The Vestry adjourned until the first Monday in April next –

April 4. 1840.

A special meeting of the Vestry was called by the Rector to meet at the Parsonage this day at 3 o'clk P.M. Present Wm A. Fitzhugh Chas H. Williams Chas Beatty Thomas Schnebly and Fred Dorsey. The Vestry was organized by appointing Col Wm A. Fitzhugh President pro tem –

A communication was received from the Revd Mr Wiley which was read and directed to be recorded –

To the Vestry of St Johns Parish Hagerstown

Gentlemen. I have been served with a copy of your proceedings of the 31. ult. among them I observe a resolution in which they declare that the Vestry know of no authority that will justify them in electing a Minister for an indefinite time, but avow opinion that such an action is unprecedented and greatly embarrassing the future action of the Vestry –

Whatever may be the embarrassment created or the difficulties attending the future action of the Vestry, yet in my case

the power was exercised and the election made and to see whether such an election is unprecedented you have only to refer to the several parishes in the Diocese with few exceptions and to every Parish throughout the Union with the same qualification

I had thought my statements plain and explicit I consider my original engagement as one which can be properly broken only by the mutual consent of the Pastor and Vestry or in the event of disagreement between them by the higher Ecclesiastical authority under the 33 canon of the general Convention

My views of your proceedings you have already received, these views remain the same, and unless prohibited by the action of your body I shall preach in the Church on Sunday next at the same time I inform the Vestry that I discharge that duty and whatever else I shall do, as Rector with all the rights and privileges as heretofore enjoyed – and by no means as admitting the legality or propriety of any of your late proceedings – But in case of such action you will please to appoint (as before requested) one of your body as an agent to receive the pews