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Name or Subject *Clark S. H.*

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File No.

May 28, 1900

July 28, 1899

Chicago, Univ of - Public Speaking Dept

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CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

File No.

Name or Subject *Clark & H.*

Date

Regarding

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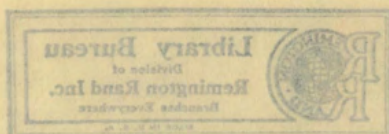
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Name or Subject *Thompson letters*

May 28, 1900

July 28, 1899

Chicago, Ill. of - Public Speaking 391



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Chautauqua
Chautauqua N.S. July 25/99

Clark

Dr W R Harper
Chicago

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My dear doctor Harper:

Your recent letter comes in the nature of a shock to me, and I confess I cannot fathom the animus. I am even inclined to believe that the statements are harsher on paper than they were in the utterance. But it may be that that is egotism on my part, which has its rise in the consciousness of my worth and of the faithfulness of my performance, the latter ~~the~~ of which at any rate you have seemed to recognize. I need hardly say that I am always open minded to receive any suggestions you may have to offer, but that it is impossible for me to do anything unless I have something tangible before me. I have worked too hard & too faithfully for your interests to rest now under unfair imputations, nor shall I. It is due to me that you state freely the exact grounds of your impression that "we have not made the progress which might have been expected".

10022 July 22 1899

PL

Chicago

My dear Mr. Hargis

Your recent letter comes in the
nature of a shock to me, and I confess I cannot
fathom its meaning. I am even inclined to believe
that the statement that I am a Jew is a mistake
in the wilderness. But I cannot be that in a
position of such great responsibility, and of the
importance of my work, that I should be
falsely accused of any perfidy. I am
at my work, and I am sure to remain
loyal to my post. I am sorry to hear that
my suggestions for you are being
discarded. I am sure that your interest
in the cause will be a great help to me.
I am sure that your faithful service
to the cause will be a great help to me.
I am sure that your faithful service
to the cause will be a great help to me.

You seem to forget that our department has grown to such an extent that ^{very} advanced work has been impossible if we are to do justice to the required work. That public speaking is a subject that cannot be memorized for an examination day, but requires time. That Mr. Blanchard & I are constantly giving more time than the catalog announces in order to meet the demands of the constantly growing classes. That never has there been such enthusiasm for the work as there is now, nor such appreciation on the part of the faculty who attend the contests; & lastly, ^{that} show work is not the end & aim of our desires. To help the average, untrained, restricted, self conscious man & woman to speak with acceptability is the highest end any department of speaking could attain & I believe we are doing this, doing it better every year.

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If you desire a school of elocution,
using that term in its best sense, you
must supply the teaching force. There
is no department of your University that
has greater possibilities, whose success
would redound ^{more} to your credit, than my own,
& yet you make no provision ^{for work} beyond
the beginning. If you want the very best
work, strike out the required classes,
& let us deal only with those who
elect public speaking, but do not
blame us for failing to attain suc-
cess (that is showy success, for
we have attained to other kind,) when
the University itself opposes the
real obstacle. You will pardon me
for this frank statement, but simple justice
to myself compels it.

I sometimes wonder, O Harper, whether you

If you have a school of children
wondered how in the best sense you
must improve the teaching force. The
is a department of your University that
has given you education in the sciences
I would like to see you in the
hope you will be conversant with
the beginning. If you want the very best
look into the book the University library
let us see only with those who
elect public meeting, what is not
blame us for failing to attend
even (this is about the time) the
the same attention to the study of
the University itself appears to
be of course. The University is
to this point statement but I hope to
to myself and to the University

Can possibly realize what it means to train 2 or 3 hundred raw, uncouth, uncultured, restricted, unemotional, unimaginative & generally, unwilling men & women in so subtle, elusive & dangerous a subject as elocution. To reach the average success we have attained is in itself a small accomplishment; to do it without disgusting the classes with elocution & the world with affectation is a triumph that none but those who have had large experience in dealing with this problem can appreciate.

On the eve of my departure for Europe I receive your curt letter which destroys all my pleasure here & probably will destroy my entire trip. If you have, as I said before, any definite charges to make

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It is due me that you state these formally; if your objections to the conduct of my department cannot be formally put, & are in reality answered by what I have here written, I feel I should know that too, for I shall not & can not allow the affair to remain without settlement.

Trusting to hear from you at once, I remain
Yours very truly

J. H. Clark

It is true we that you state here for
well, if your objection to the
lack of any department cannot
be reasonably found, we are in reality
innumerable of what I have been
written, I feel I should know that
too for a state not a man not
allow the effort to remain in
settlement.

Thanking you for your
over, I remain
Yours very truly

J. H. Clark

P.S.

It occurs to me I can add a sentence to make ~~things~~ a little clearer. Take the teaching of rhetoric. Eighty or more per cent of those who take the work can do no more than write tolerable, respectable English. If students wish to become writers they must take plenty of advanced work, for which you supply many instructors. Further, you don't hold your rhetoric department responsible for novels, stories or even orations. Is this not a parallel case to our own?

When I studied Hebrew many years ago our master would repeat three or four words & their translation, which we would repeat over & over till we learned it by heart. I never acquired anything but a ~~memorized~~ parrot like familiarity with 2 or 3 thousand words. Would

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I am sure to see I am also a student
 under the little stream. As to teaching
 of others. Fifty or more for each of them
 who take the work and then more than most
 because they are highly intelligent. I think
 not to become a teacher they must be the
 subject of no one else's study for which you
 are doing many interesting studies. But you
 don't lose your religious sentiment
 responsible for moral behavior. I think
 necessary. This is not a general case
 I am sure. I think it is a very
 thing I intended to do many years
 ago our master would repeat these
 or four words which I remember. This
 I must repeat over & over. The
 I learned it at first. I mean
 as much as anything else. I mean
 to be a student. I mean to be a student.

You came to teach Hebrew in that way.² Of course I had a lot of things I could show my friends, but the educational value of my instruction was nil. Many teachers of Elocution are following the display method. I cannot & will not do so. Our recitals have been slow, because we were making men, not automatons; but they have been sure. The Spring contest in the Junior Colleges was acknowledged by all who heard it as a splendid piece of work. So it was, & you have the satisfaction of knowing it was the genuine presentation of the work of the department.

Under the lash of your stinging note I feel impelled to write more than I ought,

nevertheless I am sure you have not
gripped the task before my department,
and the peculiar obstacles continually
interposed by public, professional, &
student sentiment. Hence the length
of this explanation.

Your note conclusively stating that "Something
~~must~~ ^{ought to} be done ~~at once~~ to develop this
side of the University's work & done
at once". Will you be good enough

to let me know what that means.²
Our program is prepared; we have made
arrangements for all who are likely to
apply for our work. We cannot give
very much advanced work because nearly
all our time is occupied with the beginners.
May I ask again that you let me hear
from you at once.²

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THE QUADRANGLE CLUB

April 16" 1900

My dear doctor Harper:-

Since sending you my resignation I have been deeply touched by the kind expressions of regret from many colleagues and friends interested in my work + the university. So much do I appreciate this interest that I take the unusual step to offer to withdraw my resignation provided you will meet me half way. I need hardly say that what I now do is not the result of the failure of my new plans, but ^{is dictated} solely by what I consider the good

own contention that speaking
should be compulsory. For
there are few students who at
the end of our required work,
cannot at least stand be-
fore their audience + speak
tolerably well. We have solved
the problem of required elocution
+ in this way made a definite
contribution to the pedagogy of
public speaking. But we cannot
stop here. According to your own
cardinal principles, we, having
accomplished thus much, must
push on to higher ends + results.
Believing that we were not likely
to strive for these ends, led us to
resign.

of my profession, the university,
and only lastly of my self.

To be plain, I decided to leave
the university, because, after care-
ful consideration, I could see
no possibility of realizing my
ideals within a reasonable time.
I came to Chicago at a great
sacrifice believing that in the
end I should find my step
justified. Now after eight
years I am bold to say that
we have succeeded in that
difficult task of giving dig-
nity to a department that is
the laughing of so many other
institutions. But more, the
practical results justify your

The University for its own sake
must offer advanced courses

a. In public speaking.

b. In principles of literary
interpretation - the basis
of artistic reading.

3. Graduate work in the
history of oratory - the
science part of oratory.

tc

H And last (but of great
importance), for those
who want to teach in
higher institutions

That you are in hearty sympha-
thy with public speaking courses
in colleges I thoroughly appre-
ciate, but I wish I could get
you to recognize the educative
value of our training as well
as its merely external, temporary

Fill
THE QUADRANGLE CLUB

results. This is no time to enlarge on this phase, & I leave it with just the hint mentioned above.

Now to realize our ideals I must certainly be relieved of much of the required work. Does it not appear rather a discouraging task to do as I do this quarter: teach the same work to five sections of Freshman?² When we were in the experimental stage I desired to work with the beginners; but now that that stage is passed, the work is irksome, not in itself, but

lowed no fellowships, no assistantships, consequently I am compelled to work on a lower plane than I should & the department of the university suffer. When I presented this condition of affairs in my annual letter of recommendations, you handed the matter over to Mr. Judson & have never called me in to see you. In other words I have been ignored, & to be candid, it is this that pains me most: not personally, but as it were, professionally.

You have said to me, Go on & establish the department.

because it keeps me from devoting myself to higher work, which would redound greatly to the credit of the university. Do you consider that more than two thirds of our time is given to the required work? Do you bear in mind that, when we give four majors (2 courses, repeated) to the divinity school, we can offer but one elective in the arts colleges? Is it not clear that we must have help.²

My department handles more students for less money than any other. We are al-

& I will get the assistants
later. I have answered again
& again, that this is impossible
We have not the time & strength
to do this. nor do you ask this
of any other department. Why,
then, of mine? We can no
more make public speaking
self supporting than we can
any other part of the curriculum.
The University of Chicago has
before it a great Task & a great
opportunity, to dignify the cause
of oratory, but it must do
so as it dignifies everything
else.

THE QUADRANGLE CLUB

For years I have fought hard to make elocution a legitimate college study - & not a mere laboratory course either. Are we to slip back now? I cannot believe we are, nor can I allow myself to do so. For the present I do not think we should strive to establish a school of elocution. We should aim rather to organize & conduct a high grade department from which should go out honest, forceful speakers & first class teachers. This we can do if you will help us

My plan is to cut down the
 division scholarships from 6 to 1.
 in junior & senior colleges.
 So we could save \$350 each quarter
 , \$1400 per annum, + with this
 sum get two assistants, or
 if opportunity offered, one
 good instructor. The scholar-
 ships now given are really
 money prizes, so that the
 university would be out no
 cash by following my plan.
 Nor would the contests suffer:
 for I am sure we should ^{have} very
 nearly as many contestants
 as now if we offered but
 two prizes, & those only in the

funerals: \$50 for 1st, & a
Scholarship for second. And
again, suppose the contests
should even pass away, what
great good our department
could do with the \$3000. Now
my dear doctor Harper, would
you not as head of your
department, prefer to put \$3000
into instruction, ^{rather} than in prizes;
would the results not be
far greater in the end?

Mr Blanchard & I agree
that now we have firmly establish-
ed the required work, the rest
will be easy, if we can get
your cooperation. Required education

is a farce unless it be followed
by electives. Its purpose is to
discover latent power, to encourage
tenacity, nurture Talent. But
then as now a large body of
students are interested & can
not have their demand satis-
fied, are we doing our full
duty. No department is
less expensive. Our laboratory
cost nothing, our plant nothing
our library very little. Should
we not have then \$6 or \$7000
that would bring greater glory
& reputation ^(relatively) to the University
than ^{the results of} almost any other depart-
ment?

THE QUADRANGLE CLUB

The argument of my friends that has weighed most with me is "do you wish to lose the results of eight years work?" That did not occur to me before; now it strikes me very forcibly.

Now, Doctor, Sharpe, I am ready to stay & stay for good, if I have the assurance in a tangible way of your sympathy & interest with the higher needs & possibilities of the department. In no spirit of egotism or of threatening I submit my ideas & conditions. I feel that you will not do me the injustice to regard this action as a manifestation of my belief that I am indispensable to you (When I resigned I meant it, & reconsider my action now after the new light shed upon the situation by my friends.) At the same time

you will think no less of me for
stating plainly that I have a
large field elsewhere of dignified
& remunerative labors.

I would ask them

1. To allow or fourteen hundred
dollars for one or two assist-
ants

2. An associate professorship

Oct 1 / 1900 with an advance
of salary Oct 1 / 1901.

I think I have shown where the
first money is to come from, & for
the second that is my due now. Surely
it should come in a year.

I trust you will recognize the fact
that I have set aside all petty feelings
of pride in sending you this letter, & that
I am actuated solely by ^{the} interest of all

concerned. My position is clear. I am interested in the University, but also in my profession. With you so favorable to the work & believing in me, we should do splendid work. But it has seemed to me that these highest results were not to be attained for at any rate, a long long time. I trust, after this presentation, you may see your way clear to help us carry out this most practical plan at once.

My house is already rented, & arrangements nearly completed for shipping my furniture. If I am to remain I must know at once my conditions (and I assure you the term is harsher in sound than in intention) are simple, clear, & easily met. If you think I am worthy,

your confidence & will grant my
requests, then please cable me
at once "Agreed," & I shall
act accordingly. I shall expect
this word early in May & for
we are all upset pending your
decision - If I do not receive
it I shall know you cannot
see your way clear to do as
I should like

Yours very truly
S. H. Clark

Perhaps for safety sake the
cablegram should be addressed

to Solomon Henry Clark
University
Chicago