Chicago, September 17, 1912

Dear Mr. Dodd:-

Thank you very much for the copy of your paper on the war with Mexico. I have read it with great interest, and instruction. One question I should like to ask. On page 1 you refer to McKinley's having shared in precipitating the war with Spain in order to avoid difficulties at home. I should be much interested to know the evidence for that.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. W. E. Dodd, The University of Chicago. Chicago, September 17, 1912

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Mr. W. Z. Dodd, 'The University of Chicago.

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Chicago, September 19, 1912

My dear Mr. Dodd: -

Thank you very much for your note of the 18th inst. I shall examine with pleasure the references to which you refer. I should want some very definite evidence to convince me that I have been completely mistaken all these years in my opinion as to President McKinley's attitude toward the war with Spain. Whether he stands higher or lower as a man or statesman than the list of others you suggest of course has no bearing on this particular question, nor do the facts relating to preceding men in Washington have any bearing on it. The only question is the price of the course has no bearing on the war with Spain or oppose it.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

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Mr. W. E. Dodd, The University of Chicago. Chicago, September 19, 1912

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With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - Is.

Mr. W. E. Dodd, The University of Chicago.

September 20.1912.

My dear Mr. President:

Yours of the 19th received and I get the point you object to more clearly. Since writing you the other day I have looked more closely into Chadwick and on the question whether the McKinley administration preferred war to peace at the critical moment seems to me clearer still. See what is said of the appointment of John Sherman as Secretary of State on pages, 4909I; also what is said about the sending of the and the whole of challen 29 is illuminating. Maine to Havana, pages 533-38. The discussion of the attitude of the President is temperate and when I read it for review at the time of its appearance I was certain that this would be the final verdict; but, of course nothing is final in history. We are always getting new evidence and your surprise at the statement in my paper causes me to re-examine the subject, though I feel certain that I am right.

The reason I eited the attitude of earlier Presidents is that I feel, as does the judge in a trial, that precedents count for much in guiding one to a correct decision. If men have almost invariably acted in a certain under given encircumstances they are apt to act that way in a future case where the circumstances are similar; and this I think is good historical method.

I have not, with the faulty index of the Nation, been able to locate the documents which first gave me my opinion. But I enclose a clipping from my files which may be of interest. Hold it for me, please.

Juns William E. Dodd

Saptomber 30. Lala.

My dear the President: - are minim at the paper. It went to

Your object to more elearly. Since writing you the other lay you object to more elearly. Since writing you the other lay for a lossely into Chairish and on the question whether the McKinley administration preferred why to peace at the eritinal moment seems to me elearer still. See what is said of the appointment of John Sherman as Secretary of State of pages, 49091; lao what is said about the semilar of the Maine to Havana, pages 535-35. The dissusator of the attitude of the President is temperate and when I resi to for review of the Cima of the appearance I was sertain that this would be the final verificitude, of course mothing is final in history. We are always setting new evidence and your surprise tory. We are always setting new evidence and your surprise

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mothed to which you refer will lead to interesting writing, no doubt,

Thank you very much for your note. Herewith I am returning the enclosure. It has been my settled opinion ever since the war that President McKinley was dragged into the war very much against his will by the opposition in Congress, which forced the matter through, and that if he had been let alone he would have brought the thing to a peaceable settlement at an early That the McKinley administration preferred war to peace I date. have never for a moment supposed to be true. Of course if there is any tangible evidence to the contrary it will weigh with me, but the evidence you suggest so far as I have seen it is of the slightest possible character. The newspaper clipping which I return would have not the slightest weight with me in itself. It would simply be a suggestion for further inquiry and for substantial evidence. I am too well informed as to the notorious inaccuracy of alleged interviews to put any reliance on them. I will of course look into University of So far as the "Nation" is concerned, I should want to Chadwick.

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Chicago, September 21, 1912

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Mr. W. E. Dodd.
The University of Chicago.

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The University of Chicago.

The University of Chicago

September 23.1912.

My dear Mr. President:

While I relied wholly on Admiral Chadwick's work for my introductory statement to which you make objection, and it was merely introductory, I have read, since receiving your last note the Diplomatic Correspondence, or, to be more accurate, House Documents No.I. for 55th. Cong. 3d. Sess., covering the whole period, especially pp. 746-750. And I find, as I expected to find, that Chadwick had not, so far as I can judge, overstated the case. I do not see how I could conscientiously change my statement.

But I have always thought that McKinley was personally opposed to war. This however is merely an opinion that must be held subject change whenever the private correspondence shall be published. How differently Polk appears now that his <u>Diary</u> and private correspondence are available. So I have not suffered myself to speak of the President's personal views or purpose, but only of his official attitude. On the personal and, I believe, on the official side you and I are entirely at one-so I interpret your last letter.

I hope I have not appeared dogmatic at any point.

If I have it was not my intention. I have view or opinion as a historical student which I am not ready to revise; in fact I have to revise my most careful presentations to my class-

Suptember 25,1912.

Tr dear Mr. Prostdens:

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The University of Chicago

elear to you what I mean by resorting to precedent action in order to understand perfectly the meaning of such a step as that taken by President McKinley when he sent in his war message. What I meant in my notes to you, as in my estimate included in the statement in my address, was the same that Mr. Rhodes shows forth when he undertakes to explain the Buchanan policy with reference to Cuba or that John Quincy Adams resorts to when gives us his review of Jackson' conduct of the Texas problem - in the famous Braintree address of September 1843. I do not mean that any precedent decides a thing, but only helps to explain a document, which is sometimes of itself quite inadequate. The point I have in mind is well expressed in one of Minister Woodford's last dispatches to the State Department; you have probally seen it.

And on the subject of the value of newspaper evidence I venture the reference to Rhodes: Essays, page and on. Though only I had the misfortune on last year to be scandalously treated by a Hearst newspaper, misquoted outrageously, I try not to condemn newspaper evidence when there is no motive for misrepresentation. And I suppose you feel the same way. One thing is certain I have never taken such evadence at quite as high a value as Mr. Rhodes has done in his great history. I mention this author so frequently not because I think him infallible, but he is I believe our latest and highest authority.

es every year. But I mean by resorting to precedent action slear to you what I mean by resorting to precedent action in order to understand perfectly the meaning of such a step as the order to understand perfectly when he sent in his war message. What I meant in my notes to you, as in my estimate message. What I meant in my address, was the summ that included in the atmost in my address, was the summ that included in the atmost in my address, was the summ that his his fixedess shows forth when he undertakes to explain the Buchanan policy with reference to tube or that loke of the description of diskson' committee to wass gives us his review of diskson' committee of the Texas problem - in the famous Straintree address a ching, but only helps to explain a desurant, when is some that of that outle tradequate. The point I saw in mind is well expressed in one or windster woodford's last distance to the fittee Departmentized have probably seen it.

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The University of Chicago

I am sorry to have occupied so much of your time, but it seemed impossible for me to make myself understood in fewer words. And I thank you for your interest in my work even though you dissent from some of my conclusions; but this only shows that you take time to read the work of the men in the teaching chairs.

I am very sincerely yours

William E. Dorda

P.S.

As soon as Mr. Thompson returns I will get from him the name and address of the gentleman who offered the other \$50. on the Mareks lecture fund and send them to you.

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Of source I fully understand your references to the attitude Dear Mr. Dodd: "Edents. On the matter of newspaper elippings.

Thank you very much for your comments of September 23d. I have read Admiral Chadwick's chapters to which you refer. Of course I have not read the House Document /1, 55th Congress, Third Session .- at least not recently. It seems to me, however, that nevertheless your statement in the article is an overstatement. My own opinion as to Mr. McKinley's attitude is based, I confess, not so largely on the documents in the case, which of course you have consulted, as on direct personal knowledge of the opinions of those directly connected with his administration as to his attitude, and on my own personal conference with him on a single occasion. At the time of the war I was strongly opposed to radical action, and believed that the action finally taken was precipitate. General Woodford I knew was convinced that the whole thing could be settled without war, as indeed was made plain by his despatch, quoted on pages 574 and 575 of Chadwick. It is still my belief that Mr. McKinley was driven into his final attitude by the pressure of the

Chicago, Outobor 5, 1912

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Of course I fully understand your references to the attitude of previous presidents. On the matter of newspaper clippings, there is so much to be said that it is not worth while perhaps now to discuss it.

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M . W. E. Dodd, The University of Chicago.

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5757 Blackstone Ave.,
. November 30, 1920.

Dear Mr. President:

Yesterday when I spoke with you about your possible acceptation of an invitation from the Fresident of Randolph Macon Woman's College, I had no idea that you had been appealed to by respectable people to ask the Trustees of the University to remove from the Faculty such a dangerous teacher. If I had known it, I might have mentioned the subject. I am glad, however, that I did not know for it is a pleasure to know that you never raised or even discussed such a subject with me.

It all came to me in the afternoon when a reporter for The Tribune called me asking what I had to say about the matter. Since it was all news to me, I asked him to come out and I would reply if there was anything to say. At night Mr. McLaughlin called up to ask about my summer work and I then told him of the impending Tribune scandal. He then told me that he had known about it sometime and that he had talked with you about it. As I said, I am glad you did not mention it.

L.Christian, a fine old man, chairman of the local organization of the Confederate Veterans, more than once undertook to have the Trustees of the college to remove me for teachings about the South's part in the Civil War which the Veterans could never approve. He even made a newspaper campaign, But the college never took notice of it at any time. And the trustees took particular pains to make known to me that they were not in sympathy with that sort of effort to interfere with what they were pleased to call earnest, honest teaching. And many of the trustees had been Confederate soldiers. The freedom I had there was one of the ties that we broke with

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contesting the pla man, contrash of the local presentation of the Local presentation of the Contesting the plantage work and once the Local presentation of the Contesting and the Contesting of the contesting and contesting and the contesting and contesting and

.est difficulty; and that and still other ties have still held urged the extent that I have been again and again to return. That sort of reward is about the best that can come to a teacher.

Now, I had no other thought that you would act exactly as you have acted; and I believe the Trustees will view the matter exactly as you have viewed it. May I say that my knowledge of your attitude and my belief that the Trustees of the University are of the same opinion have been among the highest satisfactions of my ten years service with you.

At the same time I should fail of entire frankness with myself if I did not add that freedom of speech and press are all too frequently abused by people who serve themselves and not scholarship by their degmatic assertions. And many of this class must be burdens to universities. What these people have said that I said misrepresents me only in that it is not balanced by the rest of the statement. It is not my purpose to disparage either North or South in seeking lessons from our history and in all that I have written will appear, I think, a philosophic weighing and assessing of both sides, the deeds, both good and bad, of both. I do not complain of the Loyal Legion because they did not quote in full, that would have taken too much space. What I complain of is the disposition to ask summary removal without examining more than the smallest part of what I have published. If they read my Jefferson Davis, they will see why some Southerners felt aggrieved. My point is that I would not like to be judged in offhand manner as trifling with my right as a teacher and as a citizen. The University's reputation is as dear to me as it can be to any of you and I have not for a moment forgotten its relation to society.

This is a long story. It falls upon you because of your manly response and my desire to show my appreciation. I love to teach in the University and would hate to be thought to joepardize its interests.

Yours sincerely,

William E. Dodd

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William E Dodd

December 8, 1920

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Dear Mr. Dodd.

Telogial when I spoke with you about of an invitation from the Preslowledge, I had no loss that Yours of the 30th o November was recoived while I was in the East. I hav said nothing about the matter ave mention of our last little chat posmee I did not think it worth discussing. You combine saw my interview in the Tribune which consists of two ords. Those two were more than the records in the sitesmood whole matter needed.

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Boan Mr. Bodds

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Yory traly yours,

Mr. Mr. B. Bodd.

NA TURE

Round Hill, Virginia
December 1, 1924.

My dear Mr. Burton:

Your gratifying telegram received. It is solacing to be told that one might be missed in a great university like Chicago. I appreciate what you say.

The offer in Washington is of such a character and the circumstances are such that I must both take a little of your time for an explanation and of course ask for some considerable time before giving my answer - being here and rather bound by engagements till January.

I wrote Mrs. Dodd a week ago to think the problem through from as many points of view as arose in her mind and then, if favorably inclined, to acquaint McLaughlin of the fact that we had the matter under advisement. Fearing that he might not be well, I suggested to her that she might bring up the matter confidentially with Mrs. Burton - simply to avoid giving McLaughlin the worry that he usually takes upon himself about cases of this sort. I have since heard that he has had a set-back which distresses me both for his own sake and the added reason that I may have increased his troubles.

What's done is done. There are several bearings to the case. The Chicago climate and incurable dirt and smoke, coupled with the declining value of money and the declining number of people willing to assist in housework, have made Mrs. Dodd's part in our work burdensome beyond all expectation. My own part of the work has been slowly changing till a different situation from that joyously contemplated fifteen years ago surrounds me:a, the number of students has increased four or five times: b, the legitimate appeals of the larger community for time and service are very many: the consequence of both of these changes is that I am not a free man and student, answering telephones and writing letters requiring the better part of my time after meeting the routine duties of teaching. Of course all of this is recognized as encouraging fruit of years of toil and effort; but with so much of detail and attention to people's calls takes away that very thing I have wished above all to

The Washington proposition would cure all of this, although I know I should greatly miss the stimulus of my Chicago colleagues and students.

Round Hill, Virginia, December 1, 1924.

My dear Mr. Burton:

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bearings to the case. The Chlospo climate and incurable dirt and smoke, coupled with the decilining curable dirt and smoke, coupled with the decilining value of money and the decilining number of people willing to easist in housework, neve made Mrs. Bood's part in our work burdensome beyond all expectation. By own part of the work has been alongly changing till a different situation from that joyaucly contamplated fifteen years ago surmounds mois, the number of outwants has increased four or live times; bet of convents has increased four or live times; but a legitimate appeals of the larger community of both of these chonges is that I am not a free letters requiring the better part of my time after ter neeting the routine duties of teaching. Of letters requiring the better part of my time after ter neeting the routine duties of teaching. Of the first is resognized as choouraging fruit of years of total and effort; but with to woon of detail of this is resognized as choouraging of detail and attention to people's called takes away that very thing I have wished acove all to

But there is another phase of the problem. A change has taken place in the University during the last fifteen years that amounts to a revolution: a, the community then fairly stable and admirably suited to the growth of a community of scholars and scientists has now ceased to be such. Our friends are already scattering; they are soon likely to be scattered over the surrounding country, as the Columbia faculties have been scattered over a wide area. This destroys the social side of our life, takes away the compensation that labor amidst smoke and dirt is designed to secure. If you but make comparison of the comparative rents, say, of 1909 with those of to-day, you will see what is doing it. I fear it is too late now to save the University on this side of its life. Nor is there any real interest in the matter among those who might lend assistance.

b, While this takes place before our eyes, there arises a powerful alumni interest that overwhelmes us with their demands for grandstand performances, after the manner of eastern universities and to satisfy that longing of hearts like that which underlies, if there can be such a thing, the management of The Tribune. You must already have realized that it might easily be "millions for such vanities, not one penny "for the silent work in the social science workshops for which universities in large part were created. The way the world is now made up, it seems useless to struggle against the tide. "After us the deluge" is the inner answer to all of us who endeavor to make our case with the public that ought to understand.

These two are the general influences that discourage me. Look at our friend, McLaughlin. He is a noble example, of that great number of genuine scholars whose lives have or are now being broken upon the wheel. I shall dread greatly to make the decision when the time comes for it. One never likes to run away even for comforts, the prospect of ease in one's later years and the accomplishment of one's desire in the way of summing up of the results of one's life-long labor. One does not like to remain in a situation where helplessness is the rule of himself and colleagues. Shall one run away or shall one stay and commit himself or his children to the Terror that our great industrial life is preparing for all those who inhabit great cities? The answer is, of course, for us to make, although your greater experience of life might be of great service to us.

Of course it is not going from one complex University situation to another. That we could never, I think, do except upon compulsion. With all thanks and appreciation and readiness to assist in your work, I am

Yours sincerely,

William E. Dodd

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