

C O P Y

12

Middlebury

My dear Dr. Thomas;

You are certainly to be congratulated in the gift of Governor John A. Mead. This chapel will satisfy a much needed addition to the equipment of Middlebury College and its acceptance is most heartily approved.

Sincerely yours,

J. E. Weeks.

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, <sup>the same</sup> 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 <sup>large</sup> 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

II

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. Smith*

*Rutland, Vt.  
May 11, 1914.*

MAY 11 1914

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 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 Abner Mead.

(3)  
Do ~~be~~ do why - never allow any  
thing to deter if within law of God & man  
out work - out plan - not content as  
other - do more + better  
you need never fear of success of do  
do & why - not I in a m will

You can do whatever you wish - can  
climb the ladder

Effects of Wealth & poverty  
P - a blessing why the church is  
strong & rich - all around lazy -  
Mand & springs - Boston & back  
brivity grass & what  
do with men & women - have  
Lary - P - a blessing - don't fear

for money

II

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superise 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 yours,

John Oliver Ward



May 12, 1914.

Hon. John A. Wead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Wead;

I think we will fix upon Friday evening for the announcement of the new chapel to the faculty and students. I wish Mrs. Wead would come up with you and let us do the honors to you both. I will make all arrangements and of course everything will be very informal.

I will send out the announcement to the Associated Press so that it will be released Saturday morning and I very much hope we can keep the matter quiet until then. I shall try to have a letter to each of our trustees, with a copy of your letter to me, to reach them next Saturday. I am sure you will find that there is very deep gratitude toward you on the part of all friends of our college.

Faithfully yours,

P. S. Mr. Collens, the architect, has just telegraphed me offering to bring the sketches to Rutland Thursday morning, train from New York about 11 o'clock. I am replying that I will meet him there and I hope it will be agreeable to you to see us and look over his plans.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE  
MIDDLEBURY, VT.

May 15, 1914.

To the Trustees of Middlebury College:-

Your associate,  
Governor John A. Mead, has made it possible for me to make an announcement which will bring you all great satisfaction and encouragement, as it gives me the keenest pleasure. I enclose a copy of his letter to me signed May 11th which assures the erection of an appropriate and beautiful chapel for Middlebury College.

I have testified many times to the great need of such a building and the large possibilities for good in connection with it. We have all felt for many years that it was one of the most urgent needs of the college, and those who have been closest in touch with the daily life of the institution have felt the need most earnestly.

A chapel is not an income producing building and its erection should be accompanied by an endeavor to increase our endowment and secure a men's dormitory which would yield a revenue and provide for our increased student body. I very much hope that the General Education Board will now look with favor upon our application for a grant towards a fund of \$500,000, towards which we now have a good start in the \$10,000 recently contributed by Governor McCullough and the amount suggested by Governor Mead for the erection of a chapel. I will greatly appreciate the assistance of any of you toward this end and trust I may have your co-operation in promoting the movement which has been so well begun.

Faithfully yours,



P.S. May I hear from you immediately as to whether you will authorize the acceptance of Governor Mead's proposition and the appointment of the Building Committee which he suggests?

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Faithfully yours,



P.S. May I hear from you immediately as to whether you will authorize the acceptance of Governor Mead's proposition and the appointment of the Building Committee which he suggests?

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

Rutland, Vt., May 16, 1914.

President John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

We arrived home last evening on time, about 12:15, and this morning shortly after arriving at the office I received the exterior sketch of the chapel. It is the same one that he had here on Thursday, save that he has made a little slit in the mat and carried the steeple up to the height which was considered when you and President Brainerd were with me. I don't know just why he sent this to me. I have kept the heavy cardboard and if you wish, I will send it to you at once. There has been no other change, as I could see, in the drawing, save the extension of the steeple.

Thanking you for the many courtesies received last evening and with very kindest regards to Mrs. Thomas and your family, I am,

Yours most respectfully,



CHARTERED 1864

# The First National Bank

CAPITAL \$150,000  
SURPLUS \$50,000

North Ferrington, Vt.

May 16th, 1914.

Rev. Dr. Thomas,  
President Middlebury College,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My dear Mr. President:

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. enclosing a copy of Dr. Mead's letter to you in which latter letter the Doctor proposes to give the College a chapel building, and you ask me to join in authorizing the acceptance of Governor Mead's proposition and the approval of the appointment of <sup>the</sup> Building Committee suggested by him.

I gladly give my assent to both propositions and congratulate heartily both the College and Governor Mead upon this gift of the Governor and its acceptance by the College.

I am, as ever,

Faithfully yours,



(10)

Burlington, May 16, 1914.

My dear President Thomas;

I most heartily give my voice in favor of the acceptance of Doctor Mead's offer to build a chapel for Middlebury College and of the appointment of the Building Committee suggested by him.

I congratulate you and the college on this good fortune, especially on account of its coming just now when the clouds seemed for a while to be darkening the future. This will show conclusively that Middlebury College has friends of means and influence whose faith in the institution has not been shaken by recent criticism. I trust that this will prove to be but a drop before the shower.

Yours very truly,

Rufus C. Flagg

(4) A

North Bennington, May 16, 1914.

My dear Mr. President;

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 15th instant enclosing a copy of Dr. Mead's letter to you in which latter letter the Doctor proposes to give the college a chapel building, and you ask me to join in authorizing the acceptance of Governor Mead's proposition and the approval of the appointment of the building committee suggested by him.

I gladly give my assent to both propositions and congratulate heartily both the college and Governor Mead upon this gift of the Governor and its acceptance by the college.

I am, as ever,

Faithfully yours,

J. G. McCullough

13

Proctor, May 16, 1914.

Dear Doctor Thomas;

Your good news is received and I am delighted that your dream of a new chapel is to be realized. It is a generous and beautiful thing for Governor Mead to do, and of course I agree, as one of the trustees, to the acceptance of his proposition and the appointment of the building committee which he suggests.

Faithfully yours,

Frank C. Partridge

350 North Street, Burlington, Vt. May 16th 1914.

My dear President Thomas,

I most heartily give my voice in favor of the acceptance of Dr. Mead's offer to build a Chapel for Middlebury College and of the appointment of the Building Committee suggested by him.

I congratulate you and the College on this good fortune, especially on account of its coming just now when the clouds seemed for a while to be darkening the future. This will show conclusively that Middlebury College has friends of means and influence whose faith in the institution has not been shaken by recent criticisms. I trust that this will prove to be but a drop before the shower.

Yours very truly,

*Rufus C. Flagg,*

FRANK C. PARTRIDGE

PROCTOR, VT.

May 16, 1914.

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Middlebury, Vermont.

Dear Dr. Thomas:

Your good news is received and I am delighted that your dream of a new chapel is to be realized. It is a generous and beautiful thing for Governor Mead to do and of course I agree, as one of the Trustees, to the acceptance of his proposition and the appointment of the building committee which he suggests.

Faithfully yours,

*Frank C. Partridge*

FCP H

*(I have written to him -)*

# The Chase National Bank

NEW YORK

A. BARTON HEPBURN

Chairman of the Board

May 18, 1914.

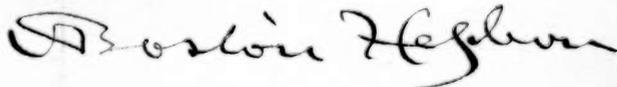
Hon. John Abner Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor:

I am gladdened beyond expression by the receipt of a letter from President Thomas this morning, enclosing copy of your letter to him.

It is a splendid, well-considered and generous action on your part. It shows you possess that love for Alma Mater, which is one of the greatest charms of college life, the essence of college spirit; it shows your respect and reverence for your forebears, which is one of the highest qualifications a man may possess, and it shows, also, your disposition to do a good and useful act for the community in which you live and the State which you honor and which has bestowed its highest honor upon you. Congratulations and thanks.

Sincerely yours,



Middlebury-000017

The Chase National Bank  
NEW YORK

A. BARTON HEPBURN  
Chairman of the Board

May 18, 1914.

Dr. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My dear Dr. Thomas:

I am in receipt of your favor of the 15th, enclosing copy of Governor Mead's letter.

It is a truly generous offer on the part of the Governor, alike creditable to his respect for his forebears, his love for his Alma Mater and his kindly disposition to do a good, noble and gracious act to the entire community.

Of course I concur with you in granting his request, in accepting the gift, and appointing the building committee named by him for the purpose of carrying the proposal into execution.

Very truly yours,



(11)

New York, May 18, 1914.

My dear Dr. Thomas;

I am in receipt of your favor of the 15th, enclosing copy of Governor Mead's letter.

It is truly a generous offer on the part of the Governor, alike creditable to his respect for his forebears, his love for his Alma Mater and his kindly disposition to do a good, noble and gracious act to the entire community.

Of course I concur with you in granting his request, in accepting the gift, and appointing the building committee named by him for the purpose of carrying the proposal into execution.

Very truly yours,

A. B. Hepburn

(5)

Manchester, Vt., May 18, 1914.

Dear Thomas;

I am more than glad to learn of the very generous and timely offer of Dr. Mead and of course I vote to accept it and also heartily approve of the committee he has suggested. It is much better to have a good committee of three than a larger number as you can all get together at any time and know exactly what is wanted. I had been hoping that Governor Mead would do something generous for the college as I understand he is abundantly able, and this is a more fitting gift for a memorial than a dormitory would have been though that also is badly needed and will come in time. The outlook for the college is greatly different than it was fifty or even ten years ago.

With great respect, I am

Truly yours,

D. K. Simonds.

(5)

Manchester, Vt., May 18, 1914.

Dear Thomas;

I am more than glad to learn of the very generous and timely offer of Dr. Mead and of course I vote to accept it and also heartily approve of the committee he has suggested. It is much better to have a good committee of three than a larger number as you can all get together at any time and know exactly what is wanted. I had been hoping that Governor Mead would do something generous for the college as I understand he is abundantly able, and this is a more fitting gift for a memorial than a dormitory would have been though that also is badly needed and will come in time. The outlook for the college is greatly different than it was fifty or even ten years ago.

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

Rutland, Vt., May 18, 1914.

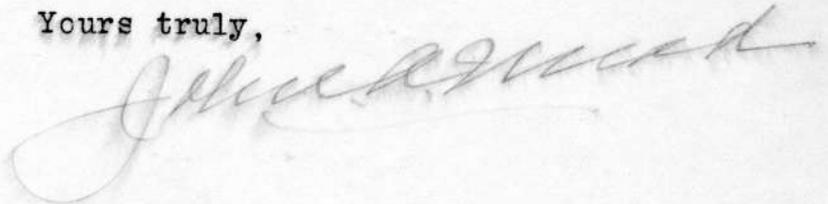
Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

You said something about trouble in getting more than one architect to figure on the chapel. I confess what you said had startled me a little bit and I have taken a little pains to ascertain if there was anything specially unusual existing among architects, and this afternoon have learned that there is a perfect combination among many of the leading architects that if one has been called upon to figure, that no other member of that society will make drawings or estimates without there is really a combination between them, and whatever the second man does is fully known to the first. You may be aware of this arrangement, but I must confess it was new to me, and I probably should not have learned of the same had it not been for the stray remark which you made. This then is the situation. I write to advise you of this condition and also to ask if you were advised of the same before?

With best wishes, I am,

Yours truly,





# State of Vermont

State Prison,  
WINDSOR,  
R. H. WALKER, SUPT.

House of Correction,  
RUTLAND,  
M. H. LOUKES, SUPT.

Industrial School,  
VERGENNES,  
J. N. BARSS, SUPT.

## Board of Penal Institutions

JOHN E. WEEKS, CHAIRMAN . . . MIDDLEBURY  
HAMMOND T. BALDWIN, SECRETARY. . . WELLS RIVER  
EDWIN J. DAVIS . . . . . CHESTER

Dr. John M. Thomas.

Middlebury Vt.

My dear Dr. Thomas

You are certainly to be congratulated in the gift of your John A. Maud. This Chapel will satisfy a much needed addition to the equipment of Middlebury College and its acceptance is most-hurriedly approved.

Sincerely yours  
J. E. Weeks.

May 1914

Burlington, May 23

My dear Dr. Thomas:

I had quite forgotten that you were to receive my reply. But you must excuse me. The conditions of the glorious gift are very easy, it seems to me.

Is Dr. Pitman trying to conciliate Vermonters with his article in the Independent?

I enclose a

of Williams's Vermont,  
which may interest  
you. I think the price  
is fair. I bid \$3<sup>00</sup> for a  
copy and lost it.

You ought to be a  
happy person these days.

By the way, I did not find  
him through the day town  
in mind, I will try to  
get down there next week.

Yours faithfully  
J. B. Green

25 ELM PLACE  
MIDDLEBURY VERMONT

My dear Dr. Thomey.

Returning from  
Detroit I find you of  
Dr. In'st relative to the  
proposal of Dr. Head to work  
a chapel. You have my  
assurances here with of my  
official acceptance of this  
generous and of my

Middlebury-000026

High Appreciation  
of the generosity of the  
Gift. I approve the  
Decision of the Purchasing  
Committee venturing  
the suggestion that the  
Architecture should be  
wisely chosen by the  
best architect available  
to furnish a beautiful design

Yours sincerely

Middlebury-000027  
J. H. Brown



# State of Vermont

State Prison,  
WINDSOR,  
R. H. WALKER, SUPT.

House of Correction,  
RUTLAND,  
M. H. LOUKES, SUPT.

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Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland Vt.

My dear Gov. Mead.

Congratulations and many of them for the splendid gift to Middlebury College. This is a most worthy reminder of your great loyalty to this Institution, and one that can and will be instrumental in great good to the student body as long as time lasts. I almost envy your future, for who can foretell how many boys and girls will receive inspiration for the better things of life by reason of this meeting place. Your honorable public career is certainly glorified by this act. May the Heavenly Father in whom we believe preserve your life many years. Sincerely yours J. E. Weeks

May 17, 1914



# State of Vermont

State Prison,  
WINDSOR,  
R. H. WALKER, SUPT.

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EDWIN J. DAVIS . . . . . CHESTER

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Rutland Vt.

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J. E. Weeks

May 17, 1944

Middlebury-000029

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

Rutland, Vt., May 18, 1914.

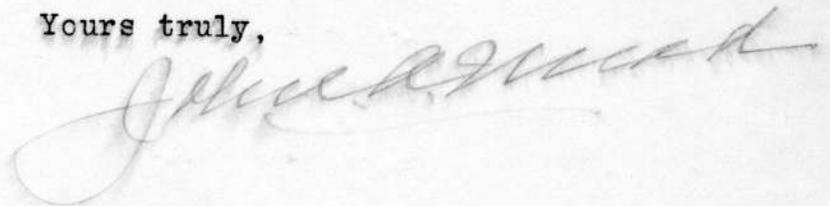
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My Dear Friend:-

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With best wishes, I am,

Yours truly,



Manchester Vt. May 18th. 1914.

Dear Thomas:

I am more than glad to learn of the very generous and timely offer of Dr. Mead and of course I vote to accept it and also heartily approve of the committee he has suggested. It is much better to have a good committee of three than a larger number as you can all get together at any time and know exactly what is wanted. I had been hoping that Gov. Mead would do something generous for the college as I understand he is abundantly able and this is a more fitting gift for a memorial than a dormitory would have been though that also is badly needed and will come in time. The outlook for the college is greatly different than it was fifty or even ten years ago.

With great respect I am

Truly Yours:

*D. K. Simonds*

*23 Wall Street.  
New York.*

May 19, 1914.

Rev. John M. Thomas, D.D., President,  
Middlebury College,  
Middlebury, Vermont.

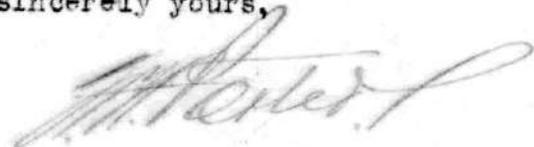
My dear Dr. Thomas-

I received in due course your letter of recent date enclosing copy of Gov. Mead's letter in which he proposes to donate to the College \$60,000 for the cost of a new Memorial Chapel to be erected upon the College grounds. I can readily appreciate the pleasure and satisfaction which this affords you, and which is, I am sure, keenly shared by the Trustees and every other friend of the College; and I beg to extend my most cordial congratulations. I most heartily favor the acceptance of Gov. Mead's proposition, and the appointment of the Building Committee which he suggests.

I shall be glad to do anything in my power to promote the movement for the desired fund of \$500,000, although I am not at all sure that I can obtain any large subscriptions.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,



(7)

Boston, May 19, 1914.

~~My dear President Thomas;~~

Your letter of the 14th instant brought great joy. I am taking the liberty of writing directly to Governor Mead with reference to his gift, expressing appreciation and satisfaction. It is a noble gift. I want to congratulate you upon securing it. It is better in many respects, I think, than to go out with a personal appeal to the alumni and friends of the college.

I wish I could do more in helping start this \$500,000 addition to the assets of the college. This building, with the \$10,000 that you already have, makes a good start. I suppose you can expect one-fourth from the Education Fund, which will make about \$375,000 to raise.

I am planning to be at the commencement this summer.

Hastily but very faithfully yours,

James L. Barton

14

New York, May 19, 1914.

My dear Doctor Thomas;

I received in due course your letter of recent date enclosing copy of Governor Mead's letter in which he proposes to donate to the college \$60,000 for the cost of a new Memorial chapel to be erected upon the college grounds. I can readily appreciate the pleasure and satisfaction which this <sup>sift</sup> affords you, and which is, I am sure, keenly shared by the trustees and every other friend of the college; and I beg to extend my most cordial congratulations. I most heartily favor the acceptance of Governor Mead's proposition, and the appointment of the building committee which he suggests.

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With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

William H. Porter

AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS



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PURCHASING AGENT

May 19, 1914.

Honorable John A. Mead, M.D., LL.D.,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead:-

I can hardly describe to you the thrill of satisfaction that I experienced when a letter from Dr. Thomas reported your magnificent gift to Middlebury College in the form of a Memorial Chapel. I know of nothing more fitting as a memorial - nothing that will be of greater value to the College in all the years to come. I know of no building that could be put up out from which will go more fundamental and permanent influences for social, civic and national righteousness, for our own country and for the world. I want to express my deep personal appreciation of this gift, as well as my appreciation as a member of the Board of Trustees. I am sure you will get great satisfaction in seeing the walls of the building rise, as you realize what they mean to the College, the State, the country and the world, in all the years to come.

I remain, my dear Governor Mead,

Yours most gratefully and faithfully,

6 Regent Circle, Brookline, Mass.,

May 22, 1914

My dear Thomas,

I can't tell you how pleased I was & am at the news that Governor Mear wishes to build a chapel on the College grounds. I had not thought that he dreamed of it.

And how fitting that it should be at the semi-centennial of his graduation - showing that his love for his College has not waned but waxed during the 50 years.

Now I in his place as to means & attachment to the Institution, no one else should be allowed to contribute a penny to the purchase of even the Cushions for the seats, the Bible for the desk, or for the organ or piano that should grace the room.

Convey to him, please, my personal thanks for his generous plans. Of course The Trustees will allow him his way, & will <sup>be</sup> everlastingly grateful to him in taking it

Most Cordially Yrs,

Wainwright Kellogg

4B

Brookline, Mass. May 22, 1914.

My dear Thomas;

*not*

I can't tell you how pleased I was and am at the news that Governor Mead wishes to build a chapel on the college grounds. ~~I had not thought that he dreamed of it.~~

And how fitting that it should be at the semi-centennial of his graduation - showing that his love for his college has not waned but waxed during the fifty years!

Were I in his place as to means and attachment to the institution, no one else should be allowed to contribute a penny to the purchase of even the cushions for the seats, the Bible for the desk, or for the organ or piano that shall grace the room.

Convey to him, please, my personal thanks for his generous plans. Of course the trustees will allow him his way, and will be everlastingly grateful to him in taking it.

Most cordially yours,

Brainerd Kellogg.

6

New York, May 22, 1914.

Rev. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vermont.

Dear Doctor Thomas;

On my return from Battle Creek this morning I found your letter announcing the gift of ~~Governor Mead to Middlebury College~~ as a chapel.

I am very much pleased and gratified to think that such a gift is about to be made and I shall certainly co-operate in every way that Governor Mead desires. To that end I give my consent that the building committee which he suggests be named.

With sincere good wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

George M. Wright

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

Rutland, Vt., May 22, 1914.

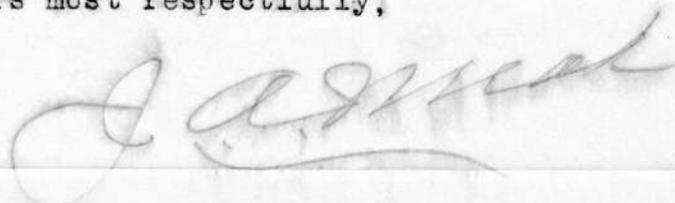
Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Doctor Thomas:-

After further consideration of the subject which we had under discussion yesterday for an hour or more, I can but feel, as you advise, that it would be a good idea for us to have an advisory committee named from among your faculty. I regret that I am not more thoroughly acquainted with the various members of your faculty, but I do know Professors Wright, Sanford and Harrington, who spoke at the meeting on Friday evening last, and I can but feel that all of these gentlemen would be specially interested in this subject, and I am sure they would be of great benefit to us. If this meets with your approval and these gentlemen would be pleased to serve in this advisory capacity, I am sure it would be a great pleasure and a benefit to our present committee. Should be pleased to hear from you on this subject.

With very kind regards, I am,

Yours most respectfully,



GEORGE M. WRIGHT,  
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW  
280 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK  
—  
TELEPHONE 169 WORTH

May 22, 1914.

Rev. John M. Thomas, D. D.,  
Middlebury,  
Vermont.

Dear Doctor Thomas:-

On my return from Battle Creek  
this morning I found your letter announcing  
the gift of Governor Mead to Middlebury  
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a gift is about to be made and I shall  
certainly co-operate in every way that  
Govenor Mead desires. To that end I give  
my consent that the building committee  
which he suggests be named.

With sincere good wishes, I  
am

Yours very truly,

*George M. Wright*

Middlebury, May 23, 1914.

My dear Mr. President;

Replying formally to the welcome news contained in your message of the 15th, I wish to concur in the acceptance of the "Mead Memorial Chapel."

It is a splendid gift, and will be especially welcome to you, who have so long desired it. I congratulate you upon once more receiving the fruits of casting your bread upon the waters.

I trust that the General Education Board will now look with favor upon your application for a grant toward a new fund, on contemplating this new evidence of the substantial and loyal support of our alumni.

Cordially yours,

John A. Fletcher

RE: MEAD CHAPEL

Burlington, Vt. May 23, 1914.

My dear Doctor Thomas;

I had quite forgotten that your letter to the trustees required an answer, But you know what I would say. The conditions of the glorious gift are very easy, it seems to me.

Is Dr. Pritchett trying to conciliate Vermonters with his article in the Independent?

- - - -  
Yours faithfully,

J. W. Abernethy

JOHN A. FLETCHER, TREASURER,  
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE,  
MIDDLEBURY, VT.

May 23, 1914.

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

My dear Mr. President:-

Replying formally to the welcome news contained in your message of the 15th., I wish to concur in the acceptance of the " Mead Memorial Chapel " .

It is a splendid gift, and will be especially welcome to you, who have so long desired it. I congratulate you upon once more receiving the fruits of casting your bread upoh the waters.

I trust that the General Education Board will now look with ~~year~~ favor upon your application for a ~~grat~~ toward a new fund, on contemplating this new evidence of the substantial and loyal support of our alumni.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John A. Fletcher". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

C O P Y

4C

Vichy, May 25, 1914.

My dear Dr. Thomas;

Your letters of the 12th and 15th came this morning together with enclosures which I greatly enjoyed reading.

Assuredly do I consent to the acceptance of Governor Mead's glorious gift of a chapel for Middlebury College and to the appointment of the special committee to control its erection. I trust that this committee will secure a design as perfect in form and adaptation as the chapel at Williams College. ~~You have doubtless seen this.~~

Those papers you have sent me make me very happy. I rejoice at what the trustees and alumni have done and I am glad to see that you have, in the sporting phrase, got your "second wind" and that you are carrying on the work with good courage. I believe that still greater things are coming to Middlebury under your administration. I am fully persuaded that the report of the Carnegie investigators will not in the end harm Middlebury. It has called the attention of the people of the state to the condition of the schools and set them to thinking. In late years little attention has been paid to education. More must now be given.

Yours truly,

Henry H. Vail

May 25, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

Your letters of May 22nd and 23rd were received during my absence from town, as I preached Sunday at Phillips Exeter Academy.

I am glad that you feel we should have an advisory committee from the faculty and I shall take pleasure in requesting Professors Wright, Sanford and Harrington to serve in this capacity in accordance with the suggestions of your letter. Professor Wright is now on his way home, but he will be with us by the close of the week and I am sure he will take enthusiastic interest in the work assigned him.

I note the letter to you from Rising & Nelson Slate Company. I suppose it is a little early yet to determine such a matter, but I hope when the time comes we shall be able to favor some Vermont organizations, both for reasons of economy and other considerations.

I spent some time on the chapel matter in Boston Saturday. I had an interview with the R. D. Kimball Company, the engineers who have planned the heating system for the college for many years, with reference to running the pipe line to the new chapel. It is early to make definite arrangements for this, but the preparation of such plans requires time and it is well to get at it early.

I also called on Doctor Barton of our Board, who has had much experience in the erection of college buildings in connection with the American Board, and who is greatly interested in our own institution. He expressed the deepest gratification with your proposal and together we went to the office of Allen & Collens, looked over their drawings carefully, and discussed with Mr. Allen, the senior partner, the general plan of

J.A.M. 2

the chapel. We found that they are revising their study some and I think in a short time they will show us a plan, which while following the same general features as that we now have, will show better symmetry and proportion and be a marked improvement. I was pleased with the careful study they appear to be giving to the whole question. Their ideas of the interior seem to me excellent and I believe with such a chapel we would have a building equal to any in religious impressiveness and dignity of style. Doctor Barton then took me to the office of the architects who constructed the chapel in Bates College, Maine, the latest college chapel to be erected in New England. I am confident the building we are planning will be much superior in style and appearance to the Bates chapel.

I find in my mail further letters of approval and congratulation from members of the Board of Trustees, i. e., Messrs Wright, Kellogg, Abernethy and Fletcher. Perhaps you would like to see copies of all the letters from members of the Board. I will be glad to have them copied if you wish.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., May 26, 1914.

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

My Dear Doctor:-

Yours of the 25th at hand and noted. I am pleased that the advisory committee from the faculty will be only too willing to assist in our endeavors to make the chapel a structure of which we shall all be proud.

As to the Rising & Nelson Slate Co., they wrote me a very nice letter and they are quite prominent people in our county. I advised them that I would write you at once as to the above and this will help to make friends with them for the next few months, when possibly we may need the same.

As to the heating system, surely we cannot get these different parts in shape any too early and not be held up at some unfortunate time during the construction of the building.

I shall be pleased to see the new sketch of the chapel by Messrs. A. & C. when they have the same to submit.

Two young gentlemen called here yesterday with sketches of the chapel, whom I have never seen or heard of before. They were very anxious to be permitted to make some drawings. I told them I knew of no objection, though I tried to convince them that their chances for doing anything substantial would be very very small.

You advise that you have letters from various members of the board, etc. If not too much trouble, should be pleased to receive copies of the same.

Thanking you in advance for this favor, I remain,

yours very truly,

*John M. Thomas*  
Middlebury-000047

May 27, 1914.

Doctor John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have received your letter of May 26th. I will send you copies of the letters received from members of the Board, either herewith or by an early mail.

I will advise the R. D. Kimball Company of your advice as to preliminary plans for the heating system and will also try to hurry Messrs. Allen & Collens in their work. I suppose it is wise not to crowd them too much at this particular juncture, as it requires time to do a real good piece of work.

I enclose tentative program for the proposed exercises June 23rd. Please regard this as suggestive only and be free to make criticisms. I have tried to embody the features we have spoken of together, but if I have forgotten anything you will let me know. When we have a program which meets your approval, I will write the various participants and endeavor to secure their consent.

You will note that I have you down for "breaking ground and presentation of the corner stone". I thought it would be appropriate for you to turn the first spadeful of earth. We shall hardly be ready to lay the corner stone, but we can have it there and it seems to me that it would be appropriate for you to make a presentation of the corner stone to the college. The box containing the Bible and any other documents we place in it can be sealed during the ceremony. Naturally you would say a few words at this time concerning your thought in erecting a chapel for the college.

I think Doctor Barton would be the best man of our Board to speak on this occasion. He is greatly interested in the subject, has a wide reputation, and is an effective speaker. Professor Wright, being our Senior Professor, is the natural selection from the faculty and I am sure he would do well. It has occurred to me that it would be a pleasant feature to have a few words from one of the students, and so I have put down the president of the men's religious organization, who is also captain of the ball team.

Faithfully yours,

Middlebury-000048

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

Rutland, Vt., May 28, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,

Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Doctor:-

I have just received your favor of the 27th and have read the same with great pleasure, also have received the carbon copies received from the various trustees, all of which I have read with interest and will file with the other papers.

I notice in the order of exercises you state, "scripture lesson from the first copy of the Holy Bible brought into the Champlain valley." I think you intended this to be, into the Otter Creek valley.

Yesterday I was obliged to go to Pittsford in accordance with a promise made to appraise the estate of Mrs. George N. Boardman, and in accordance with his special request, and I regret to state that I found Doctor Boardman very very feeble and very deaf. I was almost osrry that I had met him, because I should much rather think of him as I saw him some two years or so ago. I also met Dr. Henry Walker and he seemed to me very feeble and nervous, and it appeared to me that he was unnecessarily worried over this what appealed to me as a very simple matter. I assured him that I could help him out and he needn't give it another thought. He seemed specially pleased at this. Mrs. Boardman's will is a very strange document, but I had with me Judge Harmon, our county clerk and one of our best lawyers, and he stated that the thing could be worked out, as he thought, satisfactorily. I kept in mind all the time the fact that both Doctor and Mrs. Boardman were to endow a professorship at the college and I hope that there will be a good substantial sum left for the same. ~~I shall be pleased to~~

Middlebury-000049

There is anything that you wish me to do in connection with this stone or the breaking of the ground, as you state, kindly advise. I have just heard that people in "breaking ground", that they often take and just remove a sod, and this is placed in a box or something, and is taken sometimes home to the party specially interested, and that he has used this in connection with some other object. I was thinking of this just for a moment, that I might bring the piece of sod that is removed and place the same in Evergreen Cemetery here in Rutland, as a part of the sod which should be used in our burial lot, which is 50' in width by some 75' in length, and contains the Mead monument and, as you are aware, fourteen members of our family. This thought just occurs to me at this moment. You can have this for your consideration. We will have the little box with the bible which little John is to place in the stone all properly arranged. Your selection of Doctor Barton and Professor Wright, etc., meets with my entire pleasure.

With very kind regards, believe me,

Yours most respectfully,



Middlebury-000050

May 28, 1914.

Doctor John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have just received a very interesting letter from Professor Hamlin, head of the School of Architecture at Columbia University, who is a son of Doctor Cyrus Hamlin, former president of Middlebury. Personally I feel very grateful to Doctor Hamlin for the careful attention which he has given to our problem and I feel that his letter contains very wholesome advice and much useful information.

I should think now the best thing would be to wait for the revised sketches from Allen & Collins, which they promised us next week, and then have a meeting of the committee with the faculty advisory committee. I expect Professor Wright to be back not later than next Monday. I shall be glad of your judgment on this point or any other matters connected with Professor Hamlin's letter and the general subject.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., May 29, 1914.

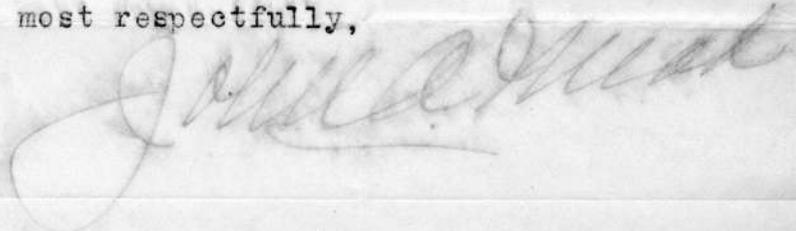
Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

Yours of the 28th with enclosure, letter from Professor Hamlin, at hand. I have read this with special interest and note his comments, which surely must have been dictated by a party of experience along the line which he is treating. So soon as you receive the revised sketches from Mr. Collens, if you will kindly inform me, I will appear at once for a meeting of the committee.

Thanking you again for your very kind consideration, I am,

Yours most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John M. Thomas", is written over the typed signature line.

June 2, 1914.

Doctor John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have just received your letter of May 28th and also your letter of June 1st, the latter with reference to rooms at the Addison. I have talked with Mr. Higgins again, and he has promised me faithfully that he would have accommodations for you and that he would write you just what he could do. We can see him Friday while you are here if necessary.

As to the program, I will make the correction as to the Otter Creek valley. I am not quite sure whether you think it would be wise under the circumstances to invite Doctor Boardman to offer the prayer. I think it quite probable that he would decline, but I will follow your judgment in the matter. I feel that this is an important part of the exercises and we want to make no mistake. Personally I would prefer a graduate of Middlebury, if we could find the right man. We can also discuss this subject on Friday.

It would certainly be an interesting feature to have you take the first piece of sod and place it later in Evergreen Cemetery in Rutland and I can see no objection to doing this.

Professor Wright returned last evening and is greatly pleased with the chapel. I have talked with him at length on what we have done thus far and secured his consent to serve as a member of the advisory committee and to meet with us Friday morning. He will also take the part assigned him on the 23rd and I am sure will speak with deep feeling and most hearty appreciation of what the chapel will mean to those who are working for Middlebury College.

Page 2

I am very glad you could help Doctor Boardman and Doctor Walker. I am sure they both deserve the deep gratitude and affectionate interest of all friends of Middlebury. Perhaps you know that a few years ago Doctor and Mrs. Boardman gave the college outright \$30,000 in securities and cash, taking therefor the bond of the college to pay them or the survivor of them \$1500 a year for life. Of course this amount is now paid regularly to Doctor Boardman. On his death the agreement provides that a professorship be established bearing their joint names. If there is anything further in Mrs. Boardman's will with reference to Middlebury, it must be in addition to this generous gift already made.

I am glad you are interesting Mr. Wilbur. I have had him on my mailing list for some time, but between now and commencement will try to drop him one or two items with reference to the college which he may not have seen or possibly has forgotten.

Faithfully yours,

Rutland, Vt., June 6, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I have just received your circular letter addressed to "the alumni and friends of Middlebury," and would be pleased if you could send me a dozen or fifteen more, and also an equal number of the programs for commencement week. Should like to use them among some of our friends who possibly would be pleased to be at commencement this year.

And now I wish to refer to a subject of special interest, though I am embarrassed by being pledged to secrecy even for the second time. After leaving you, I met an acquaintance and he seemed quite a little affected and told me that I had anticipated his act, as he had made his will appropriating quite a respectable sum for the erection of a chapel for the college, and he says, "what you have done simply cuts me out". I had but a few moments before it was time to leave for the train and thus our conference was short. I stated that there were other uses that could be made of his money, which would be just as pleasing, I felt, as what I had done, and urged him not to forget Middlebury, even though the building of the chapel was provided for. Without doubt he will receive the circular letter which you have forwarded to me and may find something in it which will be attractive, but if you wish to write me stating in what direction he could spend this money for the best service of the college I will follow up the subject industriously. I only wish that I could give you the name, because he is a splendid friend of yours, and I shall endeavor to prevail upon him to release me

(J. M. T. #2)

from the obligation of secrecy. He took me one side, that no one should see or mistrust that we were having this special talk. I wanted to tell you of this at the very earliest moment possible, that you may realize the situation.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John A. Mearns". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed closing "Yours very truly,".

Rutland, Vt., June 6, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I have just received your circular letter addressed to the alumni and friends of Middlebury, and would be pleased if you could send me a dozen or fifteen more, and also an equal number of the programs for commencement week. Should like to use them among some of our friends who possibly would be pleased to be at commencement this year.

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(J. M. T. #2)

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Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John A. Mearns". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed closing "Yours very truly,".

June 8, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have your letter of June 6th and we will send you at once fifteen additional copies of my circular letter of June 2 and the same number of commencement programs. I am naturally very much pleased that you have found some one who is interested in putting up a building for Middlebury College. There should be no difficulty in finding something which would be highly useful and contribute both to the growth of the institution and the value of its service.

It seems to me that our first need now is a dormitory for boys on the height beside the new chapel. We have accommodations for only about seventy-five boys, and we have this year one hundred and eighty boys in college. The surplus find boarding places in the village and there are a number of rented fraternity houses. It would be a great deal better in every way if we could have our students together on the hill. I would like to see more of them in college buildings, and what fraternity houses we have in close proximity to the college dormitories. The college is neglecting a great opportunity for moral influence in not paying more attention to the housing and daily life of the boys. We have a fine home for the girls and an officer whose duty it is to supervise them, but we let the boys do absolutely as they please, while they are the ones who need attention more.

Then we especially need a new home for boys for business reasons. The college has not put up a dormitory since 1861, over fifty years. The old idea of a "college hall" was a sort of barracks, a building with public halls and nothing in its general appointments to suggest gentlemanly conduct. I confess that my heart always sinks when a gentleman or lady, coming here with their son, ask me to show them our dormitory rooms. I am not over-fastidious, but I would not want my boy to go to a school which provided no better quarters than we have in Starr and Painter Halls. The rooms themselves are pleasant enough, but the appointments of the buildings are not up to date.

J.A.M. #2

We are getting a class of students now who can afford to pay for respectable rooms and modern conveniences. We would have more if we had the living accommodations for that class of students. They are most profitable to the college, since they are ready to pay tuition and do not ask for scholarships.

Dartmouth College has found its dormitories a profitable investment, clearing as high as ten per cent. I do not say that we could do this, but I am confident that a modern dormitory would bring us in a fair return, at least after the first year or two.

There is another building which should go with the dormitory, a dining hall for the men of the college, with rooms for the Y.M.C.A., reading room, and general social purposes. Our present dining hall would be too far removed from a new dormitory on the hill, and is inadequate even for the present number of students. We have no appropriate Y.M.C.A. rooms and a boy is practically obliged to join a fraternity to have the social facilities which he needs. With the growth of the college a good many are not members of fraternities. It would do much to bring all the men of the college together if we had a common meeting place for social purposes. Such buildings in other institutions have proved highly useful.

If neither of these objects appeal to your friend, I am sure the day is coming when we shall be obliged to have a new recitation hall. At present the chapel is the only building we can use for recitations in other than scientific branches. It has been crowded for many years. As you know my office is in the chapel, while the other college offices are in Hainter Hall. This is a great inconvenience. We should use one entire floor of this central building for administration purposes, but we cannot take the room until we have another recitation hall.

So you see there is abundant opportunity for any one to be of great service to our college through additions to our plant, to say nothing of endowments or professorships. There would be a great advantage in putting up a second building at the same time as the chapel and I have no doubt we could get better figures from contractors if two went together. I need not say that I shall be glad

J.A.M. #3

to go into this subject farther and to help along  
the good work in any way I can.

I enclose further letters from members  
of the Corporation approving plans for the new  
chapel.

Faithfully yours,

My Dear Friend:-

JUNE [9] 1914

I have been thinking quite seriously of the moment's talk we had at the Addison House last week, referring particularly to my gift to Middlebury, and I only wish that you would allow me to make known your name and your plans to Doctor Thomas. I know how anxious he is to put our college square upon its feet just at this time, when there has been so much excitement and mild criticism resulting from the investigation of the Carnegie Foundation Society. When we were investigating the ridge directly back of the present buildings, the highest portion of the campus, the Doctor said, "What a delight it would be if we could have a boys' dormitory right up here but a few rods from this chapel, and they could be built together". I thought it was a splendid idea and surely it would be as great a help to the college as would the chapel, as this would to a certain extent put them on their feet as to room for the boys. At present, as you know, they have to find lodging places all over the village, which, as Doctor Thomas told me, was a serious drawback in their work. Would it not be a splendid idea if you could help them and that we could go right on together with these two buildings? I felt myself it was so much better to do an act of this kind while I was alive rather than to leave the same till I had passed away. I wish that you might look at it in this way, and hoping to hear from you and thanking you for a response, I am,

Yours most respectfully,

*Handwritten signature*  
Middlebury-000062

(8)

C O P Y

Esplanade - Marienbad, June 6

Pres. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My dear Pres. Thomas;

I have just received here your letter of May 15th with the enclosed letter of Governor Mead. I congratulate you heartily on this fine gift which will be a beautiful memorial and a most needed and welcome addition to our buildings. ~~If I knew his address I would write~~ Governor Mead a letter of thanks. His most interesting letter with its details of early history should be framed and hung in the chapel - and also put in the box of the corner stone.

With renewed congratulations,

Yours truly,

M. Allen Starr

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

Yours most sincerely,

Rutland, Vt., June 10, 1914.

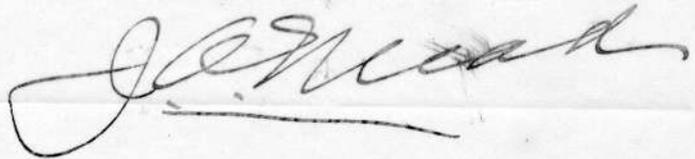
Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

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,



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

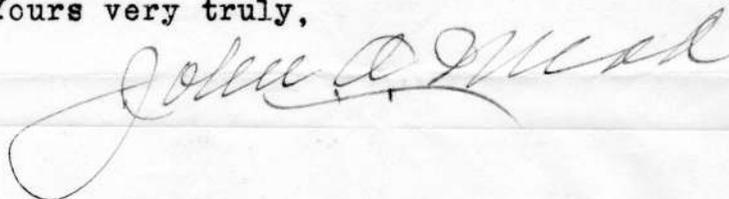
Rutland, Vt., June 13, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I intended to speak with you last evening about asking Judge Wickes to serve with us on our committee. The thought has occurred to me time and again, but I did not recall the subject when we happened to be together. If agreeable to you and President Brainerd, it surely would be to me, that we might have his advice and assistance as to the construction of the <sup>capital</sup> capital. Please extend to him my very kind regards and make this suggestion if it meets with your approval.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John A. Marsh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Yours very truly,".

JAMES M. GIFFORD  
CHARLES B. HOBBS  
ANSON MCCOOK BEARD  
JOHN D. FEARHAKE  
ALFRED P. W. SEAMAN

LAW OFFICES  
GIFFORD, HOBBS & BEARD  
COLUMBIA-KNICKERBOCKER TRUST COMPANY BUILDING  
60 BROADWAY

CABLE "HOBFORD"  
TELEPHONE 1065 RECTOR

NEW YORK June 15, 1914.

Rev. John M. Thomas, D. D.,  
President Middlebury College,  
Middlebury, Vermont.

My dear Dr. Thomas:

I regret exceedingly that owing to illness I shall be unable to attend the Trustees' meeting and the Commencement exercises at Middlebury the coming week.

I congratulate you on the gift made by Dr. Meade for a new Chapel. It is quite apparent, however, that the amount given will be absolutely insufficient for the construction of a creditable building. I hope the Trustees will not attempt to build a Chapel, limiting the cost of construction to the amount given by Dr. Meade. I feel very strongly that the most attractive building of all should be the Chapel, and from experience, know that the amount given is absolutely insufficient. As Chairman of the Finance Committee of the West End Presbyterian Church, I have been somewhat active during the past year in connection with the building of a Chapel for that Church. This was constructed at a cost of about \$90,000, although its size was only 40 or 50 feet front by about 90 feet in depth.

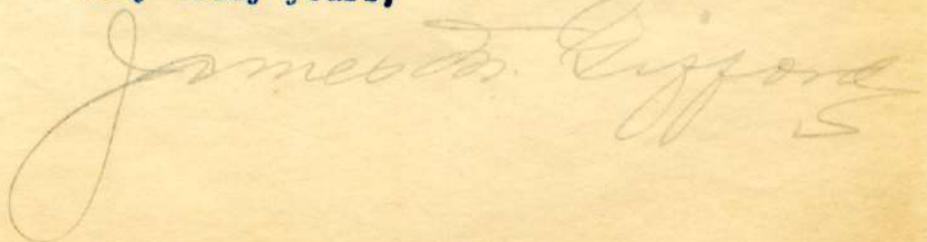
The Chapel at Williams given by Mrs. Thompson, I understand, cost \$250,000. I hope, therefore, steps will be taken to increase the fund or that the building will be constructed on the theory that the first step only will be taken at the present time, the building itself to be completed later. The amount given is very substantial as a starting point but, in my judgment, the cost ought to be from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

I am not writing this with the idea of discouraging you or the Trustees but I do hope that a mistake will be avoided. I also feel rather strongly that the Architect ought to be experienced in this particular line as, for example, Mr. Cady.

This letter will be signed for me as I am writing from my house and will not have an opportunity to read it before it is sent forward.

With best regards and the hope that the Commencement may be most successful, coupled with extreme regrets on account of my inability to be present, I am

Very truly yours,



June 15, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 13th and in accordance therewith I will take pleasure in inviting Judge Weeks to serve with us on the committee for the erection of the Mead Memorial Chapel.

I earnestly hope we shall be able to come to a clear judgment as to the kind of building we wish to erect during the commencement meetings, in order that we may proceed with the preparation of working plans and specifications and get the building well started during the summer. I am leaving for Worcester this noon and if possible will get to Boston and have another interview with Mr. Collens.

The more I think of the idea which I spoke to you about the other day with reference to President Brainerd, the more appropriate the suggestion seems to me and I think I shall confer with some of the other trustees.

Faithfully yours,

P.S. Will you arrange with Mr. Bradford to pronounce the benediction at the exercises on the afternoon of Tuesday June 23rd? If it would be inconvenient, of course we can easily get some one else, but I thought he might enjoy being here and it would be appropriate for him to have a place on the program.

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

Rutland, Vt., June 16, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I have just received yours of the 15th and note that you would suggest of Judge ~~Wicks~~ accepting our invitation as a member of the building committee. I regret that I did not think of this before, but whenever I have been in Middlebury ~~it has~~ been a good deal of a hurry to return as quickly as possible, that business would not pile up on me here at the factory, and I have thought, as I stated in former letter, many a time of your suggestion as to Judge ~~Wicks~~ and I certainly thought it was advisable. I shall be delighted to have him with us.

As to the completing of the plans, I am just as anxious as you and would be more than pleased to have this building started at the earliest moment possible, though I do hope that we will not regret what we undertake, and when the plans are acceptable, then for us to find some contractor as quickly as possible.

As to Doctor Brainerd taking a part in the laying of the corner-stone, etc., it would be very pleasing to me.

I will endeavor to take up the subject of Mr. Bradford's being present.

I think I have not yet seen the announcement of the hour when the laying of the corner-stone will be held. Several have asked me, but I could not tell them.

Thanking you for this information, I am,

Yours most respectfully,



P. S. I have just had a talk with Mr. Bradford and he states

Middlebury-000068

June 19, 1914.

Mr. James M. Gifford,  
60 Broadway,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Gifford;

On my return from a trip in Massachusetts I find your letter of June 15th, and at the same time a note from Mr. Wright informs me that you have had typhoid fever. This is the first I had known of your illness. I know something what that disease means and I can sympathize with you very thoroughly. I hope you are over the worst of the convalescent hunger, which I found the most distressing feature of the disease, and that you will advance rapidly toward full recovery and your usual strength.

I note your judgment as to the cost of a chapel. I think Governor Mead expects that his figures will be exceeded and in preparation of plans he has encouraged us to put into the design everything we wanted, and has never raised the question of expense. He is very much interested in the matter, enthusiastic over it, and is anxious to build us a thoroughly creditable building. I regret deeply that you cannot be with us at commencement to see the sketches which have been prepared thus far.

I have submitted to Doctor Mead the letters which have reached me from the trustees in response to his offer. Perhaps you would not wish me to send him this letter, but I wonder if you would be willing to write me another, expressing your appreciation and your feeling that the chapel should be the most attractive building of the campus, and also - in a tactful way - that Governor Mead may find he is involved in a larger amount than he has suggested, as you doubt the ability of the college to erect such a building as he outlines for the sum named.

Once more let me express my sympathy for your illness and my earnest hope for your prompt and complete recovery.

Faithfully yours,

June 19, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

On my return from my Massachusetts trip I find your letter of June 16th. I have seen Judge Weeks and he will be very much pleased to serve with us on the Building committee. I think he will be very useful when it comes to practical matters in putting up the building.

I called on Mr. Collens yesterday and found that he was making good headway in the preparation of sketches. He will be able to show us something of the style which Professor Harrington seems to favor and I shall be much interested, as I have no doubt you will be also, in noting the impression made by the two general designs upon the members of the Board.

The hour fixed for the exercises is 2 P.M. Tuesday as noted on the program of commencement week, copies of which you have. I am very glad Mr. Bradford will be here.

I am glad to have the view of the Congregational church at Woodstock, which has always seemed to me one of the most beautiful buildings in Vermont. The interior is also very pleasing.

Faithfully yours,

June 22, 1914.

The annual meeting of the President & Fellows of Middlebury College was held at the Nat. Bank of Middlebury, at 8 P.M. Monday, June 22, 1914.

Present:- Thomas, McCullough, Stewart, Bartens, Kellogg, Wright, Fair, Mead, Kirklands, Flagg, Weeks, Abornethy, Brainard, Partridge, and Fletcher.

Meeting opened with prayer by the President.

The record of the last meeting was read by the Secretary.

The Treasurer's report was received and placed on file.

Resolved that Mr D. L. Wells be made auditor at a compensation not to exceed \$50.- per year.

Auditor.

Officers and Committees were elected as follows:-

Officers.

President	John M. Thomas
Secretary	John A. Fletcher
Treasurer	D.
Auditor	D. L. Wells
Chapt Buildings & grounds	J. E. Weeks

Prudential Committee	
John M. Thomas	John A. Fletcher
John W. Stewart	John E. Weeks
Eyra Brainard	Frank C. Partridge

Committees

1914

## Committees.

## Finance Committee

Geo. M. Wright

Jos. M. Gifford

Wm. H. Porter

F. C. Partridge

A. B. Hephurn

Business Committee - for  
the Mead Chapel

Geo. M. Thomas

Geo. E. Mead

Ezra Brainerd

Geo. E. Weeks (see below)

## Committee of Instruction

Ezra Brainerd

Brainerd Kellogg

J. W. Abernethy (see below <sup>p. 34</sup>)A. B. & B. S.  
Degrees.

Voted to confer the Degree of A. B.  
and B. S. upon forty six (46) mem-  
bers of the graduating class as follows:-

Harold Wallace Abbott	B. S.
Robert Edgar Brundage	A. B.
Willard Duncan Carpenter	B. S.
Harry Kravich Cassavant	A. B.
Lawrence Webster Cluff	"
Ellen Frick Cronk	B. S.
Richard Stewart Ester	A. B.
Benjamin Warren Fisher	B. S.
Robert Henry Hill	A. B.
Raephel Maye Hutchins	B. S.
Wm. Gleason Macfarlane	A. B.
Walter Irving Miteal	"
Max Duffield Miles	B. S.
Augustus Clifford Frost Truman	"
George Herbert Cleary	A. B.
Robeyo Seyrmitze	B. S.
Edward Robert Riggs	"
Horner Jackson Tail	"
Geo. Chad. Eliot Toss	A. B.
(continued)	

Raymond Cyrus Whitney B.S. Degrees.  
 Chas. Cushman Wilcox "  
 Wm. Francis Youngs " "

24 women, all A. B.

Flourner Mary Aseltine  
 Ellen Mary Bailey  
 Harriet Frazier Blakeman  
 Helena Belle Carpenter  
 Elizabeth Chalmers  
 Ophelia Noella Du Bois  
 Alice Maria Easton  
 Amy Harriet Emandes  
 Frances Letitia Esten  
 Stella Agnes Farnell  
 Mary Madeline Gerard  
 Janis Martha Graves  
 May Eleanor Guerin  
 Helen Irene Haugh  
 Charlotte Flourner Jones  
 Gertrude Frances Kingsley  
 Ethel Caroline Mayson  
 Ruth Adelle Noyes  
 Florine Margaret Parker  
 Annie Estelle Perkins  
 Mary Agnes Shea  
 Fernna Stacy Steter  
 Gladys Wilson  
 Julia Rosewood Wood " "

and upon David Hoebrock Brauer<sup>+</sup>  
 A. B., when he shall have com-  
 pleted his work, - likewise upon Vera  
 Mabel Willson,<sup>+</sup> A. B.

Voted to confer the Degree of  
 A. M. upon the following:-

Leonard T. Cole  
 Edith A. Atwood  
 M. Louise Chaffee  
 Theodora W. Crome

Degrees  
 A. M.

<sup>+</sup> Completed work at Summer Session 1914.

1914

Degrees

Voted to confer the Degree of M.S.  
(in course) upon  
Margaret Farmsworth Sheldon

New Instruc-  
tors.

Voted to approve the Proridents ap-  
pointments of instructors as follows:-  
Llewellyn R. Perkins, Mathematics \$1,200.-  
Miss Marian Spaulding, Home Economics \$1,100.-

Mead-  
Chapel.

The following resolution, introduced by  
Dr. Bramwell, on motion of Dr. Barton  
& Prof. Kellogg, was adopted by a  
rising vote:-

"Whereas our esteemed colleague, the  
Honorable John Abner Mead of the Class of  
1864, has signified to President Thomas  
his desire, in commemoration of the  
fiftieth anniversary of his graduation,  
to erect a Chapel for Middlebury Col-  
lege, and his readiness to furnish the  
sum of from fifty thousand to sixty  
thousand dollars for the erection of  
such an edifice,

Resolved that the President and  
Fellows of Middlebury College, hereby  
accept of this munificent benefaction  
with sincere gratitude to both Dr. &  
Mrs Mead and their family for their  
deep interest in the religious welfare  
of the College, so impressively manifest-  
ed by this provision of a suitable place  
for divine worship.

Resolved that the Trustees through  
the Committee nominated by Dr. Mead  
will use their best endeavors to secure  
the erection of a dignified and substan-  
tial structure, in harmony with the  
other buildings of the College, and  
such as will merit the approval of  
the donor."

Dr Mead made fitting response to this resolution. His letter of presentation follows in full:

Mead  
Chapel.

Rev. Dr. John M. Thomas, L. L. 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 grand-father, 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 grand-mother, 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

1914

Mead  
Chapel

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 consider appropriate plans for its erection which shall meet with my approval, and that said Board appoint a Building Committee at once, consisting of Prudence Thomas, former Prudence Brainerd and myself to make the necessary contracts for such a structure and to supervise the erection of the same, and I will then find 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,  
(signed) John Abner Mead

{ Rutland, Vt.  
May 11, 1914. }

On motion of Mr Partridge, seconded by Dr Abernethy, the Building Committee for the Mead Chapel was elected as above, Prudence Thomas, Brainerd, Mead and Weeks.

Mr Collins of the architectural firm of Allen & Collins then appeared before the Board with tentative plans for the new Chapel, which were discussed at length.

The President read the report of the Faculty on the Carnizer Report and upon the needs of the departments, which need due consideration.

Faculty  
letter.

On motion of Dr. Flagg, seconded by Messrs McCleary & Wright, it was voted that the Degree of Doctor of Science be conferred upon Dr. Ezra Brainard (the latter having absented himself).

Degree  
Dr. Sc. to  
Dr. Brainard

Adjourned to 4 P.M. the following day.

Attest  
John A. Fletcher,  
Secretary.

Tuesday, June 23, 1914

Met pursuant to adjournment, at the President's Office in the Chapel at 4 P.M. Tuesday, June 23d, 1914.

Present, Messrs Thomas, Stewart, Fair, Simonds, Kellogg, Flagg, Barton, Abernethy, Brainard, Mead, Wright, Weeks, Partridge, Fletcher.

On motion of Dr. Brainard, it was voted to connect Parsons' Hall & Butler Cottage with the main heating plant by pipe line

Extension  
of  
Heating Plant  
Conduit.

# Breaking Ground for the Mead Memorial Chapel and Presentation of the Corner Stone

June 23, 1914



MUSIC, by the College Band

HYMN, O God, Beneath Thy Guiding Hand

O God, beneath Thy guiding hand,  
Our exiled fathers cross'd the sea;  
And when they trod the win't'ry strand,  
With pray'r and psalm they worship'd Thee.

Thou heard'st, well pleased, the song, the prayer:  
Thy blessing came; and still its power  
Shall on ward, through all ages, bear  
The memory of that holy hour.

Laws, freedom, truth, and faith in God  
Came with those exiles o'er the waves;  
And where their pilgrim feet have trod,  
The God they trusted guards their graves.

And here Thy name, O God of love,  
Their children's children shall adore,  
Till these eternal hills remove,  
And spring adorns the earth no more.

SCRIPTURE LESSON, from the first copy of the Holy Bible brought  
into the Otter Valley

PRAYER, Ex-President Ezra Brainerd, '64

READING OF LETTER OF PRESENTATION

BREAKING GROUND AND PRESENTATION OF THE CORNER  
STONE, Ex-Governor John A. Mead, '64. A copy of the Holy  
Bible will be placed in the stone by John Abner Mead Hinsman

ACCEPTANCE IN BEHALF OF THE TRUSTEES, Rev. James L.  
Barton, D. D., LL.D., '81

ADDRESS IN BEHALF OF THE FACULTY, Prof. Charles B. Wright

ADDRESS IN BEHALF OF THE STUDENTS, Homer J. Vail, '14

HYMN, Onward, Christian Soldiers

Onward, Christian soldiers,  
Marching as to war,  
With the cross of Jesus  
Going on before!  
Christ the royal Master  
Leads against the foe;  
Forward into battle,  
See, His banners go.

Like a mighty army  
Moves the Church of God;  
Brothers, we are treading  
Where the saints have trod;  
We are not divided,  
All one body we,  
One in hope and doctrine,  
One in charity.

Crowns and thrones may perish,  
Kingdoms rise and wane,  
But the Church of Jesus  
Constant will remain;  
Gates of hell can never  
'Gainst that Church prevail;  
We have Christ's own promise,  
And that cannot fail.

Onward, then, ye people!  
Join our happy throng!  
Blend with ours your voices  
In the triumph song!  
Glory, laud, and honor,  
Unto Christ the King;  
This through countless ages  
Men and angels sing.

BENEDICTION, Rev. Arthur H. Bradford

Mr. President, Members of the Class of '64 and  
Friends.

\*

As the devout Hebrew, wandering in distant  
climes far from the home of his fathers, ever  
turns his face, at sunset hour, toward the "sacred  
city" to offer his evening devotions, so to-day  
do we, the former students of Middlebury, on  
this anniversary day, stirred and thrilled by  
the glorious memories of the past, return in-  
stinctively to the shrine of our college life, to  
revisit the old Halls of Learning, now so  
sacred, to grasp again the hands of the few re-  
maining friends, and to consecrate again our lives  
to the high ideals which for more than a century  
have inspired the students of our beloved Alma  
Mater.

As we have been approaching this milestone  
of our busy lives, the Commencement of 1914,  
I have anticipated special pleasure in being per-  
mitted to place my offering upon the "altar" of  
my academic life, and on this day, the fiftieth

anniversary of my graduation, when so large a <sup>proportion</sup> ~~per cent.~~ of my classmates living <sup>are</sup> ~~can be~~ present, to remove the soil and lay the corner stone of a Memorial Chapel which will rise from the highest portion of this Campus.

The history of my ancestors is such as to make it specially appropriate for me to assume this duty, for, as I stated in my letter to our President, Doctor Thomas, it was my great-great-grandfather, the first white settler on the Otter Creek, who brought the first copy of the Bible into this valley, and it was his wife, the mother of the first white child born in the valley, with her daughters gathered about her in an Indian wigwam, upon one side of which was seated the squaw and the papooses of the then Chief of the Cagnawagas, who read by the light of a pine torch a chapter from this Bible, and then kneeling with her daughters in a circle, she offered the first prayer, so far as history or tradition teaches, ever uttered in this valley.

A few months afterward, Rev. Benajah Root, a

graduate of Yale and a regularly ordained minister of the Congregational Church, came into this valley at Center Rutland, where the first religious society was organized, and my great-great-grandmother was one of the fifteen charter members, - and years afterwards my great-grandfather married the eldest daughter of said Reverend Mr. Root, and thus she became my great-grandmother on my father's side.

These relations, with many others which I will not rehearse, make it specially my duty to continue the noble work which these ancestors inaugurated on the first evening of their arrival in this valley, and thus the thought of being able financially, and of being permitted physically, to erect this chapel has been the source of sincere pleasure to me for the last few months, and as I strive to discern the future, I am strengthened, yes, assured, by the many promises of Holy Writ, that the acts of this day performed under such favorable auspices, will be a source of great pleasure to my family, to my

friends, and to myself, and I trust it will be "the bread cast upon the waters" which will return to many thousands who will succeed us as members of this college, and through their influence and teaching will remain a blessing to many others living in distant lands and during generations yet to come, and other thousands who will never know when or where the sacred seed was planted, which grew so abundantly and comforted them and theirs with sacred blessings, and which can only spring from one source.

Such has been my pleasing experience for the last few weeks and such are my hopes for the future, and for generations yet unborn.

As we stand upon this height of our campus, (made sacred this day by being consecrated to the development of the spiritual life, that which will continue unto the end,- that which will grow brighter and more beautiful as the succeeding generations roll away), from this height we look down upon the grand old chapel, which has been the sacred shrine of our fathers for nearly

ah hundred years, we realize that there are invisible cords of love and reverence, reaching forth to every clime, which are entwined about thousands of sacred hearts, binding them more and more strongly to this temple of their youth. This sacred affection cannot be wholly transferred to this later temple, but our fathers and forefathers will all rejoice that a more complete structure has been provided for their children and children's children.

We also look down upon those noble structures of colonial art, Old Painters and Starr Halls, and what precious memories are associated with these students' homes of the last three centuries!

Such, my friends, was Middlebury College (54) years ago when I first came upon its campus, with all her pleasant memories and her noble work so well done.

The War of '61 and '65 had a most depressing effect upon our college life, absorbing largely the interest of the students, a large per cent. of whom left the college halls and hurried with

their brothers to the defence of their country, and it was nearly forty years before our Alma Mater recovered from the terrible scourge. Hundreds of thousands of our noblest sons were offered as a sacrifice on the Altar of Freedom, our nation was impoverished and burdened with a debt of many billions, many cities and towns were totally destroyed, many large sections both north and south were left as barren wastes, and thus it took nearly two generations to recover from this affliction.

But what has the last 12 to 15 years added to the original buildings! <sup>the</sup> Beautiful Library by Mr. Starr, <sup>the</sup> Science Hall by Mr. Ezra Warner, (whom many of us so well remember,) <sup>the</sup> Piersons Hall, by that grand old philanthropist, <sup>Dr. S. K. Piersons,</sup> the McCullough Gymnasium, by our adopted brother, Gen. J. G. McCullough, the Chemistry Building, ~~the Girls Dormitory and its adjacent buildings.~~ <sup>and other new structures.</sup> These useful and beautiful ~~structures~~ <sup>buildings</sup> have within 15 years been placed upon our campus at a cost exceeding \$400,000. Such is the physical life

of our college to-day, with an increase of students of from 200 to 300 per cent.

But, my friends, what of the future? Do not fear - the future will in no respect discredit the past. With our Doctor Thomas as standard bearer, with such a corps of professors and teachers, and with many thousand alumni and alumnae, all inspired by the noble deeds of the past century, and specially by the enormous growth of the last quarter of a century, its equal unknown in the history of New England college life, with an immediate future so rich in proffered assistance, we should have no fear, ~~less it might be the loss of our own self respect and of our high regard for the future of our children.~~ If (50) years ago those of us then associated with Middlebury College could have raised the veil of the future only for a moment, would we not have been filled with surprise and admiration?<sup>2</sup>

With the prestige of past success and with unabated confidence in the future, let us have perfect faith in the destiny of our Alma Mater,

each realizing his duty. Let us labor that she may increase abundantly, not only in wealth and numbers, but in that which is infinitely better - growth in the mental, the moral and the spiritual life.

Inspired by this thought, my family and myself wish to <sup>erect</sup> dedicate this Memorial Chapel <sup>for Middlebury College,</sup> to our respected President, Doctor Thomas, and former President and Classmate, Doctor Brainerd, and to all others associated with our Alma Mater, as Trustees, Teachers and Students, I wish to break the ground and place the corner stone for this Memorial Chapel, with the hope and prayer that there shall be a sacred duty resting upon each <sup>with good will and affection for</sup>, to make this Holy Temple, so soon to be erected, an instrument of great good to those of this generation and to those who may follow after, and that our Alma Mater may be favored by steadily increasing numbers and with ample means for the noble work which will devolve upon her, and all of which she will attempt so willingly, so courageously and so faithfully.

*copy of the use this copy*

Mr. President, Members of the Class of '64 and  
Friends.

*Remove the Dixie*

\*

As the devout Hebrew, wandering in distant  
climes far from the home of his fathers, ever  
turns his face, at sunset hour, toward the "sacred  
city" to offer his evening devotions, so to-day  
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As we have been approaching this milestone  
of our busy lives, - the Commencement of 1914, -  
I have anticipated special pleasure in being per-  
mitted to place my offering upon the "altar" of  
my academic life, and on this day, the fiftieth

1 classmate & friend

Dr. Thomas ~~member of the building~~

~~of the University of Vermont~~  
~~at the University of Vermont~~

Two years have passed so rapidly I should say. ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~  
I had ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~  
of a ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~ was placed  
on the highest ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~

of the Vermont ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~  
which made  
it ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~ that

from this hallowed ground ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~  
a Memorial ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~  
there dedicated to our ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~

our respect & appreciation is ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~  
to my beloved classmate & life long friend  
for whom my love & admiration is ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~

strong with my passing year. To all  
others associated with our ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~  
at ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~  
Students & Friends - On this occasion

a ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~  
was a sacred duty & binding upon ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~  
associated with my labor ~~of the Vermont~~ ~~of the Vermont~~

anniversary of my graduation, when so large a per cent. of my classmates living can be present, to remove the soil and lay the corner stone of a Memorial Chapel which will rise from the highest portion of this Campus.

The history of my ancestors is such as to make it specially appropriate for me to assume this duty, for, as I stated in my letter to our President, Doctor Thomas, it was my great-great-grandfather, the first white settler on the Otter Creek, who brought the first copy of the Bible into this valley, and it was his wife, the mother of the first white child born in the valley, with her daughters gathered about her in an Indian wigwam, upon one side of which was seated the squaw and the papooses of the then Chief of the Caugnawagas, who read by the light of a pine torch a chapter from this Bible, and then kneeling with her daughters in a circle, she offered the first prayer, so far as history or tradition teaches, ever uttered in this valley.

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friends, and to myself, and I trust it will be "the bread cast upon the waters" which will return to many thousands who will succeed us as members of this college, and through their influence and teaching will remain a blessing to many others living in distant lands and during generations yet to come, and other thousands who will never know when or where the sacred seed was planted, which grew so abundantly and comforted them and theirs with sacred blessings, and which can only spring from one source.

Such has been my pleasing experience for the last few weeks and such are my hopes for the future, and for generations yet unborn.

As we stand upon this height of our campus, (made sacred this day by being consecrated to the development of the spiritual life, that which will continue unto the end, - that which will grow brighter and more beautiful as the succeeding generations roll away), from this height we look down upon the grand old chapel, which has been the sacred shrine of our fathers for nearly

an hundred years, we realize that there are invisible cords of love and reverence, reaching forth to every clime, which are entwined about thousands of sacred hearts, binding them more and more strongly to this temple of their youth. This sacred affection cannot be wholly transferred to this later temple, but our fathers and forefathers will all rejoice that a more complete structure has been provided for their children and children's children.

We also look down upon those noble structures of colonial art, Old Painters and Starr Halls, and what precious memories are associated with these students' homes of the last three <sup>generations</sup> ~~centuries~~.

Such, my friends, was Middlebury College 54 years ago, when I first came upon its campus, with all her pleasant memories and her noble work so well done.

The War of '61 and '5 had a most depressing effect upon our college life, absorbing largely the interest of the students, a large per cent. of whom left the college halls and hurried with

their brothers to the defence of their country, and it was nearly forty years before our Alma Mater recovered from the terrible scourge. Hundreds of thousands of our noblest sons were offered as a sacrifice on the Altar of Freedom, our nation was impoverished and burdened with a debt of many billions, many cities and towns were totally destroyed, many large sections both north and south were left as barren wastes, and thus it took nearly two generations to recover from this affliction.

But what has the last 12 to 15 years added to the original buildings ; the Beautiful Library by Mr. Starr, Science Hall by Mr. Ezra Warner, (whom many of us so well remember,) Piersons Hall, by that grand old philanthropist, the McCullough Gymnasium, by our adopted brother, Gen. J. G. McCullough, the Chemistry Building, the Girls Dormitory and its adjacent buildings. These useful and beautiful structures have within 15<sup>12</sup> years been placed upon our campus at a cost exceeding \$400,000. Such is the physical life

of our college to-day, with an increase of students of from 200 to 300 per cent.

But, my friends, what of the future? Do not fear - the future will in no respect discredit the past. With our Doctor Thomas as standard bearer, with such a corps of professors and teachers, and with many thousand alumni and alumnae, all inspired by the noble deeds of the past century, and specially by the enormous growth of the last quarter of a century, its equal unknown in the history of New England college life, with an immediate future so rich in proffered assistance, we should have no fear, (less it might be the loss of our own self respect and of our high regard for the future of our children. If 50 years ago those of us then associated with Middlebury College could have raised the veil of the future only for a moment, would we not have been filled with surprise and admiration.

With the prestige of past success and with unabated confidence in the future, let us have perfect faith in the destiny of our Alma Mater,

each realizing his duty. Let us labor that she may increase abundantly, not only in wealth and numbers, but in that which is infinitely better - growth in the mental, the moral and the spiritual life.

Inspired by this thought, my family and myself wish to dedicate this Memorial Chapel to our respected President, Doctor Thomas, and former President and Classmate, Doctor Brainerd, and to all others associated with our Alma Mater, as Trustees, Teachers and Students, <sup>On this date</sup> I wish to break the ground and place the corner stone for this Memorial Chapel, with the hope and prayer that there shall be a sacred duty resting upon each, to make this Holy Temple, so soon to be erected, an instrument of great good to those of this generation and to those who may follow after, and that our Alma Mater may be avored by steadily increasing numbers and with ample means for the noble work which will devolve upon her, and all of which she will attempt so willingly, so courageously and so faithfully.

*Jr. Barton*

I am honored in being permitted, upon behalf of the Trustees of Middlebury College, to accept from the hands of one of their number, a graduate of the College and an ~~honored~~ <sup>revered</sup> citizen of this Commonwealth, this corner stone and that for which it stands, namely, a fitting chapel to be erected upon this site ~~and~~ to embody and represent and perpetuate the religious life of this College.

It is doubly gratifying to me, as it is to the Board of Trustees, that this building, as a memorial, will bear the name of ~~a family~~ <sup>one</sup> so long and so honorably connected with this institution and ~~which~~ <sup>who</sup> in the state and nation has always ~~stood~~ <sup>upheld and promoted</sup> for true piety and civic and national righteousness.

This College has always stood for Christianity and has aimed to send out its graduates actuated by the loftiest Christian ideals. The foundations of this institution were laid by the sons of the Pilgrims and the Puritans. Their ideas of the place religion s Middlebury 1000097

demonstrated by their making the Chapel the central building of the first three ~~buildings~~ erected. This has been encroached upon and crowded by the increasing material demands until the Spiritual idea seemed to be overshadowed by the material. Today we see the religious ideals of our forefathers emancipated and exalted to this loftier position and embodied in a structure worthy the College and its resplendent history. Here, upon this hill-top it will, by the outlines and symmetry of its architecture, proclaim that this College believes in God, in the supremacy of righteousness, in the creation of a safe, sane and just society, the triumph of justice, the transcendent worth of character, the reality of the unseen, and in the immortality of the soul.

Christianity has always been the friend of education. In the middle ages when intellectual life stagnated, the Church kept burning upon the altar of learning the flame of true education. It was the Church that with deep penetrating prevision laid both upon  
Middlebury-000098

the Continent of Europe and in Great Britain the foundations of the greatest Universities of the Old World. The history of education in America is but a repetition of the story of the leadership of the Church in the promotion of sound learning.

Even today, among the more than 360 colleges reported by the Commissioner of Education in the United States, only 30 are known to be secular in their origin and management. On the other hand, education has not always given due place to that for which the Church stands and sometimes has tried to rule it out as antagonistic.

In this Chapel education and religion will meet upon common ground and none can say to the other "I have no need of thee." Education will lift religion from the realm of sentiment into the sphere of intelligence, and religion will save education from provincial narrowness, self-destructive, arrogance.

There are two kinds of education, that which culminates in the accumulation of knowledge, and that which imparts Middlebury 000099 power

through the creation of character. Both are necessary for the development of a broad and balanced manhood and womanhood. The library, the halls of science and history and philosophy and literature, as well as the gymnasium and the athletic field, are essential parts of a true college. Through these the awakening minds as well as bodies of the students are aroused to effort and made to experience new visions, and arrive at new conclusions regarding the material and intellectual universe. But education must take cognizance of the fact that above the body and the mind of man there presides a spiritual self whose capacity for growth is boundless and through whose <sup>self</sup> action character becomes self-assertive. This superior self can find its satisfaction only in an atmosphere of spiritual ideas (and in the realm of spirit). It is that part of man which reaches out after God and in its searching cries, "Oh that I knew where I might find Him."

This chapel will provide for the generations of students and faculties of this college that to

which the other buildings cannot minister. To this place all will turn in order to experience the reality of the unseen, to satisfy the thirst of the soul for God.

Though this college have all resources so as to be superior to every financial want, though its faculty surpass all others in recognized intellectual and pedagogical supremacy, though it impart all knowledge and all wisdom in every department of modern education, though its researches be as broad as the universe and as boundless as time, yet, if its supreme purpose be not to create Christian character it will become a national menace and an intellectual monstrosity.

Throughout the East religion is interwoven with the daily concerns of all. It is this that has saved society from chaotic dissolution through the unrestrained passions of evil men by casting about them the restraining influences of a ~~genuine~~ religious belief. Only we Christians are inclined to question the place of religion in shaping character and in

the creation of ideas and ideals that <sup>should</sup> ~~shall~~ dominate. Religion is the greatest concern of all races and conditions of men in all the world. It calls out the greatest sacrifices, inspires the most astounding heroism, commands the largest army of devotees, and exercises a more resistless sway than all physical and intellectual ideals and forces combined.

We are here today concerned with the erection of a structure that will stand, not only for a religion, but for that religion whose supremacy is acknowledged by all others and whose beneficent sway means purity of thought and purpose, perfection of character, and self-sacrificing service for humanity. The building to be erected on this spot is exalted above the gymnasium as the soul is exalted above the body; above the library as the oracles of God written upon the human heart are above the printed words of men; above the halls of science, art, philosophy and history, as the author and creator is above that which he has created; superior to all that human vision can grasp as

the unseen, eternal God is exalted above that which is temporal.

We then, the Trustees of this College, on behalf of <sup>our</sup> ~~themselves~~ and <sup>our</sup> ~~their~~ successors, in the name of the generations of students it will serve, in full recognition of the supreme importance of such a religious center to the life of the institution, and in loving memory of him whose name this structure is to bear, gratefully accept at your hand this Chapel as we pledge ourselves to safeguard to the limit of our capacity the gift and the ideals it is intended to perpetuate.

*by Prof. C. B. Wright*

Mr. President, Doctor and Mrs. Mead, and friends of the College here gathered:-

The most beautiful stories of the world are those of fulfilled desire, and it is to the opening chapter of such a story that we have come today. I esteem it a peculiar privilege that it falls to me - as an older member, not a better; as one who has awaited, not more earnestly but longer, the coming of this hour - to express in however imperfect a fashion the joy of the Faculty in this realization of a cherished hope. That joy is common to us all - to students and alumni, to Trustees, Faculty, and friends - but the deepest satisfaction should be found in the hearts of the Faculty, for the reason that of all these groups it is they who should appreciate most fully our need of the chapel that is here begun. How, indeed, could it be otherwise? They are in daily touch with the college life, as Trustees and Alumni cannot be; and that touch is prolonged, as the undergraduate touch is not, through an ever-increasing number of college generations. I would not minimize others' delight in the great good fortune that we share. The Corporation may well rejoice in this generous benefaction, with its timely and convincing proof of a strength for Middlebury commensurate with her days. Nor will any one question, who knows them well, the happiness of our students in the prospect now unfolding. The thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts. Oftener than the world believes, there is, I doubt not, in student minds, beneath their careless seeming, a wistful longing, an unsatisfied hunger, for the deep things of the Spirit; nor do I doubt that this latest gift has kindled in student hearts a hope.

vague and unformulated, perhaps, but real and rich in promise, that with this chapel there is coming for Middlebury a new and better order in which they are to have a part. All this is true, yet nevertheless it is the Faculty to whom for years the need must have seemed most pressing, and to whom in consequence the splendid possibilities of that new order should reveal themselves most fully.

Archbishop Temple, himself for years a second Arnold at Rugby, said once to one who was reconstructing an ancient grammar school, "If I were making a school, I should create the chapel first of all." There is no true pedagogics in any other plan: the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. And I trust that in the truest sense Middlebury College, from the very first, has been built about her chapel; how else account for that bead-roll of her sons whose consecrated service in every field has been for more than a hundred years her chief cause for pride? Nor would I exalt unduly the need of a stately structure for the effective fostering of spiritual life; it needs but the dream of a ladder and of angels ascending and descending on it, to make of even a desert place a veritable house of God and gate of heaven. But the soul, with artist instinct, has ever craved embodiment in form - "For soul is form, and doth the body make" - and vaulted nave and rhythmic hymn are alike the outcome of its Godward aspiration. Such an embodiment should this structure be. Happy this institution if the chapel we have here begun - a chapel whose very lines, I trust, as they rise upon this summit, may prove for us all in the years to come a compelling call to goodness; whose very atmosphere, I trust, may dispose

our hearts to praise - shall be but a fit expression, a symbol in stone, of the mingled strength and beauty of the Middlebury life.

The Faculty thank you, Governor Mead, from profoundly grateful hearts. You have bodied forth our dream of years; you have given to an airy nothing a local habitation - and not the least of our pleasure is the thought that through all the days to be it will bear your honored name.



Middlebury-000107

A guess - Payley corner  
Stone Road Chapel of  
Middlebury Ct.

Commencement June 1914



Middlebury-000109

A guess - Payley corner  
stone road Chapel of  
Middlebury Ct.

Commencement June 1914



Middlebury-000111

1. Grandmother Th...

2. Grandmother Th...

3. Grandmother Th...

Gov. Wood

Commencement  
June 1914

Middlebury-000112



EM Middlebury-000113

Grandfather & Governor Mead #  
Laying of cornerstone of  
Mead Chapel Middlebury

Preceded by Arthur Bradford, Pastor

Commencement June 1914

Middlebury-000114

C O P Y

9

June 24, 1914.

My dear Dr. Thomas:-

I am this morning in receipt of your letter of the 19th inst. which has been forwarded to me at my country home, to which point I was removed a week ago today.

I thank you for your kind expressions of sympathy and know you will be pleased to learn that I have been convalescing rapidly. Fortunately I have not had the ravenous appetite which in most cases seems to be incidental to recovery from typhoid fever.

It has been a matter of sincere regret that I have been compelled to be absent from Middlebury at this particular commencement season. It would have been a great pleasure if I could have expressed personally to Gov. Mead my appreciation of his munificence in the gift which he has recently made to the college for a chapel. I have felt for years that the one building which the college most needed is that which Gov. Mead has undertaken to erect. I feel that it should be located on the most prominent site and that, architecturally, it should be the most attractive of all the buildings of the college.

I believe that Gov. Mead will fully accord with this idea as I know that he feels, as I am sure we all do, that it ought to be the most attractive memorial erected on the college campus.

Of one thing I am sure the Governor may rest assured, and that is the co-operation of all the trustees in his effort and desire to make this building in every respect such as he has outlined.

Will you please express to him my appreciation of what he has done and what he is doing for the college?

With best regards, I am

Most sincerely yours,

James M. Gifford

Middlebury-000115

June 27, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I am sending you herewith copies of letters from Messrs Gifford and Saarr, and it seems to me that these are among the best we have received.

I have already heard from the Richard D. Kimball Co., engineers, who promise to take up promptly preparations of plans for the heating system, that there may be no delay on that matter.

I continue to receive congratulations on our very pleasant commencement and the auspicious outlook for the college. I am sure very much of this is due to you.

Faithfully yours,

July 1, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I find your letter of June 29th on my return to my office. We are established in our island home but I expect to keep in touch with affairs at the college and especially in connection with the new chapel. I shall have no appointments which will forbid my presence at the earliest opportunity when the architects report that the drawings are sufficiently advanced for further conference. I enclose a letter from them with which they sent me a copy of the regulations adopted by the American Institute of Architects. I am quite sure that any architect we would care to employ for such an important work would expect the same conditions.

I note what they say as to the cost of the building. My feeling is that we want to build the best building possible and for myself I would rather reduce the size than to put up anything unworthy. It would be very nice if we could have a chapel large enough for commencement exercises, but after all the every-day use is the main thing. The right religious impression upon the students who gather there day by day should be our chief concern.

I will try to leave arrangements in the office so that we will both be informed when any action of the committee is possible.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., July 6, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I have just received your favor of the 1st inst., in fact, on my return from New York, where I attended the funeral of our Mr. W. C. Page, who has been connected with our company as manager of the New York house for thirty-seven years. Possibly you may have met him when you were at our store some few months since. I am pleased to learn that you are located at last at your island home and now that you will enjoy life for a few weeks to the very limit. Surely both you and Mrs. Thomas are entitled to all the good time that kind Providence will give you.

I have noted Mr. Collens' letter and the blank form of contract which he has submitted and it simply reminds me of the form of contract which the Government is very apt to insist upon being used if you were to sell anything to any of their departments. It is what we in business life call "a jug-handle" to the very limit - all on one side. I must confess to you that I am very tired and in fact have been gone for three days, and I find myself buried in work, but my first impression was that it would take quite a large amount of our sum specified for the chapel to care for the demands of Mr. Collens. This reads very differently from his talk and I thought his talk was pretty near the limit, so far as I was concerned. I have had a great deal of experience with contracts of this nature and I simply wish to state that if sign the contract drawn after these lines, you are tied hand and foot. If you will read it over carefully, you will see that there is not a

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(J. M. T. #2)

hole for you to escape through, while they have got every condition protecting themselves.

It is something like the fire insurance policy where the party receiving the same asked if there was any possibility in law of his recovering from a loss should one happen while he was ~~protected~~<sup>covered</sup> by that policy. The agent himself said, no, that he didn't think there was, and he said, if you find any weakness of that kind, let me know and we will have it protected at once.

I am almost inclined to feel that there was something ~~as to this~~<sup>of this nature</sup> blank form which our friends have submitted. I feel that we should be very very careful with these people or anybody else in the making of contracts. I have been bit once and I feel that is sufficient for me. I am strongly impressed that we should not tie ourselves to Mr. Collens until we have in black and white exactly how our plans are to be governed. He spoke about 6% on the price of the building for his services and then his necessary expenses, but if you will read over his list of charges and see how he protects them in every way possible and he does not in any way protect the second party, I think you will realize that we are in an embarrassing position.

I wish you would read this over two or three times very carefully and at your leisure and try to look at it from the other side of the fence, and see if you feel at all different. As I understand, we have no contract at present with Mr. Collens; in fact, we have nothing to show for any service he has given us.

With kind regards to Mrs. Thomas, yourself and family, kindly believe me,

Yours most respectfully,

*W. M. T.*

*John A. [unclear]*

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LAW OFFICES  
CLARKE C. FITTS

HERMON E. EDDY  
HAROLD E. WHITNEY

BRATTLEBORO, VT.

July 9, 1914.

Governor John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.,

Dear Governor Mead:--

I have been deeply interested in the munificent gift you have made to Middlebury College. When the gift was first announced, Mrs. Fitts expressed her gratification that one of the strong men of Vermont was showing such a deep and well advised interest in this old and worthy Vermont institution. It means a lot to us younger men to have the strong ones of the older generation take the course you have in this munificent gift. To those of us who are preaching Vermont for Vermonters, it gives an inspiration and a text.

With personal regards to you and Mrs. Mead, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

CCF/B.

*Clarke C. Fitts*

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

Rutland, Vt., Aug. 20, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

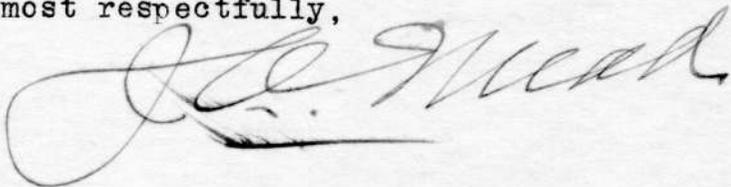
My Dear Friend:-

I have just received a package of blue prints from Allen & Collens and some specifications pertaining to the same. I have no doubt but what they have sent you duplicate copies of everything that was mailed to me. I have not had time to consider them even for a moment with our Mr. Lyman, but shall do so at my very first opportunity. We are sadly behind in our new building, which we hoped would be finished by Sept. 1st certainly, and now if it is finished by Dec. 1st I am sure we will be very fortunate. There have been so many delays that I have almost despaired of completing same before severe cold weather is upon us.

I wrote you some time since with reference to the by-laws governing the architects of this country and I believe I have not heard from you with reference to the same. I infer that you are having a pleasant outing on your island and that you and yours are enjoying life to the very limit.

With very kind regards to Mrs. Thomas and your family, and with best wishes to you all, I remain,

Yours most respectfully,

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

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August 22, 1914.

Governor John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have received your letter of August 20th and Allen & Collens have written me that they have sent me a set of the plans. These I have not yet received. I hope you will find time to go over them carefully with Mr. Lyman and that you will be free to make suggestions to the architect. If everything is satisfactory to you and you think they had better go ahead to get bids from the contractors, I am sure it will be satisfactory to the other members of the committee also. If there are any points in which you would like a conference with either President Brainerd or myself, probably I could get him to run down to Rutland with me. I will be in my office again next Tuesday, and if I find a letter from you saying that you would like us to come to Rutland, probably I could arrange to go down Tuesday afternoon.

I remember your letter with reference to the regulations of the Architects' Association. As I understand it, we have no contract or agreement with Allen & Collens, but they are working under the invitation expressed in my first letter to them, without binding the college in any way. I do not believe we shall have any trouble, but I agree with you that it would be better not to bind ourselves under these regulations. Mr. Collens has certainly been very pleasant to work with so far, and President Brown of Union Seminary told me that their relations with them in the construction of their extensive plant were entirely satisfactory.

Faithrully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., Aug. 24, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,

Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Doctor:-

Your favor of the 22nd is at hand this morning. Many thanks for the same. I regret that we should receive these plans just at this most unfortunate time for us. I think I never saw the business conditions of America in the shape they are to-day. I hardly know which way to turn or what to do. The scale company recently started in Bennington, who have their shops all complete and claimed they were doing a fine business, closed down for good some two weeks ago. E. & T. Fairbanks & Co. of St. Johnsbury I understand are now only running five hours a day and they have laid off a very large proportion of their help. The Fairbanks Co.'s shops at Binghamton, N. Y., are closed down tight and the same report is as to their shops at Sherbrooke, Canada. Thus you will notice the general conditions pertaining to scale business, and I think that their affairs to-day are fully as favorable as that of any other class of manufacturers in this country outside of the textiles. We hardly dare export goods, as we fear for the credit which can be obtained. The moratorium which has been enacted in Germany and Austria is liable also to prevail with the other countries. Thus we are in all kinds of trouble and hardly know which way to turn.

I have an appointment for to-morrow which will occupy every moment of my time from noon until evening. Thus it would be impossible for me to do anything outside on that date. Just the first moment that I can get to go over this subject with Mr. Lyman, I certainly

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(J. M. T. #2)

will do so. He is here working for us and I can but feel would be only too willing to give me any information we might want. I should not for a moment think of trusting my judgment on these plans and I do feel that if there are contracts to be made, that we at least here would never ask for the architects to make them. I certainly should be pleased to meet you and Ex-President Brainerd at the earliest opportunity possible. If you are to be at home a week from Tuesday, would you kindly advise, when I will endeavor to arrange to see you, or hoping that you might come to Rutland. I note also that we have no contract as yet with Allen & Collens, though I do feel that this is a subject which must have attention and at once. You have had more experience in this kind of work than the writer and wish you would look over the rules which I sent you and be prepared for such suggestions as may occur to you. Do you think we could do much this season? I thought possibly we might get in the foundation and get the work started, and perhaps conditions might be such that we could go along with the building, though I have doubted it. I should be pleased to hear from you fully with any suggestions which might occur to you or Ex-President Brainerd.

With very kind regards, I am,

Yours most respectfully,



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

Rutland, Vt., Aug. 24, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,

Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Doctor:-

Your favor of the 22nd is at hand this morning. Many thanks for the same. I regret that we should receive these plans just at this most unfortunate time for us. I think I never saw the business conditions of America in the shape they are to-day. I hardly know which way to turn or what to do. The scale company recently started in Bennington, who have their shops all complete and claimed they were doing a fine business, closed down for good some two weeks ago. E. & T. Fairbanks & Co. of St. Johnsbury I understand are now only running five hours a day and they have laid off a very large proportion of their help. The Fairbanks Co.'s shops at Binghamton, N. Y., are closed down tight and the same report is as to their shops at Sherbrooke, Canada. Thus you will notice the general conditions pertaining to scale business, and I think that their affairs to-day are fully as favorable as that of any other class of manufacturers in this country outside of the textiles. We hardly dare export goods, as we fear for the credit which can be obtained. The moratorium which has been enacted in Germany and Austria is liable also to prevail with the other countries. Thus we are in all kinds of trouble and hardly know which way to turn.

I have an appointment for to-morrow which will occupy every moment of my time from noon until evening. Thus it would be impossible for me to do anything outside on that date. Just the first moment that I can get to go over this subject with Mr. Lyman, I certainly

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(J. M. T. #2)

will do so. He is here working for us and I can but feel would be only too willing to give me any information we might want. I should not for a moment think of trusting my judgment on these plans and I do feel that if there are contracts to be made, that we at least here would never ask for the architects to make them. I certainly should be pleased to meet you and Ex-President Brainerd at the earliest opportunity possible. If you are to be at home a week from Tuesday, would you kindly advise, when I will endeavor to arrange to see you, or hoping that you might come to Rutland. I note also that we have no contract as yet with Allen & Collens, though I do feel that this is a subject which must have attention and at once. You have had more experience in this kind of work than the writer and wish you would look over the rules which I sent you and be prepared for such suggestions as may occur to you. Do you think we could do much this season? I thought possibly we might get in the foundation and get the work started, and perhaps conditions might be such that we could go along with the building, though I have doubted it. I should be pleased to hear from you fully with any suggestions which might occur to you or Ex-President Brainerd.

With very kind regards, I am,

Yours most respectfully,



August 25, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I find your letter of August 24th this morning. I can appreciate something of the situation in business from what I have heard and read, and it must be very difficult to know how to plan for the future. There may be some advantage for us, however, as I am told that work is so slack that contractors are willing to bid very low in order to keep their organizations going. I doubt very much if we will be able to do anything more than get in the foundations this season. We are receiving the plans almost a month later than we had expected, and nearly two months after approval of the preliminary sketches. The pipe line is under construction so that heat could be furnished to the building, but I do not see how it could be advanced sufficiently to work satisfactorily during the winter.

I think we ought to find out as soon as possible whether we are likely to construct this building within the estimate. I have, therefore, written Allen & Collens suggesting that they send out the plans as they are for figures, leaving us to make such suggestions as we wish later.

I must say that the plans please me very much. I think the architects have improved on the building while of course the general design is the same. The interior especially strikes me as a very artistic piece of work. I think they have much improved the style. I shall be glad to know what you and Mr. Lyman think on these matters.

I doubt if it is safe to put on a copper roof in this climate. Our experience is that it causes stains on the marble underneath, through action of water.

J.A.W. #2

I do not quite know what to say as to my future plans. I have offered to Professor Wetherell to take a trip in connection with preparation for my address at Plattsburg September 11th, starting Friday of this week. It may be he will be unable to go, and at any rate at the first opportunity I will try to arrange for President Brainerd and myself to run down to Rutland to talk over the situation with you.

Faithfully yours,

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

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Rutland, Vt., Aug. 26, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

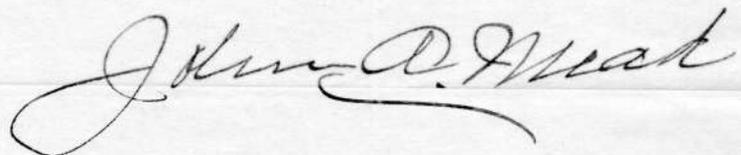
I have yours of the 25th referring particularly to the new drawings, etc. I surely wish that we could get this thing out of the way and fully started, if such a thing is possible under present conditions, though I have felt that we were so late that we should not be able to do very much this season. I have wondered why it was that the architects delayed so long in their plans. Surely we are losing all the best of the year. As you state, it is now nearly two months since the original plans were approved. Possibly we might get in the foundation this year and if we had a proper contract made and everything buttoned up, so to speak, we would have everything in shape to move off rapidly in the spring.

We have had here in our factory one misfortune after another following us until we are in all kinds of trouble just at present.

Shall be pleased to hear from you when it is convenient for you and President Brainerd to come down.

With very best wishes, I am,

Yours most respectfully,



September 9, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

On my visit to my office this morning I find the enclosed letter from Allen & Collens and further instructions to bidders. You will note that they are to receive estimates by September 16th and that they will forward the results to us. This seems to be in accordance with our wish and I take it we have now only to wait for this information.

You will be interested to note that this is the reply to my recent letter, which was the result of our conference, and of which I sent you a copy.

Sincerely yours,

Sept. 18.

4.

Governor John A. Mead,

The Howe Scale Co.,

Rutland, Vt.

Dear Governor Mead:

We have today received the estimates submitted for the Memorial Chapel at Middlebury and are enclosing herewith a copy of the figures. You will note that with the spire and with the marble exterior walls and columns the entire building comes to about \$72,000. If the marble work is omitted from the cornice we can reduce this amount by about \$4,000, as you will note suggested on the estimates. Of course there are numerous ways by which the building could be cut down but we should be very sorry to have to do that unless it were necessary. I will hold myself in readiness to attend any meeting that your committee may have other than Tuesday or Wednesday, Sept. 23rd and 24th. The enclosed estimates include<sup>outside</sup> everything for the church ready for you to move in with the exception of connections. We understand from the Kimball Co. that the steam is to be brought by the College to the Chapel Building. We wrote to Dr. Thomas last summer suggesting that a water pipe be also brought up in the steam trench to the Chapel. We sent to Dr. Thomas early in September a complete set of plans and specifications so that all the data is in his hands.

Very sincerely yours,

HEATING CONTRACT

Scofield-Campbell Co., Boston	\$3288
Cleghorn Co.	3418
Allan Calhoun, <sup>Middle</sup> <del>Wood</del> bury	3502
C. S. Blodgett Co., Burlington	4436.64

*Summary*

General Contract	61,529
Deduct Slate	800
	<u>60,729</u>
Plumbing Allowance	500
Heating	3,288
Scofield Campbell Co.,	
Electric Lighting Allowance	1,000
Fixtures Allowance	1,000
Pews Allowance	2,500
	<u>69,017</u>
Architects @ 6%	4,140
Heating Engineer	200
Contingencies	300
	<u>\$73,657</u>
Possible omission of <sup>Marble</sup> <del>stone</del> above column caps	4,000
	<u>69,657</u>

	Contract	Deduct Marble	Deduct for Slate
<i>TR Rogers Branch</i> Tyson, Weare & Co. <i>Proctor</i>	\$61,529	1350	800
W. Shelton Swallow	62,000	4200	1000
<i>RH Howes</i> Haves Cent. Co. <i>Boston</i>	64,000	2800	
H. S. Libbey <i>Boston</i>	64,820	350	900
<i>Lewis</i> H. Wales Lewis Co. <i>Meriden Conn</i>	64,950	3670	940
<del>H. Wales Lewis Co.</del>	<del>64,950</del>	<del>3670</del>	<del>940</del>
Ed. F. Miner Co.	65,931	3740	1194
W. H. Fissell Co.	67,700	2300	
H. P. Cummings Co.	67,787	3715	950
Fiske, Carter Co.	68,781	3000	1110
Chas. B. Maguire Co.	69,331	4000	1370
H. L. Hemenway	69,572	2100	1570
J. W. Bishop Co.	69,755	3169	946
Woodbury & Leighton	72,374	1500	800
Whitney Co.	73,592	3200	940
Caspar Ranger	74,157	2600	1600
L. D. Willcutt	75,984	1650	850
McDonald & Kevell	77,812	1350	800

The deduction for marble referred to above is for omitting all of the marble work of the main cornice and the pediment above the line of the top of the columns and using wood painted white same as is now called for cornice mouldings. The deduction for slate above referred to is for omitting the copper roof and substituting a slate roof.

September 19, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I have received this morning a letter from Allen & Collens with list of bids on the chapel and summary of contracts and expenses. I am very sorry that the figures exceed the estimate. Of course we shall defer to your judgment, but I wish very much Mr. Lyman could go over the plans and specifications and see if he does not think we could put up a building ourselves at less cost than any of these figures. I should even hope that we could do so and have the building marble all the way around, instead of the wood in the rear.

I expect there are ways in which we can reduce the cost without cheapening the building. I am sure you do not want anything inferior about it, but my experience is that a practical builder can sometimes make suggestions which will save money, without destroying the artistic features of the building or hurting it in any way.

We have the conduit to Pearsons Hall nearly completed and are ready to lay the pipes to the chapel whenever the grades can be determined. We are also expecting to put in a water pipe sufficient for the building.

Next week is our opening and I shall be exceedingly busy, at least until Saturday. I do not see how we can have a meeting of the committee before the 22<sup>nd</sup>. I shall be glad to hear from you and in the meantime will return the set of the plans and specifications to you.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., Sept. 21, 1914.

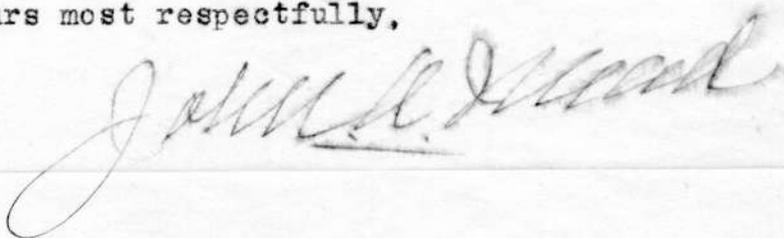
Doctor John M. Thomas,  
President,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

Just received yours of the 19th and have read the same carefully. I will take up the subject of your letter with Mr. Lyman so soon as I receive the plans and specifications, and whenever it is convenient for you gentlemen to have a meeting of the committee, I shall endeavor to be present, though should you wish to talk with Mr. Lyman, it would be better to have the meeting here in Rutland. I regret that the building has been planned in such a way as to exceed our \$60,000, as I thought that we could keep within that amount and yet have something entirely satisfactory, and trust we can.

With very best wishes, I am,

Yours most respectfully,



Rutland, Vt., Sept. 22, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I have just received your favor of the 21st and read the same for a second time, trying to determine just what I ought to do. As you may be aware, Mr. Hinsman has received this nomination at the caucus and at our county convention, for the county senatorship from the city of Rutland, and it is only too evident that we are going to have a tremendous fight. The bull moose and democrats are all on the warpath and the democrats at least have a far stronger following in this county than we have ever known them before. Thus, it is no man's victory so far as we can now determine and thus we are putting in quite a little time, hoping to save him. Our new building, as you are also aware, is just being completed and we are spending a good deal of time on that, and we shall only finish one-half of the same this fall, and in addition, general business conditions are simply the very worse.

But these are matters which we have been struggling with for the last few weeks and you might say months. Yet, notwithstanding this, if I can be of any assistance to you in being present on the 30th, I shall endeavor so to do. I can leave here on the train leaving at 11:05 A. M., which naturally would not reach Middlebury until a little after twelve, as you will notice the change of time, which went into effect yesterday. Thus, if you are to have a meeting, kindly advise me at your early convenience, stating where the meeting will be held.

I wish to thank you for your kind invitation to be present at the opening of the college on Thursday morning next and which ceremonies I

(Dr. J. M. T. #2)

should greatly enjoy; but if I am to arrange to try to be with you on the following Wednesday, possibly I had better not arrange to be present at the opening ceremonies.

Trusting that everything will be favorable and with very best wishes for your success and those of the college, I am,

Yours most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John A. T. #2". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text.

September 25, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor:-

I received your letters of September 19th and 21st and thank you for them. The other trustees suggested by Mr. Wright have already written me that next Wednesday will be convenient, so I will expect you on the train due here at noon. You have already noted the recent change of time.

We will have dinner together at the Addison and then talk over the situation with reference to the Educational Commission report. I shall expect Doctor Abernethy, Doctor Brainerd, Judge Weeks, Mr. Partridge and possibly Mr. Stafford,

when we have finished that business, there will be time for the committee on the chapel to confer. I do not see how we can do much unless Mr. Collins is here and I wish you could bring Mr. Lyman also. I wish very much that in some way we could make arrangements to lay the foundation this fall and get out some of the material during the winter. Unless I hear from you to the contrary, therefore, I will have Mr. Collins here as stated above.

We have had an excellent opening with a Freshman class numbering about one hundred and a total attendance larger than ever before. If you could have seen the old chapel crowded full this morning you would have had no doubt as to our need of the new one.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., Oct. 2, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I have just had a long talk with our Mr. Milo Lyman and am quite a little surprised at what he has been telling me. To be really frank with you, he was a little disappointed, I might say irritated, when Mr. Collens asked him if he could build the staging by which he could put up or construct the spire to the shapel. He said, "after he had asked me that question, I felt I would not say very much more to him", and thus you noticed that he closed his mouth right then and there. Now he comes to me this morning and says that there would be no question whatever about his being able to build that chapel and he says under the circumstances he would like to do it and will simply charge me just exactly what we are paying him here, but that I should pay him for his board up there, which will be reasonable, and his carfare backwards and forwards, and he would have to come home every Saturday; and he goes on and gives me a long history of what he should advise doing and has told me some things that I must confess I didn't know very much about whatever. The long story is in substance that he says he will guarantee to save us the commissions that these other man expect to make, and in addition he also says that he will save us the stealage which will be made out of the building, and guarantee a better building than we had before. Now, I think the next time we meet, that we had better have Mr. Lyman with us and with just your committee there, consisting of Doctor Brainerd, Judge Weeks and yourself, to see Mr. Lyman and he will talk freely with us, and you can be assured that he won't say that he

Middlebury-000139

(J. M. T. #2)

can put up that chapel without he is capable of doing every part of it. He hasn't talked with me this freely at any time, but he was a little bit startled when Mr. Collens asked him if he knew how to build the staging for the purpose of erecting the spire. He says he doesn't want any architect fussing around him - if he will give him his plans; and he states in addition that he should want some of these plans changed in his opinion quite a little from what they are to-day. He says no ordinary man from his plans could make out a bill of timber without quite a little work, unless they were very very familiar with the structure to be made.

I simply give you this in a hurried way and wish you would consider the same and let me hear from you. I should be specially pleased to know what Mr. Partridge says as to the marble and I shall also take it up with Mr. Bowker to know what his views are.

Yours very truly,

*John E. Wood*

725  
October 3, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I have just received your letter of October 2nd. I noticed that Mr. Collens and Mr. Lyman did not seem to hitch very well, but I think it was a case of misunderstanding and that after they had worked together a little they would get along all right. I am glad to know that Mr. Lyman would like to undertake the building and on such favorable terms. I still feel that it would be entirely safe to let him do it, and that probably we would save money. At any rate, you would know that you got in the building everything you paid for. I

It would mean less work for you to let it by contract and there would be the advantage of knowing at the start just what it would cost. I think we are going to get some better bids this time, within the amount named, and I should hope that we could build it of stone all the way around and have enough left for the organ. By the way, I have been thinking lately that that organ ought to have a tablet with Mrs. Mead's name on it as her special part of the chapel.

I think your suggestion of a meeting of the committee by itself is just right, and I will ask Mr. Collens to send on the tabulated statement of the results of the new bids, so that we can consider them together, calling him in later if necessary. I do not see how we can do this much before October 20th. Rogers could not get his bid in next week, and the week following I have to be in Providence and New York most of the week.

There is only one thing about the proposition to have Mr. Lyman build the chapel which troubles me and I am going to tell you frankly. He told you that he would not want the architect "fussing around" and that he would want to change the plans some. Now I would as soon trust Lyman

J.A.M. #2

as Collens in any matter affecting the strength or permanence of the building, but I would want the architects to have their way entirely in all matters affecting the appearance, finish, and artistic qualities of the chapel. That is how they earn their commission and we throw it away unless we follow their plans in these respects. I presume there would be no difficulty in arranging this matter with Mr. Lyman, but I think it ought to be plainly understood at the start that we would expect the architect to supervise the work, especially on the artistic side.

I did not get anything definite out of Mr. Partridge but tried to fix things so that their new figures to the men now bidding would be lower than the old ones.

Faithfully yours,

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

744  
Rutland, Vt., Oct. 5, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

Your favor of the 3rd inst. at hand and contents noted. I can only add ~~from~~ <sup>to</sup> what I wrote in former letter, that Mr. ~~Hinsman~~ <sup>Hinsman</sup> is only too anxious to attempt the building of the chapel, though I confess I dislike beyond expression having him leave us on any occasion whatever, as we want him so badly right here; but I am willing to make the sacrifice if it is necessary. As I may have stated, I feel that I must keep the sum within the amount which I have specified. I thought first of \$50,000 and talked of that, and then it was stated between \$50,000 and \$60,000 and it has gone to that sum and I am willing to stand for that amount, but I must draw the line there. I wish to say to you confidentially that I have something in mind that I would like to do for Rutland and would like to start the same now, but this horrid war has obliged me to wait to see what the future may have in store for us. Thus, I wish you would keep in mind that I want to limit my gift to the amount above specified. I do feel that we should keep within this amount and can do so if the thing is properly handled. I am now quite busily occupied in Mr. Hinsman's, (my son-in-law,) campaign for the State Senate, as I do feel that it is very necessary for our college and for the protection of the business men of our state that we should have a full and strong representation in the senate for mutual protection, and thus it takes quite a little time, as it were, to sort of look after his campaign. He is a good fighter for somebody else but a very poor one when it comes to a personal matter.

Middlebury-000143

(J. M. T. #2)

Referring to the statement made and of ~~your~~ affairs, as to Mr. Lyman's not wanting to have an architect a "fussing around", you need not worry for a moment about that. Mr. Lyman will do anything within the bounds of reason that I ask him to and he will make any change on this building that we may wish, or submit to any suggestions from others if ~~it is~~ <sup>think</sup> thought best to put him to work. I wish you would forget this part of it.

I regret that Mr. Partridge did not seem inclined to make some concession on the marble part, as I was in hopes he would do so and quite generously.

As to Mr. Bowker, I have the specifications here waiting for him to take the same. He has been out of town for two or three days and thus I have not been able to reach him. Shall without doubt see him to-day.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. M. T.", written in dark ink.

74  
October 27, 1914.

Governor John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor;

I find your letter with Mr. Nelson's on my return to Middlebury. I hope we can use his slate when the time comes.

I have heard from Mr. Collens an reply to the letter which we sent the other day. They are anxious to have us go ahead and install the concrete foundations this fall, so that the detailed drawings may be prepared during the winter and also the material assembled, so that rapid progress can be made in the spring.

In answer to the question about supervision they say that that is one-sixth of the total fee, i.e. 1% of the total cost of the building. They argue strongly that we do not dispense with their supervision. Perhaps I had better quote you just what they say:-

"You ask about the architect supervision. The supervision of the building is about one-sixth the total fee. We are very sorry, however, that this question is brought up. Not from a financial standpoint but because this has been tried once or twice in our office and has never been successful. On such jobs there have always been any number of questions relating to detail, coloring, grading, finish, etc. which have always come up, and which resulted most unsatisfactorily because of the lack of direct supervision. In a monumental building of this character there is no question but what you will find it necessary to call upon us for considerable personal supervision although the structural part can without doubt be taken care of by yourselves. We should be glad to make some arrangement with you by which we would charge independently for every trip that you might find it necessary for us to make, but we strongly

J.A.M. #2

advise that you reconsider this matter, and allow us to turn over to you a building of which we ourselves would feel in every respect satisfied."

I am inclined to think that Mr. Collens is right about this matter and that we would need him at certain times during the construction. I doubt if he would be obliged to make many trips, perhaps not as many as he has made already in working out the plans. It is true that we could get supervision cheaper as far as strength of construction is concerned, but this is a memorial building, and the beauty and artistic qualities are matters of the first importance. I am inclined to think Rogers would really need the help of the architect in putting through some of the work as it ought to be done. It is of course for you to decide, but I hope you will feel that we can save the money in other things.

I wish very much you would be willing to right away to authorize Rogers to proceed at least with the excavation and foundation. That would be the same whatever we decide on some of these questions, and I have no doubt Rogers would name a figure for that part of the work.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., Oct. 30, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

I received your favor of the 27th inst. and have read the same over several times and hardly know what response to make. I note that you have heard from Mr. Collens and he is anxious to proceed with the building. That is very natural. I rode in the seat with Mr. Rogers to Brandon the other night and had a long talk with him. He is anxious to take the contract, but I do feel that you could make a better one than he has named, although I asked him if he would be willing to go ahead with the foundation part this fall, and he said very plainly, no. He said that before we knew it we should have freezing weather and that would be worse when attempting a concrete foundation. I had been hoping that we might by some means get the foundation in this year and would be perfectly willing so to do at this very moment. I can but recall Mr. Collens' statement when he was with us at commencement - that he would have the plans all complete in from four to six weeks, and you realize the length of time which expired before we could get them. I do not like this feature of it for a moment. It seems as though he was holding us off.

As regards the architect's supervision, my special thought at present is to be able to have the building erected within the \$60,000 limit, because, to be frank with you, I have felt that this was the very farthest that I could go. You will recall that when we spoke about this in New York, I said from \$50,000 to \$60,000. I was hoping,

Middlebury-000147

(J. M. T. #2)

naturally, that we might limit it to the \$50,000, but the size of the building, etc., very naturally has carried it beyond that point; but I do feel that I must draw the line on the \$60,000 and leave the building all in first class shape. The moment you can make contracts which will cover this and cover the little details pertaining to the same, I shall be as much delighted as you will. It is with this end in view that we were trying to cut down some expenses.

You will remember that Mr. Rogers told me that he would send me the bill of the timber at once so that the same could be purchased. I have already virtually contracted for this lumber and have written Mr. Rogers already asking for the bill to which he referred, but have not heard from him. If you gentlemen in Middlebury feel that you have got this expense account down to that point where we surely can land within the \$60,000, I am perfectly willing to step one side and have nothing further to do with it, it being understood that the general features of the building should remain about as has been already specified. I will not stand in the way in any respect for a moment. So do not say that what is or is not done is "for me to decide."

Referring again to Mr. Collens' general supervision, his statement that he could arrange to have a fixed sum which he would charge when he came for advice, I should think would be desirable.

In this connection, I would state that we are <sup>now</sup> in this political fight up to our eyes and I trust that you will appreciate that one thought I had in mind, <sup>in the senate</sup> was to have somebody who would be friendly to our college, and Mr. Hinsman was the man. I have already had a long talk with Doctor Wright of Brandon, who will without doubt be elected to the senate, and he is entirely in sympathy with us. We are having quite a

(J. M. T. #3)

struggle here in Rutland as between the progressives and the democrats, but I feel that we are quite sure to win out, although the fight is desperate. It is for this reason that every single moment has been occupied and let the results be what they will, I shall be perfectly satisfied with the verdict of the people. Then I shall have more time to take up these other subjects.

I wish you and Messrs. Brainerd and Weeks would thoroughly consider this subject and I assure you I shall join you most heartily in anything which would hasten the construction of the chapel and leave the same within the limits we have mentioned.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours very truly,

*John A. Mead*

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

Rutland, Vt., Nov. 4, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

Mr. Rogers has just been with me for an hour or so, and gave me the bill of lumber that he will want for the chapel. I have suggested his seeing you and any arrangement you may make will be entirely satisfactory to me, it being understood that you will be able to complete the building within the sum specified, viz., the \$60,000. I feel as though I should not go beyond that sum and thus hope that everything will be so governed as to make the building ~~and~~ come within the amount stated. He states that he would pay \$25.00 for this lumber on the grounds, that the same can be moved from the depot to the lot at 50¢ per thousand feet, and I will find out this afternoon what the freight will be from here to Middlebury, and thus know what our saving would be. I can buy the lumber on board cars here at \$20.00 per M.

Now that election is past, I am at liberty to further consider this subject and to do whatever is necessary. He advises that he should like to make all his excavating this fall and might do a little more, though he doubts it very much. It has occurred to me that about the first thing now to do was to arrange a contract for the marble and it seems as though we could do something with Mr. Partridge.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours most respectfully,



November 5, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have received your letter of March 4th and also the one of October 30th. I am obliged to go to Boston tonight or I would try to see you in Rutland, with Mr. Rogers tomorrow. I think we ought to get together next week and I will try to arrange it. In the meantime I will ask Mr. Rogers what is his figure for the excavation and foundations, and if we decide that is right, we can tell him to go ahead on that part, completing further arrangements later. I am sure we are agreed in our feeling that the building must be brought within \$60,000, but we all want to get the most that we can within that figure. It may be necessary to leave off the marble in the rear wall, and I think I would rather do that than change the front. I will try to have some more information on the subject for our meeting next week.

I was very much pleased with Mr. Hinsman's election and by such a large vote. It must be very gratifying to you all that he ran so well ahead of the ticket. We elected Judge Weeks here by a handsome majority and I hope he will be successful in getting the speakership. It seems to me that the results of the elections are quite gratifying all the way around. Certainly you in Rutland County are to be congratulated.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., Nov. 6, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

Many thanks for yours of the 5th inst., referring to the fact that I may see you and Mr. Rogers here to-day. I rather think that we shall be able to save nearly \$3 a thousand on the lumber. I have just got a freight rate from the Rutland people, which I think would give us about \$3 net profit, and with some sixty to seventy thousand feet, this would be something worth saving, though it would be some little trouble to handle the same at this end. I agree with you fully that we want to get all we can out of this \$60,000, ~~but~~ I wanted this to cover all the little necessities which we should want, viz., organ and such like.

Mr. Hinsman is surely very fortunate in having received so large a vote and he and Mr. Wright are solid on the educational question, as I have been over the subject with them both. I think they will be able to carry the other two from our county.

Yours very truly,



November 10, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I have not been altogether idle on the chapel matter although I have not been able to get to see you, as I had hoped to do. I had to be in Boston Saturday and had quite a talk with Mr. Collens. He finally agreed to take off \$600 from his figure for the architects' commission, bringing that to \$3200. This would include four trips to Middlebury during the erection of the building. If we did not need him to come that many times, we would save \$50 on each trip. On the other hand if we needed him more, he would charge \$50 per trip, which would include his expenses. I do not believe we would want him more than four times during the construction.

Mr. Rogers was here this morning and we went over possible savings with Judge Weeks. I think we can find a way to make some reductions. Mr. Rogers is to give us a figure for dark marble in place of white from the ground to the top of the base course. I think this would look just as well and would save us some money.

He will also give us a figure for omitting some of the excavation which he thinks unnecessary.

We asked him also to find how much less it would cost if we used rough random ashlar instead of finished marble. I should rather hate to do this but there may be no other way to get the building down to where we want it.

Rogers also offers to do the job at the cost of materials and labor plus five percent, with a guarantee that the cost will not exceed the sum named, \$54,806. I think it would be wise, when we

J.A.M. #2

get around to make the contract, to do it in this way. We cannot lose anything and might save quite a little.

As soon as I hear about some of these things I will try to let you know and shall be glad to get the matter settled.

Faithfully yours,

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

74  
Rutland, Vt., Nov. 11, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Doctor:-

I have just received your favor of the 10th inst., as I am leaving for Boston in a very few minutes, and simply write to acknowledge receipt of the same. Am pleased that the architect has made quite a reduction from his bill, as it seems as though he could very well afford to do, and your arrangement for expert work meets our judgment in every way. I feel that if we keep a cutting off the corners, we shall get this down to within the \$60,000 so that we can use this difference for little things, which I am sure will be useful.

I have a price on the lumber which I will not put in black and white just now, but I think it will look very interesting to you. I have Mr. Rogers' bill and I went over the same on Monday, and a party has agreed to send me an accepted bill for the same, which will save us quite a little.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours very truly,

John A. Mead.

November 24, 1914.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

I am working on the chapel matter and with some success. I have just heard from Allen & Collens that they have a bid for the pews of \$1475 which effects a saving of \$525 from their estimate of \$2000.

They also write me that the Swallow Company would like to submit another figure with suggestions of altering the cost. I will write them and ask them to send on their offer.

Mr. Collens also reports that has a bid for limestone for \$12,989, F.C.B. Middlebury. The figure for the marble was \$17,178. You will note that this is a saving of \$4189. If we could use this material it would bring the building within the appropriation without any other changes. I am writing Mr. Collens to have a sample of the limestone sent us, so that we can see just what it would be.

Mr. Bradford has persuaded me to speak at your church Brotherhood meeting next Tuesday night, and perhaps we will have a chance to talk of these matters a little at that time.

Faithfully yours,

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

Rutland, Vt., Nov. 25, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Friend:-

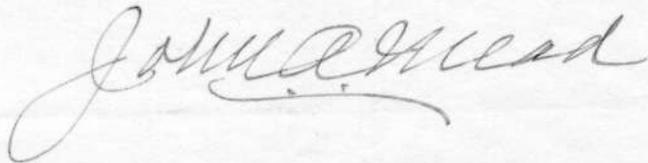
Yours of the 24th I find on my return to town and I am delighted to learn that there is a prospect of saving quite a snug sum on our contracts and I felt very sure that we could do so. If we jump at a man's first figures, we generally find ourselves left before we get through dealing with him.

I sincerely wish that Mr. Partridge could see his way clear to meet the price of stone which is made by the western people, and when we realize the difference in freight rate, it does seem as though they could do so.

I shall hope to see you on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning of next week without fail. I am pleased to learn that you are to be with us and shall surely endeavor to be present if I am in town.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John A. Wood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Yours most respectfully,".

December 18, 1914.

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Middlebury College was held at No 60 Broadway, in the City of New York, on the 18th. day of December, 1914.

Present:-

President Thomas in the chair

Dr Kellogg

Mr Porter

Mr Hephburn

Geo. McCullough

Mr Fair

Dr Star

Mr Wright

Mr Abernethy

Mr Gifford

Mr Gifford acted as Secretary of the meeting. Secretary.

As motion, duly seconded, it was Resolved that the College proceed with the construction of the Chapel, with the understanding that \$60,000.- would be contributed by Dr Mead; the balance estimated at about \$1,000.- to be contributed by the College. Mead Chapel.

President Thomas reported Prof Skillings inability to spend his Sabbatical vacation abroad and his request that he be given six months to be spent in the Society. Skillings. vacation.

As motion, duly seconded, it was Resolved that such leave be granted at half salary.

Rutland, Vt., June 21, 1915.

Pres. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vermont.

My dear Friend;

There is one matter in connection with the new chapel which has not yet been determined, that of a bell. I have been considering this subject carefully for some time and I feel it would be very appropriate to have a chime of bells, distinctive from anything in the village and of sufficient compass to sound out over the campus and village the beautiful hymns associated with Christian worship. I feel that such a chime would convey a helpful message to a great many who would never come within the walls of the chapel, as well as to successive generations of students, and become in time one of the most hallowed memories of Middlebury College. If acceptable to the members of the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Mead and I would be pleased to add a chime of bells to our gift of the Mead Memorial Chapel.

Yours most respectfully,

Rutland, vt., Jan. 13, 1915.

The President and Fellows of Middlebury College,  
Middlebury, Vermont.

Gentlemen:-

In consideration of the contract of the Committee for the Erection of the Mead Memorial Chapel at Middlebury College with Thomas W. Rogers of Brandon, Vt., whereby the same is to be erected in accordance with plans and specifications of Allen & Collens, architects, at a cost of \$51,945, I agree to furnish funds for the discharge of this contract and for the expenses connected with the erection of this chapel, to the amount of \$60,000, as may be required during the construction and in accordance with the terms of the above contract, binding myself, my heirs and my assigns as above specified. It is agreed on the part of said Trustees that they are to complete said chapel, making it complete in every way, as to grounds, furnishings, etc., for the purposes of a college chapel, as voted at the meeting of the Trustees of said college held in New York City Dec. 18, 1914, and as defined in correspondence between the President of Middlebury College and myself.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) John A. Mead.

112  
C O P Y

Mrs. Head and myself agree to have the windows in the chapel (two on either side) and to have the ten pilasters (five on either side), same to be built in accordance with the original plans shown in photo number 1 as to bases and caps and width, and we are to pay \$1031 for the same in addition to the original gift of \$60,000. The trustees agree to finish the chapel as agreed and to instal a pipe organ to cost at least \$5000.

(Signed) John A. Mead

2/27/15

Rutland, Vt.

Hon. John A. Mead,

Rutland, Vt.

Dear Governor:

What a beautiful memorial - The Mead Memorial Chapel & Chimes of Bells - to Middlebury College.

The students of Middlebury College will sing for ages to come of the generosity and kindness of our esteemed fellow citizen, Honorable John Abner Mead.

Would, Oh, would that the citizens of the City of Rutland might hear those beautiful chimes peal out those wonderful words "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men."

What a wonderful and beautiful thing it would be if next Christmas Eve the citizens of Rutland could hear the chimes of bells in their own home singing the praises of God and reminding us at the same time that the doner was a decendent of the first white man to set foot on Rutland soil.

I can only add, God bless and keep you.

A Sincere Friend.

Rutland, Vt.  
Jan. 4, 1916.

Brandon, Vt. Sept. 11th., 1916.

John A. Fletcher,  
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear Sir:-

As requested I am sending you an approximate statement of the Mead Chapel Acct. There is a little more extra work to add to this account which I have not yet completed aside from that I think it is O.K.

Contract dated Jan. 11th 1915. \$51,945.00

Extra work

Marble Pilasters &c as per letter of Feb. 27th., 1915 1,031.00

Rock Excavations April 17th., 1915. 382.50

Change in Tower as per letter Aug. 11th., 1915. 407.00

Change in Roofing of Spire as per letter Oct. 12, '15. 184.00

Change in the Bell Deck for Bells as per letter  
Oct. 12th., 1915. 309.00

Chancel Windows Backed with glass, Order of Architects. 52.50

Basement Drain Ordered by John Weeks. 98.61

CREDIT

By check on Acct. \$45,000.00

By Chapman Lumber, 89,336 Feet @ 25. 2,233.40

By Water Proofing Back of Marble Omitted. 100.00

-----  
\$47,333.40 \$54,409.61

Very truly yours,

Thomas W. Rogers

Copy./H.

SEPT. 11 1916

Unclaimed items

Sept 12 161.17

59,055.08

59,216.25

Rogers bill to pay 7,041.81

Total amt exclu- 66,258.06  
sive claims + Duncan

Dr Meach 59,288.95

paid 53897.16 \$ 6,969.11

to pay 5391.79 ✓

59,288.95

500.

5,391.79

41596.  
1077.16

11224,

53897.16

1742.05

55639.21

61,031.

5,391.79 aus für die Meas

See letter & statement  
J. S. Sept 12, 1916

Register bill # 7041 <sup>81</sup>

Head Memorial Chapel.

Sept. 12, 1916.

College account to date.

Received from Dr. Head

\$53,897.16

( An amount of \$1,742.05 paid by Dr. Head direct to Mr. Chapman for lumber for account of Rogers makes the total amount paid by Dr. Head to date \$55,639.21. )

Disbursement.

Calhoun & Son	\$2,729.90	
Architects	3,249.92	
Heating engineers	150.	
T. W. Rogers	45,000.	
( Not including a credit on this account of \$2,233.40 by lumber from Chapman )		
Pews	1,559.39	
Duncan, electrical work	574.77	
Elec. switch	25.12	
Elec. fixtures	503.15	
Cess-pool	26.19	
Gravel	15.	
Lightning rods	100.	
Mats	38.25	
Linoleum	55.02	
Organ	5,000.	
Miscellaneous	28.37	59,055.08
		<hr/>
Balance		\$5,157.92

John A. Fletcher, Treasurer.

Head Memorial Chapel, Sept. 12, 1916.

Statement according to data at this time.

Amount to be given by Dr. Head	\$61,031.
Paid by him thru College Treasurer	
Paid direct ( Chapman )	<u>\$53,897.16</u> <u>1,742.05</u>
Balance	<u>55,639.21</u> <u>\$5,391.79</u>

Rogers Contract.

As per his statement herewith	\$54,409.61
Paid him by college	\$45,000.
Credit on Chapman lumber deal	2,233.40
Other credit	<u>100.</u> 47,333.40
Balance	\$7,076.21

( A small amount additional to this, Mr. R. says. )

Calhoun Contract.

Contract	\$3,200.
Paid	<u>2,700.</u>
Balance	\$500.
Other payment to him	29.90

Tentative Resume.

Paid on account of Chapel	\$59,055.08
Add lumber payment to Chapman	1,742.05
Due Rogers ( plus ? )	7,076.21
Due Calhoun	500.
Due other ?	?
Chimes ( given by Dr. Head )	<u>7,000.</u>
	\$75,373.34

John A. Fletcher, Treasurer.

Voted to approve the action of the President in securing the services of Mr Murch as an assistant in physical training & for other services at a salary of \$1,000.-

Murch

On motion of Messrs Portridge & Brainard, it was voted that Miss Throop be not continued as Dean of Women,

Miss Throop.

And, voted that the President be instructed to secure a new Dean in her place.

New Dean.

Voted, that the Trustees accept with gratitude Dr Mead's proposal to add \$1,031.<sup>#</sup> to the gift of the Chapel, and agree to install therein a pipe organ to cost \$5,000.-<sup>#</sup>

Mead Chapel.

Added gift.

Pipe Organ.

A discussion of Mr Battell's beneficent bequest to the College followed.

Battell Will.

Meeting adjourned.

Attest

John A. Fletcher  
Secretary

1915.

57

June 23<sup>d</sup>, 1915.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Trustees met at ten o'clock A.M. Wednesday, June 23<sup>d</sup> at the President's office at the Chapel.

Present:- Messrs. Thomas, Mead, Starr, Kelllogg, Wright, Brewster, Stafford, Clifford, Fair, Partidge, Haphorn, Weeks and Fletcher Present.

Dr. Thomas read the following letter from Dr. Mead:-

"There is one matter in connection with the new chapel, which has not yet been determined, that of a bell. I have been considering this subject carefully for some time and I feel it would be very appropriate to have a chime of bells, distinctive from anything in the village and of sufficient compass to sound out over the campus & village the beautiful hymns associated with Christian worship. I feel that such a chime would convey a helpful message to a great many who would never come within the walls of the chapel, as well as to successive generations of students, and become in time one of the most hallowed memories of Middlebury College. If acceptable to the Board of Trustees, Mrs. Mead and I would be pleased to add a chime of bells to our gift of the Mead Memorial Chapel."

Letter from Dr. Mead.

It was voted that the gift of Dr. & Mrs. Mead be gratefully accepted.

Meeting adjourned

Attest

John C. Fletcher  
Secy

August 2, 1915.

Meneely & Co.,  
Watervliet, N. Y.

Gentlemen;

I have received your letter of July 30th and other communications with reference to the proposed chime of bells for the Mead Memorial Chapel. Governor Mead is inclined to look with favor upon the No. 2 chime, the largest bell 2500 lbs., for which your figure is \$7672. We find, however, that the alterations in the tower will cost \$407, in accordance with submission from Thomas W. Rogers, contractor, a copy of which I enclose herewith.

Governor Mead does not like to involve the college in additional expense because of the installation of the chime of bells, but he does not feel that the chime completely installed should cost more than your submitted figure. I am disposed to recommend to Governor Mead that the order be placed with you for the No. 2 chime provided you will make your submission cover the entire cost of installation with the necessary alterations to be done by Mr. Rogers.

If you accept this proposition, we should want to very clearly understand that the chime is to be in accordance with specifications and contract and in every way inferior to that proposed by you in your various communications, in other words the very best chime your foundry and workmen are capable of turning out.

Faithfully yours,

2848

December 24, 1915.

Mr. Andrew H. Meneely,  
Watervliet, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Meneely;

Your letters of December 20 and December 22 have been duly received. I note that the bells went forward December 21 and I will notify the freight agent to wire you upon their arrival as requested. I will also see that your directions as to handling are in the hands of Mr. Rogers.

The chime should be billed to Governor John A. Mead, Rutland, Vermont. This is a special gift on the part of Governor Mead and I think he would prefer to handle the matter directly.

It will be very pleasant if Mr. E. A. Meneely can be here Tuesday, January 4th, so that the bells can be used in connection with the re-opening of college on that date. I have thought it would be delightful if they could be rung for the usual time of our chapel service, 8:15 A.M. and if also we could have something of a concert in the afternoon, say at 4 P.M. You will remember we had thought to have the more formal concert with printed program, at the time of the dedication of the chapel at Commencement, about June 20th.

I will try to see that you receive the college songs of which I have spoken.

Faithfully yours,

Remit by Draft on New York if at all possible.  
 If you cannot do that then remit by  
 Express Money Orders or P. O. Money Orders on Watervliet, N. Y.  
 We cannot make allowance for cost of remittance to us.

FOUNDRY ESTABLISHED BY ANDREW MENEELY IN 1826



**Meneely and Company,**

NOS 1531-1541 BROADWAY

Hon. John A. Mead,

Rutland, Vermont.

**Watervliet, West Troy, N. Y.**

FOUNDERS OF

**CHIMES AND BELLS OF QUALITY**

**Terms:** One half cash upon inauguration Jan. 4/16 -  
 balance in thirty days thereafter. *Date* December 21, 1915.

Duplicate

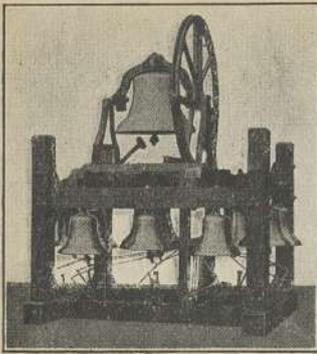
For Chime of Eleven Bells - 2444, 1809,  
 1319, 1080, 900, 776, 600, 509, 433, 385 and  
 279 lbs. - Total estimated weight 10,450  
 lbs. Total actual weight 10,531 lbs. Tones  
 E - F# - G# - A - A# - B - C# - D - D# - E - F#-  
 Also full swinging mountings for the large bell-  
 well braced and substantial Georgia pine frame -  
 piano stroke chiming action - wooden tracker rod,  
 strap and chain chiming connections - oak chiming  
 console - Clapper balls and the hammer ball of  
 bronze - All and everything to be delivered  
 in complete chiming order in the tower of the  
 Mead Memorial Chapel, Middlebury College, Middle-  
 bury, Vt. and to be inaugurated January 4, 1916...\$ 7000 00

Less allowance towards programs Dr. Thomas  
 prefers to use at Commencement ..... 40 00 \$ 6960 00

**WARRANT** - We hereby warrant the above set of bells to be free from original defects, perfect in quality and workmanship, composed exclusively of 78 parts purest ingot copper and 22 parts best imported block tin; of full, good, clear tone, and against fracture from proper usage for FIFTEEN (15) years from date of shipment. Should any of them thus crack within that time, prompt notice to be given us thereof, we hereby obligate ourselves to promptly furnish new bell or bells of same weight, quality and workmanship in FREE EXCHANGE for cracked one or ones on car at Troy or Watervliet, N. Y. Meneely & Co. Inc.

*Andrew F. Meneely*  
 President.

Middlebury-000172



NINETY YEARS OF SUPERIORITY  
**MENEELY & COMPANY**

NOS. 1531-1541 BROADWAY  
WATERVLIET, NEW YORK, U. S. A.  
FORMERLY WEST TROY

**CHURCH, CHIME, PEAL, SCHOOL and OTHER BELLS**

THE OLD MENEELY BELL FOUNDRY

CHIMES AND PEALS SCIENTIFICALLY ATTUNED BY OUR SPECIAL IMPORTED  
INSTRUMENTS ASSURING ABSOLUTE ACCURACY

ESTABLISHED 1826

ANDREW MENEELY	- -	1826
A. MENEELY & SON	- -	1850
A. MENEELY & SONS	- -	1851
E. A. & G. R. MENEELY	- -	1863
MENEELY & CO.	- -	1874

WATERVLIET, N. Y., December 30, 1915.

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

Dear Dr. Thomas:-

Your favor of the 24th inst. reached us promptly. On account of the blizzard, Mr. E. A. Meneely's plans had to be changed somewhat, however he wrote us yesterday that the frame was in position and six bells in place.

Following your suggestion, we have charged the chime to Dr. Mead personally and enclose herewith duplicate memorandum invoice so that you can, if necessary, make any suggestions you think best.

As Mr. E. A. Meneely is at Middlebury, you can make all arrangements with him as to the music and when you wish the bells chimed. If you intend to put the bells in use at once, as we presume you do, he will be glad to assist the regular chimer and get him started.

Wishing you all the compliments of the season and a very happy New Year, we remain

Very sincerely yours,  
MENEELY & COMPANY, INC.

*Andrew H. Meneely*  
President.

September 19, 1916.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

We have our opening Thursday morning of this week at nine o'clock. All the faculty and students will be together in the new chapel and I am expected to make an opening address. I am sure it would add much to this first assembly of students in the Mead Memorial Chapel if you and Mrs. Mead could be present, especially if you could bring little John and his father and mother. I know you are very busy, and of course I would not impose it as a duty, but if you can run up we will all be very glad to see you.

I had fully expected to get down to Rutland before college opened and tell you about some of my experiences in Texas, but I have been so busy I could not find the time. I hope I can see you some time and have a good talk.

Faithfully yours,

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

Sept. 20, 1916.

Dr. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

Dear friend:-

I have your very kind letter of the 19th and have read the same with special interest. I have just taken up this subject with Mrs. Mead and she fears she would not be able to ride up there and return as quickly as Carl and I feel we must. Thus, unless something entirely new develops, I must thank you for your very kind invitation and only give pressure of business as my excuse for not being with you, although I assure you I appreciate your kind thought and it is not impossible that I may feel I will have time to go up, although I hardly expect to now.

Mrs. Mead's special excuse is that she has heard from Mrs. Thomas about the wedding and she thinks she must go to that and will hardly try to attend both functions.

In this connection I wish also to state that I have just seen our Mr. John Hinchey, father of Frank and Fred. Mr. Spafford called me up a few days since and told me of the situation as to the above young men. Their father, grandfather and uncle, and I think one or two other members of the family are all in our employ at the shops. I saw the father at once after hearing from Mr. S. and had a long talk with him. He stated he feared it was too late, as the boys had virtually made every possible arrangement to go to Burlington. I urged him as strongly as I thought prudent, advising him of the opportunities and urged him to have the boys visit Middlebury and look over the situation. I am pleased to

J. M. T. #2.

state that the Father came to me this morning and advised that the boys are both going to Middlebury. Thus, I am especially pleased to feel that you are to have these two fellows, as certainly they come from a hard working, industrious family and a family of a good deal more than ordinary ability. In fact, they are bright, progressive young fellows.

I should be delighted to see you at Rutland at any time that might suit your convenience, that we might talk over your experiences in Army life.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Thomas and family and best wishes to yourself, I am,

Most respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. A. Meek". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

October 24, 1916.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

Mr. Collens has written me a letter suggesting the planting of trees about the chapel and inquired as to the impression of the building on the student body and I think perhaps you will be interested in my reply. I have said some things which I have tried to say to you and I hope you will realize how grateful I am for the chapel and for the influence I feel it is exerting upon our students. I am very anxious that you should see the building at one of our student services. I have arranged with exchange with Mr. Bradford for the 12th of November and if you do not come before then I wish you might be here that day.

Trusting that all goes well with you,

I am

Faithfully yours,

November 14, 1916.

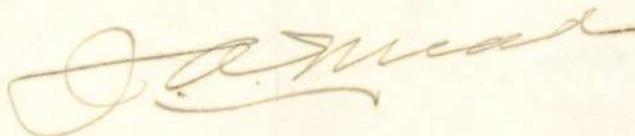
Dr. John M. Thomas,  
Middlebury, Vt.

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,



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,

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,

*J. A. Mead*

44  
November 17, 1916.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont

My dear Governor Mead;

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 is as much pleased with your thought as I am.

I think we ought to take sufficient time to consider the various portions of the material very carefully. Professor Wright is at work at odd moments now in preparation of the catalogue 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.

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.

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 binder.

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,

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 me what you will not care to use it may be of some to all the other things I'll*

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.

Middlebury-000185

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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, but 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,

*J. A. Mead*  
*Do I understand that Prof Wright*  
*assisted in compiling this book.*  
*I so want to represent him as I can*

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 harmonize 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.

Governor Mead, 2

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.

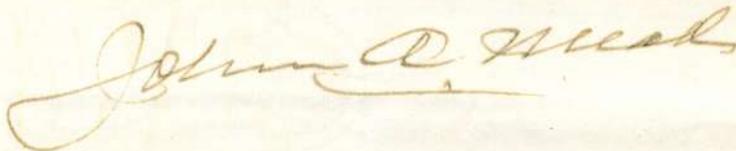
Doctor John M. Thomas,  
C/o Middlebury College,  
Middlebury, Vt.

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.

Governor Mead, 2

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,

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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.

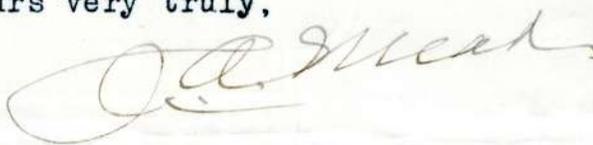
Doctor John M. Thomas,  
C/o Middlebury College,  
Middlebury, Vt.

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 <sup>on</sup> 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,



January 4, 1917.

Hon. John A. Mead,  
Rutland, Vermont.

My dear Governor Mead;

Mr. Rogers has submitted his final account on the chapel showing a balance due of \$7041.81. Mr. Fletcher informs me that to make up your gift of \$60,000 and \$1031 extra for the marble pilasters, we should receive from you \$5391.79. He tells me that he wrote you a letter and enclosed a statement in September. If any matters are not clear or we should give you any further information, please let us know. According to our accounts the total cost of the chapel, including this bill of Mr. Rogers' and \$500 still due Calhoun, is \$66,758.06. This includes the organ, but not the chimes.

I was very glad to receive your encouraging letter and to know that you approve my report so heartily. I expect to send it out next week. If you are in New York at anytime before the meeting I wish you might have a conference with Mr. Hepburn. If only some way could be devised to get something started, perhaps in the form of a conditional gift, either toward the endowment needed or the new proposed Vermont Hall, I believe things would go right along. Heretofore when we have had an offer of such an amount as \$50,000 provided we could raise \$150,000 from other sources, we have managed to find a good many contributors.

I note your suggestion as to Doctor Walker. He feels very kindly toward us and has send us generous contributions from time to time. I should be very glad if he could be interested in an annuity from the college.

I note that you are taking up the matter of a member of our Board of Visitors with Governor Graham. I shall be very interested in the result.

Faithfully yours,

June 14, 1920.

Mr. Carl B. Hinsman,  
Rutland, Vt.

My dear Mr. Hinsman:

On my return from Chicago I find your kind letter of June 10 with check for \$25. I wish to thank you all very much. I am sure you know it was a deep satisfaction to me to be able to pay the tribute to Governor Mead and I am very grateful for your word and that of Mrs. Mead that I met the expectation of those whose loss was keenest.

I have not in mind now any estimate as to completing the Chapel in marble on the west end. It will be no trouble to secure a figure from Mr. Rogers and I will be very glad to do so. My thought is that it is something that ought to be borne in mind to be done at the proper time and that measures should be taken to insure that the Chapel will be preserved as a memorial to Dr. Mead. I assure you I appreciate the thought you are giving to this matter.

Faithfully yours,