

8-8-1859

Sidney Harper Marsh Letter to T. Baldwin - Aug. 8, 1859

Sidney H. Marsh

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Transcription Date: November 2009

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FSHM- 6
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Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon
Transcriber: Jazmin Johns, November 2009

Editor's Statement: This letter is only partially transcribed; much remains illegible.
Washington Co. Oregon
Aug 8th 1859

Rev T Baldwin
Dear Sir--

I should regret much that I had written you so little of our affairs during the year past if I supposed that you had lost [thusly?] my facts of importance or that your interest in us had been in the least diminished--

The past year has been so much one of preparation and expectations. That it is difficult to convey a forcible impression of what has seemed of importations to us-- I have not been for a moment discouraged or without abundant material for hope and confidence yet that seems almost too intangible to transfer to you with the expectation that it will seem substantial enough to build upon.

There has been much cause of anxiety as to the means by which we shall secure the support of our faculty independently of your aid and the money for the erection of our building-- yet both of this present wants I believe will be unmoved by time. I believe that we shall not fail for want of teachers and that there will be benevolent new friend who feeling the importance of [illegible text] necessity of such an institution he will contribute the means necessary for its successful operation. My chief cause of [illegible text] has been as to scholars, whether they could be found and whether found they could be retained here whether in fact our assertions as to the necessity of a college & our pretensions as to its character could be practically maintained and have not withstanding the connection of any thing with my personal ability and finding cause maybe for distrust of that I have felt confident in our success from [illegible text] the belief that our designs is the true one that the [illegible text] at the basis of our efforts [illegible text] that ought to be realized and must if developed judiciously surely succeed. There will be no other institution to meet the wants of the Country so that [illegible text] not from a competition [illegible text] that would be injurious to the cause of education. The various sects however they may find it for their interest to have Colleges are not impelled by the motions likely to secure the results at which we aim. The Methodists only [illegible text] the pecuniary means for carrying out any large design are not hardly men who have any sympathy for scholarship & yet such will always control the ministry.

The present condition of affairs proves that our expectations have not been groundless. During the ~~year past~~ [illegible text] year past I have had scholars tuition studying an advanced course [illegible text].

My first scholar was a young man 20 years of age from California, a nephew of an ex governor [illegible text] but mild fellow. I did him all the good I could for nine months when request was reluctantly withdrawn his improvement was manifest but still a promise of any important changes was small and his influence on this was [illegible text] my next. [Josh?] Cornwall There are now with me [illegible text] upon [illegible text] course this fall_ Josh Cornwall son of a Cumberland [missing text] minister [illegible text]

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and 21 years [illegible text] [illegible text] 18 yrs of age not [illegible text] but a promising [illegible text] _ [illegible text] and [illegible text] about 21, a [illegible text] and of my [illegible text] and [illegible text]. [illegible text] [illegible text] [illegible text] propos to [illegible text] no a you have. [illegible text] a member of [illegible text] church_ Oregon City _ [illegible text] of Boltist Family. [Rop?] [illegible text] [missing text] of [illegible text] this to come. [illegible text] as [illegible text] may smaller scholars coming [illegible text] my expectations are much [illegible text] as to the numbers [illegible text] to [illegible text] in a few years. The most [illegible text] has [illegible text] the acceptance of Mr. E. O. Shath [illegible text] of the professor of languages. He is a scholar a [illegible text] and self sacrificing [illegible text] and has [illegible text] a [illegible text] is the [illegible text] for [illegible text] and decision of characters as well as of questionability as a teacher. He is a Methodist but not the [illegible text] _ That account it is known that his own denomination how [illegible text] to get his to [illegible text] ~~text~~ this school for he has no confidence_ This plans. And have his acceptance of this bring us many friends. While he falls [illegible text] in with all our plans_ [illegible text] of letter to Mr. Baldwin [illegible text]

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