

Owen

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Chicago, Ill., Oct 20th 94

Pres. Wm R. Harper, Ph.D.

Univ. of Chicago.

Dear Sir. Your letter

of recent date to the effect that your proposition to me in regard to the Homer was acceptable to the American Book Co., was received. I am ready to go ahead on the lines already laid down, in fact, I have been working all week collecting material. I may say, first, that I am in favor of publishing the Odyssey first. I give some reasons for my thinking that it would be better to do so.

1. The general fact that the Odyssey is coming to be recognized by teachers in this country as a better book for use with beginners than the Iliad. The English and Germans, I believe, have long acted on this theory.
2. The first twelve books of the Odyssey comprise a story of much more sustained interest than that told in the Iliad Bks. I-XII. The Odyssey has, in this respect, a greater similarity to the Aeneid.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Chicago, Ill., Oct 20, 1892

Dear Mr. D. H. Harford,
Chair of Chemistry

Dear Sir,

of recent date to the effect that your
proposition is not in regard to the removal and
acceptance of the American Board of
science. I am ready to go ahead on the
line already laid down, in fact, I have been
receiving all kinds of collecting material. I may
say first that I am in favor of publishing
the obituary first. I give some reasons for
my thinking that it would be better to do so
of the general fact that the obituary is coming
to be recognized by teachers in the country as
a better kind of memorial argument than
the eulogy. The English and Germans, I believe,
have long acted on this plan.

2. The first thing I would like of the obituary, and give
a story of much more interest than
that told in the obituary. The obituary
has, in this respect, a greater interest to the
reader.

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3. The Odyssey is used in all good colleges and in some preparatory schools. In our own University the course in the Odyssey is considered as almost a prerequisite to the course in the Iliad. The Iliad is harder, I think, and is best interpreted by selecting ^{different} books from the whole twenty-four, rather than by a straight course of twelve books. These points I mention, because I believe that the book will have to aim to serve the purposes of preparatory and early college classes.

4. As a last consideration, I may mention the fact that, from a business stand-point, the opening for a good edition of the Odyssey seems just now brighter than for one of the Iliad. Petrin's two volumes cover but eight books and are comparatively expensive. We have to use Merry for our University classes, in order to secure enough material for a quarter's course.

If you agree with me in this, I should like to be notified that I may continue the work already begun.

You and I have had no discussion of the features which you wished to have embodied in the book. Of course, I am familiar with Miller's Vergil and presume you would want the inductive studies of cases, modes etc., and the

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literary references etc. Please give me some indication of your desire in these matters! The matter of a vocabulary seems to me to be very plain. There is no question in my mind that the Homeric vocabulary is the most difficult thing about Homer, after one has become acquainted with some of the stranger forms. The choice therefore lies between an elaborate vocabulary giving root, word-formation, cognate words etc., and a simple vocabulary. The compass of the book in project would point inevitably to the latter. I have sometimes thought it might be as well to omit the vocabulary entirely, yet I believe it would not. On this point, also, I should like your opinion.

Several matters in regard to the business aspects of our contract occur to me. I should like you to name a definite number of hours that I ought to give to this work weekly in order to abide by the spirit of my agreement with the A. B. Co. Of course, I understand that work of this kind cannot be estimated by hours' work. But I can feel my obligation fulfilled when I know at the end of each week that I have done all that could be fairly asked of me and all that has been asked of me. The first three months of my work will be the hardest and most decisive and yet will show for the least. Suppose that I should die then?

literary reformers. These give me some
 indication of your desire in this matter.
 The matter of a vocabulary seems to me to be
 very plain. There is no question in my mind
 that the American vocabulary is the most
 difficult thing about towns, after one has
 been acquainted with some of the things from
 the chair. Therefore his return on elaborate
 vocabulary giving root, word, formation, cognate words
 etc. and a simple vocabulary. The compass of
 the book in project would be invariable to the
 latter. I have sometimes thought it might
 be as well to omit the vocabulary entirely,
 yet I believe it would not. On this point I
 should like your opinion.

Small matter in regard to the business aspects of
 and contract occur to me. I should like you to name
 a definite number of lines that I ought to give to this
 second volume in order to add to the spirit of my
 argument with the U. S. B. I cannot say that
 I am of this kind cannot be estimated by business men
 that I can find my own thing fulfilled when I have
 the end of each volume that I have done all that could
 be fairly asked of me and all that has been necessary
 now. The first thing I should like you to do is to
 market and write business and the rest of the
 next. I suppose that I should be then.

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I fear the Company would have little return for the money. I shall, however, seek to put my material in as accessible form as possible. You see I want to know when I am living up to the spirit of my agreement. One thing more. It would be a great convenience to me, if I could be paid the agreed sum on the 1st of each month, beginning Nov. 1st 94.

I begin about a week ago reading for parallels. I shall read Vergil, Horace, Milton and Spenser entire and much of Ovid. I am teaching these very books of the Odyssey at present. I take note in class of the difficulties experienced by pupils and hope thus to meet actual and not fancied needs of the younger scholars. As a change of work, I expect to spend some time each day on the vocabulary.

These are all the points that occur to me at present. I should like to hear from you as soon as possible. If you prefer and will name the hour, I shall be glad to call upon you.

Sincerely
W^m B. Owen

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I find the copy much less than I expected
to receive. I shall, however, have to put my material
in as accessible form as possible. I am sure I want
to know what I am doing up to the spirit of
my argument. On this point I would be
a great contributor to me. If I could I find the
ground now on the 1st of each month, beginning
Feb. 1st of

I think about a year ago reading for parallel
I shall read Wright, Wilson and others and
and much of Dr. B. and teaching them very hard
theology at present. I have not in class of the
difficulties presented by pupils and hope that
to meet actual and not formal needs of the
proposed school. As a change of word, I expect
to spend some time each day on the vocabulary
There are all the facts that occur
to me at present. I shall live to hear from
you as soon as possible. If you prefer and will
send the book, I shall be glad to call upon
you.

Respectfully,
J. H. D. C.

Owen

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Chicago, Ill. Nov. 30th 94

Pres. Wm R. Harper.

Univ. of Chicago

Dear Sir; The letter from the

American Book Co. was received. I was disappointed to learn that the arrangement was to hold but ten months while the understanding between yourself and me was that it should be for fifteen months.

I do not think the company can appreciate the circumstances of the case. I certainly cannot undertake to write that book in ten months and perhaps the best thing for all concerned is to secure some man who can. The question has so many sides that I feel I must see you again when I am sure we can make arrangements satisfactory to yourself and me, whether to the A.B. Co. or not and whether I write the book or not. In fact, I am all at sea as to my work for the months following April 1st. Professor Sherry seemed to think there would be no need of me after Oct. 1st 95 and thought I need not send courses to be printed for the next year, beginning July 1st 95 (except for the summer quarter). I spoke to Prof. Castle about going to Europe. He has some idea of going next

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April or July for a stay of six months. I suppose
 I should be needed in his absence but, as Prof. Shorey
 seems to view it, not after his return. In short,
 he seems to think that Profs. Shorey, Castle and
 Capps can do the work of the Greek Department
 without me, so long as Prof. Tarbell does half
 work. If this be true, then I must be ready to
 go abroad Oct. 1st '95. This will have the greatest
 influence in determining the use of my time during
 the next nine months. You will remember that
 the conditions under which I began work as an
 instructor (conditions named by yourself) were that I should
 teach one year (9 mos.) as a tutor, spend the next
 year abroad and return as an instructor. Last
 summer you suggested that I remain another year
 before going abroad and said you would later decide whether
 as a tutor or instructor. I told Prof. Shorey of this at
 the time and he seemed pleased as he thought Prof.
 Castle would go in the meantime and very lively
 himself also. The other day his views seemed to be
 as stated above. I do not mean for a moment
 to convey the impression that Prof. Shorey does not
 want ^{me} on the Greek Department. He expressed himself
 plainly to the contrary. But he thinks the Department
 will have become large enough to require the
 services of us all by the time I should return.
 Before I should or could be ready to

I have just finished a copy of my manuscript. I suppose
 I should be ready in the afternoon, or perhaps
 tomorrow to send it, not after the usual time. In what
 manner to think that I will send it. But I am
 happy to be in the way of the great experiment
 which I am now making. I have been very
 much of this nature, and I must be ready to
 go about Oct. 1st. This will be the greatest
 experiment in determining the use of my time during
 the next nine months. I will remain in that
 the conditions under which I have been in an
 intricate (certain names of people) and that I should
 look one year (or) as a later, before the next
 year ends and return as an institution. But
 however you suggested that I should send you
 a copy of my manuscript and possibly send you
 as a later institution. I had thought of this at
 the time and it seemed feasible as I thought I
 could send it in the meantime and very little
 time ago. But I had been unable to
 as stated above. But I am now in a position
 to carry the impression that I have been
 sent to the great experiment. It is now in my
 hand to be written. But I will be able to
 it has been very much in the
 manner of us all. I have been in the
 of my work. I will be ready to

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sign a contract to write the book I should have to know definitely three things. First, whether I am to go to Europe April 1st, Oct 1st next or April 1st '96. Second, if I remain here another year, am I to remain as a tutor or an instructor? Third, the amount of time I am to be given for the completion of the book ready for the press.

I hope you will not misunderstand me. This letter is not written as a complaint at all. I simply want to know the conditions under which I am to work that I may not attempt the impossible. I am ready to go abroad or to remain at home for a reasonable time, in whichever way I may best increase my own efficiency and serve the interests of the University. I have no preference to express. I simply want to know definitely and finally as to what I shall be expected to do.

I shall try to see you at your office Wednesday at the proper hour, unless informed otherwise by you.

Sincerely yours
Wm B. Cowen

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right a contract to write the book I should
have to reveal everything that I thought. I
wondered how to go to Chicago, Ill., Oct. 17
next or April 15. I simply do not know how
to do it. I am a woman and a tutor in
an institution. I am, the amount of time I
am to be given for the completion of the book
very few.

I hope you will not misinterpret
me. This letter is not written as a complaint
at all. I simply want to reveal the conditions
under which I am to reveal that I may not
attempt the impossible. I am ready to go
anywhere or to remain at home for a reasonable
time in which I can do my best. I am
an officer and have the interests of the
University. I am no performer to myself. I
simply want to reveal myself and finally to
be what I shall be expected to be.

I shall try to see you at your office
Wednesday at the proper time. I am
yours truly,
Wm. D. Brown