

Columbia College N.Y.
November 8th 1838.

Gentlemen,

Your favour of the 30th of September was received by me on the 22^d of last month, under an enclosure from Mr. Clay, postmarked in this City. I immediately transmitted to that gentleman's address, copies of the Charter and Statutes of this College, which I trust, will afford material information with respect both to the organization and powers of its Board of Trustees, and to its system of instruction and discipline. Upon the other points to which your inquiries are directed, I shall endeavour to give you the best information in my power to afford, and will freely offer my opinion upon those subjects upon which you have done me the honour to request it.

I. In regard to the general government of the University under your temporary charge. This appears from your letter to be intended as a State Institution, and therefore it seems proper, that its Trustees should be selected in due proportion from different parts of the State. But to insure an efficient Superintendence (for I conceive that the duties of the Trustees should extend beyond the mere office of visitation, — that they should be Governors, as well as visitors of the University,) a number sufficient at least for a quorum, should be residents of the place where the University is seated; especially as that place is a City so populous, & possessed of so many other advantages for the selection of proper persons for the office, as Lexington.