

Ann Arbor, July 2nd, 1869

Rev. M.B. Anderson D.D., LL.D.,  
President of Rochester University:

Dear Sir. Having reason to believe  
that the Regents of the University of Michigan will tender you the Presidency of the University now made  
vacant by the resignation of Rev. E.O. Haven, D.D., LL.D. the undersigned ask your attention to the following  
considerations:

1. The importance of having a man of sound Evangelical views and active Christian influences, at the head of a  
University having more than twelve hundred students, gathered from all parts of the country.
2. The School being a State Institution there can be no guaranties of this in its organic law.
3. May we not, therefore, consider it Providential that the attention of the Board is turned to a man who will  
give such universal satisfaction in these respects to all evangelical Christians?
4. The entire freedom which the President enjoys for exerting a positive religious influence and for inculcating  
sound views, both from his official position and as the Chaplain of the University who is expected to preach  
statedly to its students.
5. The Unitarians of New England are awake to the advantages here afforded for disseminating religious  
sentiments. For four years past they have sustained Rev C.H. Brigham as a Missionary here, for the avowed  
purpose of inculcating their peculiar notions among the students. There can be no doubt that, as soon as the  
fact that a vacancy exists is known to them, they will use every means to fill the place by a man of their own.
6. Should the position be tendered you, and be declined, there is every reason to apprehend that influences  
will be brought to bear upon the Board which they cannot justify themselves before the public in resisting to  
secure the appointment of a man of so-called liberal views.

In view of the interest at stake and of the opening here for a large and extended influence, we hope  
you will recognize the hand of God in setting before you this open door and accept the appointment should it  
be tendered you, trusting that your brethren will be able to fill the place you now occupy with a man who can  
successfully carry forward the work which during your administration has been placed on so substantial a  
basis.

With high consideration we are

Yours in Christian fellowship & Service

Edward Olney

N.S. Burton Pastor Baptist Church

Andrew Ten Brook

Henry S. Frieze

W.J. ERdman, Pastor Presby Ch.

Benjamin F. Cockor, Pastor of Meth. Epis. Church

Henry L. Hubbell, Pastor of the Cong. Ch.