

College of New Jersey. Princeton
October 22 d 1836.

Rev. Dr. Matthews }
Rev. Professor Brome }
— Niles }

Reverend and dear Sirs,

By the hands of the Rev. Mr. Niles, I received your communication of the 29th ult., in which you inquire concerning my willingness to be nominated as a candidate for the presidency of Hanover College. I need scarcely say that this overture filled me with much surprise, or that I feel very sensibly the confidence thus reposed in me by men for whom I entertain so cordial a respect.

Although the conclusion which I am about to convey to you was that which my first impulse of feeling suggested, I have taken pains to avoid precipitancy, and have consulted with my most valued friends. In correspondence with their judgment, I lose no time in saying, that while I regard this undeserved and flattering offer with gratitude,

I am fully persuaded that it is my duty to reply in the negative.

My reasons for this have no relation whatever either to the Institution - which is manifestly most important - or to the gentlemen associated in its conduct, - with whom I could in great comfort unite my lot; but solely to my own character and circumstances. Out of many of these reasons I shall name but three:

I. My health, for a number of years has been exceedingly frail and precarious, so that I could not hope to undergo with impunity the labour of a large institution.

II. One of my children is in an afflicted and helpless state such as almost to preclude the possibility of a journey over the mountains.

III. Without affectation of humility I may be allowed to say, that I feel myself to be absolutely

and peculiarly unfit for the guidance and charge
of a young and influential college, struggling into
eminence, in a new country. If my experience has
taught me any thing, it is that I am made for quiet
and subordinate employments.

With every feeling of respect
and affection and with
prayers for the great advance-
ment and success of your
Institution, Believe me

Your friend & fellow servant

James W. Alexander

PRINCE GEORGE
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Rev. Dr. Matthews, or
Rev. John H. Browe

South Hanover
Indiana

Single.

