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1910-11-08, Letter from R.A. Torrey to Lyman Stewart

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Biola University

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November 8, 1910

[Written on Clifton House letterhead]

Mr. Lyman Stewart,
Los Angeles,
California.

Dear Mr. Stewart:-

Your kind letter of October 25th received and greatly appreciated. I think your suggestion that there be a short chapter in FUNDAMENTALS suggesting to ministers and Christian workers what books to buy is a good one. I have also received a letter from Rev. A. C. Dixon along the same line. His letter was prompted by one from you to him. If to this is added a description of the Montrose Library, it certainly would help us very much in circulating the books and I think would remove all possibility of any financial loss on my part in having the books printed. The margin on the sale of the books is so small that it would make it impossible for me to do any advertising to speak of, but such advertising would not be necessary if mention of the books were made in the way in which you speak in your letter. I question whether it would be of any profit to have a list of the books that ought to be avoided. This would seem too much like following the methods of the destructive critics themselves. They are constantly advising their students not to read the books written from the orthodox standpoint. I was glad indeed to learn that your Bible Institute had opened more auspiciously than ever before.

[Page 2]

We had a month of hard work in Paducah, Kentucky during October. The city has been ruled by whiskey, Roman Catholicism, and the Jews. The moral standard in the church was very low. It was the hardest proposition we ever encountered but God gave us victory. The chief part of the blessing, however, came to those who were already members of the church. Card playing was almost universal among professing Christians and church members, even prominent church members played cards for money and did not hesitate to boast of it. It was a hard battle but I was never more glad that we went to any place than that we went to Paducah. The ministers were almost universally good men and stood by us in our plainest declarations against sin and error and worldliness. Most of them were new men there. I think we made their battle for the future easier. I was told the night we left that there were something like 50 people who were on the verge on going into Christian Science who had been saved from doing so by our meetings. We began our work here in St. John Sunday. We have a building provided that will seat almost as many as the building in Los Angeles. Have had fine audiences the two days we have been here and already some conversions. Sincerely yours,

~~R. A. Torrey.~~ [signed] R. A. Torrey.