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International Affairs

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V. Holst

Thursday, Dec. 28th, 1893.

My dear Mrs. Harper

Mama had asked Prof. & Mrs. Nicholson to meet some of the professors at our house next Saturday evening, as Mrs. Nicholson was feeling rather lonely in the strange city. It lasted very long, until we could get an answer (and therefore the lateness of this invitation. I hope you may excuse it and that you and Pres. Harper will be able to come to us for a plain German supper on Saturday evening (Dec. 30th) at 7 o'clock. Mama begs Pres. Harper not to come in a dress-suit.

Sincerely yours

Mary v. Holst.

May 2. '94. Von Holst
255 East 61st St.

My dear President Harper,

I herewith return the slips enclosed in your letter of yesterday. If my wishes are at all to be consulted in the matter I should earnestly request to have Nr. 1, 2 and 3 excluded. Nr. 2 and 4 are the same, and 1 and 3 are not what I have written. As to comments upon my writings at least a score have been brought to my notice since I am a member of the University of Chicago. In my opinion they either ought to be mentioned all - and that would seem to me ridiculous - or none at all. - I must confess to have published some other minor articles and a number of reviews since August 1892. Referring to the views expressed in the letter I had the honor of writing to you some months ago in regard to the proposed "bibliography" in the Calendar, I, however, hope that you will hold me kindly excused from sending in a list of them. If you do not insist upon it, I should greatly prefer not to have the unmerited honor of a mention in an official publication of the University conferred upon these chips from my work shop. It strikes me too strongly as ill according with the rank I so ardently wish our University to hold in the world of scholarship.

yours very Truly

H. Von Holst.

Virginia
Chicago
H.P.J.

My dear President Harper.

In reply to your letter of the 11th inst. calling my attention to the fact that "the Weekly report to the Dean in the following courses in your (my) Department 41, 54. (my courses) has not yet been received at the Dean's Office" and that it is "highly important that there should be a weekly report", I beg to remind you that for reasons stated to you at the time you gave me nearly two years ago your consent in writing to being permanently excused from the roll-call upon which such reports must be based and to have some one of the students charged by the Dean with the task of keeping a check-list and reporting to the Dean. In the first year I received twice or three times similar reminders from the Dean's office. Referring the Dean to the above-mentioned promise I was informed that the reminder had been sent by the Dean's secretary without the Dean's knowledge and against his instructions. It, therefore, seems rather likely to me that this letter, though bearing your signature, is also merely

a general circular, sent by some one in your office upon a general order to forward reminders to all instructors, from whom no reports had been received. If this surmise be correct, you would greatly oblige me by telling the official concerned that I have been excused by you from mailing these reports, and that eventually the Dean ought to be requested to commission a student - a fellow or recipient of a scholarship - for the above stated purpose. It would save not only my time, but also yours. For every time I get a reminder bearing your signature, I must, of course, answer it, though I am personally satisfied that you in fact know nothing about it.

I am at a loss to understand who is meant by 'the officers in charge of said courses,' whom the letter charges me to notify of the reminder.

Yours very Truly
J. Von Holst.

Mar. 15, 95

June 9, 1895

von Holst

My dear President Harper.

As Mr. Jude has been through the mill a year ago I am afraid that his failure is not attributable to his not understanding the nature of an examination, but to the heaviness of his mind and the slowness of its working. When he presented himself the first time for examination a year ago the committee acted upon the assumption now advanced by you and allowed him to 'withdraw', instead of reporting his failure, in order to spare him the mortification. Still, if you so wish it, I shall consent to sacrifice him a third forenoon, for, as I have stated to you and to him, he has my sympathy – not as a student, but as a man. But I must leave it to you as the head of the University to decide the question, stating frankly to you, that in my opinion it would not be calculated to build up its reputation for a high standard, if higher degrees were frequently conferred upon students of Mr. J.'s intellectual calibre. It is, however, not for me to have more than a personal opinion on this point. But I submit that, if you decide to let Mr. J. try a third time, he should not be allowed to present himself again at the end of this Term, but at the earliest at the beginning of the next quarter. It seems to me that it is due not only to the instructors, but primarily and above all to the reputation of the University to follow the example of the German universities, which have all time-limits as to the repetition of examinations, and not to

made them too short. In my opinion at least a quarter ought to be required to intervene for the master's degree, and a considerably longer period for the doctor's degree; in Germany it is, to my knowledge, usually a year, and nobody is allowed to present himself more than three times. — Finally I must state that I think also the other members of the committee ought to be heard. The vote was unanimous, and I cannot tell, whether Profs. Terry and Miller, who also examined, would have let him pass, so far as his answers to their questions were concerned. That they were both very far from being satisfied, I know.

Yours very Truly

H. v. Holst.

June 29, '95.

Von Holst

Dec. 22 '97.

File

My dear President Harper.

I am just about to write an important correction in regard to a report of an interview two representatives of the Times-Herald yesterday subjected me to. I, therefore, can at this time reply only very hastily to your kind letter, for which I heartily thank you. I have not read the editorial article in the Tribune you refer to and therefore can express no opinion as to the course it would be well for you to take. The following is all I know about the matter. While the Times-Herald reporters kept me on the rack a Tribune reporter put in his appearance. He did not state his errand until the former had left. Then he asked, what I thought in regard to the declaration of yourself, Dean Judson & Dr. Goodspeed. I answered that I had no idea what he referred to. He then informed me, that you and Mr. Judson had sent a written communication to the

Tribune for publication over your signatures stating that the views expressed by me were not the views of the University, and that you heartily approved of the President's course. Dr Goodspeed had personally called at the Tribune office to corroborate and emphasize this declaration. I replied that I had nothing whatever to say about it. It was a matter of course that I had not arrogated to myself the right to speak on behalf of the University or to voice its opinion. I could not see how the University as such could have any opinion on this question. As to myself no sensible person could suppose that I had intended to speak even in my quality as Professor of the University. Simply as H. Von Holst had I frankly expressed my opinion, because so urgently pressed to do so that I could not refuse complying without laying myself open to the charge of moral cowardice. - Then the reporter asked, whether I thought the faculty would take action on the question. I answered, that as to that I could only say that the University had from first to last professed the principle that its instructors were not slaves but free men, every one entitled to his own opinions and free to avow them; that to my knowledge this principle had never been infringed upon, and that I had not the least doubt that it would be maintained inviolate in this case as before. I have not yet seen the Tribune and therefore do not know whether the report on this short colloquy is correct or not. You will see from this statement that I have never had the least apprehension of having to expect improper treatment at the hands of yourself or the two other gentlemen. So, please, do not give yourself any uneasiness on that head and be guided in your resolutions solely by what you deem due to yourself and to the University. I have become so accustomed to being stoned that I do not mind it in the least, whether a dozen of brickbats more or less are hurled at me.

Yours very truly

H. v. Holst.

Von Holst

To the President.

Dear Sir.

In reply to your communication of the 20th inst. con-
cerning the Seminare I beg to state that to my knowledge
Seminare are conducted in the Department of History only by
Prof. Terry and myself. Both are indispensable, because in one
mediaeval and in the other modern history is treated. The work
as conducted by myself does not admit of controlling the time
spent by students from day to day or even week to week. I necessarily
must put the students upon their honor and try to make them realize
that they do not work for my benefit, but for their own. It is, of course,
possible that some of them abuse of this, but to judge from the ap-
parent interest manifested by the class in the work I have no reason
to suppose that there are many who do so, if indeed any. If there be
any I am at a loss to see how I could help it. For it would be unjust
to the students and derogatory to the interests of the University to make
the great majority of the conscientious students pay the penalty for
any dereliction of duty on the part of a few by changing the character
of the work, i.e. by lowering it from the University standard to that
of the college. In both historical Seminare all students are re-
quired to do original research work besides preparing themselves
for the advanced work based upon the original sources done jointly
by the whole class.

Very respectfully
H. von Holst.

Dec. 24, 1895.

Von Holst

Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. Aug. 25. '92.

Von Holst

Mr. E. M. Foster.

My dear Sir,

I do not know whether I should have been able to comply with your request, if your favor of July 6th had reached me earlier. There was so much to be done during the last weeks, and my state of health was still so unsatisfactory, that I might possibly have considered it unjustifiable to do any work not strictly necessary. However that may be, there was no occasion for arguing and deciding that question, because your letter came to hand only on the very eve of starting from Berlin to Hamburg for embarcation. On board the ship I was — although not exactly seasick — not in a condition to do any brainwork whatever, much less to write an article introducing myself to my co-workers and future students. I think you will admit, that I owed it not only to myself, but also to the University, to refrain from showing myself from the start at my very worst. And here I cannot do much better than on board the ship. I am not only tired out by the fatigues and all the excitement of the last six weeks, but the duties towards my kind hosts — Mr. Henry Villard and family — and the obligations

Towards all the old friends in New York, upon whom I have to call, leave me only now and then a few minutes for myself. Even when in my normal condition, however, must be wholly undisturbed and have ample time for composing anything in English, and now the effects of my long and very severe illness are still weighing so heavily upon me, that any mental work is a double exertion and I am made to pay for it in different ways. So I cannot help requesting you to kindly excuse me. Although I should most gladly have availed myself of the opportunity offered by you to tender some greeting to my future pupils, I think that, under the circumstances, it is wiser and much better for all parties concerned to defer doing so rather, than by forcing it, to put myself into an unnecessarily unfavorable light.

Even a photograph I cannot send you at present, because I cannot get at them without putting Mrs. v. Holst to the trouble of unpacking a large trunk. In about a fortnight, I expect to arrive in Chicago. Then I shall send you the picture, and, as soon as the more pressing claims upon my time will allow, I shall do my best to contribute something to the 'Ch. U. Weekly.'

Yours very truly

H. v. Holst.

Judson

THE COLLEGES

Head Dean
HARRY PRATT JUDSON
The College of Liberal Arts
ALBION W. SMALL, Dean
The College of Literature
WILLIAM D. McCLINTOCK, Dean
The College of Science
THOMAS CHROWDER CHAMBERLIN, Dean
Dean (of Women) in the Graduate School and the Colleges
ALICE FREEMAN PALMER
Dean (of Women) in the University Colleges
MARION TALBOT

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

WILLIAM R. HARPER, President

Prof.

Mpls.
~~CHICAGO~~ Dec. 30, 1892.

Dear Pro. Hurst:

M. John W. Perrin, graduate student in History, I would beg to recommend for appointment as an Honorary Fellow. M. Perrin will doubtless make his doctor's degree next Summer. He has been doing highly creditable work with me. If you approve the recommendation, and will kindly notify Pres. Harper to that effect, I think it would be appropriate to have the appointment announced at the Convocation Monday night.

Trusting that the New year will find you feeling now like yourself

I am, very sincerely yours,

H. P. Judson.

I have, of course, no objection; but as I have as yet no knowledge of Mr. Perrin's acquirements, the question must rest entirely upon Prof. Judson's recommendation.

Hurst.

Von Holst

Dr Goodspeed
Prof Judson
Prof Small
Prof Moulton

86

My Dear President Harper

Owing, first to my sickness and then to my absence in New York I have not seen most of what the papers have written about me until to-day. So also the report of the Ch. Tribune of the interview I wrote you about in reply to your kind letter two weeks ago. If it had come earlier to my notice I should, of course, have publicly disclaimed the brutally arrogant remark attributed to me "I pity their ignorance." The whole conversation on my part had not the slightest trace of the heroic and almost tragic air which the imaginative reporter has given it. I laughed all the time at the alleged dire things you and the faculty were told to contemplate, and so I replied laughingly to the parting remark of the youthful interviewer that you, Prof. Judson, Prof. Small, and Dr. Goodspeed held views greatly differing from my own on the true historical purport of the Monroe doctrine: "well, then I say so much the worse for them, and am sorry that they are not better informed." There was so little offence in the remark that I should not have hesitated a minute to make it directly to all four of you and you would all have joined me in my perfectly good-humored and harmless laughter. It is too late now to make this declaration public and I have to bear the blame that has been heaped upon me on account of the distorted report with the rest of the vituperation hurled against me. But I wanted you personally to be informed of the true facts and I should be greatly obliged to you, if you would bring them in any manner you may deem fit also to the knowledge of the three other gentlemen, in regard to whom I have been so unjustly accused of having indulged in such unwarrantable language.

Yours very Truly

H. von Holst.

Jan. 5. '96.

Jan. 20. '96.
253 East 61st St.

My dear President Harper,

Please accept my sincere thanks for your kind lines.

As to the main question my plans have undergone no change. The experiences of the last weeks have only demonstrated still more clearly the absolute necessity of carrying out the doctor's programme, if I am to have a chance of becoming again able to do for a few years more full work. The trip to New York, which was undertaken entirely in the hope of recuperating a little my strength for this quarter's work, was very interesting, but a complete failure as to the real purpose. That I have had again to suffer considerably more, is the least thing; much more discouraging has been the renewed experience that even moderate mental efforts put the whole system to an unnatural strain and act upon it as a keen poison. My family and my friends are, therefore, anxious to see me off as soon as possible, fearing that the hoped for good results

of the cure of rest may be put into jeopardy by deferring it too long. I have replied to their importunities that your generous concession was based upon the condition that I should Teach this quarter, and that there was no valid reason to ask for more than has been so liberally granted. The results of the enquiries which my wife has to-day made about the steamers — I must go to Italy — are, however, of such a nature that I venture to ask, whether you would see any serious objection to my anticipating some of my work, as I did in the winter I delivered the Lowell lectures — provided the students are able and willing to enter upon the arrangement? I have figured it out with the calendar that if I begin to add this week, I should be able to give exactly the full number of lectures and just catch the steamer I should like to take. It is not only better than the later ones, but it makes a difference of two weeks, because it so happens that for some unknown reason) to me that the united German companies just then do not send a steamer every week, as, I think, they else invariably do, but allow two weeks to lapse between their Trips. A gain of two weeks seems of some consequence in my present condition.

If, however, you think it should not be done, I shall not complain. If so, do not take the trouble to state your reasons; your time is too valuable and I know that you would willingly consent, if you thought that you could do so with propriety. Therefore please just mail me a postal, with the single word yes or no. But please do so at your earliest convenience, for I am in danger of getting no berth at all, if I do not engage it now. I have anyway delayed this matter much longer than I ought to have done.

I hope that I shall be offered yet an opportunity to speak with you about your suggestion in regard to the American history. I think by a Talk of Ten minutes we would accomplish more than by a long letter.

Yours very Truly

H. Von Holst.

Jan. 4, 1897

Von Holst

Terry

(1)

Pres. W. R. Harper

Dear Sir: —

Not having been successful in my attempt to see you personally, I take the liberty to write to you in regard to my fathers condition. On Dec 12th I received a letter from my mother. The following are extracts from the letter. "Papa had to stay in bed, because the pains were so severe and there was a terrible amount of acid. Two days ago, the urine showed a peculiar brown color, although he had eaten nothing but "Schleimsuppe". This noon Mary came running into the kitchen to tell me that blood had came [sic] his urine being that this was a new color, but that it was caused perhaps by the much cream that he ate. He very strictly kept [illegible] Since then my father has improved slowly. Today I received a letter, in which my sister states that, although he is much better than he was, still a slight trace of blood is visible. Papa has had pain in the region of the kidneys, and recurrent chills at the beginning of the attack. Dr. Mayer is with him at the present time. After having spoken with Mr. Judson Rockefeller in regard to Dr. Davis, Dr. Davis has my letter, in which I called your attention to his discovery that, if he is correct, the milk not do [illegible] and would, therefore be recommended [illegible] this would, before it would have any assistance. Yes, I hope indeed, that I will have from you an answer, Yes, I hope, in the meantime my further work may not be [illegible] prejudiciary, in the event that the milk do not [illegible] as it has been during

come out in the running. She got Papa to bed at once, before telling me, then hastened to the drugstore for ice, and had them telephone for Dr. v. Schroen ~~[under whose care~~ Prof. at the University and specialist for diseases of the stomach and bowels. Shortly before three, they sent word that the Dr. could not come, as he had examinations. Papas own impression, and it is mine as well, is that this time the "Magenblutung" is not so bad as last May. And this time we all knew what to do at once, so were not so frightened. But it shows how very weak Papa still is. I opened Prof. Riegels [under whose care my father was in the hospital at Giessen] reply letter and he believes as well as his "Assistent Physician" at the Klinik did, that Papa did have an ulcer in the stomach in May. So this is probably a second, smaller ulcer. But now that Papa is to have the care of a physician, we will soon be well as he will send a nurse and he will recover and be able to live with great care. He will not be able to return home at the set time. But Papa and Prof. Mayer think about this next attack, telling her about that Papa has been engaged for March 27 and that now Papa knows he will be able to say that he cannot be able to see the physician, although we have not yet been able to see the physician, although thank Prof. Mayer for his kind letter of May 3rd which reached us only today. Prof. Mayer under[stands] excuses Papa not answering it, as he must lie in bed without moving. But we shall keep Prof. Mayer informed after the time he is up. Papas stay in Berlin will be very quiet as to Papas stay in Berlin, as Papa is [illegible] Mayerhofer's [illegible] The morning after the Magenblutung the physician

and the conditions adherent to it.

I hope I have not encroached too much upon your time, but it was my parents as well as my own wish to inform you minutely of the state of affairs in regard to my father.

Please remember me kindly to Mrs. and Miss Harper. I hope Mrs. Harper and the baby are enjoying good health.

Sincerely yours

H. V. von Holst

205 E. 61st St.

Jan 4th '97

I believe, he realizes himself that he was burning the candle at both ends. If he should work again at that terrific, restless rate, he is sure to go to the grave in a very short time.

I hope that some arrangement can be made by which my father would have to lecture in the spring and fall quarts only. I know that by an arrangement like that, years could be added to my fathers life and consequently to his activity at the University. Prof. Terry informed me a while ago, that he had spoken with you about such a plan.

I would thank you very much, if before my fathers return, I could receive from you an opinion on the feasibility of such a plan

von Holst

Feb. 17, 1897

Filed

My dear Pres. Pent. Harper,

A postal card from my son, which has just come to hand, brings me the welcome message that you would authorize me by a cable despatch to prolong my sojourn in Europe, in case my state of health seems to render such a course advisable. A welcome message, because it is a new proof of your friendly regard. I thank you most heartily for it. But my mind is fully made up to leave here on the 7th of March for New York. I can never get well - that is certain - and the nature of my disease renders a catastrophe at any moment possible - without any forewarning. Therefore, if I am to resume my duties at all, I might as well do it now as three or six months later. To postpone my return any longer would be to abuse the kindness of yourself and of the Trustees. Besides, I want to return, because I have a strong longing for home. Yes, home! I have learned to realize in the course of this last hard year that Chicago and more especially the University of Chicago have really become my home. There I shall stay, there I want to stay, so long as I am able to work so much that the University thinks I am of any use to it. When I can no more do that, the financial question may compell me to go back to Europe and end my life there. But until then and so long as you care to keep me, I shall be one of you

and I shall be grateful to Providence, if it allows me to die in harness. Nature has not moulded me so that I can enjoy life in idling. I, therefore, have been very glad that my physician here has allowed me to work some. For nearly two months I now spend every day 5 to 6 hours in working at a new course of lectures, which I have requested Terry to announce for me for the spring quarter. Thus you see, that even here I am in a way and to some degree an active member of the University staff.

Our Trunks are already partly packed.

Yours very sincerely

J. F. v. Holst.

Neapel, Feb. 17. '97.

BUSCH'S HOTEL

—AND—

UNION HILL SCHUETZEN PARK,

HENCKEN & LATTMANN, Props. Telephone 237 A. FRITZ POHL, Mgr.

Hudson Street,
Cor. 3d Street,
Near Bremen, Hamburg
and Netherland
S. S. Piers

Accomodations for
Transient
and
Resident Guests.

Hoboken, N. J. March 22nd 1897.

My Dear President Harper,

On American soil we are once more, but when I shall reach Chicago I cannot tell as yet. This year of vacation, which you and my other friends prop-ed for me to restore my health, has been ill-fated from first to last. Four days fore we left Naples my daughter took to her bed with fever. The physician thought it a "light influenza". So we started, although the fever gradually increased, for I was very anxious to be in time at my post. On the 4th day we were at sea the physician of the ship declared that there was no longer any doubt: Mary was stricken down with typhoide fever. You will readily imagine what a severe trial the voyage was in spite of the great kindness of all the officials and fellow-passengers. From the Azores we had mostly very rough weather, taxing most cruelly the nerves of the poor patient, Tossing sleeplessly around in her narrow berth. To continue the journey to Chicago was an absolute impossibility. Yesterday morning I brought the patient to St. Mary's Hospital in this city, where, thanks to the intercession of a prominent physician, her mother is allowed to stay with her. I secured quarters in this hotel, but worry and sleeplessness have given such a shock to my already nervous system and thrown again the whole digestive apparatus to such an extent out of order that I have gratefully accepted the proposition of the Sister Superior, also to become an inmate of the hospital. Provided my daughter's sickness does not take a bad turn I hope soon to

rally, restoring the status ante by rest and suitable diet. Even in the best case my daughter and wife will have to stay here four to five weeks. I shall, of course, set out for Chicago as soon as the physicians declare the patient out of danger. As the so-called crisis is likely to come about at the end of this week, I hope to be in time in Chicago, for, as good fortune will have it, I have, as in former years, arranged my courses so that I have none in the two last days of the week and this quarter there happen to be the first days of the month, so that I am to meet my students the first time on the 5th of April. I have thus far reason to be confident that I shall be able to do so. But I trust that, in case my daughter should after all then be still in a critical condition, you and the Trustees would kindly indulge me a few days longer. What you have done for me surely justifies the expectation that you will not demand me to leave the bed of my child so long as – in a strange city – death is seated at her pillow.

Yours very sincerely H. von Holst.

In case you wish to communicate with me, please address: St. Mary's Hospital, Hoboken, N. J.

He also wished him to give only one hour of Seminar work a week. At the same time, he wished him to do no outside work whatever, and my husband will follow his instructions in this respect. By following all his directions, Prof. von Schroen hopes that the danger of another hemorrhage will be entirely averted, for the longer the time that elapses since the last hemorrhage, the less danger of a new one.

Prof. von Schroen wished me to speak with you about all these things but as I shall reach home

V. Holst

St. Mary's Hospital
Hoboken, March 26. '97.

My dear President Harper,

My husband begs me to thank you for your kind letter and the friendly expressions of sympathy from Mrs. Harper and yourself.

Yesterday the fourth week of Mary's fever began and the Dr. thinks her condition satisfactory. She has to suffer more, because her nerves system had been run down by over-work during the past few years. We hope the fever may soon

begin to abate more and more.

I am sorry that I can not give you a favorable report of my husband's health. The loss of sleep and anxiety about Mary and the lack of his usual diet on board ship were too much for him, and he was completely prostrated after landing. The sisters had allowed me to accompany my daughter to this hospital and to share her room, while my husband was lodged in a hotel near by. But on Monday he was so ill that he, too, had to be admitted to the hospital and has not been able to leave his bed since his arrival. A good physician is in attendance and he hopes my husband will regain strength before very long and be able to travel.

But we have to be exceedingly careful with him, as the physicians declare that the utmost care is necessary for the next six months, in order to avoid another hemorrhage. Prof. von Schroen, the great authority on diseases of the stomach and bowels, who treated him all winter, forbade him to lecture more than forty minutes at a time and more than four times a week.

Prof. v. Schroen believes that another hemorrhage may prove fatal, because the ulcer is on a large artery.

Please excuse me for writing thus at length, but I considered it to be my duty to you and the University.

It is very kind of you to wish to give my husband so warm a welcome home, but under the circumstances, it is very doubtful whether he can reach Chicago by the 3rd. If the Dr. does allow him to travel next week, he will certainly not allow him to attend any festivities, because he must save his strength for his lectures. At the same time, he will have to observe the strictest diet.

My husband wishes me to inquire whether you received a letter from him written from Naples.

I shall let you know when my husband is allowed to leave here.

Please give our kindest regards to Mrs. Harper and Miss Wilda and believe me Sincerely yours,

E. v. Holst.

much later than my husband I must be content to write you about them. But my husband is so very conscientious that he would not think of following Prof. v. Schroen's directions in regard to the lectures and Seminar, unless you yourself expressed the wish that he should do so. I hope that he will be able to work for the good of the University for a long time to come and I know that his heart is in his work. But is it not better for him to husband his strength now rather than to risk his life or at least to suffer another breakdown?

von Holst

St. Mary's Hospital.
Hoboken, Apr. 12 '97.

My dear President Harper,

Excuse me, please, for not having written before this. My husband had several very bad days at the beginning of last week, so bad indeed that one of the very first physicians of New York was called in, as we all feared something dreadful might happen at any moment. Happily, under the combined treatment of the physicians,

he has begun to rally and the Dr. said today that he hoped we might all be able to start for home next Monday, Apr. 19th.

If this plan can be carried out, my husband hopes to be able to begin his lectures on Wednesday, Apr. 21st. Whether the fatigue of the journey will not prevent this, seems to me very possible. Still he may improve so much in this next week as to make it possible after all.

I do hope we may not be disappointed in regard to leaving here next week, for we have all had more than enough of hospital life, and shall be so glad to be at home again.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Harper and Miss Vida,

Sincerely yours,

J. G. Holst.

Hoboken, N.J. Apr. 21, '97. Von Holst

St. Mary's Hospital.

My dear President Harper. Noah

Instead of getting out of the Trough of the sea of trouble and grief we are drawn ever deeper into it. The relapse my daughter is suffering is very severe. For eight days the fever is continuously higher than ever during the original illness. From day to day the Dr. predicted that it now would go down, and as yesterday there was in fact a very slight improvement I still hoped that I should be able to start on Saturday and resume my duties on Monday. But since this noon – (now 4 P.M.) – the fever has again rapidly risen to a most alarming height. Under these circumstances I am compelled to disappoint you once more – all the more so because the fearful strain my heart is subjected to tells so much upon my physical strength, that in this condition I would be of no use to the University; I am still so weak, that to creep for 1/2 or 3/4 of an hour with bent end

shaky knees on the sidewalk is all I can do. When I shall be able to leave, it is impossible to tell now. All I can do is to assure you that I shall most certainly do so the very first day I can, i.e. the day after the Dr. has declared that the life of my daughter is no longer in jeopardy.

If your patience should at last be exhausted - I mean, if you should conclude that your duty towards the University will not permit you to wait any longer for me - I should surely not think that I have any right to complain. But I have no choice: I should have to abide by the consequences, even if they were the worst - my dismissal. I cannot leave my only daughter so long as her life trembles in the scales: it would be a crime towards her and her mother, and if I were to do it anxiety would in the briefest time extinguish my own lamp of life, which is just now provided with so little oil.

Please inform Terry - in my name. I cannot write more and the strength of my poor wife is taxed to the very utmost. Most sincerely

your ever grateful

G. v. Holst.

needs for work. He has been out of bed only a few days and is still confined to his room.

Misfortune seems indeed to follow us at every step. My husband wishes me to add that he hopes he may surely be able to meet his classes on Monday, Apr. 26th.

With kindest regards to you all,

Sincerely yours,

J. Flolet.

My dear Dr. Hopkins: I have also received substantially this from Mrs. Dr. Flolet. I will endeavor to retain this work, and then I should be obliged to stop. Next week we must give up our house, pack all of us, & cannot entertain society. I shall also come to a good stopping place. Possibly Tuesday might go on with the class, if Mr. Flolet does not appear. Of the question will be given. I think I have fulfilled my willingness to help out in the emergency. B.S.T.

J. M. Flolet

St. Mary's Hospital.
Hoboken, Apr. 15, 97.

My dear President Harper,

Again are we doomed to disappointment and must postpone our departure from here.

Not only my husband, but Mary, too, has had a severe relapse. We can not yet say what is the cause of Mary's relapse. The fever had left her and she was allowed to sit up a little on Monday. The next day, she had again fever and it has risen higher

than during her childillness. So we have to be doubly careful with her.

My husband was better, too, and was beginning to feel a little stronger. Perhaps the Morphine injections buoyed him up somewhat. But the last two days he was obliged to discontinue them, because they affected his stomach very injuriously, and now he is so weak that the physician will not allow him to travel by Monday.

If both patients should improve soon, we hope they may regain strength enough to leave here on Friday, Apr. 23rd. My husband, indeed, declares that he will leave here on that day, no matter whether Mary and I can accompany him or not. But how he is to get along in our desolate home in Chicago without me, I can not understand. And yet he worries so about his work and the students awaiting him at the University, and it is such a disappointment to him to be forced to defer his journey from one week to another, that that also wears on his nerves. But as long as he can eat as little as he does at present, he can not gain strength that he

Von Holst

Chicago, May 29, '97.

4 o'clock

My Dear President Harper,

The Secretary and the Comptroller of the University yesterday informed my son that, as I had not resumed my duties on the 1st of April, they had "extended" to the past month the resolution of the Board of Trustees of last summer in regard to the reduction of my salary during the prolongation of my leave of absence for six months. I think that neither the letter nor the spirit of that resolution justifies this action on the part of the above-named two officials. The resolution expired by its own Terms on the 31st of March. I have neither applied for another prolongation of the leave of absence, nor has it been granted without my soliciting it. I returned to the United States in due Time to resume my duties, but when within 24 hours ride from Chicago I was stricken down and for several weeks confined to the hospital, forbidden by the physicians on account of the state of my own state of health to leave it earlier than I did. It, therefore, seems to me that, in the absence of any action by the Board of Trustees to the contrary, I was since the 1st of April in my normal condition as to the salary, that is to say in the same condition I should have been in, if I had reached Chicago, entered upon my work and then been laid up for four or five weeks. But whether I be right in this or not, I think that the above-named gentlemen had no legitimate authority whatever in regard to the resolution of the Trustees - neither to "extend" it nor to do aught else with it. If they thought that I was not entitled to my regular salary they had, in my opinion, to submit the question to you, either to decide it in case you thought proper to do so and believed to have the authority to do it, or to submit it to the Trustees for their decision, in case you entertained any doubts as to either. I have, therefore, approved of the action of my son, who declined accepting the check for the reduced salary with the declaration that he felt satisfied that I should prefer

not to receive any salary, until you or the Board of Trustees had been heard from in regard to the matter.

Most respectfully yours

H. H. Von Holst.

von Holst

My dear President Harper.

Your two letters have been duly received. I regret very much that I am not able to save you time and trouble by offering to call on you. Nearly two weeks ago I suffered again a severe attack and have not yet succeeded in getting over it. Only by staying all the time I possibly can in bed and avoiding every step that is not absolutely necessary can I manage to meet at least my classes To do even this ~~puts~~ Taxes my strength and energy so much that I am sure you will not take amiss my putting you to the personal inconvenience of having to come and see me to discuss the questions you refer to.

Last week I have examined Mr. Fertig's thesis in bed and I could do so, I trust, with Mr. Sparks's - if that be the only difficulty in the way of his taking his degree in this quarter. As he has not spoken at all with me about the matter I can express no opinion before having heard from you. Yours very Truly

H. Von Holst.

June 5. 92.

V. Holst

29

Cortland. Wis.
July 1, 1897.

My dear President Harper,

Please excuse my writing in my husband's stead, as I wish him to devote all his time and strength in seeking restoration to health.

My husband desires to call your attention to Dr. Ernst Richard, now at the head of the "Hoboken Academy". He has given up his position there and is looking for another one for the fall, because the grades of the school is to be lowered and the class of pupils will of necessity become different.

Dr. Richard has such fine

recommendations and is so highly spoken of that my husband has been requested to call your attention to him.

His special studies have been in French and German. I enclose a short sketch of his life and copies of some of the testimonials in his possession. He is ready and willing to submit to any examinations which might be necessary and would come to Chicago, in case you wished to see him. As it is, he expects to be in Milwaukee from the 25th to the ninth of July to attend some teacher's conference and could easily stop over in Chicago.

Hoping that you have entirely recovered from your illness and that all the members of your family are in good health and with kindest regards from my husband,

Sincerely yours,

L. v. Holst.

June 12, 1897

v. Holst

My dear President Harper.

Mr. Sparks has just brought me his thesis. I have not seen him, because I am improving my free days to stay in bed in order to gather strength enough to go through my class exercises on the work days. I shall, of course, set at once to examining the thesis, of which, however, Mr. Sparks himself told me a few days ago that, in his opinion, it was not in the shape it ought to be. It, therefore, seems to me that it would have been more in the interest both of him and of the department to defer a while his applying for the degree. But let us waive that, supposing that I can conscientiously recommend that the thesis as it is be accepted. That would not procure him the degree. He would, like every other applicant, have to come up for the oral examination before a commission. According to his own statement in the conversation above referred to he does not feel prepared to submit to this test with confidence at this time, and knowing how his time has been taken up by his teaching I fail to see, how he can be prepared. I, therefore, feel in duty bound to frankly tell you that I am very much afraid he would not pass. And even if it should not be as bad as that, it is morally certain that – apart from the narrow field of U.S. history, to which the examination could not and should not be confined – he would make a rather poor show, not doing anything like justice to himself. I should regret that exceedingly for his own sake as well as on behalf

of the University. Just because I still consider him a good man I am all the more of opinion that he should be allowed every chance to prove his being that and not exposed to the danger of at least giving color to the suspicion that he is at best of pretty inferior quality so far as his knowledge is concerned. - I have told him all that quite candidly and he seemed perfectly to agree with me. I, therefore, must assume that if he now after all has concluded to present himself for examination, he does so solely out of deference for your wishes. You will certainly believe me that I have no desire to cross these wishes - all the less because I do not know your reasons for them. But I owed to you, to Mr. Sparks and to myself to lay my views of the case without reserve before you and to guard myself against being held responsible for the outcome, in case my apprehensions should not induce you to change your advice to Mr. Sparks.

I cannot tell you how greatly I felt relieved when my daughter, whom I had sent to inquire, brought me the news that the report of your being stricken down with Typhoide fever was unfounded.

Yours very sincerely

H. Von Holst

June 12. '97. Evening.

von Holst

(100)

To

the President

(with the request that he order this official opinion to be filed.)

The dissertation on 'The Secession and Reconstruction of Tennessee' submitted by Mr. James Walter Fertig in candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy does not reveal any important facts heretofore unknown nor shed any new light on the events, but it is a painstaking and conscientious piece of work based upon the available printed material. I, therefore, declare myself in favor of its being accepted and recommend that the author be admitted to the oral examination. To obviate any misunderstanding I beg leave to state expressly that in doing so I do not mean to endorse all the views advanced by the author in regard to the political and constitutional questions involved. As to several of them I more or less disagree with him, but in my opinion it would be an unwarrantable stretch of his legitimate authority if the examining professor were to insist upon what to him seems to be political and constitutional orthodoxy.

As to the style my impression is that the thesis is in no small degree capable of improvement. In this respect I have, however, for obvious reasons, been very sparing with my critical suggestions. A careful revision of the manuscript before sending it to the printer — with a view not only to smoothing and polishing, but also to boiling down, more especially eliminating the somewhat frequent repetitions of the same statements in almost identical wording — would, in my opinion, be greatly in the interest of the author.

H. von Holst.

Chicago, Sept. 28, 1897.

Oct 4, 1897

Von Holst

My dear President Harper,

Your kind lines of Sept. 28, for which I beg to thank you very sincerely, were received only to-day when, on the way to meet my classes for the first time, I asked for my mail at the University Exchange. We returned on the 24th of Sept, but the war in weather and the instructions of the physician have kept me all the time at home. Eight weeks ago I became very suddenly afflicted with a terribly itching rash. The apprehension entertained for a while by the Doctors that it might have a serious cause, have been proved unfounded by certain examinations. It is in itself of no consequence, but it became important by depriving me for so long a time almost wholly of sleep. This is the reason that I failed to gain anything in the second half of the vacation, but during the first seven weeks I had profited so much that we are most astonished at my having been able to stand so well this protracted period of insomnia. The last three or four nights were considerably better and the physicians - our family physician deemed it necessary to call in the first dermatological specialist of Chicago - now hope that they

will at last become masters of this somewhat ridiculous infliction, when cooler weather assists their efforts. So I have resumed my work in good spirits, earnestly hoping that I shall remain able without interruption to attend to my duties until I can again legitimately recuperate my strength in a three months vacation, i.e. until July 1898.

Yours very sincerely

H. Von Holst.

Oct. 4, 97.

April 4, '98.

Von Holst

101

My dear President Harper,

This being the first day of the Quarter on which I have to lecture I shall meet my classes, but I shall do so against the orders of my physician, the very severe bronchitis having kept me confined to my bed up to to-day. Under these circumstances I feel that I can & will not put myself at your disposal for the proposed conference, unless it is convenient to you to have the meeting take place at the University either right before or right after my lecture (i.e. before 3 or after four P.M.) on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. I trust you will agree with me that my primary and paramount consideration ought to be to have my teaching go on without interruption and that, therefore, I ought not to expose myself to the raw air & more than it absolutely must be done.

Yours very truly

H. von Holst.

Apr. 9. '98.

von Holst

(H)

My dear President Harper,

In reply to your favor I beg to state that, although my bronchitis is not yet quite a thing of the past, I have sufficiently recovered to put myself at your service without running any particular risk. I should, therefore, prefer to wait on you at the University or in your house, for knowing to what an extent your time is taxed I do not feel justified in unnecessarily depriving you of half an hour or more. I, however, beg you, if possible, to appoint some hour before 7 P.M. for the meeting, for I am invariably made to pay for every infringement of the rule merely to vegetate after that hour and go to bed at 9 o'cl.

Yours very Truly

H. von Holst.

(M)

Wm Holet

(2)

255-E. 61st Street.
Oct. 5th, 1898.

My dear President Harper,

Please pardon my troubling you with a letter, but I want to ask a great favor of you. My mother has not been at all well this summer and is very much run down. Her doctor wishes her to take gymnasium work at the University, but Mamma feels that for an elderly lady like herself she would not like to register as a student. Miss Dudley

thought Mama would have to register. My purpose of writing to you is to ask you, whether you could not give Mama permission to join the class I am in, without having to register.

I was matriculated as an unclassified student this fall and registered for my father's "French Revolution" class and the Gymnasium class that comes at 4.15 p.m.

We should be very grateful to you if you could make it possible for Mama to join this same gymnasium class but without registering.

Thanking you very much, I am

Yours truly Mary von Holst.

P.S. Please pardon my father for not writing himself, but he is not well, having taken cold on his return home.

von Holst.

255 E. 61st St. Nov. 10, 1898.

My dear President Harper,

Mr. von Holst is slowly but surely gaining in strength and is beginning to hobble about on crutches. He is able to get downstairs, where he spends several hours every day. But he still suffers greatly from insomnia, so that he is forced to retire directly after supper in the evening.

His thoughts often wander to the University and his friends there and he feels that he is now strong enough to receive calls from those of his colleagues who could find

the time to drop in of an afternoon.

The doctor was right in supposing that Mr. von Holst would not be able to resume his duties during this quarter. Still he is surprised and gratified at the progress my husband has made.

I trust that you and your family are able to keep well in this trying weather. Please remember us kindly to Mrs. & Miss Harper.

Thanking you for all your kindness,

Sincerely yours,

F. von Holst.

2nd Holst

No 211

2556 S. 61st St. Chicago.
Jan. 3, 1899.

My dear President Harper,

Mr. von Holst requests me to say, in reply to your favor of Jan. 3rd., that he is of course very willing to address the undergraduate students some morning. Only as Monday is his worst day, he having every Monday afternoon three hours of consecutive work at the University, he does not feel equal to the ex-

ertion of going to the University and speaking there in the morning. He should, however, deem it more advisable to leave as yet open the question as to <u>when</u> he shall speak. As he has but just resumed his work, it seems safer to wait a while and see how his regular work will affect him. For you will agree that it is above all his duty to do all that is in his power to conduct his <u>class</u> work without interruption, undertaking anything extra only when experience has given him the right to feel reasonably sure of being able to do that.

Sincerely yours,

J. von Holst.

Jan. 18th '99.. 6. P.M.

(72)

My dear President Harper.

Your favor of yesterday was received to-day at 3 P.M., right before meeting my class, which kept me until 5 o'cl, i.e. until it was too late to see any of the other professors. I have to state in reply that I have received no letter or communication whatever from the Recorder in regard to preparing the material for the programme. It is, therefore, absolutely impossible to send you the information you ask for by Friday noon, Jan. 20th. I shall hurry the matter up as much as I can. But as I have no clerical force at my disposal I must needs get the information myself from the instructors by means of a circular letter. Until that has made the round and all the answers are in, necessarily some days must elapse, though I shall make it urgent to expedite the business as much as possible. If your patience should be unduly taxed, please believe me that the fault will not be mine. I shall at once write and send off the circular letter.

I improve this opportunity to request that you give a general order to your Secretary that whenever there is any urgent business your communications to me be sent by mail to my house, and not to the Faculty Exchange. By that way often a delay of several days is caused, as I do not go every day to the University, and mostly at least one of hours, amounting, as in this case, to the practical loss of one day.

Yours very Truly

J. W. von Moltke.

Von Holst

My dear President Harper,

If you lay stress on the Monday, that being the regular Junior day, I think I could venture to do it without running any great risk. Your kind offer of sending me a cab is very acceptable, especially as there is no telling how the weather will be. In any case it would diminish the risk, though what I have to fear the most is not the direct physical exertion but the excitement of the nerves, which with me is inseparable from any mental work, and especially from addressing an audience. Please notify me of your decision.

Yesterday afternoon I learned by accident at the University that you are down with the grippe. My chagrin is certainly sincere, though not quite free from selfish motives. I must confess that I am not indifferent to the prospect of not having just you among my audience when I deliver the address.

Hoping that you will have a comparatively easy time of it and that our state of orphanage will not be unduly prolonged

Yours very truly

H. Von Holst.

Jan. 25th, 1899.

Jan. 21st, '99. 255 E. 61st St.

Wm Holst

My dear President Harper,

I have just finished writing my address to the Juniors. You, therefore, can now definitely fix the day on which it is to be delivered. The reading of it will, I think, take about 25 minutes, perhaps even 2 or 3 minutes more, in case my voice is not in good trim. Perhaps the gentleman conducting the service could be informed of this and requested to select the readings from the Scriptures and the hymns with a view to it, so that the students are not kept much longer than the regulation time.

I am sorry to state that I have thus far not received a single reply from the gentlemen of my department, though my circular letter, written on the back of your inquiry, was mailed by myself - addressed to Prof. Terry as the next in rank - on Wednesday evening.

Yours very truly

J. W. von Holst.

Von Holst

My dear President Harper,

The address to the Senior Colleges is written. All that remains to be done is to make a fair copy of it. You, therefore, can now fix any day that is suitable for the delivery. The title is: "Some expansionist inconsistencies and false analogies." The address is somewhat longer than that given to the Juniors. I shall read it much faster, but I must nevertheless beg that the same arrangement be made in regard to the religious exercises.

I add my sincere thanks for the copy of your article on "the theological curriculum", which I received but a few minutes ago and therefore have not yet been able to read.

Yours very Truly

H. Von Holst.

Febr. 28, 1899.

Con Holy

June 4th '99.

My dear President Harper:-

While I repeat the request expressed at our late conference that you do not commit yourself in any way whatever in regard to the facts and suggestions submitted to you until you have bestowed upon the whole problem all the consideration you think necessary, I deem it my duty to inform you that we expect to start next Friday for Nashotah, in order to enable you to communicate with me before my leaving the city, in case you should wish to do so.

During the last five or six days I have no longer had to suffer very much. The recuperation of strength is, however, still hardly perceptible.

To some extent that is undoubtedly due to the persistent and very wearing insomnia, which keeps the whole nervous system in a state of high Tension and great debility.

Yours very sincerely and gratefully

H. von Holst.

Cottage Bellemary. Upper Nashotah Lake. Wisc.
Aug. 4, 1899.

(42)

My dear President Harper.

As I have set my conscience at rest by the frank statement I made to you from my sick-bed in May, I have no cause to complain nor reason to regret if you think best to let the matter rest till my return to the city; from the point of view of my personal interests it seems rather advantageous than otherwise, and if it were to prove detrimental to the interests of the University I should not chafe and worry under the feeling of being responsible for it. If you are of opinion that under the circumstances that work ought to be done, it is wholly satisfactory to me. I think the decision must solely rest with you and therefore I do not deem it within my province either to commend or criticize it. But even apart from my personal interests I doubt whether I should wish that you had decided differently. You will remember my stating in the course of our conference that and why I greatly preferred to go on discussing the problem from month to month to disposing of it by correspondence. My going to the city for that purpose would, however, hardly be a justifiable venture.

For I cannot give as good an account of my health as I should wish. For a while I made satisfactory progress. In the first three weeks I gained 8 pounds — being then still ten pounds short of my normal weight and that, as you know, does not amount to very much. Since then I have had no possibility of weighing myself again, because about ten or twelve days after my one necessary Trip to Oconomowoc a slight relapse became noticeable and in spite of my submitting myself at once again to a much more rigorous regime in every respect, I have not yet succeeded in getting over it. While I try to keep up my courage, basing the hope that I shall ultimately after all bring about a turn in the right direction on the supposition that the relapse is not the irrepressible gliding down in the incurable organic disease, but due to exerting myself a little too much in gardening on my little place. I have done that pursuant to the instructions of the physicians, but although I was very careful, feeling perfectly sure that I was keeping within the safe limits, I may have after all overstepped them. It would seem that even the purely physical exertion which the digestive organs will permit is reduced much more than either I or the physicians supposed. Thus I go on leading the life of an absolutely idle recluse, living exclusively for my health. With the exception of that one drive to Oconomowoc I have not been once more than a quarter of a mile beyond my own fence and have not yet called on a single one of my kind neighbors.

I am sorry to hear that your time and strength have been taxed even beyond the usual amount, but I rejoice at the reason of it — the flocking of ever larger numbers of students to the University.

Yours very sincerely

H. von Holst.

Address: Care of Ernst A Thompson, Oconomowoc, Wisc.

having an assistant & that you would be ready at any time to shorten up his time &c. She said while it was true that $4000 would probably be necessary to obtain a proper assistant, it was also a fact - that leaving him (Von H.) only $4000 - put him in the position of giving all his efforts (such as they might be) to the University for a little more than a bare living - which he does not regard as in harmony with his fair value to the University and his duty to his position in the profession

Pressing

May 23. 1899.

THE CHICAGO CLUB

Dear Dr. Harper. I saw Prof. von Holst last Sunday but was prevented from communicating with you on Monday - so I write you now the result of my talk with him. He is not at all well - can walk very little - and is practically a prisoner in his little domain - only able to go out upon the lake occasionally. He is slowly getting over his weakness - but is much weaker than he was at this time last year. His nerves are very easily excited and all concentration

of mind very difficult - so that he is Easily made feverish and worried a great deal. He sleeps very little - not an hour in 24 sometimes - He will therefore be very glad to hear from you that he is not expected to resume his work on Oct. 1. and I hope you will write him so at once - In my opinion it would be madness in him to try it - but he feels he has not the right to <u>ask</u> your further indulgence.

He was pleased with the report about the pension matter - and in regard to his case said, it was true that he was, in absolute dollars, better off than if he had remained abroad - but, Relatively - taking income for income - he was not & would not be for some years. However he felt the University and you had treated him not only fairly - but very generously.

I told him what your trustees had authorized you to do - in regard to his

He thinks - that if his name, reputation and real ability as he still possesses are worth having - they ought to bring him more than mere bread & shelter -

In regard to the Wisconsin gentleman, whose work & ability he values highly - there are some other considerations which I should like to discuss with you verbally.

Are you coming to Chicago after your visit in Cleveland or do you go East? I should be very glad to hear your final conclusion about the

plan I suggested to you — and if you can spare a few minutes please send me a line when you have reached it.

With best wishes for a pleasant vacation which you have so fully earned I remain

Very truly yours

Eugene E. Prussing

1113 Rookery.

Sept. 14, 1899.

Hale

Von Holst

My dear President Harper,

Mr. Prissing assured me last Saturday that I had wholly misconceived your letter of August last: the stress ought not to have been laid, as I had done in my reply of September 3d (which he did not forward to you, but which he let you read), on what you said about "half work" and a salary of $4000, and that this was not intended to be 'a proposition,' but merely 'a suggestion'; your principal purpose had been only to tell me that I should give myself no concern about not being able to resume my work on October 1st. From this I inferred that he spoke as much in your name as his own and by authority when he most earnestly urged me to leave for at present everything in abeyance, in order to see what, with my mind wholly at rest for the time being, could be attained for my health by going for the next three months to the Sanatarium of Dr. Voje. Upon the strength of this, i.e. upon the presumption of his giving voice to your ideas and wishes, I consented to have the final decision postponed for three months longer, 'matters being allowed to remain during that time in their present condition.' From Mr. Prissing's further remarks I received the impression that he felt perfectly sure of your readily concurring in this. I took this conviction of his for the basis of his emphatic advice to go at once to the Sanatarium, i.e. to consider the prolongation of the provisorium as virtually settled. To this, however, I refused to accede, persisting in my declaration that I could do nothing until I was directly and formally advised of it that such an arrangement would be satisfactory and agreeable to you.

I now learn from your letter of the 12th inst. that either I have deplorably failed to understand Mr. Prissing, or that he has wholly misunderstood you. I have no fault whatever to find with your proposition; I consider it perfectly fair and in accord with what the interests of the University

take this momentous step without having advised him, and on the other, I have not the time to send him a copy of the letter and await his reply before sending it to you.

Yours very Truly

H. Von Holst.

demand at your hands. But my acceptance of it is nevertheless absolutely out of the question. To enter at length upon the reasons is in my opinion no longer called for; they have sufficiently – perhaps too extensively – been dwelt upon by me in our conversations and my many letters. To repeat them now would, therefore, unnecessarily weary you – unnecessarily, because they can no longer affect the outcome. It is for this reason that I confine myself to two or three brief statements.

More injurious than anything else to my health is the state of uncertainty, the suspense. Dr. Vojé has emphatically expressed the opinion that the first prerequisite for any considerable improvement is that – as I stated before – my mind be wholly at rest for the time being as to the future. There is in my whole shattered system not a single nerve, whose tingling and quivering does not corroborate this opinion. Your proposition, however, leaves me as to this more than harrassing uncertainty and suspense exactly in the condition, in which I have been for months, nay for years. It is, therefore, a foregone conclusion that, if I were to go under such circumstances to the Sanatarium, I could expect no results whatever. Nay, I am certain that I should leave it a sicker man than I had entered it. For in my enforced idleness and loneliness – not only separated from my family, but even forbidden to correspond with them – brooding would be the only resource of my mind. And for this prospect I should bring a pecuniary sacrifice, drawing upon the modest savings from which I and my wife and my daughter will have to live in the future? For there is no question that I cannot with $750 maintain my family in Chicago and be myself in the Sanatarium for three months. – It is indeed quite possible that I shall anyway go to the Sanatarium and at a much larger pecuniary sacrifice, but if I do, it will be only after my mind has come to rest by a final decision – though it may not be from any point of view that which I should have wished for.

I do not think you realize how very sick a man I am, and not realizing it there is no possibility of fully understanding my attitude. I must expect that you consider me unreasonable, headstrong, and even ungrateful. The only shield I have to oppose to such charges – if they be made – is the solemne assurance that my whole nervous system is so fearfully unstrung that the suspense must end and must end now. It is a humiliating confession, but it is the stern fact confronting me that I am no longer able to stand the strain, neither physically nor morally. Only if you and the Trustees had not been merely willing, but also able to see your way simply to grant me leave of absence for another quarter in order to have this last trial made, should I have mustered courage enough to submit to it until the end of the year. And even then it would have required a great effort of will, because I must in candor say that I am very far from sharing the hopeful expectations of my family and my friends as to the results of the experiment. It is therefore my honest opinion that it is really in the interest of the University that you are unable to make me the only proposition which I feel I could accept under the circumstances. But however that be, as I neither can not resume my duties October 1st accede to your proposal there is but one thing left for me to do:

I must ask you to submit to the Trustees, with my sincere thanks for the manifold and great favors they have shown me for years, the tender of my resignation with the request to fix the date on which it is to take effect. For many reasons of great moment to me I should be greatly obliged to them if they were to take prompt action on this request, and I beg you to inform me at your earliest convenience of their resolution. If it be necessary that I communicate my request to you in a more formal official manner, please advise me of it without delay. I hope you will not deem it improper that I send this letter through Mr. Prissing. As we must leave here in a fortnight, every day is of consequence. On the one hand I think it due to him that I do not

Upper Nashotah Lake, Wisc. Wm Holst.
Sept. 21, 1899.

File

My Dear President Harper,

From the outset it has been perfectly clear to me and I have repeatedly told my family and Mr. Prissing that the establishing of a momentous precedent was the greatest difficulty confronting you in the attempt to realize your kindly intentions towards me. The changes which the Trustees have deemed fit to make in your recommendation have, therefore, not surprized me. I fully understand and appreciate their reasons. But even if I failed to do so it would ill behoove me to criticize them and indulge in wry faces, because I might live to see another man President of the University who would possibly put a different interpretation upon the resolutions of the Board, or for any other reason whatever. Whether I should have preferred the resolutions as recommended by you, is not now and ought not to be the question with me. The only essential fact is that not only the one condition has been acceded to upon which I had to make my consent to a postponement of the final decision dependent, but that the Trustees, acting upon your recommendation, have by their own initiative, without any solicitation by me, granted me much more — indeed much more than I had even dared to hope for.

I, therefore, have only to repeat what I said in my last letter. I do not merely accept the proposition, but I do so with the sincerest and warmest thanks, begging you to give at the next meeting of the Board adequate expression to my profound gratitude. That these thanks are above all addressed to you personally, you know. And it is almost superfluous to state expressly that the value of the generous gift of the Board is greatly enhanced in my eyes by the way in which, according to your letter, the individual Trustees have been pleased to speak of me and my services. That, too, will contribute not a little towards letting me enter upon the cure in Waldheim in a frame of mind, which will give medical skill as good a chance as it still can have with me. Yesterday my wife and son called on Dr. Voje. He said that on Sunday the room he had selected for me would be made ready to receive me and on Monday afternoon my son is to drive me over with bag and baggage.

Yours very truly

H. von Holst.

Form No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

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This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

NUMBER	SENT BY	RECD BY	CHECK	
9	A	W.	OR	4 Paid 11.37 Am.

RECEIVED at Cobb Hall Sept 19 1899

Dated Oconomowoc Wis 19

To President Wm R Harper,

Accepted with heartiest thanks,

H. C. Von Holst,

Upper Nashotah Lake, Wisc.
Sept. 19, 1899.

v. Holst

My dear President Harper.

I hope my telegraphic answer reached you in time for the meeting of the Trustees. I sent it off as soon as I had received and read your letter. That I did not need a moment's reflection goes without saying; for you propose to recommend to the Trustees that they grant me not only what I felt compelled to make a condition for leaving the final decision in abeyance until the end of the year, but very much more. As to the most important factor of my psychical condition I shall, therefore, if the Board accede to your proposition, enter with much better chances upon the cure in the Sanatarium than I had expected to. Whatever the results of it be, you have thereby put me and my family under new and great obligations to you. Be assured that we are deeply conscious of that and shall never forget it.

As soon as I learn from you of the action of the Trustees I shall make the definite arrangements with Dr. Vogel. If everything goes as you seem confidently to expect, I shall probably be safely stowed away in Waldheim by next Monday or Tuesday.

A letter from Mr. Prissing – received Saturday evening – gave us some hope that you would be with us on Monday. Consulting the time table we figured out that there was some chance of your being our guest for dinner and accordingly your place was set. Though we know well how easily other important business might prevent the carrying out of your most welcome intention. The very bad weather we had on Sunday did not allow me to drive to Oconomowoc, as I had proposed to do, to communicate with you by Telephone or Telegraph.

Very sincerely and gratefully yours

W. von Holst.

von Holst

(1)

2556 S. 61st St. Chicago.
Dec. 3, 1899.

My dear President Harper,

When I saw my father last Sunday, I found him looking better than a month ago. But his weight was as yet not normal and from a note received yesterday, he has lost again in weight.

I had a long talk with Dr. Noje. He wanted me to tell you that in his opinion my father would not be able to resume work on Jan. 1st. Whether he will ultimately recover so far as to be able to resume work again, he can not tell as yet, because he has not had time enough to observe him, in order to decide that question.

The connection between the digestive organs, which are in a bad condition, and the nerves is such an intimate one that the straining of one would strain the other. And as all know who have come into closer contact with him, no matter what he under-

not look like a precedent for establishing a system of perkisites? Mr. Russell understood that the affirmative of this question was the interpretation which you and the Trustees intended to convey.

As long as this question is not definitely answered, his mind will have no rest and your answer to this question will affect his plans for the future.

I hope this letter will make the situation clear to you and if not, I should like to talk more fully on the subject with you.

I am

Respectfully yours,

H. P. von Holst

Tel. H 503

takes he puts his whole mental energy into the work; but unfortunately his body is not able to keep abreast with his mind, the result being a complete breakdown. Besides the general nervousness and the trouble with his digestive organs, he suffers from asthmatic affections. The Doctor said that the mucous membranes were very sensitive and that the Chicago climate was not good for him. My father had thought of going eventually to Southern California. But Dr. Voje and Dr. Kuh both regard Southern California as not adapted to his condition and would prefer to see him in Europe.

My father, however, can not make any decision as to the future until one thing has been definitely settled in his mind and now already he begins to worry in regard to it as he did last summer. The question is the interpretation of the resolutions of the Trustees in regard to the 2400 dollars.

He thinks that according to the letter of the resolutions, it is a salary which he is entitled to receive only if he stays near the University and if at any time he is able to do some work, he is to do it for the University. Now if he goes to Europe, nobody can tell how long he will be there or whether he will ever be able to come back, as he is getting advanced in years and old age tells also on his chronic diseases.

Now if he should go to Europe under these conditions, would he forfeit the 2400 dollars? In other words, was this sum meant to be a pension, but the wording put in such a way that it would

von Holst

(50)

255 E. 61st St. Dec. 12, 99.

My dear President Harper,

It may interest you to hear the result of a long conversation between Dr. Foje and Mr. von Holst on Sunday last. Indeed, my husband asked you to hear of it, but thought I might chance to see you sometime. As that is not likely and to know how busy you are, I have selected this means.

Dr. Foje told him very decidedly that he must devote at least a year to the sole purpose of seeking a

restoration of his health, and that, to that end, he ought to go to Europe next fall. He declares there is no place in this country that he would consider just the right thing for my husband next winter. Our lease expires on May 1st and then we go to Wisconsin for the summer. In the fall we sail for Europe! I do not know whether Berlin or some other Southern city has been finally decided upon or not.

Allow me to thank you again for the constant kindness and consideration you have always shown my husband and believe me

Sincerely yours,

Isabella von Holst.

Wm Holst

Dec 5th '99

My dear President Harper,

Permit me to thank you for your kindness in answering my letter so soon. I am sure, that all my fathers doubts will vanish now. Yesterday we received a letter from him, in which he stated that the question was not to settle down permanently in some place with a climate better suited to his condition, but only for the winter of 1900-1901, his intention being to spend next summer at his place in Wisconsin

So you see, he has not the intention, unless forced to do so,

to give up for good his home
in Chicago.

Respectfully yours,

H. V. von Holst

255 E. 61st St.

September 11th, 1900.

Mrs. H. E. von Holst,

Care of Ernst & Thompson, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

My dear Mrs. von Holst:

It gives me great pleasure to receive your letter of September ninth. I am very sorry indeed that I have not had the pleasure of visiting you at your summer home; but it does not seem that I have had an afternoon, or even an evening, to be spent in accordance with my own pleasure, during the summer.

I note with much dismay that your date for leaving is Tuesday, September eighteenth, the convocation day. At half-past twelve I am with the graduating students at the matutinal; at two o'clock our Trustees hold their monthly meeting, at the University. Since you arrive at one, and leave at half-past two, I shall be entirely prevented from seeing you. This will be a great and grievous disappointment. I do not know what to say. I cannot consent to your going away without having the pleasure of shaking your hand and bidding you

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Care of Ernst & Thompson, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

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"God speed", and yet I do not see how this privilege is to be granted me. In any case, you will believe that you go with my best wishes and best hopes for the future, and that if there is anything which I can do for you or for Mr. von Holst, it will most gladly be done. I am hoping to hear that he is stronger.

Mrs. Harper and the children sailed last Thursday for a year on the continent. I am entirely alone. I need not tell you that it is not altogether as pleasant as it might be.

Very truly yours,

W. R. Harper

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Very truly yours,

W. R. Harper

(1)

Cottage Bellmary.
Sep. 9, 1900.

My dear President Harper,

My husband begs me to thank you for your last letter and to ask you to excuse the delay in answering it.

In the first place, we had hoped it might be possible for you to visit us here, and then the final decision as to our departure has only just been made.

We leave here on Tuesday, Sep. 18th, reaching Chicago

at 1 P.M. After attending to our baggage, we must hurry to the "Nickel Plate" depot on Van Buren near Clark St. Our train leaves at 2.30 P.M. and we hope to be there in time to have plenty of leisure to see any friends who may kindly come to bid us "good-by". I need not add that we should consider it an honor to see you there, especially as we had no opportunity to take leave of you in the Spring.

Begging to be kindly remembered to Mrs. Harper and Miss Vida,

Sincerely yours,
Isabelle von Holst.

c/o Ernst & Thompson
Oconomowoc
Wis.

Senate

Pd. Von Holst

THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
1901
13
FEB

Dr. William R. Harper,
President of the University of Chicago.

Dear Sir,

The address of the Senate of the University of November 2d, 1900, transmitted by the Recorder Prof. J. Goodspeed with a letter stating its history, came to hand yesterday. I beg to convey my thanks to the Senate for this most unexpected act of friendly regard and good will through you as the head of the University. Even if I could write in my mother tongue I should not be able to give adequate expression to my feelings. In the course of my life I have been honored in many a way and much beyond my deserts by scientific institutions and learned associations, superiors, colleagues, and fellow citizens. Among all these honors there is not one that I hold in higher esteem and but one that I value as highly: a similar testimony by the Senate of the University of Freiburg upon leaving that institution in order to assume the proffered professorship in the nascent University of Chicago. In the inheritance

I shall leave my children they will find nothing they ought to appreciate more than these two addresses. And in one respect the later outranks the earlier. In Freiburg I had worked 18 years and most of the time in the full vigor of ripe manhood. In Chicago I have been less than half that time, coming – as the Board of Trustees and you, Mr. President, were fully aware when you invited me – as an invalid, and my health continuing to decline steadily and so fast that I was compelled after a while to do but part of the work I ought to have done and ultimately to cease working altogether. How, then, could I fail to be doubly impressed and touched by the extraordinary generosity displayed by the Senate in passing judgement upon my brief Chicago career! I, however, beg the Senate to believe that its verdict does not only make me very proud, but also teaches me due humility. Without reserve I most gratefully accept the expressions of personal regard, friendliness, and sympathy. But as to the appreciation of the services rendered by me to the University, I must answer my brother Senators in all sincerity: to a large extent your kindness has prompted you to take the ardent wish and earnest will for the deed. This ardent wish and earnest will I indeed claim. For I can rightfully assert that I was ever most anxious to do my full duty, not only because it was my duty, but also because my whole heart was with my work and with the institution with which I had concluded to cast my lot in spite of all the strong ties that bound me to the University of Freiburg. And of one thing you may be assured: my heart will ever remain thus attached to the University of Chicago, keenly feeling everything that concerns its weal and woe as a momentous personal affair, even if – as it thus far seems but too likely – the hopes for my health set upon complete rest and a better climate should be doomed to cruel disappointment.

Very respectfully

H. von Holst.

Florence, January 30th, 1901.

Florence, May 5th, 1901.

THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
1901
17
MAY
174

Dear President Harper.

Our experiences with the Italian postal service have been so bad that I am somewhat apprehensive my letter of thanks to the Senate addressed to you, and another letter to Prof. Laughlin with a somewhat detailed account of my state of health, which I requested him to read to you, may have failed to reach their destination. I therefore start with the statement that these letters have been written.

I now think it proper to send you another brief report on my health, because it looks very much as if another stage in the slow downward course had been reached necessitating a change in my programme. While my digestive organs have been upon the whole in a comparatively satisfactory condition during the winter, I have not made the slightest headway as to the general nervous debility and the chronic insomnia, and the chronic bronchial catarrh, the cough, and the asthma have been throughout this time much worse than ever before. And now, about three weeks ago, on the eve of leaving Florence, I was once more without any fore, warning laid low by an attack of the old stomach trouble — so severe and so persistent that I had again for some time absolutely to abstain from taking any food in the natural way. Although our lease ended on the last of April and we had to remove to a hotel, we were thereby compelled to prolong our stay in Florence and to order our son, who was to have met us at Milan, to join us here. I am still confined to my room, have to live upon what my wife and daughter are able to cook for me on an alcohol lamp, and am very weak, the few pounds of flesh that used to hang loosely

around my bones being reduced so much that I am little more than a skeleton covered with skin.

These sorry experiences make me and mine very much inclined to think that it will no longer do for me to change my sojourn with every season, allowing the greatest weight in the selection of the place to climatic considerations. It seems all the more likely that we will have to renounce doing that because my wife, too, has become too weak and sickly to be any longer equal to the great strain of taking care of an invalid like myself under the discomforts and difficulties of such a roving life. Though it is of the utmost import to my nerves to be every day for hours in the open air and North of the Alps I shall be for about five months almost wholly shut off from it, we have, therefore, well nigh given up the idea of returning for another winter to Italy. We shall avoid binding our hands as long as possible; but, something like the comforts and the settled rest of a home and proper, trusted medical care and aid always within reach appearing to be now the paramount and absolutely imperative considerations, it seems likely that our programme for the nearer future, i.e. for about a year, will be about the following. By the end of this month we expect to be in Freiburg, going either directly or taking twice a rest of about one week, according to which course my condition seems to render more advisable. If I should improve sufficiently to warrant the venture we shall stay there only until the hot season sets in, spending that, if possible, somewhere in mountain woods, trying to brace up the nerves a little and to derive some benefit for the respiratory organs. Then, if we succeed in finding anything like a suitable lodging and the advice of the physicians does not impose another course, we shall probably return to Freiburg for the winter, partly because the climatic conditions are comparatively favorable, and principally because it is on this side of the ocean the only place where we are not strangers, but still find some old friends who cared and would bring a little cheer into our rather gloomy invalid life. Just now the oil in my lamps seems to be consumed too much to think and plan any further at this time. At all events I am thus far not warranted to cause you to believe that the chances of my ever again becoming able to be of any use to the University have improved.

I have no right to expect an answer to this letter, but I should be very thankful to you if you would just charge your Secretary to notify me by postal card that it has been duly received. My permanent address is: c/o Oberrheinische Bank, Freiburg i/B., Germany.

But very little have I been able to learn about University affairs. That the little I have learned has been of as much interest to me as ever goes without saying. The chance of hearing more from Mrs. Harper and Mrs. Judson I cared, to my great regret, not improve. Even the latter, though she came twice to take a cup of tea in the afternoon with my wife, I have not been able to see at all; I was then already in too poor a condition.

Hoping that you continue to keep your wonderful vigor wholly unimpaired, though the tremendous strain upon it certainly does not decrease as the University goes on forging ahead at its former gait, very sincerely

your ever grateful

H. Von Holst.

May 24th, 1901.

My dear President Harper,

On April 6th I had to leave Chicago to take the boat which sailed from New York April 13th. This departure, which was two weeks sooner than I had contemplated, was caused by the receipt on April 7th of bad news as to the state of health of my parents. Had it not been for my hurried departure I should have paid my respects to you before leaving.

I joined my parents in Florence and found my mother practically recovered, but my father was very sick indeed. I found him to my sorrow more reduced, than he had been in September when I saw him last. His power of resistance to the reaccurring attacks

grows undoubtedly less and less, as has been proved now again.

I understand that father wrote to you from Florence. We left that city May 5th for Remezzo, where we expected that father would gain more strength. Hardly had we been here a week when another attack, worse than the one in Florence, befell him. For 4 days he took nourishment artificially only, but nevertheless the pains continued and he expressed his fear that some new complications may have set in.

We are in a very bad position here. He cannot get the proper care and yet he is so reduced that the problem of transportation is almost an impossible one. I hope, however, that in a few days we can transport him to Freiburg, by giving him strength artificially sufficient to carry him through to Freiburg. When once there, he will go to a Sanatorium where he can have specialists and I hope, although I have learned doubting now, that by months of proper care, he may get again as far that he can live without heavy bandages. Continued anxiety, grief, worry and without exercise, I shall be very ill and would be a next step. I shall be very glad to be in Sanatorium in Freiburg, I can then undertake more by the physicians me have consulted, as the only correct one.

Dear is the sad state of my father's health. I shall let you know from time to time as to his condition. We wish to be very thankful remained to you. Hoping that you and yours family are in good health remain me

Very respectfully yours

Wm H. Harper

(Wm H. Harper)

July 3rd, 1901.

My dear Professor von Holst:

I received in due time your communication of May fifth, and have taken the liberty of repeating the contents to several of your most intimate colleagues. It is very good of you to write so fully and so exactly concerning your condition, and we appreciate very greatly your courtesy. We are not prepared to believe that you are not, at all events, on the point of regaining your health. It may be that it is necessary for you to sink eaven lower than you have yet gone, but we confidently believe that, when the right time comes, there will be a turn in the disease and that from that time forward your strength will be regained even more rapidly than it has been lost.

I am sending you a copy of the convocation programme of the decennial celebration. You will be pleased to know that the celebration passed off with great satisfaction. Nothing has occurred in the history of the University to influence so strongly the internal life of the University as

July 3rd, 1901.

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has this celebration. The presence of Mr. and Mrs. Rockefeller and the presence of so many distinguished guests from all parts of the Union made the event a memorable one.

We are now quietly settled down to our Summer quarter's work, and the number of students is larger than ever before, although we have pushed forward the work two weeks, beginning June nineteenth instead of July first.

On every hand your friends inquire concerning you, and you can imagine that it gives us great pain to say that your health up to this time has not been good. If the good wishes of his friends could assist one in the struggle with disease, surely you ought to receive great assistance. I am especially glad that your son is able to be with you, and I am sure that it mutshe a source of gratification to yourself and to Mrs. von Holst.

It is perhaps known to you that Mrs. Harper and the family are still in Paris. They are to return about the middle of August. Davida returned in order to be with me during the decennial.

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Hoping that this letter will find you in better health than when you wrote me, and begging to be remembered to your family, I remain, with great respect,

Yours very sincerely,

Hoping that this letter will find you in better health than when you wrote me, and begging to be remembered to your family, I remain, with great respect,

Yours very sincerely,

July 25th, 1901

Mr. H. E. von Holst, Jr.,

Sorettostrasse No. 6, Freiburg in Baden, Germany.

My dear Mr. von Holst:

I have just received your letter of July eighth and am very much obliged to you for the particulars which you give me. I am very sorry indeed that your father does not seem to be making greater progress. I beg you to keep me posted quite regularly about his health, for I am being asked many questions all the time.

Mrs. Harper and the children are to leave Paris August fourth and reach home about the twelfth.

Please assure your father of our most hearty sympathy, and our prayers for his recovefy. I have ordered a copy of the Proceedings of the Association of American Universities and a copy of the Proceedings of the Decennial Celebration to be sent to you for your father, if it seems best to place them in his hands.

Please convey my regards to your sister and mother, and believe me to be

Very truly yours,

July 25th, 1900.

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and mother, and believe me to be

Very truly yours,

Received July 5, 1901

Freiburg in Baden

Sonnhaldenstr. 6

My dear President Harper —

My last letter to you was written about six weeks ago from Trenezzo on the Lake of Como. We started from there on May 29th, arriving in Freiburg May 30th. I brought my father at once to the Sanatorium, where he has been ever since. After having been there a few days his weight was found to be only 104 German pounds. In the first three weeks he gained a little in weight, due to having starved before so much, but in the last two weeks he has not gained at all. He has all this time not been allowed to walk around, but had

worse again without any apparent reason for it. Even the doctors are puzzled about it.

Meanwhile my mother, sister and myself are trying to get a lodging in proper condition, so that father can be taken care of properly, as soon as he leaves the Sanatorium. Father is becoming more and more downcast over his condition and often despairs entirely of being ever able to get back to a liveable condition.

Prof. Laughlin had sent us a programme of the Summer convocation. We all read it with great interest and were only too sorry not to have been able to be present at this important and august convocation.

My father sends his kindest regards to you, hoping that you and your family are in good health.

Very respectfully yours,

H. V. von Holst

President W. R. Harper.

to lie still. He can sleep only by the aid of sleping drugs and very often they even fail to bring the much desired sleep. His general nervous tension is very great.

The doctor after having observed and studied his case said, that one always had to expect those severe attacks to return with him and the only thing one had to aim at was, to try and make the intervals between the attacks as long as possible; that father had to be under the constant care of a specialist, as at any time disastrous complications might set in.

after this diagnosis my father had to decide to settle down for the present in Freiburg. How long he will have to stay at the Sanatorium, we cannot tell. In the last two days he got considerably

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I have ordered a copy of the Proceedings of the As-
sociation of American Universities and a copy of the
Proceedings of the Decennial Celebration to be sent
to you for your father, if it seems best to place them
in his hands.

Please convey my regards to your sister
and mother, and believe me to be

Very truly yours,

Confidential. April 6, '99. Wm Holst.

(88)

My dear President Harper.

I yesterday took the liberty of replying orally to your letter, because I inferred from your sending it by a special messenger that you wished to make already to-day some announcement to the students in regard to my addressing them on the 27th inst. That, however, can not excuse me from a more formal and explicit statement in writing.

After my last lecture on March 21st I was apparently as well as on any day during the quarter. The next morning I ate my usual breakfast, but the stomach failed to do its duty by it. By noon the to me only too familiar pains, indicating that the scar of some former ulcer had again become sore, were so pronounced that I at once resorted to the stomach pump, went to bed and subjected myself to the severest dietetic regime. With the exception of some hours one noon to see some previously invited guests I have spent the whole vacation in bed and I should still be confined to it, or at least to the house, if duty did not bid me meet my classes. For the third week I live upon nothing but a little milk and soup - losing, of course, in consequence gradually but steadily strength - and yet that warning pain at the same old spot which has so frequently threatened my life, won't stop. Though thus far not suffering intensely the ample experiences of the past leave

no doubt that only the utmost care can prevent a new catastrophe. Dr. Kuh has not interposed his veto against my doing my regular class work, but he has most earnestly warned me, so long as I have not completely got over this attack and recuperated my strength, not to tax my nervous energy by either physical or mental exertion more than I absolutely must in order faithfully to do my duty as teacher.

I confess that this wholly unlooked-for set-back tries my courage severely. Still I try hard not to lose my spirits and to continue hoping that, if I but succeed in doing my class work this quarter without interruption and then nurse myself during the summer vacation under more favorable circumstances than last year, the physician's prediction might, in a measure, become true that I shall be more vigorous and healthy than I have been for a number of years. But there is certainly no chance whatever of this hope being realized, if I now fail to heed the admonitions of nature and run the risk of doing more than I must, be it ever so little. I trust you read my character well enough to know how much this declaration costs me. If it were not for your repeated declarations that you and the Trustees want me to stay, in spite of my being physically such a wreck, I should now make an end of it, without regard to the very serious material consequences to me and my family. On the strength of these declarations I say: have half a year longer patience; bear with it that I confine myself during this quarter strictly to my class work and see what the summer will do for the restoration of my health. If it then appears that the physician has been too sanguine and that I can no more regain the working capacity which the University must demand of its instructors, and more especially of its head professors, I shall no longer hesitate, but free it from the incubus and willingly make room for a man who is equal to the work.

Yours very Truly

H. von Holst.

very useful books worth having. What its commercial value might be I cannot tell, but I should think $500 is a conservative estimate. It has cost me of course several times that amount.

Please notify me at your earliest convenience whether my proposition is acceptable or not, because I ought to commence as soon as possible with the clearing of the shelves.

I cannot ask you to appoint a Time for calling on you at your house, because in the evening I cannot think of ever going out and even in the daytime, as I stated above, I am entirely dependent on the weather.

Yours very Truly

H. Von Holst.

January 4th. 1900.

Trustees (1)

My dear President Harper.

I have deferred writing these lines on account of the extraordinary strain I knew you to be put to until after the convocation was over. Their main purport is of a business character, but in order to make my proposition understood correctly I must precede it by a brief statement of a personal nature.

I understand Mrs. Von Holst has informed you:

1/ that Dr. Vojé and Dr. Kuh deem it now proven that my stomach disease is partly of an organic character, the bowels being grown fast to the stomach, and that in consequence I am, at least to this extent, surely incurable, because age and lack of strength absolutely preclude the idea of an operation;

2/ that according to the latest opinion of Dr. Vojé I must "at least a year more live exclusively for my health." Though he holds out some hope that I may then be able to attempt again brain work on a moderate scale, he does so in such a vague way, that he is at all events very doubtful about it. I honestly try not to despair of it, but as to the (first) positive part of his opinion I unfortunately can entertain no doubt whatever that he is right. For the first time in my life I fully realize that I am and for a long time shall remain utterly unable to do any mental work. While as to the digestive organs I have, with great trouble, got back to where I was when I went to the Sanatorium, I have in other equally important respects not gained any ground, but even lost considerably. The general nervous prostration has progressed instead of diminishing. The daily administration of sleeping drugs during three months has made no headway whatever as to the insomnia, which is wearing me out. During the brief intervals of sleep the brain is

mostly unnaturally active, working in my dreams as keenly and logically as it ever did when under the control of the will and therefore leaving me after the night's "rest" (?) more exhausted than when I went to bed. The slightest mental exertion, as the writing of a plain letter, tires me as much as a day's hard work used to do. And in addition to all this my bronchial and asthmatic troubles have become so aggravated that when the thermometer is a few degrees below the freezing point and a little wind is blowing I cannot venture out of the house, because a few steps in the open air bring about agonizing lack of breath and coughing fits.

This condition of things has forced upon us the following programme for the nearer future. We are beginning to break up our household here with a view to reestablishing it in case I should, sooner or later, become again able to live in this climate and do some work at the University, i.e. we shall pack up and store those of our things we should like to have when we can again make Chicago our place of residence. As I myself can do next to nothing, my wife is too wearily to rush this business, and she can derive hardly any help from our children, both being fully taxed by their own duties, this will take us until the end of April, when our lease is up. Then we propose to go to our little cottage on Nashotah Lake to spend there the Summer and early fall, leaving then for Europe, because both physicians are agreed that in my case Europe is greatly to be preferred to any winter resort in the U. St. Where we shall go to is as yet wholly undecided, and as to what we shall do after the winter of 1900/1901 we purposely refrain from discussing at all, leaving it entirely to what Providence has in store for me as to my health. If it warrants my returning, I am determined to do so and put at your disposal whatever I have left of strength, in case you still care to make use of it; if I am still the useless wreck I am at present, I have not the faintest idea what I shall conclude to do.

This being the situation I have determined to do already now what for years I have been contemplating to do at the close of my professorial career. I offer to you and the Board of Trustees my library as a donation to the University, attaching to the gift two conditions. The first and principal one I feel compelled to make in the interest of the University. It is this. In case I should return and resume part of my professorial work, I want the privilege of withdrawing those of the donated books which I need for my courses – they would not form a very large part – from the library and keep them in my lodgings so long as I thus continue to teach at the University, i.e. the books to be returned when I cease doing so or in case of my death. – The second condition is that you delegate a fellow in History or some other student under obligation to do some work for the University to assist me in cataloguing and stamping (for purposes of identification) the books, and that the University take care of their transportation and defray the expense of it. I am too weak to do this work without such assistance.

The library contains some really valuable books (or works) as for instance a whole set of Niles' Register with but one volume lacking, a complete set of the Decisions of the U. St. Supreme Court (besides a considerable number of volumes of an earlier edition), etc. and besides a good many at least

perfectly assured. I do not mean to say that there is no such man, but merely that I, with my very limited personal knowledge of American professors, cannot bethink myself of any. Therefore the best suggestion that occurs to me as to the rest of his work is that Schwill be given a chance to adequately fit himself for it. I consider his scholarly attainments sufficient to render him capable of it. But, as I said, he must "adequately fit himself for it", and that he can do only if he be to a considerable extent, if not wholly, relieved of his undergraduate work for at least a number of years. I have been very glad to hear that his course on the French revolution has given satisfaction, but I know that, being so suddenly called upon to give it, it cannot have been more than a good makeshift. To stand at least to some extent on one's own feet even as to but three or four of the principal periods of modern history – and that must be required of a professor in, directing graduate students – demands the mastering of so vast a literature, that no man of Schwill's age and with the teaching obligations that have thus far rested upon him, can have or attain it. But the fibre of the wood of which he is carved is good enough to be seasoned to the work, if you will let it. Therefore my suggestion is that you put, at least in the main, his undergraduate work upon the shoulders of some younger man, whom you could more readily find and get at a comparatively small salary, and charge Schwill with offering every year a graduate course on one of the main periods of modern history.

I sincerely congratulate you upon the satisfactory showing the summer quarter makes.

I should appreciate it all the more if you could pay us a visit, because I have no other chance of seeing you before starting for Europe. (We have engaged our passage on the "Kaiser Wilhelm II" for the 22d of September and expect to spend the winter either in Florence or Rome.) The danger to which I am exposed by having to eat anywhere outside my own household is so great that I am compelled to stay as little at hotels as I possibly can. I therefore cannot stop over at Chicago, but must hurry straight on to New York.

Yours very sincerely

W. R. Harper.

Upper Nashotah Lake, Aug. 3d, 1900.
My address: C/o Ernest R. Thompson, Oconomowoc, Wis.

THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AUG 6 36

My dear President Harper,

Your favor of July 30th reached me only last night, because it was addressed to my former city residence. We should be delighted, if you could manage to find the time to pay us a visit here. From my son you could learn by telephone how to get here in time to take dinner with us and be back in Chicago the same evening. It would not only give me great personal satisfaction to see you once more for a couple of hours before starting for Europe, but we could moreover discuss the affairs of the department much more thoroughly than it could be done in a dozen letters.

To my sincere regret there is still no possibility of my figuring in any way whatever in the arrangements concerning its imperative needs. Though being from morning till night in the open air has tanned me so deeply that I am complimented on my good looks by whosoever sees me, the summer has been a mortifying disappointment as to my health. The wearing insomnia continues, the irritating rash has not failed to reappear – according to Dr. Zeisler it is, too, due to the nerves – asthma and bronchitis have been worse than any previous summer, and a somewhat alarming chronic lack of appetite has been added to the old troubles. On account of that Dr. Vogt has urged me to come again for some time to the Sanatorium. I have refused because I am satisfied that the benefit I could possibly derive from his treatment would be surely more than outweighed by the injurious effects of having to live in close and constant contact with some sixty people – all strangers and mostly also invalids. My nervous force is at too low an ebb to stand such a strain. It is so exhausted that for the last three months I have deemed necessary not to take any daily paper, because I am no more equal to the effort of reading it.

As it is now considerably over a year that my own work at the University actually ceased, I have to such an extent drifted out of the affairs of the Department, that I can speak of them only in a general way, irrespective of all details. What it stands most in need of is in my opinion advanced instruction (I mean chiefly for graduate students) in modern (European) and in American history. It will be very difficult, if at all possible, to find one man equal to both tasks; I, at least, know of no such person. Whether and how far the money question would be an obstacle to engaging two men, I have no means of knowing. Apart from this I apprehend some difficulty will arise from the complication of this question with the other: the headship of the Department. From one point of view — in my opinion a most essential one — I should regret to see the headship conferred upon the specialist for American history, whoever the man be. With the tendencies prevailing among our people at large, our students forming by no means an exception, an almost inevitable consequence of this would be a considerable falling back into the old notion that all an American needs to know of history is the history of his own country. I have seen one of my principal tasks in contending myself and stimulating all the members of the Department to contend against this narrow and humiliating notion. It has been my ardent hope that the foremost University of the great West would be largely instrumental in leading the whole country out of this provincialism and putting it on the high plane on which it ought to stand as a civilized nation inferior to no other. And I am firmly convinced that to do so would ultimately prove to be also the best paying policy as to the number of students that are attracted to the University. I am far from denying that in a way American history ought to be accorded a privileged position because we are an American University. Still, if we want to be a real University worthy of a great nation we must train historians, and not merely drill specialists for a very limited field, which itself can be properly understood only if one rises to the conception of its being but one integral part of one vast organic whole.

Leaving now the question of the headship aside and assuming that two new men have to be engaged, I repeat my former recommendation that you try to get Dr. H. Bancroft for the chair of American history. So far as I am informed all critics have fully corroborated what I ventured to predict to you of his biography of Seward. I, besides, consider him capable of working himself gradually so far into general modern history that, in the course of years, he could satisfactorily give part of the necessary advanced courses in it, and in negotiating with him I should at least try to make it obligatory to him to do so. This suggestion is caused by my failing to know any American professor of whose competence to do the whole work (modern history) I should feel

, August 16,1900.

My Dear Mr.vonHolst:-

I have your letter of August 3rd and thank you very much indeed for the very full statemen, which you have given me. I can assure you that it would give me great pleasure to pay you a visit and if it is possible to do so I shall try to arrange a day. If anything comes up to prevent it, I beg you to let me know the hour you will reach the city when you pass through in order that then I may at least have a grasp of your hand before you leave the country. I have noted with great interest your suggestions and have asked Mr.Terry to write to Dr.Bancroft to make some inquiries. I think that we have a very serious problem before us,- but I am sure that in the end it will be satisfactorily solved. I have read with great satisfaction what you say concerning Schwill, and I will try to carry out your suggestion to give him opportunity to work.

Thanking you very heartily and hoping to see you, I remain

Yours very truly,

Freiburg, Baden.
Oberrheinische Bank.
July 3, 1901

My dear President Harper,

My father wants me to thank you most sincerely for your kind letter of July 3, and your expressions of sympathy for his health.

He is still at the Diakonissenhaus, and we do not yet know how soon he will be able to leave it. The doctor wants to make a trial of having him here with us, as the immediate surroundings at the hospital (all the dangerously ill and sometimes dying people) are very wearing on anyone in his nervous condition. But how soon that will

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My parents and my brother join me in sending best regards to yourself and the ladies.

With best wishes for you and yours, believe me

Sincerely yours

Mary A. Hoyt.

be, we cannot tell.
My father has gained some in weight and is permitted to walk a little, but otherwise there is no change in his condition. His insomnia is still as bad as ever and there are always again relapses in his stomach trouble.
My brother wrote you some weeks ago - I wrote exclusively about my father's condition and I suppose you have received his letter by this time. Next week he is to leave us to begin his professional travels, seeing part of Germany and England this summer, and being either in France or Italy during the winter.
My mother is not very strong either and we are all fighting for some cooler weather.
We last heard through Prof. Laughlin about the decennial celebration and about the success it has been and were very glad about this good news.
You will be very glad to have Irvs. He arrived and all your family with you again; it must have been a lovely time for you. But I hope they enjoyed their stay abroad and have all been well.

August 16th, 1901.

Miss Mary von Holst,

Lorettostrasse 6, Freiburg, Baden, Germany.

My dear Miss von Holst:

I have your letter of the thirtieth ultimo and send by this mail another copy of the Decennial Record. I hope that it will reach you safely, and I trust that when you receive this letter your father may be better.

Very truly yours,

August 16th, 1901.

Miss Mary von Holst,

Loretto Strasse 6, Freiburg, Baden, Germany.

My dear Miss von Holst:

I have your letter of the thirtieth ultimo and send by this mail another copy of the Centennial Record. I hope that it will reach you safely, and I trust that when you receive this letter your father may be better.

Very truly yours,

August 16th, 1901.

Lorettostrasse 6.
Freiburg, Baden.
July 30, 1901.

Dear President Harper,

Please pardon me for taking your time and asking you for a favor.
This morning the post-man brought some printed matter and as there was so very much postage to be paid on it, I sent it back, thinking that some magazine had sent my father some unimportant matter. Only much later it occurred to me that it probably was the publication of the Decennial Exercises at the University which you so kindly promised to send my father.

I cannot tell you how sorry I am to have made such an absurd mistake. We all, and especially my father, would

regret very much indeed not being able to learn something more about the Decennial Speeches and festivities. If it is therefore not asking too much of you, we should be very grateful to you, if you would kindly ask your secretary to mail us another copy. I enclose 15 cents in stamps and would beg you to have it all put on the envelope, as they allow very little weight for sealed matter and are very particular in Germany. (They allow only ½ ounce for 5 cents.) Hoping you will forgive my great blunder and the trouble I am causing you, believe me, with kindest regards from my palate

Very sincerely yours
Mary v. Holst

August 16th, 1902.

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London, Sept. 12. 1901.

My dear President Harper,

Allow me to thank you for your last letter to me. I was very glad to hear that you and your family were well. You will certainly rejoice to have your family with you again after so long a time of separation. I am very sorry not to have been able to see Mrs. and Miss Harper on the continent.

In regard to my fathers health I cannot say much that is new. He is having his ups and downs. For awhile he gained at home, but then again he lost in weight. The physician had to put him for a time quite to bed again. Now he is up and around again, but must exercise the utmost care, even the least exertion is forbidden him.

He may walk a minimum only every day. His sleeplessness has not improved either. So you see, thus far positive results towards the betterment of his condition have hardly been obtained. But one must have patience and I still hope that time may bring about a change for the better.

Everybody here is shocked and grieved at the dastardly attempt on President McKinleys life. What only must have been the excitement in America! Happily the consoling feature is, that the President, from the latest reports, will recover entirely.

After traveling about in Germany for six weeks I came here five days ago. To hear english on all sides after so many months, made me feel quite at home. I shall start in a few days on my trip through rural England and shall travel mostly on my wheel. Towards the end of my trip I expect to be some time in Oxford to study the buildings there. As I do not know anybody in Oxford, I take the liberty to ask you, whether you could send me a card with a line to Prof. Driver, so that I would not have any difficulty about studying and sketching in Oxford. If it is not asking too much of you, I should be ever so much obliged to you for your kindness.

I hope that the new buildings at the University are progressing well. It will be very interesting to me to see them built on my return, after having worked on them so much and having studied the Universities and their buildings in England.

Please remember me kindly to Mrs. and Miss Harper and believe me

Very respectfully yours,

Hermann V. von Holst

c/o Union Bank of London, Ltd.
2 Princes St.
Mansion House. London.

New Haven, Nov. 3. 1901.

My dear President Harper –

Pardon me for not writing ere this to thank you for your letter of September 24th, enclosing a note of introduction to Prof. Driver. I am very much obliged to you for both letters and for taking the time to send them at once. I was visiting Mr. Edwin A. Abbey at his country place in Fairford, Gloucestershire, and stopped again at Oxford for five days on my way to London. Prof. Driver was very kind to me and granted me all the privileges I asked for. At the end of my European trip I shall stop again at Oxford for further study. Tomorrow I sail for France; I leave England with regret, as I have thoroughly enjoyed the

country and its people. I was very much surprised to see and hear on all sides the universal and genuine expressions of regret and sympathy at the death of our President. On the day of the funeral the English people mourned with the American people not like a different nation, but like brothers. In all churches funeral services were held.

I have comparatively good news of my fathers state of health, although he suffers now already, at the beginning of the winter season, from his bronchial troubles. My mother and sister are fairly well.

I hope that you and your family are enjoying the best of health. Please remember me very kindly to Mrs. and Miss Harper.

Thanking you again for your kindness

believe me Faithfully yours,

Hermann Von Holst

Jan.31st, 1902.

My dear Mr. von Holst:-

I am in receipt of your letter of January fourteenth and am very much obliged to you for the full information which you give me concerningyour father. I regret exceedingly to hear that he is not making the progress we had hoped. I wish very much indeed that he were back again in this country. I am inclined to think that it would be as well for him here as anywhere else. I hope that you will keep me informed as to his condition.

Yours very truly,

Jan. 23rd, 1902.

My dear Mr. von Holst:-

I am in receipt of your letter of January fourteenth and am very much obliged to you for the full information which you give me concerningyour father. I regret exceedingly to hear that he is not making the progress we had hoped. I wish very much indeed that he were back again in this country. I am inclined to think that it would be as well for him here as anywhere else. I hope that you will keep me informed as to his condition.

Yours very truly,

very best wishes for a happy New Year.

Very truly yours

Hermann V. von Holst

Paris, Jan. 14. 1902.
5 Rue Léopold Robert
4ème Etage.

My dear President Harper,

a few days ago I returned from a two weeks visit with my parents in Freiburg. I wanted, in the first place, to spend the holidays with them, and in the second place, see how father's condition was, especially as in the last few weeks reports had not been good. Besides his chronic nervous, stomach and asthmatic troubles, the physician declared after examining him that he had 'Lungenspitzenkatarrh'. This form of catarrh very often results in inflammation of the lungs. Happily it has not spread thus far as yet. I am sorry to say that I found father worse than I expected, not as regards his stomach troubles, but as to his general nervous condition. Sleep is practically impossible without the aid of sleeping drugs and his

nerves are in a very high tension all the time. But above all he is more discouraged than ever and at times this discouragement finds expression in the most pessimistic and worrying utterances. In other words, he feels that he is loosing ground constantly, step by step, that his general debility increases and his vitality decreases. Possibly the climate in Freiburg is not the right one, but places with milder climates have other disadvantages, for instance, the Riviera with its ever present dust would be bad for his kind of asthmatic and lung troubles.

I tried to cheer him up and make him think that he was not getting worse, but at the same time I could see, that he was much weaker than a year and a half ago. If he walks very slowly for a few minutes only, he is tired out and short of breath. His troubles are so many and so complicated one does not know what to do.

In the spring I shall go again to Freiburg and shall observe him then more. It is a sad report I am giving you, but, Heaven knows, I wish I could deceive myself into believing that he was getting better instead of worse.

A few days ago I happened to meet Mr. Barnes, a classmate of mine, who graduated also in '93 at the University, at a Restaurant here in Paris. I recognized him in spite of the fact of not having seen him since our graduation. He is a physician and is studying surgery in Europe.

I am enjoying Paris and my work here very much and expect to get a great deal of good out of my stay here.

In the spring I shall write you again to inform you of Father's condition and only hope I shall be able to give a better account then.

Please remember me very kindly to Mrs. Harper and your daughter. Please convey to them and accept yourself my

May 28th, 1903.

Mr. Hermann V von Holst,

Cd. Hotel des Ecoles, 15 Rue Delambre, Paris.

My dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of May 12th and am very glad indeed to hear from you. I had already learned of the sad condition of your father. I am writing him.

I note what you say concerning the building of the French school. As a matter of fact, nothing has yet been done in reference to this. I do not imagine that there is any liklihood that much will be done in the near future. I shall, however, keep your request in mind.

It may be of interest to you to know that Mrs. Harper and Samuel are in Paris. Their address is 28 rue Madame.

Yours very truly,

May 28th, 1903.

Mr. Hermann V von Holst,

Ot. Hotel des Ecoles, 13 Rue Delambre, Paris.

My dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of May 18th and am very glad indeed to hear from you. I had already learned of the sad condition of your father. I am writing him.

I note what you say concerning the building of the French school. As a matter of fact, nothing has yet been done in reference to this. I do not imagine that there is any likelihood that much will be done in the near future. I shall, however, keep your request in mind.

It may be of interest to you to know that Mrs. Harper and Samuel are in Paris. Their address is 28 rue Madame.

Yours very truly,

Paris, May 12. 1903.

(21)

My dear President Harper,

A few days ago I returned from Freiburg where I spent two weeks in order to see for myself what the real condition of my fathers health was. I expect that you have learnt through Mr. Priessing and Prof. Laughlin of the progress the various ills of father had made during the past months. I found fathers vitality very much reduced from what it had been 2 months ago. The unfortunately bad spring is not conducive to bettering his condition. When, finally, warm, sunshiny weather does set in, I hope that he may have a little letup in his sufferings. A thorough examination a few days ago showed, that the catarrh of the lungs had spread over all the bronchial tubes,

showing that the trouble with the respiratory organs is getting steadily worse. The physicians are at a loss to know how to bring him relief and prospects for the future are very dark. It means a continual long suffering which no one can realize who has not seen him through the day and night as I have.

Through Mr. Pruessing I learnt that you were at the head of the project for the establishment of a school for Frenchmen to study American methods of business, science in all its branches, etc. Aside from the personal question I am very much interested in the project and hope that the building put up for that purpose will combine the maximum of practicability, simplicity of arrangement and beauty of design possible, which would be the first requisite for the success of the school.

I am studying in Paris under one of the most advanced and most enlightened architects of the day, Mr. Umbdenstock. He is the government architect for the French pavillon and exhibit at the St Louis Exposition and will go to the United States next spring. He has had important work at the Paris Worlds Fair, is Professor at the Ecole Polytechnique, is connected with the Ecole des Beaux arts, besides he is one of the strongest practicing architects here. When he comes to Chicago I would like to have him meet you, if agreeable to you. He is, besides an artist architect, a man with the most practical ideas for modern requirements and would surely have many valuable suggestions to make.

Mr. Umbdenstock is turning out many an engineer and architect here in France and knows what

the Frenchmen need most to learn of America; besides, he is thoroughly American in his sympathies and keeps in touch with the progress of our country.

When the question of the choice of architect for the building comes up, would you kindly give Mr. Umbdenstock and myself your consideration. I expect to be back in Chicago in the late fall. Until then I shall stay in Paris continuing my studies under Mr. Umbdenstock.

I hope I did not intrude too much upon you in this matter.

Please give my kindest remembrances to Mrs. Harper and Miss Harper. Believe me

Very sincerly yours

Hermann V. von Holst

Gd. Hôtel des Ecoles
15 Rue Delambre
Paris.

Paris, June 11th, 1903.

My dear President Harper,

I wish to thank you for your letter of May 28th, which I received last Sunday morning. In the afternoon of the same day I called on Mrs. Harper and had a most enjoyable visit with her. I found her looking very well indeed. I was sorry not to have seen your son, but hope to see him while he is still here. I heard with great interest the news of the University people and of the events & progress at the University.

I hope that you will soon be

able to take the vacation which Mrs Harper assured me you were much in need of. She mentioned that you possibly would come to Europe for it.

Yours very truly,

H. V. von Holst

15 Rue Delambre.
Paris.

Freiburg Aug 17th 1903.

My dear President Harper:-

My mother wishes me to express her thanks to you for your letter of Aug 14th which arrived this morning and hopes that you will pardon her for not answering it herself. But she is quite tired out and has so much to do that she asked me to write in her stead.

We all are very sorry that you have not as yet been able to find the necessary rest, but hope that you will be able to stay long enough in the quiet atmosphere of Europe ~~so in order to~~ recover the faculty of sleeping.

We hope very much indeed that you will be able to come to Freiburg. Father's condition is very

bad and his constant sufferings have reduced his strength to a minimum. Some days are worse than others, so that one cannot say for certain whether you could see him. But he wants me to say that if at all possible to him and you be here, he would see you. A few days ago, before we knew of your presence in Europe, he told me that he would have liked to have seen you so much once more and to hear of the University and your plans for the future.

Though the doctor says that he cannot give any definite opinion as to how long father may live, still he declares that years he cannot live anymore, but whether it be 3, 5, 10 months or more he could not tell, because something new might develop at any time and that the body could not withstand.

In regard to the matter of my father's portrait I wish to say that we saw it here last Saturday and is on its way to Chicago. The artist is Prof. Marr of Munich. He evidently supposed that the portrait was due in Chicago earlier than your letter indicates. At all events he had sent off the portrait before we had seen anything of it and only our earnest entreaties induced him to have it stopped on the way I sent to Freiburg. We are very sorry that we did not know

of your presence in Karlsbad, so that arrangements could have been made for you to see it; you might have had suggestions to make to the artist. Of course we did not feel free to criticize the portrait towards the artist in any way especially as he never ~~asked~~ came to Freiburg ~~for suggestions~~ during the progress of the work & ~~But he all~~ though he had promised to send us photographs of the portrait during its progress, for some reason he did not do so. But we all feel that the portrait will be a disappointment to those that knew my father better.

My parents and sister send their best wishes & highest regards to you & Mrs Harper in which I join

Yours very sincerely

Hermann von Holst.

Freiburg, Oct. 17, 1903.
Günterstalstr. 14.

My dear President Harper,

My husband begs me to give you his heartiest greetings and most sincere thanks for the kindly telegram you sent him on the occasion of the presentation of his portrait to the University. The knowledge of the kindly feelings you all entertain towards him throws a ray of light on the darkness of his present existence. For he has grown much weaker since you were here and his sufferings grow ever harder to

bear. His asthma has increased more and more and he has often to sit up for hours at a time during the night. At such times even the sleeping powders fail to exert their influence on his system. Morphine is the only thing that can quiet him for a while.

We can not deceive ourselves as to his condition, although the thought of losing him is unbearable, and the physicians do their utmost to alleviate his great suffering and to preserve his life to us. But we have been forced to again reduce the quantity of food given him and there is very little reserve strength to keep him up.

Hermann has left Paris to be here near his father. It is my husband's greatest wish to have him at his side during his remaining days and I hope and believe that Hermann will fulfill this desire.

Before me that neither my husband nor anyone of us will ever forget the debt of gratitude we owe to you and all of my

husband's friends in Chicago. To all of you my husband sends thanks and greetings.

With kindest regards to your entire family and all old friends from all of us,

Ever gratefully yours,

Isabelle von Holst.

November 12th, 1903.

Professor H. E. von Holst,

Freiburg in Baden, Germany.

My dear Mr. von Holst:-

I have delayed writing in order that the copy of the Record containing the proceedings of the presentation of the portrait might first be in your hands. I wish from the bottom of my heart that you could have heard the words as they were spoken, and the tokens of living interest in you and in the work which you have done. The assembly was a large one. It was a very representative assembly, being made up of students as well as members of the University. The presence of the Ambassador to Germany gave it international coloring. The addresses were cordially received.

I write again to express the hope that your sufferings may not have increased, and that you may still have a long time in this world. I shall never forget the interview and appreciate more than I can tell you your kindness in granting me this last privilege.

Nothing of importance has occurred at the University this autumn. The new buildings are very beautiful and we find that they are well adapted to the purposes for which they were constructed. We have just been visited by the members of the Moseley British Educational

November 18th, 1909.

Professor H. T. van Holst,

Freiburg-in-Baden, Germany.

My dear Mr. van Holst:-

I have delayed writing in order that
the copy of the Record containing the proceedings of the presentation
of the portrait might first be in your hands. I wish from the bottom
of my heart that you could have heard the words as they were spoken,
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adapted to the purposes for which they were constructed. We have
just been visited by the members of the Yearly British Educational

Commission, whose purpose it has been to study our educational work in the city with a view to ascertaining the connection between it and the success that has attended American effort in so many lines.

Hoping to receive word from you again through Mrs. von Holst, I remain

Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper

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the city with a view to ascertaining the connection between it and
the success that has attended American effort in so many lines.

Hoping to receive word from you again through Mrs. Van Hoist,

I remain

Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper

Freiburg, Jan. 29, '04.
Sautersthalerstr. 14.

My dear President Harper,

Little did we think that we should be bereaved so soon. We saw my husband's great suffering and his physicians sealed he could not live long, but ~~that~~ him still had a tough constitution, a so that he lingered on and on. But in November his faculties be- gan to fail and in December he very seldom spoke to us. On Christmas Eve we had lit our little tree and begged him to open his eyes just for a moment to look at it. He did so, but closed them once again and we can not know whether he then realized what it was. We could not persuade him to even glance at our gifts for him,

mostly floral offerings, because he loved flowers, as well as all nature so dear. But although he could not speak, he liked us to press his hands and hold them for hours at a time. And he liked to lean his head on our shoulders. He was hardly ever impatient and ever considerate of others, as long as he was able to speak. He often spoke of his own shortcomings and wished he had led a better life. His nurse was at first afraid of the task she had undertaken but even she learned to love him. Every day he was carried from his bed to a comfortable lounge in our dining-room where he lay about four hours every afternoon. For many months he had been too weak to walk even with support on both sides. We saw him growing gradually weaker but how can one give up hope to the very last? In the night from Saturday to Tuesday before his death, my son noticed a change. Fever set in and his breathing changed. Prof. Schüle feared pneumonia and by Tuesday told us that it was that dreaded disease, only he never believed the end to be so near. Wednesday at about three P.M. he suddenly ceased breathing and the heart seemed to stand still. Hermann and the nurse raised his arms high, while I opened the window and Mathy hastened to telephone for the Dr. But he was on his way to us and met her just at our house. The pulse beat again but

very faintly, but no doctor could help him. I begged him to do something, but there was no help. He breathed a while more and more faintly, so that we hardly knew when he was gone. The Dr. staid here a long time, but our dear one could not be brought back to us. We know theoretically that we ought not to wish him back, for even our doctor said he had hardly ever seen such suffering and so prolonged. For almost seven months he was fed entirely through the stomach pump and for weeks, the Professor had to come here three times a day, because my poor husband was too weak to introduce the pipe of the pump himself. Oh, were his sufferings so great that he

sides that his poor heart was quite worn out from all the hard work and over-exertion in his life. He could at the most have lived but a few months longer. This enlargement of the lungs dates back a very long time, probably 12 years back, when he had that severe attack of Pneumonia. He ought to have taken better care of himself, but he never thought of himself, especially if he believed he could help others. You know he insisted upon speaking three hours in succession every Monday at the University, because they wanted Friday, Saturday uninterrupted for the writing and revising of his lectures and for other literary work. Even on Sunday he never gave himself complete rest. Often when he had finished on those Mondays and felt quite exhausted Mr. Webster, that dear of the Professors, would accompany him home on those cold winter nights over that long and windy Midway to our house and force him to speak all the way, asking him one question after another. I have never been able to forgive Mr. W. for thus imposing on my husband's kindly heart and I now know that he was greatly to blame for the progress my husband's disease made and which forced him to leave Chicago for a better climate. The autopsy showed that the stomach was perfectly healed.

The funeral took place at 3 on Jan. 22nd. The University was well represented to give every possible honor to their former member. After a very fine address by the Pastor & the Dean of the Philosophical Faculty spoke

at length in such enthusiastic terms of my husband that the whole assembly was touched. He laid down a wreath and was followed by the Rector of the University, who also spoke in the warmest terms, presenting a wreath from the Senate. Then a representative of the Liberales Forum here spoke, laying down another beautiful wreath. The Grosscherzog, Erbgrosscherzog and Prince Max of Baden had sent very warm hearted telegrams, and the Erbgrosscherzog and the First Chamberlain of the Land lay most beautiful wreaths. The Grosscherzogin and Erbgrosscherzogin sent me very kind letters. Today word has come from the Erbgrosscherzog that he would like to hear about the last days

began the Professor to let him die. The last week he seemed to be quite unconscious of all that went on around him and did not seem to understand anything said to him. Else he had groaned most of the time when awake and the Professor gave him large quantities of Morphine and sleeping powders, so as to give him as much sleep as possible. It was the most merciful thing one could do for him. I can assure you that we all did everything we could think of to alleviate his sufferings, and the doctors said before and after the autopsy that he could not have had better care, nor could he have lived so long, had he not had such good care and nursing all these years. The pneumonia and the enlargement of the lungs were the immediate cause of his death, but they found he

kind to us. We thank you most heartily for sending Prof. v. Hlenze to give my husband the last honors. He spoke ~~Record of all~~, and you will probably have a chance to read his address, if you so desire it. I enclose here the address spoken by a Freiburg Professor in the First Chamber in my husband's honor, besides the one given by Prof. Marchs of Heidelberg, one of the younger and best known German historians. It will give you an idea of what the German historians think of my husband and his work. I should like also Prof. Ameson to read this address. But Prof. Marchs did not know of the one great merit in my husband's work, that he did pioneer work for all coming historians of the U. S. Prof. Hinstedt here spoke of that, only he is not a historian.

The services in Heidelberg were very impressive. First Prof. Marchs spoke, then Prof. von Hlenze and then the Rector of the University Prof. Czerny, who had known my husband well in younger years. He spoke very warmly, said that my husband's sickness, mentioned to our children last summer, not to have flowers sent for his funeral, but expressing the wish that friends desiring to send flowers should give the money instead to a poor sick man, characterized the man. We had given expression to this wish of my husband's in the German announcements of his death. He who had suffered so long himself could write without sympathy for other sufferers.

Mr. Harris, the U. S. Consul in Mannheim, had come over for the funeral and the Vice-Consul at Heidelberg, Mr. Blayney, had asked the American students to be present. So there was quite a gathering there as well as in Freiburg.

We have left his ashes in Heidelberg, until we can decide upon their final resting-place. I know where he would most have loved to rest and some day, Hermann may speak with you of plans or rather ideas and wishes of us all.

The Doc. said he did not have any death struggle at all and even before he breathed his last, his features seemed to relax, his forehead lost its wrinkles and after death, his face assumed so peaceful an expression and appeared so noble, dignified and awe-inspiring. It retained the same

of his beloved teacher and inviting Hermann to Karlsruhe to tell him all about all. Hermann has been here with us since Oct. 14th, as it was his father's dearest wish to have him with him to the last. So, although it was in some respects a great sacrifice for him to bring, because he has to make his own life, beginning from the beginning again on his return to the U. States, still he was glad to be a comfort to his father and am glad that he is now to have the honor of meeting the Erbgrossherzog, whom he never knew, being only a boy, when the Erbgrossherzog studied and lived here.

On Saturday morning, we accompanied my husband to Heidelberg, as it was his express wish to be cremated. We were surprised to be received by friends there, who met us so

comrade, knowing all his trials and struggles and trying to share them with him. Therefore I felt so proud, when I saw that he had dedicated his French Revolution lectures to me. And now almost five years Mary and I have been mostly alone with him, caring for him and trying to make life less intolerable to him, for it was terribly hard for such an industrious & worked to lead so idle a life. In the last months especially did Mary work wonders, always ready to do everything for her father and being at the same time my great support in every respect. For I have grown very old and have lost my old elasticity so that I do not know what time will finally become of Mary and me. They give me sleeping powders but still I can not sleep properly. My mind is so full of my husband that sleep is forced away.

As soon as everything here is arranged Hermann returns to America, but it is hardly possible that he finds work to keep him in the East for a while. Then the Professor says Mary must take me somewhere, probably further South, perhaps even to a Sanatorium. Now I feel as if I could make no plans and do nothing, except to try to get away from Freiburg.

This is the only letter I have written yet. The children have written to other friends, but I felt I owed it to you to write myself and in detail. I wanted you to know all the particulars of his death and I hope I have not been too profuse or taken up your valuable time too much.

Please give our heartiest greetings to Mrs. Harper and your daughter. Please remember us very kindly to Mr. & Mrs. Ryerson and Mr. & Mrs. Hutchinson,

[illegible] thank them most heartily for all their great kindness to my poor husband.

My children join me in expressions of deepest gratitude to yourself.

Very sincerely yours,

Isabelle von Holst.

expression, when his coffin was closed for the last time Friday evening.

Your so kind cablegram was the first message of condolence to reach us, Thursday morning early. Need I tell you how grateful we feel to you, not only for that, but for all the many, many acts and proofs of kindness, consideration and generosity shown to my dear husband, as well as ourselves. And you know how grateful he always felt towards you and what a comfort to him your last visit to him was. That day was the last time he could ever again speak more than a few words at a time.

To me it seems almost as if I had lost all hold on life, in spite of my two good children, who care for me as tenderly as possible. I can not become reigned to a life without my husband, for I was also his friend and good

August 8, 1905.

Mrs. Isabelle Von Holst,

Oconomowoc, Wis.

My dear Mrs. von Holst:-

I wish to thank you for your kind words of August 2nd. We appreciate very much the fact that you have thought of us at this time.

It gives me great pleasure to learn that you have improved and that you are feeling better.

We shall all be glad to see you when you come back to Chicago. Mrs. Harper andI are just leaving for a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Rockefeller in Cleveland.

Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper

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Yours very truly,

W. R. Harper

Oconomowoc, Aug. 2, 1905.

My dear President Harper,

Permit me to express to you and Mrs. Harper our heartfelt sympathy for the loss of your revered father. Your sorrow must be very great, although you will not grudge him his well-deserved rest. But it will be a comfort to you that you could have him in your own home and minister to him in his last hours.

August 8, 1903.

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We appreciate very much
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W. R. Harper

I trust you are steadily improving and that Mrs. Harper is feeling quite well.

I am glad for your sake that the summer had not been so unbearable as it often was and I hope you did not suffer too much during those exceedingly hot days.

We are enjoying the beautiful country here. As there are woods all around us and the house is surrounded by trees, we have never really suffered from the heat. I am being treated for rheumatism and the Dr. says I look much better than when I came. We shall probably stay here until about the end of September as the air is so invigorating. Hermann visits us now and then.

Hoping that you may all have a good summer and with kindest greetings from us both.

Ever gratefully yours
Isabelle von Holst.

HOTEL WINDERMERE
CORNELL AVE & 56TH ST
Chicago.
Charles G. Moore, Mgr.

Mrs. Dane Holst

Dec. 19, 1906.

My dear Mr. Chandler

We met you so unexpectedly today and there too, I did not like to keep you long enough to ask you several things.

You mentioned that you might leave the city for a few days, but did not say where. I am inviting some friends for dinner on Thursday, Dec. 20th at half past six o'clock. Shall you be here then and would you give us the pleasure of your company?

My daughter was not successful in securing the musician at first thought of and I fear Mr. Lehmann

HOTEL WINDERMERE
CORNELL AVE & 56TH ST
Chicago.
Charles G. Moore, Mgr.

has not yet found anyone else. So if Arnold Hall could be had for the evening of Jan. 26th, all believe it would be wiser to postpone the concert until then. Besides, my daughter feels that her voice is not yet in practice since her illness, and of course a great deal of practicing will be absolutely necessary.

Mr. Lubin comes here tomorrow to practice with my daughter. If it would not give you too much trouble to answer by telephone up to two o'clock it would save us a good deal of time.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness and hoping that you can be with us on the 28th,

Sincerely yours,

Isabelle von Holst.

Von Holst

Dec. 20, 1905.

Mrs. Isabelle von Holst,

Hotel Windermere,

Chicago.

Dear Mrs. von Holst:-

Professor Terry informs me of your very gracious gift to the University in the shape of a photograph of Professor von Holst for the seminar room of the Department of History. I beg to express the cordial appreciation of the University and the assurance that the portrait of Professor von Holst will always be preserved among the treasures of the institution and will unquestionably be an inspiration to students of historical research. The gift will be recorded by the Secretary of the Board of Trustees and announced in the University Record for January in connection with the Convocation statement.

Very truly yours,

Dec. 30, 1908.

Mrs. Isabelle von Holst,

Hotel Windermere,

Chicago.

Dear Mrs. von Holst:-

Professor Terry informs me of your very gracious gift to the University in the shape of a photograph of Professor von Holst for the seminar room of the Department of History. I beg to express the cordial appreciation of the University and the assurance that the portrait of Professor von Holst will always be preserved among the treasures of the institution and will unquestionably be an inspiration to students of historical research. The gift will be recorded by the Secretary of the Board of Trustees and announced in the University Record for January in connection with the Convocation statement.

Very truly yours,

Nov. 17, 1894

Budget

To the President, Dr. W. R. Harper.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your favor of the 10th inst. I beg to state:
In the academical college the number of students has increased so much that Prof. Fletcher has had to divide his class (mediæval history) into two sections and thus do double work. History being also obligatory for academical college students the same condition of things will necessarily prevail next year as to this branch of instruction. Besides a further increase in the number of academical college students is to be expected with certainty. The Teaching force of the Historical Department for this part of its work will therefore no longer suffice. Moreover Prof. Fletcher intends to apply for leave of absence from next October for a year or longer, and the reappointment of Mr. Conger cannot be recommended by me as he, according to various reports I have received, has rather signally failed to give satisfaction to the students. For these reasons I beg to suggest that, though Dr. Schwill, as I understand, is to return in the fall, Mr. Catterall be reappointed and Mr. J. W. Thompson appointed assistant Dr. Schwill I recommend for promotion to an instructorship. Not knowing whether in Dr. Sheparson's case a re-appointment is required, I beg to state that his work in the United States history at the University proper ought to be continued in the docentship of Dr. Hourwich I should wish to see discontinued so far as the Historical Department is concerned. I am not informed, whether he has had any class; but the part he has chosen to take in the politics of the day, renders it, in my opinion, undesirable to continue his name among the historical Teaching Staff. As to Dr. Wirth, fairness seems still to require a suspension of judgment as to his Teaching abilities. There is, to my knowledge, no reason to object to his continuing to be a docent.

In the University College some additional courses are unquestionably very desirable and may soon become strictly necessary. Prof. Terry is willing, in addition to his other work, to offer some of these courses, provided he can be allowed extra pay for them. From one point of view I can heartily recommend such an arrangement: the University would be sure that the work is well done and it would be done at less expense than if a new member, competent to do this kind of work, were added to the staff. From another point of view, however, I cannot [illegible]

arrangement in the interest either of Prof Terry or of the University. I must repeat what I stated to you a year ago: I think it highly desirable that he be enabled to devote all the time he can spare from his regular work to research with a view to publication, for the reason that the Staff should not be merely a good instructor, but also a scholar known to the outside world; and he is, in my opinion, capable of becoming that, if he have the necessary time. He is desirous to do so, but protests that, his salary not covering his expenses, he must needs devote his spare time to earning money in some other way.

As to graduate work the Professors of the Department are unanimously of opinion that, though an increase of the Staff be in itself desirable, the interests of the Department and, consequently, of the University, would be at present better served by an extra appropriation for the purchase of books. We urgently request that an effort be made in this direction by the Hon. Board of Trustees at the first opportunity. Our needs in this respect are probably greater than those of any other department and we therefore suffer more than any other from the fact that the instructors of the University of Chicago have no academical ancestors, who have left them an heritage in the shape of a literary outfit. We will be pardoned for mentioning in support of our request that, to the best of our knowledge, the Historical Department is presently, next to the English, the most numerous in the University.

This fact, we hope, will also serve to convince the Hon. Board of Trustees of the equity of our further request that the half of the senior fellowship, which we have resigned in favor of the Department of Political Science, be restored to us at the first opportunity. We do not mean that the latter Department be deprived of what has been given to it, but request that, as soon as some money becomes available for additional fellowships, to us be allotted half a senior fellowship, so that we have instead of one senior and three junior fellowships, as at present, two seniors and four junior fellowships.

As to the distribution of vacations. It is not possible at this early date to make definite and detailed statements. It is, however, believed that it will suffice to say that care will be taken not to have – apart from the summer quarter – more than one instructor at the same time absent. For the next summer quarter ample provision will be made. Professors Terry and Thatcher expect to teach the whole quarter, and, pursuant to the wish expressed by you, I shall – unless my health fail me completely – offer a lecture and a seminary course

for the first term. The younger members of the staff could not be asked about their intentions, because the question of their re-appointment, resp. appointment, has to be determined, before any arrangements can be made with them.

Yours
very respectfully
H. Von Holst.

Nov. 17. 1894.

7 Nov

PERSONAL Chicago, May 4, 1918

Dear Mr. Insull:

Mr. Hermann von Holst, whom you know, has asked me to say something to you about his status. His father was our first Professor of History in the University of Chicago, and of course I knew him, and know the family quite well.

Professor von Holst was a native of the Baltic provinces of Russia and of German descent, as many of those people are. He was educated in Russia, afterwards receiving a degree at Heidelberg, and then came to the United States soon after the Civil War, where he resided for some five years, being employed as a newspaper correspondent. At that time he was a Russian subject. During this period he married an American woman, a graduate of Vassar College, of New England birth and ancestry. Being then appointed to a professorship in the University of Strassburg, he returned to Germany with

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his wife and lived there for a number of years, removing afterwards to the University of Freiburg in Baden. During that period he became naturalized as a German subject, and during the same period his two children were born, the daughter in Strassburg, and the son, the young man in question, in Freiburg. In 1892 he brought his family to Chicago, and settled here, later becoming naturalized. The son was seventeen when he reached this country in '92, and became naturalized himself after a five-year period, at the age of twenty-two. The daughter after her father's death returned to the old home in Freiburg in Baden, and there married an Austrian, since deceased. The son took up the profession of architecture in this city, and married an American girl of English ancestry.

In my opinion Hermann is not pro-German. He and his wife, both I fancy, were pacifists and opposed to all war, and doubtless somewhat erratic in their judgment. He has no special liking for Germans or Germany. Indeed, one prevailing influence of his father in coming to this country was to get the boy away from service in the German Army. Hermann tells me that he has changed his own point of view within the last year; that he realizes the necessity of

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carrying on the war on our part to a conclusion. He has subscribed for the third Liberty Loan. He says he did not subscribe for the first Liberty Loan because he felt that he could render a larger service by putting what little capital he had saved into land on which he could raise foodstuffs. This is what he is trying to do now. I may add that he has lost two cousins, sons of his father's brother, who were officers in the Russian Army and were killed in battle, as I understand it, fighting against the Germans.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Samuel Insull
State Council of National Defense
120 W. Adams St., Chicago

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State Council of National Defense
120 W. Adams St., Chicago

7

Freiburg i/B. Lorettostr. 43.
17. Aug. 1914.

Sehr geehrter Herr Präsident,

Sie werden es begreiflich finden, dass man in diesen Kriegszeiten wünscht, man möchte alle Briefe, die Deutschland verlassen in deutscher Sprache schreiben. X Auch dürfen sie nicht geschlossen werden. England's Tyrannei und Eroberungssucht hat sich nicht gebessert. Mit Russland und Frankreich vereint, hat es schon lange den Krieg gegen Deutschland und Oesterreich geplant. Die Beweise dafür kommen jetzt nach und nach heraus. Ich kann Ihnen mein Ehrenwort geben, dass dieser unselige Krieg Deutschland aufgezwungen worden

X Es wurden von deutsch gesinnten Briefe zurückgehalten.

ist. Aber damit America ja nicht die Wahrheit erfahre, hat England alle Cabellinien zerschnitten, auch sodass der ganze am Kriege ganz unbeteiligten Staaten. Für einen rechtlich denkenden Menschen ist ein solches Verfahren unerträglich. Darüber habe ich schon an Ed. Oswald Gaitison Villard von "The N. Y. Evening Post" geschrieben und ihm Zeitungen mit der wahren Geschichte des Krieges zugeschickt. Hoffentlich gelangen sie in seine Hände. Denn alles muss über Holland mit holländischen Dampfern spedirt werden. Ich glaube, viele der Americaner, die jetzt alles miterlebt haben, und nach und nach wieder in die Heimat zurückkehren werden auch mithelfen die Wahrheit über die Begebenheiten in Europa zu verbreiten. Sie werden eine lange Reise vor sich haben, und auch alle Postsendungen werden sehr viel Zeit brauchen, bis sie an ihren bestimmten Ort gelangen. Wir hier in Deutschland bekommen gar keine Nachricht aus America. Seit länger als drei Wochen habe ich nichts von Hermann gehört.

Es ist wohl eine schwere Zeit, aber es ist eine grosse, erhebende Zeit. Ich bin dankbar, sie miterleben zu dürfen. Die Feinde hatten darauf gerechnet, dass beim Ausbruch eines Krieges, die verschiedenen Nationen in Deutschland, sowie die verschiedenen Stämme in Oesterreich sofort in Hader und Streit ausbrechen würden, und

viel Geld.

ähnlich sollten die Feinde leichtes Spiel haben. Statt dessen, erkannten alle wie es um ihr Vaterland stand: dass sie um ihre wirkliche Existenz, um Frau und Kind kämpfen müssten. Es ist eine solche Begeisterung, Opferwilligkeit und Liebe zum Vaterland überall die wirklich ergreifend sind. Nicht nur die Männer aller Stände, sondern auch die Frauen, junge Mädchen und Kinder arbeiten rastlos, um zu helfen wo es Not tut. Auch wir helfen nach Kräften. Ich las von einer Sammlung im New York Herald und das rote Kreuz. Wird man nicht auch in Chicago eine Sammlung veranstalten? Das rote Kreuz braucht viel Geld, um all den Verwundeten jetzige Pflege geben zu können. Bis jetzt haben Deutschland und Oesterreich nur Siege. Aber es gibt doch Verwundete und die gefangenen Franzosen kommen verhungert und fast zerfressen an, manche mit fürchterlichen Lachkrämpfen. Da staunt man

Es wäre ein so großes Liebeswerk, wenn Sie und Ihre Frau Gemahlin sich dieser Sache annehmen könnten. Ich bin sicher, nicht umsonst an Ihrer Beiden gute Herzen zu appellieren, wenn ich Sie bitte, die Organisation in die Hand zu nehmen.

Im voraus herzlichsten Dank.

Mit allen guten Wünschen und den besten Grüßen an Sie und Ihre Frau Gemahlin,

Ihre dankbare

Isabelle von Holst.

Ihre

Chicago, September 9, 1914

Dear Mrs. von Holst:-

Your letter to President Judson concerning the support of the Red Cross has been received during his absence in Japan. President Judson will return to Chicago about the fifteenth of October, when I shall put your letter before him.

In the meantime you may be interested in knowing that, while strictly preserving neutrality, the United States has been supporting the Red Cross on both sides in the present unfortunate war.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to the Presid

Mrs. Isabelle von Holst
Freiburg, Germany