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### 1909-11-01, Letter from Lyman Stewart to A.C. Dixon regarding "Testimony"

Lyman Stewart

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November 1, 1909

Rev. A. C. Dixon,  
Moody Church,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Dr. Dixon:

I trust that you will not feel hampered by such suggestions as I may feel led to make in reference to the proposed "Testimony." Some work along this general line has been on my heart for years. To finance this will perhaps be the greatest work of my life. As stated, I am not a millionaire, and confess that I have been not a little anxious as to the effect, on the interests of my business associates, of selling, in this limited market, the amount of securities necessary. You can, of course, realize our intense desire to have the "Testimony" not only the strongest and the best that the friends of the truth can possibly make it, but also that its sphere of influence should be made as wide as possible. British Representation. One thing about which I am somewhat apprehensive is that the personnel of the committees may be so generally American as to prevent the maximum of interest on the part of our British and other English speaking friends being secured. If possible, it seems to me that the name of Dr. G. Campbell Morgan should be made very prominent in this work, as he is doubtless more widely known as a great Bible teacher than any other man. His name would secure the "Testimony" a larger hearing than it would otherwise obtain. If the name of a strong and loyal man of the Anglican Church could be secured, it would also help to extend the usefulness of the work. We certainly should, as far as possible, avoid the appearance of making this an American work.

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The influence of the ablest, as well as the best of the loyal and true in the world, if possible, should be secured. Circulation. Would it not be well to send "Testimony" to all Y. M. and Y. W. C. A. Secretaries, to also place it in the reading rooms and libraries of these organizations, and of all colleges and academies, and exchange with all religious newspapers and periodicals? Roman Catholics. Though somewhat of an experiment, I would like to have "Testimony" sent to two or three thousand Roman Catholic priests, the names to be furnished by Pastor James A. O'Connor of New York. There are hungry hearts among these priests, and some of them may be reached through this means. Would you think it advisable to put it also into the hands of theological students? While we may be disappointed in reaching the "higher-ups" we know that there are many thousands of ministers who are very poor, and whose reading matter is both limited and lean, who will receive "Testimony" gladly, will preach sermons from it, and will seek to put it into the hands of their friends. Working Organization. I assume that your organization will be such that the death or disability of any one will not seriously interfere with the work. Will the magazine be arranged or classified in departments, with a head over each, and a chief over all? One reason for asking this question is by way of suggestion. I have observed that some of our best writers sometimes give expression to their righteous indignation in such epithets as "fools," "idiots," etc. This should not be allowed in "Testimony," if we are to win to the truth those whose minds the god of this world has so blinded as to cause them to say and do things which otherwise would seem idiotic. They must not be antagonized, excepting as

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the truth of God's Word may antagonize them. There are plain truths, however, which should be stated, but which it may not be wise to utter until attention and confidence have been secured. Family Religion. With be [*sic*] best magazine in the world placed in the home of the minister, the next important step will be to secure it a reading. I spoke to you about a "Home" or "Family" department in the magazine, in order to secure a wider reading. "The Bible Student and Teacher," the organ of the American Bible League, though a pretty good magazine, I believe is very little read in the family, because of the generally unattractive character, (to the family) of its articles, and hence some which are really good remain practically undiscovered. It is a fact that in many ministers' homes they do not even have family prayers. A department, therefore, which could be made attractive to all the household, and in which both family and personal religion would be specially emphasized, - but all being in keeping with the general purpose of the magazine, - it seems to me would increase its usefulness. Economies. While the type should be the best, the paper good, and the general make-up attractive, I would suggest that as the two largest items of expense will be paper and postage, that there be no sacrifice to appearances in the way of unnecessarily wide margins. The size I would leave to the judgment of your committee. Would it be economical to have extra plates made, shipped to England, and have a portion of the printing and mailing done in that country, where everything is probably cheaper than in this? Foreign Missionaries. Although very desirable to have "Testimony" in the hands of every foreign missionary, it has occurred to me

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that a copy sent to each missionary compound might possibly reach all. A notice could be inserted to the effect that missionaries desiring copies of their own could have them free on application. Praying that the Lord's blessing may rest on you and upon your co-workers, I am, Yours very sincerely,

[*Unsigned*]

[*Letter written by Lyman Stewart*]

[*Handwritten in right margin on back of page 4 of the letter*]

L. S. to A. C. D. 11/1/09