

Cambridge March 30th 1800

Dear Sir,

In the last letter which I wrote to you, I was
pleasing myself that we should have a President, that
would break the scum, the thick scum which has covered
our collegiate pool. Although Mr. Ames is not so pro-
found a scholar nor so truly scientific as some of the
sons of Harvard, yet I hoped & believed that his
brilliant talents would give science a more pleasing
countenance than she has lately borne here. His de-
clining set us once more afloat. All of us on the
ground would have been well contented with Dr.
Pearson, but our rulers in Boston, not to say Essex,
uttered their veto; and to give it due force they talked
him down; and talked their man D. K. — up; but
the Corporation were disobedient & would not chuse
him. What did they do next? They chose a man, whom
no one ever thought of; a sort of negative character; a
man without friends or enemies; a man as ignorant
of the world as if he had never been born into it; a
mere mathematician, to which branch of science he is a
bigot; a man who thinks that all the rest of the world are
busy about trifles, mathematicians excepted! The
Corpora

Corporation have been censured not a little for this choice; and their excuse is that in these times of innovation, it is best to keep the College ship in Dock, and not suffer her to venture near an enemy; that they studied safety rather than risk a voyage of discovery: If these reasons be admitted why did they chuse Fisher Ames?

The truth of the matter is, they did as has been done more than once in the Roman conclave, Disappoint all the fierce contending princes & intriguing courts by chusing a good but obscure monk, who had neither power or inclination to do good or harm.

What has been the consequence of this surprising election? The consequence has been the banishment of Dr. Pearson. He retires to a small house in Andover with very little to live on, after being ²¹ 10 years in the service of colleges. It avails him nothing that he has enriched the college treasury, as it is said, 30,000 dollars. He is suffered to go off with as little feelings of compassion as some people turn off an old, ~~red~~ decrepid cart-horse. Dr. P. had his notions, and labored to fortify them; yet was he a respectable man, a good scholar, and a faithful teacher. They accuse him of being at times passionate & cross. I never knew a good & faithful officer but

but what was. Who can have much to do with men, and
with mens children, especially in controuling and
correcting them and preserve a placid temper?
But the man placed at the head of this great school
for it is but a school, never was known to be out of
temper, say his advocates; - if so, say others, he
will never make a good & energetic officer.
Such is the state of things at this time in this place;
and such are the feelings of all I have yet conversed
with in the college instruction & government, one
person excepted, who says nothing.

Under these circumstances, I have taken the
resolution to stay at home & say nothing; but follow
my medical & natural history lectures, & attend,
as much as I can to the education of my children
myself. I could not however keep my silence towards
you, because I know that you feel a particular
interest in the present & future state of this seminary,
and because I supposed that you would like to
know how we stood affected in this place, under our
new arrangement; and I knew that what I said to
you would never be mentioned to the injury of any
mans feelings. With the highest degree of respect and
esteem I remain your steady friend
Benjⁿ Waterhouse

Dr Waterhouse

March 30th Aug 2nd 1806

1806

Received of Dr. Waterhouse
the sum of 100 Dollars

Show this to Mrs Blamford

~~Will do to
publish this, consult
several~~

not this Country
not at all

BMS
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