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Letters

3-17-1865

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

D P. Henderson

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D. A. Henderson
March 7/65

ONE COUNTRY—

ONE DESTINY.

From United States Sanitary Commission,



"One last great battle for the right—one short, sharp struggle to be free!
To do is to succeed—our fight is waged in Heaven's approving sight—
The smile of God is victory!"

Louisville March 17th 1865.

Dear Mr. Estell

How last was a blessing 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.
Have no fears about your political
position. You will find open
hearts and open arms to meet
you. Your room is prepared at
my house on Jefferson St. South
Side between 1st & 2nd St. 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 organiza-
tion of our brethren, with which
I have nothing to do. They are
moving along apparently very
harmonious but such discordant
principles, can't hold them very
long in Union.

Thank the Lord our Country
is growing brighter! Sherman is
safe, Grant all night Thomas
w'd awake, God humbling &
spectacles and political intriguers
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 abroad
to aid me in my great work. You
shall lack for nothing.

God Bless you
1863. D. P. Henderson

Bro. Isaac Errett

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

Your truly
John Patterson
Wm. G. Camp
E. L. L.

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

Louisville¹ March 17th '65

Dear Bro Errett

Your last was r(eceive)d 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.²

Have no fears about your posture politically.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 1st & Brook. I do not want any reply but in person [2nd page begins] Now perhaps is a better time under all the circumstances, than before. The Rebel debris⁴ 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, Thomas⁵ 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 2nd hand and 3rd 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)⁶

¹ Henderson served the congregation at Walnut and Fourth Street from October 1855 to November 1866. *John T. Brown, Churches of Christ* (Louisville, Kentucky: John P. Morton and Company, 1904) 322.

² 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).