

1836

Correspondence (1807-1879)

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W. Beaumont [Saint Louis, MO] to Joseph Lovell,
Surgeon General [Washington, DC] regarding:
requesting excuse to decline chair of surgery at
Saint Louis University. October 21, 1836

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Dear Sir

St Louis

21st Octr - 36

I have just been offered the chair
of "Surgery" in a new Medical School about to
be established in this place, as you will
perceive by the enclosed copies of communication.

I conceive it my duty to consult the Depart^{mt}.
and obtain your views & opinion on the sub-
ject before giving a definite answer to the
proposal.

Feeling extreme diffidence in my own
qualifications & fitness for the appointment, I am
more inclined to seek an excuse than to
risk the acceptance. ~~and I offend~~ my official
connection with the Army - the uncertainty of my
remaining of my station here & the novelty and
doubt of obtaining the sanction of the Dept
& your approbation of such an arrangement,
as sufficient objections in the first place, and
gave them as my reasons for declining
the proffered honor in the first place.
But the Board, not incline to let me off
so easily, proposed to wait till I should
have time to consult & obtain your views

& discussion on the subject - I now submit it for that purpose and respectfully solicit your advice both official & private soon as convenient -

I have no wish or intention of resigning at present though the professional encumbrance I meet with here might seem sufficient inducement to do so, were avante & professional fame ~~not~~ the object of my ambition - I have a very handsome, lucrative, & respectable private practice, worth 5, 6, or 8,000 dollars a year - a professional reputation far above my deserts, & a professional popularity more than commensurate with my best practical skill or abilities -

I should prefer, in your reply,
a good excuse for non-acceptance.

I am
very respectfully
Yr. obd^r Servt
Wm

Beth
Letter to
Jug White
on Subject of
Professorship
St. Oct 1836