

From Joseph A. Lewis to Jonathan B. Fuller

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Glasgow
March 13 /[18]64

Rev. J[.]B. Fuller,
Louisiana, Mo.
My dear bro.,

I believe in my last note, allusion was made to the election of a Pastor, which was to take place yesterday, it being Church meeting. After a sermon by Rev[.] [N.?] Hood, he was called to preside, and a vote taken whether they should choose a Pastor--many voting for doing so, and only a few against. Ballots were prepared and just as they were about to be distributed 'thro' the congregation, I suggested that probably it would be as well to wait and know whether Order 61, in relation to churches, did include our Church Meetings also--so the matter was reconsidered, and postponed for a month.

The Order clearly covers our Councils or Conferences, 'tho' the Pro. M. General

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may not so intend it. Tell me what you think of the matter.

If it does not, can't you help make it do so? One object is, I suppose, to reach, or "substitute," loyal for disloyal ministers--and how will you be able to do so, unless applied to Congregationalism? You know each church is a tribunal, where Christ himself presides, ratifying in heaven whatever is done according to his will on earth. Baptists recognize no higher ecclesiastical tribunal on earth as constituted by Christ. Now I have no talent whatever on my feet, and for some time have been thinking who I could get to oppose the proceedings; when the Gen. cut the Gordian Knot--and how shall I ever repay him?

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This must be settled in the affirmative before the next Church Meeting, when all church business is transacted, or my "Armstrong" is spiked. What shall I do? I can not, and will not, sit under the preaching of a disloyal man. Are you doing any thing for The Sanitary Fair, which begins 17th May? Come by, and let's go down and take a look at the Gen., and if necessary get a Com. as Asst. Pro. Marshal expressly for the purpose of promptly executing Order 61. The whisper from loyal clergy would soon rise into exclaim:--

"Dinna ye hear the slogan?

Dinna ye hear it--dinna ye hear it"?

I shall "subside" now, and fall back upon my dignity, until you are 2 letters at least in my debt.

Regards to the family--

Yours truly,
Jos[.] A. Lewis.