

Oxford, Benton Co., Ind.
Jan. 6th, 1871.

Bro. Withers:-

Dear Sir:- Yours of Oct. 31st came to hand just before I left home for this place. Truly do I thank you for the documents. True, I had much of the information you have furnished me, but not in so tangible and reliable a form. I have read it carefully and regard it as another outcropping of a defection that commenced some fifteen years back. Like yourself, I had all confidence in Bro. Bowman till some three years past; but he had taken one step after another in the wrong direction till I fear he had no sympathy with the cause itself, or any true friend of it.

Bro. Burkirk is a factiousist. I have no confidence in him any more. I removed him when he was a hog and laud him dearly. He has fine talent, but will never do us any good unless he shall change his course.

Dr. L. S. P. - poor fellow - has lost the love of Christ and of his brethren. He is more bitter against the men of influence among us than ever against infidels. May we find mercy of the Lord.

There is a general defection among us and what you have in Lexington is only a part of it. I hope you will arrest it and save the University. But if you do even this, it will open out somewhere else.

I do hope all the holy brethren will stand true and fast in the faith.

With kindest regards,
I am fraternally, yours,
Benj. Franklin