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1911-08-02, Letter from Louis Meyer to Lyman Stewart

Louis Meyer

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August 2, 1911

[Written in pencil] Ans 8/10-11

[Letter written on Rev. Louis Meyer, D. D. Associate Editor MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD
New York, The Westmorland, Mason Street, Mt. Auburn, Cincinnati, O. letterhead]

[Handwritten letter]

Dear Mr. Stewart:

There is a desire, expressed by many in letters, that the Fundamentals undertake the discussion of Christian Science, Spiritualism, Millennial-Dawnism, Theosophy, and kindred false doctrines of the present day. I have thought carefully over this matter, and I have come to the conclusion that the fight against these heresies would scarcely come within the sphere of The Fundamentals whose expressed purpose is "a new statement of the fundamentals of Christianity". At the same time I am fully convinced that such a fight against heresies is necessary, and I submit to you a proposition to collect articles bearing upon "Present-Day Heresies" in a separate volume and publish the volume between the 6. and 7. or the 7. and 8. volumes of The Fundamentals and without the title "The Fundamentals", I would ask Dr. Haldeman to discuss "Christian Science" (I have an article from him on the subject, but have not yet read it), & Dr. Moorehead "Millennial Dawnism", Mormonism, Spiritualism, Theosophy, and New Thought, and perhaps Romanism, would be the other subjects to be discussed, I believe. I submit this plan to you first, because I will not lay it before the Committee even for discussion if it does not have your approval in its general idea. If you approve it in its general

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aspect, I will ask the Committee to discuss the plan thoroughly and, if the plan is approved, to select the writers. I have thought much over the matter of getting as complete a list of ministers, evangelists, etc., and I have proposed to Mr. Stephens the following: 1. That he try to get the latest yearbooks and almanacs of all denominations, but where such are not available ask some leading man (whose name I help him get) to correct the lists of 1910; 2. That he ask the secretaries of foreign missions of all denominations to furnish him, a. the names of all ordained and medical missionaries not contained in the official yearbooks; b. the names of all stations (centres) and the address of the person at each station to whom a copy (or copies) of the Fundamentals could be sent for circulation among the staff of lay-missionaries; c. the names of the teachers in the missionary schools who ought to receive the Fundamentals. 3. That the directories of the larger cities be used to get the exact addresses of all pastors and of all ministers in charge of benevolent or educational institutions in those cities. Under "two" I have attempted to reach all English-speaking missionaries. The copy (or copies) to be sent to each station for

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circulation would be additional to those sent to ordained and medical missionaries, and we may place in them a little notice that applications of lay-missionaries for separate copies for private study will be gladly honored. The staff of lay missionaries, European, American, and native, is very large, and it contains artisans of all kinds, merchants, nurses, druggists, etc. I estimate that it would take 150,000 copies to

supply each of them with a separate copy, and I consider the expense unnecessary. Kindly let me know your opinion concerning these two matters. Yours sincerely,

Louis Meyer.