

Groton, Dec. 7th, 1842.

To the Right Worshipful, & Worshipful
Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge
of Massachusetts.

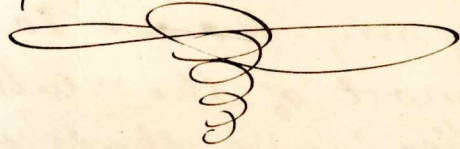
Brethren,—

I have for two years
past nominally stood in ^{the} relation to you
of Grand Master. That it has been out
of my power to attempt a performance of
most of the duties appertaining to that of-
fice, and that the duties I have undertaken
have been discharged with so little ability,
I have exceedingly to regret. As apology in
part for my delinquencies, I have not only
the common infirmities incident to age,
but some more special casualties, to which
humanity is liable, to plead. For the rest
I implore the extension of the broad
mantle of Charity.

As the time is at hand, when an
election of Grand Master is to take place,
and realizing, that age with its infirmities,
must necessarily increase, and not decrease,
I do unequivocally decline being a can-
didate for reelection.

And now, Mt. Wpl., Wpl. ^{Officers} & Brethren,
ardently praying for your peace
and prosperity as a Grand Lodge,
and for the individual happiness of
each of you, here & hereafter, I bid
you an affectionate & fraternal farewell!

Caleb Butler.

A decorative flourish consisting of a horizontal line that curves downwards into a series of three loops, resembling a stylized signature or a decorative element.