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Correspondence

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Box 1_15 (Correspondence Friends Yearly Meeting -Richmond Indiana 1881-1882)

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No. 1



CHARLES F. COFFIN.

RICHMOND, IND.,

1 mo 26 1882
H. T. M.

Mannah Whitall Smith

Dear Friend

We had a long discussion over
thy application for membership
to day - near two hours - Thy with-
drawal was finally entered and the
case dropped - A large majority of
the meeting favoured thy reception
but the minority were so persistent
and determined, as to lead us to con-
clude it better not to press it further.

As I expected, the letter of Isaac
P. Evans was agreed upon at Spiceland
where Luke Woodard & D. B. Hargraff
were holding meetings - From every point
the friends of the letter were rallied to
the attack.

Our Committee were unanimous except

J. P. Evans in favoring the reception
He persisted, and we laid the whole
matter before the meeting - They
original application, - our letter to them,
- thy replies to the Committee, - thy
letter to Isaac T. Evans, and some short
extracts from one of thy letters to us
were all read. The opposition was
all from ^{personal} friends, and mostly from the
immediate family of J. P. E., - they
had come with set speeches, notes, &c.
and spoke in rapid succession for
a long time. T. Nicholson, my wife
& others represented the case - but as
no one in the meeting accepts & endorses
the doctrine of Restitution, it was some-
what difficult to answer that point,
and many honest friends who were in
favor of thy reception were alarmed
at thy open honest avowal of views
upon ~~it~~ that point

The matter passed over quietly after
the long discussion by entering a mini-
ute that the application was withdrawn

I deeply regret that we should be
deprived of having thee in Church
fellowship but since I saw thy letter
to S. P. Evans had ^{little} ~~any~~ expectation that
we could carry the application through.
The real hostility, however, of A. B. W.
and his friends was not so much to thy
views on Resolutions as upon the Ordinan-
ces - this was freely admitted in private
but of course not alluded to in public

We must leave all in the hands of the
Lord and trust that good may in some
way grow out of it

We feel deep regret on account of thy
daughter Alice - It was expressed in the
meeting - Extend to her our kind love
We trust she may in no wise be discouraged
by the circumstances

Edward Scott is holding meetings in our
meeting house & preaches with great power.

Affly thy friend

C. F. Coffin

G. F. Coffin refers in this to a letter written to me by Isaac F. Evans asking me my views on Prostitution, and ^{to} my reply. I did not see how I could in honesty decline to answer him -