Cambridge Jan 25 1891

Dear Dr. Harper:

Many thanks for your kind note and the Bulletin. I was deeply interested in the plans, and have read them carefully several times. Some of them seem revolutionary, but history goes to show that in some cases revolutions are necessary and beneficial. The new University will certainly be a grand experiment. The only thing that seemed more conspicuous by its absence was no allusion to physical culture, which as it has reached a position of such importance today, I should have thought would have been touched upon, if only for a stroke.
policy. Perhaps, however, that would more properly appear in one of the other Bulletins. If there is nothing secret about this Bulletin and if it is convenient, I should like very much to receive say 10 copies, and I will distribute them among my friends here in the Graduate School. There is considerable interest manifested here in the new University and the college papers are discussing it editorially.

Yesterday received official notification of my Fellowship.

Enclose this clipping from the Boston Herald as testimony to Mr. Worthington's wonderful success here.

Please pardon this further intrusion on your time. With many cheerful bests,

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Melvin
New Haven July 21, 1891

President Harper:

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 17th was very kind and gave me much pleasure. I hope that some arrangement can be made which shall be satisfactory all around. I shall be interested to hear in November what the Committee's decision is, and I hope they will do the best they can for me. I greatly appreciate...
your kindness in the matter, and I hope nothing will prevent the pleasure I have anticipated in meeting under you at Chicago, and doing my best in the great work.

With many thanks,

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Phelps.

President W. R. Harper.
3 Nov 1891

Dear Mr. Harper,

Enclosed is an editorial from the Boston Herald for Nov. 2, which may be of interest to you, if you have not already seen it.

About personal matters, I think my stock has risen a little by virtue of what has just happened. A few weeks ago, I received...
from Yale a formal offer of an Instructorship in English on $1,000, for this year. I spoke about this to the Professor and the President here, the result being that I was immediately offered the full title of Instructor here, and my salary raised to $1,000. Besides
my regular salary. I have a number of prerequisites which add considerably. After deliberation, I concluded to remain at Harvard this year. I think I can get more good by working in the English department here than at Yale.

Now next year
it is probable that I could earn $15.00 by remaining here. This is why I am unwilling to go to Chicago, with the expense of traveling and moving, for that same figure. Do you not think, that with my circumstances here, and after receiving flattering...
Offers from both Yale and Harvard, you ought at least to give me more than $15.00?

I speak of this now because you said such matters were to be settled in November.

Please do not speak outside of my Yale offer, as when refused.
it, I told the Yale faculty I would not give it publicity. But I have understood letter, if you wish to see it.

I hope some arrangement can be made. I congratulate you on the magnificent stroke in getting that library. If there is any

intimated accord of it, I would be glad to see it.

Sincerely yours,

W.L. Phelps
particularly strong impression on his instructors; but he went
to Connell, was very soon
made an Assistant
Professor there, and
seemed to do extremely
good work. It was on the
strength of his fine
recommendations
from Connell that Harvard gave him a
travelling fellowship
two years ago, which
he still holds. It is
also greatly to his
credit that he has
just taken the Ph. D.
degree from Halle,
under such a man as
Siévers. He is prob-
able by this time an
excellent man. Prof.
Wheeler of Cornell
was especially strong
in his praise of Halle,
and I should think he and the other Cornell authorities could tell you all about him. Mr. Child and Mr. Kittredge both spoke well of him, not enthusiastically. Mr. Child said he thought Hale must now be a well-equipped man.

About Mr. George I have been unable to discover anything. None of...
The Professor of English at Harvard know anything at all about him. I own a copy of George’s edition of Wordsworth’s Prelude, which seems to be a careful piece of work.

I read the letters of Van Dyke to Eugene Parsons. I never heard of Parsons before. Van Dyke’s
Letters seem to connote that Parsons is pains-taking and accurate. I do not like the selection of Parsons's lectures on Tennessee. The subjects seem to be very amateurish and young—lady-boarding-school style. Perhaps however, he could give a good course on Tennessee. How old a man is he?
Why don't you offer Tarbell a good position in Greek? It seems to me that he is exactly the man you want to direct advanced students. He has conducted the Seminary at Harvard this year and has given immense satisfaction. The students speak of him in the highest terms. There is nothing gaudy
or showy about him, but he would make a good countering influence to some of the "popular" tendencies you are to have out there. Now that Tarbell has been appointed the Director of the School at teller, it would be a good card for Chicago if he would drop that position recent to you. I know that personally he does not want to go.
Witness that he has a high regard for Chicago. He told me that if he had been offered the position of Reynolds & Lear, he would have accepted without hesitation. I suppose he still feels the same way.

Don't you think it would be a good plan to send the grad. school bulletin to every graduate student at Harvard? I think you might catch some. I like the Bulletin very much.
I want to speak to you about a personal matter. I have just been called to the full Clean English at Denison, $1700. They need me very much. It is a question with me whether they don't need me much more than you do. What do you think about it?

You know all about Denison, and I should like a frank opinion from you on the subject. I am considering the matter very carefully.

Sincerely, W.L. Phelps
John Smith

To: Jane Doe

Subject: Meeting Date

Dear Jane,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to confirm the meeting date.

The meeting will be held on the 15th of next month at 2 PM in the conference room. Please let me know if you need any further details.

Best regards,

John Smith
New Haven 8 April 1892
President Nepper:
Mr. President,

Your favor of the 4th was forwarded to me from Cambridge and received a few moments ago.

I hasten to comply with your request, giving my statement as follows.

(See attached slip.)

I presume you have received my letter of the 3, giving my opinion about Kittredge's Manual for English Philology. I will find out about Edward Everett.
Hale, Jr., as soon as possible, and communicate with you. I return to Cambridge Tuesday, April 12.

If you do not hear from me Christch, I will be glad to do what I can toward arranging the program in English. I thought that if course the Christch had written you, as we agreed that he should do so before sailing.

Truly yours,

W.L. Phelps
New Haven 11 April 1892

President Harper:

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 6th received. I don't know anything about McCollum, but I will look him up. I will also investigate the case of Mr. George, of whom you inquired. Mr. Clinton said that he was going to prepare a list of books for the library and send it to you. So I presume it will not be necessary for me to do so, tho I am perfectly willing to assist in any way you wish at any time.

As I understand it the English at Chicago is divided into 3 departments: (1) Rhetoric & English Composition (2) English Philology (3) English Literature. This is exactly as it should be, and meets with...
the approval of all Professors with whom I have talked. I can, if you wish, make out some general scheme for the English Literature department. To Mr. Christodele's absence in Europe may make a number of changes in it. The English Literature I hope to see run on somewhat the same plan as it is at Harvard, where it is incomparably better organized than at Yale. I hope Harvard's example will also be used more or less in the department of Rhetoric, but that of course is Mr. Wilkins's affair.

I will write Mr. Christodele about the Loan Library system.

I have been very busy here in my week's vacation, studying the Yale system of education, and conversing with a number of Professors: Coke, Beers, Ladd, Nason etc. I think I have picked up a few points.

Truly yours,

W. M. Hilly.
12 May 1892

President Harper,

Dear Sir,

Your note about

Manly just received.

Within the last month
or so I have had a
number of talks
with Manly about

Chicago. I told him
that I personally
hoped that President
Harper would make
him an offer, and
I have asked him what he would do in case an offer was made. Of course all my conversations with him were entirely unofficial, as we neither of us knew whether you had him seriously in mind.

He said definitely that he would not go.
for less than $2,500, and that he did not know whether he would go for that; and that he did not like to say that he would do until he should receive an official offer.

I am certain that you could get him for $2,000.
and I doubt if he would go at all. He seems at present to be very much attached to his work at Brown, especially since his intimate friend Delabarre has been appointed there. Then during the past year, with various lectures, he has made $2600.
I am writing to express my admiration for the performance of the Harvard University Concerto. The conductors and students performed with great skill and precision, captivating the audience with their interpretative abilities. The concert was a testament to the musical excellence and dedication of the institution. Congratulations to everyone involved in the event.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
I am perfectly willing, if you desire, to see him again; but I thought I ought to write you first about it: twice if you cannot offer him more than $2,000, I am very sure that it is better to let him alone. Please let us know what you wish me to do, and it will gladly see him. Truly yours,

W.L. Phelps
11 May 1892

President Harper.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 6th received. I doubt if the Iowa position has been offered to Mr. Hale and more than to me—a number I have been spoken to on the subject. I gathered from what the President said that if I wanted it I could have it. And it is a
matter of little importance, as I should not want to go to Iowa to live.

I am considering Denison and within a few days a chance has appeared which may possibly keep me in the East. I will know about this definitely next Tuesday the 17th and I will on Wednesday.
write you back and tell you my decision all around.

I have just read a letter from Mr. Christofoli in England. He says he wishes to take his vacation in two sections, Feb 15- March 1, and July 1- Aug. 15. Now I am very anxious to leave all my 12 weeks come together and I am also very anxious to have
The my vacation came in the conventional June July to October.

Thus, it appears that my wishes seem to conflict at least partially with Mrs. Christock's. I do not suppose we ought both to be away from the Univ. at the same time. How would such a matter be arranged? Whose adjust

vacations?
I should be ready to make personal sacrifices for the good of the Union, but I should not care to adjourn simply my vacations so as to fit another man's wishes: unless he were the Head of the Department, and had some reason for it.

Mr. Churchill wrote me a very pleasant letter. He is working in the Brit. Museum and has sent me a
program of his U. S.
y Chicago lectures from
Jan 1 - Feb 15, as you
requested. I will send
this week Tuesday,
and with it mine —
if I am coming to
Chicago next year.

Very sincerely,

W. L. Phelps
18 May 1892

President Harper:

Dear Sir:

I have just been offered the position of Instructor at Yale, at $1500 a year; and I therefore feel it necessary to resign my position at the University of Chicago.

While as I have looked forward to working at Chicago and greatly as it is my interest in the place, I do not feel that...
I ought to go away from home without good reason. My father and mother are both old, and will probably next year be entirely alone. Had I supposed that Yale would have offered me so good a position, I should of course not accepted the Chicago instructorship.
I realize fully and keenly appreciate your great kindness to me throughout all our negotiations; and I wish I had an opportunity to do something in return.

I know of several young men here who would be glad of...
the chance of teaching English in Chicago next year, and if I can be of slighted assistance to you in this or any other way, I should be very glad. I know of an excellent man to fill my place, and a good Tutor in Philology. You were right about Iowa; Mr Hale
has been appointed. This morning I wrote Pres. Pumilao, declining the Denver position.

I trust you appreciate fully the grounds on which I resign my position at Chicago.

Very truly yours,

W.L. Phelps.
No text visible on the image.
19 May 1892

President Harper:

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 16 received. I am very grateful to you for the offer of work in the office from June 1, and if I were coming to Chicago, I should be disposed to look favorably upon it; but as I expect to go to Yale, I fear I could not consider it.

It was very kind...
I am pleased to offer you this clearance. Thank you.

Sincerely,

W.L. Phelps
New Haven 26 May 1892

President Warpee:

Dear Sir,

Your kind letter of the 24 has just reached me, forwarded from Cambridge. Your telegram reached me Saturday evening, and as you did not say "answer," I supposed it needed no answer; but that it meant that you had written me, and wished me to hold with Yale until I should receive your letter. Accordingly I did so. I waited Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and no letter came. I then saw that I must have made a mistake and that you had expected an answer to your telegram. I am very sorry for this as the last thing in the world that I would do would be to show any rudeness to one who has been so kind and considerate as you have.
Yesterday afternoon I came down here and discussed the Yale matter with President Dwight, Prof. Wright and Prof. Beers. I am convinced that I am needed here more than at Chicago, all to assure my personal advancement will undoubtedly not be so rapid. For a long time Yale has been sadly behind in English work. They are at last waking up; and next year they are to put English Literature in Freshman year, or exactly the same footing as Greek, Latin and Mathematics. I am to have charge of this Freshman work; and I feel that it is a call of great importance, especially just at this time when they are trying it as an experiment. I am going to try to give the Freshmen an introduction to English Literature so that in the other years after course they will know how to handle the subject.
My appointment is an injustice on #15 10.

From what you said to me about the Denver matter, saying that it was a thing that I must decide for myself, I judged that I was at perfect liberty to resign my Chicago position. I accordingly resigned without any twisting, because otherwise I feared that you might think I was simply holding off with the idea of pulling more money from Chicago. As I knew from what was said before that it was hardly possible to give me more than that, I did not wish to seem to ask or even to hint for it. I thought it more honorable to resign in the plainest terms. I trust that you do not look upon my action as dishonorable, in businesslike, or ungrateful; if I
Thought you did, I should feel the deepest pain; as I have always felt for you, not merely high admiration and strong personal affection, but real gratitude.

Family recrees also had the cause acting influence upon my decision. For me personally, it would be better for me to go to Chicago. I do not believe in a young man staying home all his life. But it gives my parents so much pleasure to have me remain in New Haven that I thought as my salary would now enable me to live here, I ought to do it. Hence

I think your attitude toward me in this matter has been remarkably considerate; I trust that my explanation of the circumstances will seem to you satisfactory. Not until this morning have I definitely agreed to go to Yale. It is now decided.
I am very glad Tarbell is to go to Chicago. The appointment is very highly spoken of on all sides. He will be a strong addition to your already remarkable Faculty.

I had a talk with Capps last night and am pleased to hear that he is to go. He is a thoroughly good man.

If I can ever be of slightest service to you at Harvard or elsewhere, in finding out abroad men etc., I shall consider it a privilege. I return to Cambridge tonight.

Very truly yours,

W. L. Phelps
27 Dec 1893

Dear Dr. Harper—

You see what your pupils bring forth—even myself, are yet the least of all those saints; don’t you think I am honored in this invitation?

Wouldn’t I look nice lecturing on the Sanhedrin along with Tox, Lyon, and Justrow?

Of all the invitations I have ever received, this is the most choice, and I thought
you might be interested in seeing it. I have no means of accounting for this honor done to me, except that from a child I have known the Scriptures, and that I now teach in a college made celebrated for its Hebrew studies by your extraordinary residence.

In justice to my audience, I thought best to decline...
This invitation, not yet having any valuable ideas on the subject. Wouldn't it have been a good joke at Toy and Lyon if I had accepted!

Will you kindly return the letter, and believe me, with the season's greetings and continued affection.

Faithfully yours,

[Signature]