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1909-11-20, Letter from Lyman Stewart to A.C. Dixon

Lyman Stewart

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November 20, 1909

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

Dear Dr. Dixon:

Yours of the 9th and 13th insts. duly received, together with clipping from letter of Mr. Torrey of Nov. 10th, referring to the matter of the Los Angeles contribution. I was pleased to learn that you had had a satisfactory meeting of your committee, and of the progress that is being made, but am very sorry to learn that Dr. Morgan feels that he has so many engagements that he cannot help. His help would be so valuable in this work, in the influence that his name would carry, that it would almost seem desirable to make a future engagement with him, and wait for his convenience, if it would not be too long. I note that the committee think that "the publication should be in book form, which will make it permanent and not temporary." I am somewhat puzzled to know how a monthly publication could be issued in book form, particularly if you are publishing long articles which would be continued from month to month. If put in this form, would it not be more satisfactory, as well as more economical, to publish it quarterly? It seems to me that the work could be made more effective if a greater number of men, representing more of the English speaking countries of the world, were interested and sharing in the responsibility of making the "Testimony" the strongest that is possible to

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be made. I enclose herewith a clipping from the Los Angeles Graphic, which will indicate how the report of this fund is received here. This has caused me considerable embarrassment because of the questions asked, and I am afraid that it is affecting our securities also. I have been, and am, a large borrower, and the prospect of a sale of our securities to the extent indicated has probably had a depressing effect on their market value. Those handed to Mr. Kellogg to protect this fund, were, at the time, rated at \$107, but are now down to about \$102.50 or thereabouts. We have been on our guard here, and only Mr. Kellogg, my brother, Milton Stewart in Titusville, Pa., and my stenographer, Miss Crowell, have had any knowledge of this matter whatever from me. For some reason I have had a feeling of anxiety and foreboding in reference to this matter, which has been rather disquieting, and I have been praying that the Lord, as a token of His approval of my act in undertaking to finance this "Testimony", would give me peace in reference to it. And now comes the "statement" from Mr. Newell, which has been very disquieting to us, and has caused me to lose sleep through anxiety, and it occurs to me that the issuance of the proposed "Testimony" should be postponed until there can be a reconciliation between the Chicago brethren. Its value will be greatly impaired by the existing condition if issued at present. Mr. Newell is recognized by many as one of the great Bible teachers of the world, and the agony which he has suffered through his mental malady has secured for him their loving sympathy to a very large degree, and will insure him support in any controversy which he may have, resulting from confessions made or things done as a

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result of this malady, and I am very much afraid that the controversy between the Moody Church and Mr. Newell will react against both the church and the institute. Our first acquaintance with Mr. Newell was

when he was suffering most intensely. He would preach the most wonderful sermons on God's grace, then go home and fall on his face before God, and cry for mercy until midnight, apparently feeling that he had sinned away his day of grace. At the same time, he was intensely in earnest in seeking to save souls. After a service in East Los Angeles one night he walked with Rev. A. B. Prichard a couple of miles to his lodgings, and on the way he stopped five times to talk to men about their personal salvation, and did not reach his room until eleven o'clock, and then to repeat his experience of agony and supplication, which was apparently characteristic of his malady. Whether imaginary or real, we believe that God covers confessed sin, and hence the question in the minds of the people as to why the Moody Church should publish these confessions to the world. If God has put them away, why should the church take them up? I would be pleased to have you inform me who have definitely promised to assist in this "Testimony." By the way, your proposed title is satisfactory to me. Yours very sincerely,

[Unsigned]

[Letter written by Lyman Stewart]

[Handwritten in right margin on back of page 3 of the letter]

L. S. to A. C. D. 11/20/09