

File

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

WASHINGTON.

May 15th, 1899.

(99)

President William R. Harper, LL.D.
etc., etc.,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Sir:-

I write to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter of May 10th, in which you do me the honor to express the wish that I might, upon some occasion, address the faculty and students of the University of Chicago, for which I most cordially thank you. I have adopted the principle of making as few public addresses as possible and have declined all invitations of this character for the present. It is possible that if you were disposed

to extend to me the honor of speaking on the first of January, as suggested in your letter, some time next fall, I might be able to see my way clear to accepting the invitation, which I assure you I should esteem a great honor. For the present, however, I hesitate to make any public engagements. With congratulations upon the large measure of success in the prosecution of your great work, I am, Very sincerely yours,

Wm. R. Harper

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 15th, 1899.

President William B. Harper, LL.D.,
etc., etc.,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Sir:-

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receipt of your kind letter of May 10th,
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engagements.

With congratulations upon the
large measure of success in the prosecution
of your great work, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. D. Hief

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

WASHINGTON.

June 8th, 1899.

My dear President Harper:

I trust you will pardon my delay in replying to your letter of May 22d, in which you kindly invite me to give the Convocation Address before the University on Monday evening, January 1st, 1900. I appreciate the honor conferred upon me by the invitation and it gives me pleasure to accept it. So far as my plans are concerned at present I see no reason why I shall not be able to be in Chicago upon the date mentioned. I will communicate to you the subject of my address in ample time for publication.

Very truly yours,

David G. Hill

President William R. Harper, LL.D.,
University of Chicago.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 28th, 1892.

My dear President Harper:

I trust you will pardon my delay in replying to your letter of May 22d, in which you kindly invite me to give the Convention address before the University on Monday evening, January 1st, 1900. I appreciate the honor conferred upon me by the invitation and it gives me pleasure to accept it. So far as my plans are concerned at present I see no reason why I shall not be able to be in Chicago upon the date mentioned. I will communicate to you the subject of my address in ample time for publication.

Very truly yours,

President William R. Harper, LL.D.,
University of Chicago.

Hill

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

WASHINGTON.

June 30th, 1899.

(Hill)

President William R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Dr. Harper:

I find that I have made a dreadful mistake in accepting the invitation to speak at your University Convocation on the first of January, 1900, without a previous family cabinet meeting. I discover, much to my chagrin, that my prime minister, Mrs. Hill, has made other arrangements for me during that week. I am, of course, disposed to carry out my agreement with you and yet I should be very glad if you could set me three months forward, say to your next Con-

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 30th, 1899.

President William R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Dr. Harper:

I find that I have made a dreadful
mistake in accepting the invitation to speak
at your University Convention on the first
of January, 1900, without a previous family
cabinet meeting. I discovered, much to my
surprise, that my wife minister, Mrs. Hill,
had made other arrangements for me during
that week. I am, of course, disposed to
carry out my agreement with you and yet I
should be very glad if you could set me
three months forward, say to your next Con-

vocation, and thus liberate me from my
embarrassment.

Hoping that this arrangement may
not cost you any inconvenience, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

David White

Heil

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, July 11, 1899.

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My dear Mr. President:-

I am sorry to seem to you so fickle and changeable, but am very much obliged to you for the gracious spirit of toleration in which you receive my tergiversations, and thank you for the permission to come to Chicago on April first instead of January first. What I have to say will keep until that time and be just about as fresh as it would be now.

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. J. Heil

President William R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, July 11, 1899

My dear Mr. President:-

I am sorry to learn to you no flickle
and changeable, but am very much obliged to
you for the gracious spirit of toleration
in which you receive my tergiversations,
and thank you for the permission to come to
Chicago on April first instead of January
first. What I have to say will keep until
that time and be just about as fresh as it
would be now.

Very sincerely yours,

President William R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

WASHINGTON.

February 3, 1900.

(3)

My dear President Harper:-

I have just received your letter of February 1st, in which you suggest changing the time of my address before the University Convocation to the afternoon of Tuesday, March 20th. I regret very much to say that it will be with serious difficulty if at all that I can come to Chicago at that time. I am ready, however, to make way for any one else who is more conveniently circumstances, and while I appreciate very much the honor of the invitation to address the Convocation, I should really be very glad if some one whose circumstances permit

President W. E. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

February 3, 1900

My dear President Harper:

I have just received your letter of February 1st, in which you suggest changing the time of my address before the University Convocation to the afternoon of Tuesday, March 20th. I regret very much to say that it will be with serious difficulty if at all that I can come to Chicago at that time. I am ready, however, to make way for any one else who is more conveniently situated, and while I appreciate very much the honor of the invitation to address the Convocation, I should really be very glad if some one whose circumstances permit

would undertake the address.

Accept my most sincere acknowledgment of your kind courtesy in asking Mrs. Hill and myself to be the guests of yourself and Mrs. Harper. I think I may say on behalf of Mrs. Hill that while she would be very happy to visit you, it is highly improbable that she could do so upon either date.

With personal regards, I am,

Very truly yours,



President W. R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

WASHINGTON.

February 21, 1900.

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Dear Mr. President:

Your telegram urging me to endeavor to come to Chicago on March 20th, came in my absence and after my return I tried to make arrangements to comply with your request, but have been obliged to telegraph you to the effect that I could not come on March 20th, which I very much regret. I recall your courtesy in changing the date from January 1st to April 1st and recognize my collateral obligation to change the date in turn if possible to do so without inconvenience to others. I need not say how sorry I am that I am not able to make the change you have suggested. Will you kindly

let me know when you have determined the matter if you release me for April 1st as I must soon begin to think about my preparation which has to be made in such a hasty way that I am never quite sure of ever being prepared.

Very truly yours,

President William R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

February 21, 1900

Dear Mr. President:

Your telegram urging me to endeavor

to come to Chicago on March 30th, came in
my absence and after my return I tried to
make arrangements to comply with your re-
quest, but have been obliged to telegraph
you to the effect that I could not come on
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matter if you release me for April 1st, as
I must soon begin to think about my prepar-
ation which has to be made in such a frag-
mentary way that I am never quite sure of
ever being prepared.

Very truly yours,



President William R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

WASHINGTON.

February 26, 1900.

O.R.

President Wm. R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear President Harper:-

I have received your telegram ,
"will hold exercises as originally proposed
on April first". I am looking forward
with pleasure to being present upon that
occasion and unless death or sickness or
some other unexpected casualty prevents, I
shall be present, I trust with something to
say.

Very truly yours,

Wm. R. Harper

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 26, 1900.

President Wm. R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear President Harper:-

I have received your telegram,
"will hold exercises as originally proposed
on April first." I am looking forward
with pleasure to being present upon that
occasion and unless death or sickness or
some other unexpected casualty prevented, I
shall be present. I trust with something to
say.

Very truly yours,

Wm. R. Harper

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

WASHINGTON.

March 27, 1900.

My dear President Harper:-

I write to thank you for your letter of March 22d, and to say that I expect to leave Washington on Saturday at 10:50 and to arrive in Chicago on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock when, in accordance with your directions, I shall come directly to your house. As I shall probably be rather tired, I hope I may be allowed to rest Sunday afternoon and evening in order to have full strength for my address on Monday. I shall then be at your disposition for any arrangements you may have to make and shall be very happy to stay over on Monday evening and attend the dinner of which you spoke.

I shall make no preparation for an after-dinner speech but shall be very happy to be present and to indicate my presence by a few words, if you will graciously let me off with that. Public speaking is a very serious undertaking and a man seldom repents of what he has not said. I shall bring with me copies of my address to be given out to the press if you choose to do so on Sunday afternoon, the matter to be withheld from publication until the address is delivered and a reasonable time thereafter. The subject of my address will be "The Place of America in World Politics." I expect it will take about thirty-five minutes to deliver it. If you think that too long I can bring it down to half an hour. Looking forward with great pleasure to my coming visit to Chicago and to your home, I am, with very sincere regards,

Faithfully yours,

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 27, 1900.

My dear President Hager:-

I write to thank you for your

letter of March 23d, and to say that I

expect to leave Washington on Saturday at

10:30 and to arrive in Chicago on Sunday

morning at 9 o'clock when, in accordance

with your directions, I shall come directly

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Looking forward with great pleasure to my coming visit to Chicago and to your home, I am, with very sincere regard,

Faithfully yours,

Wm. D. Healy

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

WASHINGTON.

Sept. 27, 1900.

President W. R. Harper,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear President Harper:

Replying to your letter
of September 20th I feel compelled to say that
I think under the present circumstances of
strained relations between the United States and
China Mr. Wu would hardly be willing and if he
were, it would hardly be appropriate for him to
be your Convocation orator at your Fall Convo-
cation. He is a bright and interesting man
and I hope sometime you may have a chance to
hear him, but I think he will keep until our
relations with China are better than they are
just at present, and at that time, if it ever comes,
there would, perhaps, be an added satisfaction in

hearing from Mr. Wu.

I have followed you with interest in your travels abroad, but judging from the sumptuous manner in which I was entertained at your house I have discredited the newspaper gossip about the fifteen cent dinners.

With very pleasant recollections of my visit last Spring and very kind messages, I am

Sincerely yours

David J. Hill

February, 13th, 1901.

The Hon. David J. Hill,

Department of State, Washington. D.C.

My Dear Dr Hill:

When we print the convocation programme we desire to use formal terms and we are now puzzling over the proper designation of the Chinese Minister.

Shall we say the convocation address by His Excellency Wu Ting-fang or The Hon. Wu Ting-fang or Mr Wu Ting-fang? If you will advise us in regard to this point in order that our official designation may be correct, I will esteem it a great favor.

Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper

February, 13th, 1901.

The Hon. David J. Hill,

Department of State, Washington, D.C.

My Dear Dr. Hill:

When we print the convocation programme we desire to use formal terms and we are now puzzling over the proper designation of the Chinese Minister. Shall we say the convocation address by His Excellency Wu Ting-fang or The Hon. Wu Ting-fang or Mr. Wu Ting-fang? If you will advise us in regard to this point in order that our official designation may be correct, I will esteem it a great favor.

Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper