

The University of Chicago
The Faculties of Arts, Literature, and Science

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Answer Wister

December 1, 1915.

My dear President Judson:

Mr. Wister's ^{mis}representation of the University is gaining such wide circulation, both in this country and abroad, that it seems to me something ought to be done to try and catch up with ~~it~~. Should you object to a letter of the kind I have here drafted (and which you will perhaps correct in any way you think wise) being sent to such papers as the Nation, the Boston Transcript and the Springfield Republican in this country, to the London Times and perhaps the Spectator in England, and to one or two Canadian papers such as the Toronto Globe? I do not wish in any way to compromise the position of the University, but it seems to me that Mr. Wister's practical refusal to pay any attention to our protests makes it desirable to put ourselves on record at least as denying the justice of his accusation.

You may perhaps know that Mr. Small got some indication that the whole matter emanates from Mr. Sarolea, whom Mr. Van der Essen was unwilling to have asked to speak at the University because of the violent presentation which he made of the Belgian case.

Yours very truly,

James V. Angell

President Harry Pratt Judson,
University of Chicago.

The University of Chicago

The University of Chicago Library

Chicago, Ill.

Chicago, Ill.

Chicago, Ill.

Faint, mostly illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text appears to be organized into several paragraphs.

Very truly yours,

[Handwritten signature]

[Faint handwritten text]

The Secretary
The University of Chicago
The Observatory
The Lick Observatory
The Lowell Observatory
The Mount Wilson Observatory

Chicago, December 1, 1915

Dear Mr. Angell:-

Herewith I am returning material with regard to that Wister matter. I shall be heartily glad if you will send the letters in question. I thought a little more emphasis might be put on the subject matter of your final paragraph, and am enclosing Mr. Frost's letter with regard to Van Biesbroeck. He has been duly appointed, and is busily at work at the Observatory.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Dean J. R. Angell,
The University of Chicago.

...to offer protest against the further...
...to Mr. Wister, asking for an explanation and has had no acknowledgment of his letter. Others of his colleagues have been more fortunate in securing some reply from Mr. Wister's secretary, but no adequate explanation, such as...
...wishes to say, under the organization...
...of higher learning, the University...
...on any level of the...
...invitation...
...wishes to invite to a seat on its regular faculty...
...of the University of Leuven. The gentleman, Professor...
...in October and was present as a lecturer at the University...
...entire academic year of 1914-15. He bore himself with the greatest dignity

Chicago, December 1, 1918

Dear Mr. Angell:-

Herewith I am returning material with regard to that water matter. I shall be heartily glad if you will send the letters in question. I thought a little more emphasis might be put on the subject matter of your final paragraph, and am enclosing Mr. Frost's letter with regard to Van Biesbroeck. He has been duly appointed, and is daily at work at the Observatory.

Very truly yours,

H. P. L. - L.

Dean J. E. Angell,
The University of Chicago.

sent to
The Boston Transcript,
The Springfield Republican
The Toronto Globe,
The London Times,
Sir Gilbert Parker,
Viscount James Bryce.

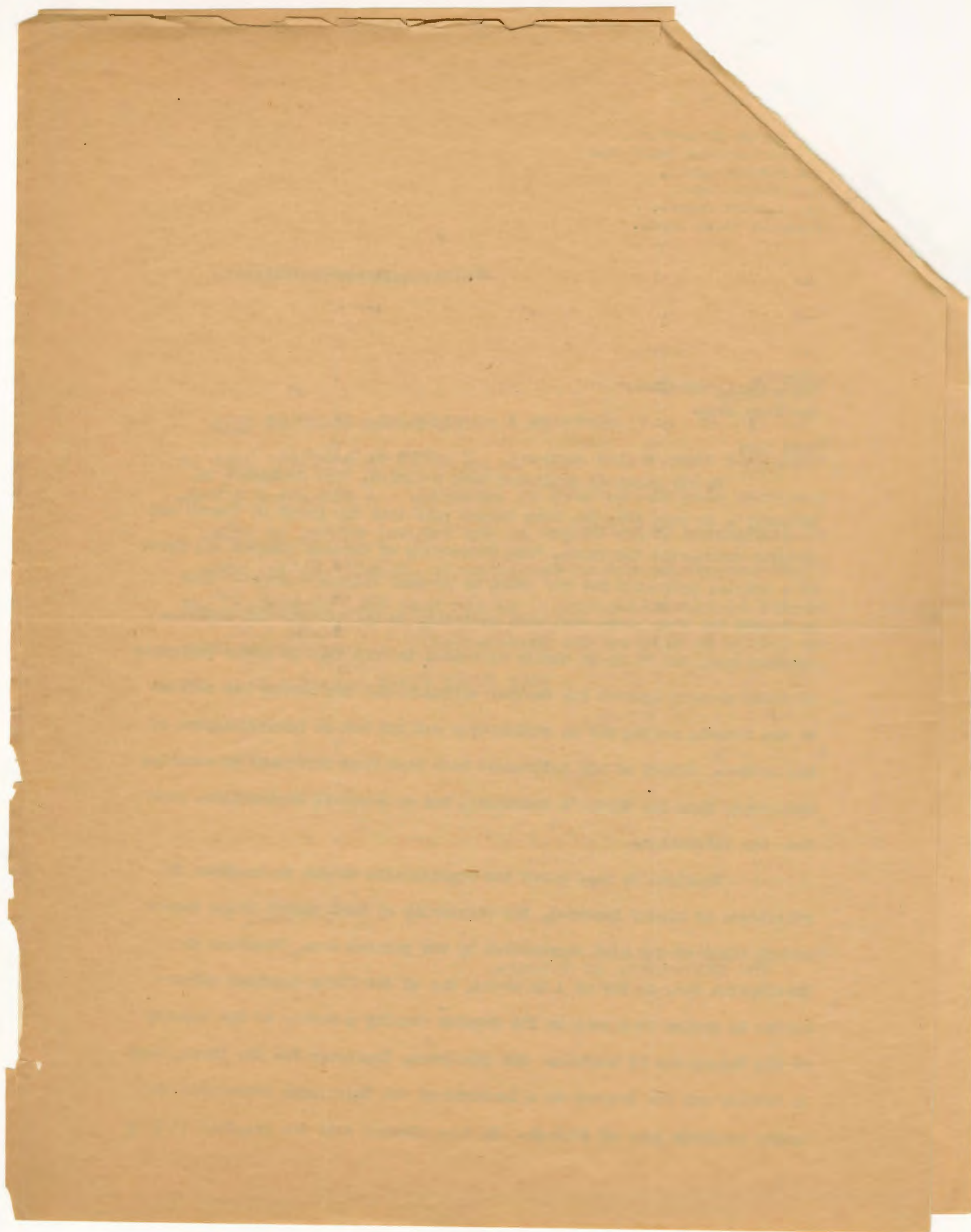
December 2, 1915.

Editor,
The Nation,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

In his recently published book entitled, "The Pentecost of Calamity", on page 135, Mr. Owen Wister puts into the mouth of French and Belgian emissaries the words, "The University of Chicago stopped the mouth of a Belgian professor who was going to present Belgium's case". This statement has been given such wide publicity in the British and Canadian publications, and it is so wholly unfounded in fact that it seems desirable to enter protest against its further circulation. The author has written to Mr. Wister, asking for an explanation and has had no acknowledgment of his letter. Others of his colleagues have been more fortunate in securing some reply from Mr. Wister's secretary, but no adequate explanation, much less any retraction.

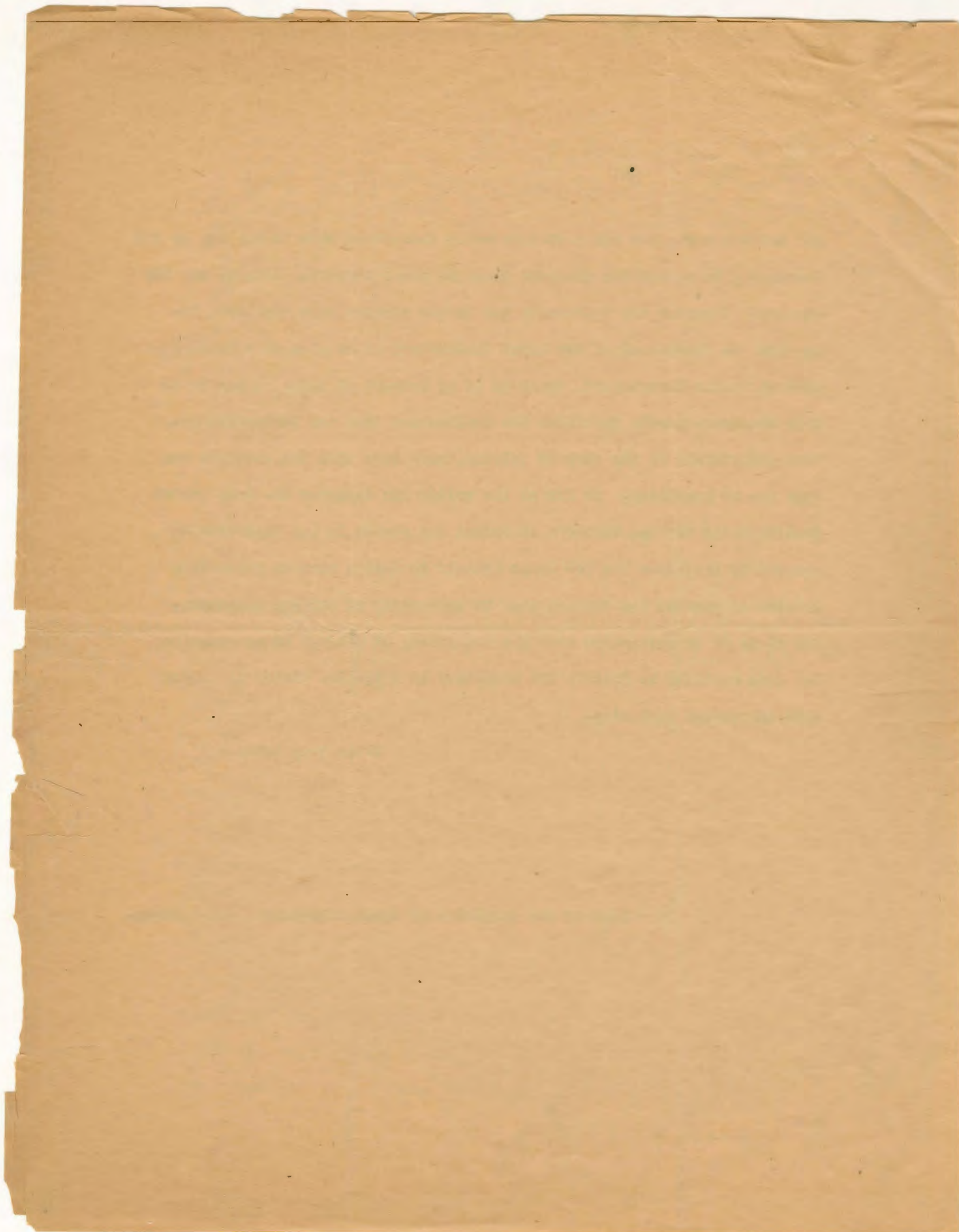
Needless to say, under the organization common to American institutions of higher learning, the University as such cannot align itself on any issue of the kind represented by the present war. Needless this institution was, so far as I am aware, one of the first American universities to invite to a seat on its regular faculty a member of the faculty of the University of Louvain. The gentleman, Professor Van der Essen, came in October and was present as a lecturer at the University throughout the entire academic year of 1914-15. He bore himself with the greatest dignity



and self-control, and was certainly never interfered with in any way by the University in expressing whatever views he chose regarding Belgium and its enemies. Moreover the University has in the present year appointed Dr. Georges Van Biesbroeck of the Royal Observatory of Belgium to a professorship at Yerkes Observatory, where he is at present at work. A course of this character hardly justifies the implication that the University has been indifferent to the case of Belgium, much less that its attitude has been one of hostility. So far as the writer can discover the only remote justification for Mr. Wister's statement may reside in the objection expressed by Professor Van der Essen himself to having certain extremists invited to present the Belgian case to University of Chicago audiences. But it is to be reiterated that the University of Chicago on no occasion has done anything to justify the assertion to which Mr. Wister is giving such undeserved publicity.

Yours very truly,

Dean of the Faculties of Arts, Literature, and Science.



Dr Harry Pratt, Judson, President
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. President :- "The University of Chicago
stopped the mouth of a Belgian professor who was
going to present Belgium's case in public" - p. 125
"The Pentecost of Calomny", Owen Wister.

Is the above quotation true?

Very respectfully,

Lt. Elmer McClain, Q.M.A.
Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, O.

Ph 72 - W & C 1909.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Lieutenant Elmer McClain, Q.M.A.
Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio

Very respectfully,
Lt. Col. W. H. C. - 1907

H. P. L. - I.

Lieutenant Elmer McGinnis, D. R. H. A.
Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio

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Farratt, Judson, President
of Chicago, Illinois, Ill.

Chicago, November 24, 1917

about - "The Business of Chicago"
and the mouth of a Belgian professor who was
going to present Heliguer's case - published - 1917
"The Business of Chicago", Owen Winter.

Dear Lieutenant McClain:

Is the above your favor relating to the
alleged stopping the mouth of a Belgian professor is
received. The statement was brought to my attention
when the book was originally published. There is no
foundation whatever for the statement. I called the
author's attention to it, but received no reply.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Lieutenant Elmer McClain, Q.M.W.A.
Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio

Chicago, November 24, 1917

Dear Lieutenant McGinnis:

Your favor relating to the alleged stopping the mouth of a Belgian professor is received. The statement was brought to my attention when the book was originally published. There is no foundation whatever for the statement. I called the author's attention to it, but received no reply.

Very truly yours,

H.P.L. - I.

Lieutenant Elmer McGinnis, D.M.H.A.
Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio