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1911-05-02, Letter from Lyman Stewart to Thomas Stephens

Lyman Stewart

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May 2, 1911

Mr. Thomas E. Stephens,
808 La Salle Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Brother Stephens:

Yours of the 28th ult., with enclosures, just received. We had received a communication from Dr. Dixon only yesterday, telling us of his acceptance of the London call, and his resignation from the pastorate of the Moody Church. His action is of course a disappointment to us, as we had hoped for what we believed would be a larger work for him. He also has referred to his future relations with "The Fundamentals." There are reasons why he should continue in the office of editor, but this is a practical question which should not only be prayerfully considered, but settled by men who are more practical than I in the work of the Testimony Publishing Co. There is force, however, in your suggestion that if Dr. Dixon retains the editorship he should have an assistant editor-in-chief in Chicago, and I had been thinking along the same general line. That which will be most conducive to the largest success of this work is what must be kept in mind. I note your reasons for continuing headquarters in Chicago, and I cannot help feeling that they are wise, and worthy of most careful consideration. Your suggestions in reference to other important subjects which ought to be treated meets with our hearty approval. I had already suggested to Dr. Dixon that there should be articles on

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"Millennial Dawnism," "Christian Science," "Errors of Rome," as well as on "grace," "prophecy," "the coming of the Lord," etc., but I had overlooked "evolution." I think it exceedingly important that this latter subject should be considered, and by the very strongest men, for this has been the devil's entering wedge in undermining the faith of many ministers, and it should be handled very thoroughly. It would strike me, however, that some of the subjects suggested by the Theological Quarterly of St. Louis would be too abstruse for a large class of "The Fundamentals" readers. During our first discussions of this movement with Dr. Dixon, he suggested that in connection with it there should be a series of international testimony conferences held, beginning, perhaps, in London, then in New York, Chicago, and one of the Pacific Coast cities. He believed that a great revival would follow. I think that, with such a mailing list as you have now acquired, a world-wide evangelistic appeal could be made by sending out special literature about next September or October, and that it would be the most potent means possible in the way of results, and I think we ought to give the matter the most careful and prayerful consideration. My thought in suggesting September or October would be that about that season of the year pastors have returned from their vacations, and are planning their fall and winter campaigns, and this literature would doubtless influence many in making their plans. I am rejoiced to know that you have not forgotten my brother. I believe prayer has been answered in his behalf. He is still very low, but his condition is improved, and his mind has cleared up. This improvement began about the time, as nearly as I can fix the

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dates, when you had your little circle of prayer for him in your office. Praying that the Lord's will may be done in all these matters pertaining to the future of the work of the Testimony Publishing Company, I am, as ever, Yours very sincerely,

[Unsigned]

[Letter written by Lyman Stewart]