

"There is also considerable religious interest in the different states in this city. Some few conversions. Affairs at are about the same in Belton. I have then now resumed my labors as teacher of my former class, though I attend chh. at

Dr. Parroy's.

Ever yours

B. G. Snow.

Lawrence,

Benja^W Meol. Searg.

March 18. 1848.

My dear fellow,

I was made glad by the reception of yours of 14th inst. I had been wondering at your long delay. I saw your Mother last Sat. She has begun to have fears of your ill health, your College troubles & all sorts of Ghorts I suppose. After all I thought she seemed quite resigned, & somewhat assured that the Lord would take care of you.

I could pretty easily conceive how blank you looked in the Mathematical Rec. Room to recite to Prof. Upham. I think you took the wisest course to walk right straight out. For if old Snythe had taken hold of you, there would not have been a grease spot left. But I can't say that I admired your judgment in going without your breakfast. And I am glad that you have not concluded to make such a precarious leap as to enter the Junior Class & get through Coll. in 2 years.

I am inclined to think, that you will need the whole 4 yrs. of College life to rub off all your greenness! As I & a good many others ~~have~~ did. I was glad to find that your course had been such as to secure for yourself the "gentlemanly respect" of "the whole College."



But who of the A. K.'s or Attorneys have become so familiar as to commence their fishing operations on you so ~~soon~~ soon? I know you would find Rich & Sewall right sort of fellows.

You ask whether joining a secret Soc. & keeping it secret during your whole course would be consistent? I ans. that I do not see the inconsistency of such a course. Then you ask me "as a trusted friend & Christian," whether "there is anything in Secret Socy. opposed to, or has an influence against religious feeling?" Your question is quite too general. For I know not the interiorness of any Secret Socy. except the A. A. P. And as to that, I think you would find one good ans. in looking over its Catalogue & see the No. of Revs & Prof's. besides other men who are standing high in other professions. But to be more particular I think it depends much upon the character of the members of any Socy. What will be the influence of it or of ones joining it. I can assure you most confidently that there is nothing at all, so far as I am able to judge, in the organization & operations of the A. A. Socy. inconsistent for a Christian to become a member of it. But a good thing may be abused.

And perhaps at times there may be an excess of hilarity & jocosity, at wh. an exceedingly scrupulous conscience might be a little troubled. But where in this world is there to be found perfection? Do you find it in the ch.?^d Not so much as I wish you did. You ask "if it is dangerous to our Christian

character to become connected with them? I can only
ans. for A. S. P. & myself in connection with it. If it
is dangerous to mingle intimately with some choice spir-
its in the world, (some of them not being Christians)
then I would say it is dangerous to join them, or
rather dangerous to join A. S. P. So far from being a
disadvantage it may be an advantage. For you will
certainly be brought into a more intimate union
with its members. And consequently may receive
more watchful care & regard from them & in turn
may exert a more salutary influence over them,
especially such as are not professors of religion.

And though this be your relation & circumstan-
ces with the immediate members of the Socy.
need not, nor ought it, prevent your treat-
ing the rest of the world & the rest of the world
treating you (especially if you are a secret
member) just as though you had nothing to do
with the Socy. at all. Saying thus much I shall
leave the matter with you to decide, as of course you
will, independently. Hyde is not well this P.M.
nor in very good spirits, so he'll not write you just
yet. Hopes to hear from you soon in a letter to
himself. Speaking to him of this matter, he thinks as
things are in College it will be better for you to join
than otherwise. My regards to old friends. Hope
you will write often. Hope also to hear well of the affairs
of religion in Coll. I think there is better state of religious
feeling in Sem. here than there has been for some years.

B. G. Snow
March 15. 1845

M. J. L. Chamberlain
Brunswick
Me.

