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1911-05-10, Lyman Stewart letter to A.C. Dixon

Lyman Stewart

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May 10, 1911

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

Dear Dr. Dixon:

Yours of April 25th duly received. It was with a feeling of real disappointment that I learned of your decision to accept the call of the Metropolitan Tabernacle of London. We had begun to entertain the hope that in some way you might become identified with us on the Pacific Coast in your proposed work as a free lance, and in connection with it complete the work of the Testimony Publishing Company. But this evidently was not the Lord's plan for you. We bow submissively to His will, and pray that His richest blessing my rest upon you and your work for Him in your new field of labor. Your great service in organizing the Testimony Publishing Co., and in so ably editing "The Fundamentals," led us to feel that your continuance until the completion of the work was essential to its highest degree of success. You were the first person to whom I ever suggested the thought of a testimony to the ministers and teachers of the English speaking world, and through your work this testimony has been faithfully given through "The Fundamentals." My first thought, on receipt of your letter, was that there should be no change in your relationship to this work, even though you were to be so far removed from its headquarters. However, after several conferences with brethren here, I am led to the conclusion that a change of the headquarters will not be wise, for several reasons. Among them are:- First,-You have a good organization, which it would be

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hazardous to attempt to move. Second,- the plan of the work is such that it must naturally be of a temporary character. Third,- Your continuance as editor would necessarily make such demands upon your time and strength as to seriously interfere with your service in the great church and parish to which the Lord has called you. Under the circumstances, we have thought some changes in the organization of the committee, to meet changed conditions, would be desirable. We suggest your retaining a place on the committee, acting as its special representative for Europe. This would involve, as far as we now see, the selection by yourself of men there whom you might see fit to consult with reference to authors and articles for the remaining volumes. This, we trust, will not overtax you, although we appreciate the fact that your new work will necessarily be very heavy. These suggested changes will not disturb the present order in any way, Mr. Stephens remaining as Business Manager. The committee, however, ought to be enlarged by the addition of men widely known, representing some of the leading denominations. An Executive Secretary of the committee should be appointed, to have oversight of the work. He would have all manuscripts mimeographed and sent to each member, and those approved by the largest number of the members would be published. Our relations with Rev. Louis Meyer have been such as to impress us with the belief that he would be the most desirable man we know of for this position. We trust that these suggestions will meet with your approval, and that this great work may continue to have your hearty and

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prayerful cooperation. Dr. Louis Meyer has been spending a few days in Los Angeles, and it was our great privilege to have him as guest in our home. He left for his home, -the Westmoreland, Mason St., Mount Auburn, Cincinnati,- on the 8th inst., and will be available for a conference with you next week, and we trust you can arrange to see him. We would suggest that the parties to be added to the committee, who shall take part in the reviewing of articles for publication, shall be Drs. A. T. Pierson, L. W. Munhall, Charles Erdman, W. G. Moorehead, and T. C. Horton; and that the business matters which are under the direction of Mr. Stephens be continued as in the past. I had planned to visit my brother in Buffalo, -who is still very ill, - this week, starting on the 8th inst., but on the evening of the 7th my wife was taken very ill with heart trouble, so that my plans for the present are uncertain. Praying for the Lord's guidance and blessing in all this work, I am, as ever, Yours very sincerely,

[Unsigned]

[Letter written by Lyman Stewart]