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1911-05-24, Letter from Louis Meyer to Lyman Stewart

Louis Meyer

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May 24, 1911

[Written on Rev. Louis Meyer, D. D. Associate Editor Missionary Review of the World, New York, The Westmoreland, Mason Street, Mt. Auburn, Cincinnati, O. letterhead]

[Written in ink] at New York, N.Y.

[Written in pencil] Ans 5/31

[Handwritten letter]

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Since I reached my home I have been suffering a little from what physicians call nervous exhaustion, so that I was practically unfit to look even after my correspondence. This will explain why you have not received the promised extensive letter ere this; and it will perhaps cause you to think, like myself, that my trip across the Ocean is rather providential because it will enable me to get at least some days of complete rest. Very early on Monday morning, May 22., I left Cincinnati for Chicago where I spent a number of hours in conference with Mr. Stephens and Dr. Dixon. The latter was busy packing up, but was willing to give me all the time I wanted. The material for future volumes of the Fundamentals is in a rather rudimentary condition and I will have to go through it immediately after my return from abroad. Dr. Dixon had decided upon the reprint of a book by Lamb, recommended by yourself, for volume 6. It will fill the volume about one half, but there ought to be other useful articles among the material which is on hand and we have plenty time to prepare for the volume during the summer. I made arrangements for a day's meeting with Dr. Dixon in London near the end of June. At that time I expect to talk with him about the past handling of money-matters,

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the paying of writers, etc. It seems as if Dr. Dixon, perhaps with Mr. Smith, has handled all these matters. I want the Committee to organize in a businesslike manner and to appoint a committee on finance among others. Ought our treasurer, who is a splendid businessman and thoroughly reliable, not to give bonds? Ought not some provision be made that if he should die, we have no difficulties concerning the funds? I ask you, as a businessman, concerning these things. A rather embarrassing matter came up at once. Dr. Torrey has written you sometime ago concerning the publication of a list of books, sold by him, in the Fundamentals, and you consented to its publication, thinking perhaps that these books were a part of the list of useful books to be published. Mr. Stephens and Dr. Dixon were disinclined to publish the list, and a letter from Dr. Torrey concerning the matter was laid before me by Mr. Stephens. Later on I consulted with Dr. Dixon, and I asked Dr. Dixon to answer the letter of Dr. Torrey and refuse Dr. Torrey's request as he and Mr. Stephens had intended to do. I join both Dr. Dixon and Mr. Stephens in their refusal of publishing Dr. Torrey's list of books by itself, because we would simply advertise it and lower the standard of the Fundamentals. In a later volume we will give a list of books selected and agreed upon by the members of the Committee, but even then we will not recommend certain books because they are published by a trustworthy publisher, but we will recommend

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books, regardless of authors, as far as possible, and publishers, which have been read and found trustworthy and helpful by the members of the Committee. In regard to the office, I found, as I had expected, that it is in the Moody Church. Actual expenses for heat, light, etc., only are charged. I told Mr. Stephens to make official application to the Board of Trustees of the Moody Church for the use of the rooms. If it is granted again, we continue there; but if, as Mr. Stephens thinks possible, the room is needed for churchwork in next fall, we look for an office of our own, which need not be in the center of the city itself. I told Mr. Stephens to let everything go on for the present, and I arranged as work for the summer the revision of our mailing-list and the indexing (upon cards) of all letters hitherto received, that we may thus get a useful list of friends and supporters. The matter concerning Sunday school Superintendents and Laymen had already been taken up by me with Dr. Dixon and Mr. Stephens, when your letter concerning it arrived. I was especially glad of the letter because it revealed our harmony in thought and aim. A few minor changes will be necessary in the office-force after my return from abroad. We have been paying for a stenographer for Dr. Dixon at least a part of the time. The work for me will be done in the office itself, so that we may put in a second stenographer

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for whom we have more than enough work anyway. I told Mr. Stephens also to get into touch with booksellers, especially with those who have stands at the coming Bible Conferences and to interest them in the sale of the Fundamentals, promising the usual commercial discount. Thus we ought to reach many people hitherto unreached. I have not yet written to any of the men to be added to the Committee, except that I sent a verbal message to Dr. Pierson through his son. He thinks that he is too feeble to be of much help, but I believe that we can get his full counsel through his son D. L. Pierson. The doctor is too weak to go to Northfield this summer and the whole family will remain together upon Long Island throughout the summer. Dr. Moorhead, I am told, is also too weak to be of any practical use in the work of the Committee. Thus it might be well if we could settle upon an alternate in his case also. Would it be right to ask Dr. Moorhead to propose a member of his denomination, who holds as good views as he himself? Mr. Potter, who is already on the Committee, is a Methodist. Dr. Munhall is also a Methodist. Dr. Dixon is the only Baptist on the Committee. Would it not be well to appoint another Baptist, for instance Dr. Mabie, and consult Dr. Munhall in regard to matters concerning which he is great authority? Methodists are harder to handle than Baptists. I would like to have the Committee an interdenominational committee of broad men of soundest judgement and of theological

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training, because we are to handle doctrinal matters to some extent. Please, write me concerning these matters to Germany (c.o. Mrs. Sophie Meyer, 14 Magdeburgerste., Berlin W. 35), that I enter into correspondence with the members of the Committee and make arrangements for a meeting during July or August. It would be very excellent, if you were able to make plans for your trip east so that we could arrange a meeting of the Committee during the time of your visit. I pray that the Lord open the way! --- In my conference with Mr. D. L. Pierson today, he reported to me a matter which will interest you. The Federation of Missionary Boards of U. S. and Canada has been talking of starting the publication of a monthly missionary magazine, and it appointed a Committee concerning it some time ago. Mr. Pierson approached this Committee some time after its organization and offered the Missionary Review as its organ, making, however, the condition that it must continue in its honoring the Word of God as before.

The Committee voted to refuse that condition and the Federation has voted to collect \$50,000 and buy the *Missionary Review* of its publishers and to publish it on a so-called broader basis. We suppose that the buying of the *Missionary Review* by the Boards will therefore mean the discharge of Dr. Pierson, as too radical, and we others

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will go with him. A number of these men are very angry because the *Missionary Review* attacked the reports of the Edinburgh Conference as favoring higher criticism and, when criticised [*sic*] in private letters, offered to prove its statements publicly. I trust that I will continue to hear favorable news from Mrs. Stewart and from Mr. Milton Stewart. Remember me kindly to the members of your family and to the many other friends there. Yours very sincerely,

Louis Meyer.