

May 15, 1914.

Mr. Harry E. Lake,
Concord, N. H.

My dear Mr. Lake;

I thank you very much for your letter with the extract from Superintendent Morrison's address. I had not seen it, although I knew his sentiment. Doubtless you noticed his letter to me in the recent bulletin, my Statement to the Educational Commission. Such testimony is very gratifying and I think will help us in our present difficulties.

Before this letter reaches you I shall have announced the promise of a \$60,000 chapel from Ex-Governor John A. Mead. I need not expand on the great addition this will make to our equipment and the special encouragement it brings at this particular time.

Faithfully yours,

TROY CONFERENCE ACADEMY

O. L. LEONARD, PRIN.
POULTNEY, - VERMONT.

June 4, 1914.

Pres. John Thomas, LL. D.,
Middlebury, Vt.

My dear Dr. Thomas:

The latest word I had concerning the Teachers' Training course was your request that I should not publish that we were to have one. I have been patiently waiting, that is I have tried to be patient, to have this restriction removed, but as yet have heard nothing. It is pretty hard on a fellow to sit with tied hands and watch other people build up their training courses from students we ought to get. Am I not going to work on this matter in the open and try to get a course together?

Accept my sincere congratulations on the \$60,000 chapel. If you keep on growing so rapidly, you will be so big we little fellows dare not speak to you soon.

With best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours,
C. L. Leonard

CLL/ST

June 5, 1914.

Rev. Charles L. Leonard, D.D.,
Poultney, Vermont.

My dear Doctor Leonard:

I am sorry indeed that you were not notified as to the teacher training course. It was voted at the last meeting, but we must have slipped by on announcement between the various officers of the board. I thank you for your congratulations. We are exceedingly happy. I hope you will come to help us celebrate at Commencement.

Faithfully yours,

May 15, 1914.

Principal James A. Lobban,
Webster, Mass.

My dear Mr. Lobban;

I am very glad that you have commended Miss Mernice Henderson of your graduating class to Middlebury College and we shall be glad to receive your certificate. I enclose a blank herewith. I am very sorry that I must discourage her in the matter of a scholarship; I have no doubt the case is a deserving one, but we are obliged to say that we have no scholarships for girls outside of Vermont, i.e., the state scholarships. It is quite a struggle to keep our charges down as low as they are, but I am doing my best at that all the time. If you ever have any boys for us who need assistance, perhaps I can do better.

This evening I expect to announce to the faculty and students a new college chapel, to cost perhaps \$60,000, the gift of John A. Head of the class of 1864. Better plan to attend commencement to lay the corner stone.

Faithfully yours,

May 20, 1914.

Mr. Sanford H. Lane,
72 Broad St.,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Lane;

Your enthusiastic letter does me great good. It is fine to be happy but it is still better to know that others are happy with you. I think the gift of a chapel will grow on us all the more we think of it, and that it will assist greatly in dignifying and elevating the student life at Middlebury. To enter a beautiful and dignified building consecrated to religious uses every day of one's college course, and to participate in a worthy service appropriately conducted and with uplifting music, exercises an influence often unperceived, but of greatest possible value. Middlebury has had all too little of the external stimuli toward culture and a rich spiritual life.

Of course the gift is most timely coming so soon after the Carnegie report. I am sure it will have a marked influence in Vermont toward a cordial, sympathetic treatment of the college. To me it augurs hope for another conditional grant from the General Education Board, which should be a part of a fund of \$500,000.

It is good news that you may be with us June 13th. I wish you could see a game on the Porter Field, which is in excellent condition and greatly enjoyed by all. Surely no college has a field with more inspiring location.

The team is doing great work, not having been beaten yet. With cordial regards to yourself and all Middlebury men whom you may meet, I am

Faithfully yours,

70-72 BROAD STREET
NEW YORK.

Dear Dr. Thomas.

I am just bubbling
over with enthusiasm and joy
for I saw in Friday's Tribune a
bit of news that a chapel had
been given to Middlebury College
by Ex-Governor Mead, isn't that
fine. I trust the dormitory and
other buildings desired will soon
come to complete that quadrangle
Where will the chapel building
be located?

I now wish there was an
inviting lounging or meeting

will worth the price of
admission". Possibly the
new surroundings may
have a good influence on
the athletics in todays times
they even gave us a score by
mornings something unusual
will get them yet.

Take good care of your
health Dr. Thomas for we
need in these days of growth
and reconstruction.

Sincerely yours
Hubert H. Hall.

room or rooms for the fellows
it would mean much toward
more centralizing college life
and activities. There are indeed
many things needed. Under
the leadership of such a guiding
spirit we all have the greatest
of hopes for the future.

The ball team is certainly
doing finely hope they can
again win from Vermont. I
am trying to arrange my plans
to be home during commencement
if so will plan to be at the
game on the 13th.

Joe Peck says the Porter
field is an inspiration and

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
THE HOWE SCALE COMPANY,
RUTLAND, VERMONT.

Rutland, Vt., Apr. 8, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

As you are aware, I returned to Rutland on the sleeper Monday evening and was the first passenger to reach the car, and the second, not five minutes behind me, was Doctor Benton of Burlington. He seemed quite anxious to know the situation, asked if I had been attending a meeting, I told him I had and I told him a little something of what the feeling was. He seemed very much pleased and I simply advised that he might confer with you at his early convenience. I think he was returning from the south. I probably spent a good long hour with him. I thought I would advise you of the above at once.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours truly,



April 13, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have received your letter of April 8th and am interested to know that you had a good talk with President Benton. I have no doubt but that the situation will work around so that they will be very willing to co-operate.

I cannot begin to tell you how much pleasure and satisfaction I have had from our quiet conversation in New York. The project has come to my mind almost every hour, and I am more and more impressed with the great benefit that would come to us from such a work, especially at this time, also the peculiar pleasure which I believe you will have in seeing the matter through. In accordance with your kind permission I addressed a letter to Allen & Collens, Boston, who have been the architects of some of the very best work of this sort in our country, and who appear to be still capable of the best results. I made it very clear to them that we could make no definite proposition and were in no position to involve the college in any expense nor to commit ourselves to any one as architect. They replied that they are willing to help us make preliminary arrangements, without expense to us. Perhaps I had better send you the carbon of my letter, with their reply, which I will ask you kindly to return for my files.

I am answering their letter of April 9th that I would be very pleased to have them visit Middlebury under the conditions stated and that I expect to be here the rest of this week and up to Thursday of next week.

I hope you will approve of my action thus far and if you have any further suggestions I shall be very happy to receive them. You will note that I have taken particular pains not to commit ourselves to anything definite nor to any particular comes. I want to thank you with all my heart for the hope which you have held out to me and the joy your kind words have already brought me.

Faithfully yours,

Middlebury-000507

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.
THE HOWE SCALE COMPANY.
RUTLAND, VERMONT.

Rutland, Vt., Apr. 14, 1914.

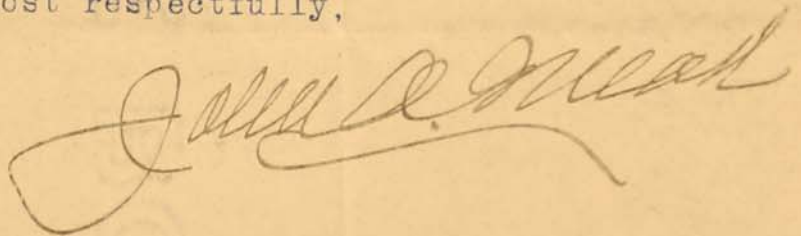
Doctor John M. Thomas,
President, Middlebury College,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Doctor:-

I have your favor of the 13th inst. with enclosure, and the same conforms, as I recall, to our understanding. I have read your letter and the enclosures with interest and surely hope that something entirely agreeable may be developed.

With very kind regards, I am,

Yours most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John P. Mead". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "John P. Mead".

(Enclosure returned)

April 20, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead:

I have word from Mr. Collens that he will run up so as to be here Thursday of this week. I shall plan to go over the ground with him in the morning, and if it will be agreeable to you, come to Rutland with him in the afternoon, i. e., arriving there about 2 P.M. Thursday. Of course I will see that we do not take too much of your time.

I am getting some earnest commendations of my statement concerning the Carnegie report. A good many tell me that my position is entirely fair and reasonable and that the State ought not to hesitate to co-operate with Middlebury to the extent we have asked.

Faithfully yours,

Rev, Dr. John M. Thomas, LL. D.,

President of Middlebury College.

My Dear President Thomas:-

In commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of my graduation from Middlebury College, and in recognition of the gracious kindness of my heavenly Father to me throughout my life, I desire to erect a chapel to serve as a place of worship for the college, ^{the same} to be known as the Mead Memorial Chapel. I have in mind a dignified and substantial structure, in harmony with the other buildings of the college, and expressive of the simplicity and strength of character for which the inhabitants of this valley and the State of Vermont have always been distinguished.

It was my great-great-grandfather, the first white settler of this valley, who brought the first copy of the Holy Bible into this unbroken wilderness and it was his wife, my great-great-grandmother, who gathered her ^{large} family about her in an indian wigwam for the first christian service of the Vermont pioneers of this immediate region. With this memory ever present, it has been my hope and prayer that I might be able and permitted to build for this college a suitable place for divine worship and that it might rise from the highest point on its campus as a symbol of the position, most prominent in every respect, which christian character and religious faith should always maintain in its work for our youth.

I have in mind the furnishing of from \$50,000 to \$60,000 for the erection of such a structure, and I hereby suggest that the Trustees of the College secure appropriate plans for its erection which shall meet with my approval, and that said Board appoint a Building Committee at once, consisting of President Thomas, former President Brainerd and

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myself to make the necessary contracts for such a structure and to supervise the erection of the same, and I will then bind myself and my estate to provide the necessary means for its erection and completion in accordance with the suggestions of this letter and with the contracts to be made by your committee.

Respectfully,

John D. Smith

*Rutland, Vt.
May 11, 1914.*

May 12, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I think we will fix upon Friday evening for the announcement of the new chapel to the faculty and students. I wish Mrs. Mead would come up with you and let us do the honors to you both. I will make all arrangements and of course everything will be very informal.

I will send out the announcement to the Associated Press so that it will be released Saturday morning and I very much hope we can keep the matter quiet until then. I shall try to have a letter to each of our trustees, with a copy of your letter to me, to reach them next Saturday. I am sure you will find that there is very deep gratitude toward you on the part of all friends of our college.

Faithfully yours,

P. S. Mr. Collens, the architect, has just telegraphed me offering to bring the sketches to Rutland Thursday morning, train from New York about 11 o'clock. I am replying that I will meet him there and I hope it will be agreeable to you to see us and look over his plans.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
MIDDLEBURY, VT.

May 15, 1914.

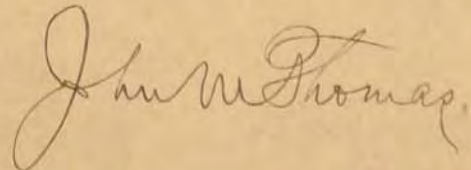
To the Trustees of Middlebury College:-

Your associate, Governor John A. Mead, has made it possible for me to make an announcement which will bring you all great satisfaction and encouragement, as it gives me the keenest pleasure. I enclose a copy of his letter to me signed May 11th which assures the erection of an appropriate and beautiful chapel for Middlebury College.

I have testified many times to the great need of such a building and the large possibilities for good in connection with it. We have all felt for many years that it was one of the most urgent needs of the college, and those who have been closest in touch with the daily life of the institution have felt the need most earnestly.

A chapel is not an income producing building and its erection should be accompanied by an endeavor to increase our endowment and secure a men's dormitory which would yield a revenue and provide for our increased student body. I very much hope that the General Education Board will now look with favor upon our application for a grant towards a fund of \$500,000, towards which we now have a good start in the \$10,000 recently contributed by Governor McCullough and the amount suggested by Governor Mead for the erection of a chapel. I will greatly appreciate the assistance of any of you toward this end and trust I may have your co-operation in promoting the movement which has been so well begun.

Faithfully yours,



P.S. May I hear from you immediately as to whether you will authorize the acceptance of Governor Mead's proposition and the appointment of the Building Committee which he suggests?

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
THE HOWE SCALE COMPANY,
RUTLAND, VERMONT.

Rutland, Vt., May 16, 1914.

President John M. Thomas,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

We arrived home last evening on time, about 12:15, and this morning shortly after arriving at the office I received the exterior sketch of the chapel. It is the same one that he had here on Thursday, save that he has made a little slit in the mat and carried the steeple up to the height which was considered when you and President Brainerd were with me. I don't know just why he sent this to me. I have kept the heavy cardboard and if you wish, I will send it to you at once. There has been no other change, as I could see, in the drawing, save the extension of the steeple.

Thanking you for the many courtesies received last evening and with very kindest regards to Mrs. Thomas and your family, I am,

Yours most respectfully,

J. M. Thomas

Rutland, Vt., May 18, 1914.

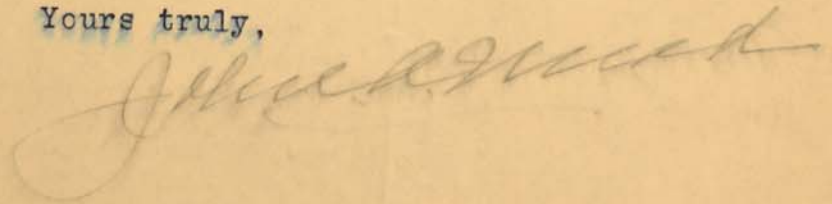
Doctor John M. Thomas,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

You said something about trouble in getting more than one architect to figure on the chapel. I confess what you said had startled me a little bit and I have taken a little pains to ascertain if there was anything specially unusual existing among architects, and this afternoon have learned that there is a perfect combination among many of the leading architects that if one has been called upon to figure, that no other member of that society will make drawings or estimates without there is really a combination between them, and whatever the second man does is fully known to the first. You may be aware of this arrangement, but I must confess it was new to me, and I probably should not have learned of the same had it not been for the stray remark which you made. This then is the situation. I write to advise you of this condition and also to ask if you were advised of the same before?

With best wishes, I am,

Yours truly,



Rutland, Vt., May 22, 1914.

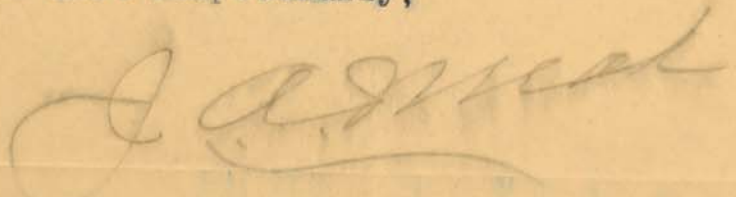
Doctor John M. Thomas,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Doctor Thomas:-

After further consideration of the subject which we had under discussion yesterday for an hour or more, I can but feel, as you advise, that it would be a good idea for us to have an advisory committee named from among your faculty. I regret that I am not more thoroughly acquainted with the various members of your faculty, but I do know Professors Wright, Sanford and Harrington, who spoke at the meeting on Friday evening last, and I can but feel that all of these gentlemen would be specially interested in this subject, and I am sure they would be of great benefit to us. If this meets with your approval and these gentlemen would be pleased to serve in this advisory capacity, I am sure it would be a great pleasure and a benefit to our present committee. Should be pleased to hear from you on this subject.

With very kind regards, I am,

Yours most respectfully,



May 25, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

Your letters of May 22nd and 23rd were received during my absence from town, as I preached Sunday at Phillips Exeter Academy.

I am glad that you feel we should have an advisory committee from the faculty and I shall take pleasure in requesting Professors Wright, Sanford and Harrington to serve in this capacity in accordance with the suggestions of your letter. Professor Wright is now on his way home, but he will be with us by the close of the week and I am sure he will take enthusiastic interest in the work assigned him.

I note the letter to you from Rising & Nelson Slate Company. I suppose it is a little early yet to determine such a matter, but I hope when the time comes we shall be able to favor some Vermont organizations, both for reasons of economy and other considerations.

I spent some time on the chapel matter in Boston Saturday. I had an interview with the R. D. Kimball Company, the engineers who have planned the heating system for the college for many years, with reference to running the pipe line to the new chapel. It is early to make definite arrangements for this, but the preparation of such plans requires time and it is well to get at it early.

I also called on Doctor Barton of our Board, who has had much experience in the erection of college buildings in connection with the American Board, and who is greatly interested in our own institution. He expressed the deepest gratification with your proposal and together we went to the office of Allen & Collens, looked over their drawings carefully, and discussed with Mr. Allen, the senior partner, the general plan of

J.A.M. 2

the chapel. We found that they are revising their study some and I think in a short time they will show us a plan, which while following the same general features as that we now have, will show better symmetry and proportion and be a marked improvement. I was pleased with the careful study they appear to be giving to the whole question. Their ideas of the interior seem to me excellent and I believe with such a chapel we would have a building equal to any in religious impressiveness and dignity of style. Doctor Barton then took me to the office of the architects who constructed the chapel in Bates College, Maine, the latest college chapel to be erected in New England. I am confident the building we are planning will be much superior in style and appearance to the Bates chapel.

I find in my mail further letters of approval and congratulation from members of the Board of Trustees, i.e., Messrs Wright, Kellogg, Abernethy and Fletcher. Perhaps you would like to see copies of all the letters from members of the Board. I will be glad to have them copied if you wish.

Faithfully yours,

Rutland, Vt., May 26, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,
President of Middlebury College,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Doctor:-

Yours of the 25th at hand and noted. I am pleased that the advisory committee from the faculty will be only too willing to assist in our endeavors to make the chapel a structure of which we shall all be proud.

As to the Rising & Nelson Slate Co., they wrote me a very nice letter and they are quite prominent people in our county. I advised them that I would write you at once as to the above and this will help to make friends with them for the next few months, when possibly we may need the same.

As to the heating system, surely we cannot get these different parts in shape any too early and not be held up at some unfortunate time during the construction of the building.

I shall be pleased to see the new sketch of the chapel by Messrs. A. & C. when they have the same to submit.

Two young gentlemen called here yesterday with sketches of the chapel, whom I have never seen or heard of before. They were very anxious to be permitted to make some drawings. I told them I knew of no objection, though I tried to convince them that their chances for doing anything substantial would be very very small.

You advise that you have letters from various members of the board, etc. If not too much trouble, should be pleased to receive copies of the same.

Thanking you in advance for this favor, I remain,

yours very truly,

John M. Thomas
Middlebury-000519

May 27, 1914.

Doctor John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have received your letter of May 26th. I will send you copies of the letters received from members of the Board, either herewith or by an early mail.

I will advise the R. D. Kimball Company of your advice as to preliminary plans for the heating system and will also try to hurry Messrs. Allen & Collens in their work. I suppose it is wise not to crowd them too much at this particular juncture, as it requires time to do a real good piece of work.

I enclose tentative program for the proposed exercises June 23rd. Please regard this as suggestive only and be free to make criticisms. I have tried to embody the features we have spoken of together, but if I have forgotten anything you will let me know. When we have a program which meets your approval, I will write the various participants and endeavor to secure their consent.

You will note that I have you down for "breaking ground and presentation of the corner stone". I thought it would be appropriate for you to turn the first spadeful of earth. We shall hardly be ready to lay the corner stone, but we can have it there and it seems to me that it would be appropriate for you to make a presentation of the corner stone to the college. The box containing the Bible and any other documents we place in it can be sealed during the ceremony. Naturally you would say a few words at this time concerning your thought in erecting a chapel for the college.

I think Doctor Barton would be the best man of our Board to speak on this occasion. He is greatly interested in the subject, has a wide reputation, and is an effective speaker. Professor Wright, being our Senior Professor, is the natural selection from the faculty and I am sure he would do well. It has occurred to me that it would be a pleasant feature to have a few words from one of the students, and so I have put down the president of the men's religious organization, who is also captain of the ball team.

Faithfully yours,

Rutland, Vt., May 28, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Doctor:-

I have just received your favor of the 27th and have read the same with great pleasure, also have received the carbon copies received from the various trustees, all of which I have read with interest and will file with the other papers.

I notice in the order of exercises you state, "scripture lesson from the first copy of the Holy Bible brought into the Champlain valley." I think you intended this to be, into the Otter Creek valley.

Yesterday I was obliged to go to Pittsford in accordance with a promise made to appraise the estate of Mrs. George N. Boardman, and in accordance with his special request, and I regret to state that I found Doctor Boardman very very feeble and very deaf. I was almost sorry that I had met him, because I should much rather think of him as I saw him some two years or so ago. I also met Dr. Henry Walker and he seemed to me very feeble and nervous, and it appeared to me that he was unnecessarily worried over this what appeared to me as a very simple matter. I assured him that I could help him out and he needn't give it another thought. He seemed specially pleased at this. Mrs. Boardman's will is a very strange document, but I had with me Judge Harmon, our county clerk and one of our best lawyers, and he stated that the thing could be worked out, as he thought, satisfactorily. I kept in mind all the time the fact that both Doctor and Mrs. Boardman were to endow a professorship at the college and I hope that there will be a good substantial sum left for the same. I shall be pleased to

If there is anything that you wish me to do in connection with this corner stone or the breaking of the ground, as you state, kindly advise. I have just heard that people in "breaking ground", that they often take and just remove a sod, and this is placed in a box or something, and is taken sometimes home to the party specially interested, and that he has used this in connection with some other object. I was thinking of this just for a moment, that I might bring the piece of sod that is removed and place the same in Evergreen Cemetery here in Rutland, as a part of the sod which should be used in our burial lot, which is 50' in width by some 75' in length, and contains the Mead monument and, as you are aware, fourteen members of our family. This thought just occurs to me at this moment. You can have this for your consideration. We will have the little box with the bible which little John is to place in the stone all properly arranged. Your selection of Doctor Barton and Professor Wright, etc., meets with my entire pleasure.

With very kind regards, believe me,

Yours most respectfully,



May 28, 1914.

Doctor John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have just received a very interesting letter from Professor Hamlin, head of the School of Architecture at Columbia University, who is a son of Doctor Cyrus Hamlin, former president of Middlebury. Personally I feel very grateful to Doctor Hamlin for the careful attention which he has given to our problem and I feel that his letter contains very wholesome advice and much useful information.

I should think now the best thing would be to wait for the revised sketches from Allen & Collens, which they promised us next week, and then have a meeting of the committee with the faculty advisory committee. I expect Professor Wright to be back not later than next Monday. I shall be glad of your judgment on this point or any other matters connected with Professor Hamlin's letter and the general subject.

Faithfully yours,

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
THE HOWE SCALE COMPANY,
RUTLAND, VERMONT.

Rutland, Vt., May 29, 1914.

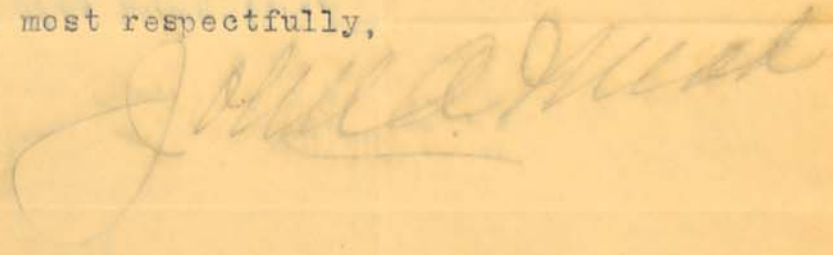
Doctor John M. Thomas,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

Yours of the 28th with enclosure, letter from Professor Hamlin, at hand. I have read this with special interest and note his comments, which surely must have been dictated by a party of experience along the line which he is treating. So soon as you receive the revised sketches from Mr. Collens, if you will kindly inform me, I will appear at once for a meeting of the committee.

Thanking you again for your very kind consideration, I am,

Yours most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John M. Thomas", is written over the typed signature line.

June 1, 1914.

Governor John A. Mead;

Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I sent a copy of Professor Hamlin's letter to Mr. Collens and I enclose his reply. Evidently he is giving the matter very thorough attention and wants to present a quite different plan to us. It is in accordance with this letter that I am asking you to come up on the noon train Friday June 5th to meet with Mr. Collens and the committee. If there any other arrangements I will let you know.

Just a word to thank you for finding out about Mrs. Ranslow.

Faithfully yours,

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
THE HOWE SCALE COMPANY,
RUTLAND, VERMONT.

Rutland, Vt., June 2, 1914.

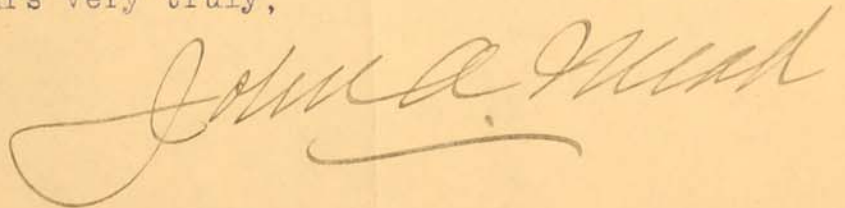
Doctor John M. Thomas,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I have yours of the 1st, advising of the meeting to be held at Middlebury on the 5th inst. I will endeavor to come up on the train leaving here about 11 o'clock and shall hope to meet you.

As to the Program, I know of no reason why it would not be all right in every way. I have some doubts about Doctor Boardman being able to be present, as when I saw him last he was certainly very feeble. Would it be appropriate for Doctor Brainerd to make the prayer to which you refer, or would you think it advisable for some other person? If there is nobody else whom you thought would be of special benefit, it would be very agreeable to me if Doctor Brainerd could take some part in the exercises.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John A. Wood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text of the letter.

June 2, 1914.

Doctor John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have just received your letter of May 28th and also your letter of June 1st, the latter with reference to rooms at the Addison. I have talked with Mr. Higgins again, and he has promised me faithfully that he would have accommodations for you and that he would write you just what he could do. We can see him Friday while you are here if necessary.

As to the program, I will make the correction as to the Otter Creek valley. I am not quite sure whether you think it would be wise under the circumstances to invite Doctor Boardman to offer the prayer. I think it quite probable that he would decline, but I will follow your judgment in the matter. I feel that this is an important part of the exercises and we want to make no mistake. Personally I would prefer a graduate of Middlebury, if we could find the right man. We can also discuss this subject on Friday.

It would certainly be an interesting feature to have you take the first piece of sod and place it later in Evergreen Cemetery in Rutland and I can see no objection to doing this.

Professor Wright returned last evening and is greatly pleased with the chapel. I have talked with him at length on what we have done thus far and secured his consent to serve as a member of the advisory committee and to meet with us Friday morning. He will also take the part assigned him on the 23rd and I am sure will speak with deep feeling and most hearty appreciation of what the chapel will mean to those who are working for Middlebury College.

Page 2

I am very glad you could help Doctor Boardman and Doctor Walker. I am sure they both deserve the deep gratitude and affectionate interest of all friends of Middlebury. Perhaps you know that a few years ago Doctor and Mrs. Boardman gave the college outright \$30,000 in securities and cash, taking therefor the bond of the college to pay them or the survivor of them \$1500 a year for life. Of course this amount is now paid regularly to Doctor Boardman. On his death the agreement provides that a professorship be established bearing their joint names. If there is anything further in Mrs. Boardman's will with reference to Middlebury, it must be in addition to this generous gift already made.

I am glad you are interesting Mr. Wilbur. I have had him on my mailing list for some time, but between now and commencement will try to drop him one or two items with reference to the college which he may not have seen or possibly has forgotten.

Faithfully yours,

Rutland, Vt., June 6, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I have just received your circular letter addressed to the alumni and friends of Middlebury, and would be pleased if you could send me a dozen or fifteen more, and also an equal number of the programs for commencement week. Should like to use them among some of our friends who possibly would be pleased to be at commencement this year.

And now I wish to refer to a subject of special interest, though I am embarrassed by being pledged to secrecy even for the second time. After leaving you, I met an acquaintance and he seemed quite a little affected and told me that I had anticipated his act, as he had made his will appropriating quite a respectable sum for the erection of a chapel for the college, and he says, "what you have done simply cuts me out". I had but a few moments before it was time to leave for the train and thus our conference was short. I stated that there were other uses that could be made of his money, which would be just as pleasing, I felt, as what I had done, and urged him not to forget Middlebury, even though the building of the chapel was provided for. Without doubt he will receive the circular letter which you have forwarded to me and may find something in it which will be attractive, but if you wish to write me stating in what direction he could spend this money for the best service of the college I will follow up the subject industriously. I only wish that I could give you the name, because he is a splendid friend of yours, and I shall endeavor to prevail upon him to release me

(J. M. T. #2)

from the obligation of secrecy. He took me one side, that no one should see or mistrust that we were having this special talk. I wanted to tell you of this at the very earliest moment possible, that you may realize the situation.

Yours very truly,



TRADE MARK

June 8, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have your letter of June 6th and we will send you at once fifteen additional copies of my circular letter of June 2 and the same number of commencement programs. I am naturally very much pleased that you have found some one who is interested in putting up a building for Middlebury College. There should be no difficulty in finding something which would be highly useful and contribute both to the growth of the institution and the value of its service.

It seems to me that our first need now is a dormitory for boys on the height beside the new chapel. We have accommodations for only about seventy-five boys, and we have this year one hundred and eighty boys in college. The surplus find boarding places in the village and there are a number of rented fraternity houses. It would be a great deal better in every way if we could have our students together on the hill. I would like to see some of them in college buildings, and what fraternity houses we have in close proximity to the college dormitories. The college is neglecting a great opportunity for moral influence in not paying more attention to the housing and daily life of the boys. We have a fine home for the girls and an officer whose duty it is to supervise them, but we let the boys do absolutely as they please, while they are the ones who need attention more.

Then we especially need a new home for boys for business reasons. The college has not put up a dormitory since 1861, over fifty years. The old idea of a "college hall" was a sort of barracks, a building with public halls and nothing in its general appointments to suggest gentlemanly conduct. I confess that my heart always sinks when a gentleman or lady, coming here with their son, ask me to show them our dormitory rooms. I am not over-fastidious, but I would not want my boy to go to a school which provided no better quarters than we have in Starr and Painter Halls. The rooms themselves are pleasant enough, but the appointments of the buildings are not up to date.

We are getting a class of students now who can afford to pay for respectable rooms and modern conveniences. We would have more if we had the living accommodations for that class of students. They are most profitable to the college, since they are ready to pay tuition and do not ask for scholarships.

Dartmouth College has found its dormitories a profitable investment, clearing as high as ten per cent. I do not say that we could do this, but I am confident that a modern dormitory would bring us in a fair return, at least after the first year or two.

There is another building which should go with the dormitory, a dining hall for the men of the college, with rooms for the Y.M.C.A., reading room, and general social purposes. Our present dining hall would be too far removed from a new dormitory on the hill, and is inadequate even for the present number of students. We have no appropriate Y.M.C.A. rooms and a boy is practically obliged to join a fraternity to have the social facilities which he needs. With the growth of the college a good many are not members of fraternities. It would do much to bring all the men of the college together if we had a common meeting place for social purposes. Such buildings in other institutions have proved highly useful.

If neither of these objects appeal to your friend, I am sure the day is coming when we shall be obliged to have a new recitation hall. At present the chapel is the only building we can use for recitations in other than scientific branches. It has been crowded for many years. As you know my office is in the chapel, while the other college offices are in Winter Hall. This is a great inconvenience. We should use one entire floor of this central building for administration purposes, but we cannot take the room until we have another recitation hall.

So you see there is abundant opportunity for any one to be of great service to our college through additions to our plant, to say nothing of endowments or professorships. There would be a great advantage in putting up a second building at the same time as the chapel and I have no doubt we could get better figures from contractors if two went together. I need not say that I shall be glad

J.A.M. #3

to go into this subject farther and to help along
the good work in any way I can.

I enclose further letters from members
of the Corporation approving plans for the new
chapel.

Faithfully yours,

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
THE HOWE SCALE COMPANY,
RUTLAND, VERMONT.

Rutland, Vt., June 10, 1914.

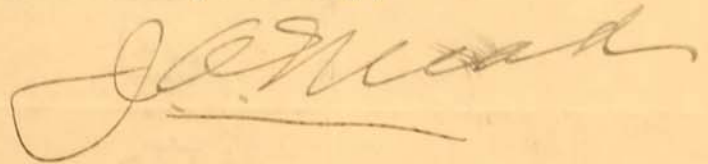
Doctor John M. Thomas,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I have just returned from New York and find yours of the 8th, and wish to thank you for the information. I will endeavor to get in touch with our friend as to the dormitory for the boys and I will urge that to the very limit, and I shall ask him to allow me to advise you of the information he gave me, as I am so sure you will handle this subject far better than I. He seemed quite a little touched and apparently disappointed in our talk, as he said he had been thinking for quite a while of the pleasure he would obtain in giving the chapel. I expect to see you on Friday evening next, as I note there is to be a meeting of the alumni and alumnae of Middlebury here on Friday evening.

With best wishes to all and specially to your family, I am,

Yours most respectfully,



My dear Dr

Please find enclosed features
of the Church at Woodstock

Respectfully

J. M. Wood

6/15/14



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT WOODSTOCK.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
THE HOWE SCALE COMPANY,
RUTLAND, VERMONT.

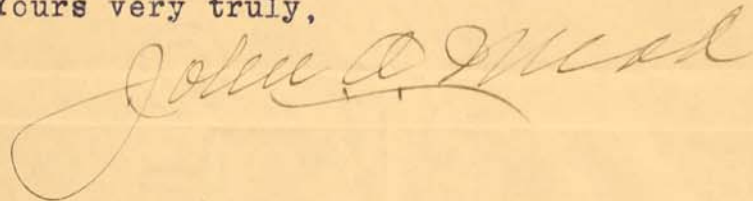
Rutland, Vt., June 13, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I intended to speak with you last evening about asking Judge Wickes to serve with us on our committee. The thought has occurred to me time and again, but I did not recall the subject when we happened to be together. If agreeable to you and President Brainerd, it surely would be to me, that we might have his advice and assistance as to the construction of the ^{Chapel} capital. Please extend to him my very kind regards and make this suggestion if it meets with your approval.

Yours very truly,



June 15, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 13th and in accordance therewith I will take pleasure in inviting Judge Weeks to serve with us on the committee for the erection of the Mead Memorial Chapel.

I earnestly hope we shall be able to come to a clear judgment as to the kind of building we wish to erect during the commencement meetings, in order that we may proceed with the preparation of working plans and specifications and get the building well started during the summer. I am leaving for Worcester this noon and if possible will get to Boston and have another interview with Mr. Collens.

The more I think of the idea which I spoke to you about the other day with reference to President Brainerd, the more appropriate the suggestion seems to me and I think I shall confer with some of the other trustees.

Faithfully yours,

P.S. Will you arrange with Mr. Bradford to pronounce the benediction at the exercises on the afternoon of Tuesday June 23rd? If it would be inconvenient, of course we can easily get some one else, but I thought he might enjoy being here and it would be appropriate for him to have a place on the program.

Rutland, Vt., June 16, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I have just received yours of the 15th and note that you would suggest of Judge ~~Wicks~~ accepting our invitation as a member of the building committee. I regret that I did not think of this before, but whenever I have been in Middlebury ~~it has~~ ^{it has} been a good deal of a hurry to return as quickly as possible, that business would not pile up on me here at the factory, and I have thought, as I stated in former letter, many a time of your suggestion as to Judge ~~Wicks~~ and I certainly thought it was advisable. I shall be delighted to have him with us.

As to the completing of the plans, I am just as anxious as you and would be more than pleased to have this building started at the earliest moment possible, though I do hope that we will not regret what we undertake, and when the plans are acceptable, then for us to find some contractor as quickly as possible.

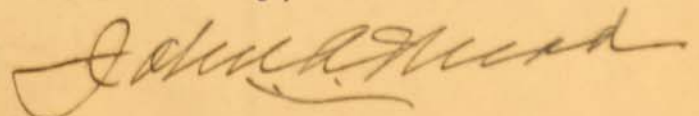
As to Doctor Brainerd taking a part in the laying of the corner-stone, etc., it would be very pleasing to me.

I will endeavor to take up the subject of Mr. Bradford's being present.

I think I have not yet seen the announcement of the hour when the laying of the corner-stone will be held. Several have asked me, but I could not tell them.

Thanking you for this information, I am,

Yours most respectfully,



P. S. I have just had a talk with Mr. Bradford and he Middlebury-000538

(J. M. T. #2)

that he knows of nothing now to detain him from being with us on Tuesday at the laying of the corner stone, and expresses a great deal of pleasure in the suggestion which is being made of his taking part.

I have also just this moment been and ordered a copper box and have asked our man to make it 6" x 8" x $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". I think we talked about having the hole somewhat larger than that, but that will permit this being inserted without any trouble.

J. M. T.

June 19, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

On my return from my Massachusetts trip I find your letter of June 16th. I have seen Judge Weeks and he will be very much pleased to serve with us on the Building committee. I think he will be very useful when it comes to practical matters in putting up the building.

I called on Mr. Collens yesterday and found that he was making good headway in the preparation of sketches. He will be able to show us something of the style which Professor Harrington seems to favor and I shall be much interested, as I have no doubt you will be also, in noting the impression made by the two general designs upon the members of the Board.

The hour fixed for the exercises is 2 P.M. Tuesday as noted on the program of commencement week, copies of which you have. I am very glad Mr. Bradford will be here.

I am glad to have the view of the Congregational church at Woodstock, which has always seemed to me one of the most beautiful buildings in Vermont. The interior is also very pleasing.

Faithfully yours,