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July 29, 1888

Mr. Gates to Dr. Morehouse:

"A message from Dr. Henson took me out to Mahtemedi to meet him this afternoon. He wants to put the Chicago matter in my hands. He thinks Lorimer is satisfied that there is nothing in it for him, and is ready to pass it over to any hand that will take it. It is definitely decided that Lorimer will not take hold of it. My own view is that we should take hold of it provided we can, by quiet and underground canvass assure ourselves of certain success before we become publicly involved in it. You see that if we try and fail it will be a blow to the Society that it will hardly recover. We must as good as know we are going to succeed before we begin or are known to have any connection with it.

"The case is the biggest and most resistless in appeal and furnishing a wider constituency than anything in sight or that has been in sight for many years in our denomination. I have never yet heard the case stated for a tithe of what in my opinion there is in it. Even Henson expressed astonishment when I laid before him some of the elements of strength in the appeal for Chicago. These brethren have never had the leisure, or the data for studying the question on its merits. It has been chiefly a matter of denominational and local pride. I confess that I am vain enough to believe that their failure with Rockefeller and others, and among them some of the wealthiest brethren in Chicago, does not necessarily close the case. Still we ought to be exceedingly cautious. To succeed is to open a path for measureless good, but to fail is to close that path completely for our generation at least.

"I merely suggested to Henson, as a mode of procedure, that the provisional committee put the whole thing in the hands of the Education Society for acceptance at the forthcoming board meeting, all subscriptions to be made to the Society and designated, we to name a board of trustees, if we succeeded, the majority of whom should be outside Chicago, we publicly adopting the scheme and seeking to make it national. Henson is greatly pleased with our conversation and declares himself happier and more hopeful than at any time since he came west."

Editor's Note The "forthcoming Board Meeting" was held in the following December four months distant, thus giving Mr. Gates the time for the thorough preliminary canvass of the situation he desired.

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July 31, 1888.

Dr. J. A. Smith to Mr. Gates:-

"I intended to write you ere this, assuming that you have noticed the shape our "new university" movement is assuming. Dr. Goodspeed declines the service offered him. Well, during the vacation period, so to speak, the Provisional Committee are requested to do what they can in the way of gaining subscriptions. You will see in the next Standard some correspondence with volunteer pledgers. I should be glad to have more or less of pledges every week and am working a little to that end, in a way of personal correspondence. Dr. Goodspeed will soon be in the woods, camping, and I am, therefore, substantially alone.

Now, will you help me? For one thing, how would it suit you to write a short (or long, as you please) article for the paper, taking up the suggestions in one of the letters in the next number, and which, by the way, are by Dr. Horr, of Milwaukee? You might find some thoughts on that subject in the line of your official relations to the general question. If you can, also, in a more private way, help me with advice as to ways of getting on, so as to keep the matter thoroughly alive. I shall be glad. Do you know of any way in which you can help in the line of pledges? Are there Minnesota men who will offer? Or can you reach brethren elsewhere?

Whatever you find it practicable to do in a way of cooperation will be most gratefully welcomed and recognized."

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Whatever you find it practicable to do in a way of cooperation will be most gratefully welcomed and recognized."

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August 3, 1888

Mr. Gates to Dr. Smith:

In response to your request I have seen those brethren here who would be most interested in the matter in Chicago. They are pretty well loaded with the Owatonna endowment and do not now feel able to carry any more. I think that eventually something will come from here but hardly in time for the present. They think also, as you know, some of the brethren in the East think, that the brethren in Chicago should move first. I presume the whole denomination should lay hold of this matter, but I am not quite ready yet to write anything. I am accumulating material."

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August 6, 1888.

Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:-

"Yours of the 29th has been received. Has not my prediction come true,- that neither Dr. Lorimer nor Dr. Henson would succeed in their undertaking for the University? And that in due time the matter would come to you and to the Education Society? I believe that the very fact that the Chicago people have now brought up against a stone wall will be in your favor and in favor of the Society if a wise plan could be devised for the saving of the University. What you say about the matter is true,- they have looked at it as a local enterprise to a large extent. A man who, like yourself, is outside of Chicago and takes a wider range, and who is entirely disconnected with all the schemes and the history of our affairs at Chicago can get a hearing where a Chicago man would not. The general outline of your plan commends itself to me. Indeed I am not prepared to make any suggestions."

August 6, 1888.

Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:-

"Yours of the 29th has been received. Has not my prediction

come true, - that neither Dr. Loomer nor Dr. Hanson would succeed in their undertaking for the University? And that in due time the matter would come to you and to the Education Society? I believe that the very fact that the Chicago people have now brought up against a stone wall will be in your favor and in favor of the Society if a wise plan could be devised for the saving of the University. What you say

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gestions."

August 23, 1888.

Mr. Gates to Dr. Morehouse:-

"I have received a long letter from Dr. Smith, in which he assured me that there is not the slightest doubt but the Provisional Committee will tender to the Education Society the Chicago plan. He wishes me accordingly to rush into the columns of The Standard, endorsing and advocating the movement. I shall write him today, asking that the Provisional Committee be called together not later than September 6th to make the tender, and assuring him that it would not be wise, in my opinion, either for me to say a word in public just now or for the public to know that the tender had been made or contemplated. My own plan is, as you know, to have the tender made confidentially, and then confidentially to visit about one hundred and twenty men in and about Chicago, telling them about the tender to us, explaining that we contemplate accepting it and making the thing national, with the ultimate expectation of \$500,000, the conditional offer to be met first by Chicago, unfolding confidentially the great case, assuring them it is now or never, and asking each how much we may count on from him in case we decide to take it up, our decision being altogether dependent on what Chicago would do. Getting this, I shall then in every case where I can do so, draw a little closer and whisper what he could do at the last and final pinch, rather than see the thing fail, assuring them that I will not call for the last if I can in any way avoid it.

This confidential underground work gives me a great advantage, which would be instantly thrown away if I were to rush into print. It would be like flashing my powder in the open air as against putting it behind a bullet with a deliberate and deadly personal aim. We can get ten times as much out of the Chicago folks by taking them in this way and being a little coy about taking up the matter as by boldly assuming the thing with a blare of trumpets and then asking them what they will do. So I shall have to disappoint Dr. Smith.

Now, I want to push the canvass in Chicago on this line, beginning with the 7th of September, day and night until I have got round. I think it will take thirty to sixty days, though it may, if I have good luck, be put through in less than the shortest time named. I shall expect the work to be practically done and pushed to a decisive issue one way or the other without one public word or hint. All this must be done before the Board meets, and it ought to be done rapidly, without intermission or delay, under great physical and mental pressure on my part. This, in my opinion, will be the issue of issues for us and should take precedence of everything else. It should dictate the time of the meeting of the Board, and in my own view it should control and decide my attendance at Nashville and the various State Conventions.

As to these State Conventions, I can make, I am sure, a speech that will be a lifting of the veil from many eyes, but the difficulty is that we are not yet ready for practical measures in any of these states and I would prefer to save my ammunition for the time

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"I have received a long letter from Dr. Smith, in which he assumed me that there is not the slightest doubt but the Provisional Committee will tender to the Education Society the Chicago plan. He wishes me accordingly to turn into the columns of The Standard, underscoring and advocating the movement. I shall write him today, asking that the Provisional Committee be called together not later than September 8th to make the tender, and assuring him that it would not be wise, in my opinion, either for me to say a word in public just now or for the public to know that the tender had been made or contemplated. My own plan is, as you know, to have the tender made confidentially, and then confidentially to visit about one hundred and twenty men in and about Chicago, telling them about the tender to us, explaining that we contemplate accepting it and making the thing national, with the ultimate expectation of \$500,000, the conditional offer to be met first by Chicago, unfolding confidentially the great case, assuring them it is now or never, and asking each how much we may count on from him in case we decide to take it up, our decision being altogether dependent on what Chicago would do. Getting this, I shall then in every case where I can do so, draw a little closer and whisper what he could do at the last and final pinch, rather than see the thing fail, assuring them that I will not call for the last if I can in any way avoid it. This confidential underground work gives me a great advantage, which would be instantly thrown away if I were to rush into print. It would be like flinging my powder in the open air as against putting it behind a bullet with a deliberate and deadly personal aim. We can get ten times as much out of the Chicago folks by taking them in this way and being a little coy about taking up the matter as by boldly assuming the thing with a blare of trumpets and then asking them what they will do. So I shall have to disappoint Dr. Smith. Now, I want to push the canvass in Chicago on this line, beginning with the 7th of September, day and night until I have got round. I think it will take thirty to sixty days, though it may, if I have good luck, be put through in less than the shortest time named. I shall expect the work to be practically done and pushed to a decisive issue one way or the other without one public word or hint. All this must be done before the Board meets, and it ought to be done rapidly, without intermission or delay, under great physical and mental pressure on my part. This, in my opinion, will be the issue of issues for us and should take precedence of everything else. It should decide the time of the meeting of the Board, and in my own view it should control and decide my attendance at Nashville and the various State Conventions. As to these State Conventions, I can make, I am sure, a speech that will be a lifting of the veil from many eyes, but the difficulty is that we are not yet ready for practical measures in any of these states and I would prefer to save my ammunition for the time

August 23, 1888.

when we have in each state a bull's-eye to hit, something now to be done, with the plan of doing it clearly outlined. I have an overpowering disgust for pointless speechifying. So then, I would suggest that I stick right to Chicago as my first business and push that through to the happy or bitter end, making my attendance on Conventions a matter of convenience. If we can succeed at Chicago, we shall not need any applause from the conventions, and we can go before them, when we go, with a tremendous accession of influence.

My idea is that after we succeed in Chicago, and I mean to succeed there, we immediately strike for \$500,000; that is to say, \$300,000 more, and raise that from Messrs. Rockefeller, Bostwick and others, and to aim to present to the denomination in Boston next year a new University of Chicago with \$500,000 endowment as our first year's work. This is the plan, and to hold it as a plan and present is confidentially in Chicago as the plan will be in itself power, even if it cannot be fully carried out.

August 23, 1883.

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August 29, 1888.

Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:- Acknowledges Mr. Gates' letter of the 23rd. "I have read with great interest what you write about the Chicago University scheme. I think your course is eminently wise and judicious. There has been so much of blowing of trumpets and beating of drums at the beginning of every movement thus far that the people have come to distrust any movement that starts off in that fashion. Moreover your plan of quietly working until something is accomplished is the true way to do the thing. When you can make an announcement of a substantial subscription, it will carry wonderrful weight and give you leverage which you otherwise would not possess. I am truly delighted with the way you are getting hold of things. I only wish I could render you more and better service. I am almost driven to death with extra work now, but I will engage to be at the Board meeting in October ~~and~~ at such time as may seem best to you."

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Dr. Goodspeed to his sons in College, September 9, 1888.

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"We had a good meeting of the University Committee. Gates is to take the matter in hand. There are many encouraging things and I am now confident that we shall succeed. Mr. Hinckley is well disposed. Mr. Converse of Boston also, and J.T. Pirie and others. I think now it will go with a rush and that there is every prospect that you may be the first graduates of the New University of Chicago. We meet tomorrow to arrange details. I have a subscription of \$10,000. from a friend of mine who does not wish to be known to present tomorrow. A library \$8000. and \$2000. cash. Gates will devote the next three months, night and day to work in this region. I am quite certain he will succeed, as he will say that if the brethren here will take hold and raise the first \$100,000. the National Education Society will take up the work and make up half a million. Gates is enthusiastic. He says a University here is absolutely essential to open the way for the future work of the Education Society. That work in his view should be the founding of Academies, chiefly in the West and Academies will be of no use unless there is a great central University here. I feel sure that there will not be any serious difficulty in raising the first \$125,000. After that will come the trouble, but I am equally confident that progress can be made every year."

.....

Dr. Goodspeed to his sons in College, September 2, 1888.

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September 12, 1888.

Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:- Acknowledging his of the 8th.

".....The new phase of affairs in respect to the University of Chicago is most hopeful. The great work to be done in the reconstruction of that institution cannot be accomplished by ministers and editors who make it a kind of by-play and incidental thing. It will take soul and nerve and much planning and hard working to do it. But I believe it can be done. My motto is, What should be done we must attempt to do. This should be done. I believe the Lord has been preparing you to do this. I believe that the Education Society will give you the power wherewith to do it. Count on me to sustain you for all I am worth in this enterprise. There will be difficulty and objectors and dark days, but I am sure that there is light ahead..... The great thing is to get the Chicago matter in such shape as to have everything so formulated that when our Education Board meets in October we can have a clear understanding of what is proposed. For so important a meeting there should be a large attendance, which must be secured even if I pay the travelling expenses of half a dozen of our best men. This is the supreme moment in our western educational work.....

September 12, 1882.

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September 14, 1888

Mr. Gates to Dr. Morehouse:- ".....I have secured a list of about a hundred of the most wealthy brethern in Chicago and vicinity, with the amount ^{each} ~~he~~ ought to give on the basis of raising \$100,000, with some private remarks appended to each name, the source of the list being confidential..... Dr. Henson thinks the Education Society had "come into the Kingdom for such a time as this," and Dr. Goodspeed and the lay brethern as well, are converted from despair to confidence. I enclose you a draft of a letter which I am about to send out at the rate of five or six per day to my list of men, taking the list big end first. I have prepared this letter with some care and every sentence is supposed to be significant. Now for the letter and then I will append further explanatory remarks:-

'John Doe, Esq.,
Chicago,

My dear Sir:-

The provisional committee having in charge the work of founding a Baptist University at Morgan Park, has invited the American Baptist Education Society to assume the work of meeting the conditions of the proposed gift from Morgan Park, and of further endowing the projected institution. As the Education Society is a national organization, the purpose of which is to found and endow Baptist institutions of learning, it was believed by the committee that the Society could give a national character to this movement, awaken a wide interest in it, and more certainly lead it to success than could a local committee. If it should accept the work tendered it, the Society would undertake to do three things, viz:-

1. To secure from Chicago the hundred and twenty five thousand dollars necessary to meet the Morgan Park conditions.
2. Immediately thereafter, to raise from powerful friends of education enough to enlarge the financial foundation to five hundred thousand dollars, and to secure the whole against mortgage or expenditure.
3. In succeeding years to establish a large number of Academies in the west. This last will probably be in any event a prominent feature of the permanent work of the Society.

But the Society cannot venture to accept the work tendered by the committee unless it is assured that the brethern in Chicago will meet the Morgan Park offer. I am therefore to spend a short time

September 14, 1888

Mr. Gates to Dr. Morehouse:- "..... I have secured a list of about a hundred of the most wealthy brethren in Chicago and vicinity, with the amount ^{ready} ~~to~~ ^{to} give on the basis of raising \$150,000, with some private remarks appended to each name, the source of the list being confidential..... Dr. Hanson thinks the Education Society had "come into the Kingdom for such a time as this," and Dr. Goodspeed and the lay brethren as well, are converted from despair to confidence. I enclose you a draft of a letter which I am about to send out at the rate of five or six per day to my list of men, taking the list bit and first. I have prepared this letter with some care and every sentence is supposed to be significant. Now for the letter and then I will append further explanatory remarks:-

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in this city, in quietly ascertaining before final action is taken how much the Society may rely upon for this purpose from prominent brethren here, in case it should accept the work.

I have taken the liberty of laying before you for consideration the plans outlined above, and shall venture to seek an interview with you in a few days." *End of the letter quoted. Mr. Galie continues to Dr. Henson -*

hence as follows

"I expect to send this letter to each man about three days before I can hope to see him. You observe that I do NOT say that these powerful friends of education from whom the supplementary sum is expected live in the east. The fact is I expect most of them to live in Chicago. My plan is to try very hard to raise this first hundred and twenty five thousand from about a dozen men here who are not only abundantly able to give that, but to give a half a million. These men I shall tackle for two subscriptions, the first for the one hundred and twenty five, the second for the five hundred, each being conditional on raising the respective amounts. I am hoping ^{to} save the little fellows for the five hundred thousand effort, for I can get two or three times as much from them on that, after the big ones have shown their confidence by meeting the Morgan Park conditions, ~~as I can on the smaller sum~~, besides saving a vast amount of time. I have already written seventy of these sample letters to be addressed at my convenience. I shall finish tomorrow and begin on the interviews on Monday.

Now this sample letter I have sent you for a double purpose. It is that you may send it (simply as a matter of information) to John D. Rockefeller. Mr. Rockefeller has been consulted at every step of this movement. I do not propose to approach him until Chicago has been thoroughly canvassed, but I would like to have him informed, by somebody else, of my movements and plans. If you think it wise to introduce me to him in this way, and to keep him informed as to the plans of the Ed. Soc. I should concur in your judgment. But if you do not think it wise, or have the least delicacy about doing it yourself, I shall also fully concur in your judgment and feeling. I merely suggest it to your consideration. The decision I prefer you should make uninfluenced by mine. I have a letter of his to Dr. Henson of which the following is a copy. 'Yours of the 4th reached me here after an absence of several days. I will keep on file what you have said but am not prepared to make any promise with reference to a University in Chicago. As you deem it so important I assume you will persevere in other directions to secure necessary funds. I shall not forget what you have said.'

"Your expressions of sympathy and promises of co-operation are my strength....."

P.S. On reading I am inclined to think it best not to send the letter to Mr. Rockefeller. But I have not time now to expunge what I have said."

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strength. On reading I am inclined to think it best not to send the letter to Mr. Rockefeller. But I have not time now to exchange what I have said."

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Dr. Goodspeed to his sons in College, September 16, 1888.

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"The last Monday's University meeting was only a Committee meeting to put into form the action taken the preceding week. I was called out before it ended and after I left Dr. L. subscribed \$1,000. and Dr. Henson \$500. On Tuesday Mr. Gates came to see me and asked me to send him the list of 120 men to whom we sent the invitations to the preliminary meeting last spring, to arrange them in the order of their ability and to indicate in connection with each name the amount that might fairly be expected and to give him some idea of the man in a series of brief remarks attached to each name. This I have done and sent him the list. He is preparing a letter to send to all of them stating what has been done, ~~what~~ that is proposed and saying that he will call upon them to lay before them his own views and the views of the National Education Society as to the importance of the undertaking. Then he will devote himself quietly but energetically to this work for these months and see if the subscriptions which is already \$40,000. can be raised to \$80,000. If it can, and it certainly can, the National Education Society will formally accept the leadership of the undertaking, making it at once a denominational and national cause.

No further steps will be taken or plans made till Gates has made his preliminary canvas. If that succeeds, we shall begin to plan for the opening next year. I hope by the 1st"

Dr. Goodspeed to his sons in College, September 18, 1888.

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name. This I have done and sent him the list. He is preparing

a letter to send to all of them stating what has been done.

What is proposed and saying that he will call upon them to

lay before them his own views and the views of the National

Education Society as to the importance of the undertaking.

Then he will devote himself quietly but energetically to

this work for these months and see if the subscription which

is already \$40,000. can be raised to \$80,000. If it can,

and it certainly can, the National Education Society will

formally accept the leadership of the undertaking, making it

at once a denominational and national cause.

No further steps will be taken or plans made till Gates

has made his preliminary canvass. If that succeeds, we shall

begin to plan for the opening next year. I hope by the last"

"of March the permanent Board of Trustees may be appointed and by the 1st of May the new building be under way.

I have no connections with the movement except as a member of the Provisional Committee and do not expect to have any other. I do not look to see it go thro' without friction and difficulty, but I am confident it will go.

I have now told you all there is to tell thus far and will keep you posted as to all that occurs. The reason the Standard said so little is that the relation of Gates and the National Education Society to the movement is not to be talked of publicly as yet, i.e., it is not to be published and a noise made about it. Gates will explain it all to every man he appeals to and say, 'This is not to be published abroad, but if you and the brethren here will take hold liberally, as soon as we get far enough along, the National Education Society will publicly assume the leadership of the movement and make it national and undertake to make the endowment half a million and set the Institution on its feet as a great and leading University at the outset.'

If there is anything whatever in Chicago Baptists to appeal to, this will reach and move them. n And I think there is. Nothing of this may be published till January, but much earnest private work will be done."

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September 17, 1888.

Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:- "Your letter to men whom you hope to interest in the new University scheme is just the thing. Followed up, something will surely come of it.

It does not seem to me best to send your letter to Mr. Rockefeller now. I think his views of things have been colored by what Dr. Strong has said to him. I am quite sure that writing will accomplish nothing with him, but am sure that when you can make a good showing of what has been done in and around Chicago and can unfold to him your plans, you will gain his confidence and get his generous support.....

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Dr. Goodspeed to his sons in College, September 23, 1888.

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"I shall not attempt to do as much (for the Theological Seminary) as I should hope to accomplish were not the University effort in progress. I do not know the result of Mr. Gates' work last week. He is at present however only feeling his way with a few big chiefs who must lead the way if any large success is secured."

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"Mr. Gates has been in Nashville the past week attending a colored national convention. I suppose he will be back this week and trust he may soon get his work under way. He has had some encouragement, but I have not seen him for nearly two weeks."

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October 6, 1888.

Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:-

"I thought probably by today I might hear the result of your interview with Dr. Strong but no letter has come as yet. He was at the Rooms about an hour a week ago today and we had a long talk over various matters particularly his great university scheme. I can say to you confidentially that the impression left upon my mind was that he is quite nervous lest Mr. Rockefeller may decide not to give the amount required for the establishment of such a university as Dr. Strong would like to see established. It was also evident to me that he would like the influence of yourself and of myself if it could be used with Mr. Rockefeller to induce him to commit himself to this measure without delay. He also readily granted that the Education Society would be almost indispensable to the carrying out of his schemes, while at the same time I admitted that such a plan as his might vitalize the Society if it were brought into proper relations with it. It is evident that he discovers that the Education Society may be a valuable helper in the accomplishment of his purposes. Whether my impressions correspond with your own after conversation with him remains to be seen. I think we need to be careful about how far we go with him in his plans; and yet I have a general impression that pretty close cooperation is possible and may be advantageous to both.....

Dr. Strong seemed to think that Mr. Rockefeller had made up his mind not to help resuscitate the Chicago University; but I am satisfied that if you could see Mr. Rockefeller and lay the matter before him he would take it into consideration anew, for I know he is open to conviction. I have had some pleasant correspondence since my return to Nashville and yesterday received from him a check for \$3,000 for the Society's work. I hope to have an interview with him before long. I have looked with much interest through your excellent account of the meetings at Nashville. I shall look with equal interest for the resume in a subsequent issue of the Standard."

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Dr. Strong seemed to think that Mr. Rockefeller had made up his mind not to help reconstitute the Chicago University; but I am satisfied that if you could see Mr. Rockefeller and lay the matter before him he would take it into consideration anew, for I know he is open to conviction. I have had some pleasant correspondence since my return to Nashville and yesterday received from him a check for \$3,000 for the Society's work. I hope to have an interview with him before long. I have looked with much interest through your excellent account of the meetings at Nashville. I shall look with equal interest for the resume in a subsequent issue of the Standard."

October 9, 1888.

Mr. Gates to Dr. Morehouse:-

"I have not found the time since my return from Rochester to write you as fully as I desired. I am very busy just now in preparing my speech before the Wisconsin convention. I will try however to state as briefly as possible my impressions about Dr. Strong's scheme and our relations to it.

The great element of weakness in the plan, as it seems to me, is that we are not now educationally prepared for it. We have not a single endowed, that is properly endowed, college in the south or west and but four in the east, that command general public confidence and respect. We have only three academies in the west with any endowment, and only one that is adequately endowed. We have only six endowed academies in the east, none of them adequately and none in the south. In such a plight as to our elementary and intermediate education, it will be difficult indeed to convince the public that we wisely expend twenty millions in a great supplemental University. It will be difficult to show that the same sum would not be expended with greater results in building up a symmetrical system of colleges and academies, that should supply the educational needs of every part of the land and bring the higher education to the door of every home. Moreover, our greatest losses educationally are not in the very few men with christian character already fixed who take supplemental studies or who are ready to prepare for the professions, but in the very large number of bright but immature men who leave us from the moment they quit the parental roof, to seek the higher learning in the academy and college not our own. Another element of popular weakness will be that the scheme will practically destroy every theological seminary in the land. Perhaps it would be more nearly true to say it displaces them in chief part with something much better, yet the revolution will meet bitter opposition. It involved the union of Rochester and Hamilton in New York City, a step that, however wise, will cost bitter war and probably not succeed except by first denuding both institutions of their best teachers and all their upper classmen.

The elements of strength in the plan are, as it seems to me:

- (1) None but college graduates will be received into any of the schools of the University. This will tend to check the dangerous tendency to which even Yale, Harvard and others have sold themselves.
- (2) Its system of scholarships and fellowships, which gives preference to Baptist graduates of Baptist colleges. This will be a powerful aid to our colleges and save us many an able man.
- (3) It is to be and remain a distinctly Christian institution, Christian as no other university on the planet is.
- (4) It is to employ all its beneficiaries in mission work in New York City.
- (5) It is to aid approved colleges with gifts of money annually to supplement their incomes where glaringly deficient. (Oral, not in the written document.)

I think that these elements of great strength will overcome popular prejudice and win for the plan the general support of the best

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Besides several long and very free and confidential interviews, I was permitted to take the long manuscript exposition of the plan with its thirty nine points to my room and spend an evening and most of a night over it. I ventured to make large verbal extracts from it, and to take a full analysis of the whole for my own use only, of course.

The doctor very kindly gave me every item of hope that he has, that Mr. Rockefeller will do the thing. He detailed to me his interviews with him, his encouragements, his rebuffs, and every item of information he has as to Mr. Rockefeller's private inquiries. From the whole, my impression is that Mr. Rockefeller has been appealed to so frequently and so strongly for institutions now existing, as (1) to enlist his sympathies to considerable extent in our struggling institutions, (2) to enlighten his mind to a considerable extent as to our real destitution and our deepest needs. His judgment is not convinced that Dr. Strong's scheme is on the whole now the most needful thing.

Again, he is not yet fully prepared to take out of his capital the vast sum - about five millions - required at the very start, and to take out of his income a million a year thereafter for fifteen years to complete the work. I do not expect to see him undertake the scheme until he goes out of business and can give his whole thought to this matter, or make it the recreation of his leisure.

I think the whole thing which is now needed to carry him fully into the scheme is to broaden it a good deal, even at the expense of cutting it off at the top somewhat. It must be so broadened as to be not merely a local University but a complete educational system, graduated from the home upward, symmetrical in its extension and broad enough to cover the whole land, the parts being related logically if not, indeed, organically to the whole. A Baptist University, having its head and crown in New York, indeed, but its corporate parts symmetrically extended over the whole land. The lack of this extension is, I believe, the defect of the plan of Dr. Strong, its chief practical, though possibly not fully recognized difficulty in the mind of Mr. Rockefeller. I urged this on Dr. Strong, explained my belief that this would touch those sympathies of Mr. Rockefeller already awakened for the lower education, appeal to his judgment which clearly sees the defects of our present system, and probably carry the day with him, if in addition to all, he could see the whole country through the Education Society working toward the scheme. A scheme so vast, so continental, so orderly, so comprehensive, so detailed, will in my view capture a mind so constituted as Mr. Rockefeller's is. Dr. Strong seemed fully to coincide with these views and was quite anxious to have me see Mr. Rockefeller and urge the broader scheme on his attention. I think the best

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I think Dr. Strong would be willing to reconstruct his entire system on this plan, and at the earliest moment I mean to lay it before him in writing with care, detail, and enthusiasm. What say you?

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Cordially,"

October 12, 1888.

Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:-

"Your favor of the 9th is at hand. I have read your statement of your interview with Dr. Strong and your impressions of his scheme with unusual interest. I think you have looked around the subject on all sides. I concur in your general conclusion that unless the scheme can be in a sense coincident with the idea of the Educational Society,- ~~x~~ building up weak institutions as well as establishing a university that shall crown the whole,- it will not carry with the denomination. I think that the matter has come into such a shape that if rightly handled we may hope for this broad and comprehensive educational plan which will include the continent. I believe it will take with Mr. Rockefeller. He was once a poor boy and he knows something about the struggles of those with limited means and I believe he is in sympathy with struggling interests. Indeed, I think that while he may delight to do a large thing he loves to help the feeble and struggling interests which he is convinced are worthy of his benefactions. You are getting the mastery of the facts, so that when you come to see him you can present them in a most forcible manner and touch him on a side where he has not been touched. At the same time I would be disinclined to weaken in any way the impression which Dr. Strong may have made upon him in regard to the establishment of a great university.

From what Dr. Strong said or suggested, as well as from the closing sentence of your letter I infer that he would like to have his plan practically a substitute for the policy of the Education Society. Now if we as an Education Society can formulate a plan which shall be as comprehensive as you have stated, it seems to me the legitimate thing for us to do. And so, instead of becoming a tender to his engine, let the Education Society be the engine itself

The legitimate thing for our Society to do, as I have stated to him and have stated to others, is the very thing proposed orally in the 5th item on page 3 of your letter. I do not see why Dr. Strong's plan should have anything to do with aiding colleges with gifts of money to supplement salaries of teachers; that properly belongs to the Education Society.

I feel that we need to guard our own integrity as a Society if it be best to do so rather than be absorbed by a so-called university with ramifications like those suggested by Dr. Strong. I am sure, however, you will guard against absorption of this sort.

I understand that Dr. MacArthur in the meeting of the New York Association, when educational matters were under discussion, strongly advocated again the union of the theological seminaries at Rochester and Hamilton and the transfer thereof to New York City.

I had a letter from Pres. Welling yesterday, saying he expected to call and talk with me about the Education Society; but later a telegram came saying he was detained by a railroad collision and would write. If we can get a meeting in November I think it would be desirable. Of course, this plan of Dr. Strong's is one which needs to be kept quiet, for really it is in line as I understand it, to some extent at least, with Dr. Welling's aspirations for a university at Washington."

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October 13, 1888.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Goodspeed:-

"Will you kindly regard the contents of this letter as strictly confidential and oblige me by communicating them to no one except Dr. Northrup. It is my desire that he should understand the case. I spent last Sunday at Vassar College teaching the young ladies (I am to be there every other Sunday during the year); much to my surprise Mr. Rockefeller was there. He had reached Poughkeepsie Saturday night. What his purpose in going to Vassar was is not quite certain. He seemed to have nothing to do there except to talk with me. Whether he knew that I was going there before or not is not known to me. I met him at the breakfast table and he at once asked me for an opportunity to talk during the day. The result was that when I had finished my morning lecture at ten o'clock he joined me and we spent the rest of the day together. He expected to remain until Monday but changed his plans and came down to New York with me Sunday night, leaving Poughkeepsie at 8:30 and reaching New York at 11 P.M. We were, therefore, together the most of the time for thirteen hours. Other matters came up but the chief question was the one of the educational problem. He was somewhat exasperated by the attitude of the Chicago men in reference to the Chicago University. He felt that they did not treat him justly and he would have nothing to do with the affair. Again and again he referred to his dealings with you and Dr. Northrup in the kindest terms, and on one occasion when Pres. Taylor was present he broke out in the exclamation "I never read a letter from Dr. Goodspeed without feeling better for having read it." There are no two men in the country of whom he thinks so much as of you two. He stands ready after the holidays to do something for Chicago. It will have to be managed, however, very carefully; but the chief point of my letter is this: In our discussion of the general question he showed great interest in the Educational Society (I mean the new one) and above all talked for hours in reference to the scheme of establishing the great university at Chicago instead of in New York. This surprised me very much. As soon as I began to see how the matter struck him I pushed it and I lost no opportunity of emphasizing this point. The long and short of it is I feel confident that his mind has turned, and that it is a possible thing to have the money which he proposed to spend in New York diverted to Chicago.

He himself made out a list of reasons why it would be better to go to Chicago than to remain in New York. Among other things the fact that there would be an entire uniformity of the thing, which could hardly be expected if the university were established in New York.

I write you these particulars in order that you may at once put me into possession of the facts in reference to matters at Morgan Park. It would be a great pity if this could be done to have something so much smaller carried out. Will you not at once write me? Mr. Rockefeller left me with the understanding that he would at once communicate with Mr. Colby in reference to the matter, and led me to infer that the question would receive his careful attention at once. Now

October 13, 1888.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Goodspeed:-

"Will you kindly regard the contents of this letter as strictly confidential and oblige me by communicating them to no one except Dr. Northrup. It is my desire that he should understand the case. I spent last Sunday at Vassar College teaching the young ladies (I am to be there every other Sunday during the year); much to my surprise Mr. Rockefeller was there. He had reached Poughkeepsie Saturday night. What his purpose in going to Vassar was is not quite certain. He seemed to have nothing to do there except to talk with me. Whether he knew that I was going there before or not is not known to me. I met him at the breakfast table and he at once asked me for an opportunity to talk during the day. The result was that when I had finished my morning lecture at ten o'clock he joined me and we spent the rest of the day together. He expected to remain until Monday but changed his plans and came down to New York with me Sunday night, leaving Poughkeepsie at 8:30 and reaching New York at 11 P.M. We were, therefore, together the most of the time for thirteen hours. Other matters came up but the chief question was the one of the educational problem. He was somewhat exasperated by the attitude of the Chicago men in reference to the Chicago University. He felt that they did not treat him justly and he would have nothing to do with the affair. Again and again he referred to his dealings with you and Dr. Northrup in the kindest terms, and on one occasion when Prof. Taylor was present he broke out in the exclamation 'I never read a letter from Dr. Goodspeed without feeling better for having read it.' There are no two men in the country of whom he thinks so much as of you two. He stands ready after the holidays to do something for Chicago. It will have to be managed, however, very carefully; but the chief point of my letter is this: In our discussion of the general question he showed great interest in the Educational Society (I mean the new one) and above all talked for hours in reference to the scheme of establishing the great university at Chicago instead of in New York. This surprised me very much. As soon as I began to see how the matter struck him I pressed it and I lost no opportunity of emphasizing this point. The long and short of it is I feel confident that his mind was turned, and that it is a possible thing to have the money which he proposed to spend in New York diverted to Chicago. He himself made out a list of reasons why it would be better to go to Chicago than to remain in New York. Among other things the fact that there would be an entire uniformity of the thing, which could hardly be expected if the university were established in New York. I write you these particulars in order that you may at once put me into possession of the facts in reference to matters at Morgan Park. It would be a great pity if this could be done so have something so much earlier carried out. Will you not at once write me? Mr. Rockefeller left me with the understanding that he would at once communicate with Mr. Colby in reference to the matter, and led me to infer that the question would receive his careful attention at once. Now

October 13, 1888. 2.

we must not expect too much; we all know how easy it is to make a start and then fall back, and so I am building nothing on this matter. I have thought I would lay the thing before you in all its details in order that you, Dr. Northrup and myself might be able to keep track of both ends of the line. I am sure that you will understand my motive and govern yourself accordingly. "

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Dr. Goodspeed to his sons, October 14, 1888.

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"Mr. Gates is finding hard sledding in his University work. He is however making some progress every week. Tomorrow he is to speak to the ministers. I hope there will be a large meeting and one that will encourage him, as I think he needs encouragement. The difficulty is with our ablest men. The less able are willing to do their share, but the few wealthy men hold off. Gates thinks they will come in after the smaller subscriptions are all gathered in and the responsibility is laid squarely on them. I trust this may be true. We shall see."

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Editor *The following paper prepared by Mr Gates*
Note

~~This paper~~ was first read at Chicago to the Baptist Ministers' Conference October 15, 1888. In November following it was read by Mr. Rockefeller. It was next read at a meeting of the Executive Board held in Washington, Dec. 4, 1888, the Board immediately adopting the programme of a college or university at Chicago, postponing for the time the claims of Washington, and the substance of it was delivered in Boston May 18, 1888 before the Education Society, with some enlargement and improvement.

The Need of a Baptist University in Chicago,
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The Need of a Baptist University in Chicago,
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Mr President and Brothers of the Conference! -

My theme is, the Need of a Baptist University in Chicago, as illustrated by a study of Baptist collegiate education in the West. Our survey will be properly limited, however, to so much of the West as we might reasonably hope directly to benefit by a great institution of learning located in Chicago. Such an area would embrace, I suppose, the states north of the Ohio River, and West of Ohio to the Rocky Mountains; in detail the states of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado and the territory of Dakota. We call this section the West. It is, however, the eastern central portion of the continent. It embraces four-fifths of all the territory of our Northern Baptists east of the Rocky Mountains.* In natural resources the richest and most varied portion of North America, it will probably become the ultimate base of American power, in many if not most of the forms of power. This vast empire destined early to sustain the heaviest weight of population on this continent, is united, homogenous, indivisible, knit together in living unity, with the arteries of life clearly defined and permanent, all radiating from and returning to Chicago as the centre and heart. Such is the field of our study.

Comprising four-fifths of the territory of the Baptists of the North, this area already contains nearly half of our numbers. To be exact there were last year living east of the Rocky Mountains, and west of the line which divides Ohio and Indiana 373,101 Northern Baptists, while east of that line there were 425,445 - a ratio of 15 to 17. But the rate of Baptist increase is much larger in the western than the eastern of the divisions which I have made. In the last six years for example the increase in the eastern division, comprising the New England and Middle States with Ohio, has been 9.47 percent, while the increase in the western division comprising the states I just now named has been 25.2 percent. If these rates of increase should continue, the west will contain a majority of Northern Baptists in six years, while in thirty years the western Baptists will number more than 1,400,000 to 700,000 in the east. Certainly it is important that provision be made for Baptist Education in the west. I think we ought in justice to go further. Considering that the west has four-fifths of the territory of northern Baptists and will soon have the very great preponderance of numbers, and that the east has now more than seven times as much money invested in Baptist collegiate education as the west, provision for western education is by far the most important educational question before the denomination.

I scarcely need to remark in further introduction to our theme, that the eastern colleges do not now supply, and still less in the future will they be able to supply the educational needs of the west. There were last year in all our eastern colleges 41 students in all classes drawn from homes west of Ohio. These were distributed among the colleges as follows: Colby University 1, Madison University 16, University of Rochester 8, Dennison University 6, Brown University 12.†

* East of Ohio inclusive 219,000 square miles west of Ohio as above described 821,000 square miles.

† ~~I greatly regret that at the time of writing the catalogues of Brown and Columbia have not reached me~~

The President and Northern Baptist Convention

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* East of Ohio inclusive 212,000 square miles west of Ohio as above described 221,000 square miles.

~~I greatly regret that at the time of writing the catalogue of Brown and Colby Universities was not reached.~~

At the same time these institutions were deriving from their eastern constituency, which we have seen to be only a trifle more numerous than the western, 1,000 students. All collegiate institutions of learning, at least all in America, are chiefly local in their patronage. I find for instance by personal measurement that 53 percent of the students of Yale (the college proper) reside within one hundred miles of the college walls. Similarly of the students of Colby 92 percent, of Madison 60 percent, of Brown 79 percent, of Dennison 79 percent reside within one hundred miles from the college. Bucknell derives 86 percent of its students from the state of Pennsylvania. These institutions will be seen by a glance at the map to cover all the states east of Ohio and inclusive of that state. Institutions of learning create the demand for the higher culture which they supply, and the area of their creative power, unless they occupy a commanding location is comparatively circumscribed. Our eastern colleges are too distant ever to create any larger or general demand for education in the west, nor would they be made the means of supply even if the demand were otherwise created. It should be gratefully acknowledged that the east is annually giving to the west a number of educated ministers. But these can ill be spared at home, while with our rapid growth the supply is becoming more and more painfully inadequate every year. That every section of our country should have its own institutions of learning, both to create and supply a local demand, is a proposition so manifestly true as scarcely to need serious argument.

We enter now more directly on our study of western Baptist collegiate education. Let us note first of all the numbers, property and enrollment of our colleges.

We have in the area described as chosen for survey eleven Baptist institutions of learning, which give instruction in all, or nearly all, the branches usually taught in colleges. The value of all the property of these institutions foots up a total of \$881,670. This includes all productive funds, with the value of grounds, buildings and apparatus, the estimates being those of the presidents. There were last year enrolled in all these schools of both sexes 1257 pupils. Of these, three-fourths were in elementary studies, and one-fourth only in regular college classes. These figures will become significant, painfully significant, when they are compared with those of other denominations. The statistics I am now about to give are those of 1888, and are compiled from the latest report of the United States Commissioner of Education. In a few instances I have been able to correct them to date.

The Congregationalists have 8 colleges, with \$1,743,000 in educational property and 1639 students. They number in the west only 145,000 to our 373,000. They have therefore per member five times as much educational property and nearly four times as many students as we.

The Presbyterians have 11 colleges, with \$2,437,000 in educational property and 1874 pupils. They number only 119,000 to our 373,000. They have more than nine times as much property per member invested in education, and in proportion to their numbers, educate more than four times as many as we.

* Estimated.

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The Methodists have 21 colleges, with \$5,303,916 worth of educational property with 5,652 students. They have absolutely more than six times as much property as we, and nearly five times as many students. I do not introduce these comparisons for the purpose of piquing Baptist pride. Every Christian must rejoice in what others are doing and have achieved. The comparison is chiefly valuable in two directions. It illustrates the importance which the leading minds of all denominations have attached to higher Christian education, in the west, and the sacrifices Christians have been willing to make, to lay the foundations of Christian institutions among us. It illustrates again, and to me not less pointedly, the wisdom of seizing strategic points for educational purposes such as Chicago, the Twin Cities, Denver. It is in such cities that they have achieved their most brilliant successes.

Returning now to our colleges, let us notice their distribution. They are Kalamazoo, for Western Michigan, Franklin for southern Indiana, Ewing and Shurtleff for southern Illinois, South West, Grand River, LaGrange and William Jewell for Missouri, Ottawa for Eastern Kansas, and Pella and Des Moines for Iowa. Thus it appears that Southern Illinois has two colleges, Missouri four, Iowa two, while Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, Colorado and Dakota have none.

Not less important than the distribution of our colleges is a consideration of the area of their attractive influence in their respective states. None of these colleges covers in fact more than a small fraction of the state in which it is located. If we draw a circle around Kalamazoo fifty miles from its walls, we shall embrace in the area enclosed, the homes of all but three of its collegiate students. This area will be about one-seventh of the state of Michigan. Franklin College draws 70 percent of its students from one-fourth of the state of Indiana. Shurtleff College on the western edge of Illinois derives from that state four students only who live outside a half circle which embraces one-fourteenth of the state. From Missouri across the river Shurtleff last year attracted but three students. William Jewell among the western counties of Missouri, derives 70 percent of its students from one-third of the state, and last year two only from Kansas. These facts are derived from the catalogues of '87-8 which I have assumed to be an average year. These are our four oldest, best known and most largely attended colleges. They do nearly all the collegiate work done by Baptists in the west. And yet, to cover the four states of Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, if we were to continue our present policy of locating feeble institutions in obscure towns, we should need seven Kalamazoos, four Franklins, fourteen Shurtleffs and three William Jewells.

This question of areas of attractive influence is one of so much importance that I venture to press the inquiry a little further. Of course every college will matriculate an occasional student who lives far beyond its fixed and settled constituency. Distant Alumni sometimes send their children to Alma Mater. The towns-people will not infrequently invite relatives living at a distance. I think we may not unjustly define the effective attraction of a college as that area from which it is found to derive seven-eighths of its students. So defined I find that one-fifth only of the Baptists of the west live within the effective attraction of our western colleges. From this one-fifth they derive seven-eighths of their students, while four-fifths of our number are beyond the horizon of any of our western colleges. They

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receive no educational impulse from them. To no less than four-fifths of our number our colleges are either wholly out of sight, or are too feeble to exert upon them any effective attraction. It certainly seems not unreasonable to suppose that if to the four-fifths were given no better facilities than those now enjoyed by the one-fifth, we might reap results correspondingly large. If so we might now be educating more than 6,000 where we now teach only 1,257. The Methodists who number not many more than we, are probably at this date enrolling between 6,000 and 10,000. Our annual loss seems to be not far from 5,000 pupils. Of these it is my judgment that a majority are not seeking advanced instruction of any kind, while a large minority, numbering perhaps fifteen hundred, among them the ablest and most promising youth we have, are attending other schools. They are matriculated in what I shall justly characterize as the State Higher Schools of Irreligion or are in the institutions of other denominations. These figures simply point out our numerical losses. What is our present, what will be our future loss in Christian effectiveness God only can measure. The frequently fatal influence of the State Universities on the religious life of their pupils, is acknowledged by all Christians who are well informed. They are certainly raising up a race of infidels to become the leaders of our western life. Those of our number who attend the schools of other denominations come habitually for a series of years into close, sympathetic, receptive and exclusive relationship with their leading minds. They form their most intimate, permanent and cherished friendships with those not Baptists. They lose their sympathy with Baptist people and Baptist tenets, and learn to despise Baptist institutions. Not infrequently we lose them. But this is by no means the worst. The worst is that while most of them nominally remain connected with us, they seldom come into active sympathy with our work. There are a few minds, be it said, too broad and too high to be so affected. But as a rule Baptists educated in Pedobaptist schools are not thereafter heartily loyal to the Baptist Church. Not working with us, they work nowhere. They are lost to their fellow men and to the cause of Christ in the world. Few Christians are greatly useful who do not move in the strong swift currents of some denominational life, with whose tenets spirit, membership and aims, they are in hearty and somewhat exclusive accord. I view this question not from the standpoint of a sectarian but of a Christian. Christian effectiveness requires denominational schools. Each must have its own.

I said a moment ago that our colleges are reaching a fifth only of our numbers. I now add that this fraction will become smaller year by year, unless there shall be a greater extension of their influence than we are justified in hoping. These colleges are located in the older states of the west, the states in which Baptists are now most numerous. While they reach one-fifth of our number they do actually cover one-eighteenth only of our territory. That is to say, in this eighteenth the fifth are living. But the whole territory will in a few years be peopled as numerously as the present eighteenth. The power of these colleges will become relatively less every year, until it falls to the ration of their area.

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In further illustration of the destitution of the west, let us come a little closer to our colleges and examine the work they are able to do.

It should be noted in the first place that six only of the eleven have any certain endowment. These are Kalamazoo \$103,000, Franklin \$81,000, Shurtleff \$80,000, William Jewell \$125,000, Ottawa \$80,000, Pella (estimated) \$20,000; Total \$409,000. The average productive fund of those which are endowed is \$78,156. By way of comparison Rochester and Madison have each about a half million, while Brown has not far from a million of productive funds.

The average salary paid the professors in our western colleges is \$1,015, the highest average paid by any being \$1,300. This last is about half the sum usually paid to professors in the Baptist colleges of the east. Far be it from me to question the faithfulness of our western teachers. It is well known that some of them are retaining their positions in a spirit of great self sacrifice at pecuniary loss. But I suppose that no one would maintain that salaries so meagre as those paid in our western colleges, can command and retain skill, accuracy and enthusiasm in the class room. Our ablest teachers have in general been claimed by institutions capable of affording them a larger field and a remuneration more equitable. Other considerations seriously affect the character of the teaching done. The number of teachers for instance is so far limited by the poverty of our institutions that the variety of work necessarily placed on each forbids special skill in any department. Then too the absence of preparatory schools in the west makes it necessary for all our institutions to do their own preparatory work. They combine the Academy and the college in one with means insufficient for either. The same faculty does the work of both institutions. This places on the teachers twice as much work as it is supposed by educators can by most men be done well. And when it is remembered that this work must be done for the most part without adequate illustrative apparatus, and is rewarded with less than half the pay of genuine skill, it is not difficult to see why our ablest teachers are in general attracted elsewhere. Nor should it surprise us if, all things considered, the class-room work of our western colleges should fail to exhibit the range of scholarship, the accuracy, the contagious enthusiasm, that characterizes first class work. I think it just to say, however, that any lack in these particulars is partially compensated by the superior character of our students, and their serious and conscientious devotion.

In the way of buildings, libraries and other appliances, our western colleges are not less unfortunate. In the last thirty years great progress has been made in educational architecture. But that progress has not been recorded in Baptist colleges. Our buildings are few, small and for the most part cheap, inadequate and old. They are suggestive of an earlier day, when they marked the frontier of an advancing civilization, which has long since swept past them. To a sensitive Baptist eye, they contrast very painfully with the extensive and imposing educational structures which other denominations have massed among us.

The scanty means in hand have not made possible the purchase of many books, or much illustrative apparatus. Such libraries as that of Brown with its 85,000 volumes, or that of Rochester with its 25,000 carefully selected and classified purchased books, are unknown

In further illustration of the destitution of the west, let us come a little closer to our colleges and examine the work they are able to do.

It should be noted in the first place that six only of the eleven have any certain endowment. These are Kansas \$102,000, Franklin \$81,000, Smurfit \$80,000, William Jewell \$182,000, Ottawa \$80,000, Pella (estimated) \$80,000; Total \$409,000. The average productive fund of those which are endowed is \$78,156. By way of comparison Rochester and Madison have each about a half million, while Brown has not far from a million of productive funds.

The average salary paid the professors in our western colleges is \$1,015, the highest average paid by any being \$1,300. This last is about half the sum usually paid to professors in the Baptist colleges of the east. For be it from me to question the faithfulness of our western teachers. It is well known that some of them are retaining their positions in a spirit of great self sacrifice at pecuniary loss. But I suppose that no one would maintain that salaries so meagre as those paid in our western colleges can command and retain skill, accuracy and enthusiasm in the classroom. Our ablest teachers have in general been claimed by institutions capable of affording them a larger field and a remuneration more equitable. Other considerations seriously affect the character of the teaching done. The number of teachers for instance is so far limited by the poverty of our institutions that the variety of work necessarily placed on each forbids special skill in any department. Then too the absence of preparatory schools in the west makes it necessary for all our institutions to do their own preparatory work. They combine the Academy and the college in one with means insufficient for either. The same faculty does the work of both institutions. This places on the teachers twice as much work as it is supposed by educators can by most men be done well. And when it is remembered that this work must be done for the most part without adequate illustrative apparatus, and is rewarded with less than half the pay of genuine skill, it is not difficult to see why our ablest teachers are in general attracted elsewhere. Nor should it surprise us if, all things considered, the classroom work of our western colleges should fail to exhibit the range of scholarship, the accuracy, the contagious enthusiasm, that characterizes first class work. I think it just to say, however, that any lack in these particulars is partially compensated by the superior character of our students, and their serious and conscientious devotion.

In the way of buildings, libraries and other appliances, our western colleges are not less unfortunate. In the last thirty years great progress has been made in educational architecture. But this progress has not been recorded in Baptist colleges. Our buildings are few, small and for the most part cheap, inadequate and old. They are suggestive of an earlier day, when they marked the frontier of an advancing civilization, which has long since left them. To a sensitive Baptist eye, they contrast very painfully with the extensive and imposing educational structures which other denominations have reared among us.

The scanty means in hand have not made possible the purchase of many books, or much illustrative apparatus. Such libraries as that of Brown with its 85,000 volumes, or that of Rochester with its 25,000 carefully selected and classified purchased books, are unknown

among western Baptists. We have about 25,000 volumes distributed among our eleven colleges. It is greatly to be feared that few of these are recent books. Many of them are reports of government departments, and others come from the shelves of friends better skilled in kindness of heart than in the selection of books for college libraries.

I said that the total attendance of our western colleges last year was 1257. For the purpose of comparison with the east it will be necessary to analyze and sift this attendance. While our institutions are called colleges and attempt most of the work usually done in colleges, their largest and probably most important work is done as secondary schools or academies. While this work does not properly come within the scope of our present inquiry, it should not be overlooked in a general summary of the value to us of these institutions. Of our 1,257 students 972 or more than three-fourths were pursuing elementary studies. In the regular college classes 285 only are enrolled. Of these 98 are young ladies, and in any comparison with our eastern colleges which are not coeducative, these too must be dropped. This leaves in our western colleges 189 young men, of whom 110 only are pursuing the full classical course, - a smaller number of male classical students than are now studying in Colby University alone. Even these figures would need to be reduced in an accurate comparison. For I find that 46 percent of the students in our western colleges drop out before they reach the senior class. I have still to learn the number graduated last year from two of our smaller colleges. But the remaining nine, and among them our four largest, graduated last year all told 21 male classical students, of whom nine were studying for the ministry. This is one ministerial graduate for every six hundred western Baptist churches. It should be added in justice that our colleges give more or less instruction to many times more ministerial students than they are able to bring to graduation. In our measurement of the depths of our educational destitution we have not yet quite touched bottom. If our colleges were young, if they were planted in strategic educational positions, if they were located for instance in eleven of our most important and commanding western cities, the whole aspect of the case would be changed. We could then look forward with reasonable anticipations to a great educational future. But they are neither young nor well located. William Jewell is 39 years old, Franklin 54, Kalamazoo 55, Shurtleff 61. We are the pioneers of western Christian education. Neither the Congregationalists, Presbyterians or Methodists can show an institution as old as our oldest, nor four as old as those named. And their powerful institutions have been built up in very recent years. No gathered strength of years, no fortunate choice of president, no changes in administration or policy, no happy accident has ever brought to any of our colleges the fruition of our hopes. Very plain I think is the chief reason of our comparative failure. It will not be found in any supposed educational apathy on the part of our western Baptists. They are eager as are western people generally to give their children the best advantages. Indeed, the present ruins of many a Baptist college in the west form the melancholy monuments of a hasty over-zeal in founding institutions of learning. Nor are the Baptists of the west niggardly in educational giving. According to their means, and in so far as consistent with other Christian enterprises no less important, the Baptists who live within the influence of our

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institutions of learning, have exhibited great self sacrifice and generosity.

Our great and fatal difficulty has been in the unfortunate locations chosen for our institutions. With perhaps the exception of Des Moines University, they have been fixed in small obscure towns, surrounded by a most worthy but wholly impecunious population. They are far removed from the centres of our western life and western means. They are beyond the horizon and out of the sight and interest of our wealthy men. Within the circle of their influence our colleges have done immeasurable good. Some of their graduates are among the ablest and most useful men we have. The brethren connected with their management are among our choicest spirits. Successive administrations have wrought with courage, self denial and ability. But the sources of their revenue and endowment have been limited to the scanty means of local friends within the narrow field of their influence. They have never been able to unlock the wealth of our cities. It is a remarkable fact that not half a dozen students from our larger cities or towns are numbered among their students. I mention the fact only to illustrate how slight the interest, located as they are, they have been able to awaken in our centres of wealth. None of them seem to have secured the attention of a single wealthy patron of education. If I am correctly informed as to the wealth and numbers of the Northwestern University located here at Evanston, a suburb of Chicago, our Methodist friends have been able in a few years to amass in that institution alone more than twice as much wealth as we in all our colleges and to attract a larger number of students.

Let us now briefly sum up the results of our inquiry. Our field constitutes four-fifths of the area occupied by Northern Baptists east of the Rocky Mountains and embraces half their numbers. If it continues to grow at the present rate, it will in thirty years, number twice as many Baptists as the east. This area is destined to be the seat of American power. Our colleges are unevenly distributed, feeble in resources, narrow in area of attractive influence, and obscurely located. As compared with either of the other three largest Protestant denominations, our educational work is merely fractional. We graduate annually all told not more than twenty-five male classical students, of whom about nine, or one for every six hundred churches, are candidates for the ministry. Four-fifths of our number and seventeen-eightieths of our territory are destitute of Baptist facilities for the higher Christian culture. We lose annually of all classes scarcely less than five thousand students, and this number is annually increasing. Among these are our ablest young men and women, the hope of our future. Our present and prospective loss in Christian power is immeasurable.

Brethren what shall be done? Of many things which must be done to remedy our need, the first and most important, as it seems to me, is to found a great college, ultimately to be a University, in Chicago. We need in Chicago an institution with an endowment of several millions, with buildings, library, and other appliances equal to any on the continent; an institution commanding the services of the ablest specialists in every department, giving the highest classical as well as scientific culture, and aiming to counteract the western tendency to a merely superficial and

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utilitarian education,- an institution wholly under Baptist control as a chartered right, loyal to Christ and His church, employing none but Christians in any department of instruction, a school not only evangelical but evangelistic, seeking to bring every student into surrender to Jesus Christ as Lord.

Such an institution should be located in Chicago, because this city is the most commanding social, financial, literary, and religious eminence in the west. It will lift so far aloft a Baptist college as an intellectual and religious luminary, that its light would illumine every state and penetrate every home from Lake Erie to the Rocky Mountains. The old university in '82-3 when moribund and ready to drop into its grave attracted students from sixteen states. Chicago is the heart of the west, the fountain of western life. In that fountain should be placed our Christian college. Chicago is quickly and cheaply accessible from every part of the west. All roads lead to Chicago, all cities, all rural homes face Chicago. Already the chief seat of western learning, the educational supremacy of Chicago is becoming every year more marked. Between the Allegheny and the Rocky Mountains there is not to be found another city in which such an institution as we need could be established, or if established could be maintained and enlarged, or if maintained could achieve wide influence or retain supremacy among us.

Such an institution, so located, would attract all our youth who are, or otherwise would be, matriculated in the state universities, or in the colleges of other denominations. The fame of it would inspire hundreds and eventually thousands of young men to seek the higher Christian culture, and clothe with power, and make widely useful many who would otherwise remain in weakness and obscurity. Such an institution would immediately give stimulus and inspiration to all our preparatory schools, and we have no schools that are not chiefly such. Before its walls were reared, before its foundations could be laid, the mere assurance of such an enterprise made certain by means provided, would lift up the heads of all our colleges, and clothe them with renewed vigor and larger influence. I can imagine no educational work, which would at once remove so many difficulties, restore so many disaffections, reduce to harmony and order so many chaotic elements, meet needs so wide, so deep, and so immediate, or confer so large a boon on the cause of Christ in the west. Nothing great or worthy can be achieved or attempted for education in the west until this thing is done.

A new university well founded in Chicago will be a lever long enough and strong enough, with the blessing of God, to raise all our interests to a higher plane and multiply the Christian effectiveness of the Baptist Church. From that hour all things worthy will be possible to us.

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October 15, 1888.

Dr. Goodspeed to Mr. Gates:-

"I want you to send me the paper you read this morning in the Ministers Meeting. I think I know where the facts & figures & views presented will do good. I wish to use them privately. Will copy such parts as I wish and return the paper to you at once.

I do not wish to steal your thunder for any public use whatever, but the way has opened today most unexpectedly for me to make, I believe, effective private use of the facts to advance the cause we have at heart. The paper stirred my heart. I want it to stir another's heart."

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Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:-

"Dr. Welling of Washington called on my today. I also had a visit from Dr. Taylor of Vassar College on Saturday. Dr. Welling is confident that Washington is the place for a great university; that it has advantages over any other city in the country so far as free access to the great educational resources of the Govt. are concerned. He is aware of Dr. Strong's plan to have a university here. It is felt that there is not a necessity for two Baptist universities. Dr. Welling hopes when you come to Washington that he may have the privilege of giving you an insight into matters there. In connection with this Dr. Taylor remarked that in conversation with Mr. Rockefeller last week, Mr. Rockefeller asked Taylor if he did not think Washington would be the best place for a university if one were to be established. Mr. Rockefeller also said to Taylor that he was not clear in his own mind as to whether aid would be best granted to the upbuilding of a large university or for the establishment of colleges. Taylor told him that in his judgment the smaller colleges of the country are doing more for the denomination than a great institution could do, and gave illustrations in support of his opinion. He seemed to think that Mr. Rockefeller was quite inclined to his view of the matter. And yet Taylor would be glad to see a scheme including the university idea carried out. Prof. Harper, who was with Taylor, naturally enough is a strong advocate of the university scheme. Taylor said that when he called on Mr. Rockefeller he found the proceedings of the Educational Convention upon his table, which indicates that Mr. R. is looking into matters pretty carefully. I shall probably see him before long and will find out then how the land lies. Meanwhile, I give you these points as possibly helpful to you. There is one other which I should have added: The question of the establishment of a university at Chicago was also discussed. Taylor took very strong grounds, as also did Harper, upon the importance of having such an institution at Chicago, saying that more and more the young men who are to be educated in Baptists institutions will come from the west. As I understood Taylor, Mr. Rockefeller coincided with them in their views of the necessity of a strong institution at Chicago. I believe that things will come around all right yet.

Dr. Lawson, of Boston, was here today and I had a talk with him, as well as with Dr. Welling about a suitable time for our Board meeting. The Committee on the Baptist Congress happened to be in session in the Rooms this forenoon. That Congress is to meet at Richmond, December 4th. Both Dr. Welling and Dr. Lawson agree that the best time and place for our Board meeting will be at Richmond; and that the effect of holding it at Richmond will be very happy throughout the south. Dr. Welling states that on the 27th of December there is to be a great educational conference at Washington. If you could come east to attend the Board meeting at Richmond early in December and then remain to that conference I have no doubt it would be of great value to you in getting an insight into many matters more quickly and more satisfactorily than in any other way.".....

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Dr. Goodspeed to Dr. Harper, October 15, 1888.

"Your letter is at hand. Knowing Dr. Northrup and me as you do, you can understand how the possibility of what you suggest stirs our hearts. There is only one thing about it that oppresses me. It is too good to be possible. It is indeed just the decision to which so keen sighted and level-headed a man as Mr. Rockefeller might be expected to come. The location of a great institution at Chicago would awaken no antagonism, would injure no other institution, would rather help all and would give something like unity to our entire denominational educational system. I wrote Mr. R. a few weeks ago that it looked as though the conditions attached to the Morgan Park offer would be fulfilled. We then thought that Mr. Hinckley would take hold of it.

But the outlook is now wholly changed and we have well nigh lost hope. Mr. H. will do nothing unless \$1,000,000. can be raised, and without him I do not believe success is possible. I think Dr. Smith has lost hope. Henson assured us that Hinckley would help, and it was this that led me to express myself hopefully to you when you were here. But Henson was mistaken and my confidence was vain.

The facts seem to be these. Our ablest men feel that we need an institution founded on a broad and liberal basis and that we have not here the strength to found such a University. They look with distrust on the launching of a feeble and struggling enterprise and are not disposed to go into it.

Gates is making no progress, securing only a few small subscriptions of from \$100. to \$1,000. We had about \$40,000. subscribed when he began, but of this \$8,000. was the old University library from Reichelt. He has added to this only \$5,000. so that we have in actual cash subscriptions less than \$40,000. now, and I do not now see where more than \$15,000. more can be secured here, unless such men as Blake, Hinckley, and Gillette take hold and they indicate no purpose to do so.

The situation then is this. If Mr. R. is disposed to establish a University here, there is nothing in the way. We shall be only too glad to give him a clear field. In our interview with him in New York in

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There is nothing in progress, requiring only a few small contributions of from \$100 to \$1,000. We had about \$40,000 subscribed when we began, but of this \$8,000 was the old University Library from Heinrich. He has asked to take only \$5,000, so that we have in actual cash subscriptions less than \$35,000. Now, and I do not say when more than \$10,000 more can be secured here, unless such men as Hinkley and Gillette take hold, they will be of no use to do so.

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"In May last Dr. N. and I assured him that the question of location was a matter about which we were indifferent. The undergraduate and Theological Departments may be here at Morgan Park and the other departments in the city, or we will agree to any location he desires for all departments. All we want is the institution.

Where in the wide world is there a location comparable to this in promise and where is such an institution so imperatively needed by our denomination? Mr. Gates feels that the work of the National Education Society is fatally crippled till there is a University here at Chicago. This is the reason he is devoting three or four months to the effort to make a start here. He feels, as strongly as any man can, that a great and strong University is needed, but he feels as I do, that if we can't have that to begin with we ought to have something.

I cannot but feel that this visit of yours with Mr. R. is strongly providential.

Think what might be done for theological education. We have in our three departments 70 men who have had no college training. With the University here all these men might be put into its classes and the Seminary could at once raise its standard and open its doors to graduates only.

It would cause Baptist stock to appreciate 100 per cent at once and lift us to a position of influence and dignity and power we can never gain in any other way.

It would be the greatest blessing possible to the denomination the whole country over to have a University of commanding power in this central city of the continent.

There is here in the Seminary Board, as you know, a body of prudent, conservative, safe and faithful men, in thorough sympathy with Mr. R., bound to him by a strong sense of gratitude for what he has already done here, trained by twenty-two years of successful service for the Seminary, which could form the working nucleus of a Board of trustees in which he could safely trust. Men who would feel it an honor to carry out with fidelity and practical wisdom his views. At the same time there is no one here to be taken care of, no one to be provided for, no one ambitious for a"

"In May last Dr. W. and I assured him that the question of location was a matter about which we were indifferent. The undergraduate and theological departments may be here at Morgan Park and the other departments in the city, or we will agree to any location he desires for all departments. All we want is the institution.

Where in the world is there a location comparable to this in promise and where in such an institution so imperatively needed by our denomination? Mr. Gates feels that the work of the National Mission Society is fatally crippled till there is a University here at Chicago. This is the reason he is devoting three or four months to the effort to make a start here. He feels, as strongly as any man can, that a great and strong University is needed, but he feels as I do, that if we can't have that to begin with we ought to have something.

I cannot but feel that this visit of yours with Mr. R. is strongly providential.

Think what might be done for theological education. We have in our three departments 70 men who have had no college training. With this University here all these men might be put into its classes and the Seminary could at once raise its standards and open its doors to graduates only.

It would cause Baptist stock to appreciate 100 per cent at once and lift us to a position of influence and dignity and power we can never gain in any other way.

It would be the greatest blessing possible to the denomination the whole country over to have a University of commanding power in this central city of the continent.

There is here in the Seminary heart, as you know, a body of prudent, conservative, safe and faithful men, in thorough sympathy with Mr. R., bound to him by a strong sense of gratitude for what he has already done here, trained by twenty-two years of successful service for the Seminary, which could form the working nucleus of a Board of Trustees in which he could safely trust. Men who would feel it an honor to carry out with fidelity and practical wisdom his views. At the same time there is no one here to be taken care of, no one to be provided for, no one ambitious for a

"place. The only care I should have would be to see the enterprise committed to you and you know there is good material here for Committees and Boards, who would work with you harmoniously and efficiently.

I hope you may have grace and wisdom to push the matter as rapidly as is wise. The present effort being made by Gates ought to be discontinued as soon as possible, if Mr. R. really intends to go forward. If the matter can be forwarded it would be easy for me to give him a hint that would practically end all present schemes. This movement ought to be arrested if the other plan has any basis. It may in some way now unknown assume shape that would complicate things. Think of this. If possible get it before Mr. R. You know that he is a man who is so considerate and candid that he wants to know always all the facts.

What you write of Mr. R's kind words of me give me very great pleasure. I cheer my heart, which is often heavy, to know that such a man of whom I have been compelled to ask for so much money, feels warmly toward me.

Tell him that an institution that in New York would not be great, here at Chicago would be monumental."

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October 16, 1888.

Mr. Gates to Dr. Morehouse:-

".....In response to an invitation to address the Chicago pastors, I read a paper before them yesterday on "A New University in Chicago a Denominational Necessity, as illustrated by a Study of Western Baptist Collegiate Education." There was the largest attendance ever seen in a Chicago Ministers' Meeting: The room was full and several standing. To say that the paper or rather the facts presented produced a sensation would be mild language. The brethren were "all torn up" over it. They were astonished, astounded, confounded, dumb-founded, amazed, bewildered, overwhelmed,- not at any ability shown in the paper. The paper exhibited nothing but industry in the collection, collocation and effective setting of startling facts. It was these terrible truths about Western education, every one pointing to the necessity of a great University at Chicago and that at once, that slew the brethren. The truth has never before been told, but I told it for once without reproach of course, and mingled with praise for the heroism and self abnegation of our western educators. I am greatly encouraged, believing that a great victory has been won in Chicago from which we shall reap substantial and lasting fruits. My speech will not be reported. It was confidential.".....

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October 17, 1888.

Mr. Gates to Dr. Morehouse:-

Acknowledging his of the 15th. "I am greatly encouraged by the turn things seem to be taking. In one respect, I wish things were different here. The fact is that the thing to do is to locate in the city and not at Morgan Park. Both the Presbyterians and Methodists are out of the city. The city is the place, no mistake. But I do not now see any hope. Still, if we are going to do the best thing for all the future, the lack of the perfect location is an important matter. Of course, I would not imperil the possible for the ideal impossible.....

.....I am aching to get the facts about western educational destitution before the denomination and before Mr. Rockefeller, with due heed, of course, to the University scheme. There are some advantages, certainly, in favor of Washington. It is the capital, there are the courts and there Congress sits, there are the great departments, the Naval Observatory, the gardens, the library. There North and South would meet. Then, the climate. But I must hasten away to a train.

Please accept my very special thanks for your long, frequent, detailed and exceedingly helpful letters. I could not get on without them."

October 17, 1882.

Mr. Gates to Dr. Morehouse:-

Knowing nothing of the fact, I am greatly encouraged by the fact that the things seem to be taking. In one respect, I wish things were different here. The fact is that the thing to do is to locate in the city and not at Morgan Park. Both the Presbyterians and Methodists are out of the city. The city is the place, no mistake. But I do not now see any hope. Still, if we are going to do the best thing for all the future, the lack of the perfect location is an important matter. Of course, I would not imperil the possibility for the ideal impossible..... I am going to get the facts about western educational institution before the demonstration and before Mr. Rockefeller, with due need of course, to the University scheme. There are some advantages, certainly, in favor of Washington. If in the capital, there are the courts and there Congress will, there are the great departments, the Naval Observatory, the gardens, the library. There North and South would meet. Then, the climate. But I must hasten away to a train. Please accept my very special thanks for your long, frequent, detailed and exceedingly helpful letters. I could not get on without them."

October 19, 1888.

Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:-

"I am glad you have stirred up the Chicago people. I hope after the fermentation there will be a clarification and that you will have the privilege of putting the new wine into new bottles. How is that for a figure of speech?

What you say about locating the institution in Chicago is of great weight. Dr. Taylor, of Vassar College the other day said it would be a great mistake to locate the University at Morgan Park. He felt that the Presbyterians and Methodists made a mistake in locating out of the city, and that there is now a great opportunity for Baptists to locate in the city and have not only an attendance which would be much larger than could be gained at Morgan Park, but have all the advantages of the medical and law schools of the city itself. I hope that a good Providence will open the way for the establishment of the institution in Chicago, but you will have to proceed cautiously, I suppose, in this matter."

October 19, 1888.

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Dr. Northrup to Dr. Harper, October 20, 1888.

.....

"Dr. Goodspeed read me your letter concerning conversation with Mr. J. D. R. in relation to educational matters in Chicago. I hope he may be led to see things in their true light, especially as regards the best location for the great American Baptist University. In my judgment there is no comparison between New York and Chicago as a location for such an Institution. I firmly believe there is no possible use which Mr. R. could make of his money that would help the cause of Christian and denominational education so much as the establishment at this great centre of a University of the highest order. But a Baptist University at Chicago, -- the vision seems a long way off and I fear it will tarry till after my day. Every scheme formed with this end in view seems foreordained to be abortive and to issue in additional humiliation to the poor Baptists of these parts."

Dr. Northrup to Dr. Harper, October 20, 1888.

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"Dr. Goodspeed read me your letter concerning
conversation with Mr. J. B. R. in relation to educational
matters in Chicago. I hope he may be led to see things in
their true light, especially as regards the best location
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way off and I fear it will tarry till after my day. Every
scheme formed with this end in view seems foreordained
to be abortive and to issue in additional humiliation to
the poor Baptists of these parts."

✓

Dr. Northrup to Dr. Harper, October 22, 1888.

"Since writing you on the 20th instant I have done a good deal of thinking on the question of a Baptist University at Chicago and your remarkable conversation with Mr. J. D. R. as set forth in your letter to Dr. Goodspeed.

The result of my thinking on the subject will appear in the following propositions, which, or the last of which, I wish you to read with a spirit of profound self-application.

1. First proposition. The establishment at Chicago, of a Baptist University of the highest order, is by far the most important educational enterprise that can come before our people. It would vastly increase our power in Chicago; it would greatly enhance the efficiency and influence of the Seminary, and would mightily uplift the cause of denominational education westward to the Pacific ocean.

2. Second Proposition. There is but one possible way of securing such a University and that is through the magnificent liberality of Mr. R. Every method that seemed to have in it any promise has been tried and has proved futile. The last effort—that of Mr. Gates, is already seen to be hopeless.

3. Third Proposition. There is no other man who stands in such close and confidential relations to him, or has such a thorough understanding of his mind in regard to educational matters as you have. I cannot but believe that you have it in your power to influence him to undertake the founding of a University here, putting into it, say \$1,000,000. at the start, and then adding to this sum as fast as enlargement could wisely take place. A million dollars from him would call forth an equal sum from the business men of Chicago within 90 days. So I want you to feel that I shall hold you responsible for the existence of a first-class Baptist University at this point. I am sorry to add this to your obligations, already manifold and great. But I simply have to do it. Though naturally considerate and merciful, in this matter I am obdurate.

4. Fourth Proposition. It is self-evident that you are the only man in the denomination that Mr. R. would think of having at the head of the proposed institution, and in this feeling and judgment all intelligent Baptists would heartily concur."

7
Dr. Hoxbury to Dr. Harper, October 25, 1888.

"Since writing you on the 28th instant I have done a good deal of thinking on the question of a Baptist University at Chicago and your remarkable conversation with Mr. J. D. E. as set forth in your letter to Dr. Goodspeed.

The result of my thinking on the subject will appear in the following propositions, which, at the last of which, I wish you to read with a spirit of profound self-application.

1. First proposition. The establishment at Chicago, of a Baptist University of the highest order, is by far the most important educational enterprise that can come before our people. It would vastly increase our power in Chicago; it would greatly enhance the efficiency and influence of the Seminary, and would mightily uplift the cause of denominational education westward to the Pacific ocean.

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4. Fourth Proposition. It is self-evident that you are the only man in the denomination that Mr. R. would think of having at the head of the proposed institution, and in this feeling and judgment all intelligent Baptists would heartily concur."

"In view of these propositions which have to my mind the self-evidencing quality of the axioms of Geometry, your imperative and paramount duty is plain: you must follow up your recent conversation with Mr. R., deepen his already favorable opinion concerning Chicago as the place for the great American University, and bring him to a positive decision at an early date. I may say that I have no interest in having the Institution located at the Park. It would suit me and all the friends of the Seminary as well to have it placed within the limits of the city. Please regard this letter as expressing my most serious and profound convictions on a matter of the highest moment."

"In view of these propositions which have to my mind
the self-evidencing quality of the axioms of Geometry,
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Please regard this letter as expressing my most serious
and profound convictions on a matter of the highest
moment."

✓
October 22, 1888.

Dr. Schurman to Mr. Rockefeller:-

"We were very glad to hear, through Mrs. Rockefeller's note to Mrs. Schurman, that we should have the pleasure of entertaining you both and your daughter during your coming visit to Ithaca. A remark of Mr. Strong's has left upon my mind the impression that you might arrange for too short a stay, and I write now to state, in the first place, that it will take some days to examine thoroughly the organization, management, and work of this University, and to assure you, in the second place, that Mrs. Schurman and I should regret if you did not stay with us at least that length of time.

Trusting you may be able to gratify us,"

October 22, 1888.

Dr. Schurman to Mr. Rockefeller:-

"We were very glad to hear, through Mrs. Rockefeller, a note to Mrs. Schurman, that we should have the pleasure of entertaining you both and your daughter during your coming visit to Ithaca. A remark of Mr. Strong's has left upon my mind the impression that you might arrange for too short a stay, and I write now to state, in the first place, that it will take some days to examine thoroughly the organization, management, and work of this University, and to assure you, in the second place, that Mrs. Schurman and I should regret if you did not stay with us at least that length of time. Trusting you may be able to gratify us."

October 23, 1888.

Mr. Gates to Dr. Morehouse:-

"Your favor of the 19th is at hand. Both Drs. Lorimer and Henson have asked me to speak in their churches on the new University scheme. I have fixed on the 2nd of November for Dr. Lorimer. The other pulpits will now be open to me as soon as I shall want them. But I shall both in public and private omit all mention of location.

In a recent letter you said you were about to see Mr. Rockefeller. You ought to know a thing or two that has recently come to my knowledge from a source so high and so near him that to breathe even the fact that these things are known without mentioning their source would possibly work injury to an influence with him that we need greatly to cherish. I am under pledge not to divulge. I am therefore not only prohibited from giving you the name but must also place you under the very strictest prohibition not to allow any one whatever to suppose that you know these facts. I am not overcredulous, but I regard them as certainly authoritative and true.

Mr. Rockefeller will not endow a great university, certainly not soon, either in New York or Washington. He is too well acquainted with the present greatest needs of Baptist Education. He has determined without much doubt to do a generous thing for Chicago, probably after January 1. He has gone so far as to write out for himself a series of reasons why he ought to endow or assist in endowing a University in Chicago. The possibility that we might get a good slice from Mr. Rockefeller was what awoke to expression my secret discontent with the present plan. So I wrote you, my information being based on some sentences in your letter. But since getting this fuller information from a source so near and authoritative, I am convinced that if we are to get Mr. Rockefeller as a great Patron, possibly the acknowledged and peculiar patron of a school in Chicago, it is worth while even at some sacrifice to get the very best location possible.

1. Morgan Park is eleven miles from the courthouse. The road to it is through a not highly attractive portion of the city. The suburb is located on a spur of the Rock Island Road. Morgan Park is the 20th station from the depot. The usual running time is fifty-five minutes. The ground between the station at the Park and the depot in Chicago is generally low and wholly unpicturesque. Land is cheap and the settlements are not aristocratic as those along the lake shore north of the city are, like Evanston, Highland Park and Lake Forest. The proximity of the Seminary is not an advantage but a disadvantage. At least, it would be quite as well for the Seminary if the University were not quite so near. The Seminary people do not prefer Morgan Park for the college.

2. There are no homes very near the property chosen. Students would have to be provided with dormitories at once. This would involve a good deal of extra expense in the beginning, all the land is worth at least.

3. Students could not there partially support themselves by work, as they used to do in the city when attending the old university.

October 23, 1888

Mr. Gates to Dr. Morhouse:-

"Your favor of the 19th is at hand. Both Dr. Lortimer and Hanson have asked me to speak in their churches on the new University scheme. I have fixed on the 2nd of November for Dr. Lortimer. The other pulpits will now be open to me as soon as I shall want them. But I shall both in public and private omit all mention of location. In a recent letter you said you were about to see Mr. Rockefeller. You ought to know a thing or two that has recently come to my knowledge from a source so high and so near him that to breathe even the fact that these things are known without mentioning their source would possibly work injury to an influence with him that we need greatly to cherish. I am under pledge not to divulge. I am therefore not only prohibited from giving you the name but must also place you under the very strictest prohibition not to allow any one whatever to suppose that you know these facts. I am not over-credulous, but I regard them as certainly authoritative and true.

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J. Morgan Park is eleven miles from the courthouse. The road to it is through a not highly attractive portion of the city. The suburb is located on a spur of the Rock Island Road. Morgan Park is the 30th station from the depot. The usual running time is fifteen minutes. The ground between the station at the Park and the depot in Chicago is generally low and wholly unattractive. Land is cheap and the settlements are not attractive as those along the lake shore north of the city are, like Evanston, Highland Park and Lake Forest. The proximity of the Seminary is not an advantage but a disadvantage. At least, it would be quite as well for the Seminary if the University were not quite so near. The Seminary people do not prefer Morgan Park for the college.

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3. Students could not there partially support themselves by work, as they used to do in the city when attending the old university.

October 23, 1888.

4. The local patronage from Chicago would be very little. I notice that the city sent over fifty to the old school, even when it was moribund and about to drop into the grave. (Catalogue of '82-3)

5. If the school should become a University, the professional schools would be obliged to find in Chicago their location. Property in the city would then have to be purchased at much higher prices than it would cost now. In the end, therefore, it would be cheaper to locate in the city and buy at once enough land to do for the future.

6. If we do not locate in the city, someone else will, sure as fate. The city will then be occupied and we shall be practically elbowed out. If some Christian denomination does not go in and capture the city, infidelity will. An irreligious institution will be located there, at least this is to be feared. The Methodists and the Presbyterians have, to be sure, built up great institutions in the suburbs, but I have the best authority for knowing that the Methodists at least, great as their institution is at Evanston, regret not being in the city.

7. We can get ultimately hundreds of thousands of dollars from moneyed men not Baptists for the ONLY institution of learning in the city, where we would get tens of thousands with the location out at Morgan Park, a suburb seldom or never visited by wealthy men and almost unknown to the wealth of the city. Chicago, the CITY, is the true fulcrum for our lever.

The Baptists of Chicago do not prefer Morgan Park, they prefer the city. No one but the land company is interested in that special location. It is regarded on all hands as the second best thing. Its only commendation is that it is the only thing in sight.

You see my very great embarrassment. If Mr. R. is really aiming to become a large patron, the sooner we can come to an understanding, the surer will we be to avoiding unpleasant complications. If we have to start small, possibly we shall have to accept the humiliations of the suburban location. I hesitate to push the present enterprise as hard as I might for fear of clinching it. I do not dare to quit altogether and await some action from Mr. R. for fear he is waiting to see what Chicago will do. I do not dare to approach him, for various reasons. Now you are going to see him. You must not give the least hint that you even suspect his intentions. I want him to know just how the case stands here, and yet I fear if he does he will simply put off doing anything until something better is offered in Chicago, and I fear this will be never. What I wish he would do is to offer a large sum provided the Chicago people will select a location which is satisfactory to him, - not Morgan Park, - that can be had at a reasonable price. What shall be said, what done, I leave of course to your own judgment. I am sure you will exercise very great caution. I leave the matter so stated to your better wisdom. If you should decide not to mention the subject at all, but considering any mention now as premature and that the question of location can better be handled after he has made some offer, I should acquiesce in your judgment. My speech has been requested for the purpose of putting it without my sanction or supposed knowledge into the hands of Mr. Rockefeller's closest adviser on educational matters."

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October 25, 1888.

Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:-

"I am glad to observe that The Examiner of this week publishes "Canute's" commendation of your address at Chicago on the need of an Education Society as shown by the facts presented."

October 25, 1888.

Dr. Morhouse to Mr. Gates:-

"I am glad to observe that The Examiner of this week
publishes 'Gates's' commendation of your address at Chicago on
the need of an Education Society as shown by the facts presented."

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Dr. Goodspeed to Dr. Harper, October 25, 1888.

"Two weeks ago Gates read a paper before the Ministers Meeting which while he was reading and before your first letter came to me, I wished I could get before you and Mr. Rockefeller. There seemed at the time no way to find an excuse for doing so. That afternoon your letter came and as I reflected the desire grew on me to have you two men see that paper. I wrote to Gates and without mentioning any names asked him to let me have the paper to lay before a friend of mine. He has made a copy of it and sent it to me, and I sent it to you to make such use of as seems wise to yourself.

The thing that seems to me to make the paper extraordinarily impressive is this. It is not the view of a Chicago man, or of a man who has any interest in Chicago, but in the first place, of a stranger to this city and in the second place, of the Secretary of the American Baptist Education Society. It is the result to which he has come after profound study of the entire educational situation.

When he first met our University Provisional Committee he said, 'The chief work of the Educational Society must be to encourage the building of Academies in the west, but the essential preliminary to that work is a University in Chicago. Until there is such a University the Education Society has no mission.' He has now gone to Nebraska to attend the Sessions of the State Convention and to sit down on the Grand Island University project. His view is that the surrounding states need first class Academies and that to make them useful there must be a first class University here.

We are not saying anything of what you have written us and shall not till there is some definite conclusion reached. We feel, however, the Doctor and I, profoundly anxious. The Doctor (Dr. Northrup) tells me what he has written you and I hope and daily pray that you may have divine grace and wisdom. It does look as though you had the future welfare of the denomination in the West in your hands and that you may be able to do it an inestimable service, a service that will do more for it than any other that is conceivable.

Dr. Goodspeed to Dr. Harper, October 28, 1888.

"Two weeks ago Gates read a paper before the
Ministry Meeting which while he was reading and before
your first letter came to me, I wished I could get
before you and Mr. Rockefeller. There seemed at the
time no way to find an excuse for doing so. That
afternoon your letter came and as I reflected the
desire grew on me to have you two men see that paper.
I wrote to Gates and without mentioning any names
asked him to let me have the paper to lay before a
friend of mine. He has made a copy of it and sent
it to me, and I send it to you to make such use of
as seems wise to yourself.

The thing that seems to me to make the paper
extraordinarily impressive is this. It is not the
view of a Chicago man, or of a man who has any interest
in Chicago, but in the first place, of a stranger to
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We are not saying anything of what you have
written us and shall not till there is some definite
conclusion reached. We feel, however, the Doctor and
I, profoundly anxious. The Doctor (Dr. Harkness) tells
me what he has written you and I hope and daily pray
that you may have divine grace and wisdom. It does
look as though you had the future welfare of the
denomination in the West in your hands and that you
may be able to do it in a remarkable service, a service
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conceivable.

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"I do not suppose you will repeat what Dr. N. says about what might be done here in case Mr. R. should give \$1,000,000. If Mr. R. decides to found a University here, he will doubtless do it himself and it will be more than a 1 or \$2,000,000. one.

The movement here is not progressing. Gates has been hoping to interest Hinckley, but does not succeed, and I look now for nothing but failure in the present undertaking. If we could have something in which \$5,000,000. should go into the undergraduate department and as much more into the professional schools, that provided free tuition and aided bright young men, it would lift the denomination into a position of dignity and prominence and power, that would multiply its numbers, increase its intelligence, augment its wealth and enhance its influence and power as no other combination of benefits and advantages can possibly do. We are likely to live to see ten millions of people in this state alone, 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 of them in Chicago, and the valley of the Mississippi filled with 50,000,000 people. If this University can be built it will be the mightiest moral and educational influence in all the region.

What a privilege it ought to be for a man to make himself such a benefactor of the present and the future. I learn that Mr. R. does not leave Cleveland for New York till today and suppose therefore that you have not heard from or seen him as yet. I hope after your next interview to learn at least that the thought grows upon him even though it does not yet take definite and positive shape."

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October 26, 1888.

Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:-

"Yours of the 23rd is just at hand. I am much obliged to you for the information which you give and which I will consider private. I am rejoiced at the drift of things. The fact that Mr. Rockefeller has delayed giving a definite and a favorable response to the proposition for the establishment of a great university is in itself an indication that his mind is considering other questions. I fully believe that he will yet see that the establishment of a strong institution at Chicago will do more for the denomination in the west than possibly could be done by the establishment of a great university leaving the west unprovided for. I most thoroughly concur with you in the view that that institution must be located in the city. Scores of students living at home will attend such an institution, who would not attend it if located at Morgan Park. We must retrieve ourselves if possible, in the city of Chicago. You are right in saying that we can get hundreds of thousands for an institution there where we would get but tens of thousands for an institution at Morgan Park.

If I were you I would not tie up irrevocably to the location at Morgan Park. While you are naturally anxious to bring the matter to a focus, yet I do not think anything will be lost by a little delay in order to first get Mr. Rockefeller's view of the matter. It seems to me that this is likely to be obtained as a result of his perusal of your speech which is to reach him through his friend. After he has read that, the same friend can arrange for an interview between Mr. Rockefeller and yourself. If desired I will be present also. It does not seem to me that it would be wise for me to approach Mr. Rockefeller as things are just now. I have a very decided impression that the time to see him will be after he has had an opportunity to read your speech. He likes to work out these problems for himself; and if I were to approach him about the same time he gets your speech he might suspect that there was a secret arrangement to bring as strong an influence as possible to bear upon him to take hold of this enterprise.

Naturally, you are almost impatient to have something definite brought to pass; and yet I am sure you have sufficient self restraint to hold your soul in patience and in faith until the fulness of the time comes to make a successful effort in the right direction. If Mr. Rockefeller asks my opinion or opens the way for me to see him, as he probably may almost any time, you can rely upon me to cooperate with you to the extent of my ability. And I will endeavor to be as judicious as possible in what I have to say, while at the same time I shall be in profound earnest."

October 23, 1938.

Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:-

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Dr. Goodspeed to his sons, October 28, 1888.

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"There is nothing new to write about the University. Mr. Gates makes slow progress. You may have seen in the Examiner a reference to a paper he read before the ministers' meeting on the question of a University in Chicago. He has put it into my hand and I have sent it to Dr. Harper. Dr. H. and I are in close correspondence and there may be something to tell you when you come home. Large things are possible. But meantime say not a word, as all is yet uncertain, and nothing may result. We can only be patient and wait."

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October 30, 1888.

Note written in New York City, Dr. Harper to Mr. Rockefeller:-

"Our conversation two weeks ago upon educational matters stirred me up very much. I have just received from Chicago the facts concerning the movement there. I feel quite sure that an important movement is approaching."

Dr. Harper proposes to call on Mr. Rockefeller on the evening of that day.

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Dr. Harper to Mr. Rockefeller:-

"I made an effort to see you last Sunday evening a week ago, but found you were out of town. I venture to send you the enclosed document, which I hope you will take time to read. It bears upon the question which we discussed that night on the train. I am very confident that you will see the force of the statements contained in this paper. It is a paper prepared by the new Secretary of the Education Society, Mr. Gates, of which a copy has been sent to me.

If it would be in accordance with your desire, I could arrange to spend an hour or two next Sunday evening with you for further consideration of this matter. It has been growing upon me very strongly since our conversation, and so deep hold has it taken of me that I can only with difficulty keep my mind away from the subject.

Trusting that you are well and that I may have the pleasure of meeting you some time soon, I remain"

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Mr. Rockefeller to Professor Schurman of Cornell:

"I duly received yours of the 22nd inviting Mrs. Rockefeller, my daughter and myself to remain at your house during our proposed visit to Cornell. At this writing we are undecided as to the time of going and as to whether I can accompany the ladies, but will decide in a few days and write you.

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"Your letter just reached me this morning. I did not return to my house until Friday last. When do you go up to Vassar again? I may spend a Sunday with you there and have opportunity for conversation."

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