

Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Goodspeed:

June 14th, 1886.

"Yours 10th at hand and I regret much to see that <sup>it is</sup> your propose to leave the Seminary. What will they do? It had never occurred to me but that you and the other stand-bys were permanent there and that in contributing to the Theological Seminary I was placing money where it would remain doing good for ages; but what is to be the outcome of a change of administration? I cannot advise you, I do not know what is best, but I am anxious in respect to the future of the Seminary and by no mean unmindful of yours. I have felt great confidence in you and it will take some time to adjust myself to any change. I trust that what is done will prove to be for the Seminary and yourself the very best thing. I shall be very happy to receive your advices that you decide to stay."

Editor's note: The editor desires to call the reader's attention here to the extraordinarily fine balancing of this letter. While Mr. Rockefeller clearly intimates his disappointment that Dr. Goodspeed is to go away he is yet a diplomat far too experienced to permit himself to use such language as might later justify Dr. Goodspeed in basing appeals for contributions to the Seminary on any present urgencies of Mr. Rockefeller that he tie~~x~~ his own future to the Seminary.

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June 14th, 1900

Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Goodspeed:

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from Dr. Goodspeed of June 14th, 1900.



Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller:

June 15, 1886.

"On such reflection as I have been able to give to the matter I have felt that I could not leave the Seminary until I had carried to success the undertaking your kindness has made possible. I have felt that I owed this to you and to the work to which I have put my hand and have declined to permit the Kalamazoo Committee to use my name.

"Mr. Blake and Mr. Holden felt that my services were essential to our success. It so looked to me also and I therefore remain. I could not get the consent of my conscience to go".

June 12, 1934

Dr. Goodspeed to E. Foster-Lewis

"On my reflection as I have been able to give to the matter  
I have felt that I could not leave the matter until I had written  
to express the regretting your kindness has made possible. I have  
felt that I must write to you and to the work in which I have put up  
and have decided to write the following questions to you up

Mr. Lewis and Mr. Nelson told me that up questions were essential  
to my success. It is indeed so as also and I therefore remain. I  
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Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller:

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June 12, 1886.

Dr. Goodspeed to R. Hooker.

"On such reflection as I have been able to give to the matter I have felt that I could not leave the Seminary until I had carried to success the undertaking your kindness has made possible. I have felt that I owed this to you and to the work to which I have put my hand and have declined to permit the Kansas Committee to use my name.

"Mr. Blake and Mr. Holden felt that my services were essential to our success. If so looked to me also and I therefore remain. I could not get the consent of my conscience to go."

Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller:

June 15, 1886.

"I wrote you this morning of my decision to remain here. Since then your letter of yesterday has reached me. I am deeply touched by your kind expressions of interest and confidence. They lead me to feel more fully satisfied that I have done right. I cannot altogether regret that this question of removal has been thrust upon me (for I did not seek it) because it has revealed to me the place I hold in the confidence of the Board. They have so spoken of my service that I shall go on with my difficult and trying work with new satisfaction and new purpose.

"The more I reflected on the matter, the more clear it became to me that I could not in good conscience leave the Seminary at this important crisis. I felt that I owed it to you to complete what you have enabled me to begin so hopefully and that I owed it to the Seminary to carry through the work that promises to do so much for its future. Our success will wholly change its outlook for the better.

"I must assure you that our Board are of one heart and one mind. Dr. Harper's going and my thought of going were not the result of any differences. Drs. Northrup and Harper and myself have always sustained the closest and most cordial relations.

"There is everything encouraging in our outlook if we succeed in our present undertaking and that we shall do if hard work can accomplish it. The only thing we need is money to enable us to build here the largest of all our Seminaries. If we are patient and wise and laborious that will come in time. With warm thanks for your kind expressions, I remain".





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Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller:

June 16, 1886.

"After writing you yesterday I was astonished by a telegram from Kalamazoo, stating that they had elected me unanimously and asking me to come and see them today. I had written them positively that I could not and would not leave here for a year at least and that I could not permit them to use my name. I can only suppose that they have caught at the statement that I am held here for a year and have supposed that I could come to them at the end of that time. I had however wholly dismissed the matter from my mind and supposed it ended. I have declined to go to K. today and until new light dawns on my mind shall decline to consider their proposals.

"I am happy in my relations here, although there is much that is unpleasant in my work of asking men for money. I am more interested in our educational work here than in anything else. Everything in our outlook for the seminary is hopeful, except the condition of our university. Nothing hopeful has yet transpired in regard to that. Its destruction will be an unmix'd calamity. But if the present university is destroyed another must be founded and will be. This great center is the place of all others in the world to build a great Baptist University. If present efforts fail a new movement will be begun next year. The beginning will be small, but if wisely conducted it will be successful. The school will grow and in the course of time it can be made the equal of Yale and Harvard. We have not the money and cannot get the money to build a great school in the city. Harvard has 100 acres of land and 40 buildings. Outside Chicago, but near enough lands can be got for nothing. A building erected without cost in which to begin and a start made with little expense. There is money among our Western Baptists for such an undertaking. We need here a college. The seminary needs it. Our cause needs it and I cannot but believe it is certain to come. This is one of the elements that enters into my wish to remain here though I may never have any connection with the new movement.

"I write this to you because the time is coming when this will be a living question and when I hope you will feel that you can take it into your heart and your plans. Pardon me for writing of what does not immediately concern me and of interests that do not at present exist. But you have given me some measure of confidence and I speak to you frankly of what is in my heart. What I write calls for no response, but I hope you will not be unwilling to permit me to say a word from time to time of the hopes of those who cannot willingly let our university die without making an effort to rebuild it under better auspices.

"My interest in the seminary would be spurious and false if I did not feel as deep an interest in a University in this great central point.



June 15, 1900.

Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller

"After writing you yesterday I was enlightened by a telegram from Katherine, stating that they had elected me unanimously and asking me to come and see them today. I had written them previously that I could not and would not leave here for a year at least and that I could not possibly leave to see my people. I am only sorry that they have waited at the present time. I am still here for a year and have expected that I would come to them at the end of that time. I had however, really finished the matter from my side and supposed it ended. I have decided to go to A. today and will now write them as to what will be their decision to accept their proposition."

"I am happy to say relations here, although there is much that is unpleasant in my work of asking for money. I am more interested in our educational work here than in anything else. Everything in our outlook for the century is hopeful, except the condition of our university. Nothing hopeful has yet transpired in regard to that. The destruction will be an unmitigated calamity. But if the present university is destroyed another must be founded and will be. This great center is the place of all others in the world to build a great Baptist University. If present efforts fail a new movement will be begun next year. The beginning will be small, but it wisely conducted it will be successful. The school will grow and in the course of time it can be made the equal of Yale and Harvard. We have not the money and cannot get the money to build a great school in the city. Harvard has 100 acres of land and 40 buildings. Out-ride Chicago, but our energy funds can be got for nothing. A building erected without cost in which to begin and a start made with little expense. There is money among our Western Baptists for such an undertaking. We need a college. The century needs it. Our cause needs it and I cannot but believe it is certain to come. This is one of the elements that ensure that we shall have through I say never have any connection with the new movement."

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#2:

June 16, 1886.

"But the time has not yet come to consider these things. I have now just one thing to do and to that exclusively I shall give my heart and hands.

"I thought it necessary to write this letter because you might see a notice of the action at Kalamazoo and think I had not been entirely frank with you. That action was wholly without warrant and surprises and perplexes and disturbs me. I am, as ever".

June 10, 1888.

42

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Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Goodspeed:

June 17th, 1886.

"I am in receipt of your three letters, and am very glad  
you are going to remain, <sup>and</sup> I hope it will prove to be the best thing  
for you in the end, as well as for our common interests".

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Mr. Rochester to Dr. Goodspeed:

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

"Your kind letter is at hand. I am very grateful to you for your generous invitation, but as the University professors will carry the Freshman class thro' the year and the boys are so young and also because I find myself extraordinarily poor this year we have decided to keep the boys here. Another year, if our plans miscarry here, we may ask you to give us the opportunity you now so kindly offer us.

I believed we might reestablish the University here at Morgan Park, if we could find the man to lead the enterprise, but I do not know where he is. That is now the most important and difficult thing. The wrong man will wreck the movement. The right man could make it successful.

I feel that we must not make a start till we get such a proposition from the company here as will enable us to go before the public with an appeal only for endowment. We cannot afford to begin with appeals for current expenses or buildings and exhaust our resources of help on these things. The Company will give us 15 or 20 acres for a campus and the Ladies College and Mr. Walker will give \$5,000. toward a building. They will perhaps also give us an interest in the sale of the 100 acres of land around the campus, but I want not only Mr. Walker's \$5,000. toward a new building but enough more to erect the building. If we can get this, we could then secure \$100,000. of endowment before opening next September-if we could find the man to raise the money.

The breakdown has come a year too soon for me to take it in hand. Had it come a year later, and the general voice called me to undertake the work of establishing and organizing the new enterprise I would gladly do it, and spend three years in getting ready for you to take the Presidency."

.....  
"I trust you will be happy and successful in your work, but hold yourself ready to return here some time as President of a new University."



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Dr. J. A. Smith to Dr. Harper, September 20, 1886.

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"Most profoundly do I wish you were with us now! What a mistake we made - a characteristic blunder - when we put it out of your power to do otherwise than leave us. We need you, and could open to you a door such as no Yale professorship could ever equal; for it is almost certain that the great Baptist university of this country, at least of the West, is to be at Morgan Park."

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Dr. Northrup to Dr. Harper, October 2, 1886.

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"I think we shall start a Baptist University at the  
Park. We expect to get as a proposition from the Land  
Company.

1. A campus of 20 acres.
  2. A building
  3. The building of the Ladies' College in two or  
three years.
  4. A certain interest in the sale of 100 acres just  
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"I think we shall start a Baptist University at the  
Park. We expect to get us a proposition from the Land  
Company.

1. A campus of 20 acres.
  2. A building
  3. The building of the Ladies' College in two or  
three years.
  4. A certain interest in the sale of 100 acres just  
West of the proposed University Campus. The only point  
of doubt is the second one - the putting up a new building.
- The University Academy in the city starts off with  
40 students."

.....

Dr. Northrup to Dr. Harper, October 2, 1886.

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.....

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Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller:

Dec. 28, 1886.

x x x x x x x x x x

"If you will give me your permission to do so, I would like to lay before you the proffers we have for a new University at this point and to ask you to consider the question of aiding in its establishment. It lies very near the hearts of some of us here, but I will not approach you with it without your consent."

Dec. 20, 1905.

Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Rockefeller.

XXXXXXXXXX

"I will give no your permission to do so. I would like  
to lay before you the problem we have for a new University of this  
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Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Goodspeed:

December 31, 1886.

"Yours 28th at hand. There is hardly a chance that I could give the least encouragement for assistance in respect to the university, but I will carefully read the communication you suggest. I am pleased to note the progress of the work at the seminary".

x x x x x x x x x

December 11, 1950.

Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Rockefeller:

"I am glad to hear of your success in the  
give the least encouragement for any other in regard to the  
results, but I will certainly read the communication and  
I am pleased to note the progress of the work at the moment."

XXXXXXXX



Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Goodspeed:

December 31, 1886.

"Yours 28th at hand. There is hardly a chance that I could give the least encouragement for assistance in respect to the university, but I will carefully read the communication you suggest. I am pleased to note the progress of the work at the seminary".

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December 31, 1885.

Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Goodspeed:

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x x x x x x x x

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 ~~these~~ 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.