

Hartford Jan^y. 16. 1832

Rev. & dear Sir,

Your favor of the 10th inst. has been recd., and I very much regret that ~~that~~ my communication to Mr. Wright has served, in any way, to bring me into unpleasant collision with the Bishop, or to precipitate either yourself or Mr. M. into undue prejudice or bitter judgment against him.

I knew nothing at all of the matter except from mere report. — I asserted nothing which I supposed incontrovertible, & did not pretend to vouch for the truth of a single report communicated to Mr. M. —

On my return to Hartford, a few days previous to Christmas, I was asked by many whether I had heard from Mr. M. and my ears were continually assailed from various quarters, with stories & reports in busy circulation concerning him, & which I deemed sufficiently injurious to his reputation, to justify me in communicating them to him, and asking, as a friend, a confidential explanation. — I acted as I should have wished Mr. M. to have done towards me, under similar circumstances. — I should have pursued the same course towards my own brother in such a case. — I can

assure you that the hearing of these reports gave me much pain, and although my answer has always been the avowal of utter disbelief of their justice, still my own feeble voice could not stay the spreading besom of calumny; it being out of my power to contradict what I heard, except only by recommending a conscientious appeal to the high character which he had hitherto sustained. -

I certainly am not in the habit of interfering either directly or indirectly in the affairs of others, & I could not possibly have entertained any motive for aspersing Wright of these circumstances, except that of sincere friendship. - But when I am so unfortunate as to hear a friend, whom I have loved & highly valued, traduced & calumniated; when I hear his former associates applying to him the epithets of "scoundrel," "villain" &c. not only have my feelings been wounded, but I have thought that it would have been poor friendship in me, nay, absolute unkindness to permit him to remain in ignorance of such aspersions, especially as I entertained full confidence that he could remove them. -

Under such feelings was my communication made to Mr. M. But it

was intended by me to have been a strictly confidential communication. -

I gave him merely a repetition of reports which had come to my ears. - They may have been a fabrication, originating from something incautiously dropped by the Bishop in his own family, or from thence transferred, with all the accretions which ^{such} matters gather in their flight, to College. - At all events, as Mr. M. is in possession of the ^{reports} ~~facts~~ merely as I heard them in College, I do not consider the Bishop responsible as their author, nor Mr. M. quite justified in using me as authentic information ~~as respects~~ ^{respecting} the truth or justice of any of them. - Indeed had I supposed that my name would have been used in this shape, I should not have written a single word of the matter. I communicated them merely as reports, without note or comment. And as such he surely ought to have received them, and not to have constructed on what I said, a judgment of prejudice against the Bishop, which the ascertained truths of the case may not warrant. -

It is probable that, if the Bishop has at any time used an ungenerous asperity in remarking on the conduct of Mr. M. it was previous to the receipt of the money which you mention as being forwarded. But be this as it may, it is quite apparent, that

if these reports originated not with Bishop B. they must have had their origin in the malicious & relentless persecution of some bitter enemy of Mr W. — It is certain they have been most industriously circulated, and I hesitate not to say, that, let the misunderstanding lay where it may, his reputation still smarts under the

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cash of all the bitter calumny of which he is apprised in my letter. — It will be my cheerful task to set the matter right so far as in me lies.

I shall write Mr W. during the present week, & will attend to the requests in his letter. —

I remain, dear Sir, very respectfully
Yrs Obdt J. H. Parker