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1911-08-25, Letter from Louis Meyer to Lyman Stewart

Louis Meyer

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August 25, 1911

[Written in pencil] Ans 9/9-11

[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:

I know that you will pardon my delay in reporting to you concerning that meeting of our Committee on The Fundamentals, when I tell you that I hastened from Northfield to Stony Brook, L. I., N. Y., where I delivered three addresses on August 20. and 21. and that I have been unwell during my journey home on August 22. and since my arrival here. Let me attempt today to give you a complete report of our meeting on August 18. Before the meeting I had received letters from Messrs. Crowell and Smith in which they assured me of their continued hearty co-operation and considered their personal attendance unnecessary. Mr. D. W. Potter was forbidden attendance at the meeting by his physician in the last moment. Dr. Harris' housekeeper notified me that he would not be present, after he had told me some time ago of his inability of being of any help for at least a year on account of his trip abroad. Dr. Torrey could not come and returned some manuscripts, which I had submitted to him for approval for Vol. 6, to me without a line on the day of the meeting, though I had asked for counsel and suggestions, probably because he was too busy at the Montrose Bible Conference. Dr. Dixon and Rev. Horton were too far away to attend. All other members of the Committee, viz. Professors Kyle and Chas. R. Erdman, Drs. Munhall and Mabie, and

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Mr. D. L. Pierson, and myself, were in Northfield on the day before the meeting, so that it was possible to talk in an informal manner about many things previous to the meeting itself. Professor Kyle cheered me especially by bringing greetings for Professor Moorehead and the assurance of his aid and counsel for me. We met in the Reading Room of The Northfield, kindly reserved for us, on August 18. 1911, and entered upon our work with prayer and supplication. Professor Kyle was chosen chairman pro tempore, and I recited briefly the history of The Fundamentals, pointing out that our old Committee had never been regularly organized and that no written records of any actions taken existed, showing at the same time that we were not to be a "Board of Trustees", but rather a "Committee on The Fundamentals," which name was adopted as our official designation. Professor Kyle was elected permanent chairman of the Committee and I was elected Executive Secretary, so that we were regularly organized. Mr. McGlashan, our treasurer, was requested to continue to act as treasurer of the funds of the Committee. There was general thought of placing the treasurer under bonds, but I referred to the correspondence between yourself and me concerning the point and he was continued without bonds. The Committee on Finance, of whose former appointment there was no written record, was then duly appointed, Messrs. Crowell and Smith being continued and my name being substituted for that of Dr. Dixon. The duties of this Committee on Finance were defined

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as follows: "It shall have charge of all business-affairs except the determining of the amounts to be paid to the writers for The Fundamentals; it shall authorize all bills and cause them to be paid by the treasurer; and it shall report briefly in writing when a new volume has been issued." An Executive Committee was proposed and unanimously decided upon. It is to be my special aid and counselor and consists of Professor Kyle, Mr. D. L. Pierson, and myself. I am much pleased with its appointment and its members. Professor Kyle's appointment brings Professor Moorhead practically, though not officially, on the Committee, and Xenia, where both live, is not far from Cincinnati, while Mr. Pierson's practical experience with the Northfield Echoes, and Missionary Review, etc. is most valuable. After concurring in the appointment of Mr. Stephens as business-manager, but leaving everything else pertaining to his office or to my office (like rent, stenographer, and typewriter, which you so kindly ordered for me) to the Committee on Finance, the remaining four hours and one half of the meeting were spent in discussing The Fundamentals, viz. their writers and contents. Several of the members of the Committee spoke at once of the amounts paid to authors. I had an exact statement, furnished me for my own information some time ago, of which I enclose you a copy. All thought the amounts paid to Messrs. Orr, Campbell Morgan, and Heagle, and to Sir Robert Anderson, too high, but no word of criticism of Dr. Dixon, who is responsible for the amounts paid,

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was offered, and unanimously the resolution was passed, that "The Executive Committee shall decide the amounts to be paid to authors, with the understanding that the amounts range from \$25.00 to \$50.00." Some fault was found that we paid \$50.00 for an article, in one case, leaving the copyright with its author (this is for your own information). The following Rules for the Reading of Manuscripts were adopted: "No manuscript shall be published until read and approved by four members of the Committee. If one or more who read an article object, it shall not be published until it has been laid before all members with the grounds of objection." While these rules were under discussion, I submitted Mr. Fisher's criticism of Dr. Campbell Morgan's article in Vol. 1., which was freely discussed, but was not accepted by any member of the Committee in its entirety, though several agreed with one or two points of the four brought forward by Mr. Fisher. The above rules will be a great safeguard, because every manuscript will be thoroughly examined in regard to orthodoxy before it is submitted to four members of the Committee, though they increase my responsibility greatly. It was understood that Vol. 6. does not necessarily come under these rules, but all papers destined for it have been read by more than four. If possible financially, three volumes are to be issued, viz. in November 1911, January 1912, and April 1912 (the Committee expects to meet annually). The reason for this resolution and

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the dates fixed were: the Seminaries and Colleges will all open about October 1. and ministers will be settled again after the summer's vacation about that time (our vol. 6. will be out on Nov. 1., D. V.), and the students cannot be well reached after May 1., so that no volume should be published between May 1. and October 15. In regard to the contents of these Vol. 6., 7., and 8., it was decided in a general way that each volume should contain articles on the great fundamental doctrines of Redemption as well as articles directed against modern heresies of all kinds, and that sin and atonement might be discussed in Vol. 6., the Inspiration and Purpose of the Scriptures in Vol. 7., and Christian Life (Regeneration and Sanctification) in Vol. 8. The making up of the volumes will devolve upon the Executive Committee

chiefly. The meeting continued more than six hours and closed with a season of earnest prayer for you and yours, especially for Mrs. Stewart and for Mr. Milton Stewart, and for guidance in our work. Praise and thanks were given to the Lord for the blessing upon the work hitherto done by The Fundamentals, and earnest supplications were made for the future. All members present agreed that the meeting was most profitable and helpful, and we separated being filled with a deep sense of our great responsibility for the wonderful work in defence [*sic*] of the Truth which you have entrusted to us. I was requested to convey to you the prayerfull [*sic*] greetings of the Committee.

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The Committee on Finance will meet in Mr. Crowell's office on September 2. at 2 p.m., since I have to speak in Chicago on the Lord's Day, September 3. I do not expect that any changes will be made in the conduct of business, because everything is satisfactory now, but I feel that the Committee on Finance should be regularly organized and keep a record of its meetings, and that it should keep in touch with you and Mr. Kellogg concerning all expenses. I am sending you one copy of a Swedish magazine, which is after the manner of the Bible Student and Teacher, but kinder in spirit and language. Its editor received my permission to translate and publish a number of the articles published in The Fundamentals. The number which I am sending you contains a part of Mauro's Life in the Word, commenced before we reprinted it, and the article by Professor Reeve, (in Vol. 3). The latter bears no notice of having been translated from the Fundamentals, because, as the editor writes me, it was translated by a Swedish missionary in South Africa and sent to the magazine without mention of The Fundamentals. It is marvelous that an article from The Fundamentals, published in Chicago, U. S. A., should stir up a missionary in South Africa so that he translates it into Swedish and has it published in Sweden, which is suffering from destructive higher criticism more than any other country. The Lord's ways are past finding out!

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You will probably remember that I have given conditional permission for the translation of articles published in The Fundamentals into German, French, Italian, Swedish, and Norwegian. My chief-condition is that I must see the proofs before publication, because I read the languages and desire to be sure of a good translation. I trust that Mrs. Stewart has been greatly benefitted by your sojourn at Del Monte and that you continue to keep well. Kindly tell Bro. Horton that I am forced to wait with writing him until I am able to secure a stenographer. I expect to move next week. My new address will be: 123 Huntington Place, Mt. Auburn, Cincinnati, O. Yours faithfully,

Louis Meyer.