Saratoga, Aug 25, 1830

Dear Robert,

Say to Totten that I have seen Professor Hopkins's resignation and that the only alternative which will be left to the Visitor, so little time remaining before the commencement of the Course, will be to authorize the Faculty to employ temporarily a lecturer on Chemistry - does John feel himself competent to undertake such a task? He must decide to with all becoming diffidence. If he answers this question satisfactorily, do himself then he should lose no time in communicating with Col. McLane -clash and Judge Christian proposing to lecture during the course for enough to pay for board and clothing. The great object should be to get a lodgment which can be converted into a Professorship. He might get testimonies from each of theLiterati as he is acquainted with and addressed Bishop Johnson upon the subject - I think under the circumstances if they were he would be more likely to succeed as a temporary lecturer than a permanent Professor. But he must not calculate upon success with any certainty, but press on with his law students. If it comes why let it be well - If not let it pass, and be forgotten.

Your truly, I write in haste.

Respectfully,

[Signature]