

June 13, 1890

Henry Dibblee, Attorney for Marshall Fields, to Mr. Gates:

"I hand you herewith plat of Marshall Fields addition to Chicago. Mr. Field has given the American Baptist Educational Society Block 3 & North 1/2 of 4, and sells the society Block 9 and the South 1/2 of 4 for \$132,500."

June 13, 1890

Henry Dibble, Attorney for Marshall Field, to Mr. Gates:

"I hand you herewith list of Marshall Field's addition to Chicago.
Mr. Field has given the American Baptist Educational Society Block 3 &
North 1/2 of 4, and sells the society Block 2 and the South 1/2 of 4 for
\$122,500."

(Copy)

New Haven, Conn., June 13, 1890.

Mr. W. R. Harper to Mr. John D. Rockefeller.

.....

.....

I have received a copy of the charter of the Chicago institution and am very much pleased with it. I think that this is one of the grandest undertakings that this country has known. I believe that ten years will show an institution at Chicago which will amaze the multitudes.

(Copy)

New Haven, Conn., June 13, 1890.

Mr. W. R. Harper to Mr. John D. Rockefeller.

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and am very much pleased with it. I think that this is one of the
grandest undertakings that this country has known. I believe that
ten years will show an institution at Chicago which will amaze the
multitudes.

June 20, 1890

Mr. Rockefeller contributed another \$100,000 to the Education Society, to secure which having been in part the object of Mr. Gates's visit.

✓
June 20, 1890

Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Harper:

Acknowledges his letter of June 13th.

"I am glad you are sanguine about the Chicago University and trust your expectations will be fully realized in reference to its success. I have not yet read up to date but hope to have the leisure in the country soon to do so."

✓

President Grose, University of South Dakota,
to Dr. Harper, July 3, 1890.

.....

"I feel that it is your mission-not to be escaped-
to fill the Chicago Presidency. A strong hand is needed
to begin wisely there and you have it. Do not argue
otherwise. The work of your life is there. I am a prophet
in this case."

President Gross, University of South Dakota,
to Dr. Harper, July 3, 1890.

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"I feel that it is your mission-not to be assigned-
to fill the Chicago Presidency. A strong hand is needed
to begin wisely there and you have it. Do not argue
otherwise. The work of your life is there. I am a prophet
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Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, July 5, 1890.

Telegram

"Trustees meet at Grand Pacific, Wednesday
afternoon, July ninth."

Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, July 5, 1890.

Telegram

"Trustees meet at Grand Pacific, Wednesday

afternoon, July ninth."

✓ ✓
July 11, 1890.

Dr. Harper to Mr. Gates:-

"Have just reached Chautauqua. You will not misunderstand me when I tell you that when I found myself on the street car in Chicago yesterday on my way down town after having said goodbye to you and Dr. Goodspeed, I felt an awful relief. It seemed as if I had entered into a new atmosphere. The weight upon my shoulders while with you was enormous. I am afraid that my only hope for relief is to keep out of the way of you two men. Is it safe for me to go to Oregon with you under these circumstances?

✓

Dr. J. A. Smith to Dr. Harper, July 11, 1890.

"I am sensible that I owe you an apology for my failure to keep our appointment for yesterday afternoon. In explaining it I beg you to indulge me in a brief 'outpouring' which may do me good, even if it should be something of a burden to you.

The reading of the report in yesterday morning papers of the new university board meeting affected me in a peculiar way. It brought home to me the fact that I am now to have no further share in an interest which for almost forty years has been well-nigh the chief one with me; no share at all, henceforth, in what I have looked forward to with such intensity of hope and desire. It did not seem possible for me to meet you in the mood of mind where I found myself and so I went home. It is, I find, not possible for any one to appreciate the feeling I have in these circumstances. There is considerable aggravation for it in the fact that my name seems not to have been thought of or mentioned by any one; also in the fact that although I am now the only member of the Education Board living in Chicago, and am a member of the committee of that Board appointed expressly to cooperate in the work here, not one word was said to me as to the persons to be thought of for election on the university board, nor was I permitted to know anything of the matter even while the Education Board was in session, until the report was made for the final election. There was, of course, nothing intentional in this, but the sting of it is in the fact that I am so completely overlooked and forgotten. Save at times, I dismiss the matter and try to take a manly and generous view of it all. At times, however, and especially at night, it all comes back upon me in a way to occasion real distress. I find myself in such a different relation to everything from what has been customary with me for so long, and the setting of me aside seems so much a matter of course to almost every one, that I half think the past years which I seem to remember so vividly must after all be but a dream. The worst of it is in the evident unconcern; the evident ignoring of any possibility of claim on my part.

This is all for yourself alone. I came to the office this morning with a load upon my spirits, after a wakeful night. A few moments ago I determined to write you this note; partly because I felt that an apology is due you, and partly because it may help me in the battle I am having with a tendency toward *morbidness* upon this subject, to write you these few words. And the more because there is no man in all the world whom I so entirely love and trust as I do yourself. Since the beginning of our acquaintance"

Dr. J. A. Smith to Dr. Harper, July 11, 1888.

"I am sensible that I owe you an apology for my failure to keep our appointment for yesterday afternoon. In explaining it I beg you to indulge me in a brief 'excuse', which may do me good, even if it should be something of a burden to you.

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"you have had my whole heart, in so far as admiring delight in all you are doing is concerned, and the warmest personal attachment.

I would like to say to you, with emphasis, that over all other men you are my choice for president of the new university. Let me urge you to see, earnestly, if there is not some way in which, spite of the very great personal sacrifice in certain directions, you can not make up your mind to undertake this greatest educational work in the history of American Baptists. Please excuse whatever may seem to you like a ~~weak~~ complaining in anything I have written. I do not mean it that way. Let it all be, besides, in strict confidence between you and myself."

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written. I do not mean it that way. Let it all be
besides, in strict confidence between you and myself."

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E. S. Dana (Yale) to Dr. Harper, July 13, 1890.

"Your letter troubled me a little, for I had not supposed you would sincerely consider the Chicago plan. If I could get at you, I would give you a piece of my mind. I am prejudiced, I know, for my thought, first, is of the loss we should experience if you left us, but for yourself is it wise? It seems to me, so far as I know the conditions of the problem that it would be a mistake for you to throw up your present position for what is proposed. It is an alluring thought, that of going off into the wilderness (Chicago! forgive me) to clear the land and found a great city. But that can be done if the right plan and time are taken, and the results will be accomplished in less than a generation, while a University, can that be a fungus growth? With unlimited money and the absence of all restricting conditions a grand beginning can be made, but that is about all. Money can put up buildings without end, it can tempt some good men as professors (but not give the choice of all) and other things money can do, but students can be bought only to a very limited extent, and when it comes to the literary atmosphere, the library advantages and a thousand things that an old successful institution possesses, these can come only with time and they do not *grow* as do the western towns. And are the conditions altogether favorable for you? You need not one but three or better five million - and will you not be restricted by a more or less vague sectarian spirit, which will interfere with your founding the great university of the West? There are enough second rate institutions in the western states, as well as a few good, if not great, ones, and it seems to me a poor task to found another. No, better cast in your lot with the strong, growing University where there is a really great work for good to be done, and do not go off into the wilds to lay foundations for a structure you can never see completed and which may be stunted in the growth, after your work is over, - pardon frank words, I could say much more if I let myself out."

E. S. Dana (Yale) to Dr. Harper, July 13, 1890.

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July 14, 1890.

Dr. Harper to Mr. Rockefeller:

"I have been wondering whether you would not like to spend a Sunday at Chautauqua. I will guarantee you a quiet and pleasant time. It is only a short ride as you know, from Cleveland, and the Chautauqua Sunday is something ideal. It would give me very great pleasure to have you come as my guest. It would afford an opportunity to talk over a good many matters relating to the new University which, perhaps, would be of mutual interest. I appreciate the fact that I am asking a good deal of you and that a Sunday at home is, perhaps, more agreeable than one spent anywhere else; and yet no harm will be done by the suggestion. I am sure Mrs. Rockefeller would enjoy coming along with you. I can secure very pleasant rooms at the hotel and I feel confident that you would not regret having paid us the visit.

"Mr. Gates has, of course, written you concerning the meeting of the Board of Trustees last week in Chicago. It was a most encouraging meeting in every respect."

July 16, 1890

Dr. Morehouse to Mr. Gates:

x x x x x "Harper must take the presidency of the new university. The feeling in the East is that he is the man for the place, though here and there one expresses a wish that he might have less to do with the higher criticism so-called."

(Copy)

Telegram

✓ ✓
July 16, 1890.

Rev. F. T. Gates,
Morgan Park, Ill.

If desired I can see you at Forest Hill tomorrow or Saturday.

Please answer.

John D. Rockefeller.

(Copy)

Telegram

July 16, 1890.

Rev. F. T. Gates,
Morgan Park, Ill.

If desired I can see you at Forest Hill tomorrow or Saturday.

Please answer.

John D. Rockefeller.



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July 16, 1890

Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Harper:

"Glad to hear of the good meeting of the Board of Trustees last week in Chicago". The letter invites Dr. Harper to spend a day or two with him at Cleveland, Dr. Harper being the at Chatauqua.

President Dwight (Yale) to Dr. Harper, July 18, 1890.

"Your letter of the 14th was received last evening. I have so fully and so repeatedly gone over the reasons and arguments, etc., of the case with you, that I will not take up your time by going over them again.

I owe it to myself however, and to you, to say to you frankly that, in my judgment, after all that has been done for you at Yale, and all that I have myself done, to secure your position, you cannot honorably leave your Yale professorship for this place at Chicago.

Wishing you such health and happiness in your summer work, I am, yours very truly,"

President Dwight (Yale) to Dr. Harper, July 18, 1890.

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Wishing you much health and happiness in your summer
work, I am, yours very truly,"

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Prof. E. H. Johnson (Crozer Theological Seminary)
to Dr. Harper, July 18, 1890.

"I send the enclosed cutting from this week's Independent with a hearty endorsement. Since you did me the honor to ask who was my candidate for the presidency of the institution which should be the best we can have, and the best the West can have, I trust I need not beg pardon for saying that, if duty is to be tested by the criterions, what is a man best fitted for? what is most worth doing? what most needs to be done? then, up to date, you have met everyone of these. But it seems to me that what you have done up to date has been the best possible preparation for the far wider task now urged upon you, alike as a preparation of yourself and in the scarcely less important particular of winning for you the unparalleled confidence of the denomination, of the educated classes generally, of the chief benefactor of the university in particular, on whose support what the Independent justly regards as the indispensable aids of the future depend. If you hesitate to call yourself preeminently fitted as the preeminently fit man is likely always to do, then remember that third criterion, what most needs to be done? and how God himself secured the preeminent men by pressing on them that test, when he called Moses and Paul.

I trust that your engagements at Yale are not really indissoluble. They are probably embarrassing. But Yale sought her own interest in seeking you to do the work for her no one else could do so well; and no engagements can well be made"

Prof. E. H. Johnson (Crescent Theological Seminary)
to Dr. Hargrove, July 18, 1930.

"I read the enclosed during your last week's

Independent with a hearty endorsement. Since you did me the

honor to ask who was my candidate for the presidency of the

institution which should be the best we can have, and the

best the West can have, I trust I need not beg pardon for

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"for a life-time which cannot be superseded by more pressing demands. It is hard to imagine, I am sure you will feel, a demand more pressing than that furnished by the extraordinary opportunity which the divine providence has given us in place, in the man to seize upon it, and in the uniqueness of your own relation to the place, the patron, the general suffrage, and the actuality of the provision which we have of men. Sie sind DER EINZIGE, lieber Doctor;"

.....

"For a life-time which cannot be superseded by mere
pressing demands. It is hard to imagine, I am sure you will
feel, a demand more pressing than that furnished by the
extraordinary opportunity which the divine providence has
given us in place, in the man to seize upon it, and in the
uniqueness of your own relation to the place, the person,
the general outline, and the actuality of the provision
which we have at hand. Old friend BEN KIRKMAN, I hope to meet."

✓
July 19, 1890

Mr. Rockefeller to Dr. Harper:

Mr. Rockefeller regrets his inability to accept Dr. Harper's invitation to visit him at Chatauqua.

July 19, 1890

Dr. Harper to Mr. Rockefeller:

"Your kind favor of July 16th has been received. I am very sorry indeed that you cannot spend a Sunday with us. I thank you kindly for your invitation to spend a day or two with you. It is possible that I may be able to arrange it, but I do not just now see how I can find a day. I have to be here at Chautauqua on Sundays for a Bible Reading in the morning. I thank you most heartily for your kindness."

F. K. Sanders to Dr. Harper, July 20, 1890.
(Mr. S. was one of Dr. H's assistants in
American Institute of Sacred Literature)

.....

.....

"Don't go to Chicago! You will gain money, but you
will lose in everything else which you prize. They say
that they need you. I believe that you can carry that
University for several years thro' an executive head and
a small committee of the Board of Trustees. You can do
more for education, for a strong type of religion, for
Biblical Literature, you can have more epoch-making men
under your influence, you can develop yourself faster here
at Yale in one year than there in five. Don't go!"

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F. K. Sanders to Dr. Hargis, July 20, 1966.
(Dr. H. was one of Dr. H's assistants in
American Institute of Sacred Literature)

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under your influence, you can develop yourself faster here
at Yale in one year than there in five. Don't go!"
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✓
Prof. Seymour (Yale) to Dr. Harper, July 20, 1890.

"I have been away from newspapers for ten days but have read enough to incline me to take the next train for Chautauqua to lobby with you. My view remains strong, and grows stronger, that you throw away a marvellous opportunity by taking any position at the head of a college. And I feel more and more strongly that the presidency of a college is an exceedingly objectionable position. Doubtless every man who takes such a place thinks that he can avoid the rocks on which others have split, or that such rocks don't lie in his course. But the position is irksome and thankless. I presume you would not fail, but I do not believe you would satisfy your higher aspirations and ambitions nearly so well in Chicago as in New Haven.

I believe, too, fully, that you would be more useful in New Haven. General education can take care of itself pretty well in our country. Whether boys are trained in a Baptist or Episcopal school or college, is of small moment. But the leading of the people to sound views on the Old Testament may save thousands from shipwreck of their faith; it may be (humanly speaking) the salvation of the church. You ought not to endanger this."

.....

"Now, don't weaken and yield good naturedly to those Chicago solicitations."

.....

Prof. Seymour (Yale) to Dr. Hager, July 20, 1890.

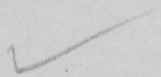
"I have been away from newspapers for ten days but have read enough to incline me to take the next train for Chattanooga to lobby with you. My view remains strong, and grows stronger, that you throw away a marvelous opportunity by taking any position at the head of a college. And I feel more and more strongly that the presidency of a college is an exceedingly objectionable position. Doubtless every man who takes a such a place thinks that he can avoid the rocks on which others have split, or that each rock doesn't lie in his course. But the position is treacherous and thankless. I presume you would not fall, but I do not believe you would satisfy your higher aspirations and ambitions nearly so well in Chicago as in New Haven. I believe, too, fully, that you would be more useful in New Haven. General education can take care of itself pretty well in our country. Whether boys are trained in a Baptist or Episcopal school or college, is of small moment. But the leading of the people to sound views on the Old Testament may save thousands from shipwreck of their faith; it may be (humanly speaking) the salvation of the church. You ought not to endanger this."

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"Now, don't weaken and yield gratuitously to those

Chicago solicitations."

.....

E. Goodman (trustee) to Dr. Harper from
Chautauqua, July 21, 1890.



.....

"My visit here has more and more confirmed my impressions of the great and beneficial work you are doing, and increases my conviction that the Lord has a great work for you to do in Chicago. I feel that the way will so open that you will have the 'conviction that the Lord himself prescribes the way' for you to lead in the great University movement. I hope to have the pleasure of standing by you and helping you in many ways after you shall have settled in Chicago."

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standing by you and helping you in many ways when you
shall have settled in Chicago."

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Dr. J. A. Smith to Dr. Harper, July 21, 1890.

"Your very kind letter came this morning. I hope you have forgiven me for troubling you with that to which it is in reply. I have repented writing such a letter. Literature of that sort is not, I think, very much in my line. Will you please not speak of it to anyone?"

It gratifies me to infer from your letter that you are beginning to entertain somewhat more favorably the idea of our presidency. May I suggest these points: (1) This is by no means an ordinary case of university organization. It looks toward 'new departures'; what our Rochester friends call 'a step ahead', and more than one such step. If this idea is to be realized, we must have for the presidency a man capable of grasping that idea, and realizing it. Where is there such a man other than yourself? (2) It is all important that our president should be able to call around him the right kind of a faculty. Please name over in your own mind the men likely to be thought of in case you decline and see how far any one of them would have the access you would be certain to have to young, capable, enterprising men, now perhaps in other schools, who would help to give this university, at the very beginning of its history, the reputation it should have for adaptedness to new times and new ideas in education. (3) Will you not have some specially favorable opportunity for realizing your idea as respects Bible Study, more particularly in colleges? What should hinder the continuation of much which you now have in hand, under some new arrangement. (4) Will it seem a disparagement of what you are now engaged in, if I ask whether you can afford to make a work for life of that which in some respects has so much the character of a specialty? I do indeed appreciate the noble service you are all the while giving to the cause of good learning; and still it is very much work along one particular line. God has endowed you with that power to grasp the essentials of large organization and that power also of executive direction which are needed in those positions which comprehend many lines of work, and combine many agencies. At the head of our new university, you will have an outlook over a field of educational service that is practically limitless. You can do much of what you are now doing and vastly more, and you will write your name in our denominational *history* along with those which are to be revered and honored to the end of time.

So much I have felt moved to write, as in the nature of another sort of 'outpouring'. I make it my earnest prayer that God will incline you to a decision that shall be favorable for us."

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So much I have felt moved to write, as in the nature of another sort of 'enoughing'. I make it my earnest prayer that God will inspire you to a decision that shall be favorable for us."

✓ ✓
Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, July 22, 1890.

"Your letter of relief at escaping myself and Dr. Goodspeed I received just before leaving home. I am afraid you are a Jonah. You can easily escape Goodspeed and me, but whether you will be able so easily to escape the voice of duty and of God - of that I am not so sure. However, you want me to promise that I will not worry you with this subject on the Portland trip. I promise."

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Dr. C. R. Henderson to Dr. Harper, July 23, 1890.

"Do not think me impertinent if I write a few lines about a matter near the hearts of many in the west, especially old students of Chicago. It is evident that you are the choice for leader in the new college, and that you will have to take the responsibility of deciding, if you have not already done so in your mind. Your experience in all grades of American Education, your studies abroad, your zeal for Christian learning, balanced by a vigorous spirit of progress toward new light; your reverence for what is tried and your desire to search honestly for what is yet to conquer; your eminent ability to inspire students and organize bodies of instruction; and many other qualities fit you for the place. And it is an important place. It seems to us that the great work you are doing at Yale, honorable as it is, could more easily find a man for its duties than Chicago. I do not underestimate the value and dignity of your position at Yale, but I desire the best gift for Chicago.

Do not think it necessary to reply to this. I ask only that you weigh one little vote, a mere straw to show you a current."

Dr. C. R. Henderson to Dr. Harper, July 23, 1890.

"Do not think me impatient if I write a few lines

about a matter near the hearts of many in the west, especially old students of Chicago. It is evident that you are the choice for leader in the new college, and that you will have to take the responsibility of deciding, if you have not already done so in your mind. Your experience in all grades of American education, your studies abroad, your zeal for Christian learning, balanced by a vigorous spirit of progress toward new light; your readiness for what is tried and your desire to search honestly for what

is yet to come; your eminent ability to inspire students and organized bodies of instruction; and many other qualities fit you for the place. And it is an important place. It seems to me that the great work you are doing at Yale, honorable as it is, could more easily find a man for its duties than Chicago. I do not underestimate the value and dignity of your position at Yale, but I believe the best gift for Chicago.

Do not think it necessary to reply to this. I ask only that you weigh one little vote, a mere paper to show you a current."

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Prof. E. H. Johnson (Crozer Theological Seminary)
to Dr. Harper, July 25, 1890.

"I would not think of writing to you again about the call to Chicago if you had not asked me whether I do not think 'the cause of a true Bible study' higher than the cause of the denomination. Intrinsically Yes, if these interests are not one; but relatively No, if circumstances so indicate; especially if these two interests are not in themselves upon the whole antagonistic.

But the issue is not between the denomination and Bible study, but between Bible study and general education under denominational auspices. The Biblical is certainly of higher rank than the general study; but circumstances may make the devotion of any given person to the intrinsically lower a duty of the most pressing nature. For instance, if one of our graduates who is a physician as well as preacher finds insufficient medical men in his village during a dangerous epidemic, would it not be monstrous for him to refuse to do the indispensable lower office because he had given himself exclusively to the higher?

No one could sympathize more fully with the feeling which holds you to a chosen career than I do, for this principle has ruled with me; but unless you are aware that you have made a contract which cannot be dissolved, why is not your position at Yale like that of Dr. E. B. Andrews at Cornell, or enough like it to lead you to see that as in his case so in yours an exigent demand will in the universal judgment rightfully dissolve a newly formed and presumably permanent tie?

You may be sure that even although you put the question to me which I have above quoted, it is only the apparent indispensableness of your services, not to the denomination, but to the speedy control of education in the Northwest by a religious institution, which alone would to my mind justify this renewed appeal and argument from that side. It is hard to see how you could get so involved in your present work as to be bound to it when you are so needed for a few years at least elsewhere. Pardon my insistence to the importance of the occasion, and to the respect and regard which I feel for you."

Prof. H. H. Johnson (Oberlin Theological Seminary)
to Dr. Harper, July 25, 1890.

"I would not think of writing to you regarding the
Bible study, but between Bible study and general education
I think the former is a true Bible study, higher than the
cause of the denomination. Intrinsically yes, if these
interests are not one; but relatively no, if circumstances
so indicate; especially if these two interests are not in
themselves upon the whole antagonistic.

But the issue is not between the denomination and
Bible study, but between Bible study and general education
under denominational auspices. The Biblical is certainly
of higher rank than the general study; but circumstances
may make the devotion of any given person to the latter
daily lower a duty of the most pressing nature. For instance,
if one of our graduates who is a physician as well as preacher
finds insufficient medical men in his village during a
dangerous epidemic, would it not be monstrous for him to
refuse to do the indispensable lower office because he had
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which holds you to a chosen career than I do, for this
principle has ruled with me; but unless you are aware that
you have made a contract which cannot be dissolved, why is
not your position as false like that of Dr. H. A. Andrews at
Cornell, or enough like it to lead you to see that as in
his case so in yours an exigent demand will in the universal
judgment rightly dissolve a newly formed and presumably
permanent tie?

You may be sure that even although you put the question
to me which I have above quoted, it is only the apparent
independence of your services, not to the denomination,
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to be bound to it when you are so needed for a few years at
least elsewhere. Pardon my insistence to the importance of
the occasion, and to the respect and regard which I feel for
you."

July 26, 1890

Dr. Harper to Mr. Gates:

"Your kind favor of July 22d from Highland, Kans. has been received. Whether your characterization of me as a Jonah is correct or not, time alone will show. If ever a man had a subject on his mind, I have this one. It is with me day and night; I cannot throw it off; if I would, others will not permit me. It is becoming the torment of my life. Every mail brings letters, every newspaper contains a statement, every man who meets me makes a suggestion. I feel very much like packing my valise and leaving the country, but I do not want you to make so severe a promise as that you will not mention the subject on the Portland trip. I am looking forward to it with great pleasure. Have you made inquiries concerning the cost? Will you make a calculation as to how much money I need?"

Editor's Note. Dr. Harper was the unanimous choice of the officers and members of the Board of Education Society and of the newly appointed Board of Trustees of the University. Dr. Harper at this writing had unofficial knowledge of this fact. Official action having been postponed for informal conference with Mr. Rockefeller and Dr. Harper. At this writing Mr. Gates at request of the trustees had visited Mr. Rockefeller, and with his approval had visited Dr. Harper at New Haven, and in a long conference had informally discussed the provisions on Dr. Harper, and had discussed financial and other details with him extensively. The reference to Portland means that Dr. Harper had agreed to accompany Mr. Gates on a trip for educational purposes to be undertaken by him in August following.

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Dr. H. C. Woods to Dr. Harper, July 26, 1890.

"Permit me to recall to you in substance a statement which perhaps you have entirely forgotten but which I have confidently cherished.

It was made to me when in attendance at the Seminary Commencement at Morgan Park. You had been elected President of Chicago University then sick unto death. You had also been elected to your present position at Yale and had decided to accept the latter.

In response to my expressions of profound regret that you were to leave us you said in substance 'If the time ever comes when the Baptists believe that I can serve them in the West in an educational enterprise that gives promise of success I shall hold myself ready to respond to their call.' This is not the language you used but it is the idea you expressed.

Prof. Harper, that time has come, No institution ever started with brighter or larger promise of success than the new Chicago University. I venture to say that the desire of all, was never turned toward one man as the Heaven-appointed leader of a great educational enterprise, as the eyes of all are turned toward you. We shall all appreciate the sacrifice you would make in leaving the congenial work and fellowship at Yale. But we do believe that no man has had set before him so large an opportunity to do a sublime work-I can find no fitter word than 'sublime,'-for the cause of Christ and the elevation of man than is set before you in this call to Chicago.

We shall most earnestly pray that the Lord will enable you to see the way in which he would have you walk."

Dr. H. G. Woods to Dr. Harper, July 26, 1880.

"Permit me to recall to you in substance a statement which perhaps you have entirely forgotten but which I have confidently cherished.

It was made to me when in attendance at the Seminary Commencement at Morgan Park. You had been elected President of Chicago University then vice death. You had also been elected to your present position at Yale and had decided to accept the latter.

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We shall most earnestly pray that the Lord will enable you to see the way in which he would have you walk."

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President Weston (Crozer) to Dr. Harper,
July 26, 1890.

"I never give advice unasked, and I am not going to give you any. As a man who now for many years has had a deep interest in what has culminated as the Chicago University and as a member of the great Baptist brotherhood, I wish to say emphatically that it is your duty to become President of the Chicago University. I do not undervalue the great work you are now doing, but you can do very much of that and a vastly greater work in your new position. There can be no question of the relative importance and magnitude of the two spheres. Fact No. 1.

Fact No. 2. There is no man in our denomination who has (a) the personal qualifications for such a work which you have; (b) the relative qualifications in the relation you sustain to the great promoters and future patrons of the University, (c) who could bring at once to the place such a confidence and reputation among all denominations.

Please inform me whether it will be necessary for me to write again."

President Weston (Grosser) to Dr. Harper,
July 20, 1890.

"I never give advice unasked, and I am not going to

give you any. As a man who has for many years had a

deep interest in what has culminated in the Chicago

University and as a member of the Great Baptist Brotherhood,

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such a confidence and reputation among all denominations.

Please inform me whether it will be necessary for

me to write again."

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Prof. Ladd (Yale) to Dr. Harper, July 27, 1890.

"I saw Seymour this morning for the first time since his return to the city, and he surprised me by saying he thought you were really weakening in your decision to decline the Chicago call. I presume I can say nothing new on this subject. That your colleagues would all regret much to have you go, I need not say. Cela va sans dire.

But from the point of view of your own future development and influence, I will only reiterate; you would in my judgment make the great and irreparable mistake of your life. I have lived in the West, too, and know what its style is, and what its prospects are.

The sum proposed for Chicago seems large, but it would, given time enough, just about equip a museum; it is equal to the endowment of Amherst College; about what we have had since a little before Dwight came in. Of course you will expect more, perhaps much more in the near future. But the life, good-will, etc., of one wealthy man is not like the national grip of a great and old institution like Harvard or Yale.

Another thing; you 'draw' well, undoubtedly. But, my dear fellow, back of you and of all the rest of us here, is the one great power that lends to us more effectiveness than we contribute to it. It is 'Yale' that draws. While you are in your prime few men will care for a Ph. D. or even a B.A. from your new University, who can manage to get a similar degree from an institution like this.

But after all, as I have tried to say to you faithfully the great thing in the decision turns upon this. What do you really want to do as your life work? Hold the perfectly unique position for the cultivation of your own scholarly character and influence, and that of others-in O. T. *lines* or, give up this, and become a business colleague of a fine wealthy man, in founding another 'University?' Don't for a moment flatter yourself, my dear fellow, that you can do both things. You can't. You have immense vigor, and versatility; you can make yourself a power in one of these lines, but not in both."

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But from the point of view of your own future development and influence, I will only reiterate; you would in my judgment make the great and irreparable mistake of your life. I have lived in the West, too, and know what its style is, and what its prospects are.

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Dr. Goodspeed to Dr. Harper, July 27, 1890.

"Your letter finds me here in the wilderness.

Drs. Northrup and Hulbert are with me as well as my family.

I can understand that you are being pressed on every side and am glad to know that prominent men are urging our cause.

But Dr. Dwight ought to know that you are no wise in fault for having this place urged upon you, that really no other man has been thought of for the place from the beginning, that you are the choice of the denomination and that the denomination will insist on your being made President of this institution and will hold our board inexcusable if they do not use every means in their power to secure you. As the days go on it only seems more imperative that you should undertake the work. The suggestion has been hailed with unanimous approval, spontaneous and enthusiastic.

Dr. Northrup expresses himself in the strongest terms about your coming to the University. He thinks you are the only man and the denomination needs you. He evidently feels most cordial and you will soon hear from him."

.....

"We are hoping to have a pleasant and helpful rest here in the woods. I shall be here a month. Men at times I commit to our friends the duty of laboring with you."

P. S. "I cannot allow myself to doubt the outcome of your deliberation on this great question, it seems so certainly manifest destiny."

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Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, July 28, 1890.

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"I think you may be assured of unanimous and enthusiastic action from the trustees so soon as such action will not embarrass you, and also that your salary will be fixed at such a figure through regular and extraordinary channels as will go far towards indemnifying you in the change; and, still further, that details as to the trip to Europe, the time of beginning active service, time to be allowed you for original investigation, certain duties being transferred if necessary to other shoulders in order to relieve you, amount and character of teaching to be done by you, all these things, I say, and any others will I think be arranged to suit you.

The importance of your decision, your favorable decision, to the University and to education at large in the west grows upon my mind. I even fear it is the only way to escape from division and faction at the very outset.

Of course I need not tell you how strongly I feel that this is God's will for you, this the path of usefulness, and so of happiness. I mean the highest and largest usefulness and happiness, and so the path to be chosen at any personal cost. But I desire also to add that in my deliberate judgement it is also the path of the highest fame, the mightiest influence, the most enduring power. I believe it will afford you a coigne of vantage from which you may ~~be~~ wise use of your opportunities achieve more in scholarship, more in elucidation of the Bible, more in reaching the hearts of men than your present position in Yale, besides giving you a field of usefulness in other particulars impossible of course at Yale in any subordinate or even preeminent position there. The decision, however, is so important to yourself that I feel it to be in bad taste for me or any one to press you with too eager insistence. God knows how my heart is fixed upon it however and how these great hopes will be blighted if you say 'no.'"

Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, July 28, 1890.

"I think you may be assured of unanimous and enthusiastic action from the trustees as soon as such action will not embarrass you, and also that your salary will be fixed at such a figure through regular and extraordinary channels as will go far towards indemnifying you in the change; and, still further, that details as to the trip to Europe, the time of beginning active service, time to be allowed you for original investigation, certain duties being transferred if necessary to other shoulders in order to relieve you, amount and character of teaching to be done by you, all these things, I say, and any others will I think be arranged to suit you.

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President Dwight
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"Perhaps I should have put what I said in my last letter with less abruptness of form-and instead of saying 'inmy judgment, you cannot honorably leave Yale for this place in Chicago,' should have said 'I do not see how you can honorably leave Yale for this place in Chicago.'

You are in the position of a pastor, on whose behalf a house or an endowment has, with earnest and continued effort, been secured-which effort was entered upon and carried through for him personally, and would not have otherwise been undertaken at all-and who, when the thing has been accomplished, is called to another parish. I have never been able to see how a man, under such circumstances, could honorably leave the one parish for the other. I think the question of leaving is precluded by what has been done.

In this case of yours, I have been, in a peculiar degree, the beginning, middle and end of the movement which has secured your position at Yale by a permanent endowment. If I had contemplated, at the outset, or at the time of the final step which consummated the matter, your opening yourself to a call elsewhere, or leaving Yale at the end of the effort, I would never have lifted a finger in the matter or taken the course which I did.

How others may feel, who are far less centrally connected with the whole matter, I do not know, but for myself I would much rather you had never come to Yale at all, than to have had you remain until this effort had been undertaken and completed, and then leave for a new position.

With kind regards and best wishes,"

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With kind regards and best wishes,

(Copy)

Mr. Galts to Mr. Rockefeller Morgan Park, Ill., July 28, 1890.

~~Dear Mr. Rockefeller:~~

I think the trustees of the University think as I do regarding the desirableness of securing Dr. Harper for president. His reputation for scholarship now great in both continents, his evangelistic spirit, his denominational loyalty, his executive talent, his sympathy with popular education, his very extensive personal popularity and large personal following, his extensive acquaintance with good teachers, and power to compel good teaching and inspire hard study, his relation to the Yale alumni in Chicago and with rich men here, the fact that he is a layman, and comes from an institution not Baptist while himself a Baptist, these and other considerations are weighty here with the trustees.

As to salary, I find Dr. Harper, as he comes to face the question of the presidency practically, and to realize the importance of the change and the far greater considerations involved, is disposed to regard it as the least of them. If he were on other accounts to decide to come to Chicago, a salary of \$8,000 or \$10,000 would not be a deciding inducement nor would one of \$5,000 deter him. Indeed on his visit here July 10th he declined to discuss salary at all, saying that whether it was one figure or another, would have little or no effect on his decision. On the other hand, I think the Board would give him \$5,000 from the funds, and then raise among themselves a sufficient sum, say \$3,000 annually in addition, to reimburse him for the financial loss the change would entail. I said I would ask you to help in such a lift.

I pity Dr. Harper. He seems in real and deep distress of mind. The fact is (as he explains it) that I was seen with him on the streets of New Haven and my mission guessed. Dr. Fisher and other Yale men in New Haven gathered round him with entreaty and argument. A supper was made for him by Yale men in New York at which with the most strenuous insistence he was urged to remain. On the other hand, there are our interests and the great work possible at Chicago. The prestige of his position at Yale he values much, his associations there are inspiring as well as congenial, his life work he has regarded as Biblical Study, he is in love with his classes, they are large and eager, his evangelistic work there appeals to the highest motives. I am not mistaken in saying that he was, July 10th, really and strongly reluctant to leave Yale on any terms, and in distress of mind on the subject. He admitted some change of feeling as a result of Yale influences and his own reflections, with the question before him in a stern and practical way.

I have had no conversation with him, other than what you know, regarding your views or attitude. He has not inquired, - perhaps with a feeling of delicacy. I think however that your influence with him is based on far higher grounds than your ability to help the institution financially, and that an encouraging word now from you would have great, possibly decisive weight with him, without any financial committals, possibly it would relieve his sleepless trouble of mind more than I know. At same time he has not hinted it, nor have I suggested it.

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Mr. Carter to Mr. Rockefeller
Morgan Park, Ill., July 28, 1890.

Dear Mr. Rockefeller:

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than I then did

You questioned me closely as to whether I would give such a salary as \$8,000. I wish to say more deliberately that I would do so. He will earn that salary. He will bring in money to the institution through tuitions and influence in Chicago many times the extra figure. This in a few years if not immediately. We would be the richer financially and not the poorer by giving him \$8,000 or \$10,000. But I invariably put it to the trustees that the major part of any extra sum they would have to contribute privately, and that in such a subscription I would have no hesitation in asking you to contribute something though without any assurance as to result. I think the trustees would contribute liberally. I have felt this subject to be of importance enough to justify this extended letter.

Sincerely yours

F. T. Gates.

P.S. Dr. Harper's present address is Chautauqua, N.Y. He will not have to give up Chautauqua if he comes to Chicago. The managers have raised that point he tells me.

Editors Note The significance of the post script is that in her conversations at New Haven July 10 Dr Harper had understood that the Presidency at Chicago would entail the surrender of a lucrative position as teacher or lecturer at Chautauqua.

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F. T. Gates.

Dr. Harper's present address is Chautauque, N.Y. He will not have to give up Chautauque if he comes to Chicago. The managers have raised that point he tells me.
I think the significance of the protest is that in his own institution at Chautauque July 10 Dr. Harper had understood that the trustees of Chautauque would not object to the transfer of a Chautauque Professor or teacher or lecturer at Chautauque.

✓ ✓
Mr. Gates to Dr. Harper, July 29, 1890.

"Your favor of 26th at hand. If ever I did sincerely sympathize with any man it is with you. But really as to the Portland trip it will be no self denial to me not to begin the subject. I have honestly said my say. And to be frank, surprising as it may seem to you, I do have a feeling of delicacy against continuing to press a subject so vital to you. Your own interest, feeling, happiness, life work must be so much more to yourself than it can be to any other human heart however affectionate or profoundly interested. I feel about it much as I used to in trying to comfort bereaved parents, having never lost a child of my own, or as if I were stretching forth unholy hands to steady the ark. Decide the matter in the fear of God as I know you will, and I shall take your decision whichever way it may be as the voice of God.".....

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July 30, 1890

Dr. Harper to Mr. Gates:

"Your favor of July 28th from Morgan Park has been received. I am sorry that you did not send me the clippings for I should have been glad to see them. I have seen some, of course, but not very many. You are very kind to assure me of the unanimous and enthusiastic action of the trustees so soon as such action will not embarrass me. What you say concerning the salary is all that ought to be said. The other points also are certainly all that one could ask. The great question, and the question which I am trying to settle in my own mind is: Whether or not I can continue my life work as a biblical specialist, and do this work which the University of Chicago will demand; and if not, whether I am justified in giving up the life-work. Letters are coming in every day from prominent men. I notice strangely enough, and yet, not perhaps strangely, - the absence of any letter from the Morgan Park Seminary; but this is probably not to be expected.

"I appreciate all the points you make in the letter and thank you most heartily for the assurances which it contains. I cannot think that what you say is true about great hopes being blighted if I say no.

You may be sure I am thinking, and dreaming, and doing nothing really but this Chicago matter."

✓
July 31, 1890.

Dr. Harper to Dr. Goodspeed:-

"Your kind letter of July 27th from the wilderness was duly received. I am glad to know that you are having so good a time and that Drs. Northrup and Hulbert are with you. I wish I could join you for a week. Even my antipathy to camping out would be overcome, I am sure, by the quiet and pleasant rest which you must be enjoying. I declare, I am growing weary of the continual strain of summer work. The letters continue to be received. I think I shall have to preserve them and bind them in a separate file. Whether I accept the position or not, it will be pleasant to look back to these letters and to read them.

The statements in your letter are, I am afraid, too strong, but I am ready to admit that the case is a serious one. I am laboring on three distinct points; one or two or them I think I can get into shape, but the third is a stickler. It does not seem possible to do what ought to be done, what the denomination will expect, what the world will expect, with the money we have in hand. There must in some way be an assurance of an additional million. How this is to be obtained, or where, is the question. If Mr. R. is dead in earnest, possibly the case will not be so difficult as we may think. I shall hope to see you in Chicago before long."

