obliged to quote the foregoing allegations from hearsay, the Bishop having returned unopened his request for a copy of the letter in which they are mostly contained. The Bishop affects to consider a former letter, written in answer to one of his, on the subject of the writer's disbursements, as *offensive.* It is admitted to have been *strongly,* perhaps *indignantly* written, but if an occasion should offer for its publication, with the letter to which it was an answer, it will be seen to be, under the circumstances, a most natural and *not improper* response.











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