

**First Baptist Church.**

Corner Fourth and Hickory Streets.

O. W. VAN OSDEL, Pastor.

Ottawa, Kansas, Sept. 29, 1887.

My dear Brother:

Your letter of Sept. 27 is before me. How much money will it take to locate the Hebrew School in Ottawa? What arrangements are demanded? Please let me know all about the whole case as I do not want to see the school slip through my fingers after talking about it three years if there is anything I can do.

I am glad to know there is still a prospect of something being done for the University of Chicago.

We are now talking of Dr. John Brown of Peddie Institute for President here. Do you know him?

Sincerely

O. W. Van Osdel

First Baptist Church.

CHURCH YOUTH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

O. W. VAN ORDEL, Pastor.

Chicago, Illinois, Sept. 27, 1887.

My dear Brother:  
I have just received your letter of the 25th inst. regarding our new church building. It is a great pleasure to hear from you and to know that you are so interested in the work of the church. I am glad to hear that you are so much interested in the work of the church and that you are so much interested in the work of the church. I am glad to hear that you are so much interested in the work of the church and that you are so much interested in the work of the church.

I am glad to hear that you are so much interested in the work of the church and that you are so much interested in the work of the church. I am glad to hear that you are so much interested in the work of the church and that you are so much interested in the work of the church. I am glad to hear that you are so much interested in the work of the church and that you are so much interested in the work of the church. I am glad to hear that you are so much interested in the work of the church and that you are so much interested in the work of the church.



Van Osdel

(20)

Galesburg, Ills. Sept. 20, 1894.

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

Dear Sir: -

You will be surprised to hear that I am spending my time this morning wishing to be sick. We are thrown into consternation by a letter from Bates which says he has been notified that he cannot have library work any longer. If Bates could earn his tuition it would still take one third of my salary to keep him at the University. If the tuition must be cash I cannot send him as you will readily understand. I have used every influence and agency at my command during the last year to secure a field with larger salary or to locate near University - so as to reduce Bates' summer months so as to earn a little more for this educational expense, but - everything has been closed and I have met - nothing but refusal. I am down flat. I do not want to beg or contend for the scholarships and fellowships which belong to others. What impression has Bates made at the University - during the past



Quarter! I feel as if  
I am pretty nearly beaten  
in the strife. Is it worth  
while to go on with the  
fight?

I had expected to be pres-  
ent at next Convocation  
but I now I do not know  
what to say.

Frankly and Sincerely  
O. W. Van Osdell



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,  
REV. O. W. VAN OSDEL, D. D.,  
Pastor.

Past. Wagon: — Dear Culbert — thinks you  
would like to see this letter.  
Kindly return it as I have not yet re-  
ceived it. C. E. H.

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON,

March 9, 1898

Wm Osdel

(120)

My dear Dr. Hewitt: —

I enclose one dollar as you request  
for the marble bust of Dr. Northrup.

My heart is sick when I consider the work of  
our educational institutions. I trust you are  
keeping posted in the revelations now being made  
concerning the drunkennes and vice at Princeton  
and Yale. I have seen cases of beer passed in  
at the windows from Ellis Ave. at the U. of C. and  
plenty of bottles all about Snell Hall and I  
know that Snell Hall is a regular "den  
of sin". I am coming to feel that — you might  
about as well send a boy to hell as to  
send him to a so called Christian College.  
I know just what I am talking about. Do you  
know of a so called Christian College where  
a boy could be sent without putting him  
under the influence of Skeptical teaching, dan-  
cing, drunkennes, gambling and licentiousness?  
It looks as if our college authorities had  
joined hands with the very worst elements  
in society, under the name of Board of







to ruin the youth of our land. And yet Mr. Bateson, one of your recent-graduates in his thesis, for which he received his B. D. degree, boldly asserts that the world's "golden age" is to come by modern education and science and that "Christ-coming-when declared his kingdom to be of this world". Don't you think there ought to be some one on the divinity-faculty who knows enough about the New Testament to rebuke a man for such error? You may ask me what I know about the thesis, and I will say I had a chance to read it. On my trip East I conversed with one of your divinity-students about the origin of sin and he said "you would not take that literally, would you?" Sin is very literal, in poor sin-cursed Spokane, where multitudes of the young are going down down. How I wish our teachers in our schools knew how to pray and walk with God and would send out men of this sort to help save the lost.

Very sincerely

O. W. Van Osdel



Brooklyn, Washington

to bring the youth of our land. And  
get Mr. Patterson, one of our recent graduates  
in his thesis, for which he received his  
B. S. degree, boldly asserts that the words  
"golden age" is to come by modern edu-  
cation and science and the "Christ-  
dom" is his kingdom to be of this world.  
And you think that ought to be some  
on the Christianized - present into future enough  
about the New Testament to indicate a man for  
such work? You may ask me what I know  
about the thesis, and I will say I had a chance  
to read it - the first trip back to Cambridge with one  
of your Christian - students - about the origin of sin and  
the rise "for power at the that - literally, worse  
you?" This is very literal in your sin-  
current of the present, when sanctification of the young  
are going down down. How I wish our  
teachers in our schools knew how to pray and  
work with God and would send out men of  
this sort to help save the lost.  
Very sincerely  
O. W. Van Orsdel



The University of Chicago

FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

CHICAGO

March 24th, 1898.

My dear Dr. Van Osdel:-

Your letter of March 9th to Dr. Hewitt has come into my hands. I am very sorry that you have come to take so pessimistic a view of the educational situation. I am entirely willing to agree with you that there is drunkenness and vice in many of the institutions. This is true also of the churches. So far as I know very few places exist in this wicked world of ours in which the morality is what you and I would like to see it. The devil is yet at work and the only question is how much worse things would be if good men did not make every effort to improve the situation. I am inclined to think that the colleges are no worse than other places. There is gambling and drunkenness and dancing and licentiousness everywhere. Let us do the best we can and help everybody else do the best they can and not try to discourage each other. I hope that you are all well and that Bates is prospering.

Yours very truly,

*William R. Harper*



The University of Chicago

CHICAGO, ILL.

March 22, 1907

CHICAGO

My dear Dr. Van Gabel:

Your letter of March 15th to Dr. H. H. H. has come into my hands. I am very sorry that you have come to take so pessimistic a view of the educational situation. I am entirely willing to agree with you that there is a general feeling of pessimism as to the future of the institutions. This is true also of the churches. So far as I know very few people exist in this world who are in which the morality is so low and the materialism so high. It is not at all work and the only question is how much more things would be if good men did not make every effort to improve the situation. I am inclined to think that the situation now is worse than ever before. There is a general feeling of pessimism and a feeling of hopelessness. Let us do the best we can and help everybody else do the best they can and not try to discourage each other. I hope that you are all well and that the situation is improving.

Yours very truly,

W. D. H. H.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,

REV. O. W. VAN OSDEL, D. D.,  
Pastor.

Van Osdel

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON,

April 1

1898

(76)

My Dear Dr. Hewitt:

I have just received the enclosed letter. It was a surprise to me for several reasons. First, I did not intend the letter I wrote to you for any one but yourself, because I knew Dr. Harper was too busy to consider anything I might say along the lines mentioned. I had often desired to talk with him but had refrained from doing so because I knew he had enough to trouble him. Secondly, because this letter is not like Dr. Harper and I think my letter to you was put into the hands of some of his clerks, to answer, and he never saw this letter, <sup>which purports to be from him.</sup> I reach this conclusion on the principles of the Higher Criticism. First, Dr. Harper knows that the cry of "pessimistic view", does not answer anything, at all, and that I never take a pessimistic view of anything. He knows, that since leaving the Seminary, I have done a work in building meetinghouses and parsonages, have been the founder of the Baptist young people's work, have founded the young people's paper, and that I am now in the midst of a work calculated to appeal any one, and this too without the aid of



BRIDGE, WASHINGTON

(70)

My dear Mr. Stewart:  
I have just received the enclosed letter. It has a surprise to me for several reasons. First, I did not receive the letter & note to go for any one but yourself, because I knew Mr. Hooper was the one to receive everything & might keep away the lines sometimes. I had often desired to tell him him but had refrained from doing so because he had enough to trouble him. Secondly, because this letter is not like Mr. Hooper and I think my letter to you was put into the hands of some of his clerks, to examine, and he never knew this letter. I would this conclusion in the principles of the Higher Criticism. But Mr. Hooper knows that the copy of "Presbyterianism" does not contain anything at all and that I never take a Presbyterian view of anything. He knows that since leaving the country, I have been a work in building monuments for foreigners, but not the friends of the Baptist group. Hooper's work has finished the group Hooper's paper, and that I am now in the midst of a work, calculated to appeal very much and this too without the aid of



friends, and papers, and Boards of great business men, but with only the cry of discouragement and poverty, and "It can't be done," I have furnished hope and courage for all and have met with some success. Secondly, the statement, "I am inclined to think that the colleges are no worse than other places," Dr. Harper could not have made; because such a statement would not satisfy his high ideals. He believes and would say, "The Christian home and the Christian college should be, by far, better than any other places." Again, "There is gambling and drunkenness and dancing and licentiousness everywhere," Dr. Harper could not have written, because he knows that there are thousands of Christian homes and churches and a few Christian colleges where these do not exist, and that in many other places where they do exist, it is only as outlaws, and not by any sentimental compromise on the part of authorities. Once more, the sentence "Let us do the best we ~~can~~ can etc" does not bear the marks of <sup>genuineness</sup> genuineness. Dr. Harper understands, that I have always defended him and the University against all foes, that I



SPokane, Washington

100

him and the thousands of others all over the  
 or hope notwithstanding, that I have always before  
 can etc" that not from the words of government  
 place from the sentence "let us be the best we  
 governmental corporations on the part of authority  
 spirit - it is only as outlets and not by any  
 and that in many other places where they do  
 and a few Christian colleges where they do not exist  
 are thousands of Christian homes and churches  
 could not have written, because he knows that the  
 and dancing and entertainment everywhere," or hope  
 place. Again "there is something and something  
 College should be by far better than any other  
 and home says the Christian home and the Christian  
 would not betray his life into the hands of  
 could not have written, because such a statement  
 that the colleges are no more than other places," or hope  
 success. I would the statement, "I am inclined to think  
 and I am sure for all and have much to do with  
 family and "it can be done," I have promised help  
 never but with the help of the government and



have held him up, before the hundreds of young people who have come under my influence, in <sup>several</sup> states, as the highest type of Christian Scholar and gentleman; that - I have done my best to encourage him in his great work, and will forever stand to encourage him to enforce the highest ideals and the purest moral discipline.

If I thought he would see my letter, I would write to him what I should like to see done in the University - to improve the associations thrown about our young men; but - as it is, he is so busy, I think my letter would not get any farther than some Secretary and my time would be thrown away. If you should think it best to show this letter to Dr. Harper, tell him I still remember enough of the principles of the Higher Criticism to determine the genuineness, and authorship of the letters coming from the University.

Very truly

O. W. Van Osdel



SPRING, WASHINGTON

188

have been his up, before the hundreds of young  
people who have come under my influence, in some  
letter on the highest type of Christian scholar and  
gentleman; that I have done my best to encourage  
him in his great work, and will forever stand  
to encourage him to enforce the highest ethics  
and the finest moral discipline.  
If I thought he would be any better, I would  
write to him that I should like to see him  
in the University - to enforce the association  
there about - or young men, but as it is, it is  
so busy I think my letter would not get any farther  
than some bookkeeper's eye there would be thrown away.  
If you should think it best to show this letter  
or hope, tell him I still remember enough of  
the principles of the Higher Criticism to determine  
the genuineness and authorship of the letter coming  
from the University.

O. W. Van Dyke  
Spring, Wash.



Van Osdel

  
  
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, June 3 1898.

President William R. Harper,  
Chicago, Ills.,

My Dear Dr. Harper:—

Your letter of May 12, came to my hands, like the first one in answer to my letter to Dr. Hewitt. I am at a loss to understand Dr. Hewitt's motive, as he and I had often talked of these matters and seemed to agree fully. As the matter now stands I feel under obligation to say to you what I should have been willing to have said in the first place, only I supposed you would not agree with me and it was not therefore worthwhile to trouble you with the matter. Now the case is different, as I must justify my statement, that "I do not know of a so-called Christian College where it is safe to send a young man," or appear to be talking without knowledge. As the case now stands I need speak of the University of Chicago only. I am speaking of a young man under, say twenty five, and of what happened during my son's stay





Page 3 of 3

Received of R. H. H. H.

Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. H. H. H.

Your letter of May 1st, 1881,

to my brother, Mr. H. H. H.,

to my brother, Mr. H. H. H.,

to my brother, Mr. H. H. H.,

to my brother, Mr. H. H. H.,

to my brother, Mr. H. H. H.,

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SPOKANE, WASHINGTON,

at the University. A Christian College must have Christian teachers and present a Christian atmosphere. The University did not demand either of these in many of the class rooms. A teacher should be more concerned about producing a man than a scholar. It appeared to me that most of the teachers, in the department of Chemistry, had little interest in the young men and when I sought to secure the interest of Prof. Stef in a young man who stood at the head of his class in Knox College under some influence, his reply was far from satisfactory.

Obedience to law is one of the most important things for a young person to learn, and an education is of but little account to anyone without it. The way the "Houses" were constituted at the University, it appeared to me, to permit a general spirit of lawlessness. There was rioting in stealing among the students in Sull Hall. Cards were played constantly, and in one of the rooms gambling was regularly carried on, I mean playing cards for money. The familiarity of the dance leads thousands of young men and women to lives of impurity as can be easily proved







SPOKANE, WASHINGTON,

by abundant evidence. Dancing is permitted at the  
receptions and in the halls of the University. Dancing  
and card playing was <sup>[sic]</sup> not - and is <sup>[sic]</sup> not - allowed  
in my home. Could I then send my son into  
the midst of these things at a college? This  
is true of thousands of people. Why not make  
the University - favor the strict Christian homes  
and let the dancers and card players do  
their evil work outside? There are plenty of  
opportunities. Dancing, card playing and the theatre are  
the three chief amusements of the world's people and  
some of us think the Christ-intended there  
should be some difference to distinguish Christians.  
Worst of all is the intercollegiate athletic contest.  
College sports and games are all right, - but -  
the intercollegiate contest - brings the young  
men into association with the lowest  
drinking, fighting and sporting men in the  
country and it means <sup>ruin</sup> ruin to many. I have  
no words to express my sorrow that our col-  
lege authorities thus join hands with the lowest  
elements in society - to <sup>RUIN</sup> ruin hundreds, not in-







SPOKANE, WASHINGTON,

tionally to be sure, but- why should those entrusted  
with the educational interests- of the young be so  
blind. You see the young people at their best-  
The pastor sees them at home filled with slang and  
much that- belongs to the hoodlums. I am not-  
wrong when I demand that- a Christian College  
shall send home an educated Christian gentleman  
and not- the opposite. I am not- speaking at ran-  
dom, for the things I mention robbed my son of  
his Ph. D. degree and affected him in many ways  
so that- he has not- yet- recovered with our utmost care.  
My dear Dr. Harper you have always been kind to me and  
my son, more so than I shall be able to repay and  
I dislike to speak of these things. They are however  
facts and not- a pessimistic view, not- intended to  
discourage any one but- to present- certain difficul-  
ties which should be overcome. I have had much to  
do with hundred of young people, and <sup>am</sup> grateful to be able  
to say, I have always been popular with them, but- I never  
a hair's breadth in demanding the strictest- conformity- to severe  
~~strictures~~ self-discipline and heroic Christian manliness.  
Young people like these things if one knows how to get- them.  
Pardon me for writing these things in justification of my statement.  
Hoping to live to see the day when our colleges shall be purified from all  
that demoralizes the young I am very sincerely yours, O. W. Van Osdel.



continued to be true but my observations  
with the educational interests of the young as  
kindly from the young people of this  
the first and one of these fields was being  
covered that belong to the Christian Church  
young men of America that is this Christian  
shall have some of the best Christian  
and not the objects of our education  
then for the things of education and  
his B. S. degree was conferred upon  
as that he has not yet received with an honor  
they have to hope for the young men  
and our work so that I want to say  
I desire to speak of this thing which  
fact was not a business man, but in fact  
the first thing that I want to mention  
this is the first thing that I want  
the first thing that I want to mention  
to say I have always been a student  
of the Bible in connection with the  
educational interests of the young  
young men of America that is this  
to say I have always been a student  
of the Bible in connection with the  
educational interests of the young  
young men of America that is this