WILBERFORCE, SAMUEL, 1805-1873.
Samuel Wilberforce letter, 1853

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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Wilberforce, Samuel, 1805-1873.
Title: Samuel Wilberforce letter, 1853
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 099
Extent: 0.01 cubic ft. (1 letter)
Abstract: Contains one letter written by Samuel Wilberforce.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
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Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Samuel Wilberforce Letter, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing
Processed by John N. Wright, March 1989.

Collection Description

Biographical Note
Samuel Wilberforce was born at Clapham Common near London, England, on September 7, 1805. He was the son of William Wilberforce, a prominent member of Parliament and a leader of the anti-slavery movement. Wilberforce was privately educated until 1823, when he enrolled in Oriel College, Oxford. Wilberforce graduated in 1826, then spent the summer and autumn of 1827 touring the continent. He married Emily Sargent on June 11, 1828. In December of the same year, he was ordained as an Anglican Clergyman, and assigned as curate at Checkenden.

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In 1830, he was appointed rector of Brightstone in the Isle of Wight. While at Brightstone he was active as a writer, publishing several tracts and hymns; a volume of short stories, _Note Book of a Country Clergyman_; and a sermon; _The Apostolical Ministry_. In 1836, he was appointed as a rural dean. Late in 1837, Wilberforce published _Letters and Journals of Henry Martyn_. In 1838, with his older brother Robert, he published _Life of William Wilberforce_, and, in 1840, _Correspondence of William Wilberforce_. In 1839, he published _Letters and Journals of Henry Martyn_. In 1838, with his older brother Robert, he published _Life of William Wilberforce_, and, in 1840, _Correspondence of William Wilberforce_. In 1839, he published _Eucharistica, Agathos and other Sunday Stories_, and a volume of _University Sermons_. Wilberforce published his _Rocky Island and other Parables_ in 1840, and, in 1844, his _History of the American Church_.

Though a supporter of the High Church party, Wilberforce separated himself from the Oxford movement and often disagreed with the tractarians. By 1838, their differences had reached the point that John Henry Newman refused to accept his contributions to the _British Critic_. In August 1840, he was named canon of Winchester, and in October he became rector of Alverstoke. In 1841, he was chosen as Bampton lecturer at Oxford and later named chaplain to the prince consort. In October 1843, he was appointed sub-almoner to the queen. In March 1845, he was named dean of Westminster, and in October, Bishop of Oxford.

As a leader of the Church of England, Wilberforce was involved in the major religious controversies of the era, including: the Renn Dickson Hampden Case (1848) and the George Cornelius Gorham Case (1851). The Papal Bull of 1850, which restored the Catholic hierarchy in England, dealt a blow to the Bishop and all High Church adherents. The 1851 conversion of his brother-in-law, Henry Edward Manning (Manuscript Collection No. 2), and his two brothers, Robert and Henry, to the Roman Catholic Church caused further misgivings about his own loyalty to the Anglican Church.

In 1852, the Bishop played a key role in the revival of the powers of Convocation. In 1854, he established the Theological College at Cuddesdon. He took a stand against _Essays and Reviews_ in 1861, and wrote an article in the _Quarterly_ that won him favor among many Low Church supporters. He was involved in another controversy in 1861, concerning the Bishop of Natal, South Africa, John William Colenso, and his _Commentary on Romans_. In 1867 and 1868, he served on the Ritualistic Commission, drafting its first report and later to moderate the harsh measures against ritualism included in the second report. In 1869, he was named Bishop of Winchester. Samuel Wilberforce was killed by a fall from his horse on July 19, 1873.

**Scope and Content Note**
This small collection consists of a single signed letter from Samuel Wilberforce to the Reverend Thomas Sanctuary. The letter, written in 1853, concerns admission of Holy Orders to the Reverend Sanctuary's brother.