

Historical Data

INCREASE OF PLANT

1908 1915

Funds, 1908 the plant of the college - \$419,203 \$570,940  
 Total assets - \$668,203 \$1,089,395

*November 15 1915*

Mr. William W. Brierley,  
 General Education Board,  
 New York City.

My dear Mr. Brierley;

You were good enough to say that in your study of Middlebury College you would like to have a comparison of the college as it was immediately before my inauguration, and as it is now. At the risk of appearing to put forward my own achievements, I venture to follow your suggestion.

I began my work as President at the beginning of the college year in 1908. The following table summarizes the progress of the institution since that time.

	1908	1915
Faculty	11	32
Students	203	342
Courses given	99	195
Income	\$29,299	\$91,380
" from students	\$ 5,696	\$31,314
" tuition	\$ 1,080	\$24,113
College buildings	5	13
Professors' houses	4	8
Campus	30 acres	144 acres
Plant	\$249,000	\$718,455"

" includes two buildings in course of construction.

## INCREASE OF PLANT

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Funds	\$419,203	\$570,940
Total assets	\$668,203	\$1,089,396

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## INCOME FROM TUITION

home for women, then numbering 84. I appealed to the late Dr. D. K.

The large increase in receipts from students, (from \$5,696 to \$31,314) has been accomplished through proper restriction of scholarships and better collection of charges. In its early years, (from 1800 to 1850) the college had issued a large number of free scholarship certificates in return for donations of from \$100 to \$300. It had been assumed that the demand of tuition would call forth a large number of these certificates from old trunks and drawers, and further that unless practically free tuition were offered in the form of scholarships students would seek institutions of larger facilities. In that belief tuition exceeding \$9000 had been remitted the year previous to my inauguration. I made at once a frank public statement of the situation, asked the students to pay their tuition or accept smaller scholarships as they were able to afford, and the first year the income from tuition advanced over \$4000. The second year a similar increase was effected, while at the same time the attendance increased. Every year of my administration there has been a gain both in attendance and tuition receipts. Only two of the old scholarship certificates have been presented. The tuition charge is now accepted as a matter of course, and the improvement in the morale of the student body is not less gratifying than the gain in income. presented funds for the purchase of 79 acres, also adjacent to the old campus but on the opposite side from the

## INCREASE OF PLANT

site presented for women's buildings. The field has been constructed and in 1908 the plant of the college consisted of five buildings on a campus of thirty acres. Three of these buildings were old, although comely and serviceable, another a modern library, and the fifth an excellent recent science hall. The college had no suitable home for women, then numbering 84. I appealed to the late Dr. D. K. Pearsons of Chicago for a hall for women. He offered us \$25,000 toward a fund of \$100,000. I made the effort and completed the entire fund in just one year. The largest donor was Mr. A. Barton Hepburn, \$30,000. We have now Pearsons Hall, a home for women, yielding income, and a trust fund of \$30,000 from that fund. A local trustee gave as a site for this building and for others which might be needed for women 35 acres of land, beautifully situated on a height adjacent to the campus. On this was a residence, which has been remodelled and enlarged as a cottage for women and dining hall, another house which has been made suitable for a Professor's residence, and still another house which is now a pleasant home for women. In 1908 the college had no gymnasium. In 1910 ex-Gov. John G. McCullough offered to give \$25,000 toward a gymnasium if an equivalent amount could be raised. This was secured from alumni and Gov. McCullough later gave \$10,000 as a permanent fund for the upkeep of the building. Funds were also secured for a commodious Hall of Chemistry, the first floor of which now furnishes convenient recitation rooms for three other departments. The former athletic field being inconveniently near the college buildings, a trustee presented funds for the purchase of 79 acres, also adjacent to the old campus but on the opposite side from the

site presented for women's buildings. The field has been constructed and a grand stand erected by gifts from the same donor. The location is most sightly, commanding a wide sweep of the Green Mountains with a graceful foreground of the Otter River valley. The tract has an extensive frontage on two streets, including the best building sites now available in the village.

Residences for three professors have been erected on sites opposite the campus, displacing unsightly structures.

Two buildings which were greatly needed and which will make most useful additions to the college plant are now in process of erection, contracts for their completion having been signed by responsible donors. For some years we have had no chapel sufficiently large to accommodate our students. A graduate and trustee, ex-Gov. John A. Mead of Rutland, Vt. is presenting a beautiful marble colonial chapel, of the New England meeting house type, to accommodate 700. The interior is dignified and ecclesiastical, and in an undergraduate college which seeks to mould its students in a common life and which maintains a religious although non-sectarian tradition it can not fail to be an instrument of much good.

For over half a century, or since 1861, the college had built no dormitory for men. Accommodations have been hard to find and often undesirable. Our alumnus and trustee, Mr. A. Barton Hepburn, is erecting a dormitory for 100 men with dining hall and social rooms attached. It is virtually two buildings, one 150 x 65, and the other 56 x 33. The exterior is brown tapestry brick. It is fireproof, composition floors, brick interior walls, rooms en suite, study for each two, all single bed rooms, a toilet and lavatory for each two, and two shower bath rooms on each floor with a shower for

every three students. There is an apartment for the official in charge and with the large dining and social rooms the building will furnish a social center for the men of the college. It should be an income producing building.

Alumni Income Fund for current use	\$ 8,216	
Other gifts, for current use	4,809.61	
For student aid	<u>1,370</u>	
		14,395.61

ADDITIONS TO ENDOWMENT

Aside from the additions to endowment in connection with the Pearsons and General Education Board funds, there have been added to funds during my administration the Boardman Annuity Fund of \$30,000 (annuitant 89 years of age), the Henry M. Barnum Fund (bequest) \$30,000, the Ezra J. Warner Fund (bequest) \$23,798.14, the McCullough Fund \$10,000, and other gifts as exhibited in the following table of additions to resources since my inauguration, June 24, 1908.

ENDOWMENT

Hepburn Fund	\$35,000
Gen. Education Board Fund	50,000
Alumni & Friends Fund	25,500
Paige-Wright Fund	19,000
Carr Fund	500
Boardman Annuity Fund	30,000
Warner Bequest	23,798.14
Boardman Peace Fund	600
Stoddard Fund	400
Barnum Bequest	30,000
McCullough Fund	10,000
Mead Fund	1,500
American History Fund	100
Hudson Fund	<u>1,321</u>
	\$227,719.14

BUILDINGS

For construction of Pearsons' Hall	\$ 72,175
" " " Gymnasium	50,000
" " " Chemistry Bldg.	50,000
Mead Chapel (contracted for)	65,000
Hepburn Hall & Commons (contracted for)	<u>110,000</u>
	347,175

lieved that it will not be repealed unless the college should

## REAL ESTATE

		\$574,894.14
For Porter Athletic Field	\$15,500	
Campus Extension	6,500	
Forest lands	<u>1,000</u>	23,000 X

## MISCELLANEOUS

Alumni Income Fund for current use	\$ 8,216	
Other gifts, for current use	4,809.61	
For student aid	<u>1,370</u>	14,395.61 X
		<hr/>
		\$612,289.75 X

In addition to the above, the college is the residuary legatee of the estate of the late Joseph Battell of Middlebury, who was a trustee. The share of the college in this estate will be at least \$200,000. The estate includes 31,000 acres of forest land in the vicinity of Middlebury.

## INCREASE IN ANNUAL INCOME

An increase in yearly income from \$29,299 to \$91,380 has been accomplished through additions to permanent funds, larger tuition receipts, and larger appropriations from the State of Vermont. Since 1888 the college has received \$2400 a year for scholarships for Vermont students. At the first session of the legislature after my inauguration I applied for an additional appropriation of \$6000 for the establishment and maintenance of a Department of Education for the training of high school teachers. This was granted, and the amount has since been increased to \$28,800 annually, of which \$4800 is for scholarships and the balance for instruction. This appropriation is permanent, good until repealed. It is believed that it will not be repealed unless the college should

7  
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

ATTENDANCE 1910-15

voluntarily withdraw from its relation to the State, as a matter of wise public policy in view of the State's primary obligation to elementary education. The college has a firm hold upon the confidence and loyalty of the people of Vermont, as is evident from the maintenance and the establishment in permanence of its annual appropriation at the legislative session of 1915, despite the contrary recommendation of the Vermont Educational Commission. This recommendation was not based upon an unfavorable judgment of the college - on the contrary its work was commended - but upon the conviction that Vermont needs all its educational funds for lower schools. Our trustees are inclined to favor this view and desire to establish the college on an independent foundation.

The steady growth in income from students and in total income is exhibited in the following table:-

Year	Income from students	Total income
1908	\$ 5,696	\$29,299
1909	11,095	36,072
1910	15,604	54,781
1911	19,687	59,113
1912	23,913	69,498
1913	27,211	71,763
1914	27,285	89,142
1915	31,314	91,380

	Men	Women	Total
Addison	38	33	71
Rutland	12	9	21
Windsor	16	12	28
Caledonia	3	1	4
Washington	3	4	7
Bennington	3	7	10
Franklin	2	4	6
Orange	4	2	6
Orleans	2	1	3
Windsor	2	1	3
Lowville	2	1	3
Chittenden	1	0	1

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

ATTENDANCE 1915-16 Vermont and New York.

The first table shows the attendance in 1907-08, 1915-16, 1907-08, 1915-16, 1907-08, 1915-16. Since 1908 the number of students has increased steadily from 203 to 342, with a net gain each year. This growth has taken place despite the change of policy as to tuition payments and notwithstanding greater strictness in the administration of admission requirements. Seven years ago the college accepted certificates from any secondary school with a four-year course. Since we were not connected with the Certificate Board of New England, principals sent us students whom they were unwilling to certify to institutions on the Board. Three years ago we affiliated with the Certificate Board and reorganized our admission methods. A much larger number of candidates for admission has been excluded, and yet the college has maintained its growth. I am confident that we are now in position where the normal growth of the college will be even more rapid than during the past ten years, in which attendance has doubled. I ask your attention to the following table comparing the geographical distribution of student attendance in the years 1907-08 and 1915-16, both by states and countries and by counties in Vermont.

119      187      84      155      203      342

DISTRIBUTION OF VERMONT STUDENTS BY COUNTIES

1907-08 and 1915-16, both by states and countries and by counties in Vermont.

	1907-08			1915-16		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Addison	38	35	71	22	34	56
Rutland	12	9	21	13	22	35
Windsor	6	6	12	7	3	10
Caledonia	3	1	4	6	2	8
Washington	3	1	4	1	4	5
Bennington	3	7	10	3	2	5
Franklin	4	2	6	3	2	5
Orange	2	1	3	0	5	5
Orleans	2	1	3	0	5	5
Windham	2	1	3	3	1	4
Lamoille	1	0	1	2	0	2
Chittenden	1	0	1	2	0	2
	<u>73</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>132</u>



GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION  
1907-08 and 1915-16

*Print  
99.*

The first table shows the geographical distribution of students from Vermont and New York, territory contiguous to the college, but also from other New England states and a promising beginning of attendance from more distant places. You will note that the number from New Hampshire has advanced from 11 to 21, Massachusetts from 16 to 70, Connecticut from 4 to 27, New Jersey from none to 20, while 9 other states and countries are represented from which we formerly received no students.

The second table shows that we have lost in our own county (Addison), owing doubtless to exaction of tuition, while we have gained in almost every county at a distance. The gain from towns in the eastern and northern parts of the state is particularly noticeable and encouraging.

Taken together these tables show a broadening of the constituency of the college and its advance from a local institution to one of wide influence and reputation. and the quality of all work that could offer only a narrow curriculum, with meagre opportunities in many departments. I am sending a copy of the 1915-16 year book for comparison with the 1907-08 year book, in which there were only three departments, Latin, Greek, and English, in which a student could continue work through his course.

	07-08 Men	15-16 Men	07-08 Women	15-16 Women	07-08 Total	15-16 Total
Vermont	73	72	66	80	139	152
New York	24	27	6	10	30	37
New Hampshire	10	8	1	13	11	21
Massachusetts	8	39	8	31	16	70
Connecticut	3	15	1	12	4	27
Texas	1				1	
Ohio		2	2		2	2
New Jersey		16		4		20
Maine		1		3		4
California		1				1
North Carolina				1		1
Pennsylvania		1				1
Oregon		1				1
Rhode Island		1				1
Cuba						1
South America						1
Japan						1
	119	187	84	155	203	342

DISTRIBUTION OF VERMONT STUDENTS BY COUNTIES  
1907 - 1908 and 1915-1916

	1907-08			1915-16		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Addison	38	33	71	22	34	56
Rutland	12	9	21	13	22	35
Windsor	6	6	12	8	4	12
Caledonia	3	1	4	7	3	10
Washington	1	3	4	6	2	8
Bennington	3	7	10	1	4	5
Franklin	2	4	6	3	2	5
Orange	4	2	6	3	2	5
Orleans	1	4	5	4	1	5
Windham	2	1	3	0	5	5
Lamoille	1	0	1	3	1	4
Chittenden	1	0	1	2	0	2
	73	66	139	72	79	151

The first table shows a normal growth in Vermont and New York, territory contiguous to the college, but a much larger growth from other New England states and a promising beginning of attendance from more distant places. You will note that the number from New Hampshire has advanced from 11 to 21, Massachusetts from 16 to 70, Connecticut from 4 to 27, New Jersey from none to 20, while 9 other states and countries are represented from which we formerly received no students.

The second table shows that we have lost in our own county, (Addison), owing doubtless to exaction of tuition, while we have gained in almost every county at a distance. The gain from towns in the eastern and northern parts of the state is particularly noticeable and encouraging.

Taken together these tables show a broadening of the constituency of the college and its advance from a local institution to one of much wider influence and reputation.

#### CURRICULUM

With its faculty of eleven members Middlebury College in 1908 could offer only a narrow curriculum, with meagre opportunities in many departments. I am sending you a catalogue of 1907-08 for comparison with the latest issue. You will note that in 1908 there were only three departments, Latin, Greek, and English, in which a student could continue work steadily through his course. Now every department open to Freshmen offers courses of ascending grade through the four years. In all departments a major is possible, i.e., three years work of advancing difficulty.

In 1908 one instructor was responsible for modern languages, and there was no German beyond the third year nor French beyond the second. There are now four men in modern languages, and in either

friends and stimulating general public co-operation, by taking advantage of the accumulations of good will through its long past and of its share in the good name of New England and particularly the reputation for high character and substantial worth that attaches to the State of Vermont. The rightful position of an old New England college, non-sectarian, public in the motives of its service, with such an alumni roll as is indicated by the calibre of our present Board of Trustees, is among the strong colleges of America. The historic position of Middlebury is with Williams and Amherst, Dartmouth and Bowdoin. From 1800 to 1850 Middlebury College was on a general parity with those institutions in size, influence and reputation. For reasons I need not mention Middlebury was kept from her true place during most of the period since the civil war. The record of the past seven years proves that she can come to her own in the fellowship of the institutions I have named. We have alumni and supporters who are determined to set the college forward into that rank. If we accomplish our ambition, we shall do something much more than the strengthening of one local institution; we shall add to the nation one more of those strong institutions which derive their traditions from New England colonial life and which help to maintain the saving salt of Puritan worth in the life of the nation. The record I have outlined is unique and merits encouragement, but it is not more unique nor more worthy of support than the opportunity to confirm and maintain progress in one of those institutions which stand for the highest and best in American life in a region which has exerted and will continue to exert far more than its proportional influence upon the nation. The situation is critical, whether or

not we shall go forward to the position of a strong New England college. The co-operation of the General Education Board would not only be justified by our record, but it would assure the continuance of our progress toward a position beside the colleges of New England which have proved of such inestimable value in the life of America.

Faithfully yours,

1693  
December 1, 1915.

Rev. Arthur J. Brown, D.D.,

156 Fifth Ave.,

New York.

My dear Doctor Brown;

I thank you for your kind acknowledgment of our college bulletin. It is pleasant to keep in touch with friends by this means. I am especially pleased that you are interested in what is going on at Middlebury College. We have been making excellent progress and with our new chapel, which is a beautiful colonial building, and a fine new dormitory, the improvements in our plant have been quite notable.

Thanking you for your good wishes, I am

Faithfully yours,

AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS



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April 5, 1915.

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

My dear Dr. Thomas:-

I have just received a call to the meeting of the President and Fellows of Middlebury College on April 13, at 1.30 P.M. While I have an engagement on that date I hope to be able to postpone it and be present at the meeting.

I have thought several times of writing you since I heard of the death of Joseph Battell and congratulate you upon the successful way in which you have held him true to the College. It is a great victory.

With anticipations, I remain,

Faithfully yours,

JLB/M

or is it the 14th?

12  
April 7, 1915.

Rev. James L. Barton,  
14 Beacon St.,  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Doctor Barton;

I am very glad to have your letter of April 5th. Our trustee meeting is Wednesday the fourteenth. I had hardly supposed you would come from Boston to attend this meeting, but of course we shall be very glad indeed to see you.

The necessary business includes the adoption of a budget for next year and some matters in connection with the chapel.

We are all rejoicing over the action of the legislature in continuing our appropriation, as well as in the promising bequest from Mr. Battell. The latter has large possibilities and serious responsibilities.

Faithfully yours,

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT  
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 13, 1915.

My dear President Thomas:

In accordance with agreement, the Rhodes Scholarship examinations will be held at Middlebury College this year under the supervision of someone whom you may appoint for that purpose. The examination papers have arrived from England, and I am forwarding the unbroken package to you. It is my understanding that the rules provide that these questions shall be opened on the day of the examination in the presence of the candidates.

While I write, allow me to congratulate you upon your good fortune in the latest gift of a dormitory and Commons for Middlebury College. I rejoice in every added evidence of your material prosperity, and earnestly hope that some wealthy friend of the University of Vermont may catch the inspiration of the example of Mr. Hepburn and Governor Mead, so that we may be assured in the near future of some much needed new buildings.

Wishing you a successful and happy year, I am, with expressions of high regard,

Cordially and fraternally yours,



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



Congregational Church  
Rutland, Vermont

February 5th, 1915

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

My dear Dr. Thomas:-

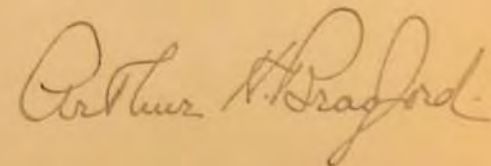
We are planning to make Sunday, February 14th a day for special recognition of the "centenary of unbroken peace between the two great English speaking nations." We want to make our Vesper Service a community gathering. We always reach many people besides our own at this service. We, therefore, feel that on such an occasion we ought to be able to make the service appeal to the whole community. In order to do this we are going to ask you to give the address. It is a long time since our people have had the opportunity of hearing you on any subject except one connected with educational problems. I am sure that the theme of the day is one that appeals to you, and one upon which you could readily speak.

The usual hour for our service is 4:30 but we shall be glad to change it to 3:30, if you desire, in order to enable you to catch the 4:50 train for Middlebury.

We can offer no suitable honorarium but shall be glad to allow \$10.00 as a nominal fee.

Hoping that you will be able to come to us, I am,

Sincerely yours,



AHB/LEP.

535-

February 5, 1915.

Rev. Arthur H. Bradford,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Bradford;

I have promised our students that hereafter we would have a chapel service every Sunday and that I would conduct them when I possibly could. I have been coming for some time to feel that we were not doing our duty by our students in respect to religious instruction, and conditions became such this year that I felt it would not be right to even wait for the new chapel. I have some appointments, made some time ago, but when I can I am going to stand by here. I know you will approve the thought and excuse me for February 14th. I thank you for thinking of me with reference to that service.

Faithfully yours,

535  
December 31, 1915.

Rev. Arthur H. Bradford,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Mr. Bradford;

I take pleasure in handing you Check No. 1 of the Philip Battell Memorial Fund for the sum of \$25 in recognition of your address at our recent Forefathers' celebration.

I am sure you know I understand that this does not at all discharge our obligation to you. You helped us sustain the best traditions of the anniversary as observed at Middlebury. It was the kind of an address which proves the wisdom of keeping up such a celebration for three quarters of a century and then making it permanent.

Of course you know my hearty coggratulations on the new building. I was greatly pleased to write Doctor Mead my great pleasure in his gift to Rutland. I am sure he is very wise, especially in placing it in charge of an organization whose permanence is sure and which is not likely to loose the spirit of service for the entire community.

Faithfully yours,

April 19, 1915.

Mr. L. Irving Brigham,  
East Orange, N. J.

My dear Mr. Brigham;

You may have noticed that Middlebury College is to have a new chapel to be erected by ex-Governor John A. Mead of the class of 1804 at a cost of some \$60,000. The trustees desire to equip the chapel with a suitable organ and have appropriated \$5000 for this purpose. We have been approached by the Estey Organ Company, Brattleboro, Vt., and naturally would be pleased to deal with parties in our own state. Colonel Estey, the head of the firm, is personally known to our trustees and we should have much confidence in any representations he might make.

At the same time it has not seemed wise to us to negotiate exclusively with one organ builder and we have asked for specifications from the Austin Company of Hartford, Conn., and the Ernest M. Skinner Company of Dorchester, Mass.

I have thought perhaps you might be willing to advise me as to wise procedure under the circumstances. We have a professor of music who knows a good deal about pianos but is not an organist. I have thought possibly you might be willing to look over the specifications, when I have them all in hand. Possibly you would suggest other builders from whom it would be well for us to secure proposed specifications. Thus far we have named the figure and asked the builders to submit specifications. Any advice you might give me would be very welcome and I hope you will not think I am intruding unduly upon your time.

Faithfully yours,

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

My dear Mr Thomas April 22, 1915

Your kind letter of April 19th in regard to the chapel organ was before Mr. I feel highly complimented that you should have thought of me in this connection and you may be sure that I will do what I can to help you in this matter.

It reminds me of the time we wrestled with the organ problem in the arkway on an Church, and to you is great pleasure I have at least a small part in your present problem. You have done wisely to have called on only a few companies

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

for bids and to keep within here England - near at hand. There is one other concern you may not ask if you wished that is the J. St. Stearns Organ Co. of Springfield Mass. They have been doing good work of late at Cornell University and elsewhere and are near by also. I would hunt my inquiries to a few first class concerns as you will save much time and labor, dealing with inferior concerns who will promise quantities at the expense of quality. Should you send me this information.

1. How soon will you want the organ.
2. Will it be used for services as a

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

church organ, or for recitals + occasional use.

3. When will it be situated in the building and is a good space provided for it.
4. Will there be any fund for its care or will this have to come out of college treasury.

If you will let me hear a few suggestions in answer to the above queries it will help. To see my organ are built for show today that our needs & know exactly what is decided.

Thanking you again for remembering me I am  
Lowell S. Brigham

April 28, 1915.

Mr. Lowell I. Brigham,  
3 Berwyn St.,  
East Orange, N. J.

My dear Mr. Brigham;

I was very glad to receive your kind reply to my request for co-operation in securing our chapel organ. I thank you heartily. I shall be glad to adopt your suggestion in seeking a proposal from the J. W. Steeve Organ Company of Springfield. I have not heard from Mr. Skinner, but the others seem anxious to submit specifications.

We are just beginning the chapel and I should suppose not much could be done about the organ before next fall or winter, i. e., as to placing it in the building.

The principal use will be for daily and Sunday chapel services, but a college with women ought surely to have a department of music, and I would not say that the organ would never be used for recital purposes.

I will ask the architects, Allen & Collens of Boston, to send you plans showing space provided for the organ and its location in the building.

We have no fund for the care of the organ. I know you will understand the general character of instrument we desire. I am sure we shall not be led astray by fancy features since we want an instrument for daily practical use.

Faithfully yours,

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

May 3rd 1915

My dear Dr Thomas

I received the plans for the new chapel and your paper last week. I have not had time as yet to give the plans a careful study but I can offer some suggestions later that may be helpful. Could you let me know how far the building has advanced for I presume you have broken ground for it. I presume <sup>also that</sup> you would like my ideas as soon as possible

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

The plans seem to indicate that your architects have us around a divided organ one half on each side of the chancel or choir.

If this is your plan also Good is a small amount for it, I fear too small.

If it is not to be divided which is not necessary, there will be advantages gained both in first cost and upkeep, as I see it now.

But I will try to give you more definite opinions soon. Kindly let me know if great haste is necessary. I shall work accordingly.

Yrs. Truly  
Lowell D. Brigham

Have you stipulated that the organ shall hold

just so many pipes or is it immaterial.

may 6, 1915.

Mr. Lowell I. Brigham,  
3 Berwyn St.,  
East Orange, N. J.

My dear Mr. Brigham;

I have received your letter of May 3rd and am glad to know that you have the plans and have given them some study. The excavation for the chapel is complete and the foundation walls nearly up. We expect to go right ahead with the building.

The architect found it advisable to provide the space on either side for possible use of the organ, but it has not been our intention at any time to have a divided organ. I stated to the architect that we desired ample room for a choir. It is always possible in a college to secure a large and good choir and we thought it wise to have space for one.

I have received specifications from the Wstey Company and from the Ernest M. Skinner Company with accompanying letters, which I am now sending to you. I expect to have specifications from the Austin Organ Company in a short time which I shall also submit. I shall be very glad to receive these materials again when you have had opportunity to examine them.

Again let me thank you very much for the work you are doing for us.

Faithfully yours,



3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

May 11th 1915  
My dear Dr Thomas,

I received to day  
your letter with specifications  
enclosed. I will return them  
as soon as possible.

From my consideration of  
the plans thus far I see  
no reason why the organ  
and the way to the choir all  
need to be crowded on one side.  
The space on the other side is  
the same. Besides locating  
the organ in the north west corner  
the coldest, if the chapel faces  
south as I think it does, it  
necessitates raising the organ loft  
floor & making <sup>extra</sup> head room below  
it. With the console opposite it makes

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

an electric action is necessary  
This is expensive for an organ  
of this size - a pneumatics is  
generally used.

If you put the organ where  
you now propose to  
put the false pipes  
there will be several advantages  
and you will get more  
organ for your money.  
I shall write more fully  
next week and shall send  
a little plan to show  
what I mean. These suggestions  
will apply to any organ  
If you can get the instrument  
located at the best advantage you  
can get better result in any way  
I hope further study will conform  
Very yours  
Yrs Truly  
Wm. H. Brigham

Middlebury-000695

May 12, 1915.

Mr. Lowell I. Brigham,

3 Berwyn St.,

East Orange, N. J.

My dear Mr. Brigham;

I have just received additional specifications for the organ, from the Austin Company and also from J. W. Steere & Son. I am sending these to you with the accompanying letters. I have informed all of the builders that I wished to receive a report from a friend who is advising me, i. e., yourself, after which I may be glad to confer with them further.

I hope this matter is not giving you too much labor and trouble and I shall be very grateful for your counsel.

Faithfully yours,

3 Berwyn St

E. Orange N.J.

May 17th 1915.

My dear Dr. Thomas,

After making some study of the plans kindly sent me by Allen Collins I send you these suggestions, which I trust will be helpful.

The plans show on right and left of the choir a space approximately 16 ft 9 in long, or deep by 11 ft 9 in wide. It has been arranged to locate the organ in the space to the left of the choir as one facet while the opposite space is used as a vestibule. This arrangement has to my mind some distinct disadvantages as follows.

- I. It places the organ in the coldest corner of the S.W. corner building - the North West. I am assuming that the chapel faces South. This is made worse by the fact that the upper portion of a window comes into the organ room; all such windows should be made tight - blocked up in any organ room.
- II. The necessary raising of the floor on which the organ stands in order to make room for access to choir + chancel.

You will note that the plans show (2)  
the organ floor - or floor of organ loft - to be  
2 ft above the <sup>front or</sup> feet of the, shown pipes which  
are carried or conveyed down from the organ.  
This is deceptive as the openings thro which the  
sound of the organ comes into the church  
and choir are not as large as they appear to be  
in fact are quite small.

The space in front is 7ft 1 1/2 in. wide and 11 ft high  
the one on the choir side 9ft 7 1/2 wide by 12ft high  
These figures are the measurements of the space occupied  
by the pipes when really the opening is 2 ft less  
high in each case viz 7ft 1/2 in. <sup>wide</sup> by 9 ft high and  
9ft 7 1/2 in by 10 ft high. The speaking space will

be further decreased if we allow 3 or 4 ft between  
the organ proper + the floor of the loft and some  
distance is necessary or at least wise. Lower floor  
4' 0"

Now the result of all this is to put your organ  
pretty high up, under the roof so to speak.  
In my judgment this would be unfortunate  
from a tone <sup>carrying</sup> standpoint especially when your  
auditorium is divided by a series of arches  
under which all sound must pass.  
The lower all sound is produced the better.

III The arrangement proposed makes it necessary to put the blower in the basement and convey the wind thro' a very long pipe and often this is inconvenient.

not clear

IV. The distance <sup>between</sup> the organ + console on key desk makes an electric action a necessity and all connection must go under the entire width of the choir.

The last two features do not permit the organ to be as compact as it might be and no matter what kind of action, personally I like the instrument more unified and can see little advantage in having <sup>it</sup> scattered in this instance.

WR

I have been unable to find out a comparison why the situation of the organ can not be changed to the North East corner using the space above the vestibule. The space is the same and the appearance will be <sup>the</sup> same and when the false pipes were to be the true ones will be. - the other side showing the false ones.

4.

The advantages of this may be briefly mentioned.

- I. The northeast corner is the warmer (the window to be blocked up in organ chamber as before)
- II. The floor of organ room need not be so high, <sup>as shown</sup> but be lowered at least 4 ft and still provide head room for the vestibule. This lowers the whole organ and allows the sound more space to flow out into the church. The <sup>front portion</sup> pipe space is the same as on the other side but the organ being lowered <sup>thus opening</sup> it is not crowded or reduced.
- III. The key desk will be near the organ and the action of rotation <sup>is</sup> will have to pass under a few feet of floor, as the key desk is <sup>a</sup> hoisted one, and can be easily reached from the vestibule.
- IV. If <sup>the</sup> architects will permit, the space not needed in the vestibule can be used for the blower still leaving room for passing in & out.

5

V. By removing a foot or two  
of choir seating & continuing the  
aisle, <sup>an</sup> it can be made through  
a small door & flight of steps  
into <sup>the</sup> vestibule. (no)

This will enable persons, organist & choir  
if necessary without crossing choir -  
then is now no way.

This will prove <sup>great</sup> value & suggest + + organist  
during the service if needed.

Generally speaking, with the organ  
on the east side we have a compact  
accessible plant and more effective  
as an instrument.

The more accessible it is the easier too it  
will be for tuners etc and hence less  
expense to maintain

You will note that a radiator will have  
to be moved in the vestibule but the changes will  
be slight.

Kindly let me know your final opinion  
as to the situation of the instrument and  
then I <sup>will</sup> take up the instrument itself.

I can only give as my opinion Middlebury-000701

6  
itself to use as an organist who has the  
usefulness of the instrument and its  
surrounding in mind.

Regretting that I have felt it necessary to  
make this letter so long for your reading

Merriman

Yrs Truly

Lowell H. Brigham

I enclose rough pencil plans that may help  
my explanations.

I would add that if an organ does not sound  
out as it might the builders very frequently  
blame the building sometimes justly.

It is quite necessary to have sounding conditions  
as good as possible especially if it is probable  
that <sup>local</sup> concerns will be dealt with whose organs  
may be swept in tone rather than full & majestic



Choir

Reading  
Desk

↑ space for  
2' organ action  
↓ floor under floor  
Enclosed Panels  
Removable

Blower  
for organ

up

2 3 4 5

16' 4" down

Stitch

11' 9"

this wall should  
be widened as on  
other side of not strong  
enough to hold organ  
the organ should  
be strongly supported.

auditorium

North East corner vestibule.  
showing entrance to choir  
and arrangements for  
organ above.

This should be put  
wherever organ builder  
suggests as most convenient.

Height of opening with chime

14' - 10"

4' actual opening

7 1/2"

apparent opening

Height of organ room 9' 9"

If the floor is lowered it makes this space 23' 4" It may not be necessary to alter roof as now designed & make room.

Floor line for organ pipes set 2 ft down

- New floor lowered 4 ft from old lowering organ and thus utilizing all opening This still leaves ample head room in vestibule.

Choir

\* vestibule

May 14, 1915.

Mr. Lowell I. Brigham,  
3 Berwyn St.,  
East Orange, N. J.

My dear Mr. Brigham;

I have received your careful letter of May 12th and am grateful that you have gone into the matter so thoroughly. Perhaps I should have explained that the chapel faces east, which perhaps would modify your opinion some. The relation of the chapel to the other buildings demands that it face the east and I should think it would be better to have the organ in the southwest corner.

I am inclined to think it would be better not to have an entrance to the choir as you suggest. I think it would be just as well on some accounts to have the only opportunity for entrance and exit in front of the choir.

Your other points seem to me to be very well taken and I shall submit them to the architects at once and get their judgment on the points involved. I will let you know what we decide as soon as possible, and in the meantime perhaps you will be interested in the specifications sent you.

You have given me just what I wanted, unbiased judgment in the sole interest of the college in securing a proper organ.

Faithfully yours,

East Orange, N. J. May 17, 1915

My dear Dr. Thomas;

Your kind note of Friday the 14th was received by me today and the organ specifications last week. I drew upon my memory for the location of the chapel and see that my points of the compass were quite wrong. You are quite right about the south-west corner being the best one as of course it is the warmer, being less exposed. I can see too that there may be special reasons for not having the entrance to the choir suggested by me in my letter. I am of the opinion, however, that it will be unwise to crowd everything in one corner if it can be prevented. Can not the whole arrangement be reversed, viz. the organ to remain in the south west corner but the entrance for clergy and choir with stairs to basement be put in the northwest corner? The key desk on console to be placed on south side of choir (opposite to present location) This would then permit the organ to be lowered 4 feet as suggested by me and the console to be brought near and blowing plant and other organ arrangements carried out. I am desirous if possible of obtaining a unified compact arrangement for reasons already suggested in a previous letter.

I have not as yet had opportunity to give careful study to the specifications sent me. My idea is that it is best to settle upon the final arrangements for the organ then if it shall be decided to make any great changes have your builders figure on the new conditions and submit figures to you. I may be entirely mistaken but I think they (the estimates) will be more advantageous to the college.

Your architects are somewhat uninformed as to the present methods of organ blowing but when new bids are asked for we can straighten this out.

Of course there may be reasons that do not appear on the plans why the suggestions made can not be carried out.

Thanking you for your kind expressions of appreciation,  
I remain

Yours truly,

*Lowell J. Brigham*

C O P Y

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

May 17th 1915

My dear Mr Thomas.

Your kind note of Friday the 14th was received by me today and the organ specifications last week.

I drew upon my memory for the location of the chapel and see that my points of the compass were quite wrong. You are quite right about the South West corner being the best one as of course it is the warmer, being less exposed.

I can see too that there may be special reasons for not having the entrance to the choir suggested by me in my letter.

I am of the opinion however that it will be unwise to crowd everything in one corner if it can be prevented.

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

2

Can not the whole arrangement be reversed viz. the organ to remain in the South West corner but the entrance for clergy and choir with stairs to basement be put in the North West corner.

The key desk or console to be placed in a corresponding position on South side of choir, opposite to present location. This would then permit the organ to be lowered 4 ft as suggested by me and the console to be brought near and blowing plant and other organ arrangements carried out. I am desirous if possible of

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

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My idea is, <sup>that</sup> it is best to settle  
upon the final arrangements  
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be decided to make <sup>any</sup> changes

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on the new conditions  
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I may be entirely mistaken  
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Your architect and somewhat

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

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methods of organ blowing  
but when new bids are  
asked for we can straiten that  
out.

Of course there may be reasons  
that do not appear on the  
plans why the suggestions  
made can not be carried out.

Thanking you for your kind  
expressions of appreciation

I remain  
Yrs Truly

Lowell Irons, Brigham

Boston, May 18th, 1915.

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

Dear Pres. Thomas;

We have your letter of the 14th and are very much interested in the suggestions, which Mr. Brigham has made. We think that you did wisely to call upon him for his comments. We would answer as follows:

1. The organ is to be placed in the south-west corner of the church and not the north-west as you know.

2. The floors in the organ chamber were so designed as to go midway between the two small windows shown on the side elevation and desired by Mrs. Mead. We would suggest in view of the criticism made that the windows be both plugged up by means of a marble panel and the floor in the organ chambers dropped 4'.0". Light could then be introduced into the vestibule by glass panels in the rear doors. This might entail a small extra for marble, which could be met as part of the cost of the organ.

3. You do not want your blower any nearer the congregation than you can possibly help. We have been through this a good many times, and our policy now is to place the blower as far away as we can get it - otherwise you will hear the noise in the auditorium. Do not change the location of your blower, except for some better reason.

4. The organ console should always be placed on the opposite side of the chancel from the organ - otherwise the organist does not get the full value of the sound which he is producing. Electric action is practically an essential in the modern organ.

5. The additional door suggested we do not feel is an essential of any importance, and we do not like to cut down the size of the choir stalls. We note that you do not approve of this item.

We trust that matters are going successfully at the chapel, and shall be interested to know how far the work has proceeded.

We return herewith the letter to you as per your request.

Very sincerely yours,

C O P Y

*Allen & Colburn*

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

May 27th 1915

My dear Dr. Thomas,

Yesterday a representa-

ative from an organ  
Company telephoned me  
urging me to use my  
influence with you  
to consider their company  
in addition to others.

He stated that he understood  
that the matter had been  
left largely in my hands.  
I declined absolutely, saying  
that all correspondence  
must be carried on thru you.  
I further told him that my  
relation to the work was not  
exactly what he thought it, as  
I did not consider myself

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

to hold the position of  
judge on my part  
but was warmly greeted  
friendly counsel I could  
in response to your request.  
Forgetting for the moment  
that I did suggest your  
writing to one New England  
builder. I said that my  
only advice was to keep  
your bids within New England.

This man represented a firm  
not in New England.

I write this definitely  
so that if any organ builder  
come to you saying that  
they had seen me your way,

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

that in every case  
I refused absolutely & do  
anything at all with them,  
telling them plainly that  
all must be done with  
you directly. Now have I  
commended their work.

If you prefer to be governed  
by the rule that only New England  
builders will be considered you  
will save yourself much bother  
& trouble and you have enough  
good firms there to do the work  
you want done.

I am looking over the specifications  
you have sent me but will  
wait to hear as to the situation of  
the organ before sending you  
my suggestions. Kindly remember me to  
your family. Yrs truly  
L. Harold J. Brigham



May 28, 1915.

Mr. Lowell I. Brigham,  
3 Berwyn St.,  
East Orange, N. J.

My dear Mr. Brigham;

I should have acknowledged earlier your kind letter of May 17th but I can plead that I have been exceptionally busy. We have just had the gift of a fine new dormitory, to cost about \$110,000, which matter is not yet ready for announcement.

I enclose herewith copy of the reply of Allen & Collens to the suggestions in your letter of May 24th. I should be glad to know what you think of their suggestions.

I will send them a copy of your letter of May 17th and get their further views.

I had a call the other day from a gentleman representing the Moller Organ Company of Maryland, who was very insistent. I did not absolutely refuse to consider his specifications, but I wish now I had done so. I think we had better give our serious consideration to the firms first suggested under your advice.

I have also had an interview with Mr. C.R. Putnam, representing the Estey Organ Company. They are very anxious for the commission, the organ being in a prominent location in their own state. Mr. Putnam said he would like much to have you visit their New York office, and I gave him your address.

Faithfully yours,

3 Berwyn St  
C. Orange N.J.  
June 1st 1915.

My dear Prothomas.

I have at hand your letter of the 28th of May enclosing that of Allen & Collins.

First of all I congratulate you upon the new gift. The building will be a splendid addition to your present equipment.

Because of my letter of Thursday last, I need not say more now about Muller & Co's representation.

You will be wise to keep your contracts within the bounds of New England.

The Estey Co's Boston office have informed me that you requested them to get in touch with us. Mr McCall their New York agent whom I know will see me tomorrow.

Now as to the letter of Allen & Collins.

I am pleased that they have given my suggestions such careful attention and trust that they will find them <sup>useful</sup> in some cases at least.

I will take up their letter in the order of its writing.

1. The South West corner is the proper one for the organ, my direction was not correct as you already know.
2. They intend to drop the floor of the organ chamber 4" as they use the plural I infer the height is

over South + North vestibules are to be dropped  
alike, and new arrangements of stairs etc. will  
be made for entrance into choir. 2

I hope that I may receive a rough sketch of  
whatever changes are made so that I can correct the  
plans I have.

(I still hope that one vestibule, the S. W. may be devoted  
to organ - access to its mechanism etc, while entrance  
to choir may be from the other)

3. If the architects prefer cellar location for the  
blower very well, my idea in suggesting <sup>the</sup> other  
situation was to get the wind supply pipe as short  
and direct as possible. It will doubtless be extended  
in the organ chamber from its present corner  
to the centre by a wind trunk and if the situation  
of blower in <sup>the</sup> cellar compels angles or elbows in  
the pipe so making a circuitous route, the blower  
must be surely adequate and these conditions  
allowed for.

From correspondence between your architects  
and Stearns Co. I infer that they (A+C) have a  
belted blower in mind, the motor supplied by the college.  
Very few organs are blown that way now as it is  
not satisfactory. Most builders now use a relay  
fan fixed to shaft of motor and suitably encased  
in steel. The outfit most used is called the Argyle and  
is made in Hartford. I enclose a cut of Middlebury-000713

all use this type of blowing apparatus <sup>3</sup>  
and it should be specified in contracts.

I fear with this <sup>pipe</sup> as I do about the scuttle that  
its location should be determined on after  
consultation with your builders.

H. as to the console situation -

The architects point out the advantage of hearing  
the organ from opposite side of chancel or choir.  
I must say that this seems to me more  
theoretical than actual. What the organist  
really wants to know is how the organ  
sounds in the church when the people are  
and this is a matter of experiment + experience  
and with the keyboard placed in a back corner  
as in the plans, not an ideal location, the  
chance of getting the effect in the church is  
still less.

In addition it compels you to put an electric  
action. From this <sup>may be the wisest thing to do</sup>  
but I can see no reason why <sup>the idea of the console on organ side cannot be</sup> submitted to builders unless

the building and woodwork has advanced so far  
as to make slight changes <sup>very</sup> of expense.

They will be able to determine or to suggest  
if there will be any real advantage or profit  
to the college. I am quite sure the expense will be less.  
Again not all your builders have been

4

had the same experience with electric  
actions. For instance the Austin + Skinner  
Cos build <sup>each</sup> iron in a month than the others  
do in a year and if I were building  
an organ I would probably give  
them the preference so far as this feature  
is concerned

This leads me to speak of the four builders  
before you. I speak generally and without  
special reference to the specifications sent me.  
I will send you an opinion on these later.

The Austin + Skinner Cos practically  
divide all the biggest + finest work of the  
country. The Steen + Estey people do some  
each about the same amount. but are not considered  
to rank with the other two.

as I know the Estey Co they have built a large  
number of small organs, 2 manuals, for churches  
where the amount expended is small and  
where <sup>the builder</sup> they must economize where it is possible  
These organs do not have quite the finish  
and quality of the first mentioned builders  
but give good service and satisfaction to their

5

purchasers and I hear good reports  
I think that they can build a good organ  
but I would inclined to make all <sup>architectural</sup> conditions  
etc as helpful as possible. These organs  
are all pneumatic - possibly a few  
Electric

Mr McColl of the Estey Co is to see me  
tomorrow and while not committing  
myself I will go over the plans and  
situation thoroughly with him and get  
his opinions which I shall reflect upon  
and send you for your consideration.  
I understand there are some good Estey  
organs in Vermont and I suggest that  
when you have time you hear some  
and judge of the tone for yourself

In all these opinions I am perfectly  
open minded and if I am not correct  
will gladly acknowledge it.

My idea of your ~~view~~ point is this. That if  
the Estey Co can give you an adequate  
& durable instrument you prefer them  
and with this view, if this be right I will

ascertain what I can about this company  
work first. I expect to hear some of their  
organs in a few days and will write  
you.

In view of the fact that I have spoken about  
architectural conditions I wonder if  
the arch <sup>facings</sup> over the choir thro which most of  
the sound must come can be made  
larger, both wider & higher, but especially  
wider. As the wall comes down on each side  
about 4' including mouldings it means that there is  
so much more organ behind a dead wall.  
It may be possible also to bring down the roof or  
ceiling of organ chambers as planned for the  
north west corner and so improve the tone production  
of organ. But there will be time for the decision  
about this last when the builder is selected.  
I am sorry that this letter is so long yet  
since you have asked for my opinion  
I am telling you <sup>know</sup> exactly what I think  
as I know you feel perfectly free to accept  
or reject any suggestions I may make.  
Of course the architects need not know my opinion  
of the organ builders this is between us.  
Yours very truly  
Lowell K. Brewster

3 Berwyn St  
E. Orange N.J.  
Jan 2nd 1915.

My dear Dr Thomas:-

Having had opportunity to compare the organ builders specifications I send you the results. I have taken them just as they appear on paper. You know that the stops of the same name may vary in size & quality with different builders. I am putting <sup>them</sup> all on the same plane of excellence ability etc in this study.

It would be wise and fair for me to say that I am conservative in my ideas of what an organ should be. There is a tendency to day to make an organ a very complex affair by arranging the action so that stops can be played on either manual (on a two manual organ) directly, and by elaborate pistons and combination arrangements. Electricity has made this possible.

In many ways these refinements have their advantages. As to the interchangeable stops I make each division of the organ larger depending on the arrangement and makes combinations available for solo work & special effects. But purchasers often do not understand



2.  
that tho they appear to be many stops on  
the console, inside there are not as many  
as some of them shown on both the small  
and great organs and can be played from  
both. Which ones they are, are definitely  
mentioned as interchangeable in our specifications

The danger is that the people are dissatisfied  
with the full organ thinking they have a  
larger organ than they really have.

Of course such an arrangement results  
in a larger showy console at a lower price  
than if each stop was equivalent to its apparent  
cost or tablet on the console.

This is <sup>a</sup> perfectly legitimate thing to do so long as  
it is definitely stated and organ builders  
consider that it is advantageous to small <sup>limited</sup>  
organs for reasons given above especially where cost is,  
As an example let me refer to the Skinner specifications.

The great organ is listed as having 7 stops but  
4 are taken <sup>from</sup> or are interchangeable with small leaving  
but 3 individual stops on the great.

The small has 9 the Pedals 5 at least 3 of which  
are from the small and a part of the 16ft Bourdon  
of great being used - leaving roughly 2 stops. Pedals

3

Thus we have qt. 3. as against 7 stop knots on key brand

Srr	9		9
Ped	1	Hr.	5
Total	<u>13</u>		<u>21</u>

has

The Austin Co but 1 stop interchanged or partly so  
 the Ped Board on "from great" with the following result.

qt. 6	as against	6 stop tablets
Srr 9.		9
Ped 2.	1 hr great.	3
<u>17</u>		<u>17</u>

The Austin + Skinner, <sup>Stem #1 (see)</sup> firms have used a fast <sup>3 thrusts</sup>  
 of the 16ft Board on of qt on the Ped. This, is one  
 reason why they have used this on the qt  
 manual because it gives fullness & great organ  
 and saves money by being available for pedals.

There is no indication on the specifications  
 of Estey + #1 of Steer that they propose interchanging  
 except in pedal from Small 16ft and they do not  
 call for a 16ft Board on on great but on Small  
 where ~~one~~ is usually found.

This gives Estey	qt 7	Steer Co #1-	qt 4
	Srr 10		Srr 9
	Ped $2\frac{1}{2}$ ( $1\frac{1}{2}$ <sup>notes</sup> from great)		Pd $2\frac{1}{2}$
	<u>19 1/2 stops</u>		<u>15</u>

Again you will note the extension  
of the 8th & great organ octave couplers  
on the Austin specifications giving  
73 pipes instead of 61. This is for  
the octave couplers so that even the highest 12  
notes may still be played in the octave above.  
This is of course the ideal way but is not.

suggested in the Skinner or Estey plans  
because of the added expense and  
because they are not often used.  
Whether to have them or not in an organ  
of this cost is a debatable question  
yet the Stein firm have suggested them <sup>on 8th</sup>  
as they have an octave coupler on 8th  
only as have <sup>the</sup> Estey and perhaps you  
can get the Estey to do it if you do business  
with them. as I say it is a question to spend  
money for this or for some other unused  
feature.

as to combination tablets pistons etc  
I fail to see why it is necessary to pay  
for such an elaborate console as for  
instance the Austin has altho it can be a stop

5  
console and cheaper on that account  
It makes an elaborate appearance  
and gives additional facilities to the  
organist but it strikes me that the  
instrument will have more blemishes  
than goods. The other specifications provide  
for adequate facilities for the size of  
the organ especially where tilting  
tablets are used.

There are other details such as blowers etc  
that can be taken up later and <sup>about</sup> in which  
the specifications are the same ~~practically~~.

In general leaving aside all consideration  
of tone quality workmanship etc. the ester  
scheme comes near my idea although  
it could be improved by such things as  
a part of the great in a small box in addition  
to the small organ. Considering the advertising  
they will get from building your instrument  
which they will make the most of, as it will  
be the most prominent organ they have  
built for some time and I think they

first college organ they can well afford  
to do their best for you. should you give them  
the order after further consideration.

While I do not feel that my study has  
been exhausted yet it may give you some  
basis for comparison and suggestions.

I will keep the specifications here until I receive  
word from you when I will mail them to you.

I have some further ideas as to the organ  
chamber I will also send as soon as possible.

I admit that in some of the organs I would  
be considered "old-fashioned" by some organsists  
but I would rather have the money in the organ  
itself as long as it is provided with adequate  
facilities than have it smaller and more fancy.

Regretting that my letters are so long.

Dream  
Yrs Truly  
Lowell J. Brigham

June 12, 1915.

Mr. L. I. Brigham,

3 Berwyn St.,

East Orange, N. J.

My dear Mr. Brigham;

I enclose a copy of a letter to Allen & Collens and would be glad to have your view of the matter. Personally I am inclined to put a good deal of faith in our builder's statement that he can make a sage organ chamber in this way.

I have been fearfully rushed recently and have not had time to take up your last suggestions on the organ builder. After our Commencement I want to go into the matter earnestly and come to a decision. A representative of the Austin Company was here yesterday and of course made a strong statement.

Faithfully yours,

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

June 14th 1915

My dear Mr. Thomas.

Your note of

June 12th reached me this  
morning. I received also  
the letter (copy) you sent to  
Allen & Collins.

Any way at all that will  
permanently prevent the  
cold from coming in around  
the window and the atmosphere  
effected by the <sup>cold</sup> glass will be sufficient.

Of course I know that this  
is your busiest season  
and for that reason have  
not expected to hear from you  
meanwhile I have obtained  
information especially about  
the Estey Organ from now interested

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

people that may be helpful  
to you. When I get home I  
will send you the sheets.  
With best wishes for a good  
Commencement.

I am, your truly  
Lowell I. Brigham.

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

June 19, 1915

My dear Mr Thomas.

Today a Mr

Fowler of the Austin Organ  
Co of Hartford, called me  
<sup>as requested by you he said</sup>  
up, and urged me to make  
an appointment with  
him to see some organs  
in N.Y. This I declined  
to do until I had heard  
from you and told him  
that you were busy just now  
with the Commencement. I was  
awaiting further suggestions  
in reply to some of mine.

He also told me that you  
were to visit the works in July 12th  
and urged me to do so. I made no promise.  
I shall send you my opinion  
of the Estey organ and what I

3 BERWYN STREET  
EAST ORANGE, N. J.

have heard about them  
the first of the week and  
shall be pleased to find  
out what I can about  
the others who have submitted  
bids. It would be better I  
think for me to hear directly  
from you before conforming  
with others in order that you  
and I may both be familiar with  
every step taken.

This is no reflection on Mr Fowler  
straightforwardness but that  
each may know what is being done

I remain

Yrs Truly

Lowell S Brigham



My dear Dr Thomas.

a more careful

study of the organ chamber and the openings especially into the chancel convince me that the question of further improvement ought to be carefully considered.

I have hinted at this before. Even if the floor is dropped 4' as proposed and allowing for the dropping of the ceiling correspondingly as shown by a diagram it still leaves much to gain a posterior of the chamber behind solid walls.

For instance, on the chancel side 20' in height from the new level leaves 6' above the opening and on the church side 7'. These means a space into which the sound will be struck

Also note <sup>that</sup> the side walls of arches cut down the opening still further. The result will be that the organ will be largely enclosed and fail to give forth its tone. This I know from experience.

By dropping down the floor 1' 6" more making 5' 6" in all and enlarging opening into chancel this dead space can be greatly reduced. Still allowing 20' for height of chamber the new floor level would permit:

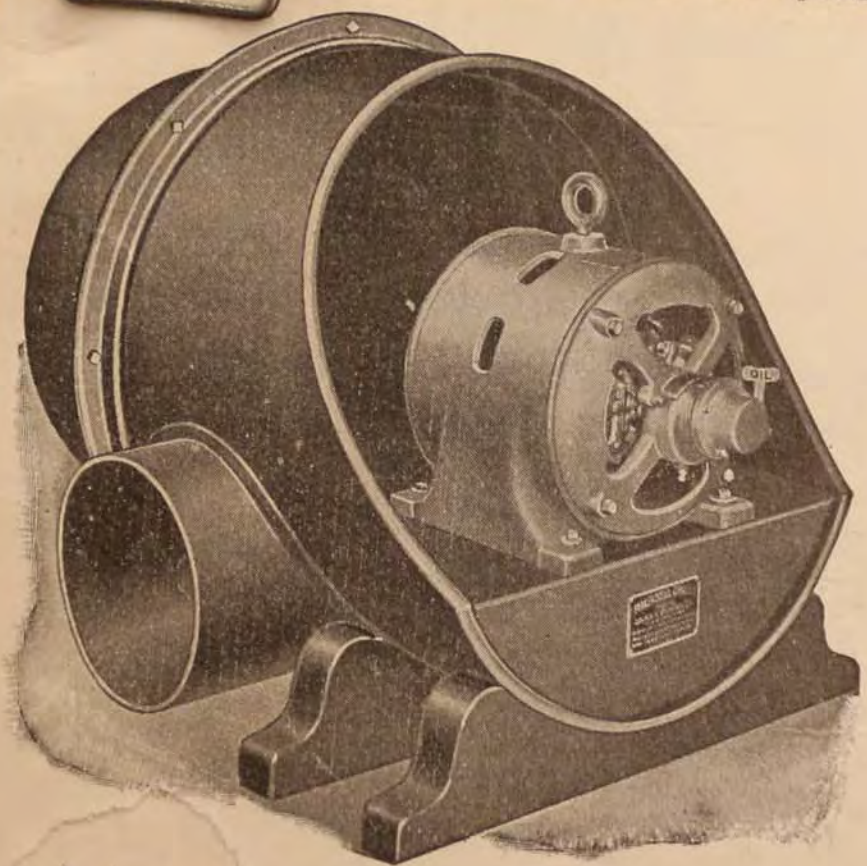
1. The roof to be framed as in rest of building
2. Make the top of chamber cooler
3. Improve acoustics & organ

I hope this can be improved for I believe it will make a great difference.

I am sending this as a supplementary note and trust that it is not too late.

Yours truly  
L. V. Bingham

The latest model steel electro welded turbine "Organo" is the result of experience in making over 5,000 electric organ blowers, together with the most modern factory equipment obtainable, without which it is practically impossible to attain the high efficiency of modern turbine blower practice. We sell more organ blowers than all the other concerns in this specialty put together.



Made in sizes from 1/4 to 60 H. P.  
**The Organ Power Co.,** Hartford Conn.  
 (Winners of the Gold Medal at Jamestown)

3 Berwyn  
 E. Braun  
 June

I requested  
 to I can a  
 the sources  
 one exception

been distributed organists, cl  
 and persons who have these organ

3 Berwyn St.  
E. Orange N. J.  
June 21st 1915

My dear Mr. Thomas.

as you requested I have obtained all the facts I can about the vestry organ. The sources of my information with one exception have been disinterested organists, clergymen and persons who have these organs in their churches.

The instruments I know about fall generally into two (2) classes, those costing up to \$3000 and those costing between \$3000 and \$5500.

Of the first group I have reports from nine (9) two of which I have personally heard and examined. all are pneumatic actions, some recently built, others in use 8 or 10 years. The consensus of opinion is that the action is reliable, responsive & durable

and accepting in one case needed no 2.  
extraordinary correspondence and <sup>that</sup> the  
instruments can be depended upon.

And the tone of the organs is generally  
satisfactory filling the church +  
suitable in quality. The people  
are pleased with the effects produced  
and with the instrument as a whole.

One organist is enthusiastic over their  
while another commends them but  
prefers the tone quality of another make.

As to the Ind class - those higher priced,  
such as your desire.

It has been difficult for me to obtain  
data about these because the Estey  
people build from medium size to large  
organs compared to the number of  
small ones and few of these larger ones  
are in this section. There are some in your  
state I believe.

I have definite information about  
two however, one in Mass. Middlebury-000730

3

in Ashington this state. This one  
I visited with Mr McCall, the Estey  
representation in New York.

Both these organs have the pneumatic  
action.

The mass. one like the smaller ones  
has proved reliable as to action and  
generally liked as to ~~its~~ tone.

Although one report is that it is an  
agreeable organ to listen to others say  
it lacks a certain mellowness and  
richness in quality. "~~to~~ brilliant."

The organ I heard in Ashington is  
evidently considered one of their  
most up to date productions.

It occupies a position similar to  
the one proposed for the chapel.

Its action was good, responsive and  
agreeable to play upon.

Its tone was not quite to my taste  
for while it filled the church the diapasons

were "stringy" as for tone it and  
the organ was incisive rather than  
round & smooth in <sup>general</sup> tone - it lacked  
richness.

I did not consider the needless orn  
to be equal in quality to the usual  
style yet as it has the advantage  
of staying in tune this may be of value  
to you in your situation

I noticed that the small box of the small  
organ was not as effective as some  
I have heard but this may have been  
due either to its construction or high  
situation under the roof.

The consideration of the various organs  
seems to show that altho less costly in  
materials & methods of construction <sup>than some other</sup>  
they are reliable and effective instruments and  
useful for all purposes.

Whether the peculiar advantages you  
will gain in many ways will compensate  
you for a possible lack of tone quality,  
as I see it, you only can determine

5  
by hearing their instruments for  
yourself. Organs of about the  
size you wish will give you  
the best idea.

The above suggestions are based on  
the organ as a whole without reference  
to the special specification before us.  
I will give you in a day or two my opinions  
of all these sent me. My feeling is  
that each can be improved since they  
are tentative merely.

In any case and especially necessary  
if there is any doubt as to fulness of tone.  
I would suggest that the organ chamber  
be made as ideal as possible and  
will send further suggestions to this end.

I remain

Yours very truly

Lowell D. Brigham

You may not know that Mr. Henry Plunkett, organist,  
whom you <sup>may</sup> remember is connected with the piano department  
of Estey Co. in New York. Should you decide to do business with this  
concern his opinions as to details would be of value.

Dear Dr. Thomas. July 6th 1915

I write to give  
you my summer  
address in case you  
wish to write me.

I presume that you  
have received my long  
letter in regard to the organ  
but doubtless you have  
been too busy closing  
the college year to give  
any thought to the subject  
as yet.

With remembrances to your family  
I am yr

Lowell I. Brighley



1581

"TWIN MAPLES"  
R. F. D. No. 1, MORRISTOWN, N. J.

July 25, 1916

My dear Mr. Thomas.

My father, sister,  
and myself are about  
starting <sup>on</sup> a little trip  
through Lakes George & Champlain  
& Burlington. It is our  
hope to run down to  
Middlebury for a day  
and look about.

Yours and your family  
will doubtless be in  
your summer camp  
but I write you to make  
sure that the college  
buildings are open at least

"TWIN MAPLES"

R. F. D. No. 1, MORRISTOWN, N. J.

The news of them to visitors  
at this season.

Usually they are young  
students who mean  
to show visitors about and  
I presume it is so at  
Middlebury.

I trust that you & yours  
are in good health and  
that after a most  
successful year you are  
enjoying your vacation.  
I shall be at the Vermont  
Hotel in Burlington if we  
can get suitable accommodation

of which there is little  
doubt and so if you  
wish you can write  
me they.

Trust that you are well  
satisfied with the chapel  
& its organ.

Kindly remember me  
to your family.

Yrs Truly,

Lowell S. Brigham

He will be in Burlington on Friday  
the 28th if all goes well and  
will make it our headquarters  
for a few days.

Dear Mr. Thomas. July 15th 1915

I write a few lines  
to acknowledge the receipt of  
your letter with the new proposal  
of the Estey Co. I will study it  
compare it with the others etc  
and let you know what  
I think as soon as possible.  
Mr. Brittain doubtless has  
amplified the fact of the  
four new or additional stops  
they offer. Frankly I am not  
overimpressed as something  
of this kind is customary <sup>with some concerns</sup> where  
competition is sharp.  
As to the stops themselves I  
will write later.  
You of course will not award  
any contract until you have  
heard some of their organs  
for this is the most satisfactory way

"TWIN MAPLES"

R. F. D. No. 1, MORRISTOWN, N. J.

and you can be the best  
judge as to the organization's  
ability to meet your needs

I shall take up Mr. Putnam's  
note in my letter

Thanking you for your  
confidence

I am  
yours

L. H. Brigham

Dear Dr. Thomas.

July 19th 1915

I send you my opinion  
as to the additional stops etc  
according to the last proposal of  
the Estey Co with other suggestions  
that occur to me.

Before speaking of the stops I would  
refer to the note about the string stops.  
I fear that my meaning in my  
letter was not quite clear. My reference  
& criticism was not to the string stops  
in themselves but to the quality  
of the Open Diapason. This appeared  
to me to be of a "stringy" quality  
rather than ~~as~~ <sup>and</sup> full mellow, as I like.  
As you know the Diapason tone  
of an organ is the fundamental  
one and an instrument is estimated  
according to its excellence & quality.  
This has a bearing on the other stops  
for if the tendency of the fundamental  
tones is stringy, the other stops should  
be added with this in mind, that  
a fine ensemble be obtained.

"TWIN MAPLES"

R. F. D. No. 1, MORRISTOWN, N. J.

As to the additional stops.

Those suggested, the pedal stop  
& accepted, do not appear <sup>to me</sup> to be  
as valuable as others that  
might <sup>be</sup> suggested.

I would advise you to consider  
well before accepting the three  
manual stops if you can  
get the Estey Co to give you others  
or other advantages in their place.

I will take them up separately.

My reasons for hesitating are based  
not only on your situation but  
on my own experience. I've  
put in an organ in the Central  
Chr of Orange a few years ago. It is  
a fine one but it has some  
of the stops suggested to be added  
to yours so I can draw some  
conclusions. It is about the  
same size as the College wants.  
built by another builder.

as to the additions.  
I. The Suba (Great Organ)

although leather tipped and therefore promised "round and smooth" ~~it~~ will be a stop for occasional use only and not available always for these reasons

I. It is a hard, hard to keep in tune, easily affected by changes in climate  
(note that <sup>the</sup> Estey Co specialize on their needless obs on this account)

2. The nature of the stop makes its use limited and probably at Commencement or other formal occasion, would be the only times it would be of real use.

3. The organ has a stop of this kind in the Small Cornopean. If the one in your organ be made a large scale, it will be a good substitute



making the other unnecessary.  
The Estey Organ in Arlington Vt.  
has just thru arrangement  
with good results.

You could do the same thing  
at Central Ch. Remove the Gt Reed  
replace it with a more useful  
stop and the <sup>over</sup> cornopean, small  
would give us all the <sup>big</sup> need we need.

II. The Fox Terminus (on Small)

This stop as you know is a  
delicate solo stop. I doubt the  
wisdom of including it.

- 1. It is most susceptible to climatic  
changes, rarely in tune,  
and as a solo stop ought  
to be used with great discrimination  
as a little go is a long way.

2. You have a Fox Celeste and this

good solo stops so that, is not  
necessary

The nature of the stop makes  
it delicate + uncertain and  
they are not always tonally satisfactory

III. Solo Flute III Ranks. (Small)

I admit that the use of  
a stop in ranks nowadays  
on an organ the size of yours  
is new to me, and most  
unusual I think.

It has decided disadvantages

1. It is costly to tune + maintain  
3 pipes to each key
2. It adds to the brilliancy  
of the organ. You already  
have octave couplers etc  
to make it brilliant enough
3. It is a stop of a fancy solo  
type that does not appear to  
have much place  
on an organ such as you have in

"TWIN MAPLES"

R. F. D. No. 1, MORRISTOWN, N. J.

mind

III.

Pedal Shute. This is a good stop, giving a great foot pitch, adding to the richness & value of the Pedal organ.

Of course it may be that the special conditions of a college organ may make these stops of unusual value yet I doubt it.

Would it not be profitable to confer with the builders about them or some substitute?

Personally I would much rather have an organ with the extra money they are going to spend put in in a small box on great

with some of the Great Organ stops in it and a nice rich wood stop added to the great. This would help the quality of the great organ and be a good solo stop too.

The Estey Organ mentioned above had this arrangement and a good wood tone, a Saxophone I think, added to Great. This gave an excellent effect. The solo effects you would obtain by having the small great stops in a Small Box would more than equal the effects obtained through fancy stops on Small. I have an idea that a still better scheme can be

out on the present basis  
I send you back the two <sup>sets</sup> ~~specifications~~  
specifications. I will <sup>still</sup> keep  
the others in case any further  
comparisons may be necessary.

I note that the warrant if ~~some~~  
say "for five years" the ~~rest~~ says  
"any term" etc as you will see  
Your special clause is only for 1 year.

You will notice also the significant  
line on bottom of 1st page of ~~rest~~  
contract about "verbal agreements"  
When final contract is prepared  
all clauses should be put in  
body of contract which the Company  
will do I suppose  
after with the best intentions misunderstandings  
arise thru indefiniteness of terms.

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R. F. D. No. 1, MORRISTOWN, N. J.

I am, you see, giving you  
whatever suggestions  
come to me altho I know  
that <sup>in</sup> some cases they may be  
unnecessary.

In regard to stops, I feel that  
that you want the most  
serviceable and efficient one  
you can get for the amount  
expended, and my ideas as  
to changes are suggested merely.  
I feel too that the Estey Co should  
offer the college a good deal  
for reasons mentioned in a previous  
letter.

I shall be glad to do anything  
further I can.  
Yours very truly  
Lowell D. Bryant

I include specifications of Arlington of you. It may without you

Additional note

I understand that according to clause on p 5 about Combination pistons the stops on pedal organ can be added & on left off Combination pistons at desire of organist. If they are left off some means of moving them, <sup>except they heard</sup> so that ~~one~~ can obtain pedal forte or piano would be helpful.

It is very desirable to change manual stops without effecting pedal- and to control pedal stops alone.

II. Note Clause as to Small box no thickness is specified nor what kind of materials. assure yourself that it will be right Austin specifies 1/2" thick

July 27, 1915.

Mr. L. I. Brigham,

Morristown, N. J.

My dear Mr. Brigham;

I enclose a copy of the reply of Mr. C. R. Putnam of the Estey Company to your careful suggestions. He has handled the matter with entire frankness, without reference to personal opinions, as of course should be done. I should be very much interested to have your judgment on the considerations advanced by Mr. Putnam in this letter.

Faithfully yours,



July 23, 1915.

Mr. L. I. Brigham,

R. F. D. 1,

Morristown, N. J.

My dear Mr. Brigham;

I thank you very much for your careful letter. I have studied it with some pains and it seems to me you have given us some very valuable information. Before deciding definitely on the points involved I want to hear what the Estey people have to say. I am therefore sending them a copy of the major portion of your letter.

I am just leaving for a Sunday appointment and have not time to discuss the matter as fully as it deserves.

Faithfully yours,

Aug 3rd 1915.

My dear Dr Thomas.

I am sorry to have delayed in reply to your letter of July 26th but I have been away and therefor could not give it a complete answer.

I note the detailed explanation of Mr Pitman sent with your note. My desire in this matter is not so much that any special suggestion of mine be carried out as that certain things should be brought to your attention from the practical side - and not from the organ builders merely.

judge

Now yourself are the best of  
the requirements, ~~as~~ you  
know the conditions best  
By conditions I mean, the  
general use of the organ,  
the accessibility of Middlebury  
for tuners etc, the consequent  
cost and the funds available  
for maintaining the instrument.  
The situation concerning the stops  
is about this, it seems to me.

If for special reasons you prefer  
the stop concern it is simply  
a question of <sup>getting</sup> the best and most  
you can from them.  
They want your contract  
very much and not only  
wish to fill your requirements.

but wish to have an organ  
then that will be "effective" and  
telling in recitals with popular  
stops.

I enclose also a page from  
the catalogue - giving specifications  
for a Two Manual organ.

This you see is the scheme  
of stops submitted to you.

However I indicate that it is  
one they have carefully studied  
out meticulously and doubtless  
as to its popularity and its cost  
to them to build. For all these  
reasons I doubt if you could  
get them to change it. It may  
be that they would not be  
quite so willing to make  
different changes as they might

"TWIN MAPLES"

R. F. D. No. 1, MORRISTOWN, N. J.

not

be able to make them at a little expense.

I am suggesting this for your consideration only as it may give you a sidelight on the Estey proposition.

The fact that they have given careful consideration to the stops now proposed in the past, may assure you as to their desirability and usefulness.

In view of the above it is hardly necessary for me to answer Mr Acton's letter in detail.

We have in our church one of the finest and finest two manual instruments in the Orange built by one of the best builders in the country and for our use

"TWIN MAPLES"

R. F. D. No. 1, MORRISTOWN, N. J.

I would carefully consider  
the omitting of the Reed on  
it and Dr. Hermana on Small  
But it may be that for your  
type of work they would be  
more useful.

as to reeds in general if they were  
not susceptible and delicate  
organ builders would not lay special  
stress on their reeds as being  
superior etc. nor would a reedless  
oboe ever be pushed by the  
Estey Co.

The last clause of Mr. Putnam's  
is however very fair. I see no reason  
why you should not take  
advantage of his suggestion  
and incorporate a clause  
in the contract for if after  
a gross case, The Sub

## "TWIN MAPLES"

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should be found unpleasant  
in quality and uncertain  
in tone and the Dr. Humana  
out of shape most of the time  
they could be replaced by more  
useful stops

As suggested in a previous letter  
I hope that details such as  
location of scuttle holes, <sup>wind,</sup> piping  
etc. can be left until you select  
a builder. Perhaps a conference  
can then be held about these  
things between <sup>the</sup> organ convenor  
& architect.

Mr Putnam does not say what materials  
make up the flute mixture perhaps  
it is 8' 4' + 2' feet. If so personally I  
would prefer them as separate stops of  
each pitch which perhaps would

## "TWIN MAPLES"

R. F. D. No. 1, MORRISTOWN, N. J.

cast iron, but <sup>then it</sup> could not be  
drawn as one stop. as a cast iron

I trust that this letter covers  
your note & Mr. Putnam sufficiently  
if not I will write more  
specifically.

I remain

Yrs Truly

Lowell J. Brigham



August 13, 1915.

Mr. L. I. Brigham,  
R. F. D. 1,  
Morristown, N. J.

My dear Mr. Brigham;

I wish to thank you for your letter of August 3rd. Like all your communications, it showed very careful study of our problem and I can only repeat that your co-operation has been very helpful. We have decided to close the contract with the Estey Company on the basis of their second submission, inserting in the contract, however, the clause as to a possible substitution in stops. I am confident they will do the best they can for us and I think they have more reason to be interested in this contract than any other builder. They have several service contracts in points beyond us and since Brattleboro is only about one hundred miles distant it should not be difficult for them to keep our instrument in good condition.

I want you to know that I feel that in several important respects our organ will be the better and more durable because of your counsel. I hope some time I may see you in person to thank you for what you have done and I wish particularly that the time may come when you can visit Middlebury, after the organ is in place, and judge ~~as~~ the results of the work.

With very cordial regards both to your family and yourself, I am

Faithfully yours,

Aug 21st 1915

My dear Dr. Thomas

Your kind letter expressing  
your appreciation of any help  
I might have given you  
has been most welcome. I thank you for it.  
It has been a peculiar pleasure  
to be of any assistance I  
could to you in this matter.  
It has not only renewed our  
acquaintance but has brought  
again to us the pleasant  
memories of that time when  
we worked together in the  
Ashtington W. Church.

I have always been glad for  
those years then, for the messages

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from the receipt and for  
the men I came to know  
besides you yourself.

On the whole I believe that  
the organ question has been  
wisely decided. as you say  
(<sup>John says</sup>) they have more reason & are  
interested in the organ than  
any other builders.

as I have already suggested  
it will mean more to them  
than it will to the college & for  
this reason I am sure they  
are not offering you any too  
much.

They might have done more  
for patriotic reasons. But

is your hand gotten more  
than you could from  
others. Undoubtedly they will  
do their best for you in the instrument

I shall still keep the other  
specifications and the plans  
for awhile so that should  
you wish other information  
I can possibly furnish it.

I hope some day to come  
to Middlebury and see organ  
& chapel finished & in use.

If I can be of further help  
& you let me know.

Again thank you for your letter  
and with regards to your family  
I remain  
Lowell Brigham

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August 25, 1915.

Mr. Frank G. Clark,  
213 Second Ave.,  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

My dear Mr. Clark:

I thank you very much for your subscrip-  
tion of \$15 to the Hudson Fund, payable February 1,  
1916. I am not so much concerned as to the amounts  
given as with the number responding, since I am very  
sure if I can get a generous response from our alumni  
to the best of their ability, other friends will make  
up the balance. I hope this movement will appeal to  
our friends and I believe in the end it will.

I wish you could be here to see the pillars  
of the new Chapel rise and the outline of the magnificent  
Hepburn Dormitory take shape. I would do your heart  
good, I know.

With best regards, I am

Faithfully yours,

228  
December 31, 1915.

Hon. Willard R. Cray,  
909 New York Life Bldg.,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Judge Cray;

I have received your letter of December 28 with draft for \$100 in payment of your subscription to the Henry Norman Hudson Professorship. You have been carefully mindful of your promise and I thank you sincerely. The fund has not come along very fast, but I think we have sufficient encouragement to give us hope that some day we may have the professorship we so much need and which will commemorate a most worthy name.

I have been working with our finance committee to secure another grant from the General Education Board. Our application is for \$150,000 towards a fund of \$500,000, toward which, however, the Hepburn and Mead buildings would count as \$200,000. This would leave us \$150,000 to raise, which I am sure would not be at all impossible. It is very difficult to persuade this Foundation to make a second grant to any institution and it is quite probable that we shall not succeed, but we have some good friends, especially in Mr. Hepburn.

The year is going very satisfactorily in every way. The two fine new buildings bring heart and courage to us all. Today Doctor Mead's chime of bells will receive final adjustment in the new chapel and we expect they will greet the new year.

Thanking you for your kind wishes and with very cordial regards, I am

Faithfully yours,

November 2, 1915.

The Century Co.,  
Union Square,  
New York City.

Gentlemen;

We are using in the Middlebury College chapel Hymns of Worship and Service, fifth edition, 1905, red cloth with leather back. Could we get fifty additional second hand copies?

We shall probably require a new book when we enter the new Head Memorial Chapel some time during the winter. What have you to suggest?

Faithfully yours,

THE CENTURY CO  
PUBLISHERS  
353 FOURTH AVE: AT 26<sup>th</sup> ST  
NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF  
CHURCH MUSIC BOOKS

November 3, 1915.

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

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of the second inst., we are sorry to say that we have no second-hand copies of Hymns of Worship and Service. You describe our church edition, issued in 1905, the quantity prices of which are 75 cents per copy in full cloth binding and 90 cents in half morocco, transportation additional. We are a little puzzled because in 1909 we supplied Middlebury College with one hundred copies of the College Edition of Hymns of Worship and Service. Is this the book to which you refer? It is not, however, bound in red but in dark green, and the quantity price is 50 cents per copy in full cloth binding and 65 cents in half morocco, transportation additional. We do not know of a better book for college work than College Hymns of Worship and Service which is used in many of the leading universities of the country.

We have in our Church Hymnal a splendid all-round hymn and tune book which sells at very moderate prices, as you will see by our catalog.

The American Hymnal is a little larger than The Church Hymnal and more comprehensive.

Hymns of the Living Church is another book that has met with special favor in educa-



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NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF  
CHURCH MUSIC BOOKS

J. M. T.

tional work and this book, we are closing out at the special price of 50 cents per copy, F.O.B. New York.

Will you let us know the requirements of your chapel and we will submit for examination copies of our books which we think you would find best suited to your use.

Sincerely yours,

*The Century Co.*

1534  
November 4, 1915.

The Century Co.,  
353 Fourth Ave.,  
New York City.

Gentlemen;

I have received your letter of November 3. We are using the surviving copies of the college edition of Hymns of Worship and Service purchased of you in 1909, in connection with the 1905 church edition of Hymns of Worship and Service, of which we secured a number of excellent second hand copies from another dealer. We like the church edition better and would be glad to secure additional copies if we could find them at a low rate.

I think I explained that we are now holding chapel services in our gymnasium. A new chapel is under construction and we hope to begin its use during the winter. When we enter the new chapel we would like a new book, but we would prefer not to introduce the new book while we are using the gymnasium.

I think we would be glad to examine the American Hymnal with a view to its adoption when we enter the chapel. In the meantime if you learn of an opportunity to get other copies of Hymns of Worship and Service at not much expense, we will be glad to hear from you.

Faithfully yours,

June 21, 1915.

Mrs. Frank C. Dunn,  
52 Central St.,  
Gardner, Mass.

My dear Mrs. Dunn;

I thank you very much for your hearty co-operation in our endeavor to establish a Hudson professorship in recognition of Professor Wright's services. I could hardly state in the general letter how much interested he is in this movement and how thoroughly he has set his heart on its success. The responses thus far indicate that the endeavor meets with general approval, although I cannot say that the amounts go very far toward reaching the desired \$50,000.

I am very sorry that you cannot be with us at Commencement. The success of the first two days indicates that we shall have a most successful time in every way. Certainly the attendance of alumni is larger than ever before.

We are most happy over the new building Mr. Hebburn has begun to erect for us on the hill by the new Head chapel. It will accommodate 100 boys with room and dining hall, and is to be arranged in the most modern manner, fire proof throughout, etc., etc. You can imagine it is a great trial to me that Mr. Hebburn forbids my making a public announcement of such a fine addition to our plant.

With best wishes, I am

Faithfully yours,

February 9, 1915.

Estey Organ Co.,

120 Boylston St.,

Boston, Mass.

Attention Mr. C. B. Putnam

My dear Mr. Putnam;

I received your letter of February 3rd and was glad to learn that Colonel Estey had seen our chapel plans and that you had made acceptable suggestions to the architects.

I am at a loss as to what to reply to your inquiry. Governor Mead does not feel like adding to the amount he has provided for the building and we shall need all of this for construction, without an organ or a bell. It seems that it will be necessary for us to provide for the latter from general college funds, which of course we dislike to diminish.

Under these circumstances I doubt if we should hasten with plans for an organ, which is perhaps not absolutely necessary for the use of the chapel.

Faithfully yours,

June 29, 1915.

Mr. C. R. Putnam,  
Estey Organ Co.,  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Putnam;

I have your letter of June 28th.  
I have had more to attend to than I expected  
and have not been able to make progress in the  
study of the organ question as I had hoped.  
I am still very busy this week and while I  
expect to be here Thursday evening, I dislike  
to have you spend your time when I have really  
made no advance in my own mind since our former  
interview. I really think it would be better to  
delay our conference a little further and I am  
sure you would not suffer by doing so.

Faithfully yours,

# ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY

J.G.ESTEY, PRESIDENT.  
J.H.ESTEY, TREASURER.

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LONDON.

BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT, U.S.A.

SALES DEPARTMENT FOR NEW ENGLAND STATES  
120 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

June  
28th  
1915.

Dr. John Thomas,  
Middlebury.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

This was the week I was to come up to see you and I am planning to go to our factory and to Middlebury. Will no doubt reach Middlebury Thursday or Friday. I will be glad to have you drop me a line on receipt of this letter, and if you would prefer to have me come July 6th or 7th, it will be as convenient for me.

Yours very truly,

ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY.

*C. R. Putnam*

P/S

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June  
Second  
1915.

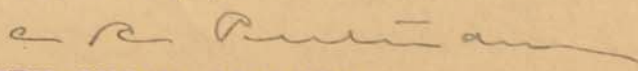
Dr. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I enclose for your inspection list  
of Estey Pipe Organ purchasers.

You will find the smaller folder is  
a supplementary list which includes everything up to  
a few months ago.

Yours very truly,

  
ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY.

P/S

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120 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

June  
Second  
1915.

Dr. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I have your good letter of May 28 with which you enclose correspondence with Mr. Brigham.

Mr. Brigham has gone into this at some length, but I fear he is a bit set in his ways and perhaps a little old-fashion.

I agree with him in reference to the openings into the organ chamber. I took this up with the representative of Allen & Collins, who advised that the front opening into the chamber could not be enlarged and that the floor of the organ chamber could not be lowered. This fault can be overcome in a way by lowering the ceiling of the organ chamber and by placing the Great organ chest near the front opening and as near the floor as possible.

When the console is directly connected to the organ, the organist is at a disadvantage as he cannot possibly judge just what tonal effects he is producing as he could if he were placed 20' or more away. At Saco, Maine, the organist is 80' from



2.T.

the main organ, and the organists who have played upon it agree that it is ideal.

When an organ is elevated, the console should not be located on a lower level near the organ, as many of the tones will shoot out over the organist's head and he does not hear the organ as it really sounds.

Another point Mr. Brigham has made, is in regard to the electric blowing outfit. We use over one hundred blowers annually of three different makes and have installed them under various conditions. It is always our aim to keep the blowers at a considerable distance from the organ. At Saco, Maine, there is an 18" wind trunk from the blower to the main organ nearly 100 ft. long; to the gallery section about 40' and to the echo section about 80'.

The space reserved for the blower at the Chapel seemed to be correct and the distance is not great and yet far enough so that you would not be troubled with any hum from the motor or fans.

As your Chapel will be heated at all times with a modern system, there should not be the slightest difference in temperature, no matter where the organ is located.

The set of plans which you sent me I forwarded to our factory so I am obliged to depend upon my memory. If the organ could be lowered 4', if placed on the opposite side of the chancel, this might be a wise move and yet if this is done I think the console should also be moved to the opposite side.

I will plan to see you immediately after Commencement week. By that time you will no doubt have a further report from Mr. Brigham.

Yours very truly,  
ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY

P/S  
ENC.

Middlebury-000775  
*C. R. Brigham*

May 28, 1915.

Mr. C. R. Putnam,  
Estey Organ Co.,  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Putnam;

I am writing Mr. Brigham in accordance with my promise. I hand you herewith a letter of Mr. Brigham dated May 12th, with sketches. After examination of this will you kindly return it, since I have no copy?

I am also sending herewith copies of reply of the architects to Mr. Brigham's suggestions, dated May 18th, and a copy of a second letter from Mr. Brigham dated May 17th. I should be glad of any judgments you may have concerning the matters involved in these communications.

Thanking you for your kindness in our interview of last evening, I am

Faithfully yours,

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120 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

May  
17th  
1915.

Pres. John Thomas,  
Middlebury.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I found this morning that it will be necessary for me to go to Burlington this week.

I plan now to go up tomorrow, see the people at Burlington tomorrow evening or Wednesday morning, and stop at Middlebury on my return trip, no doubt some time during the day on Wednesday, and will call you up to make an appointment.

With the hope that it will be convenient for you to see me at that time.

Yours very truly,

ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY.

P/S

*C. B. Rutman*

April 19, 1915.

Mr. C. R. Putnam,  
Estey Organ Co.,  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Putnam;

I have your letter of April 17th with suggested specifications for an organ for the Dead Memorial Chapel. I shall endeavor to give these ~~suggestions~~ careful consideration in connection with other specifications which we may receive. Doubtless you are right that we should accomplish more at a later interview than if you were to come to Middlebury this week.

Faithfully yours,

April 16, 1915.

Estey Organ Co.,  
120 Boylston St.,  
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen;

I have just received your letter of April 15th. I expect now to be in Middlebury next Wednesday or Thursday and shall be very glad to see you. Our trustees have voted to install a \$5000 organ and I am writing the firms whose names you gave me in your letter of March 22nd. for specifications. It seems to me that it would be fair for us to have them all together at one time for consideration. The sum mentioned should provide for the complete installation of the organ with all accessories, ready to play the first hymn.

Faithfully yours,

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120 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

April  
15th  
1915.

Pres. J. W. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vermont.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I am planning to be in Vermont next week and will be glad to have you advise me if it will be convenient for me to see you at Middlebury Wednesday or Thursday.

Thanking you for your reply, for which we enclose a stamped return envelope.

Yours very truly,

ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY.

P/S

*Chas. R. Putnam*

*The writer was obliged to leave before signing the above letter, dictated by him, - Steno.*

# ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY

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120 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

March  
22nd  
1915.

Dr. J.W. Thomas,  
  
Middlebury.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I have had a very interesting and satisfactory interview with Col. Estey in reference to specifications of an organ for Middlebury College and will be glad to confer with you at any time you may suggest, but would prefer that you first have in your possession bids from other builders who you desire to have submit specifications.

Over the telephone I suggested to you the Austin Company, Hartford, Conn.; The Ernest M. Skinner Company, Crescent Ave., Dorchester, Mass., as being not only reliable but up-to-date. There are other wellknown companies that have not progressed, one in particular that uses the old-fashion slide chests, etc., and then there are a half dozen or more small builders with no capital that have no reliable backing, they are, of course, dependent upon offering a large number of stops on paper. It is interesting to note that during the time we have been in the pipe organ business (15 yrs.) there have been nine pipe organ builders fail or go out of business in the New England states. Of course, the majority of them have re-organized and continued the business.

I will be glad to come up at almost any time you may suggest. I have appointments, however, that will keep me busy all of this week.

Awaiting your reply.

Yours very truly,

ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY.

P/S

*C. R. Putnam*

Middlebury-000781

February 12, 1915.

Mr. C. R. Putnam,  
120 Boylston St.,  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Putnam;

I thank you for your letter of February 10th. I prefer not to advise you as to seeing Governor Mead. Of course I cannot forbid your calling upon him, but I do not wish that any suggestion from me should put any pressure upon him to add to his gift to the chapel. He has decided the matter and so far as I am concerned the question is closed. My next step will be to submit the question to our trustees as to what we should do with reference to an organ, or whether we should get along without one. I should think it might be entirely proper for you to state to Governor Mead that I had told you that the college had assumed the responsibility of completing the chapel and that you would like to have the Estey considered in any plans for an organ.

Faithfully yours,



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SALES DEPARTMENT FOR NEW ENGLAND STATES

120 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

February  
10th 1915.

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

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I have your good letter of February 9 and while I am, of course, very anxious to see a new Estey Pipe Organ in the Chapel at the time of its dedication, yet I do not want to make any unwise move, and do not want to embarrass either you or Gov. Mead.

On my visit to Gov. Mead last fall he was very cordial, listened to my story and said to take the matter of the organ up with you, as you knew best what was wanted, adding that he did not have time to go in to details. He did say that the Chapel was costing more than he had first anticipated, but said that whatever we submitted to you would be submitted to him, as, he added, "I approve all contracts" or something to this effect.

Now please advise me just what to do. I will be very glad indeed to call upon Gov. Mead the next time I am in Rutland or it might be best for us to first submit to you specifications of an organ at \$5000 with plans, etc. It is quite possible that since my visit to Gov. Mead last fall he has reached his limit, in which case it would, of course, be improper for me to trouble him further.

We require about 6 mos' time to build an organ such as you would require for the Chapel, so there is ample time to consider the matter. Business has been very quiet in Rutland for the past year, although this might not have materially effected Mr. Mead's income.

I will appreciate any suggestions which you may give me.

Yours very truly,

ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY.

P/S

*C. R. Julian*  
Middlebury-000783

# ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY

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J.H. ESTEY, TREASURER.

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SALES DEPARTMENT FOR NEW ENGLAND STATES  
120 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

February  
Third  
1915.

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

Dear Mr. Thomas:

We have received a set of the blue prints from your architects and as Col. Estey was in Boston yesterday, we went over the plans very carefully.

Some time ago I called upon your architects and gave them a few general suggestions, which I noted they have incorporated in the plans and they are duly noted on the blue prints.

There are other suggestions we will be glad to make in regard to conduits, etc., and the sheathing down of the organ chamber to a proper point to do away with a bad pocket, but this we cannot very well do until the size of the organ is determined. Therefore, Col. Estey suggested that we write to you to ascertain if you have determined upon the amount to be put into the organ.

We would, of course, like to build a large double organ completely filling both organ chambers, but as this would run in to an expense of nearly \$10,000, we rather doubt if it is planned to spend that much money. The auditorium is large seating approximately 600 including the gallery, and even though the organ is to be of comparatively small size, it must necessarily be of large scale.

Col. Estey is in hopes that the appropriation for the organ, blower, and display pipes for the four arches, of which there is a total width of 34', will not be less than \$5000.

If you will advise us of the amount which will probably be spent for the organ, we can then give your architects further information in reference to size of conduits and proper arrangement of organ chamber.

Awaiting your reply.

Yours very truly,

ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY.

P/S

*on the American*  
Middlebury-000784

# ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY

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J.H. ESTEY, TREASURER.

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120 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

January  
12th 1915.

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

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I have your good letter of January 11 and in looking up the correspondence I find that I did not explain the matter fully to you.

It was my understanding that the organ matter might be held over for some time, but as I explained to Mr. Mead, we desired to see a set of the plans to see if proper space had been prepared for the organ, blower, wind trunking, etc. This can be arranged for as the building goes up without any additional expense, but it is an expensive matter to make alterations afterwards.

I recall the building of the Andover Theological Seminary at Harvard a few years ago, when these little matters were not given proper attention until the building was about half completed, and then changes were necessary involving an expense of over \$1000, all of which would not have been necessary had they had proper advice in the beginning.

This was also true of the Gate of Heaven Church at South Boston, where we recently installed a \$15,000 pipe organ. The extra cost in this church was a little over \$600.

We would be glad to go over the blue prints and make suggestions with the understanding that you do not place yourself nor the donors under any obligations to the Estey Organ Company by considering our suggestions.

Yours very truly,

ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY.

P/S

*EA Putnam*  
Middlebury-000785

January 11, 1915.

Mr. C. R. Putnam,  
Estey Organ Co.,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir;

I am sorry to disappoint you as to the chapel plans, but I do not think we had better consider further the matter of an organ at this time. I will endeavor to bear your request in mind and send you a set of plans later. I shall certainly not give them to any other organ firm before you.

Faithfully yours,

# ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY

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J.H.ESTEY, TREASURER.

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120 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

January  
Tenth  
1915.

Mr. J. W. Thomas,  
Middlebury College,  
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Referring to the new Chapel and the set of plans which you thought you could loan us, if you have not sent a set to our factory, will be glad to have you send a set direct to the Boston Office.

I will then take them with me to our factory, where I expect to visit within a week or ten days. After they have taken such memorandum as they desire, we will mail the prints back to you.

With the hope that you can spare a set of the plans at this time.

Yours very truly,

ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY.

*J. R. Putnam*

P/S

*Chapel*

# ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY

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J.H. ESTEY, TREASURER.

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**BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT, U.S.A.,**

SALES DEPARTMENT FOR NEW ENGLAND STATES  
120 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

November  
7th 1914.

Mr. J.W.M. Thomas,  
Middlebury College,  
Middlebury, Vermont.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I had a very pleasant interview with Mr. Meade, and we will be very glad if you will send a set of the plans to our factory at Brattleboro, Vermont.

We will copy such portions as we desire and return them to you, and with your permission will be glad to make any suggestions which might be helpful in properly arranging space for the organ, console, electric blower (which must be placed some distance from the organ) and wind trunking from blower to organ.

On my next trip to Vermont, I will plan to call upon you, as there may be some question which it would be to our mutual advantage to discuss.

Yours very truly,

ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY.

*Chas. R. Putnam*

P/S

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SALES DEPARTMENT FOR NEW ENGLAND STATES  
120 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

July  
9th  
1915.

Dr. John Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I have not replied to your letter, hoping to hear from you again.

I have interviewed Mr. Guppy of Allen & Collins, and Mr. Guppy has furnished me with a new set of plans, showing the change in the floor level of the organ chamber.

Some time ago I gave Mr. Guppy a memorandum in reference to space to be left for conduits and wind pipe from organ to console. This is our custom so that the architect may have this in mind. Mr. Guppy informs me, however, that they are not superintending the job, and he is not sure that this provision has been made.

I may go to our factory on Tuesday morning, coming up to see you on Wednesday. I hope I will be able to see you at that time.

Yours very truly,

ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY.

*C. R. Putnam*

P/S

Middlebury-000789

# ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY

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J.H. ESTEY, TREASURER.

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LONDON.

**BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT, U.S.A.**

SALES DEPARTMENT FOR NEW ENGLAND STATES  
120 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

July  
16th  
1915.

Dr. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

With further reference to the delivery date, you may put in both contracts the date you think the Chapel may be ready, all Col. Estey asks is that you keep him posted, notifying him about eight weeks in advance of the time you will want the organ completed in the Chapel.

I neglected to ask you for the name of the contractor, as we can take up with him direct the question of wind trunks and conduits, thus relieving you of any bother in the matter.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY.

P/S

*e R. Putnam*



# ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY

J.G. ESTEY, PRESIDENT.  
J.H. ESTEY, TREASURER.

ESTABLISHED 1846.  
CABLE ADDRESS  
ESTEY BRATTLEBORO.

NEW YORK.  
PHILADELPHIA.  
BOSTON.  
ST. LOUIS.  
LONDON.

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120 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

July  
19th  
1915.

Dr. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I find that the chimes in the tower of the Christian Science Church, Boston, Mass., were made by the McNeely Bell Company, 22-26 River Street, Troy, N.Y.

I could not learn the price, in fact, under the circumstances this would be something difficult to ascertain as nearly everything in this church was purchased by or through the architects and thereby hangs a tale.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*C. R. Putnam*  
ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY.

P/S

Middlebury-000791

July 23, 1915.

Mr. C. R. Putnam,  
Estey Organ Co.,  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Putnam;

I enclose copy of a letter from Mr. Brigham.  
I have studied this letter quite carefully but before de-  
ciding on any of the points mentioned I would be glad to have  
your advice on the various matters involved. I know you will  
give them careful consideration.

Faithfully yours,

July 27, 1915.

Mr. C. R. Putnam,  
120 Boylston St.,  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Putnam:

I have just received your letter of July 26th. I thank you for your careful consideration of Mr. Brigham's suggestions. I realize that the discussion must stop some time, but I want to know what he will say to your presentation of the matter, and therefore I am sending him a copy of all of your letter except the second paragraph and will write you further on receipt of his reply.

Faithfully yours,

# ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY

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SALES DEPARTMENT FOR NEW ENGLAND STATES  
120 BOYLSTON ST., BOSTON, MASS.

July  
26th  
1915.

Dr. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I have just returned to my office from a four days business trip to Maine and find your good letter of July 23 in which you enclose copy of Mr. Brigham's letter to you under date of July 19.

You will realize that it is somewhat difficult for me to handle Mr. Brigham's criticisms, as his age makes it almost impossible for him to get the up-to-date viewpoint.

With reference to the "stringy" quality of tone, this is obtained by using more block tin and when a purchaser admires the string tones and demands them, we are obliged to build the organ in that manner. Block tin costs eight times as much as lead, therefore, a so-called stringy organ is the more expensive. As a matter of fact we prefer not to have the string tones predominate, as we have found that while there are a great many organists and musical people preferring the string quality, the majority prefer the straight Diapasons, Flutes, and Reeds.

For the small organ of twelve stops or less, we recommend our reedless Oboe, as organs of this size are better balanced and do not require a real reed stop.

Many organs of the size we have specified for your chapel would have four or five reed stops in addition to the Vox Humana, but we have specified only two, and we feel sure those are absolutely necessary. We must have in mind that the Estey Organ Company have a process of manufacturing a brass reed which does not break, nor weaken and "fall down", dust is, therefore, the only bothersome feature of which it takes quite a bit to throw a good reed out of tune. The main reason why reeds are out of tune with the rest of the organ is that they stay where they are tuned regardless of the temperature, whereas wood and metal flue pipes rise and fall slightly in pitch as the temperature changes. This would not be one of your troubles, however.

Middlebury-000794

2. J.T.

as the heating plant in the chapel will be somewhat different than in the average church.

We could omit the reed stop from the Great organ and add another 8' Open Diapason. This would be the only possible substitution, but our advice is, "don't do it". As you will have organists play for you who would miss this reed stop in the Great Organ, the Vox Humana in the Swell, and the three-rank solo flute mixture, There ~~should~~ be one mixture stop or a 12th or 15th and the solo flute mixture fills the bill admirably. The combination pistons are adjustable, therefore, this or any other stop may be omitted from the combination pistons and crescendo pedal, if desired.

No doubt the Vox Humana stop is added to more organs already built of twenty to twenty-five speaking stops, than all other stops put together. There is the organ in the Congregational Church, North Cambridge, Mass., the Presbyterian Church, Columbus Avenue, Boston, Mass., and many others who have made this change or are contemplating doing so, and in each case they are obliged to sacrifice a set of pipes to make room for the Vox Humana. The difference between a modern Vox Humana and the old-fashion kind is about as marked as the contrast between an ox team and an automobile. Take one hundred organs, built by various makers within the past two or three years and I doubt if five could be found that did not include a Vox Humana. You will have many recitals in your chapel, and if you were obliged to sacrifice several stops, the Vox Humana should not be one of them.

In some instances it is practical to enclose a part of the Great organ pipes in a Swell box, but it would be unwise in the present case as Mr. Brigham has suggested in one of his former letters that you will necessarily lose a small percentage of volume on account of the openings to the organ chamber, therefore, it would be unwise to further reduce the volume by shutting off a part of the Great Organ. Then again, this is only practical when the Great and Swell chests are placed end to end. In your chapel the Great organ chest must be placed directly in front of the Swell organ and a box over the Great organ would cover and smother the entire swell organ.

I do not know the thickness of the average swell box, it varies according to the size of the organ and conditions. The swell frame covering the organ here in our room might be termed "of 3" thickness", as it is 3" thick at all points where there is frame work, but it is "built up" and in the thinnest parts is just a little less than 2" thick.

3. J.T.

There is one thing about which there is no guess work, if you select five of the best organist you have five different and distinct opinions. Col. Estey has aimed to give you an organ properly balanced of which he feels sure you would be justly proud, an organ of proper materials and workmanship and a credit to the name of Estey.

Here is a suggestion which may permit you to give us the contract without changing the specifications. We could insert a clause agreeing to remove the Tuba at any time within one year and substitute an Open Diapason of 8' pitch or any other 8' stop which you might select, we could also include the Vox Humana, as nearly all pipes of 8' pitch can be set on a Vox Humana chest. The solo flute mixture could not be changed, as nothing but a mixture would fit. You may insert any clause in the margin of the contract you may suggest to cover the above and I feel very sure that at the end of one year you will not willingly give your permission to change any stop in the entire organ.

I will be in my office the first four days of this week, Friday I go to Greenfield and Saturday will be at our factory. If you are away and you do not reply until Thursday, will be glad to have you write me at Brattleboro in care of the Estey Organ Company.

Yours very truly,

*C. A. Estey*  
ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY.

P/S

ORGAN FOR MEAD MEMORIAL CHAPEL AT MIDDLEBURY

Contracts were signed today for the erection of the organ, for the Mead Memorial Chapel which Ex-Governor John A. Mead has presented to Middlebury College. The commission for the organ has been given to the Estey Organ Co. of Brattleboro, Vt. The organ will be of two manuals with electro-pneumatic action. The console will be located in the chancel opposite the organ. The organ will have a total of 24 speaking stops and 1438 pipes.

The Great Organ will include two Open Diapason stops, Cornhorn, Dulciana, Gross Flute, Octave, Flute Harmonic and Tuba stops.

The Swell Organ will contain the following stops:- Bourdon, Open Diapason, Salicional, Aeoline, Voix Celeste, Quintadena, Stopped Diapason, Flute Traverso, Solo Flute Mixture, Cornopean, Oboe, and Vox Humana.

The Pedal Organ will consist of four stops - Open Diapason, Bourdon, Bass Flute and Lieblich Gedeckt.

The organ will contain a total of nine couplers, balanced Crescendo pedal, Sforzando pedal, and nine combination pistons. There will be no capped or mitred bases in any pipe in this organ of normally open tone. The blowing plant will be operated by a 5 h.p. electric motor, located in the basement directly under the organ.

**SPECIFICATION**

**ESTEY ORGAN**

**DESIGNED FOR**

MEAD MEMORIAL CHAPEL

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

MIDDLEBURY VERMONT

**FURNISHED BY**

**ESTEY ORGAN COMPANY,  
BRATTLEBORO, VT.**

*Date*..... *191*.....

**FROM**

**BOSTON OFFICE  
120 BOYLSTON ST.**