CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Name or Subject Clark S. H.

Regarding

Date

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Name or Subject Harper Letters

May 28, 1900
July 25, 1899

Chicago, Univ of Public Speaking Dept

File No.
Mr. W.R. Harper
Chicago

My dear doctor Harper:

Your recent letter comes in the nature of a shock to me; and I confess I cannot fathom the animus. I am even inclined to believe that the statements are based on paper rather than they were in the utterance. But it may be that that is true in the equation on my part, which has its rise in the consciousness of my worth and of the faultiness of my performances, the latter of which failness of my performances, the latter of which

at any rate you have seemed to recognize. Indeed at any rate you have seemed to recognize handily say that I am always open minded to receive anything unless it is impossible for me to do anything unless I have something tangible before me. I have worked

and how faithfully for your interest to rest now under unfair imputations, nor to rest now under unfair imputations, nor to rest now under unfair imputations, nor

shall I. It is due to me that you relate freely the exact grounds of your impression that 'we have not made the progress which might have been expected'.
You seem to forget that our department has grown to such an extent that advanced work has been impossible if we are to do justice to the required work. That public speaking is a subject that cannot be memorized for an examination day, but requires time. That Mr. Blanchard and I are constantly giving more time than the catalog announces in order to meet the demands of the constant growing classes. That never has there been such enthusiasm for the work as there is now, nor such appreciation on the part of the faculty. Who attend the courses of the work is not the end and aim of our desires. To help the average, constrained, restricted, self-conscious man woman to speak with acceptability is the highest goal any department of speaking could attain. I believe we are doing this, doing it better every year.
If you desire a college of education, wagner's term in its best sense, you must support the teaching force. There is no department of your university that has greater possibilities, whose success would return to your credit than any own, yet you make no provision beyond the beginning. If you want the very best work, desire out the required classes, let us deal only with those who elect public speaking, but do not blame us for failing to attain one. (This is chronic success, for we have attained the older kind,) then the university itself opposes the real obstacle. You will pardon me for this frank statement, but simple justice to myself compels it.
Can possibly realize what it means to train 200 hundred raw, uneducated, uncultured, restricted, unemotional, unimaginative, generally unwilling men and women in so subtle, elusive and dangerous a subject as elocution. To reach the average success we have attained is in itself a small accomplishment, to do it without disgusting the classes with elocution - the world with affectation is a triumph that none but those who have had large experience in dealing with this problem can appreciate.

On the eve of my departure for Europe I received your curt letter which destroys all my pleasure here. Probably will destroy my entire trip. If you have, as I said before, any definite changes make
It is due me that you state here formally; if your objections to the conduct of my department cannot be formally put, race in reality answered by what I have here written, I feel I should know that for I shall not can not allow the affair to remain without settlement.

Hoping to hear from you at once, remain

Tours very truly

S. H. Clark
P.S.

Hence to me I can add a sentence to make this a little clearer. Take the teaching of rhetoric, eighty or more per cent of those who take the course can do no more than write tolerable, respectable English. If students wish to become writers they must take plenty of advanced work, for which you supply many instructors. Further, you don't hold your rhetoric department responsible for novels, stories, or even orations. Is this not a parallel case to our own?

When I studied Hebrew many years ago, our master would repeat three or four words with their translation, which we would repeat over, over till we learned it by heart. I never acquired anything but a vocabulary, not like familiarity with love thousands words. Howd
For ease to teach Hebrew in that way. Of course I had a lot of things I could show my friends, but the educational value of my instruction was nil. Many teachers of Education are following the display method. I cannot and will not do so. Our recitals have been slow, because we were making men, not automatons, but they have been done. The spring content in the junior college was acknowledged by all who heard it as a splendid piece of work. So it was, and you have the satisfaction of knowing it was the genuine presentation of the work of the department. Under the lack of your enquiring note I feel impelled to write more than I ought.
Nevertheless I am sure you have not 
scraped the fact before my department, 
or the peculiar obstacles continually 
interposed by public, professional, 
student sentiment. Hence the length 
of this explanation.

Your note concluded by stating that something 
ought to be done at once to develop the 
side of the University's work done 
at once. "Will you be good enough 
to let me know what that means?"

Our programs prepared; we have made 
arrangements for all who are likely to 
apply for our work. We cannot give 
very much advanced work because nearly 
all our time is occupied with the beginners.

May I ask again that you let me hear 
from you at once?"
April 16th 1900

My dear Doctor Harper:

Since writing you my resignation I have been deeply touched by the kindness, expressions of regret from many colleagues and friends interested in my work and the university. So much do I appreciate this interest that I take the unusual step to offer to withdraw my resignation provided you will meet me half way. I need hardly say that what I would do is not the result of the failure dictated of my new plans, but solely by what I consider the good
own contention that speaking should be compulsory. For there are few students who at the end of our required work, cannot at least stand for their audience and speak tolerably well. We have solved the problem of required eloquent, and in this way made a definite contribution to the pedagogy of public speaking. But we cannot stop here. According to your own cardinal principles, we, having accomplished thus much, must push on to higher ends and results. Believing that we were not likely to strive for these ends, had we to resign.
of my profession, the university, and only hastily of myself.

To be plain, I decided to leave the university, because, after careful consideration, I could see no possibility of realizing my ideals within a reasonable time. I came to Chicago at a great sacrifice believing that in the end I should find my step justified. Now after eight years I am bold to say that we have succeeded in that difficult task of giving dignity to a department that is the laughing stock of so many other institutions. But more, the practical results justify your
The University for its own sake must offer advanced courses in public speaking.

3. Graduate work in the history of oratory - the science and art of oratory.

And last, but of great importance, for those who want to teach in higher institutions that you are in hearty sympathy with public speaking courses in colleges. I thoroughly appreciate that, but I wish I could get you to recognize the educative value of our training as well as its merely external, temporary
results. This is no time to enlarge on this phase, so I leave it with just the hint mentioned above.

Now to realize our ideals I must certainly be relieved of much of the required work. Does it not appear rather a discouraging task to do so I do this quarter: teach the same work to five sections of Freshman. When we were in the experimental stage I desired to work with the Be-quirers; but now that that stage is passed, the work is via some not in itself, but
lacked no fellowships, no assist.
autships. Consequently I am compelled to work on a lower plane than I should in the department the university suffers. Men I presented this condition of affairs in my annual letter of recommendations, you handed the matter over to Mr. Judson & have never called me in to see you. In other words I have been ignored, it to be candid, it is this that pains me most: not personally, but as it were, professionally.

You have said to me, Go on & establish the department.
because it keeps me from devoting myself to higher work, which would rebound greatly to the credit of the university. Do you consider that more than two thirds of our time is given to the required work? Do you bear in mind that when we give four majors (2 courses, repeated) to the divinity school, we can offer but one elective in the arts college? Is it not clear that one cannot have both?

My department handles more students for less money than any other. We are all
"I will get the assistant later. I have answered again and again that this is impossible. We have not the time or strength to do this. nor do you ask this of any other department. Why, then, of mine? We can not more make public speaking self-supporting than we can any other part of the curriculum. The University of Chicago has before a great task and a great opportunity, to dignify the cause of matrons, but it must do so as it dignifies everything else."
The Quadrangle Club

For years, I have fought hard to make elocution a legitimate college study – not as mere laboratory course either. Are we to slip back now? I cannot believe we can, nor can I allow myself to do so. For the present, I do not think we should strive to establish a school of elocution. We should aim rather to organize and conduct a high grade department from which should go out honest, forceful speakers and first class teachers. This we can do if you will help us.
My plan is to cut down the division scholarships from 6 to 1 in junior or minor colleges. So we could save $350 each year, $1650 per annum, and thus secure get two assistants, or if opportunity offered, one good instructor. The scholarships now given are nearly money prizes, so that the university would be out no cash by following my plan. Nor would the contest suffer. I am sure we should very nearly as many contestants as now if we offered but two prizes, taking only in The
funds: $50 for 1st, & a scholarship for second. And again, suppose the contest should even pass away, that great good our department could do with the $2000. Now, my dear doctor Harper, would you not as head of your department prefer to put $2000 into construction, rather than in prizes? Would the results not be for greater in the end?

Mr. Blanchard I agree that now we have firmly established the required work, the rest will be easy. If we can get your cooperation. Required Blowton.
is a force unless it be followed by electives. Its purpose is to discover latent power, to encourage diversity, range in Talent. But then as now a large body of students are interested than not have their demands satisfied, as we doing our full duty. The department is less expensive. Our laboratory cost nothing, our plant nothing, our library very little. Should we not have then $6 or $7000 that would bring great glory in reputation to the University. The results of this almost any other depart.
The argument of my friends that his weighed most with me is "do you wish to lose the results of eight years' work?" That did not occur to me before, now it strikes me very forcibly.

Now, Doctor Hume, I am ready to stay or stay for good, if I have the assurance in a tangible way of your sympathetic interest with the higher needs and possibilities of the department. In an spirit of quietism or of threatening I submit my ideas and conditions. I feel that you will not do me the injustice to regard this action as a manifestation of my belief that I am indispensable to you. (When I resigned I meant it; it recurred very action now after the new light shed upon the situation by my friends.) At the same time
You will think no less of me for stating plainly that I have a large field elsewhere of degrified & remunerative labors.

I would ask then

1. Fourteen hundred dollars for one or two assist.


I think I have shown where the first money is to come from, also for the second that is my due now, surely it should come in a year.

I trust you will recognize the fact that I have net aside all petty feeling of pride in sending you this letter, that I am actuated solely by interest of all
Concerned. My position is clear. I am interested in the University, but also in any profession with you. It is favorable to the work believing in our, we should do splendid work. But it has seemed to me that the highest results were not to be attained for at any rate, a long time. I trust, after this presentation, you may see your way clear to help us carry out this most practical plan at once.

My house is already received, arrangements nearly completed for shipping my furniture. If I am to remain, I must know at once. My conditions (and I assure you the term is harsher in sound than in intention) are simple, clear, precisely set. If you think I am worthy,
your confidence will grant my requests, then please cable me at once "Agreed," & I shall act accordingly. I shall expect this word early in May for m are all expect pending your decision - If I do not receive it I shall know you can't see your way clear to do as I should like

Yours very truly

S.H. Clark

Perhaps for safety sake the Cablegram should be addressed to Solomon Henry Clark

University

Chicago