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Bloomington April 2^d 1877

Mr. J. Harrison

Dear brother - I am not insensible to the trials to which, in the providence of God, you are subjected as an officer in the Church which our Divine Saviour purchased with his own blood - I hope & pray that you may be able to endure like a good soldier - I suppose that our heavenly Father permits such a state of things to exist in our church, in order to discipline those who love him - see Heb. 12:6 -

The hand of God is in all these afflictions which are distressing our little church. ^{birth pangs to some good coming} We cannot now see why it is permitted that a "man should ride over us", but if we are patient to endure, & do, for Jesus, we shall know hereafter.

I cannot tell you how sorry I am, that you & Edward should have to bear so much reproach on my account, when there is no cause for it - I hope you will not suffer yourself to be disconcerted by the abuse and slander to which you are subjected. See 1 Pet. 2:20 to end

Let us try to keep near to our savior by reading meditation, & prayer, & so much the more, if the one who ought to encourage & cheer us by loving offices of kindness, instead, tells us that we do not pray, & that we do not believe the Bible. Let us pray for our poor self-conceited minister that God will yet give him the spirit of christian minister which he evidently so much needs without seeming to know his need. Nothing is too hard for Lord. He can make, even a proud minister humble. He can turn an enemy into a friend. Let us endure patiently & hope & pray unto the end.

I believe God has called you by his grace & put you in your position in the church. Now, "^{as firm as the rock, on which you stand} Stand for Jesus." He knows every trial you feel & is with you in it. Heb. 4:15

Be assured you have the support of my warm sympathy. But you know that it will not do for me to open my mouth. "Endure unto the end" I write only because I want you to know that you have my sympathy & prayer, such as it is.

I write this in confidence your aff. brother C. H. Pond