

Returns to Clark

To the Board of Trustees of Wheaton College:

This is submitted as the report of the Committee appointed at the June meeting to investigate certain questions which had arisen with respect to the teaching of Dr. Gordon H. Clark.

Your Committee met with Dr. Clark and conferred with him at length about the questions which had arisen and particularly ~~xxxxx~~ as to his personal beliefs in certain theological doctrines.

We are glad that we can commend his frankness, and we do not question his scholarly attainments or the intellectual quality of his teaching.

or

In most respects we do not believe that his Christian beliefs would differ materially from those of others either of the faculty or of the trustees. However, he holds certain views, originating with John Calvin or with imitators of Calvin, which go beyond what we could endorse. He carries the truth that God is the original Being to the point where he frankly states that God is the author even of evil; and he identifies the sins which are committed with God's plan, to the point, as we understand him, of saying that God purposed that they should be committed. To his mind these views neither alleviate the guilt of the sin~~ne~~ nor the need and duty of preaching righteousness and salvation. This situation may be better understood if we quote a few particular beliefs which he holds:

God decrees one man to be a murderer, or adulterer, or idiot.

God decrees some to heaven and some to hell.

God is emotionless, unmoved.

God's love is a manifestation of His will only, not of His affections (if any).

God never loved the non-elect.

Dr. Clark teaches some course or courses in which historic theological doctrines are reviewed. Obviously information as to the particular group of doctrines which we have mentioned must be included in such a course; and if Dr. Clark is asked his personal opinion, he cannot well avoid replying. We feel that his opinions, and doubtless the agitation of such views by certain groups of students, have led in certain cases to demoralizing deductions which Dr. Clark himself would deplore; for example, in the words of a former student: "Since God is the originator of everything, including sin, and He worketh in me both to will and do of His good pleasure, then my sins are not sins at all

at all but merely the works of God is my life. Therefore I should not be too disturbed by my weaknesses."

To your Committee, the deductions are not entirely illogical, and the views themselves are unsound and for that reason dangerous. Some of your Committee feel that part of the error arises from an effort to expand, by human reason and deduction, the ~~paraxx~~ doctrine of the person of God beyond what is definitely taught in the Scripture; and that to attempt to directly refute such error, similarly might be to presume by human wisdom to develop doctrines about God going beyond what He has seen fit to reveal to us.

We do not find that Dr. Clark's opinions differ materially from those which he frankly stated, and which were freely discussed, when he was employed six years ago. They may not be, in themselves, opinions the mere holding of which would disqualify him for permanent membership in our faculty; but we feel that if their active discussion cannot be avoided in teaching his present subjects, ultimately he should teach in other fields or plan for openings elsewhere.

We do not consider it feasible to fully solve this problem now, but in submitting this report to you and in delivering a copy of it to Dr. Clark, we make these suggestions:

1. That to the largest extent possible he confine his teaching to the stated subjects, without advocating any theological beliefs which are controversial among orthodox Christians;

2. That if asked his personal opinion as to the group of doctrines in question, he be frank but state the belief rather than expounding his reasons, -- being equally frank in admitting his susceptibility to error and that his views in this respect have not been those of most Christian leaders;

3. That he add that he by no means endorses deductions from such doctrines which have been made on such questions as personal responsibility for sin, the duty of missionary effort and evangelization, and the duty of seeking the guidance of the Spirit as to problems both of conduct and doctrine.

We find that the situation has been intensified by the promulgation of special theological doctrines by a voluntary group of students known as the Creed Club. Undoubtedly this group has regarded Dr. Clark as a sponsor, perhaps mistakenly so. They have met regularly in a room provided by the College for the use of student organizations.

We feel that Wheaton as an undenominational College should not be placed in the position of apparently fostering doctrines which would seem perverse to many groups of orthodox Christians, and that care should be taken to avoid loans of College facilities for such purposes.

The difficulties of the situation will be considered in making up class schedules for the current year. We suggest patience and prayer that these problems, difficult as they are, may be resolved in a manner that will be for the glory of the One for whose Kingdom the College exists.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Herman A. Fischer
(Signed) V. R. Edman

Members of the Committee

Mr. Fischer
Dr. Fuller
Dr. Ironside
Dr. McCarrell
Mr. Nicholas - not present

August 21 1942

President V. R. Edman
Wheaton College.

Dear Dr. Edman,

In accordance with your request that I comment on the representation of my theology given in the report of the committee to the Trustees, I take the privilege of mentioning three points in paragraph four, page one.

First, I cannot agree with the statement that John Calvin originated the views under discussion.

Second, the report reads, "he frankly states that God is the author of evil." I did not state, but on the contrary explicitly denied that God was the author of evil. The statement of the report is a misrepresentation agitated by a certain member of the faculty whose oral and written language fall short of a Christian regard for truth, and whose conduct in this matter has been in violation of Biblical standards. He made this false statement in a meeting of the Administration Committee last spring, and I immediately contradicted him, as the members of that committee must remember. I must therefore suppose that the composition of this report to the trustees has been influenced by ideas previously planted by that faculty member, for my language and thought was in conformity with the words and doctrine of the Westminster Confession. This Confession, one of the best expressions of historic Protestantism, to which every Presbyterian minister, elder, and deacon solemnly subscribes, denies, and with it I deny that God is the author of sin. Therefore I object most emphatically to this falsification of my views.

Third, the beliefs itemized at the end of the paragraph are not merely particularizations, but are too partial to avoid being misleading. For example, the third and fourth could be better stated in the language of the Confession: "There is but one only living and true God,

who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable . . ."

2 It ought not to be difficult for anyone to frame a statement of my views, since they can always be found accurately and very fully expressed in the several standards of the various Presbyterian and Reformed churches.

As the remainder of the report is not an expression of my views, but of those of the committee, it is not within my province to suggest changes. May I be permitted, however, to point out that the first recommendation on page two has not to this time been a policy applying to everyone alike. A certain member of the faculty constantly advocates beliefs controversial among orthodox Christians and uses falsehood in doing so. It is my humble opinion that every policy should be administered impartially.

Very respectfully yours,



WHEATON COLLEGE

"For Christ and His Kingdom"

WHEATON, ILLINOIS

August 24, 1942

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Gordon H. Clark
College

My dear Dr. Clark:

Your good letter of August twenty-one was awaiting my return to the office after the Summer Convocation. In the rush of many affairs demanding very immediate attention, I was unable to give it due time and thought there; whereupon I took it with me to Bethany Camp. I have written Mr. Fischer to make whatever corrections are suggested, in the final letter to the Board of Trustees.

I would be of the very strong impression that the letter was drafted entirely upon the interview held with the Committee of the Trustees and was in no wise affected by the views of any member of the Faculty. I would be of the impression that the members of the committee gathered that "the author of evil" and "the originator of evil" were used synonymously. I trust I have made it clear that there is not, on the part of the administration, the slightest intention to falsify any of your views or those of any other member of the faculty.

As to your final paragraph, to the effect that in your opinion a certain member of the faculty constantly advocates beliefs controversial among orthodox Christians and uses falsehoods in doing so, I am unfamiliar with that situation. Again may I assure you that every effort will be made, within human limits, that every policy shall be administered impartially.

Please be assured also of my continued intercession and deep interest in you, and for all of the will of God for Ruth and you.

With warmest greetings, I am

Yours in Christ,

Y. R. Edman

Dictated at Bethany Camp, Winona Lake, Indiana

VRE/rl

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

August 26, 1942.

Professor Gordon H. Clark,
610 Howard Street,
Wheaton, Illinois.

Dear Gordon:

I was much interested in reading the excerpts from the report of the committee to investigate your teaching. This committee has certainly succeeded in garbling your statements. I think your letter is good. You do not say as much, but I judge that you will still be allowed to remain as a teacher (under raps for this coming year).

In reply to my letter, Dr. Grier, of Erskine College, wrote that their staff is complete, but he will keep you in mind if ever they need a man of your qualifications. I shall write to other institutions, but I doubt that you will be able to get placed until next year. I am expecting to visit Valparaiso University in Indiana, which is loosely connected with the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. It is under the auspices of a Lutheran ministerial association, and I understand that they have professors who are not Lutherans as well as Lutherans. Dr. Kretzmann has asked me to address the student body when I come in that vicinity, and at that time I can inquire into the matter. We shall keep up our endeavor to make contacts for you and I am sure there will be some good opening for you before next year.

Just when I will come by way of Chicago I am not sure, but it will be sometime late this fall or winter.

You will be delighted to know that four denominations, The Orthodox Presbyterian, the Christian Reformed, the Reformed Presbyterian and the Covenanters have appointed committees to confer about a Federation of Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, and another church, the Associate Presbyterian, expects to have representatives there, and possibly the Associate Reformed Presbyterian

Professor Clark

August 26, 1942.

Church. I expect to call a meeting of these committees sometime in October, in Pittsburgh. If this Federation becomes a reality we can establish a university association, separate from the federation but encouraged by all groups in it. If our plans go forward as I hope, we might be able to have as large a number as 300,000 who would get in back of the university. It very likely will be several years at least before we can start. But we can talk about this more in detail when I see you.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin N. Pean

President of the
Board of Trustees

610 Howard Street
Wheaton Illinois

September 1 1942

Rev. Edwin H. Rian
Westminster Seminary
Chestnut Hill, Pa.

Dear Ed,

Thank you for your kindness in writing for me to several institutions and for your proposed mention of me when you visit Valparaiso. I am disappointed that nothing came of your attempt with Dr. Grier; I had hoped that they might have been able to stretch a point and come to my rescue; and further, it would be an excellent situation for our little girl, Lois - I mean the Presbyterian churches which are no doubt in the vicinity. Our church connections here are personally pleasant, but Lois would benefit by more methodical instruction in Sunday School and the general church atmosphere. Perhaps you have pressed Dr. Grier as much as is wise, but if not, you might try again during the winter if you happen to see him.

I have been preparing twenty seven inquiries to as many colleges (including Yale, no less), but the preceding dozen or fifteen have not produced much.

It is encouraging to know that your Federation-idea is taking hold, and I am looking forward to your visit to talk over possibilities.

So far as I know right now, I am to teach here the coming season; but they may force me out at any time. For this reason, I want your advice on the matters below; and if you will, could you see my friend John Harper, 1018 Real Estate Trust Bldg., S. E. cor., Broad and Chestnut. He is a lawyer, and there may be need of legal advice. Also, he was once a Presbyterian, has drifted away from all religion, has an agreeable but totally ~~disinterested~~ uninterested wife. I took him to Bob Strong's church last spring, and had Bob visit him. He is somewhat conversant with the beginnings of our Church, and it would do no harm if you should meet him. He is a school chum of mine - we went through both High School and College together; he knows all my affairs and you can talk to him on any subject without hesitation. Now to get back to the need for advice.

The report of the special committee to the trustees of Wheaton, from which I sent you excerpts says further:

(Recommendation) 2. That if asked his personal opinion as to the group of doctrines in question, he be frank but state the belief rather than expounding ~~it~~ his reasons, --

being equally frank in admitting his susceptibility to error and that his views in this respect have not been those of most Christian leaders;"

2.

Now briefly, I am academically opposed to this program, for it deprives the students of important historical information. These views are not merely mine, but have been held for three hundred and more years by eminent Christian leaders, even if by some system of counting they do not form a numerical majority.

Next, by not giving my reasons, I am unable to serve as a philosopher, who above all must discuss reasons.

Third, these recommendations are incompatible with my vows of ordination to the eldership, which require that I teach the whole Confession regardless of opposition.

And, since the Confession is based on the Scripture, these recommendations are contrary to the Scripture which requires us to teach the whole counsel of God.

Therefore, if the Trustees adopt these recommendations, as no doubt they will, what should I do? I can elaborate the reasons above and resign immediately. Or I can state the reasons and say I refuse to obey them and let them fire me. This last procedure may be necessary if I should want to sue them. Whether I have a sound basis for a suit, I do not yet know; for I have refrained from consulting any lawyer here until events required it. Too much gossip to do so earlier. The questions are, then, do I want to sue, or do I not. In either case, resign or be fired?

The report from which I have quoted says in another place "We do not find that Dr. Clark's opinions differ materially from those which he frankly stated, and which were freely discussed, when he was employed six years ago." The above recommendations therefore constitute a change of policy. I never subscribed to them at the time of my employment or since; and had they been required then, I should not have accepted a position here. It seems to me that the committee made here an admission which would put them in a bad light before the law.

I am not anxious to go to law, particularly if I can get another position quickly and lose little in salary. When you come out here, I shall want to discuss the possibility of publishing the documents and adding comments on the theology here and the drift of the college. And I should also like to sound you out on an overture in the General Assembly warning students members of our Church of the teaching here.

Sorry to cause you all this trouble. Hope I cannot do the same for you someday.

*deleted X by
appended Bible.
cant ever quote
Scripture*

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Ans

September 2, 1942.

Rev. Professor Gordon H. Clark,
610 Howard Street,
Wheaton, Illinois.

Dear Gordon:

I shall get in touch with John Harper today and make an appointment to meet with him to give him all the data about your situation. In the meantime let me say that your position is intolerable. Naturally you would be willing to admit your susceptibility to error, but you certainly would be compelled to give reasons for your belief, and you cannot possibly admit that most Christian leaders do not believe in the Westminster Confession, since some of the greatest thinkers of the last 300 years have been in favor of the views set forth in the Confession. I would state my position to the Board of Trustees, making it clear that they are not faithful to the contract under which you were employed. Incidentally was that contract in writing? Under no circumstances would I resign now, but force them to make a move after you have made your position clear. I think that it might be wise for you to wait to hear from John Harper before you do anything.

I doubt that another letter to Dr. Grier will do any good. On the other hand, I am of the opinion that some place will open up for you. You are making a fine testimony and I know that the Lord will honor it.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin H. Rian

President of the
Board of Trustees

P.S. I have a date with Mr. Harper for 10:30 tomorrow morning. I know "Duke" (Otis) Fuller quite well and will write to him if you so desire, as I notice he was on the examining committee.

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

September 3, 1942.

Rev. Professor Gordon H. Clark,
610 Howard Street,
Wheaton, Illinois.

Dear Gordon:

I have just had a half hour discussion with John Harper, who is an agreeable and very clear thinker. We finally agreed on the following propositions.

(1) Above all things continue to make every effort, along with your friends, to secure a new position. In the meantime try to teach under the present situation until you find that your convictions will be compromised.

(2) When you find it ethically impossible to teach resign to take effect at the end of the academic year 1943. This will give you the benefit of longer employment while you are seeking another position, and at the same time protect your intellectual and theological position, since you would be working in a temporary position. You should keep in mind that a teacher without employment will have a harder time to secure another position. We both agree that it would be unwise for you to get fired, as this would put you in a bad light with the public and other institutions.

(3) In your position it would not be expedient nor wise to sue as this would create a disturbance which would make the public judge you as a trouble maker, since they would not know you personally. As you know, other institutions are extremely loathe to take on men who have had difficulties, and especially a suit against another institution.

This advice is given because you have asked for it. It is our very best judgment and I believe that it is good advice.

Professor Clark

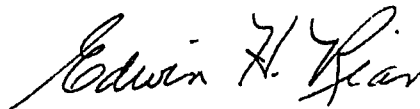
September 3, 1942.

With respect to publishing facts about Wheaton, I would forget that for the present and allow the situation to develop gradually.

You will notice that the above propositions differ somewhat from my yesterday's letter, but I believe my discussion with John Harper has convinced me of the above conclusions. They are based upon ethics, as well as practical consideration for your future. I would not want you to get the name of a trouble maker and you know how easy that is acquired. You have too large a future as a teacher to jeopardize it for the sake of justifying your position to the public. If you leave Wheaton for another position I believe that your influence will be greater for the cause of Christ. At the same time I would not advocate for a moment that you compromise your convictions.

These statements may help you to make a sound judgment as I have faith in your clear and logical mind.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edwin H. Ryan".

President of the
Board of Trustees

LAW OFFICES

1018 REAL ESTATE TRUST BUILDING

BROAD AND CHESTNUT STREETS

PHILADELPHIA

HENRY PRESTON ERDMAN

1907-1936

JOHN HARPER
WILLIAM M. BUCHANAN
PHILIP B. DRIVER, JR.

September 3, 1942

Mr. Gordon H. Clark
610 Howard Street
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Gordon:-

Your friend, Mr. Ryan of the Westminster Theological Seminary, has been in to see me today and we have discussed your difficulties at Wheaton. I gathered that your general position is deteriorating rapidly at Wheaton College and that, in part, the position of the Trustees is ridiculous, e.g. You are permitted to state your religious views as a philosopher but not to explain the reasons in support of them. This is an amazing statement to me and the first time I have ever heard that philosophy could be taught without explaining the reasons for the views which are propounded.

Mr. Ryan and I reached certain conclusions concerning advice which we could give you and to these I give my wholehearted support.

The first conclusion we reached was that it would be much better for you to resign from Wheaton College rather than be fired. If, after you are engaged to teach for another semester or another year, you are discharged from your position, your legal position will be good, in that, if you sue for the balance of your salary, the burden will be upon the college to show that there was legally sufficient cause for your discharge. However, if you assert your legal position you will greatly impair your chances of obtaining a position elsewhere. The attitude of other institutions would probably be that "this fellow Clark had a scrap with Wheaton College and sued them. Why should we take such a troublemaker into our midst". I am afraid that you will never get the chance to explain your position and show that you are not a troublemaker. Your ability to earn an income in the future is more important than your legal position with respect to one year's or one semester's salary.

The second conclusion which we reached was that your resignation, when it comes, should be with as much dignity, quietness and honor to yourself as is possible. This is in keeping with the general thought which we have concerning the favorable attitude which you desire

Mr. Gordon Clark

-2-

September 3, 1942

to generate in other institutions to which you may make application for a position.

The third conclusion to which we came was that you should immediately and strenuously make all efforts to obtain, if possible, a position elsewhere. First, in an effort to accelerate the time when you can resign from Wheaton College and secondly, if you sever your connections with Wheaton College before you obtain a position elsewhere, the period between then and the time you obtain the new position will be as short as possible.

The fourth conclusion we reached was that you keep your position at Wheaton College until you either (a) are discharged because of something over which you have no control; (b) obtain a position elsewhere, or (c) the situation at Wheaton gets to be such that you can no longer see your way clear to compromise with it.

In the event that you obtain a position elsewhere before you are discharged at Wheaton College, will you let me know immediately so that I can help you plan the steps in your resignation. I believe that if these steps are carefully handled, you will not get yourself into a position where the college can charge you either morally or legally with having breached a contract to teach for the balance of the semester (or year).

When it becomes apparent that you are going to get a position elsewhere, I believe it wise to begin to make efforts to dispose of your home at Wheaton as I doubt that you will desire to continue to own real estate there, and I believe that your chances of selling real estate will be much greater while you are still on the ground and able to talk to your real estate broker and also to prospective purchasers.

I am afraid that the conclusions that Mr. Ryan and I have reached are rather general in their nature but I believe that this is the best we can do for you and, as I told Mr. Ryan, I am sure if we help you consider all of the factors in the situation and help you with your mental approach to the problem, you are

Mr. Gordon Clark

-3-

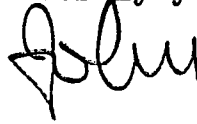
September 3, 1942

eminently capable of thinking the thing out to the correct conclusion in all the details.

You again have my best wishes and if I can be of any possible service to you do not hesitate to let me know.

My very best regards to Ruth.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John".

JH:em
C.C. to Mr. Ryan

For p. 1. (sixth S.)

Paragraph six of the report

explicitly condemns two doctrines of the Westminster Confession,

says that human wisdom is unable to refute — as well as to sustain —

these doctrines. To condemn doctrines

that cannot be refuted is irrational;

to deny the legitimacy of ^{valid} ~~and~~

deduction from Scripture is to imply

that Christianity is irrational; and

the whole therefore is anti-Scriptural

(cf. I John 5:20 and I Peter 3:15).

... and vision of the object in question ceases.

The illustration of a visual ray to give
optical phenomena may seem to a modern reader to be inconsistent
with the spiritual, non-mechanical explanation of vision.
but Problems are confronted with the stubborn empirical
fact that we cannot see through opaque bodies, and hoped
that the assimilation of all bodies, air included, to semi-
transparent would acquit him of any serious charge.

610 Howard Street
Wheaton Illinois

Sept. 7 1942

Dear Ed,

I received similar letters from you and Harper after your conference. I shall carefully follow the advice.

The trustees will meet in October, and will probably adopt the report. In that case I should be ready to make a reply promptly. The enclosed is the sort of thing I have in mind. Can you go over it with a fine tooth comb.

The part of the report on which I base my remarks about condemning denominations is as follows:

"To your committee, the deductions are not entirely illogical, and the views themselves are unsound and for that reason dangerous. Some of your Committee feel that part of the error arises from an effort to expand, by human reason and deduction, the doctrine of the person of God beyond what is definitely taught in the Scripture; and that to attempt to directly refute such error, similarly might be to presume by human wisdom to develop doctrines about God going beyond what He has seen fit to reveal to us."

In one of your letters you mentioned the possibility of mentioning some of the items of the enclosed letter before the Trustees adopted the report. If there were a real chance of staying here comfortably, it would be worth while to make an effort to prevent them from adopting the report. But under the actual conditions, I am afraid my acquainting them with these reasons ahead of time would result in their adopting a statement with the same effect minus the wording that can be pointed out as good reason for resigning.

I hope I am not wearying you by my letters; kindly remember that there is no one here to whom I can go for advice.

Cordially,

P.S. After resigning, to what extent should I make known my reasons to members of the faculty here? Or people elsewhere? Would that make me a trouble-maker as of point three of your last letter?

LAW OFFICES

1018 REAL ESTATE TRUST BUILDING
BROAD AND CHESTNUT STREETS
PHILADELPHIA

JOHN HARPER
WILLIAM M. BUCHANAN
PHILIP B. DRIVER, JR.

HENRY PRESTON ERDMAN
1907-1936

September 10, 1942

Mr. Gordon H. Clark
610 Howard Street
Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Gordon:-

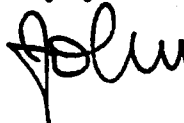
I received your letter of September 7, 1942 and think you have done a grand job. There are one or two minor matters which I would like to call to your attention for further consideration.

In your fourth paragraph you suggest that being required to teach philosophy without stating the reasons for your propositions is the equivalent of requiring history to be taught without reference to events in the past. I doubt that you have made your thought entirely clear and I would suggest that you give consideration to making your illustration a much more concrete one (perhaps I am just a bit too far removed from the last course in history which I had). Would it not be more concrete and perhaps forceful to suggest that the proposal in question is the equivalent of teaching medical students that when someone has a stomach ache, the white pills should be prescribed as a requirement that the reasons therefore should under no circumstance be disclosed. This is a matter which I raise for your consideration only and does not reach the stature of a suggestion on my part.

I do believe that the last paragraph of your letter should explain the reason why you are presently tendering your resignation which is to take effect, not immediately but at the end of the present school year. I would, therefore, suggest that you make your last paragraph read somewhat as follows:

"For these and similar reasons I refuse to comply with the requirements newly enacted by the Trustees and hereby present my resignation from the faculty of Wheaton College. For the reason that the college has made its plans to have me teach for the current school year and for the reason that I have made similar plans, my resignation is tendered to be effective at the end of 1942-1943 school year but until that time I shall consider my contract to teach as being subject to the conditions concerning the above matters on which an agreement was reached when I was first employed."

Very truly yours,



JH:em
C.C. TO Mr. Edward Rian

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

September 10, 1942.

Professor Gordon H. Clark, Ph.D.,
610 Howard Street,
Wheaton, Illinois.

Dear Gordon:

Your letters do not weary me at all. On the contrary it is a real pleasure to be of some help to a good friend. My difficulty is in giving you the proper advice.

It seems to me unwise to write even a tentative reply to the Board of Trustees before they have taken some definite action. It is altogether likely that your reply would be considerably different when their action has been taken. I have never seen a copy of the full report of the Board so am somewhat at sea about the proper reply. Would it be possible for you to send me a copy of that full report, since it would help me greatly in advising you about your reply?

For the present I would do nothing, nor would I reply to the Board too quickly. Your words must be carefully weighed because they may come before the public, and your position must be fool-proof when you have actually resigned. We can discuss the matter of how widely your reasons should be given to the public or to the faculty at Wheaton. It is altogether possible that I shall see you before November 1st, so that we can discuss any reply to the Board personally, which is much more satisfactory.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin H. Peck

President of the
Board of Trustees

Wheaton, Ill., Sep. 29, 1942

Dear Doctor Clark,

I have been hoping to hear from you since I called on you, but evidently must pursue my theme. I do not want to come to the Trustees' meeting with a dissension to discuss. I have too much admiration for you to believe that is necessary.

You evidently feel bound by your vows that were based on the authorities of which you showed me a sample. Logical inference from them clearly supports your challenged statements. Jesus dealt with some old authorities in the fifth of Matthew. He puts his authority over against the best of them, even Moses. "But I say unto you."-----"that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven." It was Jesus that said, "God so loved the world"-- John 3:16. "The Father himself loveth you." "Whosoever will, let him come." "Is not willing that any should perish." "I and my Father are one."

→ Logic cannot harmonize these with the vows you took. Rightly interpreted, the Bible is logical, harmonious from beginning to end. Misinterpreted, it is made the basis of endless theological contention. Let your common sense put it together. You really are one of us. Do not follow Herod in keeping your vow mistakenly.

You know that logically the word, IS, has at least a dozen distinct meanings, as shown by symbolic logic. Language at best is an imperfect medium. Jesus not only said, but showed compassion, all sorts of divine love. He lived what he said. You believe not only his word, but his Spirit of truth, the holy Interpreter. You love him because he first loved you.

Let me hear from you. I respect your integrity.

Sincerely yours,

D. A. Straw

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

October 24, 1942.

Professor Gordon H. Clark, Ph.D.,
610 Howard Street,
Wheaton, Illinois:

Dear Dr. Clark:

Thank you for yours of October 17th and for the recommendations of Lambert, Svendsen and Pulliam. I have had some correspondence with Pulliam and Lambert already, but have not yet heard from the third man.

With reference to denominations which hold the Westminster Confession, the following is a list of such denominations in this country:

Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.
United Presbyterian Church of North America
Associate Presbyterian Church of North America
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church
Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America
Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America,
General Synod
Orthodox Presbyterian Church
Bible Presbyterian Church
Bohemian and Moravian Brethren Churches

Of course I know that there are minor variations in the text of the Confession as between these various denominations, but as far as I know, they all hold to the Confession containing the section to which you referred.

In other countries the following churches hold the Confession, and there doubtless are others about which I cannot

Dr. Clark

October 24, 1942.

Speak with any assurance:

Free Church of Scotland
Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland
United Original Secession Church
Irish Evangelical Church
Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland
Free Presbyterian Church of Australia
Presbyterian Church in Canada
Church of Scotland in Prince Edward Island

John Murray has assisted me in making up this list.

To the best of my knowledge the Irish Articles are not a standard of any church at the present time.

The Canons of the Synod of Dort are, however, a part of the doctrinal standards of the following churches in this country:

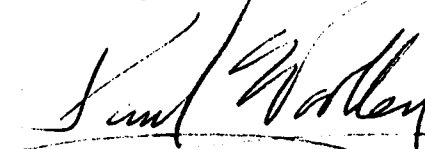
Reformed Church in America
Christian Reformed Church of North America
Protestant Reformed Church
Netherlands Reformed Church

In the Netherlands I believe the following churches also hold them as a doctrinal standard, though I cannot be absolutely positive:

Netherlands Reformed Church
Reformed Churches in the Netherlands
Christian Reformed Church

There would probably be churches in South Africa and the Dutch East Indies which could be added to the list also.

Cordially yours,



Registrar and Secretary

Dec. 15 1942 Dr. Edman for the first
reported that the Board had not
acted on the Committee's report at
their meeting in October.

Dr. E. told me on [→] Dec. 31. Report accepted, + services
terminated, at meetg a few days before.

Jan 21. Fischer said he would ask
trustees to rescind ac + let me
resign.

Track team ran on Sunday Nov. 23rd 1942

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 2, 1943

Dr. G. H. Clark
The College

My dear Dr. Clark:

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of January twenty-five have just come to my hand. I find therein action of the Committee approving the report of the special sub-committee of the Trustees. Earlier action regarding your tenure was rescinded in view of the fact that the report had not received official action until this time. The actions of the Executive Committee are subject to the approval or disapproval of the Board at its stated meetings. The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Saturday, February thirteen, in Wheaton.

Very sincerely yours,

V. R. Egan

VRE:ah