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1913-11-17, Dr. Torrey to Lyman Stewart

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Recommended Citation

Torrey, R. A., "1913-11-17, Dr. Torrey to Lyman Stewart" (1913). *Selected Correspondence Related to the Fundamentals*. 48.

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November 17, 1913

[Written in pencil] Ans 12/3-13

[Written on Bible Institute of Los Angeles Auditorium Building letterhead]

1945 La France Avenue, So. Pasadena, Calif.

Mr. Lyman Stewart,
Union Oil Bldgs.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Mr. Stewart:-

Your letter of November 13th received. It clears up, I think, everything about the mss. etc. and I will take it up in detail. Mrs. Meyer is quoted by you as saying, "There was just one box with FUNDAMENTALS manuscripts." If that is the case, of course, we have all the mss. for we have one box with mss. Let me say, in passing about this box, I told you in a conversation we had that this was probably the box that was intended for you personally but Saturday I found the cover to this box and it was addressed to me c/o of you so I suppose it must have been some other box that was addressed to you personally though there were quite a number of letters in this box from you. I have not gone through them, just glanced at two or three of them and do not recall at this moment just what was in them but I think nothing of an especially personal nature, that is nothing so [sic] so personal nature that it was not all right for any one to read them. The only letters of a really personal character were two of my letters to Dr. Dixon which by mistake got into Dr. Meyer's hands, all of which had little or nothing to do with FUNDAMENTALS— one did but it was of a purely personal character to Dr. Dixon and should have been returned either to him or to me. Second, In regard to the paper on Romanism of which Dr. Meyer wrote you on July 17, 1912. This paper is among the mss. and I think was sent around to different parties, as there are several copies of it in mss. form but what their judgement upon it was I have no way of knowing as the mss. was not marked and I have not found letters from the different parties saying what their opinion was. There are one or two letters from Dr. Kyle about the mss. and also from some letters to Dr. Kyle from Dr. Meyer which show that Dr. Meyer was not altogether pleased with it and wanted it changed but Dr. Kyle was not in a position to do this. I think that probably Dr. Kyle's criticisms were well taken, but on the whole the article on Romanism is one of the best we have on that subje^{ct} [sic] among the mss. He does take up in it the three things that Dr? [sic] Meyer specially specifies Mariolatry, the Confession and the Mass. Third, Dr. Blanchard's article on Secret Societies was also among the mss. It was not as strong as it might be. It did not merely attack secret societies but also the use of tobacco, impure speech and I think it was well taken up, for those who wanted to criticize on the one point would realize that other things were being attacked as well as the secret societies. However, there were some weak spots in the mss, for example, while he spoke in the an indefinite way about the horrible oaths taken he did not specify and give the oaths, and while he said the name of Christ was taken out of the Masonic ritual where they gave a verse of Scripture that had Christ's name in it, he did not give the Scripture, nor the quotation

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in the Masonic ritual, so I returned the mass. to him that it might be strengthened on these points and others. I thought it was wise to do this before sending around to the members of the Committee for their

decision upon it. Fourth, You say, "I think you advised me at one time that you knew of the right man to write on 'God's Plan of the Ages.'" To this would say, I do not recall doing so. I did say that I did not think that Campbell Morgan was the man to do it. Just at the present moment, I haven't the right man to suggest, though he may occur to me. Fifth, In regard to an article by Dr. Meyer on the JEW IN PROPHECEY, the thought has occurred to me time and again that we had not had any article by Dr. Meyer in the FUNDAMENTALS and I was wondering if he did not have something among his mss. that we could use. There was no mss. by Dr. Meyer among those turned over to me, unless two on some prominent Jews are by him. These mss did not seem to have been intended for FUNDAMENTALS and I was wondering if they were for some other purpose—one is on Dr. Saphir—the other on wome [*sic*] other prominent Christian Jew. I am glad you wrote Mrs. Meyer about these mss. and if it has been completed, I hope it will be sent to us in order that I may refer it to the Committee. Sixth, In regard to an article by Dr. Scofield on GRACE, Dr. Scofield is a very hard man to get anything out of, but I presume I do not need to tell you that. Mr. Revell told me years ago that it was very hard to get anything out of Dr. Scofield even if he had definitely promised it, and I think Mr. Horotn [*sic*] once told me that you had arranged with Dr. Scofield for an article or a booklet or something or other and that though many months had passed since Dr. Scofield was compensated for writing the article that the article had never shown up. Very likely I am not quoting Mr. Horton correctly and I have never mentioned it to any one else. We have already had an article on GRACE by Rev. Thos. Spurgeon. There were a good many diffoculties [*sic*], I find about this article Dr. Dixon had offered Spurgeon \$100. for it and Dr. Meyer and other members of the committee thought this was too much, in view of the fact that it had been published before. I think all the members of the committee who were at Northfield meeting, especially felt it was too much. I feel very sure I would have agreed with the other members of the committee. However, that was adjusted in some way and the article was published. I wonder if it would be wise to try to get arnother [*sic*] article out of Dr. Scofield on this subject as there are so many other things we must treat in these last two volumes of FUNDAMENTALS. Seventh, You quote Dr. Meyer as saying, "I am getting overcrowded with material for Vols. 11 and 12, I fear. Dr. Dixon has just notified me that he has asked Rev? [*sic*] John Thomas of Liverpool to furnish four articles of 6,000 words each on the Bible: Its inspiration, its infallibility, its criticism, and its influence. I have written at once that we cannot use four articles from one man just now." In regard to the first part of this would say that possibly if these four articles by Rev. John Thomas had been received, there would have been some crowding of material but as far as I can find they were never sent, and I quite agree with Dr. Meyer that four articles by one man, especially along these lines which have been so largely treated in earlier numbers of FUNDAMENTALS could not be used now. But if all the mss. there was has been sent to me in this box, I cannot see how Dr. Meyer had any fear that we were overcrowded by material. Possibly, if every mss. sent

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was used they might fill Volume 11 and possibly Volume 12 but some of the mss. I am sure Dr. Meyer would never have dreamed of using and if he would, I am sure the committee would not. Some of them have no value at all. One of these I have already returned. It was from some student in some unknown Bible school, at least unknown to me, and was of no value whatever. Two or three very large mss. it is very difficult to discover the meaning of. They were evidently written by some one who thought that FUNDAMENTALS furnished a good opportunity for getting rid of mss. they could not dispose of in any other way. I intend to return these when the parties write for them and let me know where they are and when they send the postage for their return. Another was by a man in England named Ward, if I

remember correctly, who is thoroughly unsound and bitterly attacked the orthodox views of future punishment. This, of course, has been returned. He wrote inquiring about it. In addition to this there are four mss. on Romanism and, of course, that is more than we would want on any subject. One of these four was approved by Dr. Munhall but severely criticized and justly criticized by Dr. Erdman on the ground that much of it was built upon a misinterpretation of the Book of Revelation. Another article on Romanism was written at Dr. Meyer's suggestion and the writer says says [*sic*] at his very earnest solicitation. It was really a condensation of a book written by the writer and was carelessly written and not calculated, I think, to do much good. We have not finally rejected this article, though I presume that will be its doom. I am very sure it will if submitted to the wiser and more scholarly members of the Committee. This leaves two articles on Romanism, one by Dr. Kyle and the other by a man in Glasgow. The one from the man in Glasgow seems strong in many ways and to make up for what Dr. Kyle lacks in his article, and I think that these two will pass the committee, and I think they would be enough on Romanism, don't you? Beside this there are quite a number of mss. by Dr. Pierson which, I presume, Dell Pierson turned over to Mr. Meyer to select from but they are for the most part either mss. that Dr. Pierson has already published in the past or it was deemed wise not to publish. I don't think that any of them, or at least, many of them are of any special value for FUNDAMENTALS, though I have not read them all very carefukky [*sic*]. This covers pretty much all the mss. except one or two to which I will refer later [*sic*] as I come to them in your letter. You will see from this that we have not mss. enough of real value for even Volume 11, to say nothing of Volume 12, nothing like enough. I am very desirous of getting ~~the mss.~~ a mss. on Fulfilled Prophecy. I think it ought to be about twice the size of ordinary mss. if the subject is to be treated at all satisfactorily. I find it very difficult to find the right man to write such an article. Have you any one to suggest? It ought to be done in a thorough way and very carefully, eliminating all doubtful fulfilments for the enemies of the truth would seize upon the weak points in such an article and thus try to blind others to the strong points in it. I am also having an article prepared on THEOSOPHY. The subject has never been treated but Theosophy is misleading a great many people; some regard it as the Devil's Masterpiece of error. It certainly is sweeping away a good many in Los Angeles as well as elsewhere. Eighth, You say, "You will doubtless remember that an article was to be prepared in reference to a limited number of the best books for use in connection with Bible study," and you quote what Dr. Meyer in a letter dated July 2, 1912 says about this. In regard to this whole matter would say, that I think the idea was an excellent one and I know that Dr. Meyer wrote to me and I have no doubt to other members of the Committee (in fact, I know he wrote to some members of the committee) asking us to suggest the names of, I think it was 50 men who would be competent to prepare such lists. As far as I know is as far as the matter

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ever got. I was never asked for a list of books. I was asked for a list of names of persons to prepare lists of books. We took this matter up at our meeting in August in Montrose. Some of the members of the Committee thought that such lists had been prepared but I do not find any such lists. I have already written Dr. Munhall to prepare such a list and am planning to write others. It seems to me if the right persons prepare a list that would be very valuable. Ninth, I note what you quote from Dr. Meyer's letter of October 28th in which he says, "I have taken steps to get doctrinal articles for Vols. 10 and 11, for I thought that you were satisfied with the decision to make Vol. 12 one dealing exclusively with the Lord's pre-millennial coming, etc." In regard to this would say, that I suppose that the breakdown to Dr. Meyer's health prevented hos [*sic*] going on in this matter. Any way there are [*illegible deletion*] no such mss.

among the papers as he refers to. I note that he says, "I have an excellent article by Johnson, 'The Testimony of the Apostles to Inspiration.'" I do not find this among the mss. Neither do I find the article by Pentecost, "The Greatest Event in the World (i.e. Christ's Death) is among the mss. I may find it, however. The article on Repentance by the late Dr. Lorimer is there but I do not think that Dr. Lorimer was a man in whom the people that agree with us have the utmost confidence as a theological preacher. He was a popular, sensational preacher, a very high mason, constantly pandering to the masons and by my knowledge trying to get some who were not masons into that order. Of course, in spite of this fact he might write a good article on Repentance but if I had articles that were satisfactory by others, I should hesitate to publish one by him on that subject unless it was very good. Dr. Lasher's on Regeneration, Conversion, Reformation, really covers that ground pretty well. This appeared in Vol. 10. Further on in connection with this letter October 28, 1912 you quote Dr. Meyer as saying, "I have asked Princpal [sic] O'Meara of Toronto, Professor Moore of Richmond, Va., Professor Warfield of Princeton, Professor Hemphill of Louisville, David McIntyre of Glasgow, Hugh McIntosh of Edinburgh, Dr. Thirtle of London, Dr. Griffith Thomas, for articles, if possible." In regard to this would say, we have none of these articles among the mss. These men are strong men. There is a letter from Prof. Moore of Richmond who is an especially strong man saying he cannot write such an article. I too have asked Dr. Griffith-Thomas for an article one one [sic] of two subjects but he doubted his ability to write t [sic] am. Dr. Griffith-Thomas is one of the most scholarly, well-balanced and sound men that there are along our lines and he has the ability which is rare in a man of his scholarship and position of expressing himself in a way that the plainest people can understand him. We had him at Montrose this summer and I think take it all in all, he was the most satisfactory am in some respects that we have ever had. I invited him out here for our winter conference, but received a letter from him saying that he could not come. I think the above covers your letter as far as it concerns FUNDAMENTALS with the exception of one point, and that is, that Dr. Meyer in his letter of October 28, 1912 says, "I thought you were satisfied with the decision to make Vol. 12 one dealing exclusively with the Lord's pre-millennial return." In regard to this would say, that I did not know of this decision, neither apparently did the members of the Committee that met at our house in August. They decided that Vol. 12 should be given up almost exclusively to evangelism or to the stirring up of the church to soul winning at home and abroad and it was thought that pre-millennialism [sic] would be treated to some extent in Volume 11 and Dr. Erdman

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was to prepare an article along that line. I have not that article as yet but he told me he was ready to prepare it if desired. I wonder if it would be possible to harmonize these two decisions by letting Vol. 12 be along the line suggested by the brethren at Montrose this summer and by our sending out a book on the Lord's Pre-millennial [sic] return as a sort of addition after the 12 volumes were closed. Possibly the book which you already own on our Lord's return which I wrote would answer the purpose. I know that it does not appear altogether modest in me to suggest it but as you already own that book and as it is already set up and as it probably covers the ground that you wish covered, it seems as though it might save some of the Lord's money for other purposes and at the same time accomplish what you had in mind to use this book for this purpose. Of course, it would also help our Institute. As I am now the Executive Secretary of Fundamentals, it would hardly do for me to suggest such a thing to the Committee but with Volume 12 I suppose the Committee will cease to be and that then the lists of names and the remaining money, etc. will be turned over to you. The fact is, I think the committee has become to be somewhat burdensome and that when Volume 12 is completed the original number had in mind, a less cumbersome system could

be devised for carrying on the work if it was thought wise to carry it on further. I note with great interest what you say about Dr. Samuel Moffett and his desire that I might visit Korea. If it were the Lord's will that I should go to help in the organization of these schools, or help in any other way in strengthening the hands of the missionaries, of course, I would be glad to go. I should think that when we get in a [*illegible deletion*] position to do it, we could in a measure assume the care of these schools as you suggest. I know that Dr. White has been over a couple of times and that he is endeavoring to father the Bible work in Korea and Japan. While I have the highest respect for Dr. White, and while I regarded him as a very helpful associate when with me in Chicago, it is known by many that Dr. White is visionary and that he needs a balance wheel. Dr. Moorehead told me that when he came to Chicago. Furthermore, Dr. White is not careful that all the men that he employs in connection with his Bible school shall be sound. He has had a teacher connected with his school in New York who is regarded as thoroughly unsound and he took a man to Japan with him, or to China who was thoroughly unsound. And I have regarded with apprehension his founding Bible schools along his line and so have some others. Nevertheless, Dr. White had a very hearty reception in the Orient. Doubtless there are many ~~other~~ over there who would be glad to rally around Dr. White who would not be willing to rally around us, and especially around me, for I am regarded as an extreme conservative and I have no desire to deny that I am a conservative, and unfortunately, we have some thoroughly unsound men connected with our orthodox churches in Japan and also in China. Of course, if it were thought wise for me to go to Korea, as far as appears now, I could go with less harm to our work here some time this coming winter than later for after we have completed our building, it looks as if it would be difficult for me to get away for many months at a time though, of course, if we found the right man to act as an understudy (to use an expression that you used in this connection in a letter last summer) for me, I might go any time in the coming years. Pardon this long letter but I did not see how I could make it shorter and cover the ground. Sincerely yours,

R. A. Torrey p.

[Written in top left margin of page 5 of the letter]

Lambs book?

[Written in bottom left margin of page 5 of the letter]

Answered this paragraph 11/21-13