



*Letter to Orange Johnson of Worthington, Ohio from
William Johnson of Milan, Ohio, 3/6/1839*

Subject: William writes to his father to explain his trouble in school and asks for advice on whether to stay in school

[handwritten, script]

Milan March 6, 1839

Father,

I have now the pleasure to inform you that that difficulty which did exist [*sic*] between Mr. Hikok and myself is now settled and smoothed over in a manner quite satisfactory to me—The trustees met on Monday evening as was expected and the matter was thoroughly investigated (as I am confidentially [*sic*] informed by one of the trustees and therefore am unauthorized to mention what passed)

But you may be well assure that he got hard one [*sic*]—But there are some things that I will mention to show his determination to keep me away if possible

After the first affair was got along with (as near as I can find out) he brought in another charge that was the using of profane language in the Institute but this caused no great excitement in the minds of the trustees as there was no proof—as that went contrary to his wishes he hit upon another plan—to see me himself—(which he did) and ask so much of me that I would probably leave rather than consent to it—there he would have succeeded [*sic*] had I not been quite confident that the trustees had decided different [*sic*] I should have dealt rather rash with him and by so doing would have given sufficient reason for a dismissal [*sic*]—But after talking a little while he found that I knew the minds of the trustees—and finally said that I might come back if I would keep the conditions that he received me on a secret Those conditions were not more or less than what I told him the morning he dismissed me.

But he affected a dismissal [*sic*] of a Wright on the charge of abusing one of the students in his room and also swearing

But he has come back and given him (the same that he asked of me) a written statement of his past conduct and a promise for the future

But he did not send that statement because he thought that he had done wrong in doing what he did say but because his father thought that he had better get back and then leave of his own accord—he expects of remain but a short time a week or two at the most, I think of persuing [*sic*] the same course for I never can show Hikok that respect that I should as teacher—neither can I bear as much as is



sometimes necessary for it is not an uncommon thing for the rules of the Institute to be violated and lately for every little thing that is done amiss we have a long harangue and that before the whole school—There has been considerable mischief done lately one way and another and Gordon's boarders have had to bear their share almost [*sic*] every morning we have something I do not feel like taking more from him—and I think probably that I had better leave the school before long There are several other reasons why I think I had better leave,

As a report is that I was placed back [by] the trustees it would be no injury to [my] character but to the contrary I think it be an injury [to] remain for it is already [*sic*] a subject of much remark among the people of this town Your advice is asked respecting this and will be expected as soon as convenient.

Wm Johnson

[Envelope] Mr. O. Johnson Worthington Franklin Ohio