

To the C.W, Pewholders and
Other members of St Johns Ch
Elora

Lea Hurst Minto
Nov 3rd 1857

Gentlemen,

~~I was much gratified at receiving a few days ago your kind address~~ I have duly received a copy of the resolutions passed at a Vestry Meeting held on the 20th Ult. with reference to my retirement from Elora, and also the address drawn up in accordance with the first resolution. Permit me to ~~express~~ return you my sincere thanks for such a kind expression of feeling and to assure you that ~~I do not retire from you up the relinquish public duty without~~ my ministerial connection with you has not been severed without much careful consideration, and deep regret. Feeling as I did that my powers of voice were not equal to an efficient performance of the Church services I would have resigned long ago ~~had it not been~~ could I have done so without involving the congregation in any pecuniary loss. Circumstances now have put it out of my power to hold out any longer and though a certain amount of inconvenience will arise both to you and to myself by the change I could give no alternative. I trust that you will have my place supplied by one much more efficient than myself, one who in preaching the simple truths of the Gospel as set forth in the articles and liturgy of our blessed Church will avoid the dangerous extremes of party distinction. My fervent

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prayer is that the divine blessing may be abundantly (?) to both Minister and people.

You over estimate I fear ~~much my efforts on behalf of the~~ services as a gram(?) School Trustee ~~much credit is equally due~~ Whatever my have been effects in school matters ~~was~~ has been effects by a that cordial co-operation and good understand which I am glad to say ~~has ever~~ uniformly prevailed among all the members of the Board during the ~~whole time~~ four years I have had the honor of being its Chairman. ~~Whether~~ Both regard Schools and of the other troubles(?) (?) While of (?) with which I may have been connected I can assure you that I shall feel as warmly interested in them as when I resided among you. Nothing would grieve me more than to think that with my official connect(?) with you ~~should cease~~ there should be a cessation of that kind and friendly intercourse which has hitherto prevailed. To very many both of our own in other than I owe concede a debt of gratitude for ~~the many~~ ~~proofs of kind~~ numerous displays of kind feeling and honorable condere(?) – To each and all I tender my most grateful thanks,

With my best wishes for your temporal and spiritual prosperity

I remain gentlemen

Yours very sincerely

John Smithurst

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P.S.

of the Vestry meeting

With reference to those restitutions being upon the Payment of the arrears of Salary I have only to say that I should be very unwilling on that ground to throw any obstacle in the way of the appointment of another Incumbent. The congregation I trust see the justice and reasonableness of making an effort to pay up the arrears as soon as possible. If it be done within six months I shall be satisfied. They must have been in mind that as I shall wish to wind up all my concerns at Elora prior to New Years day so as to move up (scribble) my foraction(?) by first sleigh I will I must my (?) (?) all ~~accounts to try and Elora~~ connected with the (?) at the Parsonage and it is desirable that what (?) can be paid by that time should be so paid otherwise I may have to draw still forth on my own resources.

The Bishop's commission made ~~as I consider~~ in my estimation a very obsequious and one sided report. His Lordship says his first feeling was to require me to surrender all claim to the £100 from the Clergy Trust Fund. Had he done so I should have contested the matter with him. As a compromise he proposed that I should retain £50 and give £50 ? make up the Elora stipend. My first feeling was

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to reject such a proposal. Not because I should be usurly to aid Elora, but because I do not like to be compell[ed] to do what the law ~~would~~ does not require. As how I had told more than one person I should in the event of seeing no prospects of an adequate stipend by obla(?) be willing(?) to make such a sacrifice I thought it better for the sake of peace to accede to his proposal. Were I to contest the matter and all the proceedings of this past six months to come before the public it would excite a great amount of prejudice against his Lordship and what would be worse do mischief to the Church. There has been already Church scandal enough for one year, in the Major business and the scramble for the Rectory of London.

As I have consented to make this sacrifice for the benefit of Elora they should I think make the greater effort to pay me up the sooner.

There is just about as much proof of (?) (?) is due upon the Parsonage for the (?) (?) moon as for the Church Society.

J S