Benjamin Franklin to Isaac Errett, January 1, 1864

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Dear Sir:—Yours of Dec. 29th is to hand and I hasten to say, that I can not record precisely what I did say, more than simply, that I thought the measure recollected their document, to its publication, I expected that refusal, repeating again touching the subject to the same, to yourself and all concerned, much as publication must have, and the hope that the trouble might be healed, without any publication. I do not think that you should be held in charge me, with looking up from separate statements, what has been published. Which is opposite, wholly on one side. The other side have published something. Brother E. of Braggsville, 6. Miss. made a formal reparation to the Catholics, or two sides, that you have made a representation, which has gone to the public. Mr. Pendleton has taken one. The representation in the document now withheld from publication, is very different from the others. I am now inclined to the opinion, that the reception or rejection was not "permissible separation!" I do hope and trust that wisdom, prudence and care enough will obtain to settle the trouble without any further publication in reference to it. You need have no fear of my leaning disposition to injure you. I do not approve some things you have done; but they I do not approve some things I have done myself. I will not mind to fall out with you or myself. I will now do any thing in any power to heal the trouble or Detroit.

As ever, yours, 
Benjamin Franklin
Benjamin Franklin to Isaac Errett, January 1, 1864

Jan. 1st, 1864

Brother Errett:

Dear Sir: Yours of Dec. 29th is to hand and I hasten to say, that I can not recollect precisely what I did say, more than simply, that when the brethren recalled this document, or its publication, I expressed gratification [sic], adding some remark touching the injury to the cause, to yourself and all concerned, such a publication must have, and the hope that the trouble might be healed, without any publication.¹

I do not think that you should be hasty in charging me with working up my mind from exparte statements. What has been published is exparte, wholly on one side. The other side have published nothing. Brother Lister², of Bowmanville, C. W. made a prudent allusion to the matter, on no side. But you have made a representation, which has gone to the public. Bro. Pendleton has made one.³ Misrepresentation in the document now withheld from publication, is very different from the others. I am now inclined to the opinion, that the secession, or separation, was not “peaceable separation”.⁴ I do hope and trust that wisdom, and prudence and love enough will obtain to settle the trouble without any further publication in reference to it.

You need have no fears of my having a disposition to ignore you. I do not approve some things you have done; but then, I do not approve some things I have done myself; but I do not wish to fall out with you or myself. I will now do any thing in my power to heal the trouble in Detroit.

As ever, yours. Benj. Franklin

¹ The publication in question is Errett’s Synopsis of the Faith and Practice of the Church of Christ, published in 1862 at Detroit, Michigan. Errett’s letter to Franklin dated December 29, 1863 is not available. Errett must have heard about some comments Franklin made and wrote to express his concern to Franklin.
² This may be Charles John Lister (1820-1912), who contributed articles to the Millennial Harbinger from 1847 to 1865.