

W.S.

W.P.

Cambridge Jan 25 1891

Dear Dr Harper:

Many thanks
for your kind note and the
Bulletin. I was deeply interested
in the plans, and have read
them carefully several times.
Some of them seem revolutionary,
but history goes to show that in
some cases revolutions are
necessary and beneficial. The
new University will certainly
be a grand experiment. The
only thing that seemed to me
conspicuous by its absence
was no allusion to physical
culture, which, as it has reached
a position of such importance
today, I should have thought
would have been touched
upon, if only for a stroke of

policy. Perhaps, however,
that would more properly
appear in one of the other
Bulletins. If there is nothing
secret about this Bulletin
and if it is convenient, I
should like very much to
receive say 10 copies, and
I will distribute them among
my friends here in the Grad-
uate School. There is consid-
erable interest manifested
here in the new University and
the college papers are discussing
it editorially.

Yesterday I received
official notification of my
Fellowship.

I enclose this
clipping from the Boston
Herald, as testimony to
Mr. Moulton's wonderful success here.

Please pardon this further intrusion
at your time. With many thanks I am
Sincerely yours W. L. Phelps

96400

New Haven July 21 1891.
President Harper:

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the
17th was very kind and
gave me much pleasure.
I hope that some
arrangement can be
made which shall
be satisfactory all
around. I shall be
interested to hear in
November what the
Committee's decision
is, and I hope they
will do the best they
can for me. I
greatly appreciate

your kindness in
the matter, and I
hope nothing will
prevent the pleasure
I have anticipated
in working under
you at Chicago,
and doing my best
in the great work.

With many thanks

I am

Sincerely yours

W. L. Phelps.

President W. R. Harper.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
CAMBRIDGE, Mass.
No. 54 THAYER HALL.

3 Nov 1891

Perittend Harper:

Dear Sir:

I enclose
an editorial from the
Boston Herald for Nov. 2,
which may be of interest
to you, if you have not
already seen it.

About personal
matters, I think my
stock has risen a little
by virtue of what has
just happened. A few
weeks ago, I received

from Yale a formal
offer of an Instructorship
in English on \$1000,
for this year. I spoke
about this to the
Professors and the
President here, the
result being that I
was immediately offered
the full title of In-
structor here, and
my salary raised
to \$1000. Besides

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my regular salary. I have a number of perquisites which add considerably. After deliberation, I concluded to remain at Harvard this year. I think I can get more good by working in the English department here than at Yale.

Now next year

it is probable that I
could earn \$1500 by
remaining here. This
is why I am unwilling
to go to Chicago, with
the expense of change
and moving, for that
same figure. Do you
not think, that
with my chances
here, and after
receiving flattering

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Offer from both Yale
and Harvard, you
ought at least to give
me more than \$1500?

I speak of this now be-
cause you said some
matters were to be settled
in November.

Please do not speak
outside of my Yale
offer, as when I refused

it, I told the Yale
faculty I would not give
it publicity. But I have
Wadsworth's letter, if you
wish to see it.

I hope some ar-
rangement can be made.

I congratulate
you on the magnificent
stroke in getting that
library. If there is any
printed account of it,
I should be glad to see it.

Sincerely Yours
W L Phelps

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particularly strong
impression on his
instructors; but he went
to Cornell, was very soon
made an Assistant
Professor there, and
seemed to do extremely
good work. It was on the
strength of his fine
recommendations
from Cornell that
Harvard gave him a

travelling fellowship
two years ago, which
he still holds. It is
also greatly to his
credit that he has
just taken the Ph. D.
degree ^{at} ~~from~~ Halle,
under such a man as
Sievers. He is prob-
ably by this time an
excellent man. Prof.
Wheeler of Cornell
was especially strong
in his praise of Hall,

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and I should think
he and the other Cornell
authorities could tell
you all about him. Mr.
Child and Mr. Kittredge
both spoke well of him,
tho not enthusiastically.
Mr. Child said he thought
Hale must now be a
well-equipped man.

About Mr.

George I have been able
to discover scarcely
anything. None of

the Professors of English
at Harvard know
anything at all about
him. I own a copy of
George's edition of
Wordsworth's Prelude,
which seems to be
a careful piece of
work.

I read the letters
of Van Dyke to Eugene
Parsons. I never
heard of Parsons
before. Van Dyke's

4

Letters seem to connote
that Parsons is pains-
taking and accurate.
I do not like the scheme
of Parsons's lectures on
Tennyson. The subjects
seem to be very ama-
teurish and young-
lady-boarding-school
style. Perhaps however
he could give a good course
on Tennyson. How old
a man is he?

Why don't you
offer Tarbell a good
position in Greek? It
seems to me that he is
exactly the man you
want to direct ad-
vanced students. He
has conducted the
Seminary at Harvard
this year and has
given immense satis-
faction. The students
speak of him in the
very highest terms.
There is nothing gaudy

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or showy about him, but
he would make a good
counter-acting influence
to some of the "popular"
tendencies you are to have
out there. Now that
Tarbell has been ap-
pointed ~~the~~ Director
of the School at Athens,
it would be a good
card for Chicago if
he would drop that pro-
sition & come to you. I
know that personally
he does not want to go

Watkins & that he has a
high regard for Chicago.
He told me that if he had
been offered the positions
Reynolds & the Langhlin
were offered, he would have
accepted without hesita-
tion. I suppose he still
feels the same way.

Don't you think it
would be a good plan to
send the Grad. School
bulletin to every gradu-
ate student at Harvard?
I think you might
catch some. I like the
Bulletin very much.

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I want to speak to you about
a personal matter. I have
just been called to the
full Chair of English at
Dartmouth, \$1700. They need
me ~~there~~ very much. It is
a question with me whether
they don't need me much
more than you do. What
do you think about it?

You know all about
Dartmouth, and I should like
a frank opinion from you
on the subject. I am considering
the matter very carefully.

Sincerely W L Phelps

MASSACHUSETTS
CAMBRIDGE
NO. 20 JUNE 1881

6

I want to repeat to you about
a general matter. I have
just been called to the
fall term of physics at
Boston, \$1700. They want
me there very much. \$2000
a year. I will be able to
keep about \$1000 a month
more than you do. What
do you think about it?
You know all about
Boston, and I think it
a fine place. I have
in the past been
there and very
sincerely, W. B. Brewster

Phylo. H. F.
New Haven 8 April 1892
President Harper:

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the
4th was forwarded to me
from Cambridge and received
a few moments ago.

I hasten to comply
with your request, giving
my statement as follows.
(See inclosed Slip).

I presume you
have received my letter
of the 3, giving my opinion
about Kittredge is
Mauley for English
Philology.

I will
find out about
Edward Everett

Hale, Jr., as soon as
possible, and
communicate with
you. I return to
Cambridge Tuesday,
April 12.

If you do not
hear from Mr Clintock,
I will be glad to do
what I can toward
arranging the program
in English. I thought
that of course Mr
Clintock had written
you, as we agreed
that he should do
so before sailing.

Truly Yours

W L Phelps

Phelps W. L. W.
Long

New Haven 11 April 1892

President Harper:

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 6th received. I don't know anything about McCallum, but I will look him up.

I will also investigate the case of Mr. George, of whom you inquired.

Mr. Clintock said that he was going to prepare a list of books for the library and send it to you. So I presume it will not be necessary for me to do so, tho I am perfectly willing to assist in any way you wish at any time.

As I understand it, the English at Chicago is divided into 3 departments: (1) Rhetoric & English Composition (2) English Philology (3) English Literature. This is exactly as it should be, and meets with

the approval of all Professors
with whom I have talked. I can,
if you wish, make out some general
scheme for the English Literature
department, (to Mr. Christy's
absence in Europe may make
a number of changes in it. The
English Literature I hope to see
run on somewhat the same plan
as it is at Harvard, where it
is incomparably better organized
^{than} ~~as~~ at Yale. I hope Harvard's exam-
ple will also be used more or less
in the department of Rhetoric, but
that of course is Mr. Wilkinson's
affair.

I will write Mr. Christy
about the Loan Library system.

I have been very busy here in my week's
vacation, studying the Yale system of
education, and conversing with a number
of Professors: Cook, Bees, Ladd, Newton etc.
I think I have picked up a few points. Truly Yours
W. Phelps

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
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(Circular stamp)
Anne
M. H.

Manly
12 May 1892

President Harper -

Dear Sir -

Your note about
Manly just received.
Within the last month
or so I have had a
number of talks
with Manly about
Chicago. I told him
that I personally
hoped that President
Harper would make
him an offer, and

I ~~have~~ asked him
what he would do
in case an offer was
made. Of course all
my conversations
with him were en-
tirely unofficial,
as we neither of us
knew whether you
had him seriously
in mind.

He said definitely
that he would not go

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for less than \$2500,
and that he did
not know whether he
would go for that: and
that he did not like
to say what he would
do until he should
receive an official
offer.

I am certain
that you could not
get him for \$2000.

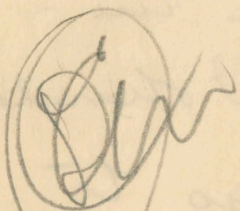
and I doubt if he
would go at all. He
seems at present to
be very much attached
to his work at Brown,
especially since his
intimate friend
Delabare has been
appointed there.

Then during the past
year, with Univ. Ex.
lectures, he has made
\$2600.

3

I am perfectly willing,
if you desire, to see
him again, but I
thought I ought to
write you first about it:
since if you cannot
offer him more than
\$2000, I am very sure
that it is better to let
him alone. Please let
me know what you wish
me to do, and I will
gladly see him. Truly yours
W L Phelps

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11 May 1892

President Hesper.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the
6th received. I doubt if
the lower position has been
offered to Mr. Hale any-
more than to me — a
number of men have been
spoken to on the subject.
I gathered from what the
President said that if I
wanted it I could
have it. But it is a

matter of little im-
portance, as I should
not want to go to
Lower to live.

I am considering
Denison; and within
a few days a chance
has appeared which
may possibly keep me
in the East. I will
know about this definitely
next Tuesday the 17,
and I will on that day

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write you ~~back~~ and tell you
my decision all around.

I have just rec'd
a letter from Mr. Clinton
in England. He says he
wishes to take his vacation
in 2 sections, Feb 15-
March 1, and July 1-
Aug. 15. Now I am very
anxious to have all
my 12 weeks come
together and I am also
very anxious to have

~~the~~ my vacation come
in the conventional
time July to October.

Thus it appears that my
wishes seem to conflict
at least partially
with Mr. Clintock's.

I do not suppose we
ought both to be away
from the Univ. at the
same time. How would
such a matter be
arranged? Who adjusts
vacations? Of course

3

I should be ready to make
~~some~~ personal sacrifices
for the good of the Univ., but
I should not care to adjust
my vacations ^{simply} so as to fit
another ~~man's~~ man's
wishes: unless he were the
Head of the Department,
and had some reason for it.

Mr. Chittick wrote
me a very pleasant
letter. He is working
in the Brit. Museum
and has sent me a

program of his Univ.
of Chicago lectures from
Jan 1 - Feb 15, as you
requested. I will send
this next Tuesday,
and with it mine -
if I am coming to
Chicago next year.

Very sincerely

W L Phelps

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
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15 May 1892

President Harper:

Dear Sir:

I have just been offered the position of Instructor at Yale, at \$1500 a year: and I therefore feel it necessary to resign my position at the University of Chicago.

Much as I have looked forward to working at Chicago and great as is my interest in the place, I do not feel that

I ought to go away
from home without
good reason. My father
and mother are both
old, and will prob-
ably next year be
entirely alone. Had I
supposed that Yale
would have offered
me so good a position,
I should of course
not accepted the
Chicago instructorship.

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I realize fully and
keenly appreciate
your great kindness
borne throughout all
our negotiations; and
I wish I had an oppor-
tunity to do something
in return.

I know of several
young men here
who would be glad of

the chance of teaching
English in Chicago
next year, and if
I can be of the slightest
assistance to you
in this or any other
way, I should be very
glad. I know of an
excellent man to fill
my place, and of a
good Tutor in Philology.

You were right
about Iowa: Mr Hale

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has been appointed.
This morning I wrote
Pres. Purniton, declining
the Devision position.

I trust you ap-
preciate fully the
grounds on which I
resign my position at
Chicago.

Very truly Yours
W L Phelps.

1
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE MASS.
NO. 22 CHURCH HILL

2

has been appointed
this morning, I have
been permitted, looking
the Bureau of
I trust you are
satisfied fully the
proceedings are what I
expected, your position at
Chicago.
My best regards
W. B. May

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
CAMBRIDGE, Mass.
No. 54 THAYER HALL.

19 May 1892

President Harper:

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the
16 received. I am very
grateful to you for the
offer of work in the office
from June 1, and if I were
coming to Chicago, I should
be disposed to look favorably
upon it: but as I expect
to go to Yale, I of course
could not consider it.

It was very kind

If you to offer me this
chance, and I
appreciate it.

Sincerely

W L Phelps

Phelps
H. C.
New Haven 25 May 1892.

President Harper:

Dear Sir:

Your kind letter of the 24 has just reached me, forwarded from Cambridge. Your telegram reached me Saturday evening, and as you did not say "Answer" I supposed it needed no answer; but that it meant that you had written me, and wished me to hold with Yale until I should receive your letter. I accordingly did so. I waited Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and no letter came. I then saw that I must have made a mistake and that you had expected an answer to your telegram. I am very sorry for this as the last thing in the world that I would do would be to show any rudeness to one who has been so kind and considerate ^{toward} of me as you have.

Yesterday afternoon I came down here and discussed the Yale matter with President Dwight, Prof. Wright and Prof. Beers. I am convinced that I am needed here more than at Chicago, although as you say my personal advancement will undoubtedly not be so rapid. For a long time Yale has been sadly behind in English work. They are at last waking up; and next year they are to put English Literature in Freshman year, on exactly the same footing as Greek, Latin and Mathematics. I am to have charge of this Freshman work; and I feel that it is a call of great importance, especially just at this time when they are trying it as an experiment. I am going to try to give the Freshmen an introduction to English Literature so that in the other years of the course they will know how to handle the subject.

My appointment is an Institute
workship for 2 years, on \$1500.

From what you
said to me about the Deviser matter,
saying that it was a thing that I must
decide for myself, I judged that I was
at perfect liberty to resign my
Chicago position. I accordingly resigned
without any twisting, because other-
wise I feared that you might think I
was simply holding off with the idea
of pulling more money from Chicago.
As I knew from what was said before
that it was hardly possible to give
me more than that, I did not wish
to seem to ask or even to hint for
it. I thought it more honorable to
resign in the plainest terms. I trust
that you do not look upon my
action as dishonorable, unbusi-
nesslike, or ungrateful; if I

thought you did. I should feel the deepest pain; as I have always felt for you not merely high admiration and strong personal affection but real gratitude.

Family reasons also had of course a strong influence upon my decision. For me personally it would be better ~~for me~~ to go to Chicago; I do not believe in a young man's staying home all his life. But it gives my parents so much pleasure to have me remain in New Haven that I thought as my salary would now enable me to live here, I ought to do it. I think

I think your attitude toward me in this matter has been remarkably considerate; I trust that my explanation of the circumstances will seem to you satisfactory. Not until this morning have I definitely agreed to go to Yale. It is now decided.

I am very glad Tarbell is to go to Chicago. The appointment is very highly spoken of on all sides. He will be a strong addition to your already remarkable Faculty.

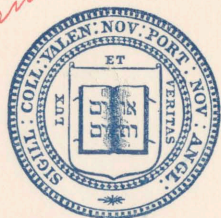
I had a talk with Capps last night and am pleased to hear that he is to go. He is a thoroughly good man.

If I can ever be of the slightest service to you at Harvard or elsewhere, in finding out about men etc I shall consider it a privilege. Return to Cambridge tonight.

Very truly yours

W L Phelps

My letter returned



YALE COLLEGE

NEW-HAVEN

Phelps.

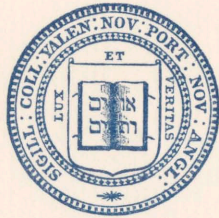
17

27 Dec 1895

Dear Dr Harper -

You see what your pupils bring forth - even myself, are yet the least of all those saints; don't you think I am honored in this invitation?

Wouldn't I look nice lecturing at the Sanhedrin along with Toy, Lyon, and Gastrow? Of all the invitations I have ever received, this is the most choice, and I thought



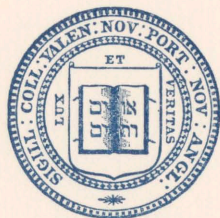
YALE COLLEGE

NEW-HAVEN

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you might be interested
in seeing it. I have no
means of accounting
for this honor done to
me, except that from a
child I have known
the Scriptures, and that
I now teach in a college
made celebrated for its
Hebraic studies by your
quondam residence.

In justice to
my audience, I
thought best to decline



YALE COLLEGE

NEW-HAVEN

3

this invitation, not yet
having any valuable
ideas on the subject.
Wouldn't it have been
a good joke on Toy
and Lyon if I had
accepted?

Will you kindly return
the letter,

and believe me

With the season's greetings
and continued affection

Faithfully Yours,
Wm Lyon Phelps

