

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
BERKELEY

January 21, 1905.

My dear President Harper:-

Can you possibly help Hammond Lamont, the editor of the New York Evening Post, and myself by writing a note, no matter how short, to the Post approving, suggesting, or criticising in whatever way you please the accompanying proposal for a Central Library of Research? Inadequately provided as we are in this country with the materials of first-hand scholarship we can never accomplish what our brothers near the great libraries of Europe have accomplished. Professor Gildersleeve writes me that the realization of such a project as this during his youth would have changed entirely the tenor of his life and achievement.

It is not at all our purpose to republish manuscripts in the mass but only after careful selection by experts of those most desired by scholars from year to year. Nor shall we

necessarily restrict ourselves to photographic fac-similes, though in the ultimate resort that is the only method satisfactory to the historical or philological scholar. For the benefit of larger numbers of historical and literary students we may also aim at transcriptions of rare and difficult manuscripts and perhaps in certain cases at republication by method of printing. The aim is to have on the one hand a central library increasingly stocked with the materials of research, and on the other to supply to individual libraries such particular fac-similes and transcripts, etc., as each may desire.

We should appreciate it greatly if you would throw your influence in our favor in the way that I have indicated.

Very sincerely yours,

C. M. Gayley
Since this broadside was struck off letters have been printed from Presidents Angell & Schurman approving; and from the whole Stanford History Department; also from Professors Morgan & Grandgeat of Harvard, G. B. Adams & Tracy, Peck of Yale, as well as from many in President W. R. Harper, University of Chicago, Secretary Columbia, Chicago, Illinois, California, etc. I am

reasonably confident of strong pecuniary support from a certain source, if other institutions will join the movement pledging support. Think what it would mean for scholars! Yrs. C. M. G.

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January 21, 1908.

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Very sincerely yours,

C. M. Gildersleeve
President W. R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago,
Illinois.

Enclosed for the University of Chicago are three copies of the
proposal for a Central Library of Research, and for the
University of California, Berkeley, one copy of the
proposal for a Central Library of Research, and for the
University of Wisconsin, Madison, one copy of the
proposal for a Central Library of Research.

