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Cincinnati, Nov 10 1874

W. T. Withers } Elders of the Main st Christian Church  
 J. L. Stockdell } Lexington, Ken

Dear Brethren

Your communication of Sept 21<sup>st</sup> was duly recd. Our failure to reply is owing to the fact that we could not confer together so as to determine upon what course to pursue. And even after sufficient conference was had our Chairman has been absent from home so much that he could not prepare a reply until today.

We confess we were somewhat surprized at your communication. We had been led to believe from several reasons that our proposition, with perhaps some slight modification, would be accepted. Hence, we can scarcely account for the manner in which you treat it. You seem to think it is a very foolish proposition, and should never have been submitted; and ~~that~~, furthermore, you seem to try to make "capital" out of our admission, that it was not such a one as we preferred. Now, we can not permit you to use our admission to the disadvantage of Regent Bowman.