Dec. 20 1833

[verso:

Cambridge 20 Dec 1833.

Dear Sir,

I feel it my duty to acknowledge of your two favors the one, without date but probably of the 5th. and the other of the 7th. of December; and to assure you that the inquiries made had no reference to any specific charges made against you; still less had they any connexion with complaints made to the Gov. of the Commonwealth, of which I know nothing, of at least nothing distinctly; and less than all from any disposition to countenance Apes in any of his projects. This man had about ten minutes interview with me in one of the Insurance offices but he was never before the Corporation; and I do not know that any member of that body knows of that interview.

I shall not conceal from you that those inquiries arose wholly from my suggestions, arising from very serious doubts I entertained whether the application of the funds, in our hands was in conformity with the will of the Donor. The subject had never before been brought before my mind, until after objections made by others, as well as Apes. I thought it was my first duty to hear your statement. The investigation will be pursued, hereafter, as opportunity permits. [ illegible ]

[folio 2:

object of this letter is to assure you that it has originated in no other motive than a desire to instruct myself concerning my official duties, so it will be pursued by me, without prejudices theological, local, or personal against you, and independent of the “influence” of any individual, or individuals, be they high or humble.

What course will be pursued, I cannot now pretend to anticipate. Probably nothing will be done soon, certainly nothing suddenly. And so far as it depends upon me no change shall be made without an investigation as thorough as the nature of the relations of ye subject requires.

Very respectfully
Yr hl S,vt
Josiah Quincy

Rec'd Phineas Fisk.

[verso:

J. Quincys Letter
to Phineas Fiske.
20 Dec. 1833]