

EXHIBIT

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December 8, 1916.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

When I was in Rutland some weeks ago you very kindly spoke of your willingness to help us in the matter of hymn boards, which should be a very nice addition to our chapel equipment. I took up the matter with Mr. Collens, — the architect, and he stated that we would not want to put in our chapel any stock design but should have something especially prepared to harmonise with the interior. He prepared sketches of two designs, and I enclose the blue print which he sent me. I asked him to get estimates on two boards of each design and I have just received the figures. The more elaborate boards with the angel's head would cost \$115 for the two. The plainer ones would come to \$60. There would be some additional cost, for express and setting up in the chapel, card board letters, and architect's commission of 15% for making the designs. This would add say about \$25.

Mr. Collens strongly recommends the more elaborate and expensive boards and hopes you will want to install them. I have great respect for his judgment and taste and certainly he has given us a beautiful chapel, and any little addition we make to it ought to be of the best, both in design and workmanship. At the same time, I confess that I like the simpler design better, and that irrespective of cost. It seems to me more appropriate for our chapel. Mr. Collens says that the angel's head does not look well in the blue print because the whites are reversed. You may agree with him and certainly we shall be very pleased to have either of these beautiful boards in the chapel. They would help greatly in both our daily and Sunday service.

I may say that the estimate for the simpler board is from the Derryfield Company of New Hampshire, which made the finish. That on the other board is from a wood carver in Boston. I have no doubt that either would do a very good job under the direction of Mr.

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Collens. He plans they should be placed in quite a prominent panel in the chancel.

I am very glad you are pleased with the little book concerning the chapel and I hope you will find it a pleasant reminder. The credit for the compilation and for the neat work belongs to the secretary in my office, Miss Ethel F. Bartlett. Professor Wright has the material you sent up and he tells me he is sure we can make a very attractive and interesting book.

I have not forgotten your willingness to go over a few matters to be presented at the meeting in New York and when I can get things in a little better shape I want to present my suggestions for your consideration. I expect to be in New York next week and hope to have a good talk with Mr. Hepburn.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., Dec. 9, 1916.

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

My Dear Friend:-

Yours of the 8th inst., with enclosure, at hand. I have read your letter with interest and should be more than willing to leave the judgment in this matter to yourself, though I must confess to you, as you state, that at the same money I should prefer the simpler board. I note that these are to be obtained from the Deerfield Company of New Hampshire and possibly it would be as well for you to negotiate with them, as the figures are all specified and you would know exactly what conditions would be necessary as to the finish, etc., etc.

Hoping that you may have the same at an early date and that it may be entirely satisfactory, I am,

Yours most respectfully,



P. S. Kindly send bill when the same is obtained.

(Enclosure)



December 11, 1916.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have received your kind letter of December 9th and am very greatly pleased that you will provide the hymn boards. I note that you also like the simpler design. Perhaps if we could see both completed, we would agree with the architect, but I confess the plainer one appeals to me much more. Perhaps I told you Professor Wright also agrees with me. I will see that the same is ordered and that you have a memorandum of the expense.

I enclose a little table which I have prepared showing the relative endowment of Middlebury College compared with that of some of the best and strongest New England colleges, with which we would like to stand on the same footing. The question in my mind is whether it would be wise to include such a statement in a printed report. One shrinks from exhibiting his weakness, yet personally I am inclined toward the policy of full publicity. It seems to me that our alumni and friends ought to know just how we stand when compared with others. I should try of course to bring out our elements of strength as well, our noble history and remarkable record of the success of our alumni. It also must be made clear and emphatic that we have a stable foundation sufficient to insure permanent usefulness. I find that some large benefactors select objects of their beneficence much as they select a bank, according to financial strength. It does not appeal to them so much that an institution is poor and needy, as that it is strong enough to assure permanent usefulness of their gifts. We ought to be able to appeal both ways: our needs are certainly great, but we have, including the value of our buildings, assets of over a million and a quarter.

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If I am not burdening you too much, I would like also your judgment on the policy suggested by the enclosed copy of a form from the Treasurer's report of Mount Holyoke College. You will note that it suggests conditional annuity gifts. There are a good many people looking forward to the close of life, who need the income of their property, yet who would like to provide completely for its disposition after their death, with absolute certainty and without delay or expense of administration. You may remember that Doctor Boardman gave us \$30,000 in this way. We gave him a bond for \$1500 annual income, and immediately upon the death of himself and Mrs. Boardman, the principal began to work for us. We have sufficient assets to make our guarantee absolutely good and I have thought for some time that in a quiet way we might encourage such benefactions.

I must tell you that President Brainerd is attending our chapel services every Sunday, and yesterday seemed particularly pleased and deeply moved by our Christmas praise service. It is a joy to me to note how much good the chapel seems to be doing him. I think there are others who feel in the same way, for every Sunday the gallery is full of visitors.

Faithfully yours,