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1911-07-27, Letter from Louis Meyer to Lyman Stewart

Louis Meyer

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July 27, 1911

[Written in pencil] Ans 8/1

[Letter written on Rev. Louis Meyer, D. D. Associate Editor MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD letterhead New York]

[Handwritten in top left corner of page 1 of the letter] Please retain for Mr. Stewart T. C. H.

[Handwritten letter]

My dear Mr. Stewart:

Your double letter, of July 3. and 21., was at once forwarded to me and reached me at Chicago yesterday. In regard to Mr. Fisher's letter, I can only say that I agree with him in principle, while I dislike his manner and his tone to a certain extent. I have always felt that we should avoid the publication of articles written by men who have published doctrinally unsound matter at some time, even though the articles which they furnish us may be very sound. Articles published by us must be absolutely sound, as far as we are able to discern unsoundness, and I believe that our present Committee will be a great safeguard, if we follow our present plans. Mr. Fisher's strictures on Dr. Campbell Morgan's article, "The Purposes of the Incarnation" will be laid before the Committee. I have been prejudiced against Dr. Morgan since 1908. The Committee now consists of the following members: Drs. Dixon, Torrey, and Elmore Harris, Professor Kyle-Xenia, Professor Erdman-Princeton, Drs. Munhall, Mabie and Horton, Messrs. D. L. Pierson, Crowell, Smith, and Potter, and myself. Dr. Moorehead recommended Professor Kyle, whom I well know and who was one of leaders in the Prophetic Conference in Allegheny 1895. Since he and Dr. Morehead live in the same town, they will co-operate for the Fundamentals. I have letters of acceptance and gratification from all the new members of the Com-

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mittee. In answer to inquiries Messrs. Mabie, Erdman, Kyle, Munhall, Potter, Pierson, and myself are able to meet on August 18. at Northfield. Dr. Torrey, to whom I wrote on July 12. asking concerning the holding of our meeting at Montrose, has not yet answered my letter and I felt forced to go ahead, because a later date than August 18. would not have suited for Drs. Erdman, Kyle, and Munhall. Dr. Elmore Harris starts upon a trip around the world on September 1. and cannot give aid to our work for at least a year. Messrs. Crowell and Smith have assured me of their hearty future co-operation (and we will use them, as heretofore, as our Chicago Committee on business and finance). I expect that Bro. Horton will come to the meeting. I have corresponded with Mr. W. R. Moody. It was impossible to change the program of the Bible Conference, but he will give us Monday August 21., the day after its close, for a Bible Day, if we want it. I am now corresponding with our members concerning that matter. Next year, D. V., we will try to have a Bible Day at several Bible Conferences. I spent seven hours of yesterday in the office in Chicago and Mr. Stephens and I went over everything. It was a delight to find everything in admirable order. Mr. Stephens and his stenographer are doing their work better than well and no changes are needed. Let everything go on as well and smoothly as heretofore! I feel assured that Mr. Stephens and I will work well together, because we have one aim, viz. the glory of God, and we believe in prayer.

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The manuscripts and letters which Dr. Dixon had left for me, I found exactly as he had told me that I would find them, i.e. in absolute disorder. I have taken them all with me to this place and will immediately commence my work with them, but it will take weeks to get over them. I am getting into touch with authors and my progress towards mapping out the sixth volume for the Committee is good. As far as I know now, I will submit to it a paper by Sir Robert Anderson on Sin (already accepted and paid for by Dr. Dixon), a paper by John Stock on the God-Man (published years ago by the Baptist Publ. Soc.), a paper by Johnston on the Atonement, etc., so that we will have at once some sound positive teaching. It is a little embarrassing for me that Dr. Dixon was unable to furnish me with an exact statement of the preparatory work for future volumes. Let me illustrate. Yesterday I found at the office a German paper on the Creation by Bettex, together with its translation by Professor Heagle. A very brief glance at the German original aroused serious doubts of its usefulness for us, but Professor Heagle demands \$35.00 for the translation whether we use the article or not. I shall say nothing whatever, but I believe that we must pay the amount asked by Professor Heagle, though I consider it at least twice as large as it should be. In future, however, no article will be translated until I have thoroughly examined it. Dr. Dixon ought to have submitted the article to me, I believe, before he gave it to Professor Heagle, who will not

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be employed by me. While I was in the office Dr. Bettex sent another paper on "What think ye of Christ?", saying that Dr. Dixon had told him to write it. It is far too long anyway, filling probably one hundred of our pages. Dr. Bettex, whose writings I well, know is not at all sound when it comes to prophecy and Israel, so that we might stir up Mr. Fischer by publishing too much from his pen, and he has little influence in Germany itself. -- I do not write you this in a spirit of complaint, but that you may understand my difficulties and counsel me. I have been thinking and praying very much about the question of my office, and I have consulted Mrs. Rounds, Mr. Stephens, and a number of editors with whom I am intimately acquainted. All agree that it is unnecessary for me to have an office in Chicago, because Mr. Stephens is so efficient and trustworthy and letters from him reach on the next morning. But all agree that I must have an office for my work. My present flat has not even room enough to place my library (we have four rooms), which has remained, packed in boxes, in Chicago since 1906. Thus the opening of an office in it was entirely out of the question. We had intended to move into a small house in the near future anyway. Therefore my wife and I decided to look around for a house large enough to give me a separate office, though it would involve at least ten dollars more rent per month, and we expect to rent a house today or tomorrow into which we can move before I go East next month. It is large enough to give me a separate study in which I can do my work.

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That brings me to the question which Mr. Blackstone touched in his letter to you, viz. the question of uniting the work for the Fundamentals and the Jews. Let me answer that question frankly and fully. While I was yet a pastor, I always felt -- and the members of my flock always felt-- that the Lord had seemingly given me an aptness to teach. My lectures on the books of the Bible, taking up verse after verse, thronged my church every Lord's Day. At the same time I had such joy in doing literary work, that I always believed myself called to that also. Thus before I ever entered the lecture-field, I used to look forward to a time where I would divide my time between editorial, or literary, work and lecturing. When I undertook the Jewish work, I never expected that I would be able to continue in doing what I have done

these last years, for no human constitution can stand it, but I was hoping and praying that I might have a home again, whence I could do a reasonable amount of lecturing on the Jews and teaching the Bible. I believe that your call to me for the work connected with the Fundamentals is the answer of my prayers, for I will now have an office, so that I can be with my family, again, while the work will give me time for a reasonable amount of teaching and lecturing as soon as it is well organized. At the same time I will be able to write out and publish much of my material on the Jews and Jewish Missions, as I have been requested by many. Thus I am fully convinced that my work for the Fundamentals and my work of lecturing and teaching can be done by me with

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the help of the Lord, and that the one will not interfere with the other. I am sorry that you may not be able to attend the meeting of the Committee, but I hope and pray that we shall soon have the pleasure of seeing you in the East. Our daily prayer is for increased strength to Mrs. Stewart and Mr. Milton Stewart. I am writing to the latter today asking if he will permit me to make a call in Titusville when I am on my way to Northfield and Stony Brook and will spend a couple of days at Mercer, Pa. I forgot to tell you that in answer to urgent letters I have granted permission to translate all articles of the Fundamentals, except the copyrighted ones, into French, Swedish, and Norwegian, but I have made it a condition that I must read the translation before it is published in the magazines. I have not promised financial aid, however, as Dr. Dixon did for the Italian translation. Yours very truly,

Louis Meyer.

P. S. A letter from Dr. Torrey has just arrived. He invites the Committee to Montrose, Pa., but gives no invitation for a Bible Day. If we meet in Northfield on August 18., he will scarcely be able to attend. If we meet in Montrose after August 18. Professor Erdman and others cannot come. I must decide upon the date prayerfully and without haste.