

✓✓

Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, February 2, 1889.

"Dr. Goodspeed has just sent me your letter of last Sunday. I am relieved. Although you can do nothing of any measures of relief proposed by Mr. R. I am sure you will not feel at liberty to bind yourself permanently to Yale, even if present inconvenience is incurred. It is much to ask of a busy man to live yourself, but I hope you will inform me at the earliest moment of any interviews as I have several plans, which are just waiting on definite word from Mr. Rockefeller. Every item of light has its immediate practical value. Your letter for instance has fixed my plans temporarily. At any time that I can be of service summon me east. Several things there (besides this matter) are now pressing and nearly make up a case requiring my presence."

Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, February 2, 1889.

"Dr. Goodspeed has just sent me your letter of last Sunday. I am relieved. Although you can nothing of any measures of relief proposed by Mr. H. I am sure you will not feel at liberty to bind yourself permanently to Yale, even if present inconvenience is incurred. It is much to ask of a busy man like yourself, but I hope you will inform me at the earliest moment of any interviews as I have several plans, which are just waiting on definite word from Mr. Rockefeller. Every item of light has its immediate practical value. Your letter for instance has fixed my plans temporarily. At any time that I can be of service summon me east. Several things there (besides this matter) are now pressing and nearly make up a case requiring my presence."

Feb. 2, 1889.

F. T. G. to Dr. Goodspeed:

"I thank you for Dr. Harper's letter. I do not despair of the full million with a half million more later. I see nothing necessarily tending to dash these hopes in the letter.

"A gift to Ed. Soc. nominally unconditional while really controlled by himself is the most helpful way in which Mr. R. could make his subscription.

"I am sorry for that sale and yet so small a purchase could not prove a serious loss or hindrance to us if we work it right. I think we had best keep pretty quiet about locations or we may be circumvented. don't you ?"

Feb. 2, 1889.

F. T. G. to Dr. Goodspeed:

"I thank you for Dr. Harper's letter. I do not despair of the full million with a half million more later. I see nothing necessarily tending to dash these hopes in the letter.

"A gift to Ed. Soc. nominally unconditional while really controlled by himself is the most helpful way in which Mr. R. could make his subscription.

"I am sorry for that sale and yet so small a purchase could not prove a serious loss or hindrance to us if we work it right. I think we had best keep pretty quiet about locations or we may be circumvented. Don't you?"

Feb.2, 1889

Mr.Gates to Dr.Morehouse:

x x x x x I have this morning received a long and confidential letter from Prof. Harper, written immediately after a three hours conference with Mr.Rockefeller. To you, in confidence, I quote a passage or two:

'He (Rockefeller) is certainly planning to do something for Chicago.'

'Gates made a good impression on him; he likes him.' (The letter is a joint one sent to Goodspeed, Smith, Northrup & self).

'He will give the money (which is to be given) to the Education Society allowing it to appropriate it according to its pleasure, but in every case he must be allowed to endorse the appropriation'. This refers to the Chicago University matter. You perceive that Mr.R. proposes to give the Ed. Soc. the credit of that thing, by allowing the Soc. to appropriate as if by their own action. 'He will give it at the rate of so much a year for a certain number of years - how much and how many years *I could not get him to indicate though I tried very hard.*

'He will decide soon'. He asked me to come again within a week or two weeks at the farthest. He proposed to go with me to Vassar my next trip, viz. two weeks.'

'He agreed that everything considered I would better stay at New Haven for a period not exceeding five years. If I could so arrange it he would like the arrangement for only three years at most'.

'He thought that from there, as a member of a committee or otherwise, I could do as much as if I were to go to Chicago for the first five years. He is settled in the conviction that I must drop enough other work to make it possible to do the Chicago work'.

'He was never before so kind, nor so interested nor so anxious to do just the right thing. I never had a more pleasant talk. I am to see him again this week or, at the latest, within two weeks.'

My pleasure in Mr. Rockefeller's reference to myself sufficiently expressed in quoting the words, springs wholly, if I know myself, from its possible significance to the Education Society. Nor can I help believing that Mr. Rockefeller's purpose to subscribe annually a large sum to the Society promises much in many directions. While he means that the greater portion shall go to Chicago I think he means further

1. To help carry out the scheme of western educational development which I carefully and in detail wrote him.

2. To induce other large givers to make like unconditional gifts.

Harper's letter really adds nothing of importance to what I had already learned except that my letter to him (Mr.R.) has helped and not hurt the general cause in the West.

In view of Mr. Rockefeller's probable action in a very short time, I think we had best defer the circulars a little. If he gives us a big

**Italics always Harper's*

Feb. 2, 1889

Mr. Gates to Dr. Morehouse:

x x x x I have this morning received a long and confidential letter from Prof. Harper, written immediately after a three hours conference with Mr. Rockefeller. To you, in confidence, I quote a paragraph or two:

'He (Rockefeller) is certainly planning to do something for

Chicago.'

'Gates made a good impression on him; he likes him.' (The

letter is a joint one sent to Goodspeed, Smith, Northrup & self).

'He will give the money (which is to be given) to the Education

Society allowing it to appropriate it according to its pleasure, but in

every case he must be allowed to endorse the appropriation.' This refers

to the Chicago University matter. You perceive that Mr. R. proposes to

give the Ed. Soc. the credit of that thing, by allowing the Soc. to ap-

propriate as it by their own action. 'He will give it at the rate of no

much a year for a certain number of years - how much and how many years

I could not get him to indicate though I tried very hard.

'He will decide soon.' He asked me to come again within a

week or two weeks at the farthest. He proposed to go with me to Yassar

my next trip, viz. two weeks.

'He agreed that everything considered I would better stay at

New Haven for a period not exceeding five years. If I could so arrange

it he would like the arrangement for only three years at most.'

'He thought that from there, as a member of a committee or

otherwise, I could do as much as if I were to go to Chicago for the first

five years. He is settled in the conviction that I must drop enough

other work to make it possible to do the Chicago work.'

'He was never before so kind, nor so interested nor so anxious

to do just the right thing. I never had a more pleasant talk. I am

to see him again this week or, at the latest, within two weeks.'

My pleasure in Mr. Rockefeller's reference to myself sufficient-

ly expressed in quoting the words, springs wholly, if I know myself, from

its possible significance to the Education Society. Nor can I help be-

lieving that Mr. Rockefeller's purpose to subscribe annually a large sum to

the Society promises much in many directions. While he means that the

greater portion shall go to Chicago I think he means further

1. To help carry out the scheme of western educational develop-

ment which I carefully and in detail wrote him.

2. To induce other large givers to make like unconditional

gifts.

Harper's letter really adds nothing of importance to what I had

already learned except that my letter to him (Mr. R.) has helped and not

hurt the general cause in the West.

In view of Mr. Rockefeller's probable action in a very short time,

I think we had best defer the circulation a little. If he gives us a big

gifts always Harper's

sum unconditionally we can then make big appeals to others and lay out the general work in an effective way.

A board meeting within two or three weeks may possibly hasten Mr. R's action.

Dr. Welling has been at Mr. R. indirectly. I am now more sure than before that Mr. R. meant Welling as well as Richmond when he warned me of self-seeking and sectional educators on our board. I tell you, Doctor, we must keep every man off our board who has personal affiliations or we shall be checkmated at every turn." * * * * *

"We must guard Harper's confidence closely or he will lose Mr. Rockefeller's. It is, I fear already shaken somewhat."

even unconditionally we can then make big appeals to others and lay out the general work in an effective way.

A board meeting within two or three weeks may possibly hasten

Mr. R.'s action.

Dr. Weitzel has been at Mr. R.'s indirectly. I am now more

sure than before that Mr. R. meant Weitzel as well as Richmond when he

warned me of self-seeking and sectional educators on our board. I tell

you, Doctor, we must keep every man off our board who has personal affilia-

tions or we shall be characterized at every turn." * * * * *

"We must guard Harper's confidence closely or he will lose Mr.

Rockefeller's. It is, I fear already shaken somewhat."

✓
Dr. Strong to Dr. Harper, February 2, 1889.

"I have been postponing my inquiries with regard to the teaching in our Baptist Seminaries until I should receive your promised answer to my letter of January 8. I have no desire to press you, and my only aim is to discharge my duty to Vassar and to the cause of Christ. But I should like to come to some conclusion soon, and if you can give me your reply within a few days, it would oblige me."

Dr. Strong to Dr. Hager, February 2, 1888.

"I have been postponing my inquiries with regard to the teaching in our Baptist Seminary until I should receive your promised answer to my letter of January 8. I have no desire to press you, and my only aim is to discharge my duty to the cause of Christ. But I should like to come to some conclusion soon, and if you can give me your reply within a few days, it would oblige me."

✓

Dr. Northrup to Dr. Harper, February 3, 1889.

.....
.....

"I am compelled to say that I cannot endorse your proposed Directorship Scheme. I have no faith in it and should confidently expect, were it adopted, that the new enterprise would be marked by administrative feebleness and divided counsels, and would largely fail to meet the expectations that have been awakened and the great interests of Christian Education at this point. The future of the institution will depend largely upon the wisdom and vigor that mark the first five years of its history. A three-headed administration would be a disaster. Dr. Goodspeed would be an admirable man to do a certain important service in connection with the proposed College or University. He is well acquainted with and has the confidence of a large number of influential business men and could do an effective work in the line in which he has been occupied for the past ten or twelve years. But I do not need to tell you that the work of internal organization - the working out of departments, the selection of teachers, the harmonious relations of the professors, the administration of discipline, etc., requires a man who has had a very different training from that which Dr. G. has had. And this internal work you cannot do at arms length - occupying your present position at Yale.

Let me indicate the answer that I have cyphered out taking into account all the data of the problem as known to me.

1. You are now occupying a very important position which you cannot as a wise Christian man relinquish except in view of extraordinarily weighty reasons.

2. Should Mr. R. decide to put several millions of dollars into the proposed institution and should he strongly desire you to accept the Presidency I think you would do so.

3. But Mr. R. has not made up his mind to put any millions of dollars into the scheme and hence he does not feel like urging you to leave your present position, well knowing that if you should come to Chicago he would feel bound to give such sums as would meet your reasonable expectation. And you would be satisfied with nothing less than an institution of the order of Yale.

4. Hence Mr. R. is quite willing that you should remain at Yale and have a sort of connection with Chicago. Should"

Dr. Hoxthrup to Dr. Harper, February 5, 1889.

"I am compelled to say that I cannot endorse your proposed Directorship Scheme. I have no faith in it and should confidently expect, were it adopted, that the new enterprise would be marked by administrative feebleness and divided counsels, and would largely fail to meet the expectations that have been awakened and the great interests of Christian Education at this point. The future of the institution will depend largely upon the wisdom and vigor that mark the first five years of its history. A three-headed administration would be a disaster. Dr. Goodspeed would be an admirable man to do a certain important service in connection with the proposed College or University. He is well acquainted with and has the confidence of a large number of influential business men and could do an effective work in the line in which he has been occupied for the past ten or twelve years. But I do not need to tell you that the work of internal organization - the working out of departments, the selection of teachers, the harmonious relations of the professors, the administration of discipline, etc., requires a man who has had a very different training from that which Dr. G. has had. And this internal work you cannot do at arms length - occupying your present position at Yale.

Let me indicate the answer that I have expected and taking into account all the data of the problem as known to me.

1. You are now occupying a very important position which you cannot as a wise Christian man relinquish except in view of extraordinarily weighty reasons.

2. Should Mr. R. decide to put several millions of dollars into the proposed institution and should he strongly desire you to accept the Presidency I think you would do so.

3. But Mr. R. has not made up his mind to put any millions of dollars into the scheme and hence he does not feel like urging you to leave your present position, well knowing that if you should come to Chicago he would feel bound to give such sums as would meet your reasonable expectations. And you would be entitled with nothing less than an institution of the order of Yale.

4. Hence Mr. R. is quite willing that you should remain at Yale and have a sort of connection with Chicago. Should

"he, in the course of three or five years, decide that he could not put more than two or three hundred thousand dollars into the Chicago venture, you could go on undisturbed in your work at Yale; but should he, in the course of the time mentioned, decide to give largely say, \$5,000,000. then he would say to Dr. Harper, will you be so kind as to accept the Presidency of the University of Chicago.

Such is my guess of the true inwardness of the situation at this date. Events will show how much truth there is in it. The avalanche of appeals made to Mr. R. since his good intentions towards Chicago became known is doubtless something unparalleled and may have affected his mind unfavorably as regards interests here."

.....
.....

"he, in the course of three or five years, decide that he could not put more than two or three hundred thousand dollars into the Chicago venture, you could go on undisturbed in your work at Yale; but should he, in the course of the time mentioned, decide to give largely say, \$5,000,000, then he would say to Dr. Harper, will you be so kind as to accept the Presidency of the University of Chicago.

Such is my guess of the true innermost of the situation at this date. Events will show how much truth there is in it. The avalanche of appeals made to Mr. R. since his good intentions towards Chicago became known is doubtless something unparalleled and may have affected his mind unfavorably as regards interests here."

.....
.....

Feb. 5, 1889

Prof. J.G. Schurman to Mr. Gates:

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 24th ult. with reference to Mr. Rockefeller. In my short conversation with that gentleman I observed, in reply to questions of his, which for aught I knew were hypothetical, that the cause of education in this country could be best served at present by the establishment of highclass secondary schools for boys between 8 and 16 (when they might be ready for college), American copies of the English Rugby & Harrow or of the German Gymnasia. To build new universities without this indispensable ^{prerequisite} ~~prerequisite~~ seems to me like adding to our castles in the air. In no case, I added, should any denomination burden itself with a graduate university (like Johns Hopkins), since a denomination as such has no special interest in any graduate course except theology. It would therefore be a reckless waste ~~X~~ of denominational means and energies. And besides I doubt if any denomination could allow such an institution the freedom which it would require for success and reputation. Besides secondary schools or academies, however the denomination may properly and advantageously establish colleges for the liberal education of boys entering any of the professions. In them boys are under religious influence and from them come, in most cases, the ministers. These, however, should not be founded to rival other institutions, e.g. in Boston. But Chicago, I stated, was an open field but if a firstclass old-fashioned college were planted there, I thought it would promote greatly the educational ends of the denomination, not only in that locality but throughout the West, where it would serve as a light and a model. One or two similar institutions in the South and in the Far West would, I suppose, conduce to the same good results, but I think I said so to Mr. Rockefeller.

"I write in great haste, but I think this statement is sufficient to indicate to you my views of the needs and the best policy of the denomination. If not, I am always at your service."

Editor's Note. In the editor's present opinion (1914) the above is the wisest thing yet said in this correspondence. Religious denominations ought not to control Universities.

Feb. 5, 1889

Prof. J.G. Schurman to Mr. Gates:

"I beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 24th ult. with reference to Mr. Rockefeller. In my short conversation with that gentleman I observed, in reply to questions of his, which for aught I knew were hypothetical, that the cause of education in this country could be best served at present by the establishment of high-class secondary schools for boys between 8 and 16 (when they might be ready for college), American copies of the English Rugby & Harrow or of the German Gymnasia. To build new universities without this indispensable preparation seems to me like adding to our castles in the air. In no case, I added, should any denomination burden itself with a graduate university (like Johns Hopkins), since a denomination as such has no special interest in any graduate course except theology. And besides I doubt if any waste of denominational means and energies. It would therefore be a reckless denomination could allow such an institution the freedom which it would require for success and reputation. Besides secondary schools or academies, however the denomination may properly and advantageously establish colleges for the liberal education of boys entering any of the professions. In these boys are under religious influence and from them come, in most cases, the ministers. These, however, should not be founded to rival other institutions, e.g. in Boston. But Chicago, I stated, was an open field but it is a first-class old-fashioned college were planted there, I thought it would promote greatly the educational ends of the denomination, not only in that locality but throughout the West, where it would serve as a light and a model. One or two similar institutions in the South and in the Far West would, I suppose, conduce to the same good results, but I think I said so to Mr. Rockefeller. "I write in great haste, but I think this statement is sufficient to indicate to you my views of the needs and the best policy of the denomination. If not, I am always at your service."

John W. in the editor's friend opinion (1914) the
also is the best thing yet said in this country
for the denomination ought not
to continue to exist.

✓
February 5, 1889.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Goodspeed:

"Yours of January 31st is at hand. I think I appreciate your feeling in reference to the matter. The plan which you suggest for one million and a half is an excellent one, and I will be glad to push this. I shall see him this week and hope I may be able to bring things to a point. I think that, everything considered, the right thing has been done in reference to myself. I do not believe that, with Strong upon my back, - for he is going on with his persecutions, - I am the man to head the institution; and I think, furthermore that I can do as much from this point as if I were there. You will hear from me by telegraph if anything happens."

February 2, 1889.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Goodspeed:

"Yours of January 31st is at hand. I think I appreciate your feeling in reference to the matter. The plan which you suggest for one million and a half is an excellent one, and I will be glad to push this. I shall see him this week and hope I may be able to bring things to a point. I think that, everything considered, the right thing has been done in reference to myself. I do not believe that with Strong upon my back, - for he is going on with his persecutions, - I am the man to head the institution; and I think, furthermore that I can do as much from this point as if I were there. You will hear from me by telegraph if anything happens."

Feb. 5, 1889

Dr. Harper to Mr. Gates:

"Yours of February 2nd is at hand. Nothing new. I shall see Mr. Rockefeller this week and will telegraph you at once upon the receipt of any intelligence. I am trying to keep down excitement and move things along to the best possible advantage. x x x x x

"Another letter from Strong. He will push things. Be prepared for a 'muss'. Dr. Broadus is a great friend of yours. He thinks you very level-headed."

Feb. 5, 1939

Dr. Harper to Mr. Gates:

"Yours of February 2nd is at hand. Nothing new. I shall see Mr. Rockefeller this week and will telegraph you at once upon the receipt of any intelligence. I am trying to keep down excitement and move things along to the best possible advantage. * * * * *

"Another letter from Strong. He will push things. Be prepared for a 'mus'. Dr. Brodus is a great friend of yours. He thinks you very level-headed."

Feb. 7, 1889

Dr. Harper to Dr. Morehouse:

"There is nothing new. I am to see Mr. Rockefeller again this week."

Feb. 7, 1889

Dr. Harper to Dr. Morehouse:

"There is nothing new. I am to see Mr. Rockefeller again this week."

RECEIVED
16 MAY 14
1889

✓

Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, February 8, 1889.

"I am glad you are so busy as to have little time to work up excitement in yourself on the Dr. Strong matter. The less you think about it, I think, consistently with perfect courtesy and fraternal feeling to Dr. Strong the better. It will take care of itself.".....

.....

"I expect to be in New York on the 15th or 16th. Our Board as you now know is to be called for the 19th. I hope Mr. R. will have come to definite conclusions if possible as early as that date."

Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, February 8, 1883.

"I am glad you are so busy as to have little time

to work up excitement in yourself on the Dr. Strong
matter. The less you think about it, I think, consistently
with perfect courtesy and fraternal feeling to Dr. Strong
the better. It will take care of itself."

.....
"I expect to be in New York on the 15th or 16th.
Our Board as you now know is to be called for the 15th.
I hope Mr. R. will have come to definite conclusions
if possible as early as that date."

✓
Feb. 8, 1889

Dr. Harper to Mr. Rockefeller:

"I shall be in New York City Saturday evening and Sunday evening; if it is your desire that I should call upon you it would give me great pleasure to do so. I have thought over the matters discussed at our last meeting a great deal and believe that the time is soon coming for action. I appreciate very keenly the demands that are being made upon you, and yet I wish that you might see your way soon to taking action in reference to the Chicago matter. * * * * *

"I leave New Haven at two o'clock Saturday. Any word you may desire to send me if telegraphed before noon will reach me."

Feb. 8, 1933

Dr. Harper to Mr. Rockefeller:

"I shall be in New York City Saturday evening and Sunday evening; if it is your desire that I should call upon you it would give me great pleasure to do so. I have thought over the matters discussed at our last meeting a great deal and believe that the time is soon coming for action. I appreciate very keenly the demands that are being made upon you, and yet I wish that you might see your way soon to taking action in reference to the Chicago matter. n n n n

"I leave New Haven at two o'clock Saturday. Any word you may desire to send me is telegraphed before noon will reach me."

Feb. 9, 1889

Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:

"The N. Y. papers of today have telegrams from Chicago about the great university proposed there. It is rumored that some Eastern Baptists to put in Twenty millions, but it is said that so far inquiries have failed to obtain the information about the man and the plans that the reporters were looking for. The New York World of today has an alleged report of interviews with several pastors in the city on the subject and thoroughly misstate some things. Crandall and MacArthur are included in the interviews and I have a positive statement that a reporter saw neither of them. But they took some of their published utterances and then supplied what they thought would be an interesting article for the public. So if you see anything of this don't be disturbed over it."

Feb. 9, 1889

Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:

"The N. Y. papers of today have telegrams from Chicago about the great university proposed there. It is rumored that some Eastern Baptists to put in twenty millions, but it is said that no far industries have failed to obtain the information about the man and the plans that the reporters were looking for. The New York World of today has an alleged report of interviews with several pastors in the city on the subject and thoroughly misstate some things. Crandall and MacArthur are included in the interviews and I have a positive statement that a reporter saw neither of them. But they took some of their published utterances and then supplied what they thought would be an interesting article for the public. So if you see anything of this don't be disturbed over it."

✓
February 11, 1889.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Goodspeed:-

"I telegraphed you this morning the result of my interview last night. It was not as satisfactory as I could have wished. He was in a splendid humor, giving me all the details of his benevolence, etc., and we discussed the Chicago question with the same vigor as before and he came around to the same conclusion which he had reached two weeks before: to do the thing through the Education Society, but I could not get him to a decision."

P.S. "He is embarrassed by the paper reports, three or four reporters were at him yesterday."

February 11, 1889.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Goodspeed:-

"I telegraphed you this morning the result of my interview last night. It was not as satisfactory as I could have wished. He was in a splendid humor, giving me all the details of his benevolence, etc., and we discussed the Chicago question with the same vigor as before and he came around to the same conclusion which he had reached two weeks before: to do the thing through the Education Society, but I could not get him to a decision."

P.S. "He is embarrassed by the paper reports, three or four reporters were at him yesterday."

✓
Dr. J. A. Smith to Dr. Harper, February 14, 1889.

"We are much troubled at the newspaper tumult over University matters. I do not see how we can any of us here be responsible. I have, myself, kept the reports quiet for several weeks, and they would have continued so, if New York had been willing to mind its own business. Our hope is that Mr. Rockefeller will rate the whole thing at precisely what it is worth."

Dr. J. A. Smith to Dr. Harper, February 14, 1889.

"We are much troubled at the newspaper account ever
University matters. I do not see how we can say of us
here be responsible. I have, myself, kept the reports
quiet for several weeks, and they would have continued so,
if New York had been willing to mind its own business.
Our hope is that Mr. Rockefeller will raise the whole thing
at precisely what it is worth."

From New York Tribune

"The Proposed Baptist University

Chicago, Feb. 13 -- The Rev. Dr. Justin A. Smith, Editor of 'The Standard,' the official organ of the Baptist denomination in the Western States, declared this morning that the dispatch in the New York newspapers connecting Mr. Rockefeller's name with the proposed new Baptist university in Chicago is groundless. The mention of the Rev. Dr. Harper's name in connection with the project, he said, was specially infelicitous and unfounded. 'Mr. Rockefeller,' said Dr. Smith, 'is desirous of seeing education extended in the West, and has expressed a willingness to assist us in founding a new Baptist university. He agreed to assist us to the extent of about one-twentieth of the sum mentioned. Further than this, there is no truth whatever in any of the published reports.'

Dr. J. A. Smith to Dr. Harper, February 18, 1889.

"This blundering thing which I enclose worries me not a little. I think I mentioned in a former letter my efforts to keep our educational plans and hopes out of the papers, and that I should have succeeded had New York kept still. When I saw to what lengths they were going, speaking of twenty millions and of yourself as president of the proposed university, it seemed to be my duty to say to one of the reporters who were following me up, that the use of either Mr. Rockefeller's name, or yours, was wholly without authority; that such a sum as the one named had never been even thought of for us; and that if we received any gift at all it would probably not exceed a twentieth of the amount stated. Now you see what they made out of that! What I said was to a reporter of the News of this city. Somebody else appears to have made up a dispatch for the New York Tribune, using what I had said in his own reckless fashion"

"The Proposed Baptist University"

Chicago, Feb. 13 -- The Rev. Dr. Justin A. Smith, Editor of 'The Standard,' the official organ of the Baptist denomination in the Western States, declared this morning that the dispatch in the New York newspaper concerning Mr. Rockefeller's name with the proposed new Baptist university in Chicago is groundless. The mention of the Rev. Dr. Harper's name in connection with the project, he said, was especially infelicitous and unwarranted. 'Mr. Rockefeller,' said Dr. Smith, 'is desirous of seeing education extended in the West, and has expressed a willingness to assist us to the extent of about one-twentieth of the sum mentioned. Further than this, there is no truth whatever in any of the published reports.'

Dr. J. A. Smith to Dr. Harper, February 13, 1885.

"This blundering thing which I enclose worries me not a little. I think I mentioned in a former letter my efforts to keep our educational plans and hopes out of the papers, and that I should have succeeded had New York kept still. When I saw to what lengths they were going, speaking of twenty millions and of yourself as president of the proposed university, it seemed so to me that I was to say to one of the reporters who were following me up, that the use of either Mr. Rockefeller's name, or yours, was wholly without authority; that such a sum as the one named had never been even thought of for us; and that if we received any gift at all it would probably not exceed a twentieth of the amount stated. Now you see what they made out of that! That I said was to a reporter of the News of this city. Somebody else appears to have made up a dispatch for the New York Tribune, saying what I had said in his own peculiar fashion."

"What the News published was objectionable, many ways, but this is a hundred times worse. It seems hard that, after keeping myself out of the hands of interviewers for so many years, I should now be victimized in the way which hurts more than almost anything ^{else} could.

I wish there were some way for Mr. Rockefeller to know that I am not such a dolt as these newspapers make me out to be."

P. S. "In speaking of yourself, I said that the use of your name was 'unfortunate', since it could not fail to be annoying to you. The words the reporters use might be supposed to imply something else. How I feel in the matter you know very well."

"What the press published was objectionable, many ways, but
this is a hundred times worse. It seems hard that, after
keeping myself out of the hands of interviewers for so many
years, I should now be victimized in the way which hurts
more than almost anything could.
I wish there were some way for Mr. Rockefeller to know
that I am not such a doll as those newspapers make me out
to be."

P. U. "In speaking of yourself, I tell that the use of
your name was 'unfortunate', since it could not fail to be
annoying to you. The words the reporters use might be
supposed to imply something else. Now I feel in the matter
you know very well."

✓

Dr. Goodspeed to Dr. Harper, February 18, 1889.

"Your last came duly to hand. Your telegram discouraged me, but the letter served to lighten the gloom a little. You understand of course that the newspaper reports did not originate here, but came from New York. We have had no connection with them whatever and know nothing about them. Several times I have been approached by representatives of the press and have invariably said that there was absolutely nothing for the papers and that any publication of any sort would do harm and not good. The loud talk has been in New York and by the other side. I hope Mr. R. appreciates this and that we shall not be made to suffer for the course our enemies have pursued. It seems as though hell was moved from its lowest depths to defeat this good work. The pulling and hauling has been something extraordinary. It fills me with growing astonishment that our people have not had the grace and wisdom to keep silent and permit a great and good work to be done.

I am greatly disappointed at the outcome in relation to yourself and fear your decision to remain for six years at Yale will delay and in the end defeat us. I have no idea whatever that Mr. R. will commit the inception of the work to me, even with the association of yourself and Gates as joint directors. Indeed I much fear that the suggestion has been one cause of delay. Your drawing out will be the signal for a scramble for the position of leader, which will only serve to disgust and discourage Mr. R. still more.

I trust he fully understands that I have no ambition in that direction and that I may be left wholly out of account in his plans. All I have ever wished was to see the thing done, the institution founded, and have never desired any connection with it. Mr. R. must not be embarrassed by any supposed claims of mine to recognition. Last May he gave me encouragement to believe that he would give the Seminary another lift. If he will do this and leave me to complete the work, I have undertaken to do for it, I shall be more than satisfied. I have indeed hoped that our educational work here might be unified, but I do not insist on this. I am indeed perfectly confident that it is the only wise thing, but I do not wish to suggest anything that will delay for a moment the inauguration of the University work."

Dr. Goodspeed to Dr. Harper, February 18, 1889.

"Your last came duly to hand. Your telegram discouraged me, but the letter served to lighten the gloom a little. You understand of course that the newspaper reports did not originate here, but came from New York. We have had no connection with them whatever and know nothing about them. Several times I have been approached by representatives of the press and invariably said that there was absolutely nothing for the papers and that any publication of any sort would do harm and not good. The loud talk has been in New York and by the other side. I hope Mr. R. appreciates this and that we shall not be made to suffer for the course our enemies have pursued. It seems as though hell was moved from its lowest depths to defeat this good work. The pulling and hauling has been something extraordinary. It fills me with growing astonishment that our people have not had the grace and wisdom to keep silent and permit a great and good work to be done.

I am greatly disappointed at the outcome in relation to yourself and fear your decision to remain for six years at Yale will delay and in the end defeat us. I have no idea whatever that Mr. R. will commit the inception of the work to me, even with the association of yourself and Gates as joint directors. Indeed I much fear that the suggestion has been one cause of delay. Your drawing out will be the signal for a scramble for the position of leader, which will only serve to disgust and discourage Mr. R. still more.

I trust he fully understands that I have no ambition in that direction and that I may be left wholly out of account in his plans. All I have ever wished was to see the thing done, the institution founded, and have never desired any connection with it. Mr. R. must not be embarrassed by any supposed claim of mine to recognition. Just May he give me encouragement to believe that he would give the primary position to me. If he will do this and leave me to complete the work, I have undertaken to do for it. I shall be more than satisfied. I have indeed hoped that our educational work here might be unified, but I do not insist on this. I am indeed perfectly content that it is the only wise thing, but I do not wish to suggest anything that will delay for a moment the inauguration of the University work.

"I earnestly hope that the meetings of the Education Society Board this week may work some advancement in the enterprise. The delay of Mr. R. in coming to a decision puzzles me. It seems so unlike him to delay so long after committing himself so positively as he has done to you and as he did to me in our joint interview. It looks as tho' there were some influence at work, adverse to us, of which we have no knowledge. Who is in the way? If I am, I most earnestly desire you to remove me, to eliminate me, to extinguish me, to encourage Mr. R. to go forward as tho' I did not exist. If he will give me some further help for the Seminary and thus give me a chance to do for it what is immediately and imperatively necessary, it will be a very great relief to me to know that I am to have no connection with the new enterprise, but shall have an opportunity to go on successfully with my Seminary work.".....
.....
.....

"I earnestly hope that the meetings of the
Education Society Board this week may work some
advancement in the enterprise. The delay of Mr. B. in
coming to a decision puzzles me. It seems as unlike
him to delay so long after committing himself as
positively as he has done to you and as he did to me
in our joint interview. It looks as tho' there were
some influence at work, adverse to me, of which we
have no knowledge. Who is in the way? If I am I
most earnestly desire you to remove me, to eliminate
me, to extinguish me, to encourage Mr. B. to go
forward as tho' I did not exist. If he will give me
some further help for the Seminary and thus give me
a chance to do for it what is immediately and
imperatively necessary, it will be a very great relief
to me to know that I am to have no connection with
the new enterprise, but shall have an opportunity
to go on successfully with my Seminary work.".....
.....

✓ ✓
Feb. 18, 1889

Mr. Gates to Mr. Rockefeller:

"Dr. Smith of The Standard wishes me to disavow for him the statements said to be made by him in a recent interview with a reporter. He desires me to say also that he has taken great pains to guard the whole matter from the papers.

"As I have thus far baffled the interviewer entirely, I suppose no disclaimer is needed for myself. Your express condition I have so far observed as to wholly disappoint the curiosity of Chicago pastors, reporters and others who had learned of your interest in the matter from other sources. There is no accomplishment more necessary in my work or that I more earnestly desire than the art of skillfully and politely holding my tongue. That art I am trying to cultivate."

Feb. 18, 1889

Mr. Gates to Mr. Rockefeller:

"Dr. Smith of The Standard wishes me to disavow for him the statements said to be made by him in a recent interview with a reporter. He desires me to say also that he has taken great pains to guard the whole matter from the papers."

"As I have thus far belied the interviewer entirely, I suppose no disclaimer is needed for myself. Your express condition I have so far observed as to wholly disappoint the curiosity of Chicago pastors, reporters and others who had learned of your interest in the matter from other sources. There is no accomplishment more necessary in my work or that I more earnestly desire than the art of skillfully and politely holding my tongue. That art I am trying to cultivate."

✓✓

Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, February 18, 1889.

"You know that our Board meets next Tuesday. I expect to be in New York (H. M. Rooms care Dr. Morehouse) on Friday afternoon or night. Will you not see that Mr. Rockefeller is informed of the meeting if he does not already know of it? It is quite important that the Chicago matter be settled at the earliest moment that preliminary work may be done which can not be accomplished so easily or cheaply later. If Mr. R. could be prepared to state about what he could do to the Board now his action would be most convenient and timely. At the same time he must of course first consult his own convenience and best judgement."

✓ ✓
Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, February 18, 1882.

"You know that our Board meets next Tuesday.

I expect to be in New York (H. M. Hoona says Dr. Merriam)

on Friday afternoon or night. Will you not see that

Mr. Rockefeller is informed of the meeting if he does

not already know of it? It is quite important that the

Chicago matter be settled at the earliest moment that

preliminary work may be done which can not be accomplished

so easily or cheaply later. If Mr. R. could be prepared

to state about what he could do to the Board now his

action would be most convenient and timely. At the

same time he must of course first consult his own

convenience and best judgment."

✓✓

Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, February 18, 1889.

.....
.....

"I have just written a line to Mr. R. exonerating Dr. Smith who wishes to disavow the statements attributed to him and in a line entering my own disclaimer. So I release you from the promise to excuse me on Wednesday at lunch. On reflection I think Mr. R. can not possibly attribute any of the published statements to me. They are too inaccurate and too old. I said nothing about Board meeting or anything else calculated to urge the matter."

✓✓
Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, February 18, 1889.

.....
.....
"I have just written a line to Mr. R. exonerating

Dr. Smith who wishes to disavow the statements
attributed to him and in a line entering my own disclaimer.
So I release you from the promise to excuse me on
Wednesday at lunch. On reflection I think Mr. R.
can not possibly attribute any of the published
statements to me. They are too inaccurate and too old.
I said nothing about Board meeting or anything else
calculated to urge the matter."

✓
Dr. Goodspeed to his sons, February 18, 1889

.....
.....
"The University matter remains in statu quo. Dr. Harper's last letter says Mr. R. will carry the matter forward thro' the National Education Society. That Society has a Board meeting in New York tomorrow and it is not impossible that some advance may be made this week. Dr. H. thinks the extraordinary reports in the newspapers have embarrassed Mr. R. and delayed things a little. These reports continue. The Times said yesterday that Mr. R. had offered \$10,000,000. or \$15,000,000. for the erection of a building! I have feared that these reports would disgust and discourage Mr. R. but Dr. H. thinks not."

.....
.....

Dr. Goodspeed to his sons, February 18, 1889

.....

.....

"The University matter remains in statu quo. Dr. Harper's last letter says Mr. R. will carry the matter forward through the National Education Society. That Society has a Board meeting in New York tomorrow and it is not impossible that some advance may be made this week. Dr. R. thinks the extraordinary reports in the newspapers have embarrassed Mr. R. and delayed things a little. These reports continue. The Times said yesterday that Mr. R. had offered \$10,000,000 or \$15,000,000 for the erection of a building. I have feared that these reports would disgust and discourage Mr. R. but Dr. R. thinks not."

.....

.....

✓ ✓
Feb. 20, 1889

Mr. Rockefeller to Mr. Gates:

Pledges \$100,000 to the American Baptist Education Society.

Feb. 20, 1889

Mr. Rockefeller to Mr. Gates:

Pledges \$100,000 to the American Baptist Education Society.

✓ ✓

Feb. 21, 1889

Mr. Gates to Mr. Rockefeller:

"Your note of Feb. 20th, offering to 'contribute \$100,000 to the American Baptist Education Society for its contributions to educational work in the United States' has been received and laid before the Executive Board.

"I am instructed by the Board to convey to you their acceptance of your noble gift, under the conditions which you name, and to express to you their grateful appreciation of this mark of your confidence in the possible usefulness of the Society. They believe that your influence and patronage, thus generously tendered the new organization, will do much to assure that unity and efficiency in promoting Christian culture which the Baptist denomination has sought in forming a national education society. They venture to hope that your example will encourage others, who may contemplate employing the Society in a similar way, whether for the appropriation of large or smaller sums. The Board will designate your donations to such institutions, in such amounts, and under such conditions as you may approve and as, in their judgment, shall promise the largest, most certain and most permanent fruitages of good."

Feb. 21, 1889

Mr. Gates to Mr. Rockefeller:

"Your note of Feb. 20th, offering to contribute \$100,000 to the American Baptist Education Society for its contributions to educational work in the United States, has been received and laid before the Executive Board.

"I am instructed by the Board to convey to you their acceptance of your noble gift, under the conditions which you name, and to express to you their grateful appreciation of the mark of your confidence in the possible usefulness of the Society. They believe that your influence and patronage, thus generously tendered the new organization, will do much to assure that unity and efficiency in promoting Christian culture which the Baptist denomination has sought in forming a national education society. They venture to hope that your example will encourage others, who may contemplate employing the Society in a similar way, whether for the appropriation of large or smaller sums. The Board will designate your donations to such institutions, in such amounts, and under such conditions as you may approve and as, in their judgment, shall promise the largest, most certain and most permanent fringes of good."

February 21, 1889.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Goodspeed:-

"I take the first opportunity to write you concerning the Board-meeting yesterday. It was a very fully attended one. Just before the meeting opened a letter was received from Mr. Rockefeller in which he proposed to give the Board ten thousand dollars a month for ten months to be used according to the direction of the Board in educational work in the United States. I had not seen him for ten days and did not know the exact form which matters would take. At the Board-meeting it was decided to change the headquarters from Washington City to New York and to incorporate in the State of New York. The decision of this question took over three hours. We then elected an executive committee of nine to transact business, filled vacancies, and adjourned. The Chicago question was not mentioned. The evening was spent in the executive committee in endorsing Des Moines and considering the outlook for the future. I made a motion in the Board-meeting that no appropriations be made until the annual meeting of the Board in May. This was carried. In an after meeting last night Gates, Morehouse and myself considered the question and decided that, in all probability, Mr. Rockefeller meant something to be done now in reference to Chicago. We are to have another meeting the latter part of this week and will take up the matter. I feel that a great point has been gained and that we may expect some good results.

The points of your letter I will not answer at this time as I am anxious to get this letter off to you. Please indicate these things to Dr. Smith and Dr. Northrup."

February 21, 1889.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Woodbridge:-

"I take the first opportunity to write you concerning the Board-meeting yesterday. It was a very fully attended one. Just before the meeting opened a letter was received from Mr. Rockefeller in which he proposed to give the Board ten thousand dollars a month for ten months to be used according to the direction of the Board in educational work in the United States. I had not seen him for ten days and did not know the exact form which matters would take. At the Board-meeting it was decided to change the headquarters from Washington City to New York and to incorporate in the State of New York. The decision of this question took over three hours. We then elected an executive committee of nine to transact business, filled vacancies, and adjourned. The Chicago question was not mentioned. The evening was spent in the executive committee in endorsing Des Moines and considering the outlook for the future. I made a motion in the Board-meeting that no appropriations be made until the annual meeting of the Board in May. This was carried. In an after meeting last night Gates, Morhouse and myself considered the question and decided that, in all probability, Mr. Rockefeller meant something to be done now in reference to Chicago. We are to have another meeting the latter part of this week and will take up the matter. I feel that a great point has been gained and that we may expect some good results. The points of your letter I will not answer at this time as I am anxious to get this letter off to you. Please indicate these things to Dr. Smith and Dr. Northrup."

✓

Feb. 22, 1889

Dr. Harper to Mr. Rockefeller:

"Please allow me first to thank you most heartily for your kindness and generosity in contributing so large a sum to the work of the American Baptist Education Society. I shall tell you when I meet you how thoroughly the gift was appreciated. I am sure it would have done you good to have heard the remarks of the various gentlemen.

"Mr. Gates is to be with me at Vassar Sunday, and a good many matters will be discussed. I wonder if you could not go up. I am sure we could spend the time profitably and we would like very much to get your ideas in reference to several matters in relation to the Education Society. If you will telegraph me the train on which you leave, I will try to arrange to take the same train, if you should be able to make the arrangement.

"Again thanking you, and hoping that I may be able to see you soon, I remain, - "

Feb. 22, 1889

Dr. Harper to Mr. Rockefeller:

"Please allow me first to thank you most heartily for your kind-
ness and generosity in contributing so large a sum to the work of the
American Baptist Education Society. I shall tell you when I meet you
how thoroughly the gift was appreciated. I am sure it would have done you
good to have heard the remarks of the various gentlemen.

"Mr. Gates is to be with me at Vassar Sunday, and a good many
matters will be discussed. I wonder if you could not go up. I am sure
we could spend the time profitably and we would like very much to get
your ideas in reference to several matters in relation to the Education
Society. If you will telegraph me the train on which you leave, I will
try to arrange to take the same train, if you should be able to make the
arrangement.

"Again thanking you, and hoping that I may be able to see you soon,
I remain, - "

February 22, 1889.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Goodspeed:

"A word now, if you please, in reply to your letter of February 18th. I am sorry, of course, that things have taken their present turn. Twice Mr. Rockefeller has been at the point of doing something; in both cases he has been thrown back by some event: first the sickness of his wife, and secondly the publicity given to the inside affairs of the Chicago University. He has been very much annoyed by the latter, and yet he does not blame anyone. We, of course, know that none of the Morgan Park people have had anything to do with these reports. Perhaps we ought to be surprised that the reports did not get out sooner. The thing that troubles me is the minuteness of the information in some respects, e.g., Mr. Rockefeller being at Poughkeepsie, etc. I have no doubt that the thing has been given away by the other side. I shall see him very soon and shall remove any trouble which exists in reference to this matter. As you say, the pulling and hauling on this matter has been something extraordinary. It does seem strange that people do not know enough to keep silent and let a good thing be done. I do not think that my decision has had anything to do with Mr. Rockefeller's tardiness in taking hold. Indeed, he had the decision in his hands and so the responsibility was off my shoulders. I do not know, of course, what the next turn will be; I can only hope that there will be a turn at an early date. You have no reason to fear that the connection of your name with the affair has had anything to do with the delay. The fact is I know that Mr. Rockefeller has absolute confidence in you and there is no man whom he would prefer to have connected with the undertaking. I cannot help thinking that this is the best thing that can be done and I hope that the thing will move on in this way. The plan of a union of effort on the part of yourself, Gates and myself is, I think, unsatisfactory and I should not be willing to take hold of it now as things stand. I think one point is settled, viz., that the university must be started by itself, when started, and the seminary afterwards be taken into connection with it. This would be the easier way, and on all hands, probably the most satisfactory.

I do not think that Mr. Rockefeller's gift of one hundred thousand dollars to the Education Society, even if appropriated by that society to other colleges will interfere with the Chicago matter. My present thought, however, is this, viz., to try to get him to double or triple the amount and continue it for five or six years and thus make a basis. A special committee was appointed by the Board to prepare a statement to be given at the annual meeting in Boston as to the general policy of the society. This statement is to cover the policy of the Board in reference to the erection of institutes, academies, methods of giving money, terms with institutions to which money is given, attitude toward the promotion of new institutions, etc. etc. I have been made chairman of this committee. It seems to me an important matter for it practically outlined the work of the Board on all these questions. It will, of course, give rise to very vigorous discussion. I shall go to work upon the matter at a very early date and shall hope to get a good deal of help from you in reference to it. I am glad that

February 22, 1889.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Goodspeed:

"A word now, if you please, in reply to your letter of February 18th. I am sorry, of course, that things have taken their present turn. Twice Mr. Rockefeller has been at the point of doing something; in both cases he has been thrown back by some event: first the sickness of his wife, and secondly the publicity given to the inside affairs of the Chicago University. He has been very much annoyed by the latter, and yet he does not blame anyone. We, of course, know that none of the Morgan Park people have had anything to do with these reports. Perhaps we ought to be surprised that the reports did not get out sooner. The thing that troubles me is the minuteness of the information in some respects, e.g., Mr. Rockefeller being at Poughkeepsie, etc. I have no doubt that the thing has been given away by the other side. I shall see him very soon and shall remove any trouble which exists in reference to this matter. As you say, the pulling and hauling on this matter has been something extraordinary. It does seem strange that people do not know enough to keep silent and let a good thing be done. I do not think that my decision has had anything to do with Mr. Rockefeller's tardiness in taking hold. Indeed, he had the decision in his hands and so the responsibility was off my shoulders. I do not know, of course, what the next turn will be; I can only hope that there will be a turn at an early date. You have no reason to fear that the connection of your name with the affair has had anything to do with the delay. The fact is I know that Mr. Rockefeller has absolute confidence in you and there is no man whom he would prefer to have connected with the undertaking. I cannot help thinking that this is the best thing that can be done and I hope that the thing will move on in this way. The plan of a union of effort on the part of yourself, Gates and myself is, I think, unsatisfactory and I should not be willing to take hold of it now as things stand. I think one point is settled, viz., that the university must be started by itself, when started, and the seminary afterwards be taken into connection with it. This would be the easier way, and on all hands, probably the most satisfactory. I do not think that Mr. Rockefeller's gift of one hundred thousand dollars to the Education Society, even if appropriated by that society to other colleges will interfere with the Chicago matter. My present thought, however, is this, viz., to try to get him to double or triple the amount and continue it for five or six years and then make a pause. A special committee was appointed by the Board to prepare a statement to be given at the annual meeting in Boston as to the general policy of the society. This statement is to cover the policy of the Board in reference to the erection of institutes, academies, methods of giving money, terms with institutions to which money is given, attitude toward the promotion of new institutions, etc. etc. I have been made chairman of this committee. It seems to me an important matter for it practically outlined the work of the Board on all these questions. It will, of course, give rise to very vigorous discussion. I shall go to work upon the matter at a very early date and shall hope to get a good deal of help from you in reference to it. I am glad that

February 22, 1889.

the seminary is so prosperous, and I trust that the numbers will continue to increase.

I have just had (Friday 10 a.m.) an hour and a half's conference with Lorimer, who stopped over. I have not told him all the facts by any means. I have indicated to him that things are now in statu quo. He professed a deep interest in my taking hold of the Chicago University, but I think I see that he is anxious to become the president. He assured me that a million dollars could be raised in Chicago if Mr. R. would give a million dollars. Please let me know what you think about this and what you think about his connection with it. For my own part I take little stock in the whole matter."

February 22, 1962

-2-

the seminary is so prosperous, and I trust that the numbers will continue to increase.

I have just had (Friday 10 a.m.) an hour and a half's conference with Lorimer, who stopped over. I have not told him all the facts by any means. I have indicated to him that things are now in statu quo. He professed a deep interest in my taking hold of the Chicago University, but I think I see that he is anxious to become the President. He assured me that a million dollars could be raised in Chicago if Mr. R. would give a million dollars. Please let me know what you think about this and what you think about his connection with it. For my own part I take little stock in the whole matter."

Feb. 23, 1889.

Mr. Gates to Mr. Rockefeller: (Written from the Clarendon Hotel)

"It seems to me that it would be wise for our Board or Ex.Com. to appoint the best possible committee of three, to study Chicago, and report in writing, on the points subjoined herewith. My present purpose is to recommend it at next meeting of the Executive Com. If such action on their part would be a blunder, or in any way interfere with or embarrass any study you may be giving the subject, I know you will have the kindness to tell me, so as to prevent it. Otherwise, I think the Board ought to take the initiative now all things considered and do it even if wholly on its own responsibility. Perhaps I ought to say I have consulted no one as yet on this, and no one will be the wiser if you now nip my little scheme in the bud.

"My address for today will be Home Mission Rooms. If I hear nothing adverse, I shall take responsibility of this."

"Committee to inquire and report in writing -

1. As to wisest initial scope of proposed institution with reasons.
 2. As to site, limited to inquiry whether best location of such institution should be in the city or in a suburb and amount of land necessary.
 3. Character and minimum probable cost of substantial buildings required.
 4. Probable annual cost of maintaining such an institution:-
 - (a) No. of instructors and salary of each
 - (b) Annual cost of library
 - (c) Incidentals, repairs, etc.
 - (d) Beneficiary aid, prizes, etc., if any.
 5. Probable income from tuition when the institution is properly equipped.
 6. Amount of invested funds required for the support of such institution.
 7. Probable amount which would be raised for such an institution within five years in Chicago and the west, provided they had assurance that balance to give strength and permanence to institution would be raised in the east by the Society.
 8. Suggest a list of trustees for said institution.
 9. Outline what relation, if any, it should sustain to the Society.
 10. Suggest a name to superintend erection of buildings and raising supplemental funds in Chicago and the West.
 11. Name amounts of annual payments on part of Society best suited to wisely build up the institution to point contemplated by Committee.
- Other points may occur to me or be suggested by others."

Feb. 23, 1889.

Mr. Gates to Mr. Rockefeller: (Written from the Clarendon Hotel)

"It seems to me that it would be wise for our Board or Ex-Com. to appoint the best possible committee of three, to study Chicago, and report in writing, on the points submitted herewith. My present purpose is to recommend it at next meeting of the Executive Com. If such action on their part would be a hinder, or in any way interfere with or embarrass any study you may be giving the subject, I know you will have the kindness to tell me, so as to prevent it. Otherwise, I think the Board ought to take the initiative now all things considered and do it even if wholly on its own responsibility. Perhaps I ought to say I have consulted no one as yet on this, and no one will be the wiser if you now nip my little scheme in the bud.

"My address for today will be Home Mission Rooms. If I hear nothing adverse, I shall take responsibility of this."

"Committee to inquire and report in writing -

1. As to wisest initial scope of proposed institution with reasons.
2. As to site, limited to inquiry whether best location of such institution should be in the city or in a suburb and amount of land necessary.
3. Character and minimum probable cost of substantial buildings required.
4. Probable annual cost of maintaining such an institution:-

- (a) No. of instructors and salary of each
- (b) Annual cost of library
- (c) Incidentals, repairs, etc.
- (d) Beneficiary aid, prizes, etc., if any.

5. Probable income from tuition when the institution is properly equipped.
 6. Amount of invested funds required for the support of such institution.
 7. Probable amount which would be raised for such an institution within five years in Chicago and the west, provided they had assurance that balance to give strength and permanence to institution would be raised in the east by the Society.
 8. Suggest a list of trustees for said institution.
 9. Outline what relation, if any, it should maintain to the Society.
 10. Suggest a name to supersede erection of buildings and raising supplemental funds in Chicago and the West.
 11. Name amounts of annual payments on part of Society bent suited to wisely build up the institution to point contemplated by Committee.
- Other points may occur to me or be suggested by others."

✓✓

Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, February 23, 1889.

"Walter Scott was in this morning and concurs in the Chicago Committee plan. This makes three of the Ex. Com. I shall confer with Dr. Wood and Lawson and if they agree the five secured will form a majority of the Com. I shall then ask Secretary Scott to call them together (evening). I will get for you Dr. Morehouse's proxy so as to assure a quorum. I doubt if you can get Mr. R. to name the Com. but he ought at least to be given the opportunity. So Dr. Morehouse thinks, and I hope you will have no hesitation in sending list to him. The points suggested I need only briefly to indicate.

1. Scope.
2. Site, limited to whether in city or suburb, and amount of land.
3. Character and cost of buildings.
4. Character and cost of initial apparatus, illustrative.
5. Annual expenses pretty closely itemized.
6. Reasonable amount of endowment.
7. Reasonable estimate of income from tuitions.
8. For such an institution how much may be reasonably counted on from Chicago and the West in five years- in ten years.

✓
Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, February 25, 1889.

Walter Scott was in this morning and conference
in the Chicago Committee plan. This makes three of
the Mr. Com. I shall confer with Dr. Wood and Lawson
and if they agree the five secured will form a majority
of the Com. I shall then ask Secretary Scott to call
them together (evening). I will get for you
Dr. Morehouse's proxy so as to secure a quorum. I doubt
if you can get Mr. R. to name the Com. but he ought
at least to be given the opportunity. So Dr. Morehouse
thinks, and I hope you will have no hesitation in
sending list to him. The points suggested I need only
briefly indicate.

1. Scope.
2. Site, limited to whether in city or suburbs,
and amount of land.
3. Character and cost of buildings.
4. Character and cost of initial operations, illustrative.
5. Annual expenses pretty closely itemized.
6. Reasonable amount of endowment.
7. Reasonable estimate of income from endowment.
8. For such an institution how much may be reasonably
counted on from Chicago and the rest in five years
in ten years.

9. How much annually ought to be set apart for the development of such an institution by Education Society supposing same to cover five years-ten years?

10. Name suitable Board of trustees.

11. Name western agent or manager.

12. Define permanent relation of Education Society.

You suggest others, for instance-

13. How much could reasonably be secured in East if anything, apart from Mr. R."

.....

9. How much annually ought to be set apart for the development of such an institution by Education Society supposing same to cover five years-ten years?

10. Name suitable board of trustees.
11. Name western agent or manager.
12. Define permanent relation of Education Society. You suggest others, for instance-
13. How much could reasonably be secured in East if anything, apart from Mr. R.?

.....

✓

Feb. 23, 1889

Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Harper:

Explains that he is suffering from a cold and will be unable
to go to Vassar.

Feb. 23, 1889

Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Harper:

Explains that he is suffering from a cold and will be unable

to go to Vassar.

✓

Feb. 25, 1889

Dr. Harper to Mr. Rockefeller:

"You will pardon me for troubling you again with a letter. Yesterday at Poughkeepsie Mr. Gates and myself gave careful thought to the question of our educational work. Mr. Gates proposed⁺ that the executive board appoint a committee of five or seven gentlemen to go to Chicago, look over the ground and make a report in May at the time of the anniversary meetings on the various questions which must be settled in connection with the location of a university or college at that place. It has seemed to me that this is a very admirable plan. Everything, of course, turns on the composition of the committee, and we would be glad to have a committee in which you would have confidence. Would you do us the favor to check on the enclosed list the names of some of the gentlemen whom you would like to see on such a committee if appointed. I beg you to note that it will not be known that you have thus indicated a preference and that you will, therefore, in no sense commit yourself to any action. I am very sorry indeed to trouble you, but, feeling confident of your continued interest in the plan, and desiring to get the facts into as definite shape as possible before any action is taken in reference to the money which you have so kindly contributed to the Education Society, I make this request. * * * * *

"Mr. Gates is very anxious that I should go on the committee. I do not see how I could take the time necessary, and yet, if it is desired, I shall make an effort to do so. I think that there are reasons why, perhaps, it might be better for me not to go on this committee."

⁺ Editor's note. See Mr. Gates to Mr. Rockefeller Feb 23 1889

Feb. 25, 1889

Dr. Harper to Mr. Gates:

"I have today written letters to Rockefeller and Goodspeed. I have been careful not to indicate to Goodspeed the point you made last night. I have told Mr. R. that his preference on this committee will be known only to you and myself. I shall hope to hear from you very soon. He may do nothing. We caught the train last night by the most rapid running; if we had lost thirty seconds more we should have missed it."

Feb. 22, 1889

Dr. Harper to Mr. Gates:

"I have today written letters to Rockefeller and Goodspeed.

I have been careful not to indicate to Goodspeed the point you made last night. I have told Mr. R. that his preference on this committee will be known only to you and myself. I shall hope to hear from you very soon. He may do nothing. We caught the train last night by the most rapid running; if we had lost thirty seconds more we should have missed it."

✓

February 25, 1889.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Goodspeed:-

"The following line of action has been decided upon:

1. A meeting of the executive committee this week or next for the appointment of a committee of five or seven gentlemen who shall go to Chicago, talk with the brethren, look at sites, confer with each other and make a report to the board of the Education Society in May.
2. This report will cover all questions connected with the location of the University of Chicago, viz., in reference to what ought to be done now, the location, the amount of money, the plan of securing this money, the different departments, the question of a board of trustees with the Education Society, etc. etc. etc.
3. This plan would be, of course, entirely tentative, and would be subject to all modifications as time shows the necessity of the same, and would only deal with matters in general and not in particular.
4. The purpose of this is to get a definite action upon which Mr. Rockefeller may act. We believe that he is ready to take hold but that he wants something more definite than has yet been presented, and at the same time something that will relieve him of all responsibility.
5. It is proposed that this report be made to the board, adopted by them, and then reported to the Society at its annual meeting. Speakers will be arranged for and the great work of the annual meeting would be given to this point.

This plan I have reason personally to know is satisfactory and, indeed, more than satisfactory to Mr. Rockefeller. The committee will be made up of men whom he will favor. I send you a list which I would like to have you study and give me your opinion upon. Will you indicate seven men from this list who would make the best committee? It was at first proposed that there should be no Chicago man upon it, but afterwards it was thought best to put on one at least. You understand that the Chicago brethren will be consulted in every detail; at least, that is the plan. Gates wants me to go on the committee but I do not see how I can. It seems impossible to get away from the multitude of work which is resting upon me. I thoroughly believe, however, that this is the right step, and that nothing will be done until a definite report of some such committee has been made. Morehouse is enthusiastic in favor of the plan and there seems to be little doubt that it will go through the executive committee this week or next. We do not want to do anything that will be contrary to your desires in this matter, and you understand that we are planning only in the interests of Chicago. This in no sense takes the matter out of the hand of the Chicago men. Our only desire is to have a committee that will have weight with the denomination, and at the same time with Mr. Rockefeller. If the brethren think I ought to serve on that committee I will make an effort to do so; but the question is whether my name has not been so closely

February 25, 1888.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Goodspeed:-

"The following line of action has been decided upon:
1. A meeting of the executive committee this week or next for the appointment of a committee of five or seven gentlemen who shall go to Chicago, talk with the brethren, look at sites, confer with each other and make a report to the board of the Education Society in May.

2. This report will cover all questions connected with the location of the University of Chicago, viz., in reference to what ought to be done now, the location, the amount of money, the plan of securing this money, the different departments, the question of a board of trustees with the Education Society, etc. etc. etc.

3. This plan would be, of course, entirely tentative, and would be subject to all modifications as time shows the necessity of the same, and would only deal with matters in general and not in particular.

4. The purpose of this is to get a definite action upon which Mr. Rockefeller may act. We believe that he is ready to take hold but that he wants something more definite than has yet been presented, and at the same time something that will relieve him of all responsibility.

5. It is proposed that this report be made to the board, adopted by them, and then reported to the Society at its annual meeting. Speeches will be arranged for and the great work of the annual meeting would be given to this point.

This plan I have reason personally to know is satisfactory and, indeed, more than satisfactory to Mr. Rockefeller. The committee will be made up of men whom he will favor. I send you a list which I would like to have you study and give me your opinion upon. Will you indicate seven men from this list who would make the best committee? It was at first proposed that there should be no Chicago men upon it, but afterwards it was thought best to put on one at least. You understand that the Chicago brethren will be consulted in every detail; at least, that is the plan. Gates wants me to go on the committee but I do not see how I can. It seems impossible to get away from the midst of work which is resting upon me. I thoroughly believe, however, that this is the right step, and that nothing will be done until a definite report of some such committee has been made. There is no reason in favor of the plan and there seems to be little doubt that it will go through the executive committee this week or next. We do not want to do anything that will be contrary to your desires in this matter, and you understand that we are planning only in the interests of Chicago. This in no sense takes the matter out of the hands of the Chicago men. Our only desire is to have a committee that will have weight with the denomination, and at the same time with Mr. Rockefeller. If the brethren think I ought to serve on that committee I will make an effort to do so; but the question is whether my name has not been so closely

February 25, 1889.

connected with the enterprise that it would be better for my name to be left off and the name of some such man as Dr. Wayland be put upon it. The committee must be carefully managed or there will be trouble. It looks now as if E. Benj. Andrews would be chairman of the committee; he is heart and soul in the matter and has been lying awake nights in sorrow over the situation in Chicago. Note what I said before, viz., that I know - I am not at liberty to give you the source of my information, - that this plan is acceptable to Mr. R. and that a committee will be appointed which will also be acceptable to him. It may not be necessary for all the members of this committee to go to Chicago. It is proposed to have the expenses of this committee paid and so we think we shall be able to get the right class of men.

Hoping that you will let me hear from you at an early date in order that I may know how this strikes you, and what you would like to have done, I remain."

"N.B.-- Please show this to Drs. Northrup and Smith and only to them, and believe me when I say that I am making an effort in this whole matter to represent you three gentlemen; if I do not do it, it will be because I do not know your desires. Will each of you write me fully in order that I may know how to act. I think I am in a position to influence any action either in this matter or in most matters that come up before the board..

connected with the enterprise that it would be better for my name to be left off and the name of some such man as Dr. Wayland be put upon it. The committee must be carefully managed or there will be trouble. It looks now as if E. Benj. Andrews would be chairman of the committee; he is heart and soul in the matter and has been lying awake nights in sorrow over the situation in Chicago. Note what I said before, viz., that I know - I am not at liberty to give you the source of my information, - that this plan is acceptable to Mr. R. and that a committee will be appointed which will also be acceptable to him. It may not be necessary for all the members of this committee to go to Chicago. It is proposed to have the expenses of this committee paid and so we think we shall be able to get the right class of men.

Hoping that you will let me hear from you at an early date in order that I may know how this strikes you, and what you would like to have done, I remain,
 "W.B.-- Please show this to Drs. Norstrup and Smith and only to them, and believe me when I say that I am making an effort in this whole matter to represent you three gentlemen; if I do not do it, it will be because I do not know your desires. Will each of you write me fully in order that I may know how to act. I think I am in a position to influence any action either in this matter or in most matters that come up before the board."

Feb. 26, 1889

Mr. Rockefeller to Mr. Gates.

"Answer to yours of the 23rd delayed on account of my illness. The action you propose, in reference to the appointment of a committee by the Baptist Education Society, to investigate Chicago, as a place for a college, will not at all interfere with, or embarrass, me, and in the event of giving for such an institution, I would prefer to give through the Educational Society, and hope its history will encourage the friends of our denomination to give through it."

Feb. 26, 1889

Mr. Rockefeller to Mr. Gates.

"Answer to yours of the 23rd delayed on account of my illness. The action you propose, in reference to the appointment of a committee by the Baptist Education Society, to investigate Chicago, as a place for a college, will not at all interfere with, or embarrass, me, and in the event of giving for such an institution, I would prefer to give through the Educational Society, and hope its history will encourage the friends of our denomination to give through it."

✓

Dr. J. A. Smith to Dr. Harper, February 26, 1889.

.....

We, here, are not disappointed by what occurred in New York. We incline to feel that upon the whole it is better than if all our hopes had been realized. We shall at least be free from the appearance of working to appropriate all the good that becomes available. What is far more, we see in Mr. Rockefeller's splendid gift a recognition of the society, which, perhaps ought to precede everything else. There is an immense hope now concentrated in that society; a hope for vast sections of the countries too long neglected, and for a department of denominational work which in those sections has been too much left without any care at all. Whatever becomes of us here, we shall still find comfort in the good done elsewhere.

I spent a little time this morning with Mr. George C. Walker, reading to him portions of your letter. He enters into the ideas I have just expressed, yet is evidently very anxious that we should be doing something to the purpose here. This special interest, as you know, is in an academy for Morgan Park. Toward that undertaking he would, I suppose, give generously; probably all that was offered when we were talking of a university there. The difficulty is to secure a cooperation with him that will justify immediate steps. He would like to be in a position to secure for us the Ladies College for an academy opening next fall, and would also like to see an additional building erected during the summer, with further steps taken to secure a suitable opening in the autumn.

Now, of course, applications for aid from the sums Mr. Rockefeller gives will immediately flow in. I am not about to make one of them. Yet I thought I might, as between us two, inquire whether such a thing would be suitable and possible, as a considerable donation toward this academy enterprise, as a beginning of what we hope to do here. That would help very much in enlisting Chicago Baptists, and in placing the movement upon a basis it could not have if wholly a local one. I simply ask for your own impressions of the matter, at such time as you can spare me a little leisure.

I am glad Dr. Lorimer has visited you. Of course, we here have only, as yet, thought of one man for the presidency. By all I hear, I am afraid he is out of our reach; although there is always something to hope from 'the unexpected.' Your suggestion is worthy of consideration, and will no doubt receive it."

.....

Dr. J. A. Smith to Dr. Harper, February 26, 1889.

We, here, are not disappointed by what occurred in New York. We incline to feel that upon the whole it is better than if all our hopes had been realized. We shall at least be free from the appearance of working as separate all the good that becomes available. What is far more, we see in Mr. Rockefeller's splendid gift a recognition of the society, which, perhaps ought to precede everything else. There is an immense hope now concentrated in that society; a hope for vast sections of the countries too long neglected, and for a department of denominational work which in those sections has been too much left without any care at all. Whatever becomes of us here, we shall still find comfort in the good done elsewhere.

I spent a little time this morning with Mr. George C. Walker, reading to him portions of your letter. He enters into the ideas I have just expressed, yet is evidently very anxious that we should be doing something to the purpose here. This special interest, as you know, is in an academy for Morgan Park. Toward that undertaking he would, I suppose, give generously; probably all that was offered when we were talking of a university there. The difficulty is to secure a cooperation with him that will justify immediate steps. He would like to be in a position to secure for us the Ladies College for an academy opening next fall, and would also like to see an additional building erected during the summer, with further steps taken to secure a suitable opening in the autumn.

Now, of course, applications for aid from the same Mr. Rockefeller gives will immediately flow in. I must about to make one of them. Yet I thought I might, as between us two, inquire whether such a thing would be suitable and possible, as a considerable donation toward this academy enterprise, as a beginning of what we hope to do here. That would help very much in establishing Chicago Baptists, and in placing the movement upon a basis it could not have if wholly a local one. I simply say for your own impressions of the matter, at such time as you can spare me a little leisure.

I am glad Dr. Loring has visited you. Of course, we have have only, as yet, thought of one man for the presidency. By all I hear, I am afraid he is out of our reach, although there is always something to hope from the unexpected. Your suggestion is worthy of consideration, and will no doubt receive it.

✓

Dr. Northrup to Dr. Harper, February 26, 1889.

.....

"I have received, as you may be surprised to learn, two letters from Dr. Strong relative to the matter as Vassar. I think you can feel assured that he will do nothing unless it be to withdraw quietly from the Board. My impression is that he will not take even this step. I have endeavored to make him see that his reasons were not sufficiently definite or weighty to justify the course which he seemed at first to contemplate. I may add that this correspondence was of his seeking not mine.

I am sorry to be compelled to confess that my faith in the much-talked-of and much-written-about Chicago University is, just at this present time, a 'vanishing minimum.' We began with a University, then dropped to a College and now Dr. Smith is *working away at* Mr. Walker to induce him to start an academy. If he fails I propose to make one last effort with the view of establishing a Baptist Kindergarten at Chicago. I am afraid that the eternal and immutable purposes of God do not include a second Baptist institution of any sort at this point."

.....

.....

✓
Dr. Northrup to Dr. Harper, February 26, 1889.

.....
"I have received, as you may be surprised to learn, two letters from Dr. Strong relative to the matter at Vassar. I think you can feel assured that he will do nothing unless it be to withdraw quietly from the Board. My impression is that he will not take even this step. I have endeavored to make him see that his reasons were not sufficiently definite or weighty to justify the course which he seemed at first to contemplate. I may add that this correspondence was of his seeking not mine.

I am sorry to be compelled to confess that my faith in the much-talked-of and much-written-about Chicago University is, just at this present time, a 'vanishing minimum.' We began with a University, then dropped to a College and now Dr. Smith is *nothing more*. Mr. Walker to induce him to start an academy. If he fails I propose to make one last effort with the view of establishing a Baptist Kindergarten at Chicago. I am afraid that the eternal and immutable purposes of God do not include a second Baptist institution of any sort at this point."

.....
.....

Feb. 27, 1889

Dr. Harper to Mr. Gates:

Acknowledges his letter of the 23rd and adds:

"I had already written to Rockefeller and hoped to receive a letter this morning, but none has come. This means that he is considering the matter. I shall, of course, have a letter by tomorrow morning. I am much obliged to you for giving me the points. Nothing new."

Feb. 27, 1883

Dr. Harper to Mr. Gates:

Acknowledges his letter of the 23rd and adds:

"I had already written to Rockefeller and hoped to receive a letter this morning, but none has come. This means that he is considering the matter. I shall, of course, have a letter by tomorrow morning. I am much obliged to you for giving me the points. Nothing new."

✓

February 27, 1889.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Goodspeed:-

"The following are the details of the matters which it is proposed to have the new committee act upon:

1. Scope
2. Site, limited to whether in city or suburb, and amount of land.
3. Character and cost of buildings.
4. Character and cost of initial apparatus illustrative.
5. Annual expenses pretty closely itemized.
6. Reasonable amount of endowment.
7. Reasonable estimate of income from tuitions.
8. For such an institution how much may be reasonably counted on from Chicago and the West,- in five years; in ten years.
9. How much annually ought to be set apart for the development of such an institution by Ed. Society supposing same to cover five years? ten years?
10. Name suitable board of trustees.
11. Name Western agent or manager.
12. Define permanent relation of Ed. Society. You suggest others, for instance:-
13. How much could reasonably be secured in East if anything apart from Mr. R."

Ed. Note

See Mr. Gales letter to Mr. R. of Feb 23rd 1889

February 27, 1888.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Goodspeed:-

"The following are the details of the matters which it is proposed to have the new committee act upon:

1. Scope
2. Site, limited to whether in city or suburb, and amount of land.
3. Character and cost of buildings.
4. Character and cost of initial apparatus illustrative.
5. Annual expenses pretty closely itemized.
6. Reasonable amount of endowment.
7. Reasonable estimate of income from tuition.
8. For such an institution how much may be reasonably counted on from Chicago and the West, - in five years; in ten years.
9. How much annually ought to be set apart for the development of such an institution by Ed. Society supposing same to cover five years? ten years?
10. Name suitable board of trustees.
11. Name Western agent or manager.
12. Define permanent relation of Ed. Society. You suggest others.
13. How much could reasonably be secured in West if anything apart for instance:-
from Mr. R."

See Mr. Allen letter to Mr. R. of the 25th 1887

Ed. Society

✓
Dr. Goodspeed to Dr. Harper, February 27, 1889.

"Your letters (3) have all come to hand. I have been much discouraged for a few weeks. But your letter of today has cleared up what has been dark and I begin to see thro' much that has puzzled me. It is hardly necessary for me to say that I approve the plan you outline most heartily. For the first time the project begins to assume shape and is started on the right track. I will now free my mind from care, assured that it is all right and what we want will come.

The list of names you send me for the Committee is a good one.

On the spur of the moment I name as most satisfactory to me

E. Benj. Andrews
Sam W. Duncan
H. L. Morehouse
Colgate Hoyt
Chas. L. Colby
Francis L. Wayland
G. W. Northrup.

A better Committee could not be chosen. Andrews and Northrup could prepare a plan of what the institution should be, its scope, departments, as well as any two men we have and together the Committee could prepare a report on the whole question that would receive universal approval. I will lay your letter before Drs. S. & N. this evening and write again."

Dr. Goodspeed to Dr. Harper, February 27, 1889.

"Your letters (3) have all come to hand. I have been much discouraged for a few weeks. But your letter of today has cleared up what has been dark and I begin to see things much that has puzzled me. It is hardly necessary for me to say that I approve the plan you outline most heartily. For the first time the project begins to assume shape and is started on the right track. I will now free my mind from care, assured that it is all right and what we want will come.

The list of names you send me for the Committee is a good one.

On the spur of the moment I name as most satisfactory to me

E. Benj. Andrews
Sam W. Dunson
H. L. Marshman
Calgate Hoyt
Chas. L. Colby
Francis L. Wayland
G. W. Northrup.

A better Committee could not be chosen. Andrews and Northrup could prepare a plan of what the institution should be, its scope, departments, as well as any two men we have and together the Committee could prepare a report on the whole question that would receive universal approval. I will lay your letter before Drs. S. & H. this evening and write again."