

Providence May, 24, 1856

Very Res. dear Sir

I know not how to make an apology to you for my neglect in answering your letter. It was not forgetfulness nor unwillingness to do so that made me put me off writing. In following such as it is was the way it happened. I felt quite unable to come to a satisfactory conclusion in reference to his case you proposed to me and I thought I would take some little time to consider, examine authorities, &c. It was thus postponed from week to week and from month to month, as each time I thought of it I felt unable to come to a satisfactory conclusion and was unwilling to write without saying something more definite than I was able at the moment. I am no less ashamed than surprised to perceive this

long period has now elapsed while  
I am in this condition, but I beg  
leave to assure you that it was  
not through any deliberate unwill-  
ingness to comply with your  
request. I feel yet as much  
at a loss as ever and I suppose  
you must have satisfied your-  
self therein as to the course you  
will pursue. Not being able to  
announce any conclusion it wd  
be useless to lay down the rationes  
dubitandi so that the only object  
of the present note is merely  
to ask you to excuse my ap-  
parent neglect in answering. I  
say apparent without understanding  
to deny that much of it was real  
but while true than its amount  
of blame I would not wish

it to be considered as as all  
as bad as circumstances might  
seem to make it,

I remain, Very Res. Serv  
Sir,

Yours faithfully  
in X

M. Connor  
Bp Pittsb.

Very Res. Serv

1<sup>st</sup> Bp. of Pittsburgh

[Bishop Michael O'Connor of Pittsburgh]