

W. B. Lewis to Dr. Hill

Impress April 28th/46

En 973

Dear Mr. Hill

I received your letter
of the 9th Inst.

You seem to have written this
principally, and I am persuaded with the
very best intention, in order to lessen in
some degree the sad impression which your
account of the Tomb Stone given in a former
communication was calculated to make &
which I confess it certainly did make upon
my mind as well as upon that of others.

That was a simple unvarnished Account - and
you spoke particularly of your great objection
to the inscription, which, you said "taken in con=
=nection with the style of the Monument with un=
=questionably bold strong or to conclude that the
deceased or his friends were inclined to popular notions"

Such being the case I must be candid with
you in saying that I do not think your present
Apology - however well meant - is at all satisfactory.

There is indeed a good deal of truth in some of
your remarks, but allowing the utmost latitude
to Survivors, so far as taste, or their fancies, or even
their superstitious views may lead them in preparing
a Monument, nevertheless ought they with any
reason be permitted to put an inscription on
a Tomb Stone or any where else in a Protestant pub-
-lic Burying Ground, tending to convey an erroneous
-an unprotestant & an unscriptural doctrine to
the Visitor & the Reader? I really think not.

Grave Stones - although you call them Dumb Memorials,
may speak as well as Books - I do much harm too,
as well as good - L. Richmond, as you know, tells us
of one who had been converted by means of a Tomb Stone
& who knows how many have been perverted by the
like means - Being thus fully persuaded of the evil
as well as of the good that a Tomb Stone may be the means

of accomplishing - I should certainly use all
legitimate Authority in resisting the introduction
of any improper inscription into any Church
Yard or Burial ground I had any power over -
And I have no doubt but the Law would be on
my side - I have read in one of my Papers
brought by the very last Mail that the Incum-
-bent of a certain Parish in the Diocese of Chester
(a Clergyman!)
granted permission to a Mr. P. Donoghue, to select a
Monument for the grave of a departed parishioner
in his Church Yard, but having discovered the objection-
-able character both of the form & inscription, he (the
Rev. T. Holme) sought the interposition of his Diocesan
who at once prohibited the erection of the Sepulchre
Well, in your case, as you have at all events expressed
"a great objection" to the Inscription ^{in question} - If, as you tell
me you are the Ep^{os} of the Protestant Cemetery at Athos
you possess sufficient Authority to interfere - I should cer-
tainly advise you but in the best Spirit to do so on the
grounds of the said Inscription - And at all events not
to allow of the introduction before you fairly laid the case
before our Bishop and obtained his sanction. Otherwise you
may get into trouble. You are

Mr. N's letter against you, the Greek Ch. & Mr. B.
which you speak of as appearing in the Columns of
the Record & Malta Times have long since ceased
in the former - those in the latter are merely the
do - There was one letter which he gave as a
Translation of one of yours ^(from the Greek) & which I was very
anxious to find out if it really were correctly trans-
lated. I asked him the question & he merely said
that the Original could be seen & Comp'd with it -
I wish that you could break this your determination &
compare ^(ie your own letter) the two - for the letter as given by Mr. N.
seems to speak more against you than all that Gentle-
man has said about you - It is in fact to all appearance
open contradiction to the letter you wrote to the Soc^y of the
B. Soc. the copy of which you had the goodness to send me.
- I see but very little of Mr. N. He is by no means a favor-
-ite in this place & I believe very few have any thing to do with him
- You did not mention whether you rec'd. the small Book
I sent by Mr. Mott for Mary K. Leover. ^{acknowledged it} Neither has she
- Mr. Leover mentioned having left two packages to
be forwarded from Athens to Augsburg which have never
yet made their appearance - I do not ^{well} know who acts
for her in such matters - Perhaps you do - I do wish you
have the goodness to find out the person & speak to him on the
subject - your friend Mr. Pettinson has been for some time in
expectation of hearing from you - Mrs. Hill says to yourself &