still, relying upon the generosity which must have prompted the Call, and above all in the aid of him, whose strength is made perfect in weakness, I cannot decline your invitation, as unwary, and fraught the highest responsibility, as I well know so large an undertaking must be for me, a young and inexperienced in the Ministry as myself

But since there are many things, which ought to be explicitly understood before a relation so holy and important (and if commenced I pray God to lasting) as that, which, between Pastor & People is undertaken, and to give your Vestry, Congregation, & myself an opportunity of a mutual acquaintance, so far as it can be had, before I shall by my acceptance, enter upon a position so full of the most important results to all concerned, I shall therefore postpone my acceptance, until we have done all, to satisfy ourselves, that my habitation among you as your Rector will promote the ends we have in view God willing I hope to be with you on Sunday next –

The provision which you offer for my maintanance and comfort is fully adequate to my wants, and so far exceeds that which many in the Ministry enjoy, that I can only express my entire satisfaction with it

With many thanks to your Vestry, for their kindness and my prayer, that God may bless you, I remain my dear sir

truly yr Servant

To Rod. F. Dorsey
Register –

George C Stokes

Baltimore March 11. 1858

To the Vestry & Gentlemen
of St John's Parish

Dear Sirs

Although very considerable of Personal advantage, of influential position, & of important engagements in our Masters Cause, call upon me to maintain the resolution heretofore expressed to your Vestry, and certainly confirmed by my recent visitation to your Parish, still I think that your Vestry concurs with me, in the propriety of my decision to decline, a desertion of my present situation,

Some Months since, before my admission into Holy orders, I entered upon an engagement, with the Revd Mr Muller Rector of Mount Calvary church of this City, which contemplated a continuance with him for at least one year He was at that time in delicate health, and threatened with a dangerous disease – When I received your communication, which I answered it, soon up to my return home, from my Visit to your Parish, I supposed the that danger had passed, and that there was consequently no obstacle in the way of my acceptance of your Call, upon that score, I now find it otherwise, I am informed by his Physician, that his condition is precarious, that he is upon the verge of a dangerous disease, into which, a few weeks of anxiety or over exertion may precipitate him, I therefore am compelled to conclude, that I ought not to encompass, any personal advantage, expose either himself to such a risk, or the Church to the endangerment of a Servant, who has always been so efficient and faithfull – I must therefore, for this reason and this alone, decline your Call, which I am sure, I gave you reason to suppose I intended to accept – regretting from the bottom of my heart the great Personal advantages which were opened to me, and the continued vacancy and inconvenience, to which your Parish is subjected, and with my heartfelt prayers, that it may please God, to bless you individually, and in the administration of the concerns of the Parish – I remain

Gentlemen, ever most gratefully yours

George C Stokes

On Motion made and seconded – the Vestry expressed great and sincere regret, that the Revd Mr. Stokes, did not accept their call and requested their Register to write to him expressive of their feeling, and have it entered on their Journal; which was accordingly done –

The Vestry then went into an Election a Rector, when the Revd Walter Ayrault, was unanimously elected, & the Register requested to inform him of his election which was accordingly done that Evening

The Vestry then adjourned.

F. R. Dorsey Reg