

June 27, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I am sending you herewith copies of letters from Messrs Gifford and Saarr, and it seems to me that these are among the best we have received.

I have already heard from the Richard D. Kimball Co., engineers, who promise to take up promptly preparations of plans for the heating system, that there may be no delay on that matter.

I continue to receive congratulations on our very pleasant commencement and the auspicious outlook for the college. I am sure very much of this is due to you.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., June 29, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

Yours of the 27th with enclosures received. Many thanks for the same. I suppose that you are now safely located on your island and enjoying your summer outing with your family. I wish you a pleasant and healthful time and hope you will return to us all in good health and strength. I start for New York this morning and hope to return to-morrow or next day.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours most respectfully,

*John A. Mead*

July 1, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor:

I find your letter of June 29th on my return to my office. We are established in our island home but I expect to keep in touch with affairs at the college and especially in connection with the new chapel. I shall have no appointments which will forbid my presence at the earliest opportunity when the architects report that the drawings are sufficiently advanced for further conference. I enclose a letter from them with which they sent me a copy of the regulations adopted by the American Institute of Architects. I am quite sure that any architect we would care to employ for such an important work would expect the same conditions.

I note what they say as to the cost of the building. My feeling is that we want to build the best building possible and for myself I would rather reduce the size than to put up anything unworthy. It would be very nice if we could have a chapel large enough for commencement exercises, but after all the every-day use is the main thing. The right religious impression upon the students who gather there day by day should be our chief concern.

I will try to leave arrangements in the office so that we will both be informed when any action of the committee is possible.

Faithfully yours,



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

Rutland, Vt., July 6, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I have just received your favor of the 1st inst., in fact, on my return from New York, where I attended the funeral of our Mr. W. C. Page, who has been connected with our company as manager of the New York house for thirty-seven years. Possibly you may have met him when you were at our store some few months since. I am pleased to learn that you are located at last at your island home and now that you will enjoy life for a few weeks to the very limit. Surely both you and Mrs. Thomas are entitled to all the good time that kind Providence will give you.

I have noted Mr. Collens' letter and the blank form of contract which he has submitted and it simply reminds me of the form of contract which the Government is very apt to insist upon being used if you were to sell anything to any of their departments. It is what we in business life call "a jug-handle" to the very limit - all on one side. I must confess to you that I am very tired and in fact have been gone for three days, and I find myself buried in work, but my first impression was that it would take quite a large amount of our sum specified for the chapel to care for the demands of Mr. Collens. This reads very differently from his talk and I thought his talk was pretty near the limit, so far as I was concerned. I have had a great deal of experience with contracts of this nature and I simply wish to state that if sign the contract drawn after these lines, you are tied hand and foot. If you will read it over carefully, you will see that there is not a



(J. M. T. #2)

hole for you to escape through, while they have got every condition protecting themselves.

It is something like the fire insurance policy where the party receiving the same asked if there was any possibility in law of his recovering from a loss should one happen while he was <sup>covered</sup> ~~protected~~ by that policy. The agent himself said, no, that he didn't think there was, and he said, if you find any weakness of that kind, let me know and we will have it protected at once.

I am almost inclined to feel that there was something <sup>of this nature</sup> ~~as to this~~ blank form which our friends have submitted. I feel that we should be very very careful with these people or anybody else in the making of contracts. I have been bit once and I feel that is sufficient for me. I am strongly impressed that we should not tie ourselves to Mr. Collens until we have in black and white exactly how our plans are to be governed. He spoke about 6% on the price of the building for his services and then his necessary expenses, but if you will read over his list of charges and see how he protects them in every way possible and he does not in any way protect the second party, I think you will realize that we are in an embarrassing position.

I wish you would read this over two or three times very carefully and at your leisure and try to look at it from the other side of the fence, and see if you feel at all different. As I understand, we have no contract at present with Mr. Collens; in fact, we have nothing to show for any service he has given us.

With kind regards to Mrs. Thomas, yourself and family, kindly believe me,

Yours most respectfully,

Middlebury-000545



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

Rutland, Vt., Aug. 20, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

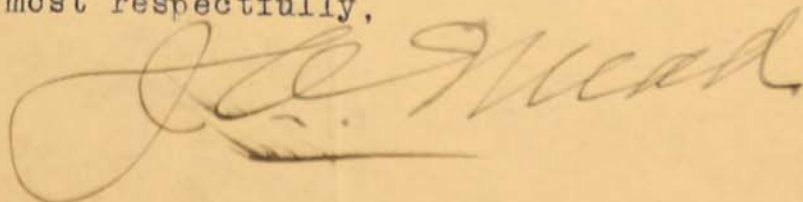
My Dear Friend:-

I have just received a package of blue prints from Allen & Collens and some specifications pertaining to the same. I have no doubt but what they have sent you duplicate copies of everything that was mailed to me. I have not had time to consider them even for a moment with our Mr. Lyman, but shall do so at my very first opportunity. We are sadly behind in our new building, which we hoped would be finished by Sept. 1st certainly, and now if it is finished by Dec. 1st I am sure we will be very fortunate. There have been so many delays that I have almost despaired of completing same before severe cold weather is upon us.

I wrote you some time since with reference to the by-laws governing the architects of this country and I believe I have not heard from you with reference to the same. I infer that you are having a pleasant outing on your island and that you and yours are enjoying life to the very limit.

With very kind regards to Mrs. Thomas and your family, and with best wishes to you all, I remain,

Yours most respectfully,



74  
August 22, 1914.

Governor John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have received your letter of August 20th and Allen & Collens have written me that they have sent me a set of the plans. These I have not yet received. I hope you will find time to go over them carefully with Mr. Lyman and that you will be free to make suggestions to the architect. If everything is satisfactory to you and you think they had better go ahead to get bids from the contractors, I am sure it will be satisfactory to the other members of the committee also. If there are any points in which you would like a conference with either President Brainerd or myself, probably I could get him to run down to Rutland with me. I will be in my office again next Tuesday, and if I find a letter from you saying that you would like us to come to Rutland, probably I could arrange to go down Tuesday afternoon.

I remember your letter with reference to the regulations of the Architects' Association. As I understand it, we have no contract or agreement with Allen & Collens, but they are working under the invitation expressed in my first letter to them, without binding the college in any way. I do not believe we shall have any trouble, but I agree with you that it would be better not to bind ourselves under these regulations. Mr. Collens has certainly been very pleasant to work with so far, and President Brown of Union Seminary told me that their relations with them in the construction of their extensive plant were entirely satisfactory.

Faithfully yours,



Rutland, Vt., Aug. 24, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Doctor:-

Your favor of the 22nd is at hand this morning. Many thanks for the same. I regret that we should receive these plans just at this most unfortunate time for us. I think I never saw the business conditions of America in the shape they are to-day. I hardly know which way to turn or what to do. The scale company recently started in Bennington, who have their shops all complete and claimed they were doing a fine business, closed down for good some two weeks ago. E. & T. Fairbanks & Co. of St. Johnsbury I understand are now only running five hours a day and they have laid off a very large proportion of their help. The Fairbanks Co.'s shops at Binghamton, N. Y., are closed down tight and the same report is as to their shops at Sherbrooke, Canada. Thus you will notice the general conditions pertaining to scale business, and I think that their affairs to-day are fully as favorable as that of any other class of manufacturers in this country outside of the textiles. We hardly dare export goods, as we fear for the credit which can be obtained. The moratorium which has been enacted in Germany and Austria is liable also to prevail with the other countries. Thus we are in all kinds of trouble and hardly know which way to turn.

I have an appointment for to-morrow which will occupy every moment of my time from noon until evening. Thus it would be impossible for me to do anything outside on that date. Just the first moment that I can get to go over this subject with Mr. Lyman, I certainly

(J. M. T. #2)

will do so. He is here working for us and I can but feel would be only too willing to give me any information we might want. I should not for a moment think of trusting my judgment on these plans and I do feel that if there are contracts to be made, that we at least here would never ask for the architects to make them. I certainly should be pleased to meet you and Ex-President Brainerd at the earliest opportunity possible. If you are to be at home a week from Tuesday, would you kindly advise, when I will endeavor to arrange to see you, or hoping that you might come to Rutland. I note also that we have no contract as yet with Allen & Collens, though I do feel that this is a subject which must have attention and at once. You have had more experience in this kind of work than the writer and wish you would look over the rules which I sent you and be prepared for such suggestions as may occur to you. Do you think we could do much this season? I thought possibly we might get in the foundation and get the work started, and perhaps conditions might be such that we could go along with the building, though I have doubted it. I should be pleased to hear from you fully with any suggestions which might occur to you or Ex-President Brainerd.

With very kind regards, I am,

Yours most respectfully,





August 25, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I find your letter of August 24th this morning. I can appreciate something of the situation in business from what I have heard and read, and it must be very difficult to know how to plan for the future. There may be some advantage for us, however, as I am told that work is so slack that contractors are willing to bid very low in order to keep their organizations going. I doubt very much if we will be able to do anything more than get in the foundations this season. We are receiving the plans almost a month later than we had expected, and nearly two months after approval of the preliminary sketches. The pipe line is under construction so that heat could be furnished to the building, but I do not see how it could be advanced sufficiently to work satisfactorily during the winter.

I think we ought to find out as soon as possible whether we are likely to construct this building within the estimate. I have, therefore, written Allen & Collens suggesting that they send out the plans as they are for figures, leaving us to make such suggestions as we wish later.

I must say that the plans please me very much. I think the architects have improved on the building while of course the general design is the same. The interior especially strikes me as a very artistic piece of work. I think they have much improved the style. I shall be glad to know what you and Mr. Lyman think on these matters.

I doubt if it is safe to put on a copper roof in this climate. Our experience is that it causes stains on the marble underneath, through action of water.



J.A.W. #2

I do not quite know what to say as to my future plans. I have offered to Professor Wetherell to take a trip in connection with preparation for my address at Plattsburg September 11th, starting Friday of this week. It may be he will be unable to go, and at any rate at the first opportunity I will try to arrange for President Brainerd and myself to run down to Rutland to talk over the situation with you.

Faithfully yours,

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Rutland, Vt., Aug. 26, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

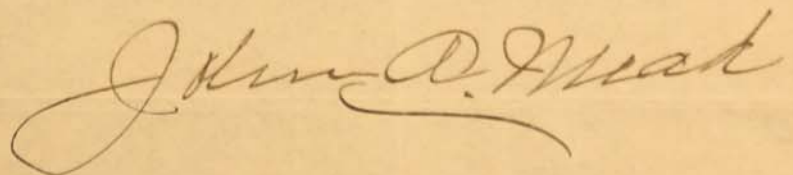
I have yours of the 25th referring particularly to the new drawings, etc. I surely wish that we could get this thing out of the way and fully started, if such a thing is possible under present conditions, though I have felt that we were so late that we should not be able to do very much this season. I have wondered why it was that the architects delayed so long in their plans. Surely we are losing all the best of the year. As you state, it is now nearly two months since the original plans were approved. Possibly we might get in the foundation this year and if we had a proper contract made and everything buttoned up, so to speak, we would have everything in shape to move off rapidly in the spring.

We have had here in our factory one misfortune after another following us until we are in all kinds of trouble just at present.

Shall be pleased to hear from you when it is convenient for you and President Brainerd to come down.

With very best wishes, I am,

Yours most respectfully,



September 9, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

On my visit to my office this morning I find the enclosed letter from Allen & Collens and further instructions to bidders. You will note that they are to receive estimates by September 16th and that they will forward the results to us. This seems to be in accordance with our wish and I take it we have now only to wait for this information.

You will be interested to note that this is the reply to my recent letter, which was the result of our conference, and of which I sent you a copy.

Sincerely yours,



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

Rutland, Vt., Sept. 11, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Doctor:-

Many thanks for your favor of the 9th inst. with enclosures from Allen & Collens, all of which I have read carefully and return the same. I have just received this morning a telegram from them requesting the names of local contractors in this section who would be pleased to bid for the construction of the chapel. I do not think there is anyone here in town that we could consider for a moment to assume this whole contract. Possibly we might piece it out and get parties here to attempt the construction, but surely it would not seem to me advisable at this moment. I have thought of writing Messrs. Allen & Collens to the above effect. You had the name of a gentleman from Brandon and I think somebody at Burlington, whom you stated had done considerable of this work. Please note enclosures returned.

Yours very truly,

(Enclosures)

*J. A. Weeks*

*I like the scheme you suggested  
re Lyman but let him get bids  
as they will be useful*

*J. A. Weeks*

September 15, 1914

Doctor John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I have been away from my office for several days but have now returned for the year and hope to do some good hard work. I have read your letter of September 11th. Judge Weeks tells me that Thomas A. Rogers of Brandon has finally decided that he might undertake the work, but I fear he cannot get his bid in on time. I hope the Rutland Manufacturing Company received the plans in time for their use.

I note that you have signed the scholarship application of John J. Lynch. I shall be glad of a statement from you as to his financial circumstances and his promise as a student. We are strong enough now so that we can sift these applications pretty carefully and not grant any which are not really deserving. In order to make the scholarship funds go as far as possible, we are making the college scholarships \$40 and \$60. Since the full tuition is \$100 this leaves the student a balance to be paid of from \$40 to \$60.

I might drop a word to you that Senator E. B. House of Montpelier has a vacancy in his state scholarships to fill, through the decision of one of his appointees not to return. If you think best you might intercede with Senator House in behalf of this boy.

Faithfully yours,



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

Rutland, Vt., Sept. 16, 1914.

Dr. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

Just received yours of the 15th, referring to the specifications for the chapel. The Rutland Mfg. Co. received the plans as per your suggestion.

As to Mr. John J. Lynch, I simply know his family and would advise that they are people of very limited means. The young man is certainly a very bright attractive fellow, though I do not know that I have ever seen him before his calling upon me. If you would like to have this subject carried farther, I should be pleased, at your request, to take up the same with Senator House of Montpelier.

With very kind regards, I am,

Yours most respectfully,

*James A. West*



Sept. 18,

4.

Governor John A. Mead,

The Howe Scale Co.,

Rutland, Vt.

Dear Governor Mead:

We have today received the estimates submitted for the Memorial Chapel at Middlebury and are enclosing herewith a copy of the figures. You will note that with the spire and with the marble exterior walls and columns the entire building comes to about \$73,000. If the marble work is omitted from the cornice we can reduce this amount by about \$4,000, as you will note suggested on the estimates. Of course there are numerous ways by which the building could be cut down but we should be very sorry to have to do that unless it were necessary. I will hold myself in readiness to attend any meeting that your committee may have other than Tuesday or Wednesday, Sept. 23rd and 24th. The enclosed estimates include/ everything for the church ready for you to move in with the exception of\*<sup>outside</sup> connections. We understand from the Kimball Co. that the steam is to be brought by the College to the Chapel Building. We wrote to Dr. Thomas last summer suggesting that a water pipe be also brought up in the steam trench to the Chapel. We sent to Dr. Thomas early in September a complete set of plans and specifications so that all the data is in his hands.

Very sincerely yours,

HEATING CONTRACT

Scofield-Campbell Co., Boston	\$3288
Cleghorn Co.	3418
Allan Calhoun, <sup>Wadsworth</sup> <del>Woodbury</del>	3502
C. S. Blodgett Co., Burlington	4436.64

Summary

General Contract	61,529
Deduct Slate	800
	<u>60,729</u>
Plumbing Allowance	500
Heating	3,288
Scofield Campbell Co.,	
Electric Lighting Allowance	1,000
Fixtures Allowance	1,000
Pews Allowance	2,500
	<u>69,017</u>
Architects @ 6%	4,140
Heating Engineer	200
Contingencies	300
	<u>\$73,657</u>
Possible omission of <sup>marble</sup> <del>slate</del> above column caps	4,000
	<u>69,657</u>



	Contract	Deduct Marble	Deduct for Slate
<i>TR Payer's Branch</i> Tyson, Weare & Co. <i>Boston</i>	\$61,529	1350	800
W. Shelton Swallow - <i>Howes</i>	62,000	4200	1000
<i>R.H.</i> Haves Cont. Co. <i>Boston</i>	64,000	2800	
H. S. Libbey <i>Boston</i>	64,820	350	900
H. Wales Lewis Co. <i>Ames</i> <i>Amherst corner</i>	64,950	3670	940
<del>H. Wales Lewis Co.</del>	<del>64,950</del>	<del>3670</del>	<del>940</del>
Ed. F. Miner Co.	65,931	3740	1194
W. H. Fissell Co.	67,700	2300	
H. P. Cummings Co.	67,787	3715	950
Fiske, Carter Co.	68,781	3000	1110
Chas. B. Maguire Co.	69,331	4000	1370
H. L. Hemenway	69,572	2100	1570
J. W. Bishop Co.	69,755	3169	946
Woodbury & Leighton	72,374	1500	800
Whitney Co.	73,592	3200	940
Caspar Ranger	74,157	2600	1600
L. D. Willcutt	75,984	1650	850
McDonald & Kevell	77,812	1350	800

The deduction for marble referred to above is for omitting all of the marble work of the main cornice and the pediment above the line of the top of the columns and using wood painted white same as is now called for cornice mouldings. The deduction for slate above referred to is for omitting the copper roof and substituting a slate roof.



September 19, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I have received this morning a letter from Allen & Collens with list of bids on the chapel and summary of contracts and expenses. I am very sorry that the figures exceed the estimate. Of course we shall defer to your judgment, but I wish very much Mr. Lyman could go over the plans and specifications and see if he does not think we could put up a building ourselves at less cost than any of these figures. I should even hope that we could do so and have the building marble all the way around, instead of the wood in the rear.

I expect there are ways in which we can reduce the cost without cheapening the building. I am sure you do not want anything inferior about it, but my experience is that a practical builder can sometimes make suggestions which will save money, without destroying the artistic features of the building or hurting it in any way.

We have the conduit to Pearsons Hall nearly completed and are ready to lay the pipes to the chapel whenever the grades can be determined. We are also expecting to put in a water pipe sufficient for the building.

Next week is our opening and I shall be exceedingly busy, at least until Saturday. I do not see how we can have a meeting of the committee before the 22<sup>nd</sup>. I shall be glad to hear from you and in the meantime will return the set of the plans and specifications to you.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., Sept. 21, 1914.

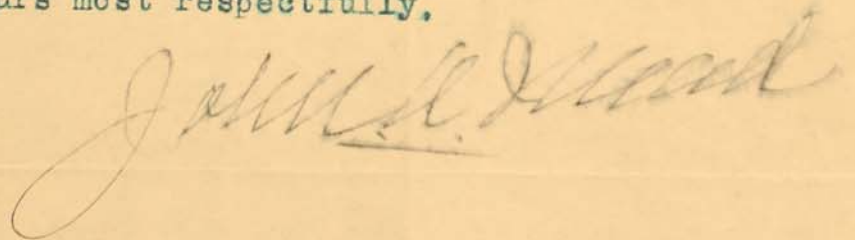
Doctor John M. Thomas,  
President,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

Just received yours of the 19th and have read the same carefully. I will take up the subject of your letter with Mr. Lyman so soon as I receive the plans and specifications, and whenever it is convenient for you gentlemen to have a meeting of the committee, I shall endeavor to be present, though should you wish to talk with Mr. Lyman, it would be better to have the meeting here in Rutland. I regret that the building has been planned in such a way as to exceed our \$60,000, as I thought that we could keep within that amount and yet have something entirely satisfactory, and trust we can.

With very best wishes, I am,

Yours most respectfully,





Rutland, Vt., Sept. 22, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I have just received your favor of the 21st and read the same for a second time, trying to determine just what I ought to do. As you may be aware, Mr. Hinsman has received this nomination at the caucus and at our county convention, for the county senatorship from the city of Rutland, and it is only too evident that we are going to have a tremendous fight. The bull moose and democrats are all on the warpath and the democrats at least have a far stronger following in this county than we have ever known them before. Thus, it is no man's victory so far as we can now determine and thus we are putting in quite a little time, hoping to save him. Our new building, as you are also aware, is just being completed and we are spending a good deal of time on that, and we shall only finish one-half of the same this fall, and in addition, general business conditions are simply the very worse.

But these are matters which we have been struggling with for the last few weeks and you might say months. Yet, notwithstanding this, if I can be of any assistance to you in being present on the 30th, I shall endeavor so to do. I can leave here on the train leaving at 11:05 A. M., which naturally would not reach Middlebury until a little after twelve, as you will notice the change of time, which went into effect yesterday. Thus, if you are to have a meeting, kindly advise me at your early convenience, stating where the meeting will be held.

I wish to thank you for your kind invitation to be present at the opening of the college on Thursday morning next and which ceremonies I

(Dr. J. M. T. #2)

should greatly enjoy; but if I am to arrange to try to be with you on the following Wednesday, possibly I had better not arrange to be present at the opening ceremonies.

Trusting that everything will be favorable and with very best wishes for your success and those of the college, I am,

Yours most respectfully,

*John A. Moad*





September 25, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor:-

I received your letters of September 19th and 21st and thank you for them. The other trustees suggested by Mr. Wright have already written me that next Wednesday will be convenient, so I will expect you on the train due here at noon. You have already noted the recent change of time.

We will have dinner together at the Addison and then talk over the situation with reference to the Educational Commission report. I shall expect Doctor Abernethy, Doctor Brainerd, Judge Weeks, Mr. Partridge and possibly Mr. Stafford,

when we have finished that business, there will be time for the committee on the chapel to confer. I do not see how we can do much unless Mr. Collens is here and I wish you could bring Mr. Lyman also. I wish very much that in some way we could make arrangements to lay the foundation this fall and get out some of the material during the winter. Unless I hear from you to the contrary, therefore, I will have Mr. Collens here as stated above.

We have had an excellent opening with a Freshman class numbering about one hundred and a total attendance larger than ever before. If you could have seen the old chapel crowded full this morning you would have had no doubt as to our need of the new one.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., Sept. 26, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

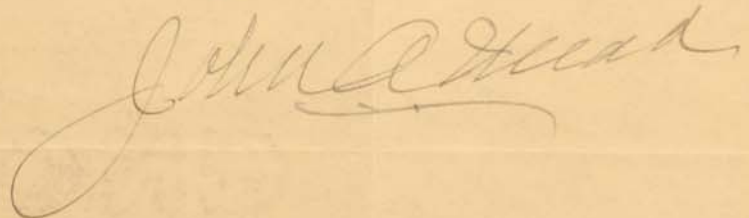
My Dear Friend:-

In response to your favor of the 25th inst., stating that there would be a meeting of the trustees in Middlebury on Wednesday next, I write to advise that I will endeavor to be present.

As to Mr. Lyman, I do not know whether he could be with us. I have given him all the specifications and plans which I received from you and he is studying them now, as I understand.

I wish to congratulate you on the number of students for the new year and hope that everything will progress satisfactorily. I join with you in the hope that we may be able to put in the foundation to the building if we can, that we might get some of the other parts started, though this is a matter we can consider at another time.

Yours very truly,





Rutland, Vt., Oct. 2, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I have just had a long talk with our Mr. Milo Lyman and am quite a little surprised at what he has been telling me. To be really frank with you, he was a little disappointed, I might say irritated, when Mr. Collens asked him if he could build the staging by which he could put up or construct the spire to the chapel. He said, "after he had asked me that question, I felt I would not say very much more to him", and thus you noticed that he closed his mouth right then and there. Now he comes to me this morning and says that there would be no question whatever about his being able to build that chapel and he says under the circumstances he would like to do it and will simply charge me just exactly what we are paying him here, but that I should pay him for his board up there, which will be reasonable, and his carfare backwards and forwards, and he would have to come home every Saturday; and he goes on and gives me a long history of what he should advise doing and has told me some things that I must confess I didn't know very much about whatever. The long story is in substance that he says he will guarantee to save us the commissions that these other man expect to make, and in addition he also says that he will save us the stealage which will be made out of the building, and guarantee a better building than we had before. Now, I think the next time we meet, that we had better have Mr. Lyman with us and with just your committee there, consisting of Doctor Brainerd, Judge Weeks and yourself, to see Mr. Lyman and he will talk freely with us, and you can be assured that he won't say that he

(J. M. T. #2)

can put up that chapel without he is capable of doing every part of it. He hasn't talked with me this freely at any time, but he was a little bit startled when Mr. Collens asked him if he knew how to build the staging for the purpose of erecting the spire. He says he doesn't want any architect fussing around him - if he will give him his plans; and he states in addition that he should want some of these plans changed in his opinion quite a little from what they are to-day. He says no ordinary man from his plans could make out a bill of timber without quite a little work, unless they were very very familiar with the structure to be made.

I simply give you this in a hurried way and wish you would consider the same and let me hear from you. I should be specially pleased to know what Mr. Partridge says as to the marble and I shall also take it up with Mr. Bowker to know what his views are.

Yours very truly,

*in haste*  
*John A. Wood*



744  
Rutland, Vt., Oct. 5, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

Your favor of the 3rd inst. at hand and contents noted. I can only add ~~from~~ what I wrote in former letter, that Mr. Luman is only too anxious to attempt the building of the chapel, though I confess I dislike beyond expression having him leave us on any occasion whatever, as we want him so badly right here; but I am willing to make the sacrifice if it is necessary. As I may have stated, I feel that I must keep the sum within the amount which I have specified. I thought first of \$50,000 and talked of that, and then it was stated between \$50,000 and \$60,000 and it has gone to that sum and I am willing to stand for that amount, but I must draw the line there. I wish to say to you confidentially that I have something in mind that I would like to do for Rutland and would like to start the same now, but this horrid war has obliged me to wait to see what the future may have in store for us. Thus, I wish you would keep in mind that I want to limit my gift to the amount above specified. I do feel that we should keep within this amount and can do so if the thing is properly handled. I am now quite busily occupied in Mr. Hinsman's, (my son-in-law,) campaign for the State Senate, as I do feel that it is very necessary for our college and for the protection of the business men of our state that we should have a full and strong representation in the senate for mutual protection, and thus it takes quite a little time, as it were, to sort of look after his campaign. He is a good fighter for somebody else but a very poor one when it comes to a personal

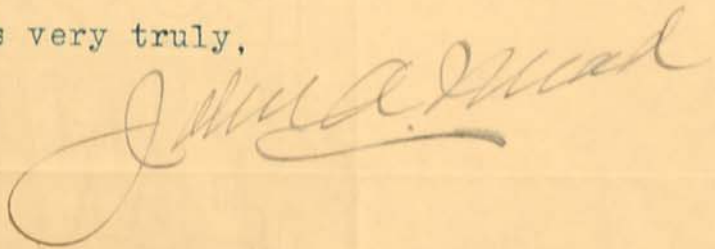
(J. M. T. #2)

Referring to the statement made and of ~~your~~ affairs, as to Mr. Lyman's not wanting to have an architect a "fussing around", you need not worry for a moment about that. Mr. Lyman will do anything within the bounds of reason that I ask him to and he will make any change on this building that we may wish, or submit to any suggestions from ~~others~~ if ~~it is~~ <sup>think</sup> thought best to put him to work. I wish you would forget this part of it.

I regret that Mr. Partridge did not seem inclined to make some concession on the marble part, as I was in hopes he would do so and quite generously.

As to Mr. Bowker, I have the specifications here waiting for him to take the same. He has been out of town for two or three days and thus I have not been able to reach him. Shall without doubt see him to-day.

Yours very truly,





74  
October 27, 1914.

Governor John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I find your letter with Mr. Nelson's on my return to Middlebury. I hope we can use his slate when the time comes.

I have heard from Mr. Collens an reply to the letter which we sent the other day. They are anxious to have us go ahead and install the concrete foundations this fall, so that the detailed drawings may be prepared during the winter and also the material assembled, so that rapid progress can be made in the spring.

In answer to the question about supervision they say that that is one-sixth of the total fee, i.e. 1% of the total cost of the building. They argue strongly that we do not dispense with their supervision. Perhaps I had better quote you just what they say:-

"You ask about the architect supervision. The supervision of the building is about one-sixth the total fee. We are very sorry, however, that this question is brought up. Not from a financial standpoint but because this has been tried once or twice in our office and has never been successful. On such jobs there have always been any number of questions relating to detail, coloring, grading, finish, etc. which have always come up, and which resulted most unsatisfactorily because of the lack of direct supervision. In a monumental building of this character there is no question but what you will find it necessary to call upon us for considerable personal supervision although the structural part can without doubt be taken care of by yourselves. We should be glad to make some arrangement with you by which we would charge independently for every trip that you might find it necessary for us to make, but we strongly

J.A.M. #2

advise that you reconsider this matter, and allow us to turn over to you a building of which we ourselves would feel in every respect satisfied."

I am inclined to think that Mr. Collens is right about this matter and that we would need him at certain times during the construction. I doubt if he would be obliged to make many trips, perhaps not as many as he has made already in working out the plans. It is true that we could get supervision cheaper as far as strength of construction is concerned, but this is a memorial building, and the beauty and artistic qualities are matters of the first importance. I am inclined to think Rogers would really need the help of the architect in putting through some of the work as it ought to be done. It is of course for you to decide, but I hope you will feel that we can save the money in other things.

I wish very much you would be willing to right away to authorize Rogers to proceed at least with the excavation and foundation. That would be the same whatever we decide on some of these questions, and I have no doubt Rogers would name a figure for that part of the work.

Faithfully yours,



Rutland, Vt., Oct. 30, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I received your favor of the 27th inst. and have read the same over several times and hardly know what response to make. I note that you have heard from Mr. Collens and he is anxious to proceed with the building. That is very natural. I rode in the seat with Mr. Rogers to Brandon the other night and had a long talk with him. He is anxious to take the contract, but I do feel that you could make a better one than he has named, although I asked him if he would be willing to go ahead with the foundation part this fall, and he said very plainly, no. He said that before we knew it we should have freezing weather and that would be worse when attempting a concrete foundation. I had been hoping that we might by some means get the foundation in this year and would be perfectly willing so to do at this very moment. I can but recall Mr. Collens' statement when he was with us at commencement - that he would have the plans all complete in from four to six weeks, and you realize the length of time which expired before we could get them. I do not like this feature of it for a moment. It seems as though he was holding us off.

As regards the architect's supervision, my special thought at present is to be able to have the building erected within the \$60,000 limit, because, to be frank with you, I have felt that this was the very farthest that I could go. You will recall that when we spoke about this in New York, I said from \$50,000 to \$60,000. I was hoping,



(J. M. T. #2)

naturally, that we might limit it to the \$50,000, but the size of the building, etc., very naturally has carried it beyond that point; but I do feel that I must draw the line on the \$60,000 and leave the building all in first class shape. The moment you can make contracts which will cover this and cover the little details pertaining to the same, I shall be as much delighted as you will. It is with this end in view that we were trying to cut down some expenses.

You will remember that Mr. Rogers told me that he would send me the bill of the timber at once so that the same could be purchased. I have already virtually contracted for this lumber and have written Mr. Rogers already asking for the bill to which he referred, but have not heard from him. If you gentlemen in Middlebury feel that you have got this expense account down to that point where we surely can land within the \$60,000, I am perfectly willing to step one side and have nothing further to do with it, it being understood that the general features of the building should remain about as has been already specified. I will not stand in the way in any respect for a moment. So do not say that what is or is not done is for me to decide.

Referring again to Mr. Collens' general supervision, his statement that he could arrange to have a fixed sum which he would charge when he came for advice, I should think would be desirable.

In this connection, I would state that we are <sup>now</sup> in this political fight up to our eyes and I trust that you will appreciate that one thought I had in mind, was to have somebody <sup>in the senate</sup> who would be friendly to our college, and Mr. Hinsman was the man. I have already had a long talk with Doctor Wright of Brandon, who will without doubt be elected to the senate, and he is entirely in sympathy with us. We are having quite a



(J. M. T. #3)

struggle here in Rutland as between the progressives and the democrats, but I feel that we are quite sure to win out, although the fight is desperate. It is for this reason that every single moment has been occupied and let the results be what they will, I shall be perfectly satisfied with the verdict of the people. Then I shall have more time to take up these other subjects.

I wish you and Messrs. Brainerd and Weeks would thoroughly consider this subject and I assure you I shall join you most heartily in anything which would hasten the construction of the chapel and leave the same within the limits we have mentioned.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours very truly,

*John A. Mead*

Rutland, Vt., Nov. 4, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

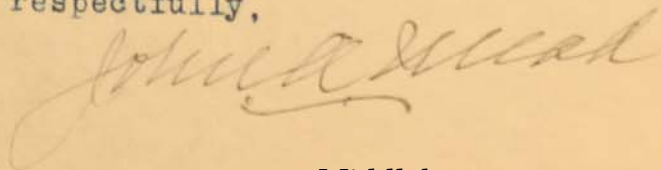
My Dear Friend:-

Mr. Rogers has just been with me for an hour or so, and gave me the bill of lumber that he will want for the chapel. I have suggested his seeing you and any arrangement you may make will be entirely satisfactory to me, it being understood that you will be able to complete the building within the sum specified, viz., the \$60,000. I feel as though I should not go beyond that sum and thus hope that everything will be so governed as to make the building ~~and~~ come within the amount stated. He states that he would pay \$25.00 for this lumber on the grounds, that the same can be moved from the depot to the lot at 50¢ per thousand feet, and I will find out this afternoon what the freight will be from here to Middlebury, and thus know what our saving would be. I can buy the lumber on board cars here at \$20.00 per M.

Now that election is past, I am at liberty to further consider this subject and to do whatever is necessary. He advises that he should like to make all his excavating this fall and might do a little more, though he doubts it very much. It has occurred to me that about the first thing now to do was to arrange a contract for the marble and it seems as though we could do something with Mr. Partridge.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours most respectfully,





November 5, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have received your letter of March 4th and also the one of October 30th. I am obliged to go to Boston tonight or I would try to see you in Rutland, with Mr. Rogers tomorrow. I think we ought to get together next week and I will try to arrange it. In the meantime I will ask Mr. Rogers what is his figure for the excavation and foundations, and if we decide that is right, we can tell him to go ahead on that part, completing further arrangements later. I am sure we are agreed in our feeling that the building must be brought within \$60,000, but we all want to get the most that we can within that figure. It may be necessary to leave off the marble in the rear wall, and I think I would rather do that than change the front. I will try to have some more information on the subject for our meeting next week.

I was very much pleased with Mr. Hinsman's election and by such a large vote. It must be very gratifying to you all that he ran so well ahead of the ticket. We elected Judge Weeks here by a handsome majority and I hope he will be successful in getting the speakership. It seems to me that the results of the elections are quite gratifying all the way around. Certainly you in Rutland county are to be congratulated.

Faithfully yours,

October 3, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I have just received your letter of October 2nd. I noticed that Mr. Collens and Mr. Lyman did not seem to hitch very well, but I think it was a case of misunderstanding and that after they had worked together a little they would get along all right. I am glad to know that Mr. Lyman would like to undertake the building and on such favorable terms. I still feel that it would be entirely safe to let him do it, and that probably we would save money. At any rate, you would know that you got in the building everything you paid for. I

It would mean less work for you to let it by contract and there would be the advantage of knowing at the start just what it would cost. I think we are going to get some better bids this time, within the amount named, and I should hope that we could build it of stone all the way around and have enough left for the organ. By the way, I have been thinking lately that that organ ought to have a tablet with Mrs. Mead's name on it as her special part of the chapel.

I think your suggestion of a meeting of the committee by itself is just right, and I will ask Mr. Collens to send on the tabulated statement of the results of the new bids, so that we can consider them together, calling him in later if necessary. I do not see how we can do this much before October 20th. Rogers could not get his bid in next week, and the week following I have to be in Providence and New York most of the week.

There is only one thing about the proposition to have Mr. Lyman build the chapel which troubles me and I am going to tell you frankly. He told you that he would not want the architect "fussing around" and that he would want to change the plans some. Now I would as soon trust Lyman



J.A.M. #2

as Collens in any matter affecting the strength or permanence of the building, but I would want the architects to have their way entirely in all matters affecting the appearance, finish, and artistic qualities of the chapel. That is how they earn their commission and we throw it away unless we follow their plans in these respects. I presume there would be no difficulty in arranging this matter with Mr. Lyman, but I think it ought to be plainly understood at the start that we would expect the architect to supervise the work, especially on the artistic side.

I did not get anything definite out of Mr. Partridge but tried to fix things so that their new figures to the men now bidding would be lower than the old ones.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., Nov. 6, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

Many thanks for yours of the 5th inst., referring to the fact that I may see you and Mr. Rogers here to-day. I rather think that we shall be able to save nearly \$3 a thousand on the lumber. I have just got a freight rate from the Rutland people, which I think would give us about \$3 net profit, and with some sixty to seventy thousand feet, this would be something worth saving, though it would be some little trouble to handle the same at this end. I agree with you fully that we want to get all we can out of this \$60,000, ~~but~~ I wanted this to cover all the little necessities which we should want, viz., organ and such like.

Mr. Hinsman is surely very fortunate in having received so large a vote and he and Mr. Wright are solid on the educational question, as I have been over the subject with them both. I think they will be able to carry the other two from our county.

Yours very truly,





November 10, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have not been altogether idle on the chapel matter although I have not been able to get to see you, as I had hoped to do. I had to be in Boston Saturday and had quite a talk with Mr. Collens. He finally agreed to take off \$600 from his figure for the architects' commission, bringing that to \$3200. This would include four trips to Middlebury during the erection of the building. If we did not need him to come that many times, we would save \$50 on each trip. On the other hand if we needed him more, he would charge \$50 per trip, which would include his expenses. I do not believe we would want him more than four times during the construction.

Mr. Rogers was here this morning and we went over possible savings with Judge Weeks. I think we can find a way to make some reductions. Mr. Rogers is to give us a figure for dark marble in place of white from the grand to the top of the base course. I think this would look just as well and would save us some money.

He will also give us a figure for omitting some of the excavation which he thinks unnecessary.

We asked him also to find how much less it would cost if we used rough random ashlar instead of finished marble. I should rather hate to do this but there may be no other way to get the building down to where we want it.

Rogers also offers to do the job at the cost of materials and labor plus five percent, with a guarantee that the cost will not exceed the sum named, \$54,806. I think it would be wise, when we

J.A.M. #2

get around to make the contract, to do it in this way. We cannot lose anything and might save quite a little.

As soon as I hear about some of these things I will try to let you know and shall be glad to get the matter settled.

Faithfully yours,



74

Rutland, Vt., Nov. 11, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Doctor:-

I have just received your favor of the 10th inst., as I am leaving for Boston in a very few minutes, and simply write to acknowledge receipt of the same. Am pleased that the architect has made quite a reduction from his bill, as it seems as though he could very well afford to do, and your arrangement for expert work meets our judgment in every way. I feel that if we keep a cutting off the corners, we shall get this down to within the \$60,000 so that we can use this difference for little things, which I am sure will be useful.

I have a price on the lumber which I will not put in black and white just now, but I think it will look very interesting to you. I have Mr. Rogers' bill and I went over the same on Monday, and a party has agreed to send me an accepted bill for the same, which will save us quite a little.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours very truly,

John A. Mead.

November 24, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I am working on the chapel matter and with some success. I have just heard from Allen & Collens that they have a bid for the pews of \$1475 which effects a saving of \$525 from their estimate of \$2000.

They also write me that the Swallow Company would like to submit another figure with suggestions of altering the cost. I will write them and ask them to send on their offer.

Mr. Collens also reports that has a bid for limestone for \$12,989, F.O.B. Middlebury. The figure for the marble was \$17,178. You will note that this is a saving of \$4189. If we could use this material it would bring the building within the appropriation without any other changes. I am writing Mr. Collens to have a sample of the limestone sent us, so that we can see just what it would be.

Mr. Bradford has persuaded me to speak at your church Brotherhood meeting next Tuesday night, and perhaps we will have a chance to talk of these matters a little at that time.

Faithfully yours,



Rutland, Vt., Nov. 25, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

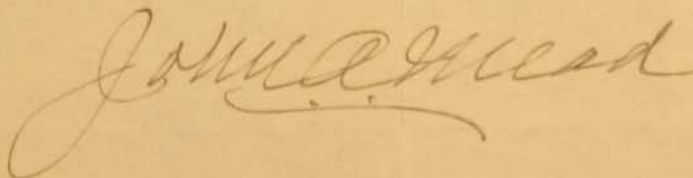
Yours of the 24th I find on my return to town and I am delighted to learn that there is a prospect of saving quite a snug sum on our contracts and I felt very sure that we could do so. If we jump at a man's first figures, we generally find ourselves left before we get through dealing with him.

I sincerely wish that Mr. Partridge could see his way clear to meet the price of stone which is made by the western people, and when we realize the difference in freight rate, it does seem as though they could do so.

I shall hope to see you on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning of next week without fail. I am pleased to learn that you are to be with us and shall surely endeavor to be present if I am in town.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John M. Thomas". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Yours most respectfully,".

November 27, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

Perhaps you have heard that I have promised to speak at the men's dinner in your church next Tuesday evening, December 1st.

My subject is to be The Present Educational System in Vermont. I shall give most of my time to the general situation but shall not hesitate to speak a good word for Middlebury College. Now it occurs to me that it would be a very thing if Mr. Wilbur of Manchester were present. I have talked with him several times about Vermont education in general and he always seemed greatly interested. I do not know of any one in Rutland who could invite him except yourself. If you felt like doing it, it might be very helpful.

Of course this is only a suggestion and you must not put yourself out in the least in any way if it would be any trouble whatever.

Faithfully yours,



Puttuck St.

11/29/14

Dr Thomas

Dear Sir

Mr & Mrs Self will be  
pleased to have you into  
us as our guest on Tuesday  
next. Please advise me  
what train you will  
arrive on & Carl & I will meet

With kind regards to Mr & Mrs  
& the children from Mr & Mrs  
myself I am  
Respectfully  
J. A. Wood

74  
November 30, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor:

I have your kind invitation to be your guest Tuesday night. I shall not be able to come down until the train arriving at 6:15 and am planning to return on the first train Wednesday morning. It seemed to me that I should not bother any one for such a short stay, especially with such an early start, and I think Mr. Bradford has arranged for me at the Berwick. However, I will leave that to you and him and certainly appreciate the invitation of Mrs. Mead and yourself.

With cordial regards, I am

Faithfully yours,



December 3, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I find some members of the committee cannot be present Friday afternoon when I had hoped to have a meeting. I will therefore call a meeting for next Tuesday December 8, at 1:30 P.M. I am planning that you come up on the train reaching here at 12:06, and we can have our meeting after dinner at the Addison House.

If we do not meet until the arrival of the mail train at 3:15, the time is too short to really attend to the business.

I feel very grateful for the cordial treatment given me at the church the other evening. I felt that I was among friends and that they were also friendly to Middlebury College. I have no doubt your interest has had a good deal to do with the interest of Rutland people in our college.

Faithfully yours,

74  
Rutland, Vt., Dec. 4, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

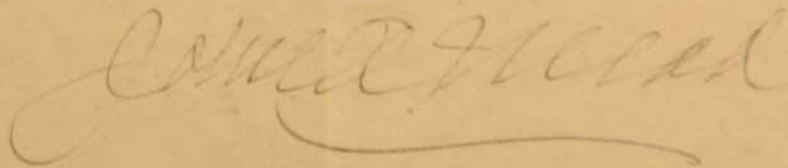
Just this moment received yours of the 3rd inst., after having robed myself in my fine clothes, hoping to see you at 12:06 this day; but Tuesday without doubt will be just as well and I will endeavor to come up on this train, leaving here about eleven o'clock.

As to your audience here in Rutland, I was delighted myself to note the interest which was manifested on every face that evening, and you could be assured that you were surrounded by your friends. Professor Thomas, I have heard, has made very many complimentary remarks of yourself and of Middlebury College, so also has Mr. Locke, as I understand; and I do feel that your remarks will strengthen the position very much at Montpelier. Mr. Hinsman was very much pleased with the same, as was also Mr. Chalmers, who is our member of the House.

I should urge you particularly to get an invitation to speak before the Farmers' Club at Montpelier. There you will meet a couple of hundred or more of the representatives of the back towns, all of whose votes count. I am sure you will capture every one of them.

With very kind regards and hoping to see you on Tuesday next, I am,

Yours most respectfully,





RE: MEAD CHAPEL

Burlington, Vt. May 23, 1914.

My dear Doctor Thomas;

I had quite forgotten that your letter to the trustees required an answer, But you know what I would say. The conditions of the glorious gift are very easy, it seems to me.

Is Dr. Pritchett trying to conciliate Vermonters with his article in the Independent?

- - - -

Yours faithfully,

J. W. Abernethy

3

C O P Y

Middlebury, May 17, 1914.

My dear Dr. Thomas;

Returning from Detroit I find yours of 15th inst. relative to the proposal of Dr. Mead to erect a chapel. You have my assurance herewith of my official acceptance of this generous gift, and of my high appreciation of the generosity of the giver. I approve the selection of the building committee mentioned and the suggestion that the architecture should be wisely chosen by the best architects available to furnish a beautiful design.

Yours sincerely,

J. W. Stewart



Middlebury, May 23, 1914.

My dear Mr. President;

Replying formally to the welcome news contained in your message of the 15th, I wish to concur in the acceptance of the "Mead Memorial Chapel."

It is a splendid gift, and will be especially welcome to you, who have so long desired it. I congratulate you upon once more receiving the fruits of casting your bread upon the waters.

I trust that the General Education Board will now look with favor upon your application for a grant toward a new fund, on contemplating this new evidence of the substantial and loyal support of our alumni.

Cordially yours,

John A. Fletcher

(4) A

North Bennington, May 16, 1914.

My dear Mr. President;

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 15th instant enclosing a copy of Dr. Mead's letter to you in which latter letter the Doctor proposes to give the college a chapel building, and you ask me to join in authorizing the acceptance of Governor Mead's proposition and the approval of the appointment of the building committee suggested by him.

I gladly give my assent to both propositions and congratulate heartily both the college and Governor Mead upon this gift of the Governor and its acceptance by the college.

I am, as ever,

Faithfully yours,

J. G. McCullough



4 B

Brookline, Mass. May 22, 1914.

My dear Thomas; *not*

I can't tell you how pleased I was and am at the news that Governor Mead wishes to build a chapel on the college grounds. ~~I had not thought that he dreamed of it.~~

And how fitting that it should be at the semi-centennial of his graduation - showing that his love for his college has not waned but waxed during the fifty years!

Were I in his place as to means and attachment to the institution, no one else should be allowed to contribute a penny to the purchase of even the cushions for the seats, the Bible for the desk, or for the organ or piano that shall grace the room.

Convey to him, please, my personal thanks for his generous plans. Of course the trustees will allow him his way, and will be everlastingly grateful to him in taking it.

Most cordially yours,  
Erainerd Kellogg.



C O P Y

40

Vichy, May 25, 1914.

My dear Dr. Thomas;

Your letters of the 12th and 15th came this morning together with enclosures which I greatly enjoyed reading.

Assuredly do I consent to the acceptance of Governor Mead's glorious gift of a chapel for Middlebury College and to the appointment of the special committee to control its erection. I trust that this committee will secure a design as perfect in form and adaptation as the chapel at Williams College. ~~You have doubtless seen this.~~

Those papers you have sent me make me very happy. I rejoice at what the trustees and alumni have done and I am glad to see that you have, in the sporting phrase, got your "second wind" and that you are carrying on the work with good courage. I believe that still greater things are coming to Middlebury under your administration. I am fully persuaded that the report of the Carnegie investigators will not in the end harm Middlebury. It has called the attention of the people of the state to the condition of the schools and set them to thinking. In late years little attention has been paid to education. More must now be given.

Yours truly,

Henry H. Vail



(5)

Manchester, Vt., May 18, 1914.

Dear Thomas;

I am more than glad to learn of the very generous and timely offer of Dr. Mead and of course I vote to accept it and also heartily approve of the committee he has suggested. It is much better to have a good committee of three than a larger number as you can all get together at any time and know exactly what is wanted. I had been hoping that Governor Mead would do something generous for the college as I understand he is abundantly able, and this is a more fitting gift for a memorial than a dormitory would have been though that also is badly needed and will come in time. The outlook for the college is greatly different than it was fifty or even ten years ago.

With great respect, I am

Truly yours,

D. K. Simonds.

6

New York, May 22, 1914.

Rev. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vermont.

Dear Doctor Thomas;

On my return from Battle Creek this morning I found your letter announcing the gift of Governor Mead to Middlebury College as a chapel. I am very much pleased and gratified to think that such a gift is about to be made and I shall certainly co-operate in every way that Governor Mead desires. To that end I give my consent that the building committee which he suggests be named.

With sincere good wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

George M. Wright



7

Boston, May 19, 1914.

~~My dear President Thomas;~~

Your letter of the 14th instant brought great joy. I am taking the liberty of writing directly to Governor Mead with reference to his gift, expressing appreciation and satisfaction. It is a noble gift. I want to congratulate you upon securing it. It is better in many respects, I think, than to go out with a personal appeal to the alumni and friends of the college.

I wish I could do more in helping start this \$500,000 addition to the assets of the college. This building, with the \$10,000 that you already have, makes a good start. I suppose you can expect one-fourth from the Education Fund, which will make about \$375,000 to raise.

I am planning to be at the commencement this summer.

Hastily but very faithfully yours,

James L. Barton

8

COPY

Esplanade - Marienbad, June 6

Pres. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My dear Pres. Thomas;

I have just received here your letter of May 15th with the enclosed letter of Governor Mead. I congratulate you heartily on this fine gift which will be a beautiful memorial and a most needed and welcome addition to our buildings. If I knew his address I would write Governor Mead a letter of thanks. His most interesting letter with its details of early history should be framed and hung in the chapel - and also put in the box of the corner stone.

With renewed congratulations,

Yours truly,

M. Allen Starr



9  
June 24, 1914.

My dear Dr. Thomas:-

I am this morning in receipt of your letter of the 19th inst. which has been forwarded to me at my country home, to which point I was removed a week ago today.

I thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy and know you will be pleased to learn that I have been convalescing rapidly. Fortunately I have not had the ravenous appetite which in most cases seems to be incidental to recovery from typhoid fever.

It has been a matter of sincere regret that I have been compelled to be absent from Middlebury at this particular commencement season. It would have been a great pleasure if I could have expressed personally to Gov. Mead my appreciation of his munificence in the gift which he has recently made to the college for a chapel. I have felt for years that the one building which the college most needed is that which Gov. Mead has undertaken to erect. I feel that it should be located on the most prominent site and that, architecturally, it should be the most attractive of all the buildings of the college.

I believe that Gov. Mead will fully accord with this idea as I know that he feels, as I am sure we all do, that it ought to be the most attractive memorial erected on the college campus.

Of one thing I am sure the Governor may rest assured, and that is the co-operation of all the trustees in his effort and desire to make this building in every respect such as he has outlined.

Will you please express to him my appreciation of what he has done and what he is doing for the college?

With best regards, I am

Most sincerely yours,

James M. Gifford

(10)

Burlington, May 16, 1914.

My dear President Thomas;

I most heartily give my voice in favor of the acceptance of Doctor Mead's offer to build a chapel for Middlebury College and of the appointment of the Building Committee suggested by him.

I congratulate you and the college on this good fortune, especially on account of its coming just now when the clouds seemed for a while to be darkening the future. This will show conclusively that Middlebury College has friends of means and influence whose faith in the institution has not been shaken by recent criticism. I trust that this will prove to be but a drop before the shower.

Yours very truly,

Rufus C. Flagg



(11)

New York, May 18, 1914.

My dear Dr. Thomas;

I am in receipt of your favor of the 15th, enclosing copy of Governor Mead's letter.

It is truly a generous offer on the part of the Governor, alike creditable to his respect for his forebears, his love for his Alma Mater and his kindly disposition to do a good, noble and gracious act to the entire community.

Of course I concur with you in granting his request, in accepting the gift, and appointing the building committee named by him for the purpose of carrying the proposal into execution.

Very truly yours,

A. B. Hepburn

13

Proctor, May 16, 1914.

Dear Doctor Thomas;

Your good news is received and I am delighted that your dream of a new chapel is to be realized. It is a generous and beautiful thing for Governor Head to do and of course I agree, as one of the trustees, to the acceptance of his proposition and the appointment of the building committee which he suggests.

Faithfully yours,

Frank C. Partridge



14

New York, May 19, 1914.

My dear Doctor Thomas;

I received in due course your letter of recent date enclosing copy of Governor Mead's letter in which he proposes to donate to the college \$60,000 for the cost of a new Memorial chapel to be erected upon the college grounds. I can readily appreciate the pleasure and satisfaction which this <sup>gift</sup> affords you, and which is, I am sure, keenly shared by the trustees and every other friend of the college; and I beg to extend my most cordial congratulations. I most heartily favor the acceptance of Governor Mead's proposition, and the appointment of the building committee which he suggests.

I shall be glad to do anything in my power to promote the movement for the desired fund of \$500,000 although I am not at all sure that I can obtain any large subscriptions.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

William H. Porter

C O P Y

12

Middlebury

My dear Dr. Thomas;

You are certainly to be congratulated in the gift of Governor John A. Mead. This chapel will satisfy a much needed addition to the equipment of Middlebury College and its acceptance is most heartily approved.

Sincerely yours,

J. E. Weeks.



1002 Fond du Lac St.,  
Muskogee, Oklahoma,  
June 11, 1914.

Rev John M. Thomas, D. D.,  
President Middlebury College,  
Middlebury, Vermont.

My dear Dr Thomas:

Middlebury College is certainly to be congratulated on the many improvements which have come to her during your Presidency. As regards influence which may be expected to follow, the Chapel, so soon to be erected, will not be among the least of the many important gifts. Allow me to express to you personally my very hearty congratulation.

The coming Commencement will be the thirtieth anniversary of my graduation. It does not seem possible that so long a time has elapsed. I wish it were possible for me to be present with you this year, but I cannot get away until about the middle of July.

With kind regards and best wishes, I am as ever

Sincerely yours,

*Charles D. Huber*

June 15, 1914.

Rev. Elger P. Miller,  
1002 Fon du lac St.,  
Muskogee, Okla.

My dear Mr. Miller;

It is good to receive a letter from you again and I thank you for your kind congratulations on the new chapel. You are one of those who will thoroughly appreciate how much this will mean in the life of the college. The gift is particularly timely and has done much to change the popular sentiment in Vermont, there having been a feeling that the colleges of the state were under attack. The general view now is that we have regained our strength and are going on to larger things.

I am sorry you cannot be with us at commencement which promises to be a notable one. As the year following will be my 25th anniversary, I can share your feelings as to the rapid flight of time.

Faithfully yours,



May 25, 1914.

Mr. Lewis C. Morrison,  
General Theological Seminary,  
Chelsea Square,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Morrison;

I have your letter of May 21st with pledge of \$2 annually for ten years to the Alumni Income Fund. Please accept my earnest thanks. I am especially grateful to you for your assurance of loyalty and good will and I know that we may count on you as a devoted son of Middlebury.

I trust you have heard of the magnificent gift of Governor Head '64. He has promised us a new chapel, to cost perhaps \$60,000. I know you will feel with me that this will constitute a very useful addition to our equipment. I appreciate the responsibility of erecting a structure that will serve as an elevating influence for many years to come.

You are free to refer to me at any time for a recommendation and I assure you I wish you all success in your future work. Dean Wright, to whom you refer, is now en route for home, having spent the winter in Italy.

With cordial regards, I am

Faithrully yours,

May 19, 1914.

Mr. Allen H. Nelson,  
The Macmillan Co.,  
64-66 Fifth Ave.,  
New York.

My dear Mr. Nelson;

I am obliged to you for giving me an insight as to the methods of business of the Middlebury Campus. One of the first things I did was to stimulate the student publications to better methods, both editorially and in the business office, but I am learning that good jobs in connection with student enterprises have to be done over and over again. I have already taken measures which I trust will lead to a more permanent reform.

I hope you have heard of the gift of a new chapel by Ex-Governor Read, '64. His proposition to erect a \$60,000 structure commemorating his fiftieth anniversary has stirred us all with deep gratitude and joy.

With cordial regards, I am

Faithfully yours,



**THE MACMILLAN COMPANY**

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AND

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

64-66 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

HH

May 21, 1914

Dr. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury College,  
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear Dr. Thomas:

I have your letter of May 19, with reference to the new chapel which has just been given to the College by Ex-Governor Mead. Certainly this will make a very fine addition to the campus buildings and will help very materially. There is no question as to the gratitude which everyone should feel.

Yours very sincerely,

*A. S. Sullivan*

May 16, 1914. .

Rev. N. R. Nichols,  
Warwick, Mass.

My dear Mr. Nichols;

I have your letter and enclosure of \$1 for the college. We will put it with the Income Fund. I thank you for the gift and appreciate your loyalty to the college. It is because of such gratitude and devotion to the old institution that she is able to make progress. We had evidence of this last night when Governor Mead announced the gift of a new chapel, which will probably cost \$60,000. This will be of very great help to us since we have not been able to get our students in the old chapel for a good many years.

Faithfully yours,



June 20, 1914.

Miss Annie E. Perkins,

Berwick, Maine.

My deaf Miss Perkins,

I am very sorry indeed that you will not be on hand to receive your diploma in person. We expect a very enjoyable commencement, especially because of the breaking ground for a new college chapel. I will ask Mr. Fletcher to send you your diploma as you request. Please accept my cordial wishes for your success in all the future years.

Faithfully yours,

May 22, 1914.

Mr. Wayne M. Plummer,  
280 Pleasant St.,  
Laconia, N. H.

My dear Mr. Plummer;

I have been quite busy since the receipt of your letter, but I trust the enclosed certificate of attendance will be satisfactory. If not, please let me know and I will try again.

I am very glad to hear from you and to be assured of your kind interest in Middlebury College. We have been making excellent progress recently and are just now rejoicing in a \$60,000 new chapel, which is promised us as soon as it can be built. Our ball team is certainly doing great work, not having been defeated this year yet.

Faithfully yours,



May 13, 1914.

Hon. F. C. Partridge,  
Proctor, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Partridge;

I am glad to have the Amherst Alumni Council material sent with your letter of yesterday. I think it may give us some ideas, although we are not ready to do things on quite such an elaborate scale. We could employ one man all the time in looking after relations with the alumni, preparing a new general catalogue, and such matters and I am not sure but it would pay if we had the money to put into such an investment.

You will receive a pleasant announcement from me the latter part of the week, for which I know I shall receive your congratulations. I hope the trustees will take pains to express their appreciation to the proper person.

Faithfully yours,

September 25, 1914.

Mr. Frank C. Partridge,  
Proctor, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Partridge;

I am glad you can be with us Wednesday, September 30th. The others will come with the possible exception of Mr. Stafford. We will plan to have dinner at the Addison immediately after the arrival of the 12:05 train, and hold our conference, probably at the hotel, say at one o'clock.

I shall take this opportunity to get Governor Mead for a meeting of the Building Committee with the architect, Mr. Collins. I do not know just how we can arrange the matter but I hope there will be opportunity to discuss the subject of the marble. I am very glad to have the information contained in your letter. I should think there would be some way of using marble which could be finished here, so as to save freight on the finished product.

We had a good opening yesterday with freshman class of about one hundred. The entering class is smaller than a year ago but the total attendance will show a considerable net gain. We are more careful as to admission and are holding our old students better.

Faithfully yours,



# VERMONT MARBLE COMPANY

MAIN OFFICE, PROCTOR, VT.

PROCTOR, VT., September 26, 1914

President John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vermont.

My dear Dr. Thomas:

Your letter of the 25th is received. We have made at the request of one of the contractors some new figures for the Mead Memorial marble based on some suggested changes. In Florence marble we could make the price Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000). Using that marble and also reducing the ashlar to three inches and six inches we could make the price Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$16,800); or if reduced to two inches and four inches Fifteen Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$15,600). If the deductions called for in Alternate Four were taken out, it would reduce these figures Three Thousand One Hundred Dollars (\$3,100) more. We have also suggested several minor changes which, if adopted, would make deductions aggregating several hundred dollars.

The columns, cornices and heavy pieces would have to be finished here anyway. It is only the ashlar, and that represents less weight, which could be finished at Middlebury. If Florence marble were used, we estimate that a part of it could be furnished at Middlebury and we have deducted freight on such estimated part.

Our people will do anything they can to give the Chapel the benefit of any suggested changes. As you know, I am anxious to help the Chapel project in every way possible.

FCP H  
Faithfully yours,  
F. H. Partridge

Middlebury-000616

October 22, 1914.

Mr. Frank C. Partridge,  
Proctor, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Partridge;

I am sending you herewith a tabulation of the bids on the chapel. You will note that Rogers is low, but that the building as we want it will cost \$68,575. The Doctor recently has said explicitly that he did not propose to exceed \$60,000.

I am very anxious to have the chapel built right, with marble all the way round and the six columns as planned. You have said to me that you did not expect the Vermont Marble Company would get the contract. I do not quite understand whether you meant that this affected your bid. I am in a difficult situation to get the chapel as I want it, and I will make bold to ask whether, if the Doctor will give the contract to Rogers, for the entire chapel of marble and with the columns as originally planned, you could let us have the marble for the entire church at the price figured for the rear wall of wood, i. e., \$3,281 less than the total bid?

Faithfully yours,



December 5, 1914.

Mr. F. C. Partridge,  
Proctor, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Partridge;

Perhaps I am troubling you too much, but I would like you to know what is going on here. It seems I have been wrong in my inference as to the Commission's recommendation as to Middlebury. I enclose copy of correspondence with Judge Watson. I now understand that they propose to give U.V.M. \$15,000 for agricultural extension and a share of the second \$15,000 for training teachers of agriculture, but of course I may be wrong again.

It seems to me that this is kind of picayune as to amount and foolish in method. Until U.V.M. can teach agriculture better than she has done, she won't make much success training teachers in it.

In a talk I had with Hindley he remarked that he was sorry Mr. Clement had not gotten into the Commission's work earlier than he did, indicating that his ideas were not altogether in harmony with the report. He also said that Mr. Clement's idea was to help the colleges through making agreements for services rendered. My question is whether it would be wise by letter or interview to try to reach Mr. Clement and get his influence to put in a proper amount for our teacher training and put the colleges on an equality. Some of the men on that Commission must know that there is great danger that nothing at all will be done. As I meet men from different parts of the state, the idea most commonly expressed is to go over the whole report and kill the Commission's bills.

Governor Mead writes that he will be with us Tuesday as does Doctor Abernethy. I have letters from Mr. Hepburn and Mr. Wright indicating that there will be a good deal of interest in the meeting December 18th. I wish the Vermont Marble Company had business for its President in New York at that time.

I do not expect an answer to this letter except to see you Tuesday.

Faithfully yours,

Middlebury-000618

May 20, 1914.

Mr. William H. Porter,  
23 Wall St.,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Porter;

I was out of town over Sunday and Monday and hence the delay in replying to your kind letter of May 16th. The base ball field and track are in excellent condition, of course very much better than anything we have ever had at Middlebury. The students are enthusiastic over the condition of the field for athletic purposes. Every spectator is impressed with the sightliness of the field.

There is still some work to be done on the road, but Judge Weeks expects to have that finished next week. The material for the fence is on the ground but has not yet been put up, owing to the impossibility of getting sufficient labor after the clay soil was in condition to work. We labor under the handicap of being obliged to sit around and wait for a good share of the year and then having everybody wanting everything done all at once.

For stands we are using the bleachers which were brought from the old field, having been built so that they could be moved. These are hardly sufficient and we really ought to have a permanent covered stand, with dressing rooms underneath, with shower baths and toilets. The balance in the treasury at this date is \$934.61 which is ample to complete the work on the road and the fence and do some more grading, but which would not be sufficient to erect permanent stands. I do not know what these would cost at this writing, but will try to secure an estimate.



W.H.P. #2

Since my former letter the ball team has won two games away from home, against Colgate and Rensselaer Polytechnic. They have not been defeated yet this year.

Doubtless you received my communication concerning the new chapel which Governor Mead proposes to erect. This gift has made us very happy, but I am deeply impressed with the responsibility in erecting such a permanent building.

Faithfully yours,

REDFIELD PROCTOR  
PROCTOR, VT.

Proctor, Vt., May 16, 1914.

Dr. John M. Thomas, Pres.,  
Middlebury College,  
Middlebury, Vt.

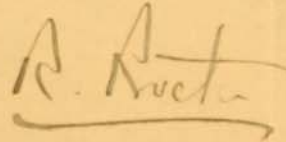
My dear Dr. Thomas:

I have not yet seen this morning's paper but have been told of the announcement contained therein in reference to your chapel. Let me extend my most hearty congratulations.

Your many friends in this village feel that they would like an opportunity to hear you preach. Can you not come to us for Sunday, August 9th, when Mr. Raymond is to be away on his vacation? We have the two services, morning and evening, as heretofore.

Hoping you can be with us, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Proctor", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

RP/B



May 20, 1914.

Mr. Redfield Proctor,  
Proctor, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Proctor;

I dislike very much to decline your invitation to preach in Proctor August 9th, but thus far I have kept the summer free from appointments, and I think I will ask you to excuse me. I am trying to plan a more restful vacation than I have had heretofore and am advised that I ought to do so.

I thank you for your kind congratulations on the new chapel. We are all very happy over it, and I am also feeling great responsibility for the erection of such a building. There are such possibilities of uplifting and purifying influence, and it is so easy to make a mistake that I am fully as much impressed with the seriousness of the matter as with the joy of attainment. It is certainly a fine thing for Governor Head to do and could not be more timely.

Faithfully yours,



KANSAS FARM LOANS

CLERICAL AND STENOGRAPHIC ERRORS  
SUBJECT TO CORRECTION

HOLTON, KANSAS,

November 27, 1914.

Dr. John Thomas, Pres.,  
Middlebury College,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My dear Dr. Thomas:--

In accordance with the conversation which I had with you while in Rutland, I went down and had a talk of nearly two hours with Governor Meade.

I suggested to him the proposition of an endowment for the maintenance of the chapel, and while he did not say that he would be willing to make such an endowment, he told me that he would consider the matter.

He told me that he wished very much that I might meet you, which somewhat embarrassed me; told me that you were in town and he wanted me to make arrangements to see you.

As I left his office I told him that I sincerely hoped he would consider the matter of the endowment and the investment in some of our mortgages for that endowment. He told me that he would think it over. I am writing you this in order that you might know that the matter had been suggested to the Governor, and that you might follow it up some time at your convenience.

Governor Meade gave me a letter of introduction to Mr. Wright of New York. I presented the letter and was received very cordially indeed and had a talk of over two hours with him, which I appreciated very much. He told me that I might



THE RAFTER FARM MORTGAGE CO.

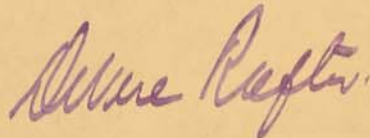
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submit some applications to him, which I am this day doing. He said further that he would suggest that I write to Mr. Fletcher of the College and notify him to come out to our territory and make an inspection, which I told him I would do.

I shall be in Vermont in January. I shall endeavor to see you at that time, as well as Mr. Fletcher. If some time when you are in Montpelier you would have a talk with Mr. DeBoer concerning our company, if you desire, I would appreciate it.

Trusting that the introduction which Mr. Meldon gave us while in Rutland will be but the beginning of a long and mutually pleasant acquaintance, I remain,

Very truly yours,



President.

Dict.DR/AJ

November 30, 1914.

Mr. deVere Rafter,  
Holton, Kansas.

My dear Mr. Rafter:

I have just received your letter of November 27th and am pleased to learn of the results thus far of our meeting in Rutland. The proposition you made to Governor Mead is a very sensible one and I have some faith that the idea will grow upon him. I do not want to appear grasping to him, but I will endeavor to find opportunity to follow up your suggestion.

I am interested to learn that you met Mr. Wright of our Finance Committee. If he accepts loans from you, it will increase my confidence in your work. I shall be very glad to see you when you are in Vermont in January and the next time I meet Mr. DeBoer I trust I shall not forget to mention our acquaintance.

Thanking you for your kind letter and trusting that we may meet frequently in years to come, I am

Faithfully yours,





KANSAS FARM LOANS

CLERICAL AND STENOGRAPHIC ERRORS  
SUBJECT TO CORRECTION

HOLTON, KANSAS,

December 4, 1914.

Dr. John M. Thomas,  
C/O Middlebury College,  
Middlebury, Vermont.

Dear Sir:--

If you will kindly keep the matter of Governor Meade in mind, at any time that you think it advisable for me to drop Dr. Meade a line, I will be only too glad to do so, and when I am back there the next trip, I will see him and suggest the matter to him further.

I was very much interested in meeting Mr. Wright of your Finance Committee. He is a most interesting man, and I do not doubt that a better acquaintance with him would increase your respect for his ability in every way. We of the West do not appreciate, probably the *class financial trouble.* of eastern schools, as our state institutions here have the unqualified support of the citizens without question.

Mr. Wright gave me some ideas regarding your eastern schools that I was not familiar with. I would be only too glad some time when I am back East, to come up to Middlebury and I know that I will probably enjoy it as much as anything could be.

I was out at Northwestern University Tuesday of this week, and I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the time.

With kindest regards, and trusting to be able to meet you some time in the near future, I remain,

Very truly yours,

*Devere Rafter*  
President

Dict. DR/AJ

Middlebury-000626

December 14, 1914.

Mr. deVare Rafter,

Holton, Kansas.

My dear Mr. Rafter;

I received your letter of December 4th. I shall certainly keep the matter of your suggestion to Doctor Mead in mind, although I do not believe that anything more than a suggestion at wide intervals that something of the sort may be done some time would be in place just now. He is setting aside funds for the erection of the chapel and has not that completed. The contract has not yet been signed. Unfortunately there was a fire in the Howe plant last week entailing a loss of some \$40,000 only partly insured.

I am glad that you met Mr. Wright and no doubt he was pleased to meet you. I hope you will carry out your good purpose to visit me some time in Middlebury.

Faithfully yours,



160 Boylston St.  
Boston. May 16 - 1914

Dear Doctor Thomas,

You are very good  
to remember that I once had a  
quartet. We were in the concert  
field a long time, but we could  
not go on forever. Three years ago  
our first turn was counted out. since  
which time we have done no  
work in the concert line. I can  
recommend the Weber, Lotos and  
Adelphi Quartets; each can be  
addressed at 218 Tremont St.

If I can be of any assistance to you  
in selecting artists. Please let me  
know. With kind regards to Mrs.  
Thomson and my old professor - your  
father-in-law - Sincerely yours  
George H. Ruel



May 19, 1914.

Mr. George H. Remele,  
160 Boylston St.,  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Remele;

I thank you for your reply to my letter. I am sorry I troubled you needlessly. The committee has learned that they could secure David Bispham and they think that will guarantee a successful concert.

I trust you have heard of our latest gift, a new chapel from Governor Mead. We are of course all very happy over it.

Faithfully yours,

May 25, 1914.

Miss Ruth M. Richner,  
491 Deering Ave.,  
Woodfords, Maine.

My dear Miss Richner;

I have your ledge of \$1 annually for five years for the Alumni Income Fund with payment of the first year's pledge. Please accept my hearty thanks for your co-operation. This fund is proving very helpful and my only wish is that a larger number of the alumni, particularly those of the younger classes, would participate.

I hope you have heard of the magnificent gift of Governor Mead '62, a new chapel to cost from \$50,000 to \$60,000. We are all very happy in this promised addition of a most useful structure to the equipment of the college.

With cordial regards, I am

Faithfully yours,



June 2, 1914.

Justice W. R. Riddell,  
Supreme Court,  
Toronto, Ontario.

My dear Justice Riddell;

I thank you for your kind letter and am interested that you have studied the Carnegie Report on Education in Vermont. The criticism has been a little hard to bear at times, especially as I feel that some features of it were not entirely just, but I believe on the whole it will do our institution good. Our alumni have rallied to our support as never before, and I have been able to announce a new \$60,000 chapel and the gift of \$10,000 for endowment within the last few weeks. I shall be glad to send you a copy of my Statement to the Educational Commission of Vermont in reply to some of the Carnegie Foundation recommendations. I have tried earnestly to be fair and reasonable about the matter and to recognize the good points in this report while at the same time protecting the interests of my institution.

With cordial regards, I am

Faithfully yours,

May 16, 1914.

Mr. Thomas W. Rogers,  
Brandon, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rogers;

I enclose copy of a letter I am writing to Mr. Albertson and I hope he will send you certificate for final payment immediately. We have been ready all the time and have been merely waiting to get the matter settled right. You will see that the committee is depending on you to make anything right which is not already complete and satisfactory, since we have entire confidence that you will be ready to do this. If you can come up next Tuesday morning, May 19th, Judge Weeks and I and Professor McGilton will be glad to go over the matter with you.

You see we want you to get your money so that you can bid on Governor Mead's new chapel. The architects will probably be Allen & Collens of Boston.

Faithfully yours,



2228

October 2, 1914.

Mr. Thomas W. Rogers,  
Brandon, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rogers;

I have mailed you specifications  
this morning. You will receive a number of  
corrections and alterations from the architects  
Allen & Collins. The roof is to be good quality  
black slate, instead of copper or inlaid slate.  
We are now figuring on Florence marble.

I advise you to get a bid from the Green Mountain  
Company.

I want you to have a good chance at  
this and I will advise the architects to let you  
have until the 15th.

Faithfully yours,

October 15, 1914.

Dear Sir;

I will construct the Mead Memorial complete as per plans and specifications of Allen & Collens, architects, revised and as I understand them using Clarendon Springs marble as furnished by the Green Mountain Marble Company, also using for the roofing in place of copper a No. 1 genuine Bangor black slate with 2 thicknesses of tar paper under slate for the sum of Sixty Thousand and Six Hundred Dollars (\$60,600.00)

Alternate 3. Deduct if north Carolina pine is used in place of cypress as specified for ceiling work three hundred dollars. (\$300.00)

Alternate 4. Deduct if birch is used in place of oak as specified for interior finish two hundred dollars (\$200.00)

Alternate 5. Deduct if marble tiles for porch are 2" thick in place of 5" as specified two hundred and twenty-five dollars. (\$225.00)

Alternate 6. Deduct if all masonry and marble work is omitted in the tower above the tops of the steel frame girders, and substitute wood construction and wood finish, leaving the steel frame as at present nine hundred dollars (\$900.00)

Alternate 7. Add if rear wall is changed from wood construction to masonry construction with marble ashlar, leaving the wood finish around the windows all as per drawings 10A and 10B, three thousand two hundred and eighty one dollars, (\$3,281.00)

Very truly yours,

Thomas W. Rogers



October 15, 1914.

Dear Sir;

I understand that the Vermont Marble Co. will furnish the marble as the Green Mountain Marble Co. propose to furnish 3" and 7" ashlar for \$17,178.00, Florence marble sand finished natural bed clause not to be enforced.

For alternate 5 deduct \$250.

" " 6 " 400

" " 7 add 2,100

If bank gravel could be used the same kind that was used on Pearsons Hall and Chemistry building I could reduce my proposal three hundred and twenty two dollars (\$322.00)

Very truly yours,

Thomas W. Rogers

P.S. I am enclosing you herewith the proposal of the Green Mountain Marble Co., kindly return it to me when you are through with it.

October 19, 1914.

Mr. Thomas W. Rogers,  
Brandon, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rogers;

I have your bid of October 15th which I will pass on to the architects for compilation with the others and submission to the committee. I hope we will be able to decide something pretty soon. I will return the Green Mountain submission to you herewith.

Faithfully yours,



November 5, 1914.

Mr. Thomas B. Rogers,  
Brandon, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rogers;

Governor Mead has written me something of your interview the other day. I wish you would submit to me not later than Monday your figures for the various parts on which we thought we might save by making the purchase through Governor Mead.

Also I would like you to figure on the excavation and foundation. If this should prove to be right I wish we might authorize you to go ahead with that part at once. I hope we can get together on the matter early next week.

Faithfully yours,

THOMAS W. ROGERS,  
GENERAL  
CONTRACTOR

Brandon, Vt. Nov 16th 1914.

Dr John M. Thomas  
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear Dr Thomas:-

I received late Saturday night a price on the random rock faced ashlar for the Mead Chapel, I dont think there will be much gained by using the ashlar in place of the coursed ashlar as their reduction was \$I.400.00 the cost of setting this over the coursed ashlar and pointing would take over one half of it, I dont see as you can change to make much, I inclose herewith the letter from the Vt. Marble Co, when red please return it.

Very truly yours.

John W. Rogers



November 17, 1924.

Mr. Thomas W. Rogers,  
Brandon, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rogers;

On my return I find your letter of November 16th with submission of the Vermont Marble Company which I return herewith. I hardly know what to do next in order to get the building within the appropriation. It seems too bad to change to rock faced ashlar for so small a saving.

Faithfully yours,

C O P Y

Brandon, Vt., November 16, 1914.

Dr. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear Dr. Thomas;

I received late Saturday night a price on the random rock faced ashlar for the Mead Chapel. I don't think there will be much gained by using the ashlar in place of the coursed ashlar as their reduction was \$1400. The cost of setting this over the coursed ashlar and pointing would take over one half of it. I don't see as you can change to make much. I enclose herewith the letter from the Vermont Marble Co. When read please return it.

Very truly yours,

Thos. W. Rogers.



COPY

T. W. Rogers,  
Brandon, vt.

Dear Sir;

Proctor, vt. NOV. 13, 1914.

Confirming our talk this morning, we will deduct \$1400. if all of the ashlar is changed from plain sand finished, as shown on the drawings, to randon rock faced, of the usual heights and depth and the edges and ends to be from the saw which means some slight variation in the heights. In this amount there is included \$56. on account of the change in the ashlar at the base of the tower.

Yours truly,

vermont Marble Co.

December 3, 1914.

Mr. Thomas W. Rogers,  
Brandon, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rogers;

I think we have not received your allowance for the proposed saving in excavation. Can you send that to me right away?

We have found ways to reduce some of the estimates for matters outside of the general contract, so that we are now within about \$3700 of the Doctor's figure. Can't you get over the matter once more and see if you can't let us have a revised figure within the appropriation next Monday?

Faithfully yours,



THOMAS W. ROGERS,  
GENERAL  
CONTRACTOR

Brandon, Vt. Dec 8th 1914.

Dr John M. Thomas  
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of December 3rd, I could not  
get you a revised estimate for a few days I am working on it and  
as soon as I have it ready which I hope will be in a short time  
now.

Very truly yours

John W. Rogers

December 9, 1914.

Mr. Thomas W. Rogers,  
Brandon, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rogers;

I have your letter of yesterday and am glad we can expect your revised estimate in a few days. I wish very much you could get your figures by Saturday, and that you and I could go down to see Governor Mead that afternoon. Some other revised figures have already been submitted to us. I am to preach in Brandon Sunday and could go down to Rutland on the flyer or the five o'clock train from here, as might be more convenient for Doctor Mead and you.

Faithfully yours,



December 10, 1914.

Mr. Thomas W. Rogers,  
Brandon, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rogers;

Since writing you yesterday, I am called to a meeting in Burlington for Saturday afternoon. So I shall have to drop the proposed visit to Rutland at that time. I still hope you can get the figures together by the end of the week, and if I do not see you before I will try to look you up when I preach in Brandon next Sunday.

Faithfully yours,

THOMAS W. ROGERS,  
GENERAL  
CONTRACTOR

Brandon, Vt. Dec 10th 1914.

Dr John M. Thomas  
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of Dec 9th, It would not be convenient for me to go to Rutland before Tuesday next Dec 15th as Saturday & Monday are my most busy days both being pay days,

You may not approve of some of the reductions that I am making on the Chapel in order to reduce the estimate where you want it, I may not be able to get there, please advise me if the above date is convenient so I can plan for it, I could not go before then.

Very truly yours.

*John W. Rogers*



**THOMAS W. ROGERS,**  
GENERAL  
CONTRACTOR

Brandon, Vt. Dec 14th 1914.

Dr John M. Thomas  
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear Sir:-

I have not been able to get the figures down to where you asked me to on the Mead Chapel, I do not see where there could be much more reducing done unless it was on the interior.

I have been advised by some of the sub bidders that they will not be able to hold their bids much longer. I hope you will find some way to decide in one way or the other soon.

Very truly yours.

*Thos W Rogers*

THOMAS W. ROGERS,  
GENERAL  
CONTRACTOR

Brandon, Vt. Dec 11th 1914.

Dr John M. Thomas  
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of December 10th, I do not expect to at home on Sunday next Dec 13th I will send you my figures on Monday afternoon train unless I hear from you before then, I will not have them ready this week.

Very truly yours.

John W. Rogers



December 29, 1914.

Mr. Thomas W. Rogers,  
Brandon, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Rogers;

I have just received a letter from Mr. Collens in which he says he has not heard from you confirming the amount of the contract. I understand that he was not quite clear as to your figures. I wish you would write him definitely and at once, and if there are any questions you do not understand, please ask him to make them more definite. I am sure we could settle this matter in a very short time if we could all get together, but I would like to save traveling expenses if possible. Doctor Mead is ready to sign a contract and I think the college has made arrangements so that it can be done if we can get your figures accurate.

Faithfully yours,

May 20, 1914.

Mr. Lewis E. Rye,  
Marshfield, Mass.

My dear Mr. Rye;

I have your letter of May 18th with check for \$5 to meet your pledge toward the Alumni Income Fund. I thank you very heartily.

I am glad you have the privilege to send specimen students on certificate and we shall be glad to receive Mr. Creed in this manner.

We could arrange for Mr. Lord to take the entrance examinations under your supervision. I have asked Mr. Wiley to send you a blank, which will be issued some time next week, for registration as to subjects. If he fails to do so, please let me know promptly.

I have noted carefully what you say confidentially concerning David B. Swift. First let me say that I appreciate your spirit in advising us frankly as to the boy's record and character. I do not see why we should not give the young man a trial. I am willing to run the risk and we will do the best we can for him. I will not show your letter to the Admission Committee, but I think you should put on your statement for the Committee your frank judgment as to his high school record. It would be better for such a boy to take examinations, which might result in his failure to secure admission, or possibly admission on probation. We could then give special attention to him. He ought to understand that every year some boys fail to continue and that he is likely to be one of them if he does not keep hard at work. His record would not count against you if you did not give him a certificate, since I understand a school is rated by the Board on the basis of its certified students only.

I hope you have heard of our latest benefaction, a new chapel promised by Governor Mead. He proposes to spend some \$60,000 on the building. This has made us all very happy.

Faithfully yours,





FRANK LOCK, MANAGER.  
GILES K. TINKER, SUB-MANAGER.

Atlas Assurance Company Limited  
OF LONDON.

Agency at East Orange N.J.  
May 18<sup>th</sup> / 14

Dear John: -

In the first place this makes you and Grace of full legal age and I send my love and best wishes for many more anniversaries.

If the papers are correct Mrs. Callough has given \$10,000 for a fund for the gym. (The Register) and Essex made a new chapel (The Press, N.Y.) amount not stated.

By the time this reaches you, you may have received

one or two letters stating that  
Rev. Wicks is going to leave us  
and asking if you have any  
advice to give in regard to a  
man to succeed him. If you  
do not get this query from  
one of the committee you might  
let me know if you know of  
the right man. The committee

is Eldon Dodd, Luter, Sands & Woott, Trustees  
Wedding, Silsman, Banks, Deacons  
Richard, Compton, Congregation Warrant,  
Weber & Whipple

Rev. Wicks is going to the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Congo. of Holyoke, Mass.  
Wed 3. W.M. 2 Enough said

as I write I notice a letter which  
Katharine started two or three months  
ago. I will enclose it.

We are all well.  
My love to you and the  
rest  
Locke



May 25, 1914.

Mr. Lackwood M. Seely,  
North Walnut St.,  
East Orange, N. J.

My dear Locke:

Your letter came in due time but I was just mailing a letter to Mr. Dddd. My reply to him was delayed because of absence from town. Doubtless you know that I suggested Rev. C. C. St. Clare of Port Henry, without disparagement of those whose names were already before the committee. I am really quite enthusiastic about Mr. St. Clare and tried to be restrained in my testimony, since I do not want to take too much responsibility before the committee. It may interest you personally to know that when I first came to Middlebury your father said he wanted to tell me of one minister in the state whom he regarded as an exceptionally fine man, and named Mr. St. Clare. My subsequent relations with him confirmed father's judgment. He would be something of a contrast to Mr. Wicks, but I think in many ways would be very well fitted to carry on his work and that of Arlington Avenue.

It is true that Governor McCullough gave us \$10,000 and the amount named by Governor Mead for a chapel is from \$50,000 to \$60,000. Things are looking pretty bright. The base ball team has had seven victories and not a defeat and the track team Saturday won from Rensselaer Polytechnic.

With cordial regards to Frances and the youngsters, I am

Faithfully yours,

may 25, 1914.

Mr. Frank P. Shea,  
New Bedford, Mass.

My dear Mr. Shea;

I received your letter with reference to your sister's application at Fall River. I am not quite sure what you think it best for me to do. I enclose a general recommendation such as you suggest, but if you would like me now to write personally to Superintendent Belisle please let me hear from you again.

Doubtless you have heard of our latest gift, a new \$60,000 chapel from Governor Mead. We are all very happy over this prospect.

Faithfully yours,



May 29, 1914.

Mr. E. P. Stevens,

St. Albans, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Stevens;

I will confess that I am quite pleased to have you use a part of my Rutland address in your circular. I think I am getting the better of the bargain, since the leaflet advertises Middlebury College and myself fully as much as it does Vermont real estate and your agency. If you felt that it would be profitable from your point of view and could spare as many as 1200 copies, I would be glad to enclose a copy of this circular to each of our graduates and former students in a letter announcing Governor Mead's new chapel and a program for commencement. I am hoping to send out this letter early next week, so that the circulars would need to reach me promptly.

Faithfully yours,

FRANK B. NOYES,  
WASHINGTON STAR,  
PRESIDENT.

CHARLES H. TAYLOR,  
BOSTON GLOBE,  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT.

CRAWFORD HILL,  
DENVER REPUBLICAN,  
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT.

MELVILLE E. STONE, GENERAL MANAGER.

FREDERICK ROY MARTIN, ASST. GENERAL MANAGER.

J. R. YOUATT, TREASURER.

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HERMAN RIDDER, NEW YORK STAATS-ZEITUNG.  
VICTOR F. LAWSON, CHICAGO DAILY NEWS.  
W. H. COWLES, SPOKANE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW.

# The Associated Press.

BOSTON, MASS.

EDWARD MCKERNON, CORRESPONDENT  
7 WATER STREET—TELEPHONE FORT HILL 400  
P. O. BOX 192

May 13, 1914.

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

My dear President Thomas:

Permit me to thank you for your letter containing the announcement regarding the new chapel. We shall be very glad to handle it. I am in doubt, however, whether it was intended for publication in the morning papers of Saturday or the afternoon papers. On receipt of this will you be good enough to have your secretary telegraph us at our expense whether this is to be released for morning or afternoon papers on Saturday. I shall be further obliged.

Very truly yours,

EMcK/C

*Edward McKernon*  
Correspondent.



RUTLAND, VT. May 16, 1914.

Hon. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My dear President Thomas:-

First of all permit me to extend to you my heartiest congratulations on the receipt of Dr. Mead's gift, an account of which I read in the morning Herald.

Several of the Alumni here in Rutland have been considering your proposition of inviting the Senior Class of the Rutland High School to a luncheon at which you and some of the under graduates were to be present, and make short addresses.

I have looked into the matter a little bit and owing to the large number in the class, it seems almost too heavy a burden to ask the local Alumni to carry. There are in the Senior Class forty-eight who are taking the college preparatory course. It would hardly be possible to invite one unless we invited all of the forty-eight. It is possible that you have some solution of this problem. If so, I should be glad to hear from you in respect to the matter.

With regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

*B. S. Stafford.*



THE MILITARY COLLEGE OF  
THE STATE OF VERMONT  
NORTHFIELD, - VERMONT

C. H. SPOONER, PRESIDENT

May 20, '14.

President John M. Thomas,  
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE,  
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear President Thomas:-

I think that Mead Chapel is gloriously fine. I'm perfectly green with envy, but thankful enough so that it will not cause cancer of either ~~of~~ the liver or ~~of~~ the disposition.

We'll look after the man of good blood --fighting.  
Thank you.

Very sincerely,

P.S. My love to the little ones, - yes, and if you please, to their mother.

C.H.S.



Boston Evening Transcript  
EDITORIAL ROOMS.

Boston, May 19, 1914.

My dear Dr. Thomas:

We are very anxious to publish the plans of the new chapel which ex-Governor Mead has just given to you and would thank you very much for any drawing which may come to your hands.

Very truly yours,

*Henry I. Claus*

Pres. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury College,  
Middlebury, Vt.

*I was very much interested in your reply to the Carnegie Foundation. A remarkable presentation of your case M.T.C.*

May 20, 1914.

Mr. Henry T. Claus,  
Evening Transcript,  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Claus;

I have received your request for plans of the new chapel. We have nothing definite as yet. Allen & Collens of Boston have submitted sketches which are being considered by the committee; I appreciate your offer to publish the plans, but am inclined to think it would be better to wait until we know fairly definitely what we are to have.

I am pleased that you gave some attention to my Statement to the Educational Commission. I have been gratified to receive many commendations of my attitude from many friends in Vermont, by no means Middlebury alumni exclusively, and am very hopeful that something like the position I have taken will be followed by the Commission itself.

Faithfully yours,



May 27, 1914.

Hon. Theodore N. Vail,  
Lyndonville, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Vail;

One of the recipients of honorary degrees at Middlebury College June 24th will be Colonel George Harvey. In connection with his visit I know it would be very pleasant if you could attend our commencement, and as one of our honorary alumni we would be very glad indeed to welcome you. I wish you might also be present Tuesday at the breaking ground for the new chapel which Ex-Governor Mead has just promised to us. We remember your presence and that of Mrs. Vail two years ago very pleasantly and I wish you might be able to come to us.

Faithfully yours,

June 8, 1914.

Mr. Theodore N. Vail,  
15 Dey St.,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Vail;

I was very pleased to receive your letter of June 1st, which gave me some hope that you might be present at our commencement and help us in doing the honors to Colonel Harvey. I enclose a program herewith and will also take the liberty of sending you a copy of the announcement to our alumni of the proposed gift of a new chapel from Ex-Governor Head.

Faithfully yours,



May 12, 1914.

Doctor Henry H. Vail,  
c/o Baring Bros. & Co.,  
London, England.

My dear Doctor Vail;

Your letter of April 30th has just come in and I am distressed to learn that you did not receive my acknowledgment of your generous gift of \$500 for our Alumni Income Fund. I wrote you February 27th addressing the letter to your hotel in Florence, as I did not have your permanent address at that time. I will enclose herewith the carbon copy of that letter, which perhaps you may be willing to read even if it is somewhat out of date.

I hope you have by this time received my last circular letter to the alumni, dated May 4th, which contained an acknowledgment of your gift. The donor of the \$10,000 therein referred to is Governor McCullough. I have now another benefaction to report, this time from Governor Mead. I enclose a copy of his letter offering to build us a chapel. Such a building will be highly useful in promoting a helpful life among the students and a right attitude toward the college and the world in general. It will be a burden rather than otherwise financially, but should stimulate gifts for other purposes, which will provide for the additional expense. Governor Mead came forward in this matter voluntarily and seems to be deriving great pleasure from the project.

Your nephew won his ball game from U.V.M. last Saturday and filled this college with the greatest enthusiasm I have ever seen in it. Our team won both games last week, the first to be played on the new Porter field.

I am interested in your letter as always, but the best word is that you expect to return in June so as to be with us Commencement. Governor Stewart is counting on you.

Faithfully yours,

1432  
Middlebury, Vermont.

May 25, 1914.

My dear Dr. Thomas,-

In accordance with your desire that my judgment regarding the proposed College Chapel be put in writing, I submit the following.

The plan submitted recently is to me disappointing. The great objection to it is the spire and its relation to the rest of the building. On the one hand, I cannot feel that a spire rising out of the roof of the building would be impressive, nor, on the other, do I feel that a spire or even the building itself need be high in order to produce the proper impression. The effect of a structure on such a lofty situation, must, it seems to me, depend on its entire outline, not merely its height.

It is my judgment that the chapel should have a tower, the architecture of which begins at the ground and extends in generally continuous line to its top. Such a tower need not be high, so long as its lines lead the eye up.

It is quite evident, that the substitution of tower for spire would necessitate a radical departure from the type of building recently submitted, and therein lies the problem.

In our conversation the other day, you suggested the Norman style of chapel, and I have been thinking a good deal about that since. It has become increasingly clear to me that in the adoption of this style lies the solution of the problem. At any rate, I have not yet talked with anyone of this matter, who is satisfied with the plan already submitted, but everyone so far has very much favored the Norman style.

Among the advantages of such a style of construction would be the following:

1- A large tower and low building, depending for its external effect on its massiveness.

2- A building externally more economical of construction because of being



low. Even a massive tower would not be high and would not cost more than the spire of the recent design.

3- A building of a simplicity completely in harmony with the spirit and traditions of this College.

4- The possibility of utilizing the money saved on the exterior for a finer interior. The arching etc. in such a building could be made a great feature of its interior.

A more commanding site for a college chapel it is hard to imagine. I would prefer that we use a decade in contemplation, if only so we may finally choose aright.

Very sincerely yours,

Raymond H. White

JAMES S. KILEY  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COLVIN BUILDING, GLENS FALLS, N. Y.

May 19, 1914.

Dr. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury Vt.,

Dear Dr. Thomas:

Would you kindly send me a copy of your statement to the Educational Commission in reply to the report of the Carnegie Foundation.

News of Ex-Gov. Mead's gift has made me very happy as I am sure it has every alumnus and friend of the college.

Most respectfully yours,

*John S. Woodward '12*

JSW/KAM



May 20, 1914.

Mr. John S. Woodward,  
Colvin Bldg.,

Glens Falls, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Woodward;

I am very glad to send you a copy of my Statement to the Educational Commission. We shall be pleased to mail other copies to any of your friends who would be interested.

I thank you for your congratulations on Doctor Mead's new chapel. It will be a great thing for the college to have such a building and I hope we can do the work right. The gift is most timely and certainly should encourage all our friends.

Faithfully yours,

2424  
November 6, 1915.

Principal Edward S. Abbott,  
Montpelier, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Abbott;

I wish to confirm the informal invitation extended through Professor McFarland to the Head Masters' Club to hold their meeting next spring at Middlebury College. I would like also to add a personal word in behalf of your coming, which I would like to make as urgent as possible. We shall be pleased to secure special hotel rates and to provide all needed rooms and other facilities for the meeting in the college buildings. We would also be glad to arrange for a conference in the afternoon, if thought desirable, to give profitable use of the time of those who can reach Middlebury early during the day, while not interfering with the business sessions of the full organization.

I think it quite possible that some of the Masters have not had an opportunity to see our recent improvements at Middlebury College. At the time of the meeting our new chapel should be completed and the Hepburn dormitory and commons building well on. These structures both embody some new and interesting features in New England college architecture and we shall be very glad to have the school men have a chance to observe them before they are formally opened to the public.

If I can answer any inquiries which members of the committee are likely to raise or do anything further to urge acceptance of our invitation, I shall wight to do so.

faithfully yours,



October 18, 1915.

Doctor J. W. Abernethy,  
Burlington, Vermont.

My dear Doctor Abernethy;

The notice of the meeting at Gifford's office Monday the 25th failed to state the hour, which is two P.M. I do not expect you to make a special trip, but if you had occasion to be in New York about that time, it would be ~~very~~ pleasant if you could join us. I have had some talk with members of the Finance Committee as to a further application to the General Education Board, using the chapel and Hepburn Hall as a fulcrum for an endowment fund and have met with some encouragement. We need formal action by the trustees.

I hope you will look in upon us at Middlebury one of these beautiful autumn days. The chapel will do your heart good, ~~and~~ sure, and Hepburn Hall also. I am very greatly pleased with the chapel especially, and I have no doubt when the other building is as well along the result will be as gratifying.

You will be interested to know that the scholarship assignments at Middlebury have come within the income of funds for that purpose. Some time I wish I could learn the income of scholarship funds help by the University in order that I might add to that the amount received for that purpose from the state, and then see how that balances with the scholarships granted to students. I suspect there has been an increase of numbers for which the farmers are bearing the bill as usual.

Faithfully yours,