

Transcription of Fitch W. Taylor letter:

110 Bond Street, New York Sep 23, 1837

My Dear Bishop

Some months since I sent you a letter to the care of Dr. Wyatt, of Baltimore, dated at Tallahassee, not knowing the place of your residence on the Eastern Shore. That letter I hope you will have received; long ago it communicated to you or in July bound on my part or to one of your humble presbyters, the action which I have been putting forth for the advancement of the cause of Christ and the furtherance of literature and general education in Florida.

I stated that I had procured the passage of a bill by congress, which allowed the Legislative Council of Florida to dispose of land, which is expected to bring from three to five hundred thousand dollars, for furthering the establishment of a university & for its support.

All my measures before the council last winter were not carried as I desired in relation to the charter petitioned for; & the subject of the university stands in status quo for the moment. I know not what will be done at the next meeting of the council which will take place next January.

I also stated that I had originated two churches & gained charters for them. One of there churches is desiring to advance, with all dispatch, is raising their building. I will employ a clergyman this fall to be permanently located with them.

It is my purpose, in the course of some few weeks to sail from our own land to another. My time abroad will probably extend to some three years. I hope to make it profitable to myself & others both for the time being & in its after influence on the cause of Christ and the good of man.

After leaving Tallahassee Florida, on the adjournment of the legislature ^{last winters council} I went to Tampa Bay, thence into the interior. At Tampa I held a religious service under thrilling circumstances. The officers of both Army & Navy, soldiers, marines and sailors were congregated: & to add interest to the scene, some one hundred of friendly Indians gathered ^(beneath the moss-hung oaks) supposing that they were witnessing a grand council.

I found what will be found at almost all of our Naval & Army stations, some among the officers who not only honor religion but feel personally concerned at the best interest of their future being. Should it be my privilege to see you personally, or it may be, before I go abroad as I purpose to be in Maryland it will give me pleasure to narrate some instances in this association which I doubt not may be of interest to you.

I hope this will find you well—that the churches of your diocese are flourishing and religion prospering within the bounds of your loved Zion.

With assurances of the kindest remembrances and great regard of you, &c Fitch W. Taylor

Will you not favor me with an acknowledgement of the reception of this? A few lines would even be welcomed yourself, always remembered by me with the pleasantest associations. I am in hopes to pass through Maryland the later part of October or first of November, the time at which I sail.