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Letter to Mary Sibley from William Potts, May 26, 1840

William S. Potts
St. Louis, Missouri

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Saint Louis, May 26, 1840

Mrs. M. E. Sibley

My Dear Madam,

Your favour of the 16th has been received. I feel very solicitous that a suitable clergyman shall be procured for your church with the least possible delay. I have not been able to get the gentlemen of our committee together since your letter and enclosure were received. My own impression is, however, that the Committee could not commission Mr. Smith upon the statement made in his letter. "My views are in accordance with these maintained by the majority of the New School party, and I cannot consistently change them." This is a quiet but firm declaration of his being with the party in the Church to which you do not belong, and his introduction would only I think cut off another little piece from your body, which is already well nigh sliced to death. You now need a firm, decided, ex animo Presbyterian, and had better try no experiments. I doubt, also, if Mr. Smith is "consistent," whether he could in good faith accept a commission from a body whose power he seems to deny, orig. the old Assembly.

I am daily in expectation of a letter from Rev. J. Alexander of Vincennes. I have also written to Dr. William McDowell of the Assembly's Board, urging your necessities, and that he will send us a man. We will do all in our power to get a man, and the right man.

You have been misinformed concerning the meeting of the St. Charles Presbytery. Mr. Cochran informs me that the ministers present were J. Gallaher, Wright, Gray, and Cochran; all except Gallaher expressed their determination to adhere to the Synod, provided our memorial and petition is granted, of which there is no doubt I presume. Mr. C. thinks the whole Presbytery will go, with the exception of J. Gallaher and Ely. The Presbytery adjourned to meet in Troy the Friday before the contemplated meeting of Synod, which will be the second day of October. The Synod meets the 2 Thursday. Make timely arrangements to be represented there, as it may be important.

I recently had a conversation with our friend, Mrs. John B. Sarpsy. She is in a very anxious state of mind. She wants to be a Christian, and yet wants to please her husband by a union with the Roman Cath. Church. She is very anxious to see you and open to you her whole heart and get your counsel. I think it very important that you should see her. She talks of making you a visit, but should you be in town, I hope you will be able to see her. She now lives at the corner of 5th Street and Washington Avenue.

Yours truly,

William S. Potts