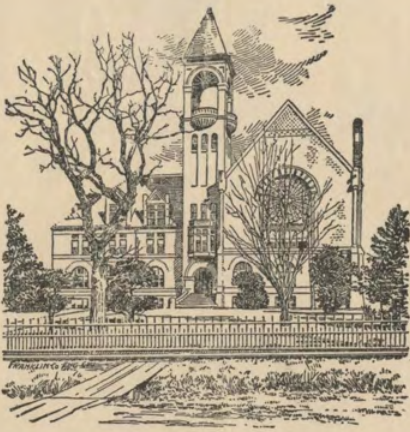




Pillsbury Academy.

JAMES W. FORD, PRINCIPAL.

Owatonna, Minn., Nov. 24th, 1896.

I can give him a free tuition in the academy, but there seems to be nothing for him to do to earn his other expenses. It seemed to me that in Chicago there might be an opportunity for him to work in some way so he could earn enough to make his necessary expenses.

I know you have many cares, and I don't wish to add to your burden, ^{but} inasmuch as he has had considerable theological training and his purpose in coming to this country is to gain further knowledge in the same direction, I hardly think this is the best place for him from this point of view.

If you can think of any way by which he could work in some department of the University, it will surely be a great service to him. I am paying his expenses here at present, and will furnish him money to go to Chicago if there seems to be an opening for him there. Owatonna is not large enough to furnish opportunities for work unless a student is especially apt in some direction.

Very truly yours,

James W. Ford

Dictated.

Pillsbury Academy.

JAMES W. FORD, PRINCIPAL.



Quincy, Ill., Nov. 24th, 1896.

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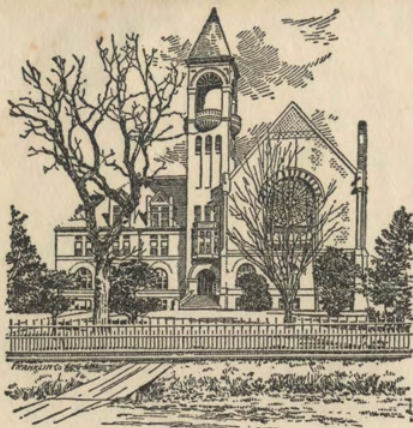
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James W. Ford

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Pillsbury Academy.

Ford

JAMES W. FORD, PRINCIPAL.

Owatonna, Minn. Sept. 24 1894

Pres. William R. Harper,

(34)

Your courteous invitation to the Autumn Convocation of the University is at hand. For which please accept my thanks.

I regret to say that my duties athome make it very difficult to leave at that time. I should like very much to be with you. The Academy has opened finely with ninety new students.

With kind regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

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Pillsbury Academy.

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JAMES W. FORD.
PRINCIPAL.

Ford

Pillsbury Academy.

Owatonna, Minn., May 31, 1899

Pres. W. R. Harper,

Chicago University, Chicago, Ill.

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Dear Brother:- Since writing you last I have written Dr. Stetson, asking him, first: whether he thought it desirable that a new president be elected or that only a financial agent be appointed; secondly: whether he felt that I was the right man for the place in case a new president should be elected. In reply I received a letter, a copy of which I inclose. I have also sought light upon the subject from such other sources as I could readily command. After giving the matter much serious consideration, I do not feel ready to make any proposition to the committee at Des Moines. I have written Mr. Aitchison that I did not wish the committee to consider my name further if they think it will hinder them in their progress toward electing a president, but that I should continue my investigation for a few weeks, and may make them some proposition if I feel that it is best to do so. I have said to him that of course the Board at Des Moines would treat the proposition as they thought best.

I am very sorry that I am not able to say now, that I would accept the place if elected, but in some way the future of Des Moines does not look clear to me. I believe there will be a strong future for that institution when the right conditions come to pass, and I regret that I cannot see my way clear to join hands with you now in this enterprise. I should feel strong with you behind me, and believe I should enjoy working in relation to Chicago Univer-

Pillsbury Academy

Owatonna, Minn., May 31, 1893

Pres. W. R. Harper,

Chicago University, Chicago, Ill.

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Stetson, asking him, first, whether he thought it desirable that a new president be elected or that only a financial agent be appointed; secondly, whether he felt that I was the right man for the place in case a new president should be elected. In reply I received a letter, a copy of which I inclose. I have also sought light upon the subject from such other sources as I could readily command. After giving the matter much serious consideration, I do not feel ready to make any proposition to the committee at Des Moines. I have written Mr. Atchison that I did not wish the committee to consider my name further if they think it will hinder them in their progress toward electing a president, but that I should continue my investigation for a few weeks, and may make them some proposition if I feel that it is best to do so. I have said to him that of course the Board at Des Moines would treat the proposition as they thought best.

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JAMES W. FORD,
PRINCIPAL.

Pillsbury Academy.

Owatonna, Minn., _____ 189__

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With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

James W. Ford.

Pillsbury Academy.

189

Owatonna, Minn.

2.

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With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

James W. Ford.

Copied

Des Moines, Ia., May 25, 1899.

Rev. J. W. Ford, Ph. D.,
Owatonna, Minn.

My Dear Brother:- Yours of the 23rd inst. came in my absence. I hasten to reply. It is the conviction of those trustees who desire a new president, I think, that he ought to devote himself largely if not wholly to raising money and soliciting students. They are all the time saying that the Institution needs some one to raise money and get students. That is what they emphasize constantly. In fact for some time they do not want him to do anything else.

Personally I do not think that the president of a college ought to live on wheels and become a soliciting agent. I think such a course is injurious to him and to the institution and to the cause of Christian education. I have in my mind some very prominent examples of this.

I have decided not to use any influence with the trustees in regard to the selection of my successor. I am leaving them entirely alone. I have also decided, that if I remain here, after another has been secured to fill my place, to do my very best as a professor and to give my full support to all his efforts to help the institution. I am very fond of study and teaching, and I also greatly enjoy making public addresses on the subject of education. I am ready to go or remain, and in either case to do all that I can to build up the College. Trusting that I have replied with sufficient directness and fulness I am

Yours very truly,

H. L. Stetson.

JAMES W. FORD,
PRINCIPAL.

Pillsbury Academy.

58

Ford

Owatonna, Minn., May 16, 1899

Pres. W. R. Harper,

Chicago University, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Brother:-I have received a letter from Dr. Stetson of which I send you a copy that you may have all the light I have on the subject. You are better acquainted with the Dr. than I am, and perhaps can interpret his letter more correctly. It would seem to me that Dr. Stetson's attitude toward the need of a new president and who the new president should be, is a very vital element in the case. I have sent Mr. Aitchison a copy of Dr. Stetson's letter and perhaps he will interpret it for me, so that I may understand it as ^{well} ~~soon~~ as possible.

Please tell me just what you think about it. Is Dr. Stetson likely to be happy if he remains in the school and will he leave a considerable part of the students and the Board of Trustees in a protesting mood if he withdraws? I have not yet written Dr. Stetson, and I did not discuss the matter with him when I was in Des Moines, so that this letter is not an answer to any inquiry which I have made.

I should be very glad for any light you may have to give.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

James W. Ford.

JAMES W. FORD
PRINCIPAL

Pillsbury Academy

28

Owatonna, Minn., May 18, 1892

Pres. W. A. Harper,

Chicago University, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Brother:- I have received a letter from Dr. Stetson of which I send you a copy that you may have all the light I have on the subject. You are better acquainted with the Dr. than I am, and perhaps can interpret his letter more correctly. It would seem to me that Dr. Stetson's attitude toward the need of a new president and who the new president should be, is a very vital element in the case. I have sent Mr. Aitchison a copy of Dr. Stetson's letter and perhaps he will interpret it for me, so that I may understand it as well as possible.

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