

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



November 14, 1916.

Dr. John M. Thomas,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I felt there was something I wanted to speak to you about when you were in Rutland yesterday, but I could not just recall what it was. This morning it came to me when I saw the large envelope of papers, letters, etc., etc. which I have been accumulating during the construction of the Chapel, and I was wondering if you would think it advisable to get some party who was specially adapted to this sort of work and have him take this accumulation which I have and perhaps develop a little booklet from the same, giving the history, etc. of the above. I sometimes think it would be desirable and then again, I hesitate for fear people will look upon it as a purely personal matter and one in which the public in general would not have special interest.

Trusting you arrived home safely and feeling that you will rejoice that you started before this horrid storm overtook you, I am, with kindest regards to Mrs. Thomas,

Yours most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. M. Thomas".

November 15, 1916.

Hon. John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I am very greatly pleased with the suggestion contained in your letter of November 14th. It strikes me as a most happy thought from several points of view. It would be very interesting and helpful to preserve the record of the building of the chapel for future generations. Such a book would be highly prized by many Vermonters as well as the alumni of the college. It would serve to increase knowledge of the chapel and the regard with which it is held. I know that you have many friends who would be delighted to have the story of the chapel as it might be compiled from the papers which you have preserved. It is not at all impossible that it might be suggestive to others in the way of other needed benefactions.

Perhaps I ought to tell you that I have been preparing a little surprise for you and Mrs. Mead. My secretary has compiled a very neat manuscript including the addresses at the dedication, your letter of gift, and the various programs, and we are just about to send this to the binder. We are having one duplicate for preservation in the library. I think you will enjoy this little volume when it is completed, but a printed booklet, including additional matter, would be much more useful. What I had in mind was chiefly to attempt to show you something of my appreciation of the chapel.

I am sure you need have no hesitation in allowing such a compilation on the grounds to which you refer. I know you would find that there would be very general interest in it.

If you think Professor Wright could compile the manuscript, we would of course be delighted to undertake it. Doubtless our friend Tuttle would be pleased to see that it is given proper form. Once more let me express my great pleasure in your suggestion and my hope that you will carry it out.

Mrs. Thomas and I reached home quite comfortably and we both wish to thank you for your part in the generous hospitality of Rutland.

Faithfully yours,

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

November 16, 1916.

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

My Dear Friend:-

I have just received your very kind letter of the 15th inst., and have read the same with special interest and am pleased that the suggestion I made ~~you~~ meets with your approval. I confess that I was hoping that with something of this kind being done, it might stimulate some of our friends to pattern after Mr. Hepburn's example and give you an elegant dormatory for the girls or possibly something else which you might more desire at this time.

I shall be delighted to see a copy of the manuscript to which you refer and if I knew where it was to be printed, I might have, perhaps, a few copies struck off for my personal use. I almost feared you would think my writing you was a suggestion that you might use the material I have accumulated for the purpose which I suggested and for this reason I hesitated about writing you. But when you suggested Prof. Wright's assisting you, possibly it would not be so great a burden to yourself, as I feel strongly there is no one who could undertake this with such assured success as would you and Prof. Wright. Should any new plates or suchlike be desired to make the same more pleasing, I trust you will advise me and I will be more than willing to furnish the same. I do not know whether Tuttle Co. could do this job possibly as well as some others, and yet they might. If we undertake it, I should hope we might get the

Dr. J. M. T. #2.

very best. I have a few papers which I have accumulated in a large envelope and if you desire, I shall be very willing to send you the same any time you may suggest.

With very kindest remembrance to Mrs. Thomas and family, also to Prof. Wright and family, believe me,

Yours sincerely,

C. J. Picard

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The little book of which I wrote you was to be only a bound manuscript, not a printed volume. I thought you might still value it as being unique and prepared especially for you. It will be sent to you as soon as it comes from the printer.

In addition to the material of which I wrote you there are a number of articles from the Rutland Herald and from a number of other Vermont papers, including the Herald's account of the first ringing of the chimes, which I should think would be very nice to include. Doubtless you have more of this material than I, but I have kept what I could in a scrap book.

I think we ought to take sufficient time to consider the various portions of the material very carefully. Professor [Name] is at work at odd moments now in preparation of the [Name] and I have several appointments in the near future, but we can give some time to it at once and I should suppose that in the Christmas vacation we could bring the manuscript to completion.

I am very glad to have your good letter of November 16th and am much pleased that you think so favorably of getting out a little book on the chapel. If you will send the material you have collected to me Professor Wright and I will go over it as soon as possible and block out a plan of the material, but of course we will submit it to you before preparation of the manuscript. I have spoken with him about it and he is very willing to help all he can, and as much pleased with your thought as I am.

My dear Governor Head:

Hon. John A. Head,
Rutland, Vermont.

November 17, 1916.

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Governor Mead, 2

We will have plenty of time to consider the question of where the book shall be printed. I am glad you have in mind the quality of the work, and there should certainly be some illustrations, including the interior as well as the exterior of the chapel.

One can never tell in what manner such a publication will influence others. It may put a suggestion in some one's mind which will bear fruit only after many years. I have often thought that perhaps I should give more attention to the issuing of reports and bulletins setting forth the needs and possibilities of development of the college. We have made such progress that I fear some have the idea that we have attained our growth, which is of course far from the case. Our accommodations for girls are crowded to the limit and we cannot receive a larger number unless we can provide for them, as we have not found boarding in the village satisfactory. We also need a new arrangement of our administrative offices in the old chapel, as they are now scattered very inconveniently, and I fear this would necessitate another recitation building, preferably for History and Political Science. I want we should at least discuss these matters thoroughly at the trustee meeting in New York January 26th, since there is no telling what possible benefactor some one of the trustees may be able to influence.

Again let me thank you for your kind and helpful suggestion and your kind remembrances to my family. With cordial regards to Mrs. Mead and yourself, I am

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., Nov. 18, 1916.

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

My Dear Friend:-

This A. M. I received your long letter of the 17th and have read it for the second time with special interest, and have just spent half an hour or so gathering a mass of material pertaining to the chapel, which has been accumulated during the last two years or more and which possibly you may find, some of it at least, of use in the compiling of the little book to which you refer. I have not been over the same at all carefully, so without question you will find quite a few duplicates and a large mass of material which you cannot use in any way. I would simply suggest that you and Professor Wright use your own good judgment in every instance. I have sent you many letters, clippings from different papers, etc., etc., all in a mass without any arrangement as to dates or in any otherwise has it been arranged to be convenient for you.

You state that you think during the Christmas vacation you might have time to whip this all into shape. I surely hope you will not burden yourself with this matter, as there is no very great haste. I should much prefer to have you take plenty of time and thus have the same entirely to your satisfaction when it is complete. I have said nothing to Mrs. Mead yet about the little book to which you refer, which is to be in the form of a manuscript - still I know that she will be greatly pleased with the same.

As to illustrations, I hope you will just arrange for as many as

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you think will add in any way to the interest of this subject. To be frank with you, I have special hopes that it may be productive of great good to our college, as I do feel that others can be made specially interested in our Alma Mater, and that the full history and description of the chapel should induce others to lend a helping hand. We will have it published in the very best shape possible and I should be more than willing to distribute it very thoroughly among those, at least, whom I could expect would be interested. As you state, the chances for a dormitory for the girls I think would be very much increased with some such little advertisement as we could give to the college along these lines.

You refer to the other buildings which no doubt you should have and I am sure they will come in due time.

Referring to the meeting in New York on Jan. 26th; if you could advise me of your plans so that we could all work in harmony, I am sure much better results might be obtained. If a large board like that of your trustees gathers without any special previous information as to what the necessities are, it does not appeal to me that they can do nearly as good work. I shall endeavor to be present and trust that I may see you previous to that meeting and to learn what your wishes are and to be enabled to be of some assistance.

Kindly remember me to Mrs. Thomas and your family, also to Professor Wright and family, and President Brainerd and family, believe me,

Yours most sincerely,

It is my intention to see what you will not care to see it may be possible to see the other side of the page

P. S. I will endeavor to send this material either by express or parcel post and get it to you by Monday or Tuesday of next week.

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November 24, 1916.

Hon. John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I was very glad to receive your letter of November 18th and the material concerning the chapel. I have looked this over only very hurriedly but I can see that we shall be able to produce a very worthy book and one that will be interesting to all the friends of the college and I think also very useful. Professor Wright is still busy with the catalogue, but I am sure in due time we shall both enjoy getting at the preparation of the manuscript.

We have invited the village churches to hold their usual union Thanksgiving service in the chapel Thanksgiving morning at ten o'clock. They seemed very glad to come. The sermon will be preached by the Congregational pastor, Mr. Newell. Of course many of our students will be home and some will not attend the service, but I think we shall have a fair number. Now we would like it very much if you and Mrs. Mead and the others down to little John could run up Thanksgiving Day and attend the service and stay on for your Thanksgiving dinner at Hepburn Hall. It would give us all a great deal of pleasure, not the least the students.

I want to thank you for your suggestion as to previous information and co-operation before the trustee meeting. I have often thought I should send out some form of a report or statement calling attention to the questions to be presented at the meeting, but your suggestion has enforced the idea which I think I should certainly carry out.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., Dec. 6, 1916.

Doctor John M. Thomas,
C/o Middlebury College,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I received a copy of the booklet pertaining to the Mead Memorial Chapel and have reviewed the same with the greatest of pleasure, and wish to thank you for your kindness in this matter. It is something that both Mrs. Mead and I shall prize very highly, as in fact this chapel will be one of the milestones on the way of life, which will mark an important period in our short history. As I understand, this is a copy for us to keep.

Thanking you again for your very kind thought in this matter and with very best wishes to Mrs. Thomas and all mutual friends, I remain, as ever,

Yours sincerely,

Handwritten note in yellow ink:
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I have just received the book which
you have sent me and I am
glad to hear that you are
interested in the same. I
will be glad to see you
for a talk to discuss the same.

DEC 7 1916

Dear President Thomas,

May I trouble you
once more to have the copy.

and one of the pictures
of the corner stone ceremony
he gave it the "winning one"

John, his grandfather, and
father in the foreground

and Dr. Braddock with his
hand on his hip at the right

of the Booklet on the front
Memorial Chapel as well

beautiful and much appreciated
Middlebury-001206

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Thanking you in advance
for the courtesy in regard
to the film which I would
like as soon as convenient
I remain with love to all

Faithfully Yours Friend
Mary S. Mead.

The Homestead

December 7, 1916.

December 11, 1916.

Mrs. John A. Mead,
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Mrs. Mead;

I have at last found the picture you want and enclose a print. I understand that you would like to have the film for a little time. I will get this tomorrow, if it does not come in time to enclose in this letter. It seems to me that we ought to use several of these interesting pictures in the little book which Governor Mead has in mind. They were taken by Miss Charlotte Marsh of our present Junior class.

I very much wish you could see the chapel in actual use by the students. Yesterday we had it crowded for a Christmas praise service, which was very impressive. One student said afterwards that this vacation he was going to attend church at home. I thought that the best sort of a tribute to the good influence of the chapel.

I was very sorry to hear that you have not been well recently and I hope your strength will speedily come back to you.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., Dec. 13, 1916.

Doctor John M. Thomas,
C/o Middlebury College,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

In looking over the little booklet on the chapel, I notice that the picture of the same is the old sketch which was made before the change took place, which gave two extra small windows on either side at the very east end of the chapel. In the old construction, you will remember there was but one window on either side. This little change, to Mrs. Mead and myself, betters the general appearance of the chapel very much, and we were thinking that when the new booklet came out, that if you could use the later picture, perhaps it would add very materially to the general character of the same.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

W. C. Mead

Historical Note

In a letter dated May 11, 1914, Ex-Governor John Abner Mead announced his desire to erect a chapel for the College in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation. He said, "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."

The gift was gratefully accepted by the Trustees, and Governor Mead, ex-President Brainerd, Hon. John E. Weeks, and President Thomas were named as a building committee. Allen & Collens, of Boston, were selected as architects.

At the Commencement of 1914 the ceremony of breaking ground took place, Governor Mead being assisted by his grandson, John Abner Mead Hinsman. An address was made by Rev. James L. Barton, D. D., '81, and prayer was offered by Rev. Arthur H. Bradford, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Rutland.

A contract with Mr. Thomas W. Rogers, Brandon, for the erection of the chapel was signed January 13, 1915. The plans for heating and ventilation were furnished by the Richard D. Kimball Co., Boston.

The chapel is 122' 9" long and 63' wide. The top of the spire is 140 feet from the ground. The seating capacity is 674. The marble of the exterior is from the Pittsford quarries of the Vermont Marble Co. The pulpit, reading desk, and interior finish, all of birch, are from the factory of The Derryfield Co., Manchester, N. H. The pews were made by E. H. Stafford & Co., Chicago. The lighting fixtures were designed and manufactured by Bigelow, Kennard & Co., Boston, and the electrical work was done by W. C. Duncan, Middlebury. The heating and plumbing contract was performed by Allan Calhoun & Son, Middlebury. The foreman of the construction has been Mr. Clayton E. Crane.

The organ was built and installed by the Estey Organ Co., Brattleboro. The chime of eleven bells, the gift of Governor Mead and Mrs. Mary Sherman Mead, is from the foundry of Meneely & Co., Watervliet, N. Y.

The total cost of the chapel and equipment is about \$75,000.