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### Isaac V. Brown to Sarah Sabina Kean, March 26, 1830

Isaac V. Brown

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Dear Madam

Yours of the 23<sup>rd</sup> ins<sup>t</sup> has been  
duly rec<sup>d</sup>. Your surprise & pain at the sudden  
return of your son, were no doubt great & just.  
Yet perhaps it is better for him to be separated  
in an unpleasant manner, from injurious  
society, than to continue in it, exposed to ac-  
cumulating evil. The French Seminaries  
around Phil<sup>a</sup> are very deficient in sound  
instruction, in religious culture, & in salutary  
& judicious government. I shall not be sur-  
prised, sh<sup>d</sup> your son be found much less  
advanced in his studies, than you have  
reasoned to suppose. I have no doubt that  
you feel deeply the responsibility & cri-  
tical nature of your charge. From the  
supposed age of your son, the correct in-  
structions & good impressions given to him  
before leaving home, I trust you have no  
great cause of alarm at what has oc-  
curred - at same time you will perceive  
from it the necessity of great caution.  
My life has been very much devoted to the  
instruction & care of youth. I feel at once  
a lively

a lively interest in the welfare of your: and  
if you think our care & attention would be  
valuable to him, we shall very cheerfully un-  
dertake the task of fitting him for College.

I am strongly assisted by several gentlemen  
devoted to the Latin, Greek, French, Mathe-  
matics, English &c. Our plan is to govern, as  
much as possible, by the force of persuasion,  
vigilance & indefatigable attention. It is not  
proposed to draw together a very large num-  
ber, but rather to select, if it can be done,  
from particular circles & among friends,  
a competent number to sustain the  
institution in a pecuniary point of  
view. And we do honestly design, in de-  
pendance upon God, to mix religious  
principles, good morals & with all our  
regulations & instructions. We are at present  
very near the close of our winter term. The  
Term is to undergo exam<sup>n</sup> on the 29. 30. 31.  
mor: & 1<sup>st</sup> of Ap<sup>l</sup>. After this will follow  
a vacation of four weeks and 3 days. If  
you conclude to send your son, it w<sup>d</sup>  
be best for him to remain with you till  
the next Senior opens unless some pecu-  
liar reasons exist for his immediate  
transfer

& this plan. Vacation is a season of relaxation.  
Youth, at such times are apt to take liberties  
& to contract habits, which increase the diffi-  
culty of managing them during term time.  
I have found it so on former occasions.  
Accompanying this communication you  
will find a printed view of my institution,  
which, tho' issued a year ago, will furnish  
you as correct a statement of our estab-  
lishment as I can give.

Sincerely hope that your venerable  
mother-in-law & yourself will find the  
afflictions & trials thro' which you are  
passing, made to work together for your good.  
It may indeed easily become manifest  
hereafter, that what you consider a dis-  
cloud, drawn over the prospect of your  
dear & only son, by a wise & invisible hand,  
is only a reasonable admonition, to greater  
care & diligence in seeking & embracing the  
means necessary to change the whole  
scene & secure the great object —

With great respect & kinness towards  
your excellent mother. — I am D. M. M.

truly yours &  
Isaac V. Brown

Mar: 26. 1830.

Ms Sarah S. Kearney Lawrenceville

Rev. Isaac Brown  
recommending his own  
school for my deacon  
I think I decided now  
wisely by placing him  
at the Highland school

Mrs Sarah d. Bean  
Bellevue town  
New Jersey

Lawrenceville 29  
March 27