

American Baptist Publication Society,

1420 CHESTNUT STREET,

Benjamin Giffith,
Secretary.

Philadelphia, March 9th 1882

Dr. J. W. Dawson,

Dear Sir,

Your telegram of Monday and your postal card of the same day come duly to hand. I did not answer the former by the same means for I knew that the proof was sent properly from this place, & was well aware of the delays in the delivery of such matter. There are so numerous that I cannot count on the day of reception of proofs either by author or editor.

Your card & the proof, by some unusual concurrence, both came this morning.

I have been over the proof carefully. Some of the extra commas I find to be necessary, in order to bring out the precise sense. Two or three I think would make it. E.g. "The fruitful cause of difficulty in the relations of Sec. & Sec. is to be

found in the narrowness & incapacity
of well meaning Christians who necessarily
bring the doctrines of Nat. & rev. Religion
into conflict."

The use of the comma here would
medicate the matter of the relative
clause of the whole of well meaning
Christians; if the pronoun were which
it would medicate it of the narrowness
and incapacity of W. M. Chms. Hence
I omitted it.

The question of punctuation give
me a great amount of work in the
course of a year for it leads to a very
careful study of the author's real
meaning so as to bring it out precisely,
by well established rules of punctuation.
I endeavour not to differ from an author
unless for satisfactory reasons.

The word which I referred to in a
former letter (but of Amphioxus) was as nearly
as I could tell "Mitochond, or Redimentary
Backbone." If it be Mitochond, it is a new
word to me, though it might be made up from

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niton & chorda. Still, my business is to be accurate. Guesses are as much out of place in editing, as you show them to be in the enunciations of science. Hugh Miller once said to me, when I was looking at a table covered with specimens of the same species, in his cabinet, "I must have enough to make out my case, no matter how many it may require!"

I sent you on Tuesday evening, from Bryn Mawr, my post office, in the neighborhood of my home, a further lot of proof. I think the whole will be readily completed before the end of the month.

Yours very truly

Wm. Anderson

Anduin

Nov 1872

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