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1910-11-16, Letter from Lyman Stewart to A.C. Dixon

Lyman Stewart

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November 16, 1910

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

Dear Dr. Dixon:

Yours of the 8th inst. at hand. I note with interest your plan for counteracting the influence of the Chicago and Northwestern Universities, and doubtless the plan is a wise one. The work which we have undertaken has taxed our available resources to the utmost, and it is out of the question for us to consider the giving of any assistance whatever along such a line at present. I have thought a good deal of the plan which you outlined when here, for some general testimony conferences, say in Chicago, New York, London and Los Angeles, in which the great defenders of the faith throughout the world would participate, and through the prominence of the participants the newspapers would be interested in giving to the world a pretty full report of the addresses. This plan has appealed to me, as I believe it would accomplish much greater results than that outlined in your letter. Conditions on this coast are deplorable. San Francisco, with a supposed population of 400,000, has only 11,000 Protestant church members, and the pastors of many of these are undermining their faith. There are some pretty good little towns on the coast line of the Southern Pacific Railroad that have neither church nor Sabbath School. On an auto trip which we took in the summer, we traveled from Placerville to

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Tahoe City,-a distance of seventy five miles, -without finding a church. We met comparatively intelligent men who had never seen the inside of a Bible. If conditions continue normal, there will doubtless, in the comparatively near future, be built on this coast a great commercial-industrial empire, such as the world has not dreamed of, and when the canal is opened, -because of the reduced cost of transportation, - great hordes of foreign immigrants will pour into this coast, so that we anticipate that in a comparatively short time we will have a denser population here than there is now on the Atlantic seaboard. We have a very sad object lesson in the history of San Francisco. The founders of that city gave but little attention to the laying of moral or spiritual foundations, with the result that anarchy practically reigns there. Hence, we realize that a great responsibility rests upon us here for laying deep and strong religious foundations, in order that our own city may become a center of Bible training from which workers can go out and reach these neglected people on our own coast with the Gospel. We have the nucleus for such work, we think, in our little Bible Institute, a copy of the last report of which I enclose herewith for your information. From this general statement of the needs of this coast you can see the necessity of our concentrating our efforts here at our own doors, after our effort to purify the stream of religious teaching through the testimony of the "The Fundamentals;" and because of this necessity which is laid upon us, it is our desire to have the cost of the testimony through "The Fundamentals" reduced to as low a limit as possible, through the purging of its mailing list, as per my letter of the 15th inst. To Mr.

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Stephens. Of course we do not want to give you the impression that we expect to absolutely limit our efforts to this coast, for remembering that "the field is the world," we have undertaken to have some

Scripture message put in every home in the province of Hunan, China, and are also giving some little encouragement to the Lord's servants in other foreign lands. Praying that the Lord will continue to guide and bless you in your work for Him, I am, Yours very sincerely,

[Unsigned]

[Letter written by Lyman Stewart]