

Vienna, Fairfax Co. Va.
Jan 3rd 1893

Rev. Jarvis Buxton, DD
My Dear Pastor,

Your letter came to me today, an echo from the past, and quite carried me back again to the little village and church Rectory where seven years of my life have been spent. Had matters with me gave according to me desire, I would never have left this place. Certainly it cost much heart rending to go. But I am thankful to God that His goodness has provided for the people all along true and faithful shepherds, until now one of the most revered and learned priests in the Diocese in the spiritual overseer and guardian of the little flock.

By all means send the picture on. In about two weeks more I shall have completed and get out of my studio a Reredos for the Baptistry of the Church of The Incarnation, Washington D.C. where there is already a large work of mine, and then I can attend at once to the restoration of your picture. On seeing it I can find out what is wanted - only it is inconceivable to me how an oil painting could have "faded". The tendency is usually the other way.

It would give me great delight to once more visit Lenoir. The old haunts and see the faces of the dear people who were my charge. Their affection is not only to me and mine. Mind journeys I indeed make many and often, but even in this age of rapid and cheap transit time and money are required for travel and I am but scanty supplied with either. So then I have to rest contented and with spirit excursions and exchange of letters now and then. We have to catch up as best we may by our contrivance the incompleteness of this lower world and wait too long to pray for that state to come which will rectify the shortcomings of the present. Meanwhile my experience in North Carolina occupies a foremost place in my memory and love.

I am glad you keep up services in the "Chapel of Peace". That mission was very dear to my heart, with its day and Sunday school, Christmas and other festivals, and the knowledge that was the means of bringing the Gospel - teaching of Christ's Church to a class who, if they received any teaching at all, could have without that mission only scant and definitive instruction and administration. God bless the efforts you are making and give you a rich larder.

Give if you please, my warm love to these my former parishioners whom you may meet and tell their old Pastor shall in no wise forget them nor leave them out of his prayers,

With kind regards to Mrs. Buxton, Yours very faithfully,
Johannes A. Oertel