

Nov 23/83.

as I am ^{now} exposing you to if I don't
~~now~~ decline your invitation; &
for this reason, tho' ~~without private res.~~
~~of my own,~~ I do decline it. I cannot

blame myself for having ~~undertaken~~
allowed the matter to go so far as it
since I deem it proper ~~to~~ ~~still want to come.~~

~~perhaps I may yet, but I do not~~
~~wish you to delay other plans now~~
~~one way for me, nor to keep me~~
~~at all in mind.~~

~~I wish to acquaint myself with relations~~
~~which God puts before me, in the~~
~~measure in which He opens these~~
~~to me~~ ^{as far as circumstances admit,} ~~to choose~~
where He gives me choices, intelligently
~~I shall be glad, if His Providence shall~~
~~yet give me~~ (Scott & Smart)

In the inexpressible regards at which you best of me;
prayer for the prosperity of your Zion; for which you
have my best wishes
Nov 23

My dear Sir,

I have your favor of
yesterday, for which I am much
obliged. I am sensible of your
kindness & patience & wish to
deserve them.

I see that further delay for
^{as I know you I cannot go to Chinton side (23)}
my sake, will in the nature of
things be embarrassing to your
congregation; and therefore —
while I cannot too strongly say
that I have wished and do wish
to ^{accept the invitation from your church}
~~wish your flock & people,~~
I now altogether with you from

~~the matter. If when my engage-
ments (which I will explain fur-
ther on) allow me, I shall still be
aware that your pulpit is vacant,
I shall take the liberty to write
you anew in regard to the in-
vitation ~~you so kindly proffered me.~~
the matter. If by & by it should
^{still} ~~yet~~ be desirable on both sides,
I should be very glad to enter
anew into plans for a future
visit.~~

Your invitation ^{orig} came to me
at about the same time ^{with several others} of a
like nature, ^{of which I had been for some time unwillingly idle.} ~~with~~ I have never then
all in no order of my own prefer-
ence, but just as they came. ~~I am~~
Unfortunately ^{now} prevented from propos-

ing right on with them, & the
mischance has robbed me of the
~~opportunity, (anticipated with pleas-
ure) & I am grieved with regret of going to
Clinton Dec. 2^d or (perhaps not certainly)
9th I could engage to come Dec. 16th
Clinton, but am not certain that I
could earlier. Under these circum-
stances I recognize that ~~further delay~~
~~under existing circumstances~~, I am liable to
plunge your congregation into
~~maze of "candidating"~~~~

opportunity of coming to Clinton
Dec. 2^d, or of being able to say that I
could ~~certainly~~ come any day before
Dec. 16th. I have ^{endeavored} to get liberty
to come to you ^{for that day, which I have just recd} Dec. 2^d ~~in vain~~
^{negative} The 16th Dec is at this writing my ^{provisionally} free day.
No minister has a right to involve
a church in such embarrassment.