

33A

union & perfect harmony -

I did propose that no law should pass until the next session of the Legislature & that in the interim you should proceed on the memorandum then agreed on as a basis which would enable you after a practical experiment in a state of union to see how it might be improved to the satisfaction of all and you would then present yourselves in the character of a society entirely without division. Both sides rejected this proposal & each insisted on having a law forthwith prepared. I declined having any agency whatever in drafting the law & voted for it because it was understood from persons on both sides then in the lobby that it had been submitted to & approved by you all.

It was ^{not} asserted by Dr. Brooks or by Michl. Lamb that permission would positively be refused to bury Mr. Lamb along side of his child. I do not readily discover how a private conversation in my lodging room can be properly made the subject of public enquiry without my knowledge or approbation. As however it has been the subject of remark it is but justice to Mr. Lamb to state the facts.

In the course of the conversation I discovered from an expression of Mr. Lamb's that the Eastern meeting were disposed to resist the authority of the Western Friends to

33B

the burial ground and asked him if they were indeed disposed to claim an exclusive right to this privilege. He said they did claim to have the exclusive right to the burial committee and that the Western people were considered by the Eastern meeting to be buried there by courtesy & not of right.

I then put to him pointedly his own case understanding that he was in the Eastern district by residence. He said he had a child or more member of his family there & if this business went on he should not expect to be laid there himself - meaning as I understood that the Eastern Friends did then claim & if the existing distinction was continued & increased would exercise as he supposed the right to prevent all but the members of their own meeting from burial.

I will however remark that it is a bad evidence of the spirit of unity in which Brethren should dwell together when such private conversations are made the subject of investigation & criticism. I will add too that no man on either side of the question seemed to me more sincerely to rejoice at the prospect of reconciliation than my old & esteemed acquaintance Mr. Lamb.

This I deem to embrace all your queries & you have my best wishes that it may facilitate an adjustment of all your difficulties.

Yrs. E. F. Chambers