

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

Rutland, Vt., June 10, 1914.

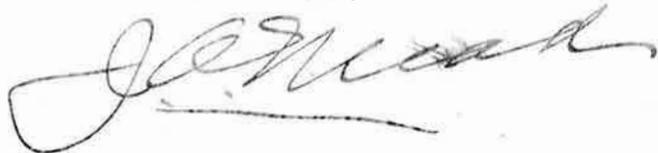
Doctor John M. Thomas,
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I have just returned from New York and find yours of the 8th, and wish to thank you for the information. I will endeavor to get in touch with our friend as to the dormitory for the boys and I will urge that to the very limit, and I shall ask him to allow me to advise you of the information he gave me, as I am so sure you will handle this subject far better than I. He seemed quite a little touched and apparently disappointed in our talk, as he said he had been thinking for quite a while of the pleasure he would obtain in giving the chapel. I expect to see you on Friday evening next, as I note there is to be a meeting of the alumni and alumnae of Middlebury here on Friday evening.

With best wishes to all and specially to your family, I am,

Yours most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. M. Thomas", with a horizontal line underneath.

MIDDLEBURY'S 100 YEARS

OLD TRADITIONS PRESERVED IN NEW CHAPEL

A Building of the New England Meeting-House Type to Adorn the Campus—Construction Work Has Already Begun—The College and Its Century of Ups and Downs

BY JOHN M. THOMAS
President of Middlebury College

IN a quiet, old-fashioned town on the Champlain side of the Green Mountain State, just half-way between the Massachusetts line and Canada, is a New England college with a unique history, which has preserved for over a century a consistent loyalty to the old New England type of college architecture. Founded in 1800, as the first institution to begin college instruction in Vermont, a popular, democratic community enterprise, entirely non-sectarian, Middlebury College took possession of its first permanent building just a century ago. It was a plain, but graceful and dignified, college hall, strictly Colonial in type, not unlike Hollis and Stoughton in the Harvard yard, but

with an added beauty from the gray limestone of which it was constructed. It still stands on the campus, flanked and shaded by stately elms and maples. During its hundred years of service—it has never been closed, and is still an important element in the college plant—it has furnished students' rooms, halls for recitation, administration offices, and under the vigorous administration of Cyrus Hamlin it even housed the library and provided a gymnasium.

Middlebury has had a checkered history, with more ups and downs than most New England institutions. During the first forty years it was easily the leading college in Vermont, and in that period graduated nearly twice the number of its neighbor, the University of Vermont at Burlington. One year its senior class exceeded that of Harvard, and in 1817 Middlebury's president, Henry Davis, declined a call to Yale because of the larger opportunity he believed the Vermont institution afforded him. Just before the turn of the half-century fortune was not so kindly, and the college was just beginning to recover when the Civil War nearly emptied both its halls and its treasury. New buildings were few and far between, but the "chapel," chiefly a recitation hall, completed in 1838, ranks well with the earlier structure as one of the best examples of Colonial architecture in New England. Stair Hall, erected in 1801, is

a bit more crude, but harmonizes well with the other structures and completes a college "row" which is still the fairest part of the campus.

Perhaps it was fortunate that Middlebury had no building fund in the 70s and 80s, the barbaric period in American college architecture. The next building did not come until 1900, a library of classic outline, built of clear white marble from the famous quarries in the vicinity. The same style and material were followed in the Warner Science Hall in 1902. Middlebury has had a building revival since 1908, and four large buildings have followed each other in rapid succession, all in Colonial architecture.

The Chapel a Problem

The proposal of ex-Governor John A. Mead to erect a chapel for Middlebury in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation presented a difficult problem to the college. Local influences called for "something different," Gothic, or at least Romanesque. The impossibility of a "beautiful service" in a structure of New England type was urged strongly. Photographs of many an imitation cathedral on American campuses were pressed for consideration.

On the other hand, in his letter of gift ex-Governor Mead had 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 the valley and the State of Vermont have always been distinguished." He asked that the chapel bear his name might "rise from the highest point of the 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."

The problem was submitted to Allen & Collins, the architects, and they advised strongly that ex-Governor Mead's suggestion of "harmony with the other buildings of the college" be strictly followed. They have designed a chapel of the New England meeting-house type on the exterior, all in white marble, but with a wooden spire. The interior, however, in order to recall the more ecclesiastical effect of the Gothic type will follow the colonial only in detail. The woodwork of the chancel, ceiling and pews will all be birch, stained a dark color. By this means the objection to the colonial has been successfully met. The chapel will occupy a commanding location on the grounds on the highest crest of the campus, from which point there is a wide panorama of the Green Mountains and the valley of Otter Creek. On the architrave over the colonnade will be appropriately inscribed "The Strength of the Hills is His Also."

Work has been begun on the building and it is hoped that by Commencement time enough of the structure will be completed to enable the alumni to judge of its final possibilities.

TUFTS JUNIOR DAY MAY 13

The Usual Social and Athletic Programme Being Arranged—Western Trip for Musical Clubs

The class of 1916 at Tufts will celebrate Junior Day, Thursday, May 13. College exercises will be suspended on that date and the whole day will be given over to the programme, for which elaborate preparations are being made. The first event will be the flag raising, followed by the parade of the "Horribles," which consists of members of the two lower classes, dressed in varied fantastic and grotesque costumes. Then will come a tennis match between the varsity team and Bowdoin and possibly some exhibition singles matches. Between the tennis matches and the Bowdoin-Tufts baseball game in the afternoon all the fraternities will entertain at luncheon in the different chapter houses. After the game a "sing" will be held either in the Gymnasium or on the "Tex." At six the Junior Day spread will be served, during which there will be music and dancing. "The Money Question," a comedy by Alexander Dumas, fils, will be given in the evening in Jackson Gymnasium under the auspices of the Three P's Dramatic Society.

Long Trip for Musical Clubs

The schedule of nine concerts for the Western trip of the Musical Clubs has just been announced by Manager Melvin J. Messer, '15. The clubs will go as far west as Detroit, giving concerts in New York, Brooklyn, Schenectady, Buffalo, Detroit and Pittsburgh. At a recent meeting of the clubs, N. W. Morrison, '18, was elected assistant manager and Henry Priest, '15, was chosen secretary for the remainder of the year.

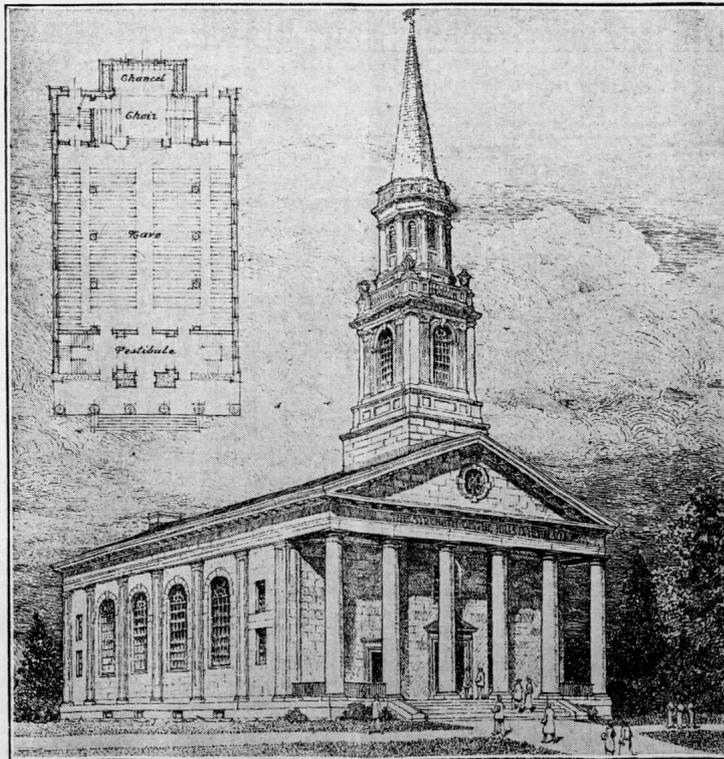
The last of the series of College teas will be held tomorrow from four until six. Professor and Mrs. Charles E. Fay will receive. These teas have proved very popular through the season and a large attendance is expected. Students from both Tufts and Jackson are invited.

The Sigma Tau Alpha Fraternity are giving a house party this evening at the chapter house on College avenue. The entertainment will be music, games and whist. The guests are Professor and Mrs. George F. Ashley and Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Bacon of Malden. The committee in charge is Harold S. Hamilton, '16, Lewis A. Tentler, '17, Raymond C. Taylor, '16, and Edward Burns, '18.

OTTOMAN TERRITORY

The Ottoman Empire is made up of Turkey in Europe—the strip of territory stretching across from the Black Sea to the Adriatic—and Turkey in Asia, which includes Arabia, Syria and Palestine, and provinces in the isles of Samoa and Cyprus are also under the sultan's rule. New York Tribune

A "Meeting-House" for Middlebury



(Allen & Collins, Boston, Architects)

Return to Early New England Architecture in College's New Chapel, the Gift of Ex-Governor Mead of Vermont.

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 cursive script, likely belonging to the sender of the letter, is written below the typed closing. The signature is somewhat faint and difficult to decipher.

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.

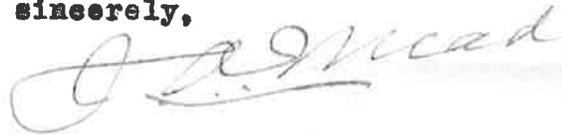
I shall be delighted to see a copy of the manuscript to which you refer and if I knew where it was to be printed, I might have, perhaps, a few copies struck off for my personal use. I almost feared you would think my writing you was a suggestion that you might use the material I have accumulated for 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. A. Mead". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Yours sincerely,".

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

(J. M. T. #2)

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,

*P.S. Same & return to you
what you will not care
to use it may be given
to the library*

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.

Exhibit 5 - 008



Ex. __ vintage postcard:
"When Chapel is Over"
Midd. College, Middlebury Vt."

https://archive.org/details/a12pf_Chapel-is-over-postcard_193x-xx-xx

Exhibit 5 - 009

Middlebury College Facebook marketing of Mead Memorial Chapel:



<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150747883262629&type=3>