January 20, 1915.

Dear Mr. Rockefeller:-

I am handing you herewith copies of correspondence connected with the founding of the University of Chicago. I have called it, "University of Chicago. Correspondence of the Founder and his Associates. 1886 - 1892, inclusive."

Let me here record how this correspondence came to be selected and what precisely it consists of. A year or two ago, in giving to Dr. Judson some reminiscences of the institution, he asked me if I would not write out my recollections, which to him were altogether new and would be so, he thought, to most of the people now connected with the institution. This was especially pertinent just now, inasmuch as the Trustees have appointed Dr. Goodspeed to be the historian of the institution and historical material would be of present importante.

Without consenting to do what Dr. Judson asked, I set about collecting together and arranging in order of dates all of the written material which I could find. I gathered together, in the first place, all the letters in Mr. Rockefeller, Senior's files, bearing upon the institution, covering a period three years previous to his first pledge and three years later. It will be seen that the drag-net was ample to gather in all the material, both before and after the founding of the institution, which could bear upon that event. I found Mr. Rockefel-

ler's files extremely rich in material and the chain of correspondence practically continuous and forming a continuous history. I then secured the files of the American Baptist Education Society, of which I was the Corresponding Secretary from 1888 to 1892 and which was the agency which actually conducted the work of founding the institution, your father being the largest contributor. All this material, covering all the letters received by me and practically all sent by me, I also arranged in order of dates. By the kindness of Dr. Goodspeed, who had access to Dr. Harper's files, I also secured copies of all Dr. Harper's correspondence which was connected with the institution during this period. Dr. Henry L. Morehouse, who was actively interested though not formally an agent in establishing the institution, also furnished me everything from his files. Dr. T. W. Goodspeed also, who first called your father's attention seriously to the importance of founding an institution at Chicago and seems to have convinced him that it was his duty to take a considerable share in bringing it about, furnished me copies of all his correspondence, both what he received and what he wrote.

These were the five agencies who had to do with actually bringing about the institution. They lived in separate cities, the work was done by correspondence, and the actual development of the embryonic institution in the minds of Mr. Rockefeller and his associates is here quite clearly portrayed.

I have caused all of this correspondence to be copied in three sets, all of which were arranged accurately in order of date. These

three sets, so arranged, are deposited, one in the files of the University of Chicago, one I herewith present to you, and the third I have kept for myself and my children. The originals of these letters are with their respective owners. All the correspondence of your father in this office has been collected by itself from the general files, and with these copies of the entire correspondence I hand you herewith the originals, gathered from wide sources in your files, for such permanent disposition as you may wish to order.

Very truly yours,

F.T.G.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Copy of letter in the Correspondence of the Founder and his Associates
Frederick T. Gates to John D. Rockefeller, Jr. January 20, 1915

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Thomas Wakefield Goodspeed, D. D. born Glens Falls, N.Y. in 1842. Studied in the Old University of Chicago '59-'62; graduated University of Rochester 1863; Rochester Theological Seminary 1866. After various Western pastorates became Secretary and financial representative of The Baptist Union Theological Seminary, then at Morgan Park, Ill. 1876 to 1889. In this relation Mr. John D. Rockefeller became a frequent benefactor of that institution, ~~whose~~ His esteem and confidence Dr. Goodspeed won and maintained from 1889 onward. Dr. Goodspeed's life history is interwoven with that of the University of Chicago. What Mr. Rockefeller thought of Dr. Goodspeed, what his associates Mr. Gates and Dr. Harper thought of him, what Dr. A. H. Strong and the Baptist Denomination, for which Dr. Strong may well be taken as spokesman, Thought of him will duly appear from time to time in the correspondence which follows. The Correspondence of Mr Rockefeller previous to 1886 has not been received by the present editor. It is sufficiently evident that the honor of being first to press upon Mr Rockefeller's attention the importance of a powerful Baptist Institution of Learning at Chicago belongs to Dr Goodspeed. How ably he did this will appear in the correspondence which follows. It was not until two and a half years later, after voluminous correspondence with Dr Goodspeed, tot Mr Rockefeller broached the matter with Dr Harper

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Editor Note

Thomas Mitchell Gallagher, D. D. born Glens Falls, N.Y. in 1862. Studied in the old University of Quebec, graduated University of Lewisburg, Pa.; honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity 1888. After serving Wesleyan churches in Vermont and Massachusetts he became Director and Financial Secretary of the Wesleyan Union Theological Seminary, also at Morgan Park, Ill. Later he was elected Dr. Gallagher's pastor at the Methodist church in Evanston, Ill. Dr. Gallagher's life history is intertwined with the history of Evanston. Dr. Gallagher's daughter married Dr. Gallagher and his successor as pastor of the Methodist church in Evanston, Rev. J. Lathing and his daughter married Dr. Gallagher's son, Rev. Mr. Lathing was also a pastor of the Methodist church in Evanston.

Dr. Gallagher was also known for his work in behalf of temperance and was known for his work as a temperance orator.

The commencement of the Northwestern University in 1876 was the occasion of a memorial to the pioneer educator, Orrington Lunt. Dr. Gallagher delivered an address on the occasion of the dedication of the Orrington Lunt Library building. Dr. Gallagher was also the author of several books on temperance, Methodist history and other subjects.

Dr. Gallagher was also a member of the Northwestern University Board of Trustees.

Dr. Gallagher's son, Rev. Mr. Lathing, was also a member of the Northwestern University Board of Trustees.

Dr. Goodspeed to Dr. Harper, February 17, 1886.

"Your favor is at hand. Nothing new has transpired this week, but I will keep you informed of all that is done. Dr. Lorimer has been absent, but I suppose there will be a meeting of the provisional Board in a few days. It is a great step in advance that the pastors have taken the matter up and are moving forward unitedly and with a definite purpose and plan. If they are dead in earnest they can accomplish much."

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Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Goodspeed: April 5th,1886.

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Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller: April 7, 1886.

"Your favor is at hand. We are gratified to receive this new evidence of your interest. Prof. Harper has been entirely open with Dr. Northrup and me in regard to the Yale College matter. They have been working to secure him for a year or more and have finally decided to establish a new professorship for him and endow it with $80,000. and are urging him to authorize them to say that he will accept the appointment. It is a very high compliment to him and we fear that he will feel that he must accept it. We have said and done all we could to hold him here, for we cannot yet spare him. His going would be a very great loss to us. Dr. Northrup says he has greater capabilities than any man he knows and feels very deeply that it would be a great calamity to have him separated from the work of the denomination and lost to its service. He thinks there is more outcome in Harper for our denominational educational work than in any other man in the country. He is now, at 30 years of age, the universally recognized leader of work in his department. He is not only a scholar, but a leader, an organizer, an administrator and is easily first and chief in all these directions. He has immense capacity for work and for bringing things to pass. He is now teaching 1000 men by correspondence. He has organized the Hebrew professors of all the Seminaries of the country and is conducting six Summer Schools of Hebrew, with three professors, many of them eminent men, working under him. We feel that our denomination cannot afford to lose such a man.

"This feeling and the present exigency have led Dr. Northrup and me to take very decided action during the past four days. We have proposed to Dr. Harper to assume the Presidency of our wrecked and ruined University and reestablish it here at Morgan Park, retaining the oversight of the Department of Hebrew in the Seminary. The suggestion has taken a strong hold on him and if he had some assurance of help he would not hesitate to do it. Dr. N. and I have felt so strongly on the matter that we arranged a meeting today with Dr. Smith of the Standard, Dr. Lorimer and Dr. Henson and laid the whole case before them. They greeted the suggestion with instant and great enthusiasm. They are the men who must take the initiative in any new movement and they will carry great weight with all our people.

"The old University property will be surrendered to the creditors, a new Board organized and a new University established. Twenty acres have been offered here at Morgan Park for a site and twenty acres additional to be sold or used as may be most useful. There is a profound interest felt by very many Western men in the reestablishment of the University. The time has come, we believe, when the hope of saving the old property has been generally given up, and when a feasible plan of reestablishing the work in a new location will be welcomed.

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"We, who are connected with the Seminary, feel that the destruction of the University would be an unspeakable calamity, that this great centre is the place above all others for building up a great and powerful University. We believe this feeling is very general and a clearcut, practicable plan, with a competent leader, would be hailed with interest by the denomination and receive liberal cooperation. We believe that it would be wise to have our college and seminary near each other and that this suburban location, 12 miles from the centre of Chicago is better than a location inside the city. The city is growing this way very rapidly and we are really now only six miles out from its thickly settled parts.

"This question of the location however is not the important one in our minds. The great thing is to save our Educational work. The circumstances seem to me to point to Dr. Harper as the providential man. Yale is pressing him for a decisive answer. They have just written urging him to accept within 20 days. We feel that matters are in very critical shape. We want to save him to our denominational work (and to the Seminary as far as possible) and we want to save our University and reestablish it. We know that he has all the qualifications to lead in this work, immense capacity for work, great abilities as a scholar, boundless courage, eminent gifts as an organizer and administrator, fitness for reaching men and securing their confidence and help and a born teacher, who can call students about him and command their love and admiration and get all the work our of them of which they are capable. He would make a live institution and in a few years crowd it with students.

"We feel tremendously in earnest in this matter. We could easily excuse ourselves and say "we are only responsible for the Seminary and others must look after the University". But we are not able to do this, and feel as great an anxiety about our University work as about the Seminary. Indeed the University is necessary to train students for us. We are getting our own work on solid ground and we cannot sit down and congratulate ourselves and see the University perish.

"I should not have thought of writing all this had not your letter come at just this time. But your expression of interest has led me to feel that I ought to state the whole case to you. I fear we are certain to lose Dr. Harper, unless he can see that by remaining here he can do this great service to the denomination. He is a man of such varied attainments and great capacity that he needs some large work like this to do. Our Seminary can no more hold him long within its limits than your first Refinery could hold you,- if you will pardon the comparison. He had an internal and irrepressible call to

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"You understand that this University is still going on. It has a good faculty and 125 students. The new things required are a new Board and a new location and a new President. Then this work can go right on next year, so that the life of this institution will continue. I think a building can be provided. If $10,000. a year for three years could be assured. Work would be at once commenced on securing an endowment. This is the plan as it now lies in our minds.

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Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Goodspeed: April 13th, 1886.

"Yours of 7th duly received. I should regret to have Mr. Harper leave the Seminary. I really do not know what to say about the University. I realize, of course, it is desirable, very, for the Seminary to have it continued.

"If it were deemed desirable, in order to hold Mr. Harper, to increase his salary, I would make a special contribution for that object, joining with others. From all I hear from you and others, should say, emphatically, we ought to keep him".

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Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller: April 22, 1886.

"Your favor came duly to hand. We appreciate your offer to join with others in adding to prof. Harper's salary. That however would not hold him here. We pay him $2,000. Yale offered him $4,000. But it is not the increased pay that draws him. I have never known a more unselfish man or one less anxious for money. It is not more money he wants. We will not therefore avail ourselves of your kind proffer.

"The University Board met yesterday and appointed a committee to confer with Dr. Harper as to the Presidency. At his request, I met them with him this afternoon. They assure him that if he will accept he will be elected.

"During the past week he has received from one to three letters from Yale representatives daily urging him to give them authority to say that he will accept the position they offer him. They have now telegraphed him to come to New York and sent him passes. He feels that he must go and see them and has gone tonight.

"Dr. Northrup and I have incisted that he should call on you and explain certain newspaper reports that have appeared. It has been reported here that someone has offered to advance 150 or $200,000. to redeem the University property and some reporter has guessed that you are the man. I hope I do not need to assure you that we have made no use of your name except that when the matter came up in our own executive committee I read your two letters. We do not know what you may have seen or heard, but we have asked Dr. Harper to call on you and he has promised to do so on Monday. I hope you will be able to see him and will do us the service to encourage him not to leave the Seminary. We can't afford to let him go and for this reason among others have urged the claims of the University on him. We believe he is the man of all others to save and restore and make it a great institution.

"But I began to write for the purpose of assuring you that we have no direct or indirect connection with the statements published connecting your name with the University. They have emanated from the imagination of reporters. One paper published an interview with Drs. Northrup and Harper and the fact was that neither of them had ever seen him or had said anything put into their mouths to anyone whatever. I am, as ever".

Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller: April 23, 1886.

"Your favor came duly to hand. We appreciate your offer to join with others in adding to prof. Harper's salary. That however would not hold him here. We pay him $3,000. Yale offered him $4,000. But it is not the increased pay that draws him. I have never known a more unselfish man or one less anxious for money. It is not more money he wants. He will not therefore avail ourselves of your kind profffer.

"The University Board met yesterday and appointed a committee to confer with Dr. Harper on the Presidency. At his request, I met them with him this afternoon. They assure him that if he will accept he will be elected.

"During the past week he has received from one to three letters from Yale representatives daily urging him to give them authority to say that he will accept the position they offer him. They have now telegraphed him to come to New Haven and sent him passes. He feels that he must go and see them and has gone tonight.

"Mr. Hartshorn and I have thought that he should call on you and explain certain newspaper reports that have appeared. It has been reported here that someone has offered to advance $50 or $200,000. to redeem the University property and some reporter has guessed that you are the man. I hope I do not need to assure you that we have made no use of your name except that when the matter came up in our own executive committee I read your two letters. We do not know what you may have seen or heard, but we have asked Dr. Harper to call on you and he has promised to do so on Monday. I hope you will be able to see him and will do the service to encourage him not to leave the Seminary. We can't afford to let him go and for this reason many others have urged the claims of the University on him. We believe he is the man of all others to save and restore and make it a great institution.

"But I began to write for the purpose of assuring you that we have no direct or indirect connection with the statements published connecting your name with the University. They have emanated from the imagination of reporters. One paper published an interview with Dr. Hartshorn and Harper and the fact was that neither of them had ever seen him or had anything just like their names to anyone whatever. I am, as ever".

Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller: April 22, 1886.

"Your favor came duly to hand. We appreciate your offer to join with others in adding to prof. Harper's salary. That however would not hold him here. We pay him $2,000. Yale offered him $4,000. But it is not the increased pay that draws him. I have never known a more unselfish man or one less anxious for money. It is not more money he wants. We will not therefore avail ourselves of your kind proffer.

"The University Board met yesterday and appointed a committee to confer with Dr. Harper as to the Presidency. At his request, I met them with him this afternoon. They assure him that if he will accept he will be elected.

"During the past week he has received from one to three letters from Yale representatives daily urging him to give them authority to say that he will accept the position they offer him. They have now telegraphed him to come to New York and sent him passes. He feels that he must go and see them and has gone tonight.

"Dr. Northrup and I have insisted that he should call on you and explain certain newspaper reports that have appeared. It has been reported here that someone has offered to advance 150 or $200,000. to redeem the University property and some reporter has guessed that you are the man. I hope I do not need to assure you that we have made no use of your name except that when the matter came up in our own executive committee I read your two letters. We do not know what you may have seen or heard, but we have asked Dr. Harper to call on you and he has promised to do so on Monday. I hope you will be able to see him and will do us the service to encourage him not to leave the Seminary. We can't afford to let him go and for this reason among others have urged the claims of the University on him. We believe he is the man of all others to save and restore and make it a great institution.

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Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Goodspeed: April 27th, 1886.

"Yours of 22nd at hand. Professor Harper was here yesterday, and says he will not reach a final decision until he sees you and the other friends of the Seminary.

"I said all I could with a view to have him remain with us, and shall regret much if he does not, but I fear he will not.

"I had no idea that the statements in the papers in regard to the interviews referred to were correct."

Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Goodspeed: April 27th, 1896.

"Yours of 22nd at hand. Professor Harper was here yesterday, and says he will not reach a final decision until he sees you and the other friends of the Seminary.

"I said all I could with a view to have him remain with us, and shall regret much if he does not, but I fear he will not.

"I had no idea that the statements in the papers in regard to the interview referred to were correct."

Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Goodspeed: April 27th, 1892.

"Yours of 22nd at hand. Professor Harper was here yesterday, and says he will not reach a final decision until he sees you and the other friends of the Seminary.

"I said all I could with a view to have him remain with us, and shall regret much if he does not, but I fear he will not.

"I had no idea that the statements in the papers in regard to the interview referred to were correct."

Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller: May 7,1886.

"Your last letter came duly to hand. Prof. Harper has declined the Presidency of the University and seems about decided to go to Yale though it is not impossible that we may persuade him to remain. If he goes, we hope to make an arrangement with him to spend a month or more here each year to do us some important service in his department.

"The project to pay $300,000. within fifteen months to redeem the University property seems to many of our pastors and ablest brethern impracticable. I hope it is possible but fear not. Dr. Harper does not feel that he can afford to risk so doubtful an experiment".

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Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller: May 7,1928.

"Your last letter came duly to hand. Prof. Harper has declined the Presidency of the University and seems about decided to go to Yale though it is not impossible that we may persuade him to remain. If he goes, we hope to make an arrangement with him to spend a month or more here each year or do us some important service in his department.

"The project to pay $800,000. within fifteen months to redeem the University property seems to many of our pastors and ablest brethren impracticable. I hope it is possible but fear not. Dr. Harper does not feel that he can afford to risk so doubtful an experiment".

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Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller: May 7,1886.

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Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller: May 7,1888.

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"The project to pay $300,000. within fifteen months to redeem the University property seems to many of our peters and ablest brethern impracticable. I hope it is possible but fear not. Dr. Harper does not feel that he can afford to risk so doubtful an experiment".

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Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller: June 10th,1886.

"I am in receipt this morning of an official communication, asking me if I will accept the Presidency of Kalamazoo College and assuring me that I will be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Board Tuesday next, if I will accept the appointment. I have not made an effort direct or indirect to secure this position. Indeed I have known that my name was being considered for only a few days.

"I am greatly perplexed and embarrassed, being just in the midst of the effort to secure our buildings. We have secured $10,500. in good subscriptions and I have every reason to believe we shall succeed. It has been my intention to leave the service of the Seminary after carrying this effort to success. What the result will be if I stop my work in Sept. I do not know. I owe something to the Seminary and to you who have so generously aided me in my work.

"I owe also duties to my ~~faculty~~ family and myself. My work here would terminate in any event during the coming year. The opening now presented to me is attractive and invites me to an important and responsible position. Kalamazoo has 144 students, three buildings and $114,000. endowment and no debts. It is the best Baptist College West of Granville. If I should do a successful work it would give me important and useful service during the rest of my working life.

"But if my acceptance of this new work leads to the defeat of the present important effort to put the Seminary on its feet, I shall be very sorry indeed and it is this which troubles me and causes me to hesitate. The Committee urge me very strongly to assure them that I will accept the position. This I have declined to do and shall do nothing till I have conferred with our Faculty and Board.

"I write you because I do not feel at liberty to go further without letting you know how the case stands. If I feel that I must improve this opportunity, I trust you will deal with the Seminary as kindly and generously as you have done hitherto. If I could see these buildings go up, I could leave my work more happily. Work is begun on the Library, but the other building is needed even more. I do not write to trouble you for an answer but to satisfy myself".

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