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Benjamin Franklin to Isaac Errett, January 1, 1864

Benjamin Franklin

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Cincinnati, O.
Jan. 1st, 1864.

Brother Everett:

Dear Sir:— Yours of Dec. 29th is to hand and I hasten to say, that I care not recollect precisely what I did say, more than simply, that when the brethren recalled their document, or its publication, I expressed gratification, adding some remarks 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.

I do not think that you should be hasty in charging me with making up my mind from separate statements. What has been published is separate, wholly on one side. The other side have published nothing. Brother Lister, 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. The representation in the document now withholden from publication, is very different from the others. I am now inclined to the opinion, that the secession, or rependion, was not "peaceable seperation". I do hope and trust that wisdom, ~~prudence and love enough~~ will obtain to ~~the~~ settle the trouble without any further publication in reference to it.

You need have no fears of my having a 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; 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

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 gratifacation [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 Lister[2], 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 withholden 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

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[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.

[3] W. K. Pendleton visited Detroit after Errett published the ***Synopsis***. Pendleton and Errett also received criticism for articles on the open communion question. See Benjamin Franklin, "Review of Brethren Pendleton and Errett," ***American Christian Quarterly Review***, 1.2, (Cincinnati 1862) 127-138.

[4] The congregation in Detroit split during Errett's ministry. See Robert D. Cornwall, "Isaac Errett and Schism in Detroit," (***Restoration Quarterly*** 61.4, Fourth Quarter, 2019) 218-232.