

7-6-1865

Letter to Charles P. McIlvaine

Wittingham

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Bart. July 6. 165

My dear Bishop

I thank you for your communication of your letter to Bp Hopkins. With me exception I had felt strongly all the grounds of objection to Bp H's course which you bring forward, but am so earnestly desirous that the sundred elements of our Body should be brought together with the least possible delay, that I was fain to overcome my reluctance to give sanction to a somewhat dangerous precedent, to the extent of authorising Bp H to send his letter in his own name with assurance of my concurrence. I inclose copy of my note on next leaf.

The point in regard of which

Bp. Whittingham
on Letter to Walker
Bp.

I do ^{not} share in your apprehensions
is that of the danger of having a
"military" representative sent to
General Convention from some
Southern Diocese. I am very positively
assured by such of the clergy from
the South as I have seen, that the
opinion of Churchmen is strongly
against the desecration of the
ministerial office by military
service; and that no clergyman
who has been guilty of it is likely
to recover his standing with ease
or speedily.

The utterances of our brethren of
Georgia are greatly to be regretted:
but even those had perhaps better
be ignored by us, if he be disposed
to take an altered tone, rather
than drive him, and others in support
of him, into an attitude of open opposi-

tion.
Very faithfully
your friend & brother
W R Whittingham

Rev Dr Knellwaine

(Copy)
Rev Dr Knellwaine

I have received your printed
circular of June 22d inclosing a draft
of a letter to the Bishops in the States
lately in rebellion, for my signature.

I cannot sign, as my own, a
letter about the contents and phrase-
ology of which I have had no opportu-
nity of previous conference.

But that the brotherly and
timely action proposed by you may
have, as far as I am concerned, the
spirit and substance of entire
unanimity, I cordially authorize
you to send your proposed letter,
as written by you in my behalf
with my hearty concurrence in
its purport and end

Very faithfully yours
your friend & brother

(Signed) W R Whittingham

Rev Bro John H Hopkins, D.D.

Bishop of Vermont
and Lenox Bishop &c &c