

File

Omaha, Neb
Oct 36th 1887.

SENATE CHAMBER

WASHINGTON

Major Genl O. O. Howard,
U. S. A.
San Francisco, Cal.

983

My dear General:

Your favor
19th inst. is received.
I quite agree with
you that the Sub-
sistence Department
of the Army deserves
better treatment at
the hands of Con-
gress than it has
received and will
be pleased to co-
operate with others
to bring about that
result. The Officers
of the Dept. should
agree upon what
is desired and
upon what can
probably be ob-
tained, having re-
ference to late
legislation for

other Staff Corps.
Having agreed
they should rest
all their people
in Washington to
work to bring
about the desired
end. It will
require continued
effort on their
part.

I hope you are
well. Advice
me when I can
do anything for
you.

Truly Yours

Charles F. Anderson

C. F. Anderson
Washington

expected an immediate move until yesterday when we all commenced the search for material, labor, etc. with the result of which I have written.

You see we had Townsend and Klamath fresh in our memories and could not believe in the prompt abandonment of Cauby.

My delay at the Presidio and now this slowness of movement I fear will give you the impression that I am usually dilatory, but I assure you that I am not.

The Presidio delay was on account of the total breaking up of my family just at that time, and now this one is more on account of others than myself.

Mrs. Haskin joins me in wishing to be kindly remembered to Mrs. Howard

Believe me General,

With great respect
Yours etc

Wm L. Haskin

Major Haskin

135
985

Fort Cauby, N. J.

October 26, 1887

Gen. O. C. Howard

Dear Sir

Almost the last thing you said to me in your office was that I should give you my impressions of Cauby. I find it a delightful port at this time of the year. The weather has been delightful ever since our arrival and but for one thing I should greatly regret to leave it, and that is its utter isolation. We seem to be cut off from everyone and everything. Telegrams come to us by mail twenty-four hours late, and we do not get even the Portland papers until the second day. Our S. F. papers

are four - sometimes five - days old

Everyone here is delighted with the prospect of going to San Francisco and I am especially pleased with

Alcatraz. How could Rogers ever give it up?

It is a fact - that we are all very anxious to get away and are fearful lest additional instructions may come to prevent, or at least delay, the movement, yet I find that I cannot get off till the steamer of the 4th Nov.

There is but one carpenter at the post and he is sick in hospital, and were he well there is ^{suitable} no material for him to make boxes of. The officers have to send to Ilwaco to buy, and must get along the best way they can with such brief carpenters as they may find. We shall all have

to do our own packing - personally, I mean.

Russell & I have been working like

day laborers for two days now, only much more faithfully than day laborers work.

There is no man skilled in packing to be had and Russell even intends to send to Portland for assistance in that line.

I wished to move on the 31st inst but after consultation found that it would ~~be~~ really ^{be} a hardship to the married officers here and to Major Eakin, and so determined to name the steamer of the 4th prox. I hope

I have not disappointed you by the delay. I have a feeling that you wished us to move as quickly as possible and every one here is anxious to do so.

I understood your telegram to mean that orders would soon be issued from Washington for our move, and thought that we were to expect a delay of at least twelve days, perhaps a month, before receiving them. None of us really

le 26 Octobre 1887

Mon cher Père. 98

Je me porte beaucoup mieux. Je
suis presque gué-
ri. Mes leçons
vous très bien. J'ai
fini le sujet de
"Hydraulics" aujourd-
hui. Demain je vais
commencer "Elasticity
& Strength of materials."
John se porte bien
ses leçons sont
difficiles à passer.
avec de l'amour
de J. W. H.
ton fils.



Howard.
San Francisco.
Cal.,

→
Fort Mason



Grand Hotel,
J. P. Thorn, Manager.

San Francisco, Cal.

Oct 27 1887

General Howard

I find it necessary
to draft the Bond and Petition
entirely. I have ordered my short
hand reporter and type writer
to report at earliest possible
moment. I fear I will not
get papers ready until about
ten o'clock owing to difficulty
in getting short hand reporter and
type writer. I have attempted
to reach you by telephone but can
not and therefore dispatch your
message with the rest to
releive your anxiety. I will
send papers by you about ten
o'clock or as soon thereafter as
I am prepared to.

Hold Bondman and
spolary until justice is done
you! Regret the hitch but
it can not be helped. I want
to be careful in presenting
our cause for removal
that State Court may be
ousted of jurisdiction,

I am respectfully
Yours
John T. Cairns
U.S. Atty

Tell - Gen. C -

Wm. J. Cairns
U.S. Atty

MEMORANDUM.

To Gen. C. C. Howard
Phelan Building
Oct. 27th 1887

FROM

Young Men's Christian Association,

BUILDING, 232 SUTTER STREET,

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

My dear General:

Your kind letter of sympathy received. You will please
accept the grateful thanks of myself and wife.

Very sincerely yours,

W. M. L. C.

File

MEMORANDUM

FROM

Young Men's Christian Association.

BUILDING, 222 N. 1ST STREET,

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Dear Sir:

Your kind letter of sympathy received. You will please

accept the grateful thanks of myself and wife.

Very sincerely yours,

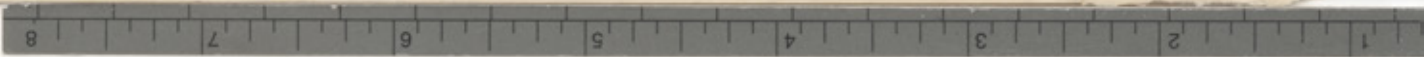
Wm. L. Hayward

Wm. L. Hayward

Wm. L. Hayward

Wm. L. Hayward
Oct 27 1887

8/5



Southern Pacific Company.

Office of the Resident.

991.

21/10

San Francisco, Cal. Oct. 28 - 1887.

Genl O. O. Howard
Black Point.

Dear Sir,

I am instructed by
Gov. Stanford to hand you the
enclosed passes to Mendocino Park
and return.

Respectfully Yours
H. C. Nash
Pres. Secy.

199

General Electric Company
of the President

San Francisco Cal Oct. 28-1907

My dear brother Mr. Ford

Dear Sir,

I am indebted to you for the

release of papers to which I have
been entitled. I am indebted to you for the

Very respectfully,
H. C. Wood
President

MEMORANDUM.

To Gen O. O. Howard
Philan Building
Oct. 20th 1887.

FROM

Young Men's Christian Association,

BUILDING, 332 SUTTER STREET,

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Dear General:

We are very anxious to have a mass meeting at our hall
next Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Will you preside and say a
few words? We expect Hector to deliver an address. A reply
by bearer will very greatly oblige.

Cordially yours,

H. M. C. Y.

MEMORANDUM

FROM

John W. Brown
 John W. Brown's Christian Association

RECEIVED, NEW YORK, N.Y.
 SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Mr. C. C. Brown
 John W. Brown
 Oct. 24th 1885

Philip

My dear Sir:

We are very anxious to have a mass meeting at our hall
 next Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Will you please send us a
 few words? We expect Messrs. to deliver an address. A reply
 by letter will very greatly oblige.

Cordially yours,

John W. Brown

San Francisco, Oct 28 1887.

993
Genl O. O. Howard,
Commanding Dept of
the Pacific

Dear Sir:

Can the
Hon Barclay Henry
and myself see you
at your office at
10 m today?

Very truly

Wm W Morrow

1872
Dear Sir,
I have the
pleasure to
acknowledge
the receipt of
your letter
of the 10th
inst. and in
reply to inform
you that the
same has been
forwarded to
the proper
authorities
for their
consideration.
I am, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient
servant,
Wm. M. Brown

File/Ans
Nov 7/87
Boston

Oct. 28th 1887
994

Genl. O. O. Howard.

Dear Sir:—

I have just had the pleasure of an interview with your brother, Genl. G. H. Howard, and having expressed to him my desire that you would contribute some sketches concerning army life to our magazine, "Wide Awake", he kindly informed me that he could assure me you would do so, and that he would write you as to his conversation with me.

I therefore take the earliest opportunity to write you as he suggested I should do.

I send a copy of "Wide Awake" by same mail, and wish to express the pleasure I shall feel in presenting what you may write to its readers. I think something concerning

Boston

188

Indian fighting will just now be timely and desirable, if it is agreeable to you, for a first article.

I had great pleasure in meeting you several years since in company with Elihu Burritt at opening exercises at the Howard University. I was presented by Rev. J. E. Rankin.

Sincerely yours
D. L. Thompson

L. P. H. P.

188

Boston

My dear friend,
I am very glad to hear from you and
hope you are well.

I am very glad to hear from you and
hope you are well.

Yours truly,
L. P. H. P.

John Oakland. Oct-28. 87

My dear Gen. Howe. 995.

By some means we
exchanged hats when you were
here Monday night. And I
got Hubert's!

I have been hoping I should be
over this week and change
back. But am unable to
come.

I shall however, I. t. be over
to the Unitarian meeting next
Monday at 1³⁰. and will

either to 12 or 330.

I have sent the hat, but
detached I own but one.

I have been strutting about
in fine style: putting on all
kinds of military airs.

Yours for

J. K. McLean

The lecture was universally
and very greatly enjoyed.

W. M. McLean



W^m WADHAMS,
Portland.

HENRY A. ELLIOTT,
206 Front Street San Francisco.

Wadham & Elliott 998.

IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALE GROCERS,

Forwarding and Commission Merchants.

Portland Oregon, Oct 28, 1887.

File Nov 2/87
W
Gen. O. O. Howard,
San Francisco.
My Dear Brother;-

Several times of late the question has been asked me "What has become of old Charlie Price?" Somehow the people here seem to think that I ought to know where he is. I learned in some way when I was in S. Francisco that you had again taken him in hand and sent him away into the country somewhere. I have not heard from him in a long time. Perhaps you are aware it was I who got him a suit of clothes and sent him to S. Francisco at his earnest solicitation--he thinking he could get employment there and promising as usual to totally abstain from liquor. But I believe he again tripped and fell.

You will remember Zed. Wilson, who at one time we thought was booked for the Kingdom. I met him two days since on the street, he having just recovered from a broken leg. As usual, he makes strong promises of living for Christ. I presume, however, that his method of obtaining a livelihood (trading horses and so on) will not be very conducive to a Christian life, and shall not be surprised if again he lapses into his former habit.

I hope you and your family are all well and being prospered spiritually and temporally. I beg a kind remembrance to them, also to our brother Chambreau and his family.

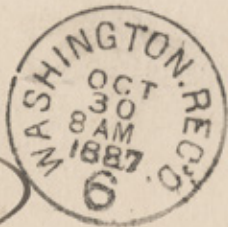
Our Y. M. C. A. is prospering. As usual, we have hard work to gather the necessary funds to keep it running, but souls are being born into the Kingdom at our meetings, and I verily believe we are doing more real good for young men than all the churches in the city combined.

We should all be delighted to see you in Oregon and hope that business or pleasure may induce you to come this way. Why not join the excursion which will take place sometime next month and come to Portland and see us?

Respectfully and fraternally yours,

Wm Wadham

~~Washington
Hedge.~~



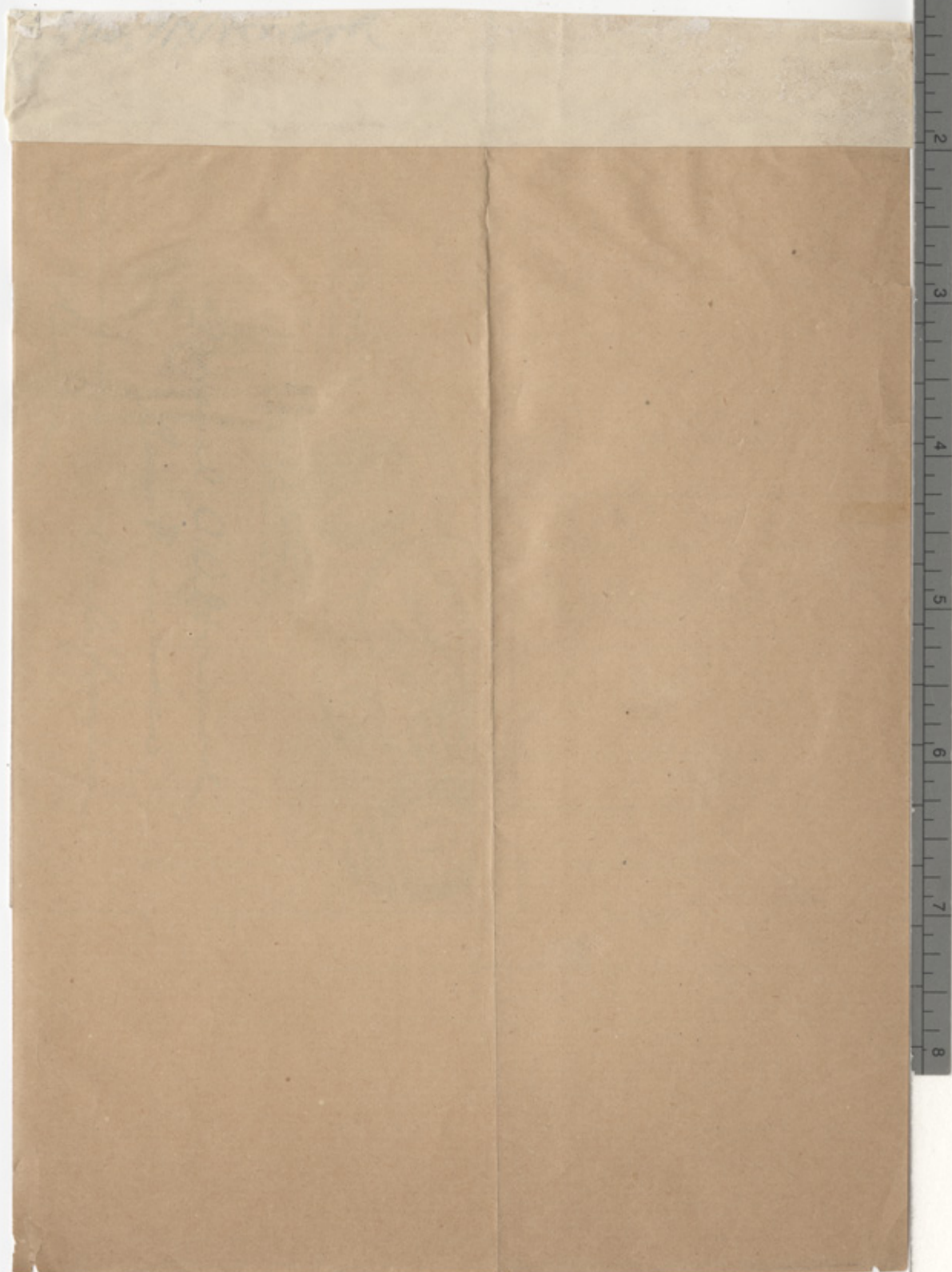


Howard,
~~N. P. W. D.,~~
~~San Francisco, Califa~~
~~War Dept~~
~~Washington, D. C.~~

996.

Mon cher père, Ta lettre
est venue, avec le
cheque pour cinquante
dollars. Je t'en remer-
cie beaucoup. Je puis
tout payer jusqu'au
1. Nov. Je n'ai pas
besoin de l'argent
à présent, mais
après une ou deux
semaines je pour-
rais te dire combien
il me fondera. Je
me porte très bien.
Jolus aussi, mais
il est souvent fa-
tigué. Le temps
fait beau ici.
avec amour pour tous
de M. H.

Thy. N. 4. 0. 1. 30.
1887.



File
1000.

Fort Buford, N. T.

Oct. 30th, 1887.

Major General. O. O. Howard,
Adqrs. Div. of the Pacific,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear General:

I desire to thank you for the courtesy of a reply to my late letter pertaining to Acting Assistant Surgeons. But the reply itself, being the first of its kind, is painful and disappointing.

A Major General, I should think, could easily "let well enough alone." I can conceive that a Col. and Surgeon might do the same. But there are accomplished Surgeons who have given their lives, so to speak, to the service, and now receiving \$100 per month, without any provision or hope for the future. That, I take it, is not well enough.

Very respectfully
S. S. Turner

10008.
1887

10001

Valunt From Arizona By
30th Oct 1887

Major Genl O.O. Howard U.S.A.
San Francisco Cal

My dear Genl

As the survey
which I have been engaged for the last three months
has been completed, and as in all probability I will be
laid off on completion of the map, I must of necessity
look for other work, being compelled to work for
my living. Should you have any position in
your gift that you think I could fill satisfactorily
I wish you would try me. - I feel sure I could
fill a clerks or Q.M. Agents position in a satis-
factory manner

Should you not be able to offer
me a place I trust that no harm is done in
writing you

Very respectfully
Alex. A. Brodie

1002

A. B. C. F. M.

The Letter of Rev. Dr. R. S. Storrs accepting
the Presidency of the Board.

1887.

The Letter of Rev. Dr. R. S. Storrs accepting
the Presidency of the Board.

1887.

A. B. C. F. M.

LETTER FROM DR. STORRS.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., October 31, 1887.

To the Vice-President, the Secretaries, and the Prudential Committee of the American Board:—

DEAR BRETHREN IN CHRIST :— When the Corporate Members of the American Board did me the honor, at their recent Annual Meeting, to elect me President of that great institution, I received permission to reserve my answer to the generous invitation till I should have had time for further thought, with consultation of others, and with prayer for God's guidance. Having taken such time, having sought advice and Divine direction, and having given to the matter my most serious reflection, I have reached a decision which on the whole my judgment approves, and which I desire, as instructed by the Board, to communicate to you.

You are no doubt aware that the proposal to entrust to me this distinguished and responsible office had encountered in my mind, from the first, an extreme unwillingness to assume either its dignities or its duties. Personal reasons, of an almost controlling force, had combined with public considerations to impress me with the conviction that in no event ought I to consent to occupy the place; and if I had felt at liberty, when meeting the Board after the election, to follow strictly the counsel of my judgment and the impulse of my inclination, I should at once have declined the office, and released myself from further self-questioning on the subject. But the urgent representations of friends had so far affected me, it appeared so plainly possible that after the Board, without reference to my wishes, had by a commanding majority expressed its decided judgment and will I might find my preferences yielding before them, and it was so obviously impossible to elect another President, when some were already leaving the city, and when the brief session of the following morning must undoubtedly be otherwise occupied, that I could only ask to have the matter postponed for deliberate review, for the light with which a leisurely reflection sometimes corrects an immediate judgment, and for that highest instruction which comes commonly as an increasing dawn rather than as a sudden sun-burst banishing clouds. I was the more ready for this as thus would be left at the head of the Board, during the interval, the honored Vice-President, in whom all confide, who had been specially associated with neither side in the recent exciting discussions, and for whose patient and impartial spirit, under peculiarly trying circumstances, I had conceived, in company with others, the highest respect.

The subject was therefore left in my hands by the permission of the Board— a permission which deserved, if in the haste of the moment it did not receive, my immediate acknowledgment; and I have since sought, with anxious care and an earnest desire to be directed from above, to ascertain the path of personal duty. As to the bearing of the question upon myself, my duties at home and my local opportunities, with some cherished plans for future work, I have

counseled with those in whose wisdom and friendship I confide and to whose judgment I have yielded. In its bearing upon the prosperity of the cause which we all have at heart, I have sought the silent direction of Him on whose intimate guidance we may surely depend. And after many doubts, and some perhaps impatient struggles in the contrary direction, I am brought to the decision to accept the office for the current year, leaving to the future the care of its own.

I might perhaps here leave the matter, and say nothing further of any thoughts which have occurred to me concerning the possible, or even the probable, future course of the Board on the questions claiming its attention. But all will see that the position in which I have been put by the suffrages of my brethren has made some outlook over the future indispensable to me. It was only in the hope that some way might appear in which we all could walk together, that I consented to review the question which had appeared already decided. It is with the hope that the general views which commend themselves to me may find a response in the judgment of others that I now accept the office. It can hardly, therefore, seem improper that I should sketch, even with a certain particularity, what appears to me the course of fairness and of wisdom in the conduct of the matters committed to us, while of course I have not the right, and if possible have still less the desire, to impose my judgment upon anybody else. I should not express these convictions at all, certainly at this time, except for a sense of just obligation to those who are interested, in common with myself, in the work which the Master has put into our hands.

The particular questions which have very largely engrossed attention at our last two meetings appear to me to be practically settled, so far as we are concerned, certainly for a considerable time. The Board has decided, by a majority so large that further opposition to the decision is not likely to be made, that it will entrust hereafter, as heretofore, to its permanent Committee the entire preliminary examination of candidates seeking to be sent under its appointment and at its charges on missionary service; and that this Committee is not to be concluded by the opinions of improvised councils when investigating the theological fitness of such candidates for a remote and protracted service, in small missions or at solitary stations, in the midst of influences foreign to the gospel and commonly fiercely hostile toward it. In other words, the Board recognizes, as I think wisely, its indivisible responsibility to all the churches and all the persons contributing to its funds for the soundness in the faith of those whom in their name it commissions; while it recognizes also the sharp differences between a ministry pursued amid the searching publicity of Christian communities, with the cordial assistances of experienced believers, and a ministry prosecuted at the distance, amid the resistances, and under the obscuring penumbra of heathen societies. Therefore it has decisively resolved to continue to do its widely extended and critical work by the methods which long experience has justified; and it is in the highest degree unlikely to reverse that decision.

Concerning this, accordingly, we need take no further present thought.

The Board has also determined, by a majority of nearly five sevenths, at the largest meeting of its Corporate Members ever convened, and at a meeting happily held in the midst of communities giving an active and eloquent support

to the challenging opinion, that the theory of a probation after death, offering opportunities beyond the grave to attain by repentance eternal life, is at any rate not a constituent part of the gospel of Christ, that it has no authority from the Master to show, and that it therefore ought not to become, directly or indirectly, an element in the message which a society in the past and in the present consecrated to Him sends to mankind. Many, no doubt, go further than this, and believe the theory not only foreign to the gospel, but in its various roots and relations, and in the germinant forces which it holds, inimical to that, and dangerous to the souls of men. To their minds it presents itself as closely intertwined with a recent and confident speculative system which they thoroughly distrust, which seems to contradict fundamental convictions, and to which they are energetically opposed. But all opponents of the theory reach at least the line before indicated; and it is not needful to go further than that to understand and accept the late action of the Board. After full discussion, against all influences seeking to divert it or to detain it, it has explicitly reaffirmed, with added emphasis, the instructions before given to its Committee, enjoining them to be specially cautious in regard to this theory in their approval of future candidates.

It seems to me, then, too evident for argument that this question also must be regarded as practically retired from further debate at our annual sessions, certainly for years to come. It has been conclusively remitted to that general and legitimate outside debate which never ceases, in books, essays, articles, sermons, in church conferences and local associations; and only when, through such debate, the convictions and the feeling of men have widely been changed, will it have the just privilege of appearing again upon our platform. At least, this appears the natural course for events to follow; and I cannot doubt that fair-minded men, whatever may have been their previous preference, will generally assent to it. Nothing could be more conspicuously absurd than to expect the Board in its corporate action to authorize a theory which most of its members thus far believe to be only an attractive but a delusive human speculation, with no basis in the Scriptures, and forming no part of that Divine message which came to our fathers, and has come to us, from the bleeding and kingly hands of Christ. Nothing, either, is likely to be gained, except irritating debate and annoying defeat, by presenting the theory again and again for an acceptance which has twice been refused, so long as men's minds continue what they have been. Nor will any change be wrought in those minds by a withholding of funds from the common treasury, if that should unhappily come to pass. If the question were one of more or less expedient measures, that might have an effect. Since it is a question of conscientious conviction, on matters of very grave import, any actual or contemplated diminution of gifts can only involve a tightening but a temporary financial perplexity, with perhaps added restrictions on those in the field, and added efforts for their relief in quarters where the friendly spirit remains unaffected. It is obvious, also, that any painful pinching of the treasury of the Board, on account of action which the large majority of its members have felt in duty constrained to take, may easily leave behind it alienation and prejudice which it will take years

to remove. The Christian wisdom of all concerned in the recent discussions will certainly discern this practical risk.

If anything, then, is further to be done toward introducing the new speculation into our counsels, it must be done by changing the present convictions of men as to its scriptural soundness and value; and this is to be accomplished, if at all, not on the limited and transitory stage prepared for our business, and preoccupied with it, but in the general forum of public discussion, where liberty is unhindered for free and large interchange of careful and elaborated thought. There is the sphere, not in our brief and crowded sessions, for discriminating inquiry, for thorough analysis, systematic research, deliberate and exact definition. The advocates of the new theory must be eager for this ampler and more fitting arena precisely in proportion to their confidence in it; while the opponents of it will not fear the result, or, if they do, must prepare beforehand to adjust themselves to it. Time, no doubt, often brings great changes. Reflection and study are slow in process, but are frequently effective in modifying opinion. "He that believeth shall not make haste." The questions of eschatology, vast as they are, wide in their relations, intensely attractive to many minds, are sure to be discussed in years to come, perhaps more largely and more profoundly than they have been hitherto. Congregational scholars and divines will take, no doubt, a distinguished part in such discussions; and it may be that in their final result the new opinion is to gain such a power as it has not yet secured; or it may be, on the other hand, as many anticipate, that it will disappear, except from individual minds, and that to the general devout thought of the earnest missionary Church it will resolve itself into the baseless fabric of a dream.

A society like the Board, constantly responsible to great Christian constituencies, and properly controlled by their determinate judgment and will, must recognize in the end whatever results are thus attained, and adapt to them its subsequent course. But its very function, as an executive body for accomplishing a particular immediate work, requires it cautiously to follow, not aggressively to lead, in such discussions; while it plainly forbids it also, with imperative precept, to anticipate in its proclaimed doctrine conclusions which the majority of its members and of their churches do not accept. Its present business, therefore, remains, as I conceive, what it always has been: to distribute the gospel as still understood by the controlling consent of its members, and as substantially affirmed not only by them, but by sympathetic evangelical Communion. Any movements looking toward a novel interpretation of the Gospel, or toward important additions to it, have the abundant opportunity elsewhere to commend themselves, if they may, to the prevalent and intelligent Christian judgment. It has been only by what has been felt by many to be in fact, though not in purpose, a practical interruption of the more legitimate discussions of the Board, that they have thus far come before it. And after a controversy, quite foreign to its purposes, has thereby been occasioned and been protracted, and after this controversy, conducted by our ablest men with fervor of feeling and a comprehensive array of arguments, has issued in a result, through repeated and decisive corporate declarations, which cannot certainly for the present be disturbed, further agitation of the matter at our meetings should, I am sure, by common consent,

be suspended. It is a maxim of the Law, as sound as it is ancient, that "It concerns the commonwealth that there be an end of litigation." I cannot but think that with an impressive moral emphasis the maxim now commends itself to us. Even a passion for controversy, if such anywhere existed, could hardly feel it wise, in existing circumstances, to force the question which has been twice adversely decided again to the front.

If with this view others in sufficient numbers coincide, the further course of the Board on this special subject will be free from embarrassment. It will stand where it has stood, till the outside discussion, which none would limit, shall have modified the views of a majority of its members as to the meaning and scope of that Gospel which it is its mission to proclaim to the world.

Undoubtedly, however, other questions are still to emerge, of large although of secondary importance, which will be wholly appropriate and timely; but on these I am confident that there may be ready and cordial agreement.

The Prudential Committee has been instructed, for the second time, to exercise caution as to the appointment of any candidates holding a doctrine which the Board yet esteems an unacceptable innovation, and whose tendencies it judges, as at present advised, to be perverse and dangerous. But this instruction clearly allows, if it does not suggest, that the Committee is to consider each case by itself, and in the few instances likely to arise where there is any uncertainty on the subject, is to form its judgment with kindness and candor, as to the amount and the spiritual force of any tendency which may appear toward the opinion which it must not endorse. It has already unanimously decided, as I understand it, that when one does not find the new theory sustained by the Bible, and does not hold it as part of an accepted speculative scheme, but leaves the whole momentous matter to which it refers in the hands of Him who as Judge of all the earth will do what is right in wisdom and love, no hindrance is interposed to immediate appointment. This seems to me entirely accordant, in letter and spirit, with the repeated instruction of the Board; and I have no doubt that the same course will hereafter be pursued, and that considerate care will be exercised to discriminate between the want of an opinion and the presence of one which implies or favors the objectionable theory; between even a vague hope, acknowledged to be unsupported by the Scripture, only personal to one's self, held in silent submission to subsequent correction, and a distinct dogmatic tendency or a formulated conviction.

No doubt the shadings of thought at this point will be delicate and intricate in some minds; while in most, the fact that the Master said nothing about any future opportunities, with the intensity of his appeals for immediate repentance, and the solemn urgency of his imperative command for instantaneous missionary effort, will make the theory of such future opportunities appear quite incredible. In the other and smaller class of cases, I am sure that the majority of the Board would wish, as I should, that great pains should be taken to disentangle feeling from conviction, a sympathetic impulse from a controlling theological bias; that constant tenderness should be shown to those who are treading, with diffident steps, on the high places of inquiry for the truth; and that due regard should always be had to the probable influence of an earnest missionary zeal, and the

educational force of missionary work pursued in a temper of loyalty to Christ, upon the formation of future opinion in those whose impressions are tentative and unfixed. I do not imagine that any material difference of judgment will here arise between the Committee with the Secretaries, on the one hand, and the Board on the other. The Committee may not pass certain definite lines; but affectionate sympathy and Christian solicitude toward any whose minds are not set toward conclusions which the Board as a body does not accept will no doubt be the common impulse.

As to interference with freedom of thought among our missionaries, about which some solicitude has been felt, I do not understand that any practical difficulties have recently arisen. All which I know anything about occurred years ago, under quite different administrations. I do not conceive such likely to arise. The men and the women sent out by the Board are doubtless to be, for the most part at least, distinct and self-poised in their conviction of the truth as understood and proclaimed by that body. They will be, I suspect, too busy with their work, mastering its instruments and accomplishing its details, to give anxious thought to those speculative questions which interest most the men at leisure, the scholar in his study, the professional theologian. Practical service is apt to bear hardly on uncertain hypotheses. The Law and the Testimony take usually a just supremacy over human suggestions among those who are in the front of the field, reaching forth after men with incessant endeavor. Evangelists and Missionaries naturally draw nearest to the heart of the gospel. They know, in experience, that the Word of the Lord is quick and powerful; and that to substitute for it any theories of human device, and accordingly of questionable soundness, is to replace the sword of the Spirit with a tin blade. It does not therefore appear to me probable that however fresh and vigorous their minds, or however wide their thoughtful study, those whom the Board puts into the field will be likely, unless in exceptional cases, to quarrel with and depart from the faith which they intelligently held on entering the service. If any should tend in a different direction, I should hope that their minds might be left undisturbed, as long as their work continued faithful, to clarify themselves under God's guidance. Of course none, of any opinion, would have earnest thinkers dealt with roughly, with suspicion of their intent, or with rash harshness; while all must equally agree, without doubt, that if any finally cease to set forth the truth which the Board has sent them to declare, they must also cease to use its funds and avail themselves of its equipment. The natural instinct of honor in themselves would undoubtedly be sufficient to secure this.

Speaking, however, with entire frankness, I have to add that it would not be safe or wise, in my judgment, to allow altogether the same latitude of opinion among those representing all our churches in the missionary field, which is occasionally allowed, whether properly or not, by local churches in our own country to those who transiently minister in them. Substantially, both our ministers and our churches are distinctively evangelical. But very loose and unworthy speculations about Christ, about his atonement, about the inspiration of the Bible, about the nature and limit, or even the reality, of future retribution, sometimes appear for a time in pulpits or in clerical bodies, and are carelessly permitted to

pass without protest, to which I do not think that the Board, as a body, ought or would wish to give equal allowance in those working at its cost, upon its supreme errand, under its authenticating commission, in communities where matured convictions are not yet present to check the temerity of adventurous minds. This Society exists for a purpose, wide as the world, solemn as the cross, connected with eternal issues. It is always responsible to the Lord of the gospel for what its messengers proclaim in His name. And it should, as I think, expect those messengers to stand on a higher level of conviction — higher and steadier — than may be occasionally occupied at home by scattered churches, or individual teachers, who are yet not excluded from the general communion.

If this shall seem a hardship to any — as it cannot, I judge, to any but eccentric and self-confident persons — it will doubtless be better to avoid a service which should impose no narrow limitations on candid thought, but one of whose constant conditions must be, as I conceive, a continuing vigor of evangelical conviction. If the Board should cease to anticipate this in those whom it sends, it would seem to be in danger, through indulgent tolerance toward questioning or revolutionizing teachers, of forgetting its business and becoming unfaithful to its trust. I have the strongest impression that on this subject the instinctive and controlling judgment of our members will essentially correspond with my own.

Another question, of minor but of practical importance, is likely to appear, indeed it has already appeared, as to the methods heretofore followed by the Prudential Committee in their transaction of the business of the Board. It was proposed at the recent meeting, by an honored member of that Committee, that a special committee be appointed to examine these methods, and to report any recommendations, of approval or contemplating changes, which might seem to them wise. I have personally had no question as to the general propriety and usefulness of the methods long established and hitherto followed. But we all want the best; and if a similar movement in this direction should hereafter be made, I should hope that all would at once assent, and with perfect cordiality.

It is a yet more important question whether anything can be done, and if so, what, to bring the Board, while carefully preserving its continuous legal personality, into more intimate organic relations with churches which make it their missionary agent, and from whose members its means of usefulness are chiefly to come. This question has frequently attracted my thought, not lately only, but for several years; and while I have come to no definite conclusion, certainly not to any definite plan, it seems to me plain that it ought to be taken up, perhaps at the next Annual Meeting, now that the questions which have seemed for a time to block the way to it are no longer imminent, and that a large impartial committee should be appointed, to consider the matter in its various bearings, and report their conclusion at a following meeting. I cannot but think it highly probable that some way may be discovered, or be wisely devised, by which a more popular constitution of the Board may by degrees be harmoniously secured, while neither its standing before the Law, nor its financial security and fame, shall in any measure be impaired. And the impression strengthens with me that thus some not unnatural prejudice may be avoided; while, at the same time, the distributed spiritual life in the churches may come to reveal itself in the important discussions of our meetings with a freer and more inspiring force.

I have thus set before you, frankly and fully, my dear Brethren, and through you before the Board, the general thoughts which commend themselves to me in looking toward our common action in time to come. In the special circumstances attending my election this has seemed, as I said, to involve no impertinence, but to be my only honorable course. It is with the hope that what I have said may approve itself to you, and to others, that I enter upon the office committed to me. I certainly shrink, with a reluctance which none but those nearest me can fully understand, from taking up cares and manifold solitudes, with what are really ecumenical responsibilities, for which my life in a sheltered home and a happy pastorate may have hardly prepared me, and to which I might have felt more equal before years and work had left their many traces upon me. I shall have to rely on the generous forbearance of those who voted for me at the recent election, and equally of those who more in accordance with my personal wishes voted against me, to overlook my shortcomings and forgive my mistakes in the discharge of this trust; knowing only that whatever I do will be done without partiality or prejudice, in any direction. I accept the eminent, but not I hope the arduous office, because it has come to me against my will, in the providence of Him to whom our service is always due, and because, after most careful reflection, I do not see how to refuse or avoid it without the risk of injury to interests which are sacred to us all.

We have but one life to live on the earth. We have been sadly and repeatedly reminded, by the death of one of our honored fellow-members on the platform at Springfield, by the more recent death of the beloved and high-minded brother who had just been appointed to preach our next annual sermon, how brief our time for labor is; how closely we tread with every footfall on the edges of the solemn silence and shadow which separate us from worlds unseen. May it not well be the aim of all of us to work with our might, while the day continues, along the lines in which we so long have moved in harmony, for the glory of the Master, and the welfare of the world. — leaving the questions which have recently disturbed us to be more amply and fruitfully discussed in the larger ranges of outside debate, while we coöperate with a common zeal in all the things in which we are agreed? It seems to me that this is the mind of the Lord concerning us; and the marvellous opening of the world to the gospel in recent years, with the if possible more marvellous reawakening of an intense missionary spirit among our educated young men and women, to my mind at least have almost the distinctness of an articulate Voice, commanding us to this duty. The discussions through which we have recently passed are only such as must from time to time be expected in any free deliberative body, especially in one where the urgent activity of conscience gives strenuous emphasis to conflicting opinions. I am sure they can have left no sting behind them, in any generous mind. May not their effect be rather a spur, to stimulate to keener practical labor? The American Board, with its magnificent history of service and sacrifice, and of noble success, for fourscore years, has now a just and vast momentum, in its work at home and its work abroad, which none of us would wish, if we had the power, to either diminish or withstand. Lives nobler than ours have gone to make it what it is. Millions of prayers on its behalf are now before the Father's throne.

Let us work for it still, in our favoring times, with the strength which enthusiasm always imparts, and expect celestial blessings upon it!

You know, of course, that what I have written, I have written after no consultation with you, or with any one of you. You cannot need the assurance from me that this has not been in consequence of any want of affectionate respect toward you all. Neither have I sought the counsel of those who might reasonably have expected it from me, as having been active, on either side, in the recent discussions, while allowing me the privilege of their common friendship. My consultations have concerned chiefly the question of health, of my personal fitness for the new duties, of the claims of the church which still looks to me for a ministry whose demands the years do not lessen. For the rest, I have left it to the Master to guide my thoughts, and to open more clearly before me, if He would, the suggestions which came to me with a sudden impressiveness as I sat among you, or stood before you, at our late meeting. What I have desired and sought to do in writing this letter has not been to formulate any scheme of evasion or compromise, or any ingenious reconciling device, or any policy to which others should be implicitly pledged; but to outline, with absolute freedom of speech, the course which appears, from my point of view, equitable toward all, consistent with the whole history of the Board, reverent toward its Lord, and adapted to further its benign operations. If what I have written shall commend itself to the general dispassionate judgment of Christian people, I shall be glad for the sake of the cause, and shall take up the duties committed to me with ardor and patience, and with confident hope; and I shall then see why the Master so strangely shut me up to a path which I was unwilling to enter. If, on the other hand, the views which I have freely expressed should prove out of harmony with those prevailing among our members, and among the multitudinous contributors whom they represent, the responsibility will no longer be mine; and everybody may know that I shall then retire, at the end of the year, from the venerable office in which I have been placed, without a personal regret, and with unqualified readiness and gladness.

I am, dear Brethren, with the warmest Christian regard, ever faithfully and fraternally yours,

RICHARD S. STORRS.

