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Title: Letter from Charles Himes to William Fisher

Date: June 5, 1874

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Strictly Confidential
Dickinson College,

Carlisle, Pa., June 5th 1874.

J. A. M'CAULEY, D.D.,

President.

C. F. HIMES, Ph.D.,

Sec'y and Treas.

My dear Mr Fisher, I had hoped
to have seen you here long before this, & although
I wd have been glad to had you drop in on us at
any time I deferred writing you to come because
some accidental circumstance or other turned
up to render the time I had fixed inopportune,
among them a severe & prolonged illness of
Mrs Dr McAuley, especially as I was particularly
anxious that you shd meet Dr McAuley
logely on acct of a matter which I lay be-
fore you in this letter, feeling that I can
do so in perfect confidence. It is much
more than likely, I may indeed say certain,
that reorganization of the Faculty of the College
talked of with more a less earnestness ever
since my connection with the College at
least, & how much longer I cont lay, will
be brought about at the next meeting of

The Board of Trustees at Commencement. The only
question now seems to be as to the extent of
the change. I think there is no doubt that
the places of Profs Staymon & Tuckete will be
otherwise filled, and unless sympathy for
a man with a family without other immediate
means of support at hand should prevail over
what seems to be the judgement of some of
the best friends of the College, also that of
Prof Hillman. I have no reason to believe that
Dr Harmon & myself are involved. I
confess I look forward to Commencement how-
ever with anything but the usual pleasant
anticipations of meeting friends &c, & every
thought in regard to it is rather tinged
with sadness, for whatever may be the
faults or omissions of the individuals
mentioned we have been long associated
together & our relations have at least not
been unfriendly, but I can not but feel
at the same time perfectly free from any
responsibility in the matter and also that
it is perhaps the best thing that can be done

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Dickinson College,

for the College, provided the places are filled
with men calculated to impart greater
strength internally & externally to the in-
stitution. ^{Carlisle, Pa.} ¹⁸⁷⁴
J. A. M'CAULEY, D.D.,
President. I regard Dr McAuley as a
C. F. HIMES, Ph.D.,
^{Sec'y and Treas.}
most admirable man for his position &
for this crisis, as he is fully equal both in
scholarly ability, & has the fullest confidence
of the friends of the College & the heart of the
Church with him, & with the charge indica-
ted the College under him may begin a
new era. The selection of the individuals
to fill any vacancies that may occur will
be largely, indeed to certain extent ^{almost} exclusively
in his hands, as it shd be. He has in his mind
several first class men, at least as far as
endorsement by leading men in the Church
goes, as well as his own judgement. Of course
in addition to the question of simple fitness for a
position many other considerations may enter
into an estimate of the availability of any candi-
date ⁱⁿ or a full consideration of all the circumstances
involved, some accidental one, trifling perhaps

intirely ⁱⁿ ~~my~~ ^{locality}, or order of election, for example,
may influence the decision or 2 individuals
precisely equal in other respects. - The greatest
difficulty might be met with in filling the Chair
of Math. if it becomes vacant and next to that
~~that~~ of Mod. Languages. The latter is however
I think provided for with tolerable degree of
Certainty in his mind, perhaps also the for-
mer. I have mentioned yr name to him & he
has been very favourably impressed with it, &
was exceedingly desirous that you shd be
acquainted with each other. I do not know
what yr plans & prospects are but it occurred
to me that a position such as this might not
be unconsenial to you, and I consider you
as well adapted by nature & acquisitions to
it. The Math. of a College course do not seem
to far as to cause the ^{exclusive} absorption of yr time
& you wd work out in almost any direction,
& with the new interest & confidence in the
College that might be awakened by the
changes that are to take place, I think
the position wd be as pleasant & desirable
as almost any one of the kind.

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Strictly Confidential

If yr name shd be allowed in this connection you may be satisfied on one point, that it will not simply be cast into the Board of Trustees, with a lot of other names, to be selected from, but that if it gets there, at least through Dr McLanley, it will be with his full endorsement & desire for favourable consideration & not without a reasonable degree of certainty that it will be so considered. In the meantime however you see how very desirable it is for him to have all possible elements in his consideration in making up his plans for ^{all} contingencies that may arise & I adhere exceedingly glad if you wd let me know promptly what yr feelings are in regard to such a plan & I wd communicate with Dr McLanley just as much & as freely in regard to them as you may indicate, or I wd be still better pleased if you wd run up for ^{visit of} a day or two at least as in much longer as you please, as we wd be glad to see you & have been expecting you & you wd then have a chat with Dr McL in whom you can repose the most implicit confidence as an honorable, honest, Christian gentleman, with whom I know you will be

pleered. - You will readily understand
the propriety of my asking for this com-
munication the strictest confidence, & as it
has been written with the assent of Dr
W Canby on the assurance given him that the
matter wd be perfectly safe in yr hands, I
wd simply say that he seems very desirous
to do for ^{at least} Central a movement, which he did not
originate & cd not check if he wd desire, as to
cause or little violence or possible to be done &
the interests or feelings of any concerned & this
he thinks may be best accomplished quietly.

It might be that the finances of the College might
require an adjunct Prof. for a year, to recuperate
from extraordinary expenditures & as you wd likely be
the youngest man in the lot, that position might
be given you for a year or say \$1000. salary, or a Prof-
ship with that salary. - Let me hear from you,
or better still let me see you here soon, &
let me hope that affairs may take such a turn that
we may be associated together in the vacante
for which I think you so well suited -
Yrs truly
Charles F. Holmes

Fisher
1874
June 5,

HIMES, CHARLES FRANCIS

To William Righter Fisher.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Mr. Fisher, I had hoped to have seen you long before this, although I wd have been glad to (have) had you drop in on us at any time I deferred writing you to come because some accidental circumstance or other turned up to render the time I had fixed inopportune, among them a severe & prolonged illness of Mrs Dr M Cauley, especially as I was particularly anxious that you shd meet Dr M^cCauley largely on account of a matter which I lay before you in this letter, feeling that I can do so in perfect confidence. It is much more than likely, I may indeed say certain. that reorganization of the Faculty of the College talked of with more or less earnestness ever since my connection with the College at least, & how much longer I can't say, will be brought about at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees at Commencement. The only question now seems to be as to the extent of the changes. I think there is no doubt that the places of Profs Stayman & Trickett will be otherwise filled, and unless sympathy for a man with a family without other immediate means of support at hand shd prevail over what seems to be the judgment of some of the best friends of the college, also that of Prof Hillman. I confess I look forward to commencement however with anything but the usual pleasant anticipations of meeting friends &c, & every thought in regard to it is rather tinged with sadness, for whatever may be the faults or short comings of the individuals mentioned we have been long associated together & our relations have at least not been unfriendly, but I cannot but feel at the same time perfectly free from any responsibility in the matter and also that it is perhaps the best thing that can be done for the college, provided that the places are filled with men calculated to impart greater strength internally & externally to the institution. I regard Dr M Cauley as a most admirable man for his position & for this crisis, as he is fully equal to it in scholarly ability, & had the fullest confidence of the friends of the college & the heart of the church with him, & with the changes indicated the college under him may begin a new era. The selection of the individuals to fill any vacancies that may occur will be largely, indeed to a certain extent almost exclusively in his hands, as it shd be. He has in his mind several first class men, at least as far as endorsement by leading men in the church goes as well as his own judgment. Of course in addition to the question of simple fitness for a position many other considerations may enter into an estimate of the availability of any candidate & in a full consideration of all the circumstances involved, some accidental one, trifling perhaps in itself as locality, or order of election, for example, may influence the decision as to individuals precisely equal in other respects. - The greatest difficulty might be met with in filling the chair of Math. if it becomes vacant and next to that ~~that~~ of Mod. Languages. The latter is however I think provided for with tolerable degree of certainty in his mind; perhaps also the former. I have mentioned yr name to him & he has been very favorably impressed with it, & I was exceedingly desirous that you shd become acquainted with each other. I do not know what yr plans & prospects are but it occurred to me that a position such as this might not be uncongenial to you, and I consider you as well adapted by nature & acquisitions to it. The Math. of a college course do not ^{run} so far as to cause the exclusive absorption of yr ^{time} & you sd work out in almost any direction, & with the new interest & confidence in the College that might be awakened by the changes that are to take place, I think the position shd be as pleasant & desirable as almost any one of the kind. If yr name shd be allowed in this connection you may be satisfied in one point, that it will not simply be cast into the Board of Trustees with a lot of other names to be selected from, but that if it gets there, at least through Dr M Cauley, it will be with his full endorsement & desire for favorable consideration & not without a reasonable degree of certainty that it will be so considered. In the

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It might be that the finances of the college might require an adjunct Prof. for a year, to recuperate on some extraordinary expenditures & as you wd likely be the youngest man in the lot, that position might be given you for a year on say \$1000 salary, or a Prof'ship with that salary. - Let me hear from you, or better still let me see you here soon, & let me hope that affairs may take such a turn that we may be associated together in the same work for which I think you wo well suited.

Yrs truly
Charles F Himes

Envelope.