

8-15-1859

## Sidney Harper Marsh Letter to T. Baldwin - Aug. 15, 1859

Sidney H. Marsh

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Burlington Aug 15 1859  
Rev. T. Baldwin

My dear Sir-

I fully appreciate the first sentence of your letter just received that “ it is the easiest thing in the world for men to misunderstand each other” For this reason I have avoided writing more than was absolutely necessary, and have simply aimed to assure you that there was nothing in my course that you need feel troubled about. Indeed I should not have written now unless I had heard that you and Mr. Edgell felt hurt at my course and now if you agree substantially with the signers of that paper nothing more need be said about it. There is no trouble there is no need of a meeting of the committee or of my visiting New York. I really think that the trouble is all imaginary and that in persisting to consider it a trouble the Society will injure itself. That a public discussion of the modes and success of the Society will injure it. This sentence I thought sufficiently guarded by the rest of the letter, so that it could not be understood amiss. I presumed that you would feel in the same way--that it was not expedient for any parties concerned to come to a public discussion of why I was making a special effort in certain directions although such a discussion might not injure the Society in the opinion of the ministers or the signers of that paper. In fact it is with the approval of four-fifths of the ministers. I dare say that I am working who are the friends of the Society as well as the signers. In fact the names on that paper might assure you that my effort could not injure the cause. I am sincerely desirous of sustaining the Society.

I think now that “the less said the soonest mended” is a good proverb to apply to business and that if you are satisfied with the opinion of the signers of that paper, you are satisfied with me. That paper was not my work but that of intelligent friends of the Society and designed to help me without injuring you and I think it will do so unless the Society insists upon considering it injurious to them. In that case I cannot tell what the result will be, probably injurious to us all.

With Sincere Respect,  
Yours +c  
S.H. Marsh

P.S. Will you send me by return of mail my letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. I kept no copy and wish to know exactly what I wrote. I will return it to you if you wish.

Sidney Harper Marsh Papers

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