

Charleston
June

1856
To the Board of Directors of the
Seminary

Dear Brethren,

As the arrangement
about my Library, entered into
with the Executive Committee,
will come before you for
confirmation, I write you
because unable personally
to communicate a few
thoughts.

It having become ne-
cessary to leave my home
I move my Library, and
as I have been disposed
to carry out the purpose

with which I have for some
thirty years been collecting
the Library & investing in
it all the income I could
spare, — I felt bound
to make an offer of it
to our Seminary for \$5,000
a sum which is about
half of its actual cost.
Then I did — because I
thought it should have
the preference; — because
many had urged its
claims upon me, — & because
I was led to believe it
was generally expected,
& because I really believed
it would further the
interests of our beloved
Seminary.

During the correspondence with the Committee advantage was taken of some remark - which I do not remember, I have not since seen - in a very hasty & private letter to Dr Palmer, which was construed into an offer of the Library at \$1.25 per vol.

Such an offer was therefore made by the Committee in terms which secured interest from Jan. 1856 to be paid Jan. 1857. On this interpretation I accepted the offer. But while retaining the con-

struction of my note they
amended their offer
so as to make interest
begin Jan 1857 & payable
Jan 1858.

Although I had made
as I thought, a very great
sacrifice in offering the
Library at \$10,000, I had
made effort to secure
a liberal fund for this
purpose of the professorship. In my
congregation, I yielded
to this amended offer
considered as covering
a schedule annexed
to the agreement of
the substance of which
was distinctly commu-
nicated to Dr Hare

as Agent for the Committee.
The Schedule included
certain ^{which were suggested and then} works deemed
important & valuable by
Dr Hare & Dr Thornwell,
& other valuable works,
many of which had
been ordered for the
Library on the expectation
of not parting with it
before the end of the
year. As far therefore
as they should come
they would now involve
me in loss.

One copy of
The agreement was
returned to me duly
signed & witnessed,
but with a new Schedule

prepared to do so to bind
me to all I offered to
give, & omitting all
I had wished to add
& making other alter-
ations.

Against any alter-
ation of the Schedule
appended to ~~the~~ copies
of the agreement
signed by me, & sent
up signed, I protested

The matter is therefore
referred to you either
to restore the original
& my only intended offer,

or the present agreement
with the schedule
sent up by me.

This is done in all kindness.
I am grateful to the Com-
mittee for meeting so
promptly my convenience
in removing the Library.
I believe they have done
what they thought best
for the Seminary, & nothing
intentionally unkind or
hard towards me, &
I make no complaint,
or charge. Desiring the
best interests of the
Seminary, believing that
my Library was in good
measure a benefaction

even at my only fixed price
- and hoping that it
may abide not only as it
is now but in increasing
value through the kind
remembrance of friends.
I leave you to close
the arrangement or
you think most proper
& shall ever remain
in love to the brethren
& to Seminary

Very faithfully
Sincerely
in the Love

Thomas Smyth