3-17-1865

D. P. Henderson to Isaac Errett, March 17, 1865

D. P. Henderson

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Dear Mr. B. B. Smith,

Hast last writer, and was very sorry you could not come and help me earlier. But I want you to come right away, in the fulness of the blessings of the prospect of being able to labor for the Lord and the Church. This is my third effort and it is the tragedy to which I know will be acceptable because you promised.

How I hear about your partnership politically. I will send open hearts and open arms to meet you. Your note is in my house at my house at Jefferson St. South 320 between 7th & 8th Sts. I do not want any reply but in person.
Now perhaps is a better time under all the circumstances than before.
The Rebel debris of our Church affiliate with another organization.
A man of our brethren in the midst of nothing to do, they are
moving along apparently in harsmsrious and rude descendant
principles can't hold them very long in Union.

Thank the Lord our country is growing brighter! Simon is safe, Grant late night. Thomas
will awake God willing today. Leutiers and political intrigues
standing against, subverting the main attracting them.

My heart is cheered when I
think of the speedy ruin of this
most foul and wicked rebellion.
Come to us and come aloud
to give me in my great work. You
dare each for nothing.

God help you.

Mrs. J. D. Henderson

Rev. Isaac Errett

Allow me to join bro.
Henderson in affectionately and earnestly
inviting you to come. We shall be glad
pleased to see you, you expecit much good to be
the result.

Yours truly,

John Patterson

Eleven.
D. P. Henderson to Isaac Errett, March 17, 1865

Louisville\textsuperscript{1} March 17\textsuperscript{th} ‘65

Dear Bro Errett

Your last was received and was sorry you could not come and help me earlier. But, I want you to come right away, in the fulness of the blessings of the gospel of Christ, to labor for the Lord, and his cause. This is my third effort and it is the magic no. 3, which I know will be successful because you promised.\textsuperscript{2}

Have no fears about your posture politically.\textsuperscript{3} You will find open hearts and open arms to meet you. Your room is prepared at my house on Jefferson st. South side, between 1\textsuperscript{st} & Brook. I do not want any reply but in person [2\textsuperscript{nd} page begins] Now perhaps is a better time under all the circumstances, than before. The Rebel debris\textsuperscript{4} of our church affiliate with another organization of our brethren, with which I have nothing to do. They are moving along apparently very harmonious, but such discordant principles cant [sic] hold them very long in union.

Thank the Lord our country is growing brighter! Sherman is safe, Grant all right, Thomas\textsuperscript{5} wide awake, gold tumbling & speculators and political intrigues standing aghast, beholding the ruin awaiting them.

My heart is cheered when I think of the speedy ruin of this most foul and wicked rebellion.

Come to us, and come at once to aid me in my great work. You shall lack for nothing.

God bless you

Your Br. D. P. Henderson

[In a 2\textsuperscript{nd} hand and 3\textsuperscript{rd} hand, in right column]

Bro. Isaac Errett

Allow me to join bro. Henderson in affectionately and earnestly inviting you to come. We shall be greatly pleased to see you & expect much good to be the result.

Yours truly

John Patterson

Wm. Terry (Elders)\textsuperscript{6}

\footnotesize{\textsuperscript{1} Henderson served the congregation at Walnut and Fourth Street from October 1855 to November 1866. \textit{John T. Brown, Churches of Christ} (Louisville, Kentucky: John P. Morton and Company, 1904) 322.}
Henderson surprisingly calls on the superstition “the third time is the charm.” We have no record of when Henderson wrote Errett earlier to ask him to hold a meeting in Louisville. Errett was extremely busy at this time. He was closing his ministry in Detroit (Millennial Harbinger March 1865, 141); he spent two weeks in Bethany in April or May (Millennial Harbinger May 1865, 236); Errett was also at this time involved in early efforts to start a new weekly.

3 Errett was a strong supporter of the Union cause in the Civil War. He was disliked in the South because of the war resolution passed by the American Christian Missionary Society in 1863. “Isaac Errett,” by Douglas A. Foster in Encyclopedia of the Stone Campbell Movement 302: “Two years later, as the War raged on, Errett was presiding again when a much stronger resolution was introduced denouncing “the attempts of armed traitors to overthrow our government.” When Errett this time declared the resolution out of order, remembering the events of 1861, he was surprised to find his action reversed again. This time the resolution was passed as an official act of the Society. Members of the Southern churches and pacifists among Northern Christians never forgot Errett's apparent approval of the so-called war resolutions.”

4 Henderson’s pejorative “Rebel debris” clearly shows there were some Southern sympathizers in the congregation at Louisville. It is not clear to which other congregation in Louisville Henderson refers, since he does not name it. Brown (op. cit., 322-334) lists two other congregations existing in Louisville at this time: Broadway, meeting on Hancock Street; and Third Church, established in 1856.

5 General George Henry Thomas is not as well-known as Grant and Sherman. See for more information: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Henry_Thomas.

6 In 1866, Patterson and Terry are both involved helping the poor in the South via the Christian Relief Commission based in Louisville. (Millennial Harbinger, January 1867, 83).