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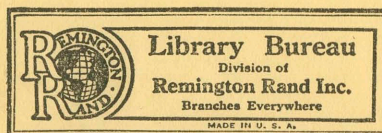
Student Loan

Political Economy

Harper 1905

Banking

File cross reference form under name or subject at top of the sheet and by the latest date of papers. Describe matter for identification purposes. The papers, themselves should be filed under name or subject after "SEE."



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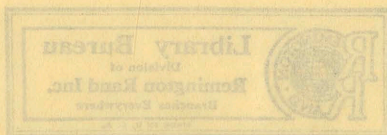
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P.S. My plans are now in Chicago for
Wed. If you have a moment, please
to see my house, looking on Monday or
Tuesday at Peabody Houghteling & Co,
N.E. Cor. Dearborn & Randolph Sts, where
my plans will be for a short time. They,
by the way, expressed an interest in our
University. I think you will like
my house. Such good critics as Mrs.
Mrs. Hale praise it immensely.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY,
ITHACA, NEW YORK.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL
ECONOMY AND FINANCE

June 4, 1892.

My dear President Harper,

The case of
von Holst troubles me. Five years
ago he was given up by the physi-
cians. Lately, Miss Lucy Salmon,
of Vassar, was advised by Prof. Tyler
to spend the coming summer at
Freiburg with von Holst. On writing
directly to him, she received a reply
that his health was so entirely
broken up that he could do no
work this summer; he was on the
point of going to Heidelberg to have
an operation performed, hoping he
might be able to work by October.

The enclosed cutting appeared
in the New Yorker Staats-Zeitung of
May 27, & since then there have been
other items in New York papers to
the effect that his doctors held he
ought not to go to a new climate in
his present dangerous condition.
I telegraphed on the 28th ult. & heard

from Dr. Goodspeed that Mr. Hobbs had been sick but was better & expected to come. Have you any exact information from him; or are the reports in the papers unfounded? It would be a great mishap to our group of studies, if he should fail us. I do not see who - on this side the Atlantic - could be thought of as his successor except Bernard Moses, or Moses Coit Tyler. The former is now being thought of favorably as President of Cal. Univ., the office which Schurman declined this spring. I wish we had him - not for my own sake, for I do not know him personally, but for the sake of our University to which I already feel attached.

Our work at Cornell is finished, & a few more brief offices remain to be performed in her service. The prospect for Schurman's future is bright; if wise, he will have a splendid administration. Everyone seems ready to give him every opportunity.

It is stated here by Schurman, & confirmed in the newspapers, that B. Chamberlain comes to us at Chicago. Is that settled? I hope so. He is highly praised by Williams here, who thinks him a great leader as well as a

geologist of the first rank. He thinks he will gather a great amount of material for the department from the Exposition at Chicago.

Your letter today says "The Million Comes, & more!" (God bless the 340 millionaires - at least until July 10th!) I hope this good news means the money for our great pressing necessities, viz: books, a library building and more dormitories. The provision for books the next year is most vital, especially in regard to graduate students: (it would never do to have a crowd of good students go away disappointed & pass the word on to other possible students. It would take years to outgrow this report.

I am halting in ordering books. It does not seem right to go ahead of money appropriated. Already I have sent for lists costing about 2500; & yet some of our courses cannot be given as things now stand. Possibly it may be better to withdraw these, if no more money is available for our books. But I shall see you soon.

You are doing a splendid work. Our blessings go with you.
Sincerely yours
J. Lawrence Laughlin

has arisen in which they think it best to overrule the recommendations of the faculty. Should it be known, as it will be, that the trustees had revised the action of the faculty, the influence and the leadership of the faculty with the students must be seriously undermined for the future, and it would result in bringing future pressure to bear upon the trustees themselves on all questions which may arise. I have seen so much of the disasters of this policy at Cornell that I dread to think of our moving in the same direction; nor should I suppose that the trustees would ever wish to move in that direction. It was the fundamental error of the Cornell system, and was the most serious drawback to their

How
The Beatrice,

Laughlin
Chicago, Nov. 2d, 1892.

My dear President Harper,

A matter in connection with the question of secret fraternities has appeared to me to be of very great importance and to need serious consideration. It is not concerned with the merits of the question, but with the relations of the several University governing bodies. No one more than you would see the importance of unity in action, especially at this time in our career. It does not need to be proved that the cumulative effect of joint action is immensely important. The power of the trustees to take any and all action every one accepts: it is in their power

of course to banish the whole corps of instructors, but it is equally a matter of course in actual practice that no body exercises all its rights except under peculiar and striking emergencies.

After the Faculty had sent in a practically unanimous recommendation on this or any other question concerning the internal affairs of the University, while of course this opinion may be open to revision by the trustees, yet should divided counsels prevail, and the trustees see fit to overthrow this action of the faculty, it would not only destroy the prestige and influence of the faculty with the student body, but produce all the other evils of divided power. It goes without saying that the trustees and

the faculty have the same things at heart. It would be supposed that the trustees would acquiesce in the action of the body of experts whom they have called to their service, so far as internal questions go; and a reversal of their policy by the trustees would be undertaken only in emergencies which would demand interference at the sacrifice of important advantages arising out of unity of action.

As you know, I have no departmental or personal interest in the question of fraternities, and therefore I can speak to the point of the general policy involved in this with the more freedom; but it does seem to me that it is a critical juncture, and that the trustees should seriously question whether a great crisis

peace and progress.

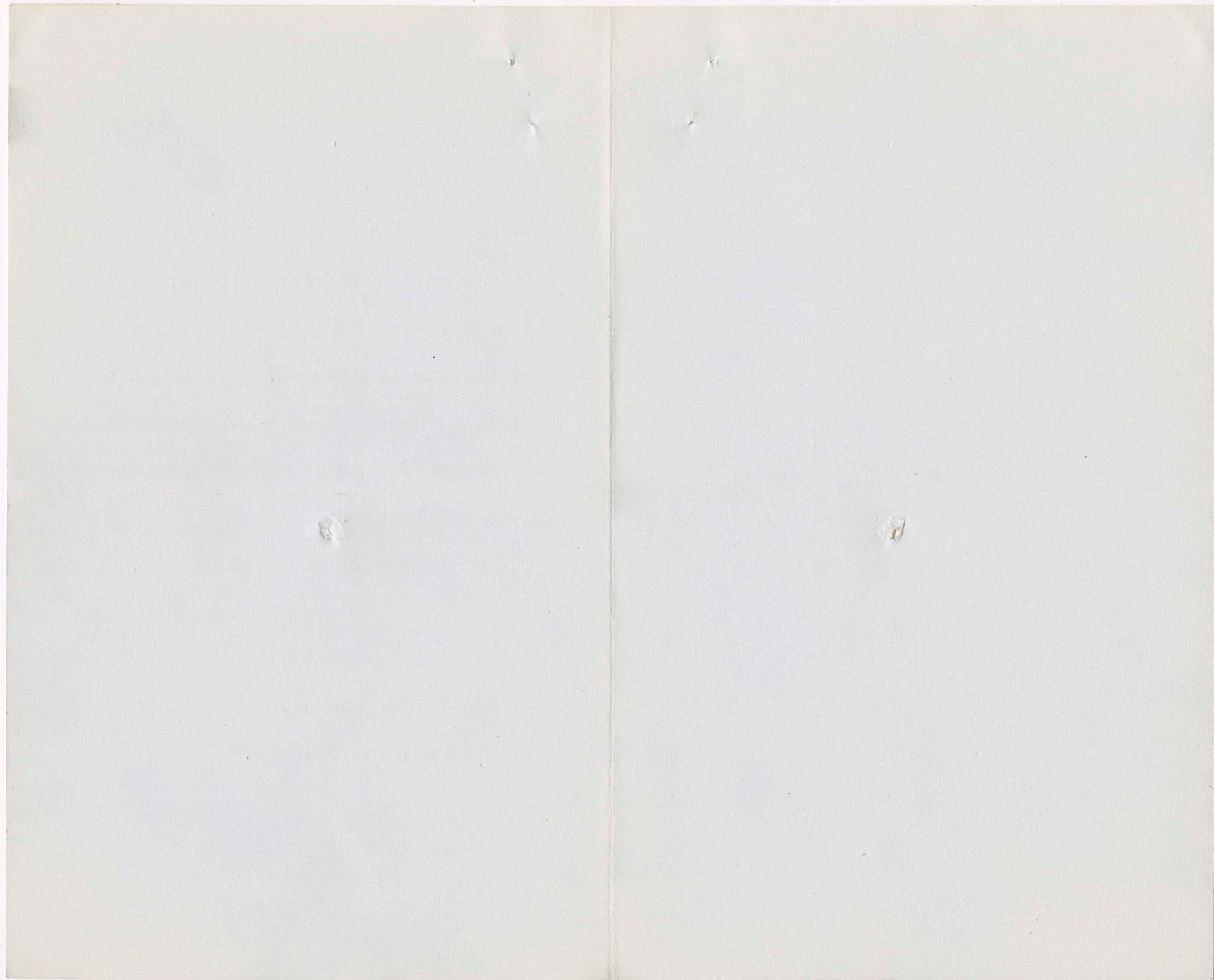
I venture to suggest these remarks upon the general principle independent of the question of fraternities, because the more I have reflected upon it the more serious it becomes. It needs a careful guidance to save us from drifting into situations which may be very injurious in the future.

I am very sincerely Yours,

J. Laurence Laughlin.

President W. R. Harper,

University of Chicago.



Laughlin

The University of Chicago,

Chicago, Nov. 25th, 1892.

My dear President Harper,

I find that I did not express fully or exactly what I wanted to say the other night. Since then several points have come so distinctly to my mind, and clamor so strongly for utterance, and are based so deeply on my convictions, that I feel it my duty to express them to you.

It may, perhaps, be improper for me to say these things to you as President, but you have honored me with your friendship, and if you will permit me to speak as a friend, I am sure you will understand that what I say is based not only on convictions of duty, and on an earnest desire for the best interests of the University, but also on personal affection for you; and my suggestions, even if they do not convince you, may at least throw light on the policy which looks to building up for the future the basis for safe and certain progress.

I.

That educational questions should be freely brought up in the senate seems to me of immense importance. Nor should such tendency be checked by a feeling that they should be settled entirely by personal interviews with you. This, I believe, is fraught with great danger to you and to the Uni-

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I.

That educational questions should be freely brought up in
the senate seems to me of immense importance. Nor should
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settled entirely by personal interviews with you. This, I
believe, is fraught with great danger to you and to the Uni-

versity. It opens the way for scheming and intriguing and personal pressure, while, if brought in a dignified and frank manner into the senate for full discussion, personal elements disappear, and the subject is treated on its merits as a part of a broad University policy. To use an illustration, it is the difference between absolutism and constitutional government; the former is weakness, the latter is strength. When considering the training of the kind of men with whom we have to deal in America, and especially in University life, this becomes clear. You, of course, will not misinterpret me by supposing that we think you want absolutism: you made that idea impossible in your opening remarks to the Faculty and Senate when you explained to them that any part of the existing system was open to discussion and modification if found desirable. But I am convinced that with the present system, difficulties exist in the minds of others than Professor von Holst, connected with this fundamental principle, and that is why I should like to put what I have been thinking about into words, so that you can consider them carefully.

Men are at their best only when they feel that they are trusted and honored. If any system, no matter how good, has been created, and then applied to a set of intelligent men of character and independence, such as scholars must necessarily be, and that system is not adopted by them on grounds of their own belief in it and conviction that it is the best, then,

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being called upon to administer a system not in accordance with their convictions, they will feel that they have not been trusted in being called in to help shape the policy, and the inevitable consequence is either listless feebleness or friction. Unless the system is one which grows out of their united convictions and scholarly purposes, and is the expression of their development, no man will feel content, but on the contrary will always be restless. No salary or money can to a scholar make up for the want of adjustment between his scholarly ideals and his environment. The absence of this feeling is, confidentially, a source of the weakness at Cornell which makes scholars there so restless.

When men differ on any measure and are overruled under a constitutional system, in which they have a fair chance to present their case for its full value, they will acquiesce. If the measure is disposed of by authority not accompanied by a process which brings conviction, acquiescence does not exist. In the latter case there arises scheming to influence the source of power; in the former, men set themselves to carry their points by argument and learning through convincing their colleagues.

If any parts of our existing system do not commend themselves, then, to a majority, there is unsoundness which will become evident at some critical time. Strength can only come through having understanding arising from union. Even if

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there were some part of the present system which you regarded as the apple of your eye, and if it did not commend itself to the rest of us, you would not care to have it enforced by authority, but only after our own reasons had been convinced. Enactments not backed up by conviction in favor of them, create hollow shams, and we never know where we are. Healthy strength in our University life can only come by stimulating frank and free discussion of all these questions, and accepting those things on which we can all jointly unite; that kind of unity is strength.

No gains arising from getting parts of a system hastily into operation to meet immediate emergencies, can for a moment compare with the losses which might ensue from misunderstandings between men in the Faculty and the authorities. A President can practically never go farther than he can carry his Faculty with him. By crushing out individuality and interest and suggestion, a body may be so lifeless as to be governed solely by authority, but its results will be dead and ineffectual. The individuality which we all know to be necessary to intellectual life, should be stimulated, not repressed. And the application of any general system which treats all alike, is sure to be destructive of the very thing which makes ^{the} real University spirit. To have called men here from different institutions would be of value if their experience could be brought into the common fund; but it would be

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of no value if channels for getting expression to their varied experience should not be easily provided.

No doubt, many or all of these things may seem to be truisms to you, but there come to me from many sides suggestions and hints as to the state of mind of my colleagues which makes me think that this a matter which ought to be put distinctly before them. If you will pardon me for saying it, I believe that the splendid success which has followed your faith and courage before the public, will be complemented now in the greatest opportunity of your life to establish the finest University atmosphere, by attaching to yourself and your policy the power and enthusiasm of the men in the Faculty, and thereby making your power in the educational world and the influence of the University the unified conjoint power of us all. The alternative to this is divided power and weakness. Make our men feel that they have something to be proud of, and of which they are a part. So far as they may feel they have no share in it, will their work be perfunctory and listless, and the highest University spirit injured. At the present, when the flood-tide of expectation is high, and every thing is possible to us, take the tide at its flood. Men will do voluntarily in that enthusiastic spirit what would be impossible under restrictive conditions. When appeal is made to our trust and honor we would work incessantly with pride, enthusiasm, and personal interest, day and night. But if the

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II.

On the second point, of the effect on the spirit of the students, I think the same tendency to impose a system not accompanied by conviction, is already having an unfortunate influence on their state of mind. It is the same point of which I have been speaking, but appearing in a different form, in regard to students rather than to instructors. The whole aim of our existence here ought to be to create a feeling among the students that they are men and not boys. But on this point I shall say nothing more at present, although I should like to state myself more fully.

III.

On the subject of the arrangement of work in the University which would ^{make} it possible for a scholar to remain an investigator, I did not express all my thought the other night. The situation in our department as at present is, of course, impossible as a permanent one, and it connects itself with parts of the existing system. From my point of view, entire-

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ly too much importance is attached to the system of mere hours of teaching and to attendance on exercises. A man is overwhelmed with teaching, and is prevented from being an investigator. For myself, I should never be content to go ^{on} in the _^ future in this fashion. No money could hire me to give up the opportunity of doing something else than teaching alone. And for this men must have some leisure. It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that that leisure would give men an opportunity for idleness. There is no man in our department who would not use every hour, in case of cessation of work for a term, in such a way as best to serve the interests of our subject and the University. In brief, the whole life and progress of such a department as ours depends upon the opportunity for reflection, thought, and deliberative study. If any system of prescribing a certain number of hours for teaching, for every man, irrespective of the man or the department, is permanent, it will be very unfortunate. None of us can produce the proper influence on our students by following at a safe distance in the rear when we are urging them forward, instead of leading in front of the column. For myself, while I should be willing, and I think my actions have shown the truth of it so far, to do any exceptional things to meet present emergencies, yet I should not be properly understood if it were supposed that I acquiesced in a situation in which full

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opportunity for investigation were not to be provided for; and in my judgment, it would be a serious error to hold men to a certain number of hours at any time,--as if unless watched and held strictly to account they would shirk their duty,-- if thereby they were prevented from having opportunities for research. On the splendid scale which we have built, our brightest outlook is in stimulating men to produce, and think for themselves. In such a department as ours the large number of students ought not to be a reason why we should not have an equal chance with such departments as Biology or Geology for investigation. On the contrary, that ought to be the reason why it should be granted us.

I should be sorry, indeed, if you might regard these suggestions from me as improper. You know as well as I that they would not have not been presented if I had not been impelled to them, not only by a sense of duty, but by a very earnest desire to help you in your work by conveying such things to you as seemed of grave importance from my point of view.

Very sincerely Yours,

J. Laurence Laughlin,

President William R. Harper,

University of Chicago.

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J. Lawrence Langford

President William R. Harper,
University of Chicago.

Answer

Laughlin

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.
HYDE PARK.

August 28, 1893.

My dear President Harper,

I hear from Mrs. Palmer, by a long-delayed letter, of some difficulty about Lovett's appointment & salary. I hope he need not hear of it. I have sent Mrs. Palmer today my note for two different sums, one a smaller sum (\$200.), another for \$950, which will cover the deficiency. She only wrote me to ask for names of persons whom we could ask; but as I am off here I can do little until I return to Chicago. This note of mine to the University will cover the remainder of Lovett's salary; & Mrs. Palmer & I can surely get what we want when we get back. But even if we do not, my dear man, I would gladly give the sum to relieve you of any worry. So drop the matter off your mind, please it to do. You can say you have pledges for the whole sum, & have his appointment made in due form.

Naturally, I know nothing as to how you are getting on, or whether you are resting. Agatha & I are gaining splendidly here, she with 6 lb. & I with 12 lb. I rowed yesterday 10 miles from a camp in the woods where there was fine sport with large salmon-trout, and had a long shot at a deer - but missed it! I expect to reach Chicago, Sept. 9th, in the evening.

With my affectionate goodwishes, believe me,
Sincerely yours,

Beaver River Station
via McKim
N. Y.

J. Laurence Laughlin

THE
JOURNAL OF POLITICAL ECONOMY
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Laughlin

Beaver River Station,
via Herkimer, N. Y.
Aug. 29, 1893.

My Dear Pres. Harper,

I have been asked to go to San Domingo (West Indies) on the duty of advising the Government in establishing its monetary system. The request is made for the time from Oct. 1 to Dec. 1, or practically the autumn quarter. Possibly, the time might be postponed to the winter quarter, but I have not inquired as yet as to that.

My first wish is to have your opinion as to my going, as to its expediency. My first duty is to the University, of course; but if I were absent, I should draw no salary for that time, it might cover at least the case of Lovett's salary. As to arranging my work, the only hitch would arise as to my course on "Money" which is

effect in the Autumn & Winter Quarters.
If I were ^{in the Autumn} away, it might be possible to give
it in the Winter Quarters, as I gave it last year,
- not extended over the two quarters, as I
planned for this year. Miller could
supervise the Seminary students after I
had started them; and the Journal is already
planned for so far as the December number
is concerned.

The main question, however, is whether
you believe it wise for me to consider
the proposition at all. The prestige to
the University from having an expert
selected from its corps is something; but
still there may be weightier reasons
against it.

On receipt of this, indicate briefly
by telegraph your general feeling. You
can telegraph to Louisville, N. Y. & direct
to Beaver River Club by telephone from
Louisville.

Sincerely yours,

J. Laurence Laughlin.

Confidential

Saughlin

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
HYDE PARK.

January 8, 1894.

My dear President Harper,

In connection with the Andrews matter I wish to say something. You would wish me to be entirely frank, I know. I do not like the proposition any more than the others, but waiving objections to the plan itself, I have in mind only the way in which it is being done.

It has been done in a way to make it harder for you, harder for us, and - should Mr. Andrews come - harder for him. In brief, it has produced a very disquieting situation. It has made us, many of us, feel again unsettled. Being not a mere matter of executive appointments, it has affected the whole educational system here; for so I regard it. And yet you never laid this before the Senate until it had been acted upon by the Trustees. You distrusted us; & inevitably we distrust the whole plan. This now a plan in which we were not consulted, placed upon us from outside, & it is none of ours; consequently it will be regarded critically, exciting antagonism, & cannot have our loyal support. As a friend of Pres. Andrews, you have made a difficult future for him; & also you have lost hold on our enthusiasm for the University. You have done it consciously or unconsciously on the Napoleonic plan. It is yours not ours; & yet you expect us to act as if it were ours.

Sincerely wish I had the friendly influence to induce you to see how injurious this method has been & is today. I know it; & feel the exasperation it creates more than you know - all about me. You cannot make the University strong unless you weld the Faculty to you & the System. Suppose you had consulted the

Senate confidentially discussed & decided it with them. They would gladly have aided you in spirit & in deed in giving you relief & help; and what they decided with you would have been their own as well as yours, even though some minority might have existed, they would have accepted the result in a loyal spirit. It is the old question of Constitutional method - as old as Magna Charta & human nature. No successful government ever has been, or will be, carried on without it.

If you chose to do so, by your own plan of doing things, you could in this University in a single month change the whole carping, distrustful feeling into one of enthusiastic devotion to the University. You cannot keep us merely workers in the class-room or laboratory; we are ^{here} & must have a vital interest in every question of University policy. And no man who could not be trusted to take his part nobly & helpfully in the general give-and-take of establishing this policy would be ~~too~~ worthy of appointment.

You, of course, have but one aim: to make this a great University. And you cannot but wish, of course, to have a lack of any spirit which works for that aim. And our aims are the same. In writing this, I have had no ulterior purpose. Independently of our cordial personal relations, it is my duty as a member of your staff to point out anything which seems to me to be full of danger.

Always faithfully yours,

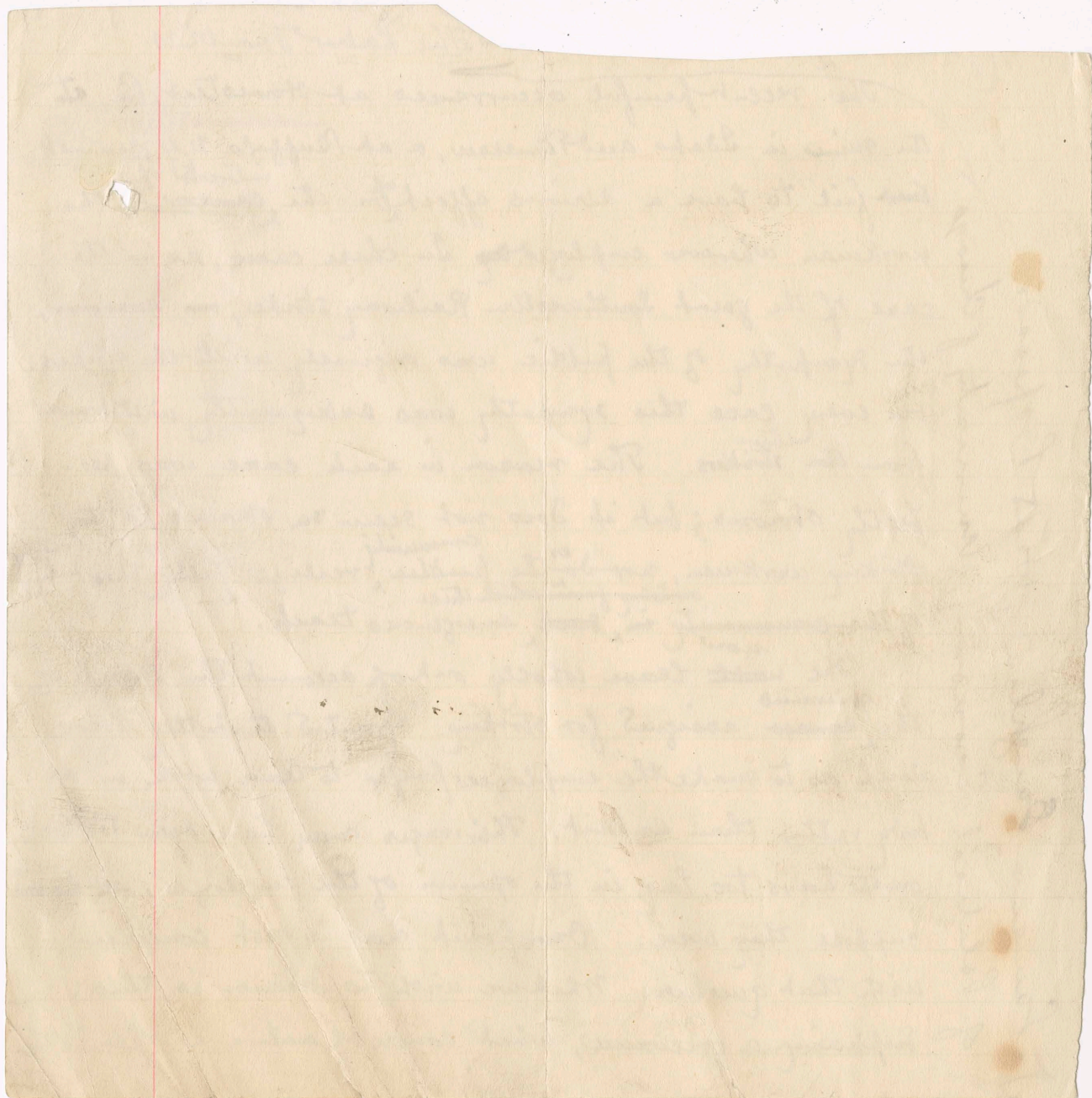
J. Laurence Laughlin.

J. Lawrence Laughlin, Head Professor
of Political Economy, University of Chicago

The Labor Troubles.

The recent painful occurrences at Homestead, Pa., at the mines in Idaho and Tennessee, & at Buffalo, N.Y. cannot ~~but~~ fail to have a serious effect ^{interests of} on the ~~cause~~ of the workman wherever employed. In these cases, as in the case of the great Southwestern Railway strike, in ~~Missouri~~, the sympathy of the public was originally with the strikers; in every case this sympathy was subsequently withdrawn from the ^{union} strikers. The reason in each case was perfectly obvious; but it does not seem so obvious to the striking workmen, nor do the ^{community} ~~public~~ realize fully the ^{lessons} ~~importance~~ of the ^{community} ~~community~~ in ^{now} ~~such~~ emergencies. ^{arising from which these} ~~community~~ ^{lessons} teach.

We ~~will~~ leave wholly out of account the merits of the ^{grievances} ~~causes~~ assigned for striking. Granted that they were such as to make the employees prefer to leave work in a body rather than submit. Their wages may have been too low, or the hours too long, in the opinion of the employee; ~~but~~ ~~but~~ suppose they were. Our point now is not concerned with that question. What we wish to discuss is this: Supposing a grievance, what course of action is open to the



2

employee? What is the value of organization? And, finally, what is the consequent duty of the community?

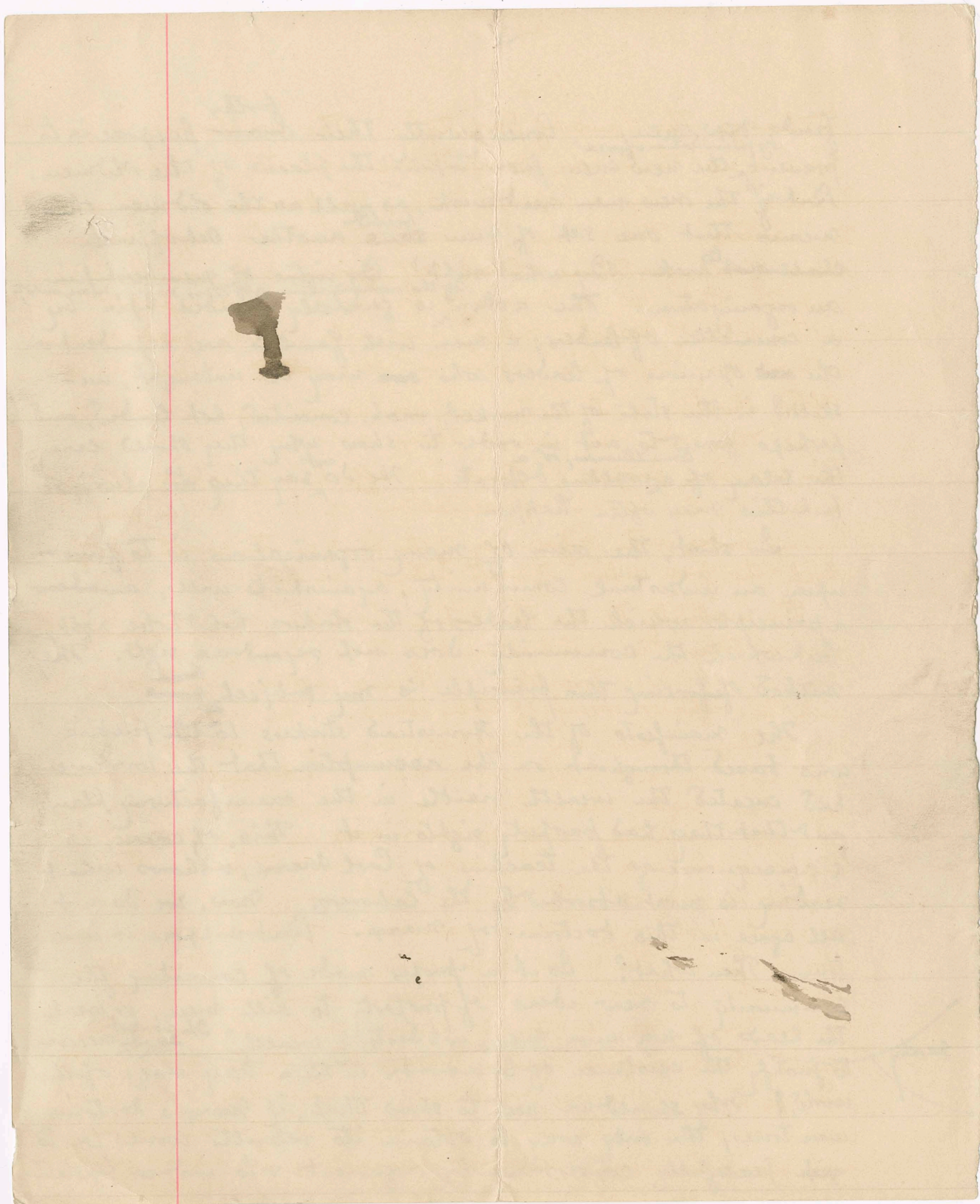
First of all, the employee may stop working. No employer owns his employees, ^{a regime of} except in slavery. But, can the employees force the employer by the act of striking in an organized body to submit to their demands for higher wages? That depends wholly on the possibility of obtaining new men to fill the places of strikers. If the population at any given time is such in its relation to our industries that many are unemployed, or accept low wages, then that is an industrial fact ^{which} cannot be changed by a strike. Clearly enough, a strike does not increase employment by increasing the means ^{possible} of employment. Now this truth ^{is truth}, generally accepted; its acceptance is, ^{in truth}, manifest in the policy of the striking organizations. ^{if this} Realized ~~that~~, after striking, that the employer is ~~fully~~ able easily to fill the places of strikers by new men, the labor organization ^{of course} ~~fails to accomplish its ends~~ ^{loses its demand}. It fails, because it does not adequately gauge the supply ^{of} demand for labor. Then, what ~~can~~ is to be done? Just here we ^{find} ~~touch~~ the crux of the whole matter. Every organization recognizes today that if these employees remain quiet & peaceful, & ~~stay~~ ^{stay not} patiently prolong the strike, either the employer ^{and} the employees eventually suffer for food, or the employer

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finds new men, ^{by intimidation of force} consequently their ^{further} main purpose is to prevent the new men from taking the places of the old men. But if the new men need work, as well as the old men, this means that one set of men ^{forbid} says another set of men shall ~~not~~ ^{to} work. By what right? By virtue of membership in an organization. The action ^{by the organization at this stage, namely,} is generally decided upon by a committee of leaders; & men with families are dependent on the ~~and~~ opinions of leaders who ~~are~~ may be untaught, unskilled in the state of the market, rash, conceited, hot-headed, and perhaps forced to act in order to show why they should earn the salary of a ^{committeesman, or a} walking delegate. He ~~do~~ ^{not} say that ~~is~~ ^{is} always so; but this may often happen.

In short, the aim of many organizations is to force upon an industrial community, against its will, ~~an idea~~ a principle which the leaders of the strikers hold to be right, but which the community does not regard as right. The method of enforcing this principle is my subject, ~~and~~.

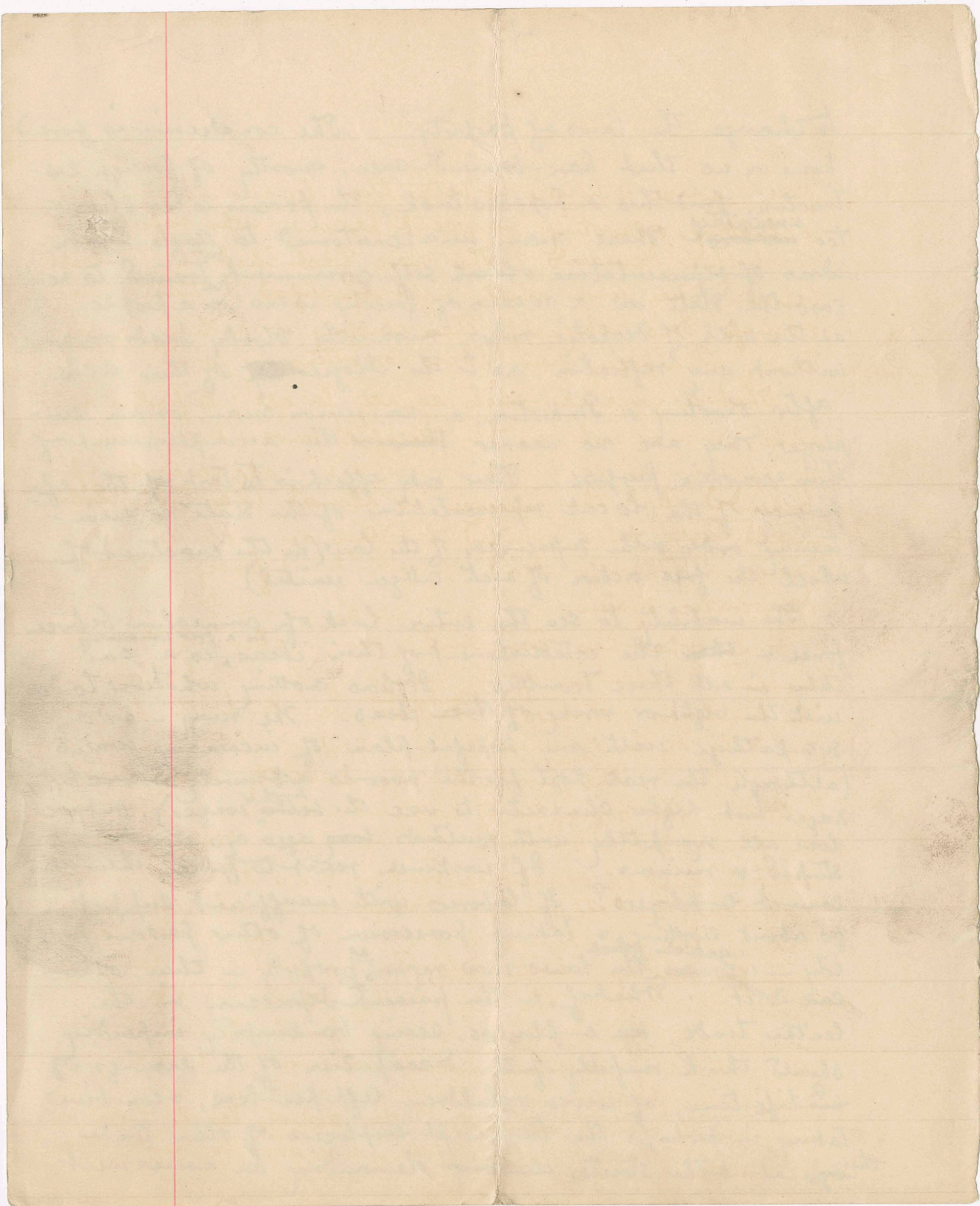
The manifesto of the Homestead strikers to the public was based throughout on the assumption that the workmen had created the wealth visible in the manufacturing plant, and that they had property rights in it. This, of course, is a consequence of the teaching of Carl Marx, & shows what reading is most absorbed by the laborers. Now, we do not all agree in this doctrine of Marx. But suppose it were true. Then what? Is it a proper mode of converting the community to new ideas of property to kill men, or break the heads of non-union men, or to destroy wealth? ~~It is not necessary to justify the existence of law & order in this day & age of the world.~~ Why should we need to show that, if Marx's doctrine were true, the only way to obtain its results would be to ~~get~~ peacefully convert men by argument & to induce legislation



to change the laws of property? The conclusion is forced home on us that hard-brained men, mostly of foreign extraction, find this a hopeless task; the process is too slow & too ~~unexciting~~ ^{unexciting}. These men, unaccustomed to Anglo-Saxon ideas of representative or local self-government, ^{but} trained to regard the state as a means of forcing ideas on a people at the will of despotic rulers, rush into bloody deeds & arson without any reflection as to the illogic of their acts.

after shooting a Pinkerton, a non-union man, or an employer, they are no nearer ~~their~~ the accomplishment of their economic purpose. Their only effect is to test the efficiency of the local representatives of the state in maintaining order & the supremacy of the law (in the enactment of which the free action of each citizen united).

The inability to see the entire lack of connection between force & ~~the~~ the establishment of their ideas ^{in a free community} is a sad thing in all these troubles. It has nothing whatever to do with the right or wrong of these ideas. We may - & do - sympathize with any hopeful plan of increasing wages (although the real hope for the poor is ^{not} merely more higher wages but higher character to use the ^{higher} wages), but we lose all sympathy with methods ~~long~~ ago regarded as stupid & ruinous. If workmen resort to force, then why cannot employers? If laborers with insufficient support go about shooting & taking possession of other persons' property - ^{articles which} i.e. as the laws now regard property - then, others can do it. What if, in the present depression in the leather trade, ~~an~~ employers, seeing bankruptcy impending, should think carefully of the dissipation of the earnings of ^a his life-time, of wives & children left penniless, & combine, taking in perhaps the bankrupt employers of other trades, ~~then~~ go about the streets, ~~clanking~~ demanding an assessment

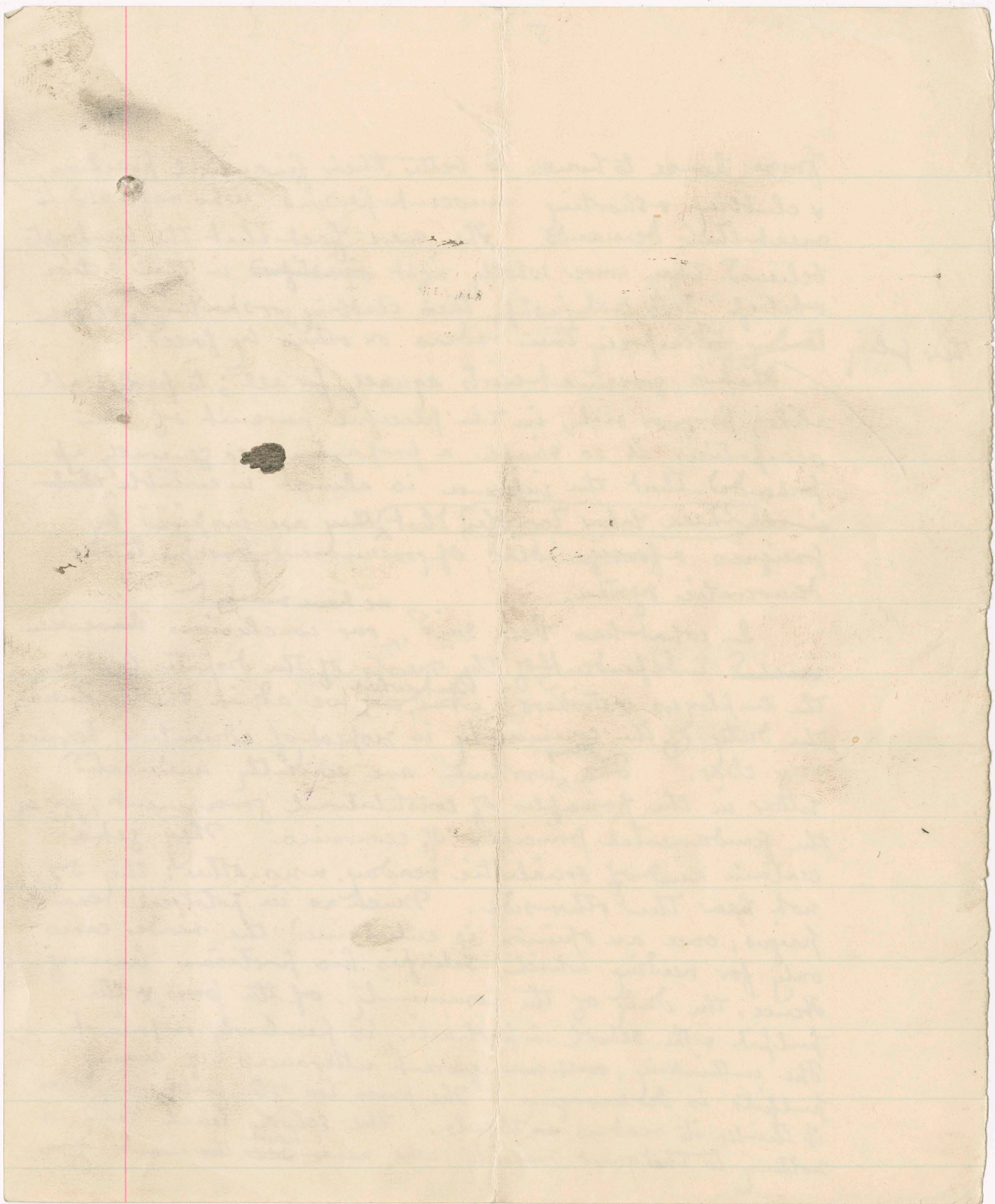


from house to house to better their financial position,
 & clubbing & shooting innocent persons who refused to
 meet their demands. The mere fact that the bankrupts
 believed they were wholly right ~~justified~~ in their action
 & beliefs, does not justify their clubbing or shooting, or pre-
 tending to impose their ideas on others by force.

this policy

That a government exists equally for all; to protect all
 alike, poor or rich, in the peaceful pursuit of their
 occupations is so simple a proposition & so generally ap-
 prehended that the inference is almost inevitable ~~that~~
~~in all these labor troubles~~ that they are inspired by
 foreigners & foreign ideas of government foreign to our
 democratic system.

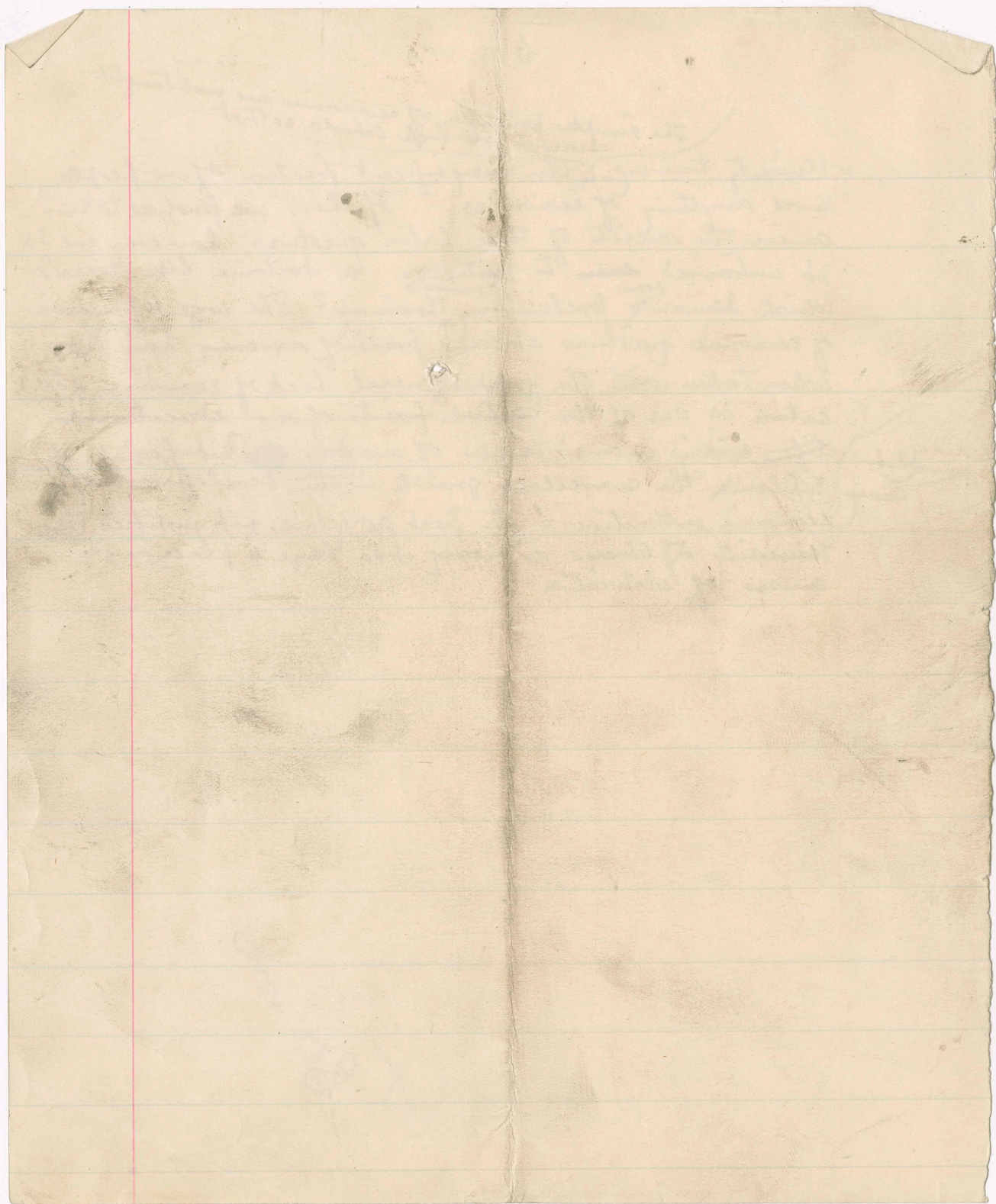
In what has been said, ^{we have reached} our conclusions have been
 reached independently of the merits of the disputes between
 the employers & strikers. ^{But when} ~~And so~~ we admit the conclusions,
 the duty of the community in respect of education becomes
 very clear. ^{many} ~~The~~ workmen are evidently uneducated
 either in the principles of constitutional government, or in
 the fundamental principles of economics. They get a
 certain kind of socialistic reading, & no other: they do
 not hear the other side. Much as in political cam-
 paigns, once an opinion is entertained the reader cares
 only for reading which satisfies his partisan leaning.
 Hence, the duty of the community, of the press, & the
 pulpit & the school in particular, is peculiarly important.
 The unthinking, ~~and~~ ignorant utterances of many
 pulpits is discouraging. The press too often publishes what
 it thinks its readers ~~are~~ wants. The schools teach little or
 nothing to that great majority who never ~~see~~ ^{have} the inside of a



The simpler principles of economics are ^{rarely} ~~not~~ taught even in our high schools, so that

University training. An insignificant fraction of our people knows anything of economics. If, then, we propose to examine the merits of these labor questions, how can we do it untrained ~~even~~ ^{some} to criticize a doctrine like Marx's, which demands ^{economic} preliminary training? The urgent presence of economic questions at every point of our ~~every~~ daily life, when taken with the great & general lack of economic education is one of the central points of our educational ~~life~~ striking inconsistencies of our day. But perhaps it may ^{may somewhat} explain the marvellous growth in the development of economic instruction in the past 20 years; it justifies the University of Chicago in giving it so large a place in its courses of instruction.

About 800 words



WINDSOR HOTEL
JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

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Laughlin

Wednesday, Feb'y 21st, 1894.

My dear President Harper,

Just before leaving
Chicago a letter from Mr. John Graham Brooks
gave little hope of our getting him. But I saw
a chance to get to Boston, and the storm which de-
layed my steamer gave me three or four days there.
Of course, I sounded Mr. Brooks again, and removed
many small objections. He evidently believe in us,
& is greatly interested in the chance of getting hold of
Chicago. In Boston he is in great demand, lecturing,
speaking, advising on his special topics of liquor traffic,
workmen's insurance, labor organizations, the unem-
ployed etc. I obtained from him an expression
of willingness to make a trial of Chicago, neither
side making any promises for the future. He
would be willing to come two for the fall quarter
next year, giving lectures as we suggest, and thereby
he could see if - as he expressed it - he would be
a success or not. And the arrangement for the

quater was not to imply anything whatever for you or him as to subsequent engagements. Everything would end with the end of the quater; unless both sides wished to enter into a new arrangement. This were the only terms we discussed. I said nothing about salary whatever. I advise you to arrange with him for the Fall Quater. He will be very popular both with the "swells" and the workingmen (with whom he has done a great deal). If you agree to this scheme, I suggest that you write him (Ash St. Cambridge, Mass) favorably, so that he will make no other arrangements for next fall. He should give a course in the University, another where the Prairie Ave. people would get at him, and others to the workingmen.

While in Cambridge, I kept my ears open, and I give you some results for your help. In two or three years Professor Marsh will have the full professorship at \$4000. which was held (He now has \$3000)

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WINDSOR HOTEL
JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

by Longfellow and Lowell. If he is to be had, he must be tried for now. The more I saw of him, the more I value him. In a strong discussion in which he and I were vigorously opposed to Palmer, he showed himself admirably ^{sounded}. But the especial "point" about him is that Baltimore has been "feeling" him. For myself I should think it infinitely wiser to put the English department into shape than the Philosophy department. The English department is a by-word among students and the outside public; and above all it needs a genuine scholar, and no "chromo" method.

Another matter you should know. Eliot is determined to get Lovett back. He spoke of him in the Faculty once as "an extraordinary man". In Cambridge he was one of the founders of the Prospect Union, a settlement in Cambridgeport. If they offer him the same salary as Chicago now gives him, Lovett can earn \$600. annually

in the Annex, and Eliot proposes to give him some part of the office administrative work. All this will allow him to marry next summer. I give you this for what it may be worth to you. Lovett, I believe, is going to Cambridge in the spring recess.

Again, - in regard to Mrs. Palmer. You will recall the suggestion you made to me about her. You may not know that her husband goes abroad on his Sabbatical vacation year after next, & she goes with him. Would it not be wisest to make the change at the end of next year, when there would be this evident reason? Her known power to draw influential people to our support would be generally recognized; and if she were to be retained on ground of retrenchment, when such persons as Dickinson, Mrs. Crowe, & others are retained, ^{it} would cause severe criticism which would be difficult to meet. You asked me on this point, and after

WINDSOR HOTEL
JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

Careful deliberation, without consultation with any other person whatever, this is my opinion. I believe her salary is as good an investment as could be made. Her connection with us means that she believes in us; and, so widely is she known, hosts of people will believe in us because they believe in her.

If Mr. Goodspeed has not already paid them, may I ask you to see if the Contributions for ^{the} Journal, December, have been paid. He has the bills, with my approval on them.

I wish with all my heart you were here to enjoy the balmy air, the flowers, the green trees, the fruit, - and the Darksies. The storm has delayed my steamer; but we are hoping that she will call at Fernandina for us on Saturday. We sail on the "Miranda". My mail address will be: Care C. J. Den Tex Bondt, San Domingo City, San Domingo. A cablegram addressed to

"Laughlin, San Domingo City" will reach me. I remain here at the Windsor Hotel, Jacksonville, until Saturday, because Ferdinandine hotels are not the choicest.

With my cordial goodwishes for you and the stone scholar factory, believe me

Sincerely yours,

J. Laurence Laughlin

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO,
HYDE PARK.

DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL ECONOMY.

Laughlin

J. L.

April 26, 1895.

My Dear President Harper,

In straightening
out my accounts, and putting my affairs
in order, I found your very kind letter
mentioning my loan of the fall of 1893
for \$900., and stating that you wished to be
regarded as responsible for it. As it is
always simpler to have these things in
business form, I thought you would prefer
to sign the enclosed note.

Sincerely yours,

J. Laurence Laughlin.

Handwritten in red ink:
Chicago

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
HYDE PARK

DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL ECONOMY

April 25, 1892

My dear President Harker,

In straightening

out my accounts, and putting my affairs
in order, I found you were kind to
mention my loan of the fall of 1891
for paper, and stating that you wished to
repaid in a reasonable time. As this
always simpler to have these things in
the money form, although you would prefer
to have the enclosed note.

\$1000

Sincerely yours,

L. Lawrence Langford

Laughlin

Beaver River Station,
via Harkins N.Y.
Aug. 31, 1893.

My dear President Harper,

Yours of 29th

at hand.

The real difficulty in re Bemis,
is that (1) he was acquiesced in solely
for University Extension work, and I
new for a moment thought of him
as holding a permanent position in
the regular offices of instruction. And
(2) at that time also you emphasized
the clear line of demarcation between
the Extension Dpts & the University
proper. Now, nothing has occurred
to change these two things. But
from a desire for "uniformity" simply,
a move is made which, in the judgment
of a Head-Professor seriously impairs
the morale of his department. It is
my duty to enter my protest, both as
a matter of policy & principle. (1) I

Do not believe Benis is a man of such value to you that he is worth the incurring of a department. Consequently I suggest that he be transferred to another department. Would it not be perfectly easy to put both his courses into Social Science? Benis really wishes to lecture on Labor ^{or} rather than on Trades Unions ^{or} the Labor course might go under Soc. Sci. - if Small does not object. Then, I have no objection to his remaining in charge of the Extension work in Economics; although I do not believe he is competent to treat a difficult economic problem. (2) Is it fair to hold a head-professor responsible for the working of his department, if action is taken contrary to his judgment? In this case, I think you are unwittingly doing us harm; and consequently, I must ask to be relieved of settling questions arising from it, or of responsibility for the efficiency of the work. Of course, if it is your policy to take on yourself a large part of the responsibility hitherto laid on the head-professor, and yourself to watch many of the details, that is another matter; no doubt, you can

do it far better than I. Only we should clearly understand what you expect me to do. I need not say it would be a great relief to have these matters taken off my mind; then I could occupy myself entirely with my own economic studies.

I am very sorry indeed to trouble you with this matter; but I should be disloyal to you and to the University if I did not point out the dangers inherent in this case. It is no easy matter to keep in harmonious adjustment the work and careers of six or seven men in a new department, as you will be the first to appreciate.

Very sincerely yours,

J. Laurence Laughlin,

Laughlin

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.
HYDE PARK.

Newman, N. Y.,
July 17, 1894.

My dear Pres. Harper,

I have your letter of the 10th inst. in which you say: "I hope that it will be possible for you and Mr. Small to arrange the work of the Department in such a manner as that (1) there shall be no duplication, and (2) the courses may fit into each other to the best possible advantage."

I think you will find both Mr. Small and myself quite ready to do anything we can to save the University from any criticism. Both of us, however, will probably be struck by the lack of point in what has been said. I do not quite see what is meant by "harmony of work between the two departments," as opposed to what now exists. As I understand Mr. Small, Social Science takes its data from the existing sciences, of which Political Economy is only one, the others being Philosophy (or Ethics), Political Science, Jurisprudence, and History. Social Science is the dome, built on the pillars of all these sciences. The relations of Political Economy to Social Science are no other than the relations of Political Science, or Philosophy, or History - and there is no reason for singling out Political Economy. I can see, of course, that students of Social Science should have their Political Economy before they enter Social Science - under the above relations; and I have noticed that ~~very~~ few students in Social Science are also taking Political Economy. But this is probably quite as true of Social Science and Political Science.

I am speaking, of course, not of the sub-divisions of Anthropology or Sanitary Science. They are not in question. And

as to the study of dependent classes (Dr. Henderson's work) much of it is independent of economic data. So I have spoken only of Mr. Small's work.

If there has been any discounting as to personal work, I shall do my best to stop it. But if any discussion exists relating to scientific work, independent of persons, such as that of the relations of the sciences, I believe it to be healthy, and I should welcome it so far as it relates to Political Economy. The proper University spirit demands it. And it is also to be remembered that the University of Chicago is the only institution in the world - so far as my knowledge goes - in which a division is made into Political Economy, Political Science, History, ~~and~~ Social Science, and Ethics; and there must naturally be some questions arise as to boundaries?

So far as reduplication goes the only case I know of is a course by Mr. Cummings on the Utopias (similar to one by Mr. Thomas). I was ignorant of Mr. Thomas's course when it was agreed to allow Mr. Cummings to give his. Before leaving Chicago, it happens that I had advised Mr. Cummings to drop that course, & he assented. Hence, although it appears in our programme, it will not appear in the quarterly calendar. Even though he expected to give ^{it} an economic treatment, I felt that he could use his powers better elsewhere. As to all the other courses they have a purely economic raison d'être; and when first sent to Mr. Small he found no difficulty in seeing clearly the line of demarcation between his field and mine.

That the courses should "fit into each other" in the two departments more than they do now, it would be our wish to arrange; but I think it would be difficult to do it better.

May it not be possible that the remarks you have heard have come from people who really know very little of the actual work of the two departments? Certainly in connection with the examinations of Mr. Cummings and Mr. Learned, Mr. Small was eminently fair & candid. If there is anything more explicit than you have written me, I should be glad to hear of it.

Sincerely yours,

J. Laurence Laughlin.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.
HYDE PARK.

Laughlin

100

Newman, N.Y.

Aug. 6, 1894.

Dear Pres. Harper,

Mr. Ely has stated in Madison that he was offered the position I now hold, but refused it "because the institution was supported in part by a monopolist." Is that true? Judging from what you have told me I supposed he had never had any offer from you, even to Small's chair. I regret that the Trustees of the University of Wisconsin are examining Ely merely on the grounds of his beliefs - if that is a correct report. If at all, he should be held to account for particularly unscientific method of work; if that cannot be shown, there is no case against him.

This recalls Bemis. I fear the affair in Dr. Barron's Church has been a last straw to some good friends of the University, like A.A. Sprague. And in antagonizing Pres. Huggitt, he is making very hard the establishment of a great railway interest in the University. And Bemis is wholly one-sided on this railway question. I have looked into it; but I could do nothing without throwing out all his railway lectures. This was some time ago. At every turn in Chicago, in July, I heard indignant remarks about Bemis, & I had nothing whatever to do in introducing the subject. I know you have done what seemed best to stop him; and Small has told me regretfully how he somewhat spoiled you.

arrangement; but in my opinion, the duty to the good name of the University transcends any soft-heartedness to an individual. I do not now see how we can escape saving ourselves ~~now~~ except by letting the public know that he goes because we do not regard him as up to the standards of the University in ability and scientific methods. It would have been better for him to have gone quietly. You probably know he told Small that his hold on the working classes was so strong that the University dare not drop him - or something to that purport. I believe you will find ~~all~~ the Extension men of my opinion - certainly Mr. Butler.

At any rate, I see ^{Bemis} he is no longer in my department; and I understand that his economic lectures will not be announced next year by the Extension Division. The labor subjects will be covered by Brooks. As regards the money lectures, I have a suggestion. How would it do to tie to us in this way Prof. Kinley, of the University of Illinois? Is it feasible? Could he not be asked to give 6 or 12 lectures on money, appear in our list as an Extension lecturer, yet hold his position at Champaign? His work is of a radically different kind from Bemis', yet he was one of Elly's men. You can also get Miller's idea of Kinley. I quite like him; she would, I think, welcome getting closer to us. His book on the "Independent Treasury" is quite good. This is only a suggestion. If it is worthless, then better no lectures at all on money than those Bemis gives.

I should be very glad to have the sheets giving the courses for "my baby" by the end of the week, so that I can finish my work before I leave here at the end of August. During September I shall be on the go, unable to work.

I have a translation of about 140 pages to publish in the autumn on the "Indian Currency Question". Have you anything to say against Veblen's Contract on the Cohn?

Sincerely yours,
J. Laurence Laughlin.

Laughlin

(Copy.)

Chicago, May 24th, 1895.

Received of William R. Harper, the sum of \$990.75 as
over against the payment of \$900. with interest at 6% from Sept.
19th, 1893, made to Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer in connection
with the salary of Mr. R. M. Lovett.

(Signed.)

J. Laurence Laughlin.

*A true copy,
Attest: J. H. Rust, Clerk.
May 24/95.*

File

Copy.

Chicago, May 24th, 1895.

Received of William R. Harper, the sum of \$990.75 as
over against the payment of \$900. with interest at 6% from Sept.
19th, 1893, made to Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer in connection
with the salary of Mr. R. M. Lovett.

Signed.

J. Lawrence Laughlin.

For

A true copy
Attest
J. Lawrence Laughlin
May 24th 1895

(53)

Laughtlin

Hotel Sacher, Vienna,

Sept. 8. 1895.

My Dear Pres. Harper,

I have received a letter from Mr. Hobson, in which he declines to do Travelling lecture-work. I shall still try to see him in London.

The Bennis matter has come faintly to my ears. Certainly a full statement should be made by us to the public. I have some definite ideas as to what should be said. How would it do to wait until my return, when I can then have his whole set of charges (which I am now ignorant of), prepare

a carefully worded statement, &
then you give that to the public?

This, strangely enough, quite as
much a matter affecting Mr.
Small as me; since Dennis
was not in my department
when "deposed" by the University.

I sail the 14th, & shall
be at the Murray Hill Hotel
probably on the 21st, where a
letter would reach me, somewhat
after reaching New York.

I shall now be glad to get
back. We set our faces home-
ward tomorrow via Paris, after
a really delightful time in
Venice & here.

With my cordial good wishes

Sincerely yours

J. Laurence Laughlin

~~Dr. Goodspeed~~
~~Please return~~
~~to Mr. Rust~~

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO,
HYDE PARK.

Laughlin,

Placid Club,
Lake Placid, N. Y.,
July 22, 1896.

My Dear Pres^t. Harper,

After getting Mr.
Willis's telegram, I telegraphed him
to go on; believing there must be
some misunderstanding.

This morning I have this strange
account (which I enclose) from him
of what took place between him and
Mr. Rust & Dr. Goodspeed. I question
whether it is well for a student going
from our graduate school abroad
where they will compare notes with
those from other institutions to have
such stories of their treatment at
Chicago to recount. If our officials
were uninformed as to all the facts,
they should at least have been

polite in refusing Mr. Willis. You know Mr. Willis to be conscientious; and so I send you his side of the matter.

Then, also, I question whether it is well to have officials use insulting language regarding their instructors to students who have done credit to our University. Mr. Lovett may be "only a hired clerk" &c., &c., but I do not see the wisdom of informing Mr. Willis on that point. Nor do I see the propriety of officials exhibiting their private enmity towards me in their business relations to students in my department. That should be a matter between the officials and me.

This is only one of a kind of thing which has become pretty well known in the University, and it is doing us no good.

I suppose you are "resting" at Chautauqua. Do take care of yourself.
Sincerely yours,
J. Lawrence Laughlin,

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO,
HYDE PARK.

Laughlin

No date

June 28, 1899.

My dear President Harper,

I declined to serve on the Congregation committee to consider Prof. Chamberlin's motion, because (1) it does the University infinite harm to have it known that such a matter is really open to discussion; and (2) because it seems to be a covert attack on those persons who have recently expressed opinions on public questions ^{and} who hold official connection with the University. I can see no other meaning in the resolution but a reflection on either the President, the Dean of the Graduate School, or the President's Secretary; and I am unalterably opposed to being a party to any such absurd proceedings.

I am sure, in your own way, you can make it known to the Congregation that my name was printed on the programme without waiting for my acceptance, and quite by inadvertence.

Very truly yours

J. Laurence Laughlin.

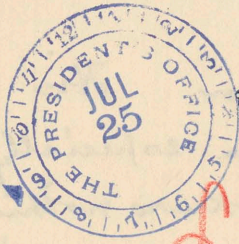
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
PRESS

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The University of Chicago

Field, Wis.

Care Hugh Dwyer.

July 22, 1908.

Dear Pres^t. Harper,

I learn with some mortification, by a note from New York, that Mr. Isador Strauser (care R. H. Macy & Co.) never received any acknowledgment of his check for \$600.- which I turned over to the University; ^{did he} now, even know that it came to the notice of the University. I beg of you to see that his generosity gets some reply from the University, but in such a way that it will compensate for the seeming discourtesy.

I have a word from Dr. Mitchell that he has accepted your proposal. I have written him, giving him full work of two courses each quarter.

The History department problem is no clearer to me. I am inclined to go slowly; but at the same time I see how we suffer by delay. I still prefer Turner; but I know too little of Mr. Laughlin to speak of him. All

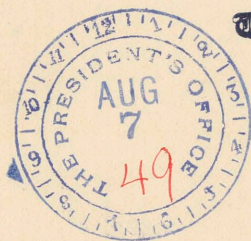
I have heard ^{is} in his favor. His
executive ability has been especially
well spoken of; but I know nothing
as to his capacity as an instructor. His
scholarship seemingly is high; although
anyone after von Holst looks small in
that respect.

I am getting some rest mixed
with some writing. It is incomparably
quiet and restful here; and if I
accomplish nothing it will be my
own fault.

Faithfully yours,

J. Laurence Laughlin

Pres^t. W. R. Harper.
Chicago.



The University of Chicago

Wm Fife, Mr.
Aug. 5. 1900.

My dear Pres^t. Harper,

My own preferences, from present knowledge, are for Dr. Jameson as against Professor M. Laughlin. The former has been said to be zealous for unimportant details; but I should be inclined to weigh that lightly until strong evidence for it was obtained. As editor of the Historical Review, he seems to me to have shown considerable power to manage affairs and men; he has seemed disinterested and tactful. But my judgment is worth little, because I have not known him personally.

Very truly yours,

J. Laurence Laughlin

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO,
HYDE PARK.

Dec. 5, 1901

Dear Pres^t. Harper,

Some time ago The "History of the Latin Union" by H. P. Willis, prepared in my seminar, was submitted through you to Macmillan Co. with a view to publication (probably in connection with some possible arrangement between them and the University). It was returned with a report from their reader that it ~~showed~~ ^{the MSS was} unscientific bias, &c., which repeated a former opinion when presented to them by me.

This opinion, and its tone, was inexplicable. It suggests that the reader was incompetent, and that Macmillan Co. were misled. It seems to me, in the interest of all concerned, that the real character of the book should be ascertained by impartial and competent judgment. Therefore, I enclose to you copies of reviews of the work by Horace White Esq., editor of the N. Y. Evening Post, and by M. de Foville, long Director of the French Mint, and a high authority on monetary subjects. There could not be two more competent judges, looking at the subject from widely different experiences.

Very truly yours,

J. Laurence Langhlin.

[1905-06]

Long blair
no date

5703 Monroe Ave.
Friday

Dear President Harper,

This is just
a message to show you that you
are in our thoughts more than you
know. We understand, of course,
that it is the greatest kindness not
to intrude on you while you are re-
covering; I hope, however, that you
may care to have a little dash of
color in your room to remind you
of your friends.

I have just received a kindness
at your hands in the form of the
new book, "The Trend in Higher Education".
How interesting it looks! And what a

fine piece of book-making it is. I
fancy you have many inward
flashes of satisfaction over the fine
work of the University Press.

I shall read the "Trend", in
order to know where I am coming
out. Just at present, the "Trend" in
our department looks hopeful. We
have an unusually strong list of
applicants, ^{for fellowships} extending from Massachusetts
to Daestah. And my friends have
added some funds enough to give
three or four additional fellows. Don't
that fine?

Besides the two doctors coming
up in June, we have fourteen soon
coming up for the Ph. D. And this
in spite of the Law School!

We are glad on your account
that you are going off for a com-
plete rest. Your courage and grit

form an inspiration to all of us. You can
have little idea of the warmth and number of
expressions of appreciation of your work which we
that privately form all parts of the country. They
are all any more with you. They will cer-
tainly give you great content and satisfaction
going off to live in the country for awhile, before you come back to
the things still to be done by you.

Our best wishes so with you when you are.
"Colum non erimus mutant qui trans mare curant"
(with permission of State).

Faithfully yours

J. Lawrence Langhin.

-2-
Then an important report on commercial questions. With your-
self and Michelson I should feel that the University is ade-
quately represented.

With sincere regards for Mrs. Laughlin, I am,

August 4, 1908

Very truly yours,

My dear Mr. Laughlin:-

You may or may not have been informed about
the Pan-American Scientific Congress to be held in Santiago, Chile,
on the 25th of December next. I know you will remember that we
appointed Mr. Michelson delegate from the University. Now we
want another delegate. The seventh section of the work of the
Congress covers social sciences, including American history, inter-
national law and policy, and political economy. Under the latter
they take up history and criticism of the subject, commercial and
custom-house questions, financial questions, and general themes.

I am wondering whether you could arrange to represent the
University in this field. We shall provide the expenses, which we
estimate at about \$1200. What I should like would be to have you
represent also one of the commercial associations in the city. I
am discussing that matter through Mr. Merriam, and have no doubt
that it can be arranged. It would afford an opportunity to make

Hariboro, New Hampshire.

August 4, 1905

My dear Mr. Laughlin:-

You may or may not have been informed about the Pan-American Scientific Congress to be held in Santiago, Chile, on the 25th of December next. I know you will remember that we appointed Mr. Nicholson delegate from the University. Now we want another delegate. The seventh session of the work of the Congress covers social sciences, including American history, international law and policy, and political economy. Under the latter they take up history and criticism of the subject, commercial and custom-house questions, financial questions, and general themes. I am wondering whether you could arrange to represent the University in this field. We shall provide the expenses, which we estimate at about \$1200. What I should like would be to have you represent also one of the commercial associations in the city. I am discussing that matter through Mr. Herrick, and have no doubt that it can be arranged. It would afford an opportunity to make

-2-

then an important report on commercial questions. With yourself and Michelson I should feel that the University is adequately represented.

With sincere regards for Mrs. Laughlin, I am,

Very truly yours,

Mr. J. Laurence Laughlin,
Sawyer Cottage,
Marlboro, New Hampshire.

them an important report on commercial questions. With your-
self and Michaelson I should feel that the University is ade-
quately represented.

With kindest regards for Mrs. Laughlin, I am,
Very truly yours,

My dear Mr. Laughlin:-

You may or may not have been informed about
the Pan-American Scientific Congress to be held in Santiago, Chile,
on the 25th of December next. I know you will remember that we
appointed Mr. Michaelson delegate from the University. Now we
want another delegate. The seventh session of the work of the
Congress covers social sciences, including American history, inter-
national law and policy, and political economy. Under the latter
they take up history and criticism of the subject, commercial and
customs duties, financial questions, and general themes.
I am wondering whether you could arrange to represent the
University in this field. We shall provide the expenses, which we
estimate at about \$100. What I should like would be to have you
represent also one of the commercial associations in the city.
An interesting third section covers the history and laws of trade
Mr. J. Lawrence Laughlin,
Sawyer Cottage,
Marlboro, New Hampshire.

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RED BRICK HOUSE
OLD PETERBOROUGH ROAD
JAFFREY, N. H.

P.O.
E. JAFFREY

March 8, 1917

Dear President Judson:

On receiving
the notice of the Spring Convocation
I wake up - like a bear in his
cave - hungry for some word from
you and the Chicago home. It
hardly seems possible that a
whole year has passed since I
was allowed to trumpet forth as
convocation orator.

Much water has been running
under the bridge since then. In
a small way I have been busy,
if not in digging potatoes, at least
in wasting printer's ink, in po-

tato hills, there is the economic lesson that occasionally there is one in which there is a single big fellow attended by a dozen tiny failures, while in most of them there are fifteen solid, nourishing tubers all of good size. So much for the "Trusts".

In occupying the printer, for fear you may not believe me, I am sending you by today's post one of the evidences of my "retiring" disposition in the volume of "Easter-Day Problems". Inasmuch as you have made such a whopping success of the new medical plan, you are relieved from all punishment in reading the book.

My book on the European War moves with halting gait. Indeed, I found myself so far spent in the

last few years that I needed more rest than I supposed before I could induce ideas to flow. There is now about half of the book in a first draft. If it does not die a-borning, it will probably be called "Growth of the Nations." Not until it is finished shall I have any self-respect, or feel that I can read a novel; for I promised it to The Scribner's two years ago. But what do we care for "a scrap of paper"?

The mountains and the whole country-side are yet deep in winter snow, but above there is a warm sun and tokens of spring. My garden seeds are ordered. Do you and Mrs. Judson come to keep me eat the results. Instead of chomps, potatoes will be given as prizes.

I am often homesick for Chicago.

Ever faithfully yours,

J. Lawrence Laughlin

Chicago, March 14, 1917

My dear Mr. Laughlin:

It gave me great pleasure to receive your good letter of the 8th inst., and thus to be informed as to your progress. Surely many things have happened since you gave the Convocation address last year, and I am glad to know that your bucolic enterprises are not occupying your entire time. The book came yesterday, and it will give me great pleasure, I am sure, to read it. I shall be much interested in the other book, on the European war, which I hope will be in hand not far in the future. We have been very busy here during this winter with the medical fund. We set out in November to raise in new money \$5,300,000. The pledges now foot up \$5,188,500, and I secured today a virtual additional pledge of \$20,000, so that the end I think is in sight. I envy you the freedom which you have. As you know, anyone in

Chicago, March 14, 1917

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be informed as to your progress. Surely many things have
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with the medical fund. We set out in November to raise
in new money \$5,300,000. The pledges now foot up
\$5,188,500, and I secured today a virtual additional pledge
of \$20,000, so that the end I think is in sight. I envy
you the freedom which you have. As you know, anyone in

administrative charge of an institution of this kind is a slave, although I believe slavery is supposed to have been abolished many years ago. Who is free?

With cordial regards to all the household, and best wishes from Mrs. Judson as well as myself, I am,

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. J. Laurence Laughlin
Red Brick House, Old Peterborough Road
East Jaffrey, New Hampshire

administrative charge of an institution of this kind is a
slave, although I believe slavery is supposed to have been

abolished many years ago. Who is free?

With cordial regards to all the household, and best

wishes from Mrs. Jackson as well as myself, I am,

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. J. Lawrence Laughlin
Red Brick House, Old Peterborough Road
East Jaffrey, New Hampshire

Personal

Chicago, March 13, 1918

My dear Mr. Houston:

In connection with the pending financial legislation I am wondering whether the President would consider the possible usefulness of Professor J. Laurence Laughlin, whom of course you know. Professor Laughlin retired a year ago at his own option in order that he might undertake some special literary work in the line of economics. He has during that time completed two books, one of which I think has just come from the press. I need not say to you that he is a very eminent student of money and finance. Frankly, I think his appointment to any post of that kind would not be agreeable to certain financial interests in New York, notably to such interests as are represented on the Reserve Board. It seems that his masterly ability and very great knowledge of the subject, as well as his entire loyalty, ought to be of

Personal

Chicago, March 13, 1918

My dear Mr. Horaton:

In connection with the pending financial legislation I am wondering whether the President would consider the possible usefulness of Professor J. Lawrence Laughlin, whom of course you know. Professor Laughlin retired a year ago at his own option in order that he might undertake some special literary work in the line of economics. He has during that time completed two books, one of which I think has just come from the press. I need not say to you that he is a very eminent student of money and finance. Frankly, I think his appointment to any post of that kind would not be agreeable to certain financial interests in New York, notably to such interests as are represented on the Reserve Board. It seems that his masterly ability and very great knowledge of the subject, as well as his entire loyalty, ought to be of

service where it would do the most good.

With cordial regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Hon. D. F. Houston
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

service where it would do the most good.

With cordial regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Hon. D. F. Houston
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D. C.

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680 Madison Ave,
New York, Apr. 7, 1918.

Dear President Judson:

I have the reply from Secretary Houston you sent. It is evident The War Finance Corporation has not entered his mind in this connection. So be it. If I have not the health to take up such tasks, there are many other things to do. Even if I had the health, this administration would ^{not} appoint me, I feel sure.

From many sides I have been asked about my mission to England. Very soon I knew I had again been confused with A. C. McLaughlin. He will be a great success with English audiences. ~~George Adam Smith~~, whom I saw here last Thursday, ^{also} spoke of my coming; but I was able to disillusion him. Sir George bore the marks of tragedy in his face. He is very gray. His spirit, however, is ^{as} fine and lofty as ever. His daughter is with him.

I gave myself the pleasure of sending you, as an old friend and true, a copy of my last book, Credit of the Nations. Do not let it burden your time. It comes as a beaver of good wishes and to recall the pleasant memories of many years spent together.

Very sincerely yours,

J. Laurence Laughlin

President A. P. Judson
University of Chicago.

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Mr. J. F. Johnson
New York, Apr. 7, 1912

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I have the reply from Sec. of the University of Chicago for you sent. It is without the Hon. Business Corporation has not entered his mind in this connection. So far of I have not the least to take up such tasks, there are many other things to do. Even if I had the health, this administration would appoint me, I feel sure. From many sides I have been asked about my mission to England. Very soon I know I will be again, been surprised with A. C. McLaughlin. He will be a great success with English audiences. I have been told that when I saw him last Sunday night of my coming: but I was able to distinguish him. He says for the months of travel in his face he is very gray. His spirit, however, is fine and kept as ever. His daughter is with him.

I have myself the pleasure of sending you as on the first and have a copy of my last book, of the Nation. Do not let it remain your time. It comes as a token of good wishes and to recall the pleasant memories of many years spent together.

Very sincerely yours,

J. F. Johnson

President of University of Chicago

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CONTINENTAL AND COMMERCIAL TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK

GEORGE M. REYNOLDS, PRESIDENT
JOHN JAY ABBOTT, VICE-PRESIDENT
ARTHUR REYNOLDS, VICE-PRESIDENT
CHAS. C. WILLSON, CASHIER
FRANK H. JONES, SECRETARY
W. M. P. KOPF, ASST. SECRETARY
HENRY C. OLCOTT, MGR. BOND DEPT.
ROBERT J. HERCOCK, ASST. CASHIER
ALBERT S. MARTIN, ASST. CASHIER

CHICAGO

November 23, 1917.

Long

Mr. Harry Pratt Judson,
President, University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Judson:

For our confidential use, would you be willing to give us the names of the two or three men, who, in your opinion, might be regarded as the foremost currency experts in this country; men who are informed as to the various systems of the world and whose breadth of understanding would include the effect that a proposed change in a currency system would have on the economic condition of a country.

Very truly yours,

John Jay Abbott
Vice President.

Chicago, November 24, 1917

Dear Mr. Abbott:

Your favor of the 23d inst. is received.

In my judgment the foremost currency expert in this country is Professor J. Laurence Laughlin, for many years Head of our Department of Political Economy in the University of Chicago, but now retired. He is living at East Jaffrey, New Hampshire. In my opinion his judgment on all these questions is worth that of any other ten men.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. John Jay Abbott
Continental and Commercial Trust and Savings Bank
Chicago

Chicago, November 24, 1917

Dear Mr. Abbott:

Your favor of the 23d inst. is received.
In my judgment the foremost currency expert in this country
is Professor J. Lawrence Laughlin, for many years Head of
our Department of Political Economy in the University of
Chicago, but now retired. He is living at East Lafayette,
New Hampshire. In my opinion his judgment on all these
questions is worth that of any other ten men.
Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. John Jay Abbott
Continental and Commercial Trust and Savings Bank
Chicago