

Ex. 1 - Mead's Letter of Offer

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

President of Middlebury College.

My Dear President Thomas:-

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

John D. M. Wood

*Rutland, Vt.
May 11, 1914.*