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1910-01-08, Letter from Lyman Stewart to A.C. Dixon commenting on contributors

Lyman Stewart

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January 8, 1910

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

Dear Dr. Dixon:

Yours of Dec. 27th duly received. Am glad to note that you are not willing to publish articles that have an uncertain note in them, like those from Dr. Willis J. Beecher. I note what you say in reference to the articles by professors of the Chicago University, and your statement that publication of that fact would carry great weight with thousands of preachers. On the other hand, the very fact of "Testimony" publishing articles from such a source would be interpreted by many as an endorsement of that wicked institution. In reference to the work of Bernardo, as illustrating the power of prayer, beg to say that I am not personally familiar with his work, but have been told since writing to you that he sometimes made frantic appeals for money. This being the case, it would not be desirable to have his work written up, as illustrating the power of the prayer of faith. There would be no question, however, about Muller. I note the strong list of articles which you have in hand for your first number. These are undoubtedly good, but I am fearful that unless the book is lightened up somewhat by articles of a more interesting character to the average reader, the book will not be attractive to as large a number as we are desirous of reaching. I think all the articles mentioned will be designated as "heavy" by many readers,

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hence if an article on Muller, or Hudson Taylor's work, or something along these general lines were worked in in each number, I am pretty sure that a greater number would read the heavier articles. We are quite willing to defer to your judgment in reference to sending "Testimony" to the Sunday School Superintendents, and also to the editors of religious papers. We also would be glad to have it, or at least certain issues, published in German, or such other language or languages as in the judgment of your committee might be desirable. Since my brother, Milton Stewart, has joined me in the financing of this work, it will be necessary to change the words "compliments of a Christian layman" to "compliments of Christian laymen," or such other change as will be acceptable to your committee. Am pleased to learn that you will not undertake to get out the first issue in January, for I believe that with greater deliberation a better foundation will be laid for the success of the work. You referred to putting it in book form, as being more convenient to carry and also to stand on shelves. Will you put the name of the book on the back, so that it may be readily picked up. I have been somewhat disappointed to note that so many of the contributors are obtaining compensation for their articles. We had supposed that this would be such an important labor of love that in most instances the writers would furnish the result of their labors without compensation, seeing that the book is to go out absolutely free to its readers. This may be necessary, and if so I will not complain. It will certainly be a great pecuniary advantage to every man who writes books

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which are handled by the trade, to have his name become familiar, by the character of the article furnished, and the ability displayed in its preparation, with all the Anglo-Saxon ministers and theological

students in the world. I have been asked what provision will be made for supplying books to those who may want to buy them. We have as yet only taken into our confidence in this matter, besides Mr. Kellogg and Miss Crowell, my stenographer, Mr. T. C. Horton, Superintendent of our Bible Institute, and Ralph D. Smith, Secretary of the Bible House of Los Angeles. Mr. Horton makes the suggestion that when we are ready with the first issue, if the information should be given to the Associated Press that this "Testimony" is going to all the Anglo-Saxon preachers, etc., in the world, the book will obtain a great deal of free advertising, and will create a large demand for it from laymen. This may be true, but I have thought that such information might so stir up the enemies of the truth, who have such large financial resources at command, that they would undertake a work along a similar line to counteract its influence. Mr. Horton also suggests that if there is prayer enough in connection with this undertaking the results will be absolutely wonderful. Daily prayer is being offered that special wisdom may be given to you and your associates in this work, and that every step will be taken under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Yours very sincerely,

[Unsigned]

[Letter written by Lyman Stewart]

[Handwritten in right margin on back of one of the letters]

L. S. to A. C. D. – Jan 8/10