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1912-06-12, Letter from Dr. Meyer to Lyman Stewart

Louis Meyer

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June 12, 1912

[Written in pencil] Ans 6/26

[Letter written on the Rev. Louis Meyer D. D. Associate Editor, *Missionary Review of the World* (New York); 123 Huntington Place, Mt. Auburn letterhead]

[Handwritten letter]

Dear Mr. Stewart:

I acknowledged the receipt of your kind letter from Iowa, and, having returned to my home, I now proceed to answer it, item by item. 1. I have not seen the article of which Rev. J. H. Sammis speaks in his letter, but I will write him as you suggest. 2. I am deeply grieved that the financial conditions of your industry are such that the necessity may arise to limit the publication of *The Fundamentals* to two additional volumes, and I pray that the Lord may lead and guide to His glory in the matter. While I have always thought of *The Fundamentals* themselves as a temporary affair, I had been hoping that we would have perhaps twelve volumes and that the Lord would providentially lead us into lasting results (humanly speaking). But I am ready to acquiesce in your judgment without murmur, even if you should consider it wise to stop *The Fundamentals* at once. 3. I have taken notice of your wish that we publish Dr. Scofield's article on "Grace" in vol. 9. or 10. Two years ago Dr. Dixon requested Thomas Spurgeon to furnish an article on the subject, and a few weeks ago the article was sent to me by Dr. Dixon, who wrote that he had promised Mr. Spurgeon one hundred dollars for the article and that we must pay the amount

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even if we did not publish the article. I have written Dr. Dixon that we will honor his pledge, but that the amount is far too large and that, after this, we will not acknowledge pledges made without the sanction of the Executive Committee. Mr. Spurgeon's article is now in the hands of Professors Moorehead, Kyle, and Erdman. Dr. Mabie has already accepted it. I am sending you a copy in a registered package that you may decide between the three possibilities which arise if the three professors accept the paper (as they will probably do): (1.) to print Spurgeon's paper in vol. 9. and Scofield's in vol. 10.; (2.) to print Spurgeon's paper only, in vol. 9.; (3.) to print Scofield's paper only, in vol. 9., and pay Mr. Spurgeon the promised hundred dollars. 4. I have taken notice that you want a paper on "Romanism" and propose the editor of the *Converted Catholic* for it. My plan has been to treat "Eddyism" in vol. 9. and "Romanism" in vol. 10. Professors Moorehead and Kyle heard a fine address on Eddyism by Rev. Wilson (Presb.) of Dayton, O., and I have requested the remodeling and filling out of the address for vol. 9. In regard to the article on Romanism, I have been in correspondence with Rev. John M. Kyle of Lowell, Mass. He had been recommended to me by Professors Moorehead and Kyle some time ago, but I had not trusted their judgment, because he is a cousin to Professor Kyle. Then the article which follows directed my attention to him again.

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I made further inquiries and was led to think him a good man for our purpose. He has been requested by me to prepare an article on "Romanism" for vol. 10., after the manner of the articles on "Millennial Dawnism" and "Mormonism" in vols. 7. and 8. Will it be satisfactory to you, if he accepts the task? I

know very little concerning the present editor of "The Converted Catholic", but in a discussion of the magazine at the meeting of the Reformed Presbyterian Synod the statement was made, and not challenged by any of its numerous friends, that it is now controlled by Masonic influence, and I am both anti-Romanistic and anti-Masonic. If Rev. Kyle declines, I will make diligent and impartial inquiry concerning Rev. Manuel Ferrando. Does that meet with your approval? 5. I have taken notice of your wish that I furnish a paper on the Jew in relation to Prophecy. D. V., I will try to comply with your wish.

[The following newspaper clipping titled "Revival Work among the Portuguese in Bermuda." By Rev. Dr. Cameron is adhered sideways in top margin of the page.]

Our Portuguese friends here who have broken away from the yoke of Rome have recently had a time of very special blessing. They have been favoured with a visit from the Rev. Dr. Kyle, who labours under the American Presbyterian Board of Missions among their fellow-countrymen in Massachusetts. For twenty-five years he had been a missionary in Brazil, in a district nearly as large as the state of Massachusetts. When he began there was not a single Protestant, but when he left the field on account of health, there were as many as two thousand who had openly renounced Romanism and made profession of the evangelical faith. The story of his work as he told it one Sabbath evening to a large audience in our Warwick Presbyterian church, was a wholesome tonic for those who might be pessimistic about the progress of the Gospel, or inclined to make light of Foreign Missions. Dr. Kyle is a splendid specimen of a Presbyterian missionary—tall, well built, a man of strong character and at the same time of winsome manner, as fluent with the language as any Portuguese, and full of devotion to his Master's cause. During his stay of three weeks here he accepted the hospitalities of the leading man in the little Portuguese church and went in and out among the people. He held five meetings every week, two on Sundays and three on week nights. It was the busiest season in all the year for the planters, but the crowds came all the same. Night after night the church was filled, and the intensest [*sic*] interest prevailed and showed no sign of abatement. It was a sight to witness the eager, upturned faces as the preacher addressed the people with great earnestness and power in their mother tongue. One of the meetings was held in the open air, when a baptismal service took place. There were about four hundred present. It was evident that a profound impression was being made, and that a genuine work of revival was being done. In these days when so much is being said on doubtful grounds about Rome's progress, it is satisfactory to be assured from such an authority as Dr. Kyle, that of the thousand Portuguese in Bermuda three hundred belong to the Protestant community.

[Handwritten in left side margin of the newspaper article]
United Free Church Missionary Record, Edinburgh, Scotland.

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6. I have taken notice of your conviction and belief that some of our articles are above the heads of our average readers, and I regret that thus the Lord's money seems to have been squandered. Many of the members of the Committee who have aided me in my work actually, wanted to make the articles still more scholarly, because we all thought that the chief purpose of the volumes was to furnish ministers, evangelists, and missionaries, a kind of reference library and material for sound preaching. I am fully convinced, from letters and from personal statements made to me, that this purpose has been realized to a

large extent. For instance, Dr. R. P. Gorbold of Kyoto, Japan, was the guest of friends of mine a few days ago. He saw a volume of The Fundamentals upon the table and said, when he was asked if he knew the volumes: "Know the volumes? I have all of them in my trunk for study during my voyage. I will have a feast of good things, and the volumes will help me greatly in my work."—On May 28. I joined a large party of Reformed Presbyterian ministers and elders on the way to the meeting of the Synod in Iowa. I counted 19 ministers and 11 others who, having received vol. 8. as they were starting, decided to take it with them as helpful reading. When it became known at Synod that I was connected with The Fundamentals a unanimous vote of appreciation and thanks was given to you (whose name I had to refuse) and

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to me and to the Committee, and hundreds of names of teachers of public schools, of high schools, of colleges, and of Bible classes were handed to me with a request for our volumes.—On June 1. another minister and I traveled from Morning Sun, Iowa, to Vinton, Iowa, where I was to speak on June 2. The car was crowded. Behind us sat two gentlemen, one soon took out vol. 7. of The Fundamentals and seemed deeply interested. My companion walked through the crowded cars and found three other gentleman reading vol. 8. of The Fundamentals. He interviewed them and found that one was a minister, one an evangelist, one a student of theology, and one a teacher of the Bible in a small Iowa College. All had taken The Fundamentals with them, because they were so interested in the contents. --On June 8. traveling from Chicago to Cincinnati, I was with two ministers who did not know of my connection of with The Fundamentals and did not learn of it. The one was studying vol. 5., the other vol. 8. of The Fundamentals, very carefully.—Ministers of all denominations are continually telling me that the chief subject at the meetings of ministers is The Fundamentals.—I have not received any complaints that our articles are above the heads of the average reader, but I will pay careful attention to your suggestions, and I feel sorry that we have missed the mark so far.

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7. In regard to the articles on evolution, I am much pleased that you consider the one entitled "Evolutionism in the Pulpit" the strongest, because I clipped it from "Herald & Presbyterian" and I broke our rules by submitting it only to two other members of the Committee (and not to three, beside myself). It fitted in the space at my command, I had to send it to the printer quickly, and I was unable to comply with our rules.—Since it was my intention to have an article on "Creation," I thought it all-right that the Christian position was not more emphasized in the articles. I send in the registered envelope an article on The Invulnerable Creation Narrative [*sic*]: either it or an article by Professor Bettex is destined for vol. 9. or 10. Kindly give me your opinion of the article. 8. Of articles under consideration for vols. 9. & 10. I may mention "Procter, What Christ teaches concerning Future Retribution"; "Ryle, The True Church"; "Pierson (A. T.), The Divine Efficacy of Prayer"; "A. T. Pierson, Ideal Discipleship"; "Wright, Mosaic Authorship of the Pentateuch"; "Pitzer, The Wisdom of this World"; "Orr, Holy Scriptures and Modern Negations"; "Stobo, Apologetic Value of Paul's Epistle"; "Bowen, A Message from Missions to the Modern Ministry"; etc. I am corresponding with Dr. Daniel Hoffman Martin of Glens Falls, N. Y., concerning a popular article on the Sabbath. He has been recommended to me, at my request, by the Standing Committee of the General As-

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sembly on The Sabbath, whose deliverances have been sound and good for years. Thus I am busy with preparations for the two volumes, though their publication is far away. 9. I will gladly mail you more letters of appreciation, as soon as I can. 10. I am sending you a Swedish newspaper, which reprinted Professor Moorehead's article in full. Herald & Presbyter, Der Christliche Apologete, and other papers published outlines. The article on Mormonism is similarly appreciated. I trust that you are better again. These ups and downs are to be expected, and you have to remain careful in regard to diet and work. We continue to pray for you. Mrs. Meyer and the children are well, but I am not. Yet, I am able to go on with my work. We all join in prayerful wishes and best regards, Yours very sincerely,

Louis Meyer.

P. S. Just now a letter from Mr. Stephens has reached me. I quote the following from it: "I am living, as you know, several miles from the office and am considering the advisability of moving to the northside where I will be much handier to the office. But wherever I go, I will have to sign a year's lease. And therefore I would like to ask you if you know now of any possible

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changes in any way contemplated during the coming year that would make my moving to some point nearer by inadvisable. Please, tell me frankly." I am answering Mr. Stephens that I am writing to you, and that we will counsel together when I reach Chicago on June 22. (to spend a week there). --My own lease expires on September 1., and I would move back into smaller and less expensive quarters, if "The Fundamentals" stops. Hoping to hear from you concerning Mr. Stephens. yours truly,

L Meyer.