

Holly Springs 5th February 1845.

My very dear Sir,

By last night's mail I received your kind letter, of the 31st ultimo. I cannot describe the feelings which it awakened in my bosom, to think of the disappointment which awaits yourself, and the respected and beloved friends, in St. Charles, when they shall find, contrary to my own expectations, that the door is closed against my leaving Holly Springs, at this time. You, my dear Sir, are acquainted with the forms of our Church Government; and need not be reminded, that it appertains to the Presbytery to dissolve the Pastoral connexion between a Pastor and the people of his charge. Our Presbytery does not meet until some time in April next. but as the good people of St. Charles seemed anxious that I should come on, without delay, and as I was willing to go, if it appeared to be the Divine will; I thought the formal action of the Presbytery might be anticipated, by a joint request from the people of my charge, and myself, to have the Pastoral connexion dissolved, at their next meeting; Accordingly, last Sabbath week, the matter was brought before the Church, and their acquiescence in the arrangement was solicited; but, upon trial, it proved that they were utterly unwilling to let me go - This, owing, not merely to their personal and kind

(and I confess the attachment is reciprocal)
attachment to their Pastor, but to the fact ascertained that
three Presbyterian ministers had very recently left our
bounds, and, if I should also go, there would not be a sin-
gle, solitary preacher, of our order, to preach in any ^{part of} ~~out~~
County, and which is one of the most populous counties in
the whole State! This being the case, they thought it would
never answer to let me go, and, accordingly, would not give
their consent. A day or two since, I wrote to brother Watson
stating the facts of the case. Moreover the Session of the
Holly Springs Church, by the same mail, addressed a com-
munication to the Session of the Church in St. Charles, respect-
fully apologizing for not permitting me to go. They base their
refusal chiefly upon certain recent developments of Divine Pro-
vidence, and the present very great destitution of religious privileges
in all this region of Country. If I know my own heart I
am willing either to go or stay - but I must confess it grieves
me much to think of disappointing my kind and much
esteemed friends in St. Charles. Perhaps I did wrong in giv-
ing them encouragement, before I had certain evidence that
I could be released from my present charge; - and my only
apology is this, which I hope will be deemed satisfactory, that
I apprehended no difficulty whatever. - as such an arrangement
had been made by me in other places before. I hope, my
dear friend, you will plead my cause and shield me from
the charge of instability. - for you perceive it is not instability
which prevents my going to St. Charles, but the unexpected re-
fusal of the people of my charge to give me up. I trust that

The hand of God is in the whole matter, and that he will over-
rule all for good - One thing we know - "Lion enjoys her Monarch's
love!" and, very pleasant is the language of the Psalmist: The
Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens, and his Kingdom
ruleth over all. -

My daughter desires me to return her very sincere thanks
to your lady for her very beautiful, very rich, and very ac-
ceptable present - She sets, I assure you, great value upon it,
and wishes me to inform Mrs Sibley, that she did hope to
have the pleasure of returning her thanks in person - but
that being denied, she must content herself with the mode now
adopted. Please tell your lady that I obeyed her instructions,
and, although my curiosity was much enlivened, and I
was strongly tempted to take a peep at the mysterious thing
wrapped up, so carefully - yet I was faithful! - respect for your
lady's request achieved a victory over my curiosity, and I
knew not what the present was, until it was placed in
the hands of my daughter, whose fingers were pretty nimble
to unweave the envelope, and whose eyes sparkled, I assure you,
when she saw a silk dress - a pattern so beautiful, and of a
quality so good. -

With regard to the money deposited with Messrs A. B. Shaw & Co
on the Wharf boat, at Memphis - I have, this morning, written to
them to remit it to you, by some early and safe conveyance -
which request, I suppose, will be promptly attended to.

Please present my very best respects to all the members of your
dear family, and with christian salutations to all my friends in
St Charles - I subscribe myself, &c. very sincerely,
Dan^r Baker