



February 9, 1910.

Hon. John G. McCullough,

New York.

My dear Governor McCullough:

I have one or two suggestions for achieving the results which might perhaps have been accomplished if that speech you commended had been made in Carnegie Hall.

Our most distinguished graduate in political life was Edward J. Phelps. We have no memorial of him in our College, neither a building nor a Professorship. There should certainly be an Edward J. Phelps hall upon the Campus of the college which he did so much to distinguish, located in the village of his birth-place, and to which he once referred as the "little mountain college from which his feet first took their way."

Middlebury has not built a dormitory since 1861. Every space in both the old dormitories is taken this year, and next fall we shall undoubtedly receive 40 more boys than we lose. The accommodations in the village are few, and we must provide living quarters for the rapidly increasing number of students. We are as badly off for recitation rooms, and next year we shall have 21 teachers with only 13 recitation and lecture halls. \$75,000 would both build a dormitory

for 75 men and provide recitation facilities by alterations in old Painter Hall. I know I can make such a building earn the salaries of three instructors, by income from the building and tuition from new students for whom it would provide.

It occurs to me that Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, a friend and admirer of Mr. Phelps, and a friend of New England also, might be willing to honor the memory of our distinguished graduate in this manner, particularly in view of the large good it would accomplish in our college. I should of course be glad to prepare for Mr. Morgan an exhibit of the resources and condition of our college, showing the substantial foundation on which the institution rests.

I know I am not asking a light thing in suggesting that you bring this matter to his notice, but perhaps the need and worth of our college will overcome your feelings, as they have overcome mine in thus writing to you.

I make bold to offer another suggestion. Years ago you generously sent us your check for \$1000 towards a gymnasium. The matter was not then pressed, but your gift has been allowed to accumulate until it amounts now to over \$1400. At the recent meeting Messrs. Gifford and Wright and Dr. Starr stated they would give \$1000 each for this purpose. I cannot see the needed \$50,000 from our Alumni at this rate. But if you could make the "McCullough Gymnasium Fund" \$25,000, on condition that I secure a like sum

*Letter dated  
June 24, 1901.  
J.M.P.*

J.G. McCullough.

from other sources, I believe I could get the balance for a "McCullough Gymnasium" before next commencement.

Forgive me if I am over-zealous. It is for the boys of Vermont, and their need makes me bold.

Faithfully yours,

1044  
HALL FARM,  
NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT.

March 4, 1910.

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

My dear Mr. President:

Owing to much pressure before sailing my answer to your favor of the 9th ultimo has been greatly delayed.

You make two suggestions:

As to your first suggestion, I have not yet seen my way clear to do anything about it and doubt if I ever shall.

As to your second suggestion, you seem quite confident of being able to raise before Commencement from other sources the sum of \$25,000. to enable you to erect a fitting Gymnasium for the College, provided I would give a like sum for that purpose, thus making your

Gymnasium Fund at least \$50,000.  
You may count on me for the second  
\$25,000. upon the conditions stated  
in your letter.

I sail for Europe tomorrow. So  
good-bye.

Yours faithfully,

John G. Johnson

~~John~~

July 6

1910

March 5, 1910.

Office of Hon. John G. McCullough,  
North Bennington, Vt.

Gentlemen:

Will you kindly let me have Gov. McCullough's foreign address. I have a letter indicating that he sails for Europe to-day and desire to communicate with him as soon as possible.

Faithfully yours,

March 19, 1910.

Governor John G. McCullough,  
North Bennington, Vt.

My dear Governor:

I read your letter to the boys yesterday and I wish you could have heard the cheers for McCullough. They were given with a good will and with more enthusiasm and joy than I have hitherto seen manifested among Middlebury students during my connection with the institution. We are all greatly excited and blessings are called down upon your head by every one.

Unfortunately I was out of town when your letter arrived, and when I got back it was too late to telegraph you my great joy and deep gratitude for your very generous offer. I wrote for your address, but so far have no reply. I earnestly hope this will reach you and I trust you will believe that from the moment your letter reached me I have been feeling the most earnest thanks to you for your substantial help. I am bound to get the rest of the fund and I shall try hard to make it a full \$60,000.

I hope you are having the best kind of a good time in sleepy, lazy Europe. I would like to be with you if it wasn't so much fun raising money.

Please remember me kindly to Governor Stewart and Mrs. Sylvester, and believe me

Your very grateful friend,

April 5, 1910.

Hon. John G. McCullough,  
C/o French, Lemon & Co.,  
Rome, Italy.

My dear Governor McCullough:

You must have been thinking me very ungrateful in that no response has reached you from the communication which so greatly cheered my heart and which makes my hope strong that we shall have a gymnasium at Middlebury in the near future. Your very generous offer to give us \$25,000 towards the fund, mailed to me just before you sailed from New York, did not arrive in time for me to reach you even with a telegram of gratitude. I wrote at once to Bennington for your address, and not receiving a reply addressed a letter to you there with a "Please forward" request, and now your son writes me that your mail has been unopened.

I am sure it was wise in you to claim complete exemption from home matters during your stay abroad, but I wish I had known how to break through the lines to tell you of my gratitude. You certainly have helped the College greatly. When I told the students they made the old chapel resound as I had never heard it before and in five days handed me their own pledges for \$600. I think we shall have about \$1000 from them. In all I have about \$10,000 to date aside from your gift.

Please remember me kindly to Governor Stewart and Jessica and accept my very grateful regards.

Faithfully yours,



May 27, 1910.

Hon. John G. McCullough,  
C/o French, Lemon & Co.,  
Rome, Italy.

My dear Governor McCullough:

I have just addressed a letter to Governor Stewart at London and send this to you in the hope that one or the other epistle will bring you the good tidings that the General Education Board has made our College a grant of \$50,000, conditional upon the securing of a supplemental fund of \$150,000. Our gymnasium fund will count towards meeting this condition. I am greatly rejoiced to receive the indorsement of this organization established by Mr. Rockefeller. They have a very thorough system of examining colleges, and it is by no means easy to secure their approval. I realize that it will be a considerable effort, with good fortune attending, to win success, but I am glad for the opportunity to try.

Our gymnasium fund is making progress, better in the number of subscribers and enthusiasm of the givers than in the amounts secured. The returns from the students and recent graduates are excellent. Last year's class, my first senior class, has subscribed \$600, which is pretty good for men less than one year out of college. The boys and girls now here have given over \$1300.

You must get an early steamer and be back for our Roman Drama June 21st, and Commencement with the conferring of degrees upon Mrs. Borr, Judge Stafford, and the others.

Our best wishes are ever with you. Quietness to the waves and peace to your conscience.

Faithfully yours,

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**ROBERT C. CLOWRY, President and General Manager.**

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
10	MP		paid

**RECEIVED** at Middlebury Vt 9:36am 6/22 19010

Dated S S Carman via Sea Gate NY 22

To West Thomas Middlebury College  
Middlebury Vt

Expected to be with you storms prevents.  
Hurrah for Middlebury  
J. G. McCullough

June 25, 1910.

Governor John G. McCullough,  
North Bennington, Vt.

My dear Governor McCullough: Great enthusiasm was stirred by the reading of your wireless "Hurrah for Middlebury," yesterday afternoon at the Commencement dinner. I wish you could have been there for us to have a little fun with you over our success in meeting your conditions and our confidence that we are to get your \$25,000. I was able to announce that Alumni and friends have pledged \$25,000, thus meeting the conditions of your promise of an equal sum made on the eve of your sailing for Europe.

As you know, I have been working for a total gymnasium fund of \$60,000. I thought I could make it \$50,000 from general contributions and have been looking for some one who wanted to insure the calling of blessings upon his head by a gift of \$10,000 for the swimming pool portion of the building. Thus far no one has availed himself of that privilege, but I am still hoping that our new gymnasium may include that most useful accessory, for which doubtless \$60,000 is not too much. In the meantime we are happy that the amount originally proposed in my letter to you is assured.

In reality much more has been accomplished than I dared to hope when I first wrote you. The General Education Board has made us a grant of \$50,000 towards a total of \$200,000, the gymnasium fund to be included, and I have pledges of \$34,500 towards meeting their conditions, besides the above-named gymnasium fund. The outlook is decidedly encouraging. You started the ball a rolling. Blessings on thee!

We had a delightful Commencement, the best in years. The degrees for Mrs. Dorr and Judge Stafford met with great favor. The latter responded with a poem "Vermont" which was really a great production. The only cloud was the absence of yourself and Governor Stewart.

With sincere regard and gratitude, I am

Faithfully yours,

HALL FARM,  
NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT.

June 27th, 1910.

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

My dear Mr. President:-

As you know from my wireless, of course as usual, I got in too late.

I am in receipt of your favor of the 23rd inst., and ~~am~~ so up to my eyes in belated correspondence, that I <sup>have</sup> only time to say; that while junketing around Europe and on the ocean for three and a half months, stopping anywhere only about twenty-four hours, I received your various communications both written and printed and wish now to tell you that I read all with great interest and congratulate you upon your magnificent success. As stated in yours of the 23rd inst., I am glad if you had any fun at my expense and to assure you that my check for \$25,000.00 is at your disposal when you call for it.

Cordially yours,



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. M. Thomas", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

July 2, 1910.

Governor John G. McCullough,  
Hall Farm,  
N. Bennington, Vt.

My dear Governor McCullough:

I wish to thank you very heartily for your kind letter of June 27th. I appreciate your expressions of confidence and congratulation and am especially pleased that you accept the fulfillment of the conditions of your gift to our gymnasium fund. The Trustees entrusted our present building committee with the duty of erecting the gymnasium and urged that we get at the matter promptly. I suppose that we ought not to proceed very far until we have the actual cash in hand. The receipt of your check would doubtless encourage prompt payment on the part of others, and we shall be very pleased therefore to acknowledge the same at any time.

Once more assuring you of my deep gratitude, I am

Faithfully yours,

HALL FARM  
NORTH BENNINGTON, VERMONT

Jul. 4th, 1910.

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

My dear Mr. President:-

Patriotic greetings on the Day!

I am in receipt of your favor of the 2nd inst.. In fulfillment of my promise, and to enable you to carry out the purposes at once expressed in your letter, I am pleased to enclose you my check to your order, of this date, on the First National Bank of North Bennington for the sum of \$25,000.00,

And beg to subscribe myself,

Very cordially,

Your obedient servant,



July 5, 1910.

Governor John S. McCullough,  
Hall Farm,  
North Bennington, Vt.

My dear Governor McCullough: I have a special feeling of gratitude to Dr. Pearson, since I feel that he gave me my first real start in work for Middlebury, and your good deed on my inauguration day helped to make it a real advance. My gratitude to you is very similar, since it was your promise toward the gymnasium which began the movement resulting thus far in \$50,000 for that purpose, \$60,000 for general endowment from the General Education Board, and \$25,000 for endowment from other sources. I realize that the best expression of my gratitude for the check for \$25,000 received this morning will be successful endeavor to make the gift useful to the College and its students. To this end I pledge my best endeavors.

With most earnest good wishes, I am  
Faithfully yours,

May 25, 1911.

Hon. John G. McCullough,  
North Bennington,  
Vermont.

My dear Governor McCullough;

I thank you for your recent letter  
of approval of proposition to Board of Trustees.

We want you to lay the corner stone  
of the McCullough Gymnasium on the afternoon  
of June 20th Alumni Day. There is nothing  
else for you to do but to consent, since every  
one will insist upon your participating in the  
exercises in this manner. We will make all  
the arrangements and endeavor not to have the  
labor too severe.

Faithfully yours,