

8-9-1859

Sidney Harper Marsh Letter to T. Baldwin - Aug. 9, 1859

Sidney H. Marsh

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Burlington Aug 9 1859
Rev. T. Baldwin

Dear Sir-

I have not been prepared to answer your letter until today, although received a week ago. It seemed at first likely to produce the impression that you do not approve of my effort and do place me in a position of antagonism to the Society. I deprecate this as alike injurious to the Society and myself as the matter now stands the public will suppose my effort in harmony with the Society's operations as the signors of that paper did, while your articles will bring out the fact that such an effort as almost anyone would say ought to be consistent with my relations to you, is not so esteemed and will lead to an examination of the modes and success of the Society's operations which will be likely to injure it, though there is no blame but with the public who have not assisted in carrying out its liberal plans.

It seems to me that the plans of the Society are good. Aiming at a completion of the endowments for the colleges East of the Mississippi. Still if the churches will not come up to the mark and so enable the Society to help me. The only consistent way is for the Society to let me help myself and the more distinctly It is an isolated effort a specialty the better it will be for them. I hope you will not force me to a public defense of my position. I feel very confident that I shall secure the sympathy of the public, while if I can go on quietly the Society will really find my efforts wind in their sails as Dr. Kirk said I might write at some length concerning the matter in different lights but it is unnecessary. It is the opinion Dr. Wheeler and others here of Dr. Blagden, who wish me to say so from him to you and of Prof. Shedd and Phelps at Andover that it is inexpedient to publish the article you sent and that it is for the interest of the Society as well as myself to let me go on without any public discussion.

I assure you I have the highest respect for your efforts and owe you many thanks for your efforts for my cause in Oregon and believe that the [Trust?] owes you a debt that will not be easily repaid for the colleges funded endowment so much through your instrumentality.

With Sincere respect

Yours + C

S.H. Marsh

Sidney Harper Marsh Papers

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