Philadelphia, May 24, 1856

Very Rev. Dear Sir,

I know not how to make an apology to you for my neglect in answering your letter. It was not forgetfulness nor unwillingness to do so that made me put your letter away. In following such as it is was too way it happened. I felt quite un
able to come to a satisfactory conclusion in reference to the case you proposed to me and I thought it would take more little

It was thus performed. From week to week and from month to month, in each turn I thought of it. I felt
unable to come to a satisfactory conclusion and was unwilling to write

without saying something more definite than I was able to
moment. I am no less ashamed than surprised to perceive that
long period that have elapsed since I am in this condition, but I beg leave to assure you that it does not influence any deliberate conclusion. I am fully willing to comply with your request, I feel quite anxious as to what you must have satisfied yourself, and I suppose you must have satisfied yourself. Having seen you, I suppose you will pursue. Not having been able to announce any conclusion, I am unable to lay down the matter. Anticipate to treat the only object of my present visit, sincerely to ask you to excuse my apparent neglect in answering. I say apparent without understating the delay; much of it was real. But while true, then its amount of time I would not wish...
it to be considered as at all
as bad as circumstances might
seem to make it.

I remain, Very Rev. Ian

Your faithfully

M. O'Connor

Vry. Rev. E. Lenex

1st Bp. of Pittsburgh

[Bishop Michael O'Connor of Pittsburgh]