

Baltimore Nov: 14th 1851

From
Rev. Dr
Wyatt
to the
Governor

To his Excellency,
The Governor of Maryland.

My dear Sir,

in regard
to the forging
of the
Continuity

I have been exceedingly at a loss to ascertain my proper course in the strange and unforeseen emergency which has grown out of the affair at the Penitentiary. I reluctantly troubled your Excellency with as many of the facts as appeared necessary to a just appreciation of it, in which statement I took the liberty of pointing out a mistaken impression into which your Excellency had fallen in respect to the exact character of Mr Lucas' proposed restriction upon the Protestant Clergy. To this communication of mine you did me the honor to reply by saying, that, as soon as prior obligations were discharged "I will take pleasure in giving full consideration to your letter, and you shall, at as early a day as possible thereafter, be informed of the result."

While waiting for this favor, I rec^d through Mr Buchanan copies of two other letters, the first from the Directors of the Penitentiary to yourself, informing ^{you} that they had put upon record in the Journal of the Secy, Mr Lucas' official denial of the truth of an assertion made by Dr Wyatt to your Excellency; and the 2^d your own letter to Mr Buchanan covering the former from the Board. I hope that I need not say how I regarded so gratuitous an insult from the Board of Mr L. What was the call for or fitness in such an entry upon the Books of the Secy? It was not testimony. It could throw no light upon the matter. In a conversation with the Governor of the State, there had been, it appears, some misapprehension of what had been said to him by a gentleman in passing from his parlor to the street, in the midst of the little hurry & confusion incident to these existing circumstances, which misapprehension, however, only affected the form in which a threatened restriction upon Ministers was to be applied. (Your Excellency saw fit, very properly,) I do not question, to inform Mr Lucas of the whole alleged transaction, & he & his Board put upon record in the Secy his denial of what, by me, he had never been charged with saying in that form, & this conversation with your Excellency they make the ground for assailing the truth of your visitor in his statements. I believe that any convict under their care would scorn so unprovoked & unprofitable an act of disrespect to an aged clergyman who through many years had painfully ministered to a body of afflicted persons. As long as that leaf remains in their volume, it is a record of their own dishonor.

Wm.