

4-26-1832

## Letter to C.W. Fitch

B.B. Smith

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Lexington, April 26. 1832.

Rev. and very dear Brother,

I was very glad indeed to see Mr. Smith directly from College Hill, and to learn from him how truly you are prospering amid all the rage of most painful & humiliating controversy. Let me beseech you to keep cool; and by daily & repeated applications to the throne of all grace to retain such a view of the gentleness and forbearance of a suffering Saviour, as shall constrain you, in every - the slightest remark by word or writing, to wound his spirit.

There are some rough business like sayings in Mr. Hammond's editorial (which Dr. Cooke agreed with me in thinking was all the answer the Bishop's Pamphlet really demanded) and also one rough place, the scene where the Bp. refuses to do what every humble Christian ought, in Br. Nydelott's Answer, which we could have wished to have been omitted altogether. On the whole however, the facts of Mr. Hammond's short piece, and the spirit of Br. Nydelott's afford a refreshing contrast to much that is most bitterly humiliating in the Bp's. Letter.

I doubt not but Bro. Sparrow will imitate all that is  
wise and kindly in Br. Aydelott's piece, and I pray  
God that he may have grace to avoid all that  
is unwisely or unkindly said. Still, I greatly  
fear he will not. What more than angelic feelings  
must he have, who is not ruffled by the deep sur-  
ge of controversy! What more than Christian  
armor must he wear, who is not seriously  
wounded in his best interests by being dragged  
into your late & present painful circumstances?  
I pray God, that, seeing more of the evil of your  
precepts, and the want of wisdom in your very best  
counsels, you may all make such attainments  
in profound humility, as may make you better,  
holier, and more useful men, for the times to come.  
I speak not thus, as though you were sinners  
alone all: on the contrary I thank God for the  
grace given unto you in your most trying  
circumstances; but as your brother beloved, I  
admonish you, lest Satan by any means should  
get the advantage over you. If we would at  
all times have that mind which was in Christ,  
let us look to it that we live near to him; and  
that no day passes without our calling often to  
mind the sufferings of Him, who when he was re-  
viled, reviled not again; when he suffered he  
threatened not, but trusted all in the hands of his Father.

I receive from no authentic quarter even the slightest intimation of what General Convention, or dear Bro. M. Mearns will do in your most interesting affairs. At the same time I see no reason for changing or even modifying my views upon this subject, as expressed in my last letters. Let your appeal be made to the Great Head of the Church, and the decision cannot but be favourable.

I would rather that my name had not been dragged into Bro. Chases Pamphlet; but I had no idea of blaming you for it. I tried to do my duty towards you in the most respectful & kindly manner I could towards the Bro. and what he or others were may think, cost me not a moment's pain.

Sayer is here, much improved, and affords a very valuable addition to our theological Class which now consists of 6. - 3 of whom are within a year or so of applying for orders. I like your Mr. Smith so much that I should have been tempted to have beset him to remain here, but conscience would not allow me to do otherwise than as I would be done by. The Lord give both you & us, scores of more of much better men than he is.

Affectionately Yours &c

B. B. Smith

Rev. C. W. Fitch,  
Gambier, Ohio.

Received of  
Mr. Swift