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To Joseph Felt.

Original in the Essex Institute, Salem, Mass. Transcribed from a photograph.

Amherst, Jan. 26, 1835

Mr. Felt,  
Sir,

Mr. Hawks has requested me to write to the members of the Committee, & inform them of the result of the efforts at South Hadley. When he first went there, he found that the people had received a strong impression that \$5,000 would be all the pecuniary aid which it would be necessary for them to furnish. Other arguments in favor of the place being inclusive, they supposed that this would secure to them the object. They had graduated their sale of subscriptions accordingly, & they had also looked on the sum of \$5,000 as large, & as all that the people were able to do. Mr. Hawks of course found it no easy undertaking, to convince them that it was both necessary & reasonable, that their subscriptions should be raised. He found it very difficult to make a commencement. The leading men in the enterprize [sic] felt some embarrassment in rendering efficient aid, as they had every where said to the people, that \$5,000 would be enough. At first he considered it inexpedient to state exactly what sum must be raised, & while a doubt on the subject remained, many seemed ready to believe, that, after all, if the Committee were pleased with the location, they would put the institution there, whether they raised their subscriptions or not.

The first week passed away with but very little apparent progress. At the commencement of the second week, last Monday evening, a public meeting was held at which Mr. Hawks stated definitely what was the legal vote of the Committee, & gave them fully to understand, that if they brought their subscriptions up to \$8,000, their village would be decided to be the location, without further consideration. He was anxious, that the people should be undeceived on this particular, & that they should not continue to indulge hopes of receiving the institution, only by complying with the conditions specified by the Committee. He was now desirous of this, as the

...ing the ...ion, only by complying with the conditions specified by the Committee. He was now desirous of this, as the state of the people, & their manner of treating the subject at that time, seemed to be such, as to lead him to think, that if the Committee should have occasion to reconsider the question of location, & should look at things just as they were, they would not be much inclined to urge that place as a location, & to attempt to gain it by lessening the amount of subscriptions required. I was at South Hadley a day or two about that time, & my inferences from my limited observations were similar to those of Mr. Hawks.

At the meeting on Monday evening, a Committee was appointed to go over the [program?] again for subscriptions. The meeting was adjourned to Friday evening, when the report of their Committee was to be given, & the business concluded. From this time, they began to

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realize, that to secure the object, their subscriptions must be raised, & they began to manifest something like energetic action. Saturday evening I received a few line from Mr. Hawks in which he says, "I am happy to be able to inform you, that the conditions of the Committee have been fully complied with by the people of South Hadley. The meeting last [evening?-part of word missing] was peculiarly interesting. All came forward to the work with an energy & spirit, which I have rarely seen, & the sum was raised on the spot to the \$8,000. There has been a deepening interest on the subject every day and hour."

May it not be important, that Mr. Bois should be careful not to give the people at South Hadley any reason to believe still, that they would have received the institution, if they had not brought up their subscriptions to the specified sum? I do not know, that the Committee would not have placed the institution there, if they had neglected to raise their subscriptions. But I have felt justified in saying that I did not expect it, & Mr. Hawks had/[has?] likewise felt justified in doing the same. If the people had continued to manifest no new interest, that Mr. Hawks observed the first week, and the subscriptions had not been made out, we have neither of us thought it very probable that the Committee would decide the location there. But the manifestations of interest at the last among the people were sufficient, and I think we have abundant reason to be fully satisfied with the location.

I shall write to the other members of the Committee at the [?].

Miss Caldwell unites with me in regards to Mrs. Felt.

Very respectfully yours,

Mary Lyon

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