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1910-01-14, Letter from A.C. Dixon to Lyman Stewart regarding content

A. C. Dixon

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January 14, 1910

[*Written in pencil*] Ans Jan 22

[*Written on The Moody Church Jubilee Year letterhead*]

Hotel Jermyn,
Scranton, Pa.

Mr. Lyman Stewart,
Los Angeles, Calif.

My dear Mr. Stewart;-

Yours of January the 8th was forwarded from Chicago to Scranton, Pa., where I am now preaching in a series of union evangelistic meetings, and God is giving us a rich blessing. It is true that the subjects of the chapters in the first issue of "Testimony" indicate rather heavy reading, and yet I think that the average preacher, whom we are most anxious to reach, will not so regard it. Canon Dyson Hague's article on "The History of the Higher Criticism" is historical and is not at all heavy reading. Dr. G. Campbell Morgan's article on "The Purposes of the Incarnation" is so strong and striking that no preacher will consider that as very heavy. However, it may be best to have at least one article of a popular kind, so as to carry out the thought of the committee and make each issue contain something which will be interesting to everybody.

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I will, therefore, write to Dr. A. T. Pierson to-day to send us an article on "The Prayer Life of George Müller," which I think he can prepare in a few days. I also wish with you that most of the work might be done for the love of Christ and the truth, and yet the men whom we wish to write for us are in such demand and can command such good prices for their articles that it will be difficult to get the very best unless we give good remuneration. Some of them depend almost entirely upon their writings for support and those who do not depend upon their writings for support usually have some work of the Lord in hand which demands all the money they can get for carrying it forward. Though they are not covetous for themselves, they desire it for the work of the Lord and think, therefore, that their writings ought to bring in an income. My first thought was that it should be a labor of love altogether and that we should publish only such articles as were written in the spirit of sacrifice. But when you wrote me that you did not expect to get the work done without compensation to the writers, and when Dr. Torrey suggested that it would be impossible to

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get the best work from the best men without liberal compensation, I felt that it would be a mistake not to seek the best and give good remuneration. For instance, Dr. Torrey has a standing invitation from a publishing firm to pay him two and a half cents a word for everything that he will write, and yet for his

article of over five thousand words I sent him a check of fifty dollars which is less than one cent a word. You will see from this that he made a sacrifice of one hundred dollars on this article. When I wrote to Dr. Orr asking him for an article, he replied that he was greatly burdened with work, and that, as I did not suggest any remuneration, he felt that he ought not to turn from the work in hand which was pressing upon him. I am sure that it was not covetousness on his part but rather the conviction that he ought to do good in the double way of writing for the public and at the same time using the money that might be given him for it. I doubt whether we ought to advertise the first issues for sale, but we could quietly furnish any number that might be demanded. I saw in a New York paper the other day an advertisement in which it was

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stated that a very widely circulated popular magazine was willing to publish religious articles provided some man of wealth would furnish \$250,000 with which to secure the best writers in the world. This looks a little like a movement of the enemy to offset the influence of "Testimony", though it may really have no connection with it. Personally, I would prefer that your original thought should be carried out, namely, that the first issues should be sent without previous announcement. I agree with Mr. Horton that the great need is prayer, that God may open the minds and hearts of all who receive "Testimony" to read it, accept its truths and pass them on. Cordially yours,

A. C. Dixon

[Handwritten by Dixon in bottom margin of page 4 of the letter]

P.S. A letter from Bro. Smith, which I read after dictating the above, deals with some questions which are of interest to you, [illegible] I, therefore, enclose to you a copy of my reply to his letter.

[Handwritten on the back of page 4 of the letter]

A. C. D. to L. S. 1/14/10