

4 Decembris



37
D. W. Peter Wittker
Waddington
St. Lawrence Co.



Cicero Sept. 18th 1826

My Dear Friend,
you have been, I have no doubt, somewhat surprized at my not coming to Canada according as I had proposed. It had ever been my firm determination to visit you, & I considered sickness and death as the only hindrances: further I had most solemnly pledged myself, conditionally however, to become your minister for at least one year. But when I received your last letter, and read its contents, I came to a passage in the close of it that staggered me completely - it was this - "if this will do, well, if not, we cannot much better" - this immediately told me, that I might do as I had a mind to do about it, I might come, or stay - I knew that you were destitute of, and very needy for a clergyman, but when you showed such indifference to my coming or staying, giving me, as I would, to be free or not from my obligation, I preferred to be free and to stay - My people here and at Liverpool a village a few miles distant have subscribed for me to the amount of about \$400. - I held myself perfectly bound until your letter arrived, and had made some preparations, to go - and again, your sending me a part of my salary inti-

mated that the people loved their money more
than preaching, otherwise they would have
sent me more than that sum ^{gratis & free} in order to have
me among them, if so be they were any way
eager to have me as their pastor. These cir-
cumstances, my dear friend, were the chief &
sole causes why I have staid. You will there-
fore acquit me of all blame - and the sending
of the same money you sent will show that
I was actuated not by selfish considerations in
not sending the money - Mr. Flayjunga would
have brought it you and I had agreed to send
it by him, but not having an opportunity to
see him after our synod had dismissed, I was
prevented thereby - I now enclose it - the sum
eleven dollars, the whole received - The reason
why I did not send it sooner was, this I
considered that if you could not obtain another
minister I would try to come myself. But
you will have ~~an~~ learned, smart & active and without
a very excellent young man and minister in the
person of Mr. Flayjunga. He is worthy of your
respect & esteem and your greatest attachment &
love. may God bless his labours, bless you
bless all your brethren in the prayer of your
Dear brother in Christ

Mr Peter Wetteken

Jacob Lenderling

[Faint, illegible markings or bleed-through from the reverse side of the paper]

Handwritten in purple ink: *H. ...*