

Biola University

Digital Commons @ Biola

Selected Correspondence Related to the
Fundamentals

Biola's story

4-11-1911

1911-04-11, A.C. Dixon Letter to Lyman Stewart, enclosed clippings on the critique of the fundamentals

A. C. Dixon

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.biola.edu/the-fundamentals-correspondence>



Part of the [Missions and World Christianity Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Dixon, A. C., "1911-04-11, A.C. Dixon Letter to Lyman Stewart, enclosed clippings on the critique of the fundamentals" (1911). *Selected Correspondence Related to the Fundamentals*. 33.

<https://digitalcommons.biola.edu/the-fundamentals-correspondence/33>

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Biola's story at Digital Commons @ Biola. It has been accepted for inclusion in Selected Correspondence Related to the Fundamentals by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Biola. For more information, please contact eileen.walraven@biola.edu.

April 11, 1911

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

Mr. Lyman Stewart,
Security Building,
Los Angeles, California.

My dear Mr. Stewart:

After a rather stormy voyage, during which I did not have much physical comfort, I am again at home, and have turned over to Mr. Stephens matter for the fifth volume of "The Fundamentals." It will contain most of Philip Mauro's book, entitled, "Life in the Word;" a chapter by Dr. Torrey on "The Resurrection of Jesus Christ," which is the best thing I have ever seen for sceptical [*sic*] people; Dr. Campbell's synopsis of Lord Lyttleton's essay on "The Conversion of Paul as a Testimony to the Truth of Christianity;" also a personal testimony by Webb-Peploe, of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. While I was in England I secured a promise from Thomas Spurgeon that he would write an article on "Salvation by Grace." The Bishop of Durham will give us one on "The Atonement." I agree with you that the coming volumes should be given to the positive doctrines of grace, to prophecy, and to the answering of Millennial Dawnism, Christian Science, Romanism, etc. The Higher Critic movement is doing more harm than everything else put together; but I believe that what has been published is a sufficient answer to it, and has reset many a waverer in the old faith. I am sorry indeed to hear from Mr. Stephens of the sickness of your brother Milton, and we shall join with all our hearts in prayer for him. I am sure that God will be with him in comfort and strength during this time of his testing. The call to the pastorate of the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London is giving me much concern, and the way is not yet clear to me; but I have heart-rest in the

[Page 2]

conviction that God will, in His own good time, make plain His will in this important matter. Please pray that I may be guided by His Spirit in this crisis of my life. There is great need in America; but in England, the need is, in some respects, greater. The Higher Critic movement has played havoc with the churches. The Baptists have, during the past few years, lost over ten thousand members, and the loss among the Methodists has been almost as great. There are signs of reaction, however, and I sincerely hope and pray that God will give us a great revival. Mr. William Olney, pastor of the Haddon Hall Mission, in connection with the Tabernacle, told me to say to you, that he believed "The Fundamentals" movement is the most important thing for the cause of Christ that has been inaugurated in modern times. The little books have been doing a mighty work in Great Britain. I enclose herewith some clippings from the "Standard" of Chicago, which is the organ of the Chicago University. Rev. C. H. Wheeler, of Brockton, Mass., is evidently a higher critic, and his writing as he does is rather more encouraging than otherwise. The fact that the "Standard" should publish the answers by Mr. MacMinn and Mr. Dean is rather surprising; but the discussion will do good. Cordially yours,

A. C. Dixon.

Encl.

[Below is newspaper clipping mentioned in the above letter]

ARE THEY SOLID FUNDAMENTALS? A few days since there came to my desk, through the mail, Volume III of "The Fundamentals," a pamphlet. This volume had been preceded by two others. They were sent anonymously, with "Compliments of Two Christian Laymen." Thinking that I might reach them through this column, I have ventured to write. These books evidently have it as their purpose to keep the Christian religion in "the old paths." I have wondered how far this aim will be accomplished. Antiquated discussions of higher criticism, *a priori* definitions of inspiration, and laborious defenses of certain doctrinal teachings make up the volumes. Those persons who are reverently reading the utterances of the world's great and devout biblical students, will see at a glance that there is nothing in these volumes for them, and will put them in their wastebaskets. Many will not even read the books, but some untutored persons will find the bolstering of views which larger understanding of the matters involved would compel them to lay aside. The publishers say: "This series of books is being sent free to every pastor, evangelist, missionary, theological and college professor, theological student, Sunday School superintendent, Y. M. C. A and Y. W. C. A secretary, and editor of a religious paper, throughout the entire English speaking world, so far as the addresses of all these can be obtained." There are scores, if not hundreds of thousands of such workers. This statement gives a hint as to the large cost of the undertaking. I suppose that the money of these two laymen is their own, and that they may use it as they please. But it would seem to be far better to employ this money in some great missionary enterprise, than in trying to adjust the views of those who have not asked for such adjustment. The anonymity of the project is an offence. None of us likes an anonymous letter. I, for one, do not like an anonymous book. The kingdom of God is not higher criticism nor traditionalism, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, for he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God and approved of men. Might I, a humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord, suggest to these two laymen through THE STANDARD that the truth will take care of itself, but that God has especial need just now of money for great advance movements in his kingdom. C. H. Wheeler. Brockton, Mass.

[Handwritten in left margin of the clipping]

Standard Dec. 31

[Below is second newspaper clipping mentioned in the above letter]

MORE ABOUT FUNDAMENTALS. Will you permit another word on the discussion of the value of the booklet, "Fundamentals No. 3?" I read the criticism on it by Rev. C. H. Wheeler, and also the partial reply by H. P. Welton. Then I carefully read the book in question. I have just finished it and feel the lively glow of its influence filling my soul. I wish every one of the members of my church could read it, particularly the young men who are interested in questions of higher criticism. I fully believe that the money expended in the circulation of this book will do as much good for the Master's kingdom as any other way in which the same amount could be expended. How in the world Mr. Wheeler could bring himself to write his criticism is beyond my comprehension. It suggests the thought that he has no sympathy with the stirrings of the soul in recognition of the presence and grace of the Master. Let me repeat his words, "Those persons who are reverently reading the utterances of the world's great and devout biblical students will see at a glance that there is nothing in these volumes for them and will put them in their waste baskets." Alas for the course of reading that will lead a man into the barrenness of

devotional thought which produces such view of books like these! Alas for the egotism that remands men, such as the writers in these volumes, to the death of the waste basket. If I wanted a special and forceful evidence of the injurious effect of that class of criticisms on the soul of man, I would see it right here. If my own heart did not respond most tenderly to the devotional sentiment in this book, I would consider that I had fallen from grace, and my first effort would be to get back again to the simplicity that can respond to an experience such as that related in the next to the closing article in the book. May the Lord who careth for the spiritual development of his people guard us all from any school of criticism, or method of thought, or haste of utterance that would lead us to wish such writings to be cast into the waste basket. I want most heartily to commend the Fundamentals to the attention of every one who loves the old paths, and believes in a Christian experience, and sees clearly the Lord's way to secure the redemption of this sin afflicted world. EDWIN MacMINN. Kearney, Neb.

ONCE MORE AS TO "FUNDAMENTALS." In the Standard of Dec. 31, C. H. Wheeler advises that these splendid books be cast into the waste basket. He expresses his contempt for those who venture to find the books of value. It is evident that Mr. Wheeler feels very strongly. The names of the noble Christian men who furnish the money for the free printing of these books are known to me. They prefer to be modest and not blatant. They have something of the spirit of their Master and seek not to advertise themselves. The large sum involved in this truly Christian enterprise is but one of many noble works undertaken for their Redeemer. There are at least three other great enterprises with which they are identified. Their names tremble on my lips but I am not at liberty to break their own silence. Credit will be given them in heaven for their noble work of opposing the rationalistic modernist movement within the evangelical church. It becomes increasingly clear that the same tendencies that halted the Baptist movement in Great Britain are now threatening with their evil shadow the life of the Baptist churches here. The scornful rejection of such fundamental teachings of the New Testament as the inspiration of the scriptures, the deity of Christ, the miraculous birth of our Savior, the return of our Lord to earth, the vicarious death, the resurrection of the body and the eternal doom of the impenitent, on the part of many so-called Baptist pastors, calls for just such a costly warning as the "Fundamentals" offer. All true Baptists are in debt to these noble laymen, even though they may not be able to endorse every word in the contents of the pamphlets. My Seattle pastorate of seven years proved to me that it is just such teachings as "Fundamentals" contain that build up missionary interest. To be ashamed of the main teachings of these books is to be ashamed of the gospel of Christ. I wish to confess my personal indebtedness to the messages of such contributors to "Fundamentals" as G. Campbell Morgan, E. Y. Mullins, Philip Mauro, James Orr, Benjamin Warfield, R. A. Torrey, Canon Hague and others. It is significant indeed that the finest Christian leadership in the world today is that of John R. Mott, Robert E. Speer and T. Campbell White, all three of whom I personally know to be in substantial agreement with the messages contained in "Fundamentals." JOHN MARVIN DEAN. San Jose, Cal.

[Written in top margin of the clipping]
Standard *[illegible]* 1911