

**A LETTER TO JOHN LOWELL, ESQ. IN REPLY
TO A PUBLICATION ENTITLED REMARKS ON
A PAMPHLET, PRINTED BY THE PROFESSORS
AND TUTORS OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
TOUCHING THEIR RIGHT TO THE EXCLUSIVE
GOVERNMENT OF THAT SEMINARY**

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A Letter to John Lowell, Esq. in Reply to a Publication Entitled Remarks on a Pamphlet, Printed by the Professors and Tutors of Harvard University, Touching Their Right to the Exclusive Government of That Seminary by Edward Everett

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EDWARD EVERETT

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A

LETTER

TO

JOHN LOWELL, ESQ.

IN

REPLY TO A PUBLICATION ENTITLED

REMARKS ON A PAMPHLET,

PRINTED BY THE

PROFESSORS AND TUTORS OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,

TOUCHING THEIR RIGHT TO

THE EXCLUSIVE GOVERNMENT OF THAT SEMINARY.

Boston :

OLIVER EVERETT, 13 CORNHILL.

1824.



Letter.

DEAR SIR,

On the 17th of the last month, I received a copy of the pamphlet entitled 'Remarks, &c.' from the hands of Dr Ware, sent by yourself, as I understood, with several other copies, for distribution among the members of the immediate college government, and avowed to be your production. Under these circumstances, I have taken the liberty to address directly to you those observations, which occur to me by way of reply to the statements contained in the pamphlet. Though you have not placed your name on its titlepage, yet as you have distributed the pamphlet as your own, as the names of the gentlemen whose statements you controvert, the Resident Instructors here, are before the public, as well as my own in this humble attempt at a reply, I have deemed it every way proper to lay aside the ceremony of addressing an anonymous personage. This course I am the rather led to adopt, as by keeping distinctly in view the character of the gentleman I address, I shall be the surer to reply to his remarks with the respect which is due to him. If in the haste and warmth of the discussion I should seem to fail in that respect, as I trust I shall not, your candor will forgive it as a human imperfection.

The remarks I have to offer in reply to your pamphlet would, under other circumstances, have been published as soon as the mechanical labor of writing and printing them could be performed. That an interval of two or three weeks has occurred is owing to the pressing engagements, amidst which your pamphlet found me, and the indifferent state of my health; the latter of which you will have the goodness to accept as an apology, for a more slovenly performance of this undertaking, than I should otherwise myself have thought due to you and to the subject.

It is my duty also to remark that I am alone responsible for the following observations. I have written and printed them of my own accord. Wherever I speak of and seemingly for my colleagues, the gentlemen with whom I had the honor to be associated in signing the memorial to the Corporation relative to the chartered constitution of that body, I speak only from presumption. Nor is any of them in any degree accountable for the statements I am about to make, except so far as he may have taken or may take some other occasion to sanction them.

In undertaking the task of replying to your pamphlet, I cannot but feel a mingled sentiment of pleasure and of pain. The strong assurance I feel of the correctness of the views contained in the memorial,—views which your pamphlet is designed to controvert,—occasions me a pleasure in finding that no more can be urged against those views by an individual like yourself. Your long connexion with the college, your acquaintance with its concerns, your sagacity as a reasoner, and your formidable power as a controversial writer, are so well known to me, that I cannot but feel gratified

in finding so little advanced against the memorial, in a pamphlet from your pen. On the other hand, the high private respect which I bear you, and the sincere gratitude I feel for your long continued friendship, cause me some emotions of pain in entering publicly into this controversy. It shall be my endeavor to treat the matter, as much as possible, as an inoffensive abstraction, on which friends may differ.

The first remark, which I beg leave to make, respects the title of your pamphlet, which is the following, 'Remarks on a Pamphlet printed by the Professors and Tutors of Harvard University, *touching their right to the EXCLUSIVE GOVERNMENT of that seminary.*' I object to this title, on various grounds. It is a piece of usual courtesy with controversial writers, who are actuated by no personal bitterness, (and none I know is felt by you,) to allow their opponents to avow their own object, at least so far as regards the names, by which they choose that they or their systems should be called. Grotius says, that this is a piece of justice we owe even to Mahometans. Now the only caption to the Memorial is 'to the Reverend and Honorable the Corporation of Harvard University,' and as such I think you ought to have designated it, in the titlepage of your reply. Had you thought it necessary to go farther, and state on your titlepage the object of our Memorial, you ought, in my judgment, to have stated it in the words, in which the memorialists have done it, in their first sentence, words which are italicised in the print, in the obvious design of pointing them out as emphatical. Permit me to quote that sentence. 'The subscribers, resident instructors in Harvard University, beg leave to submit the following statements and considerations, relative to *the mode, in which, according to the*

Charter of the Institution, the Corporation of the same ought of right to be constituted.' With the object of the Memorial so clearly expressed in its first sentence, I cannot deem it just that you should have stated that object in any other terms.

It is certainly only on the supposition that the terms substituted by you were fairly equivalent, that the substitution could properly be made. So far is this, however, from the case, that by the specification in your titlepage, you ascribe to the Memorialists an object, not only neither expressed nor implied in the Memorial, but never, I take upon me to say, so much as dreamed of by one of those who signed it. For the purpose of prepossessing the minds of your readers against the document which you review, you attribute to those, by whom that document is subscribed, an object they never conceived; an object so arrogant and odious, that it is not without the strongest necessity to be laid to the charge of any persons, who have not forfeited their character.

These exceptions to your titlepage are justified by the fact, that you do not, in your whole pamphlet, make a statement to bear it out. You do not attempt to show that our Memorial asserts the right of the professors and tutors 'to the exclusive government of the seminary,' which on your titlepage you avow to be its object. The most you endeavor to prove is, that the professors and tutors claim the right of composing the corporation. Now I shall presently offer some explanations, which will show that much of what you have said on this point might have been spared; and that the Memorialists did not intend merely as professors and tutors to lay claim to the character of members of the corporation. I need here only say, that if they had