

# Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from Henry Beecher to Horatio Collins King

**Date:** July 20, 1875

**Location:** I-HartC-1981-1

### Contact:

Archives & Special Collections  
Waidner-Spahr Library  
Dickinson College  
P.O. Box 1773  
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)

Peckskill July 20 70

My dear Mr King

It was with great and sincere  
pleasure that I learned of your Contact  
to come on to the Christian Union. I foresaw  
both pleasure and prospect, in the arrangement  
I am peculiarly dependent upon those  
around me for inspiration in business.  
and Confidence, is especially needed. That  
I should have had in you. Another thing,  
Your family relations - would have taken  
away no little of the pain which I have  
suffered in the late change;

If however the arrangement is prejudicial  
to your interests, it will be wise to give it  
up, on the threshold - But, have you judg-

the matter with your best judgement?

Are you not in danger of following a surface view to the sacrifice of the real and substantial elements?

It is true, one should take no step backward if he can help it. But what is backward?

Not the superficial appearance of things.

Not a name, or title of your position,

(- as publisher, or assistant publisher) but

the substance of the place, the field of work,

the general influence, the contingent prospects,

together with the influences and associations.

It belongs to the Old, as compared with

those around the C. & W. - A man may

go back in his business for the sake of

the jump. He lands him ahead of what

he was. A prosperous journeyer sells out

& takes a new farm, with no improvements

but he has not gone back, because he has  
begun over again upon an Enterprise  
~~with~~ of better promise in the future.

So, should I leave ~~one~~ <sup>a</sup> Strong Church for a  
New One, I sh<sup>d</sup>. not count it a retrocession  
if the new field was capable of bringing  
forth a good future - And in this view  
I do not think that you would be going  
back to join your natural companions  
on the C<sup>l</sup>. - For, if you were to spend 20 years  
where you are, you would be like Joseph of  
Aid, who was a stranger among the Egyptians  
to his death,

But, if you shall, after due reflection,  
still feel, that the sphere is inferior to the  
one you occupy, - taking into view their  
relative prospects, their companionship, - their  
respective aims & associations - then, I shall  
have nothing to say, however much I  
may regret, your choice.

I am cordially and sincerely Yours

Henry Ward Beecher



Horatio C. King Esq  
Milton  
N. Y.