

New York, Sept 17. 1884

Rev W. H. Belden

Dear Brother

I have received your Circular re. our  
Read them with interest. They manifest no small amount of  
careful study, and of adaptation to the end in view.

As to the special point of my being available for some of the services—well,  
in general, I am under Doctor's orders not to go out in the evening if it can be helped—of course  
sometimes it cannot be. But chiefly, the two Synods in the Atlantic South have been assigned to  
me by my Colleagues, in connection with two other Synods, for visits at their meetings—in the in-  
terest of our Board. If I should go to the Atlantic and Catawba Synods, I could not well be at your  
meeting. (I often wonder if we could not utilize the colored membership and ministry of our Church better for  
our work in Africa.)

It is not my way to ask to be excused—but in this instance you will not count  
on me.

Let me add with what real pleasure and also with sympathy, I read your tribute  
to the character and testimony of our dear Bro. Brothman. He was a rare man. He is a blessed man.

Yours sincerely  
John L. Lewis