

Dartmouth 30 March  
1850

My dear Mr. Walsh

I should have been glad  
if it had been possible to  
have seen you again before  
tomorrow but I might have  
done further consideration  
to you on Mr Bowen's  
case and as certain the view  
on which you were disposed to  
take of it; which I can readily  
perceive you were not prepared  
to give when we last had  
that case under consideration.  
My reflection has but  
not fully established my  
own



own persuasion: but still I  
would not go to the extent of  
making that imperative on  
the clergy. The very argument  
argued by one of our brethren  
goes far to establish me in  
a conviction that such an act  
of discipline is necessary. For  
if, as was argued, it may be  
said to a female in order to  
induce her to assent to such  
a marriage "You see how  
many cases there are of others  
who do the same, and yet are  
not censured or lightly esteemed  
in consequence"; and if this  
representation may have weight  
in leading her to do what she

otherwise would refuse, knowing  
it to be wrong, then my conclusion  
is that the Church must have  
reflected her duty in not  
marking such cases with her  
censures. She has evidently  
been a party to the admission  
of an irreligious practice,  
which (by the influence of  
successive examples) conti-  
nually gains force, and  
multiplies the amount of  
vice. And therefore I am  
compelled to ask, What is  
the Church if not a divinely  
appointed agent to discou-  
rage offences by punishing  
those who offend; and so taking  
away



away the pretext, which en-  
rages fresh offences by pointing  
to previous instances in which  
they have been allowed to pass  
without any reprobation? This  
case brings to my mind the  
instance of Mr. Sta. Rensons  
baptism, administered in  
opposition to my declared  
sense of its impropriety, upon  
the plea that it was uncharitable  
to withhold what he so humbly  
and heartily desired. It did us  
indescribable harm: and <sup>such is</sup> my  
persuasion, that the same evil  
consequences will sooner or later  
flow from a similar yielding in  
the present case, that I feel bound  
in conscience neither to administer  
to Mr. S. nor to approve of its being  
done: but only can go so far as