Office of the Collector of Customs,
Port of Chicago, Ill., May 28, 1900.

Dr. T. W. Goodspeed,
Secretary University of Chicago,
City.

Dear Sir:

In an invoice of books for the University that are now at this office two volumes are reported to me as prohibited under the statutes of the United States. I will be pleased to have you call and examine them as I think you are as good a judge of matters of that kind as any one.

Very truly yours,

Collector of Customs.

Dr. Judson,

This is a matter which by vote of the Board has been turned over to the President. He is authorized to make the affidavit if he wishes such books to pass & the Custom House will pass them.

Yours truly.

T. W. Goodspeed

Two vols. - Upham's Works - (temp. Chas. II.) - unfit to have in library - unless there is a special library of obscenity. I recommend that the President authorize the Collector to destroy books.

H. P. Judson

Custom House, Collector's Office,

CHICAGO, ILL.,

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Collector.

SUBJECT:

No. of Inclosures, ...

July 16,1900.

Mr.William Penn Nixon,

Office of the Collector of Customs,

Port of Chicago, Chicago,Illinois.

My Dear Mr.Nixon:-

I have your letter of July 9th and appreciate your point of view,- but may I ask that before you destroy the books you will kindly grant me the privilege of an interview.

I remain

Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper

July 10, 1900.

Mr. William Penn Nixon,

Office of the Collector of Customs,

Port of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

My Dear Mr. Nixon:-

I have your letter of July 9th and appreciate your point of view,- but may I ask that before you destroy the books you will kindly grant me the privilege of an interview.

I remain

Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY JUL 10 54 CHICAGO

THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
JUL 10 54
CHICAGO, ILL.

Ack.

Office of the Collector of Customs,

Port of Chicago, Ill., July 9, 1900.

Mr. William R. Harper,

President University of Chicago.

My Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of yours of the 3rd instant, in regard to certain books imported for the University. You speak of them as two volumes of Upham's works. We have none such. They are Oldham's works--"The works of Mr. John Oldham, together with his remains, in two volumes, printed in 1722." These books were reported to me from the Appraiser's office "Prohibited under Section 16." Section 16 of the tariff act, or that part of it which applies to this case, reads as follows: "That all persons are prohibited from importing into the United States from any foreign country any obscene book, pamphlet, paper, writing, advertisement, circular, print, picture, drawing, or other representation, figure, or image, on or of paper or other material, or any cast, instrument, or other article of an immoral nature." "No such articles, whether imported separately or contained in packages with other goods entitled to entry, shall be admitted to entry; and all such articles shall be proceeded against, seized, and forfeited by due course of law. All such prohibited articles and the packages in which they are contained in the course of importation shall be detained by the officer of customs and proceedings taken against the same as hereafter prescribed."

Section 17 provides that any officer who fails to enforce the law or aids in any way in the introduction into this country of such goods, "shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor and shall for every offense be punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000, or by imprisonment at

Custom House, Collector's Office,

CHICAGO, ILL.,

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Collector.

SUBJECT:

No. of Inclosures, ...

hard labor for not more than ten years, or both."

This is one of the laws which I took an oath to enforce when I became Collector of Customs, and under that oath I could not undertake to deliver these books, even though the penalty were less severe. Usually we take the report of the Appraiser that the books would come under this law as sufficient, but after the receipt of your letter I thought it best for me to examine them rather closely myself. I have consequently read several pieces therein and have come to the conclusion that the Appraiser was correct in his judgment, and consequently cannot deliver the books.

Very respectfully yours,

Collector of Customs.

Custom House, Collector's Office,

CHICAGO, ILL.,

....., *190*...

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Collector.

SUBJECT:

No. of Inclosures, ...

, August 3, 1900.

Mr. William Penn Nixon,
Office of Collector of the Customs,
Chicago, Illinois.

My Dear Mr. Nixon:-

I am going out of the city for a few days, and I am sorry that I have not been able before this to call upon you. I write to enclose a portion of a letter received from the head of our English Department,- Mr. Manly, who is a Harvard man and a Brown University man. In view of what he says I wish to ask if you would not consent to write to the Boston Custom House and to inquire whether it is not true that the ruling which he refers to has been made. Very soon after my return I shall have the pleasure of calling upon you.

Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper

January 28th, 1901.

Mr. William Penn Nixon,

Collector of Customs for the Port of Chicago.

My dear Sir:

The bearer of this letter, Mr. B. J. Simpson, represents the University of Chicago in its purchase of apparatus and equipment for the various laboratories of the University. Among other material purchased for use in the laboratories of the University there is apparatus known technically as "precision apparatus." This includes thermometers, precision balances, etcetera. Your appraiser, Mr. Bonheim, has ruled that this latter material, being commercial in its character, must pay certain duties. I am writing to ask you to permit Mr. Simpson to make a full statement of the case. If Mr. Bonheim is acting under instructions of the Department at Washington, of course I understand that you can do nothing; but if this is not the case, I appeal to you for consideration in this matter. If he is acting under instructions from the Department at Washington, I desire to present the case at once

January 28th, 1902.

Mr. William Penn Nixon,

Collector of Customs for the Port of Chicago.

My dear Sir:

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to the Secretary of the Treasury. It is manifestly a case of injustice, under the spirit of the law. The University of Chicago is surely an institution of sufficient character to warrant confident in its treatment of this material. All material of this kind is intended for the laboratories and, in the strictest sense of the term, comes under the head of apparatus and equipment which should be exempted from duty.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of the statement which Mr. Simpson will make,

I remain

Very truly yours,

W. R. Harper

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Thanking you in advance for your consideration of the statement which Mr. Simpson will make,

I remain

Very truly yours,

W. R. Harper

Nov.4th, 1901.

Mr. William Penn Nixon,

Office of the Collector of Customs, Chicago.

My dear Mr. Nixon:-

I appreciate very much indeed the honor which you confer upon me by asking me to serve as a member of the committee of fifteen. Nothing would give me greater pleasure. My only difficulty is that during the month of October I was compelled to go east twice. I should have been in Washington to perform a duty for the government on last Tuesday, but on account of the two previous visits east I had to cancel the engagement. In view of these facts I am compelled, greatly to my regret, to ask you to excuse me. I wish the next time you have so pleasant a piece of work on hands that you would give me a chance.

Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper

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Mr. William Penn Nixon,

Office of the Collector of Customs, Chicago.

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Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper

Office of the Collector of Customs,

Port of Chicago, Ill.,

October 31, 1901.

RECEIVED
THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
1901
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My Dear Sir:

I have information from the Secretary of the Navy that the Battleship Illinois will be at Old Point Comfort on November 6th, and that it is likely that soon thereafter she will be sent into foreign waters. This makes it important that the silver service purchased for the Battleship should be presented at an early day. It is suggested that arrangements might be made to do so between the 6th and the 12th of November. A further suggestion comes from high authority at Washington that a special committee of fifteen be appointed to go to Old Point by way of Washington to make the presentation. It is understood that the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of the Navy, the two Illinois Senators, and possibly the President and other members of his cabinet may be prevailed upon to join the company. In the absence of the Secretary of the Committee who is now in Washington, I write to ask if you will be willing to act as one of such committee. It is only proper to state that the Committee has no funds to pay for such an excursion, and each member will be expected to pay his own way. I hope you can send a favorable reply.

A prompt answer will greatly oblige

Yours truly,

for the Committee.

Mr. Wm. R. Harper,

President University of Chicago,

Chicago.

Custom House, Collector's Office,

CHICAGO, ILL.,

....., 190.

Collector.

SUBJECT:

No. of Inclosures,

Office of the Collector of Customs,
Port of Chicago, Ill.,
October 31, 1901.

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Yours truly,

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Mr. Wm. R. Harper,

President University of Chicago,

Chicago.

Address all communications to
The University of Chicago Press

September 3rd, 1902.

Mr. William Penn Nixon,
Collector of Customs, Chicago.

My dear Sir:

In reply to your favor of recent date requesting a copy of some correspondence which we had with eastern institutions a couple of years ago relative to importation duties which they were required to pay, I would say that at my request Mr. Miller, who has charge of all of our Custom House business, called upon you soon after the receipt of your letter. I learn from him that you are desirous of making some investigations along a different line and that if the results are satisfactory you will not need the correspondence referred to. We feel a little delicate about using the information, which has been given to us in confidence, but later on, if you need the same and think it advisable, I shall be glad to hear from you further.

Thanking you for the interest which you have taken in thismatter, I remain

Sincerely yours,

W. R. Harper

President William R

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Thanking you for the interest which you have taken in this matter, I remain

Sincerely yours,

W. R. Harper

Make all remittances payable to
The University of Chicago

The University of Chicago Press

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

August 29, 1902.

President William R. Harper,

The University of Chicago.

Dear Dr. Harper:-

I return herewith letter from Mr. Nixon, together with the reply which I would suggest to his letter. As soon as I have an opportunity I will explain to you in detail exactly the conference which we had on the subject.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Nixon.

The University of Chicago Press

August 29, 1902.

President William R. Harper,

The University of Chicago.

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...icago Press

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The University of Chicago

The University of Chicago Press

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Thanking you for the interest which you have taken in this matter, I remain

Sincerely yours,

(51)

CUSTOMS SERVICE,
OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR,

CHICAGO, ILL., August 16, 1902.

Dr. William R. Harper,

President University of Chicago,

Chicago.

My Dear Sir:

As you are aware this office has had considerable trouble with the Treasury Department in regard to the question of charging duty on certain articles that are imported for the benefit of schools and universities. It has been brought to the attention of this office that many of the articles that this office has been compelled to charge duty on are admitted free at New York, Philadelphia and Boston. I understand that you have collected some evidence on this point from the officers of the larger institutions of the east. We are trying to make a case to lay before the Honorable the Secretary of the Treasury that will cause him to reverse the ruling of the Auditor and put this office on an equality in such matters with eastern offices. I will be greatly obliged if you will let me have any and all evidences that you have on this subject for use in preparing this case.

Very truly yours,

Collector of Customs.

CUSTOMS SERVICE,

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR,

Chicago, Ill., ..., *190*.....

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Collector.

SUBJECT:

No. of Inclosures, ...