

June 27 1942

Dear Ed,

Your recent note reminds me that I intended to write to you about the time of General Assembly. It was somewhat of a shock to hear that you were unable to go, and I hope that you are putting a great distance between you and any collapse. With sessions of the G. A. extending into the wee hours, it is good you did not attend.

The discontinuance of the Committee of Nine is quite a disappointment. On withdrawing my resolution I wrote to all who had written to me urging them to support the Nine. Since it was not an administrative committee, and could merely report to the Assembly, the objections made against it were preposterous. It will be excellent if the Reformed Alliance (or whatever it should be called) can be formed, and perhaps the Christian Education Committee has been improved, but the account of the whole Assembly in the Guardian was rather discouraging.

The situation at Wheaton is somewhat as follows. Dr. Thiessen has made a powerful move to have me ousted. It came before the trustees, and they appointed a committee to confer with me next Tuesday evening. I expect them to tell me that I should not mention Calvinism in class, nor continue the Creed Club. I do not see how I can accede to either of these requests. I shall do some counter-attacking of my own. The President is not so wholeheartedly in favor of Thiessen either; maybe he would like us to balance each other off. But this is all guess work; I'll write you later when I have definite news.

In the meantime I am seeing what there is to be done if I find myself outside looking in. I intend to canvass the field of colleges, but there are very few positions open. I know one excellent young scholar who looked for five years and has found nothing. If I should find a position, even at a good salary, I am not sure that

I would again be content in a secular institution -- in spite of conditions in a so-called Christian college. It is possible that Bob Rudolph could get me a place in his seminary, particularly if and when Wailes leaves. This might make it seem wise to enter their ministry. Or I might, after ordination, take a church. I have mentioned ordination to a few of my friends (Strong, Smith, Goddard, Rudolph), but there are no OPC's, and besides the procedure toward ordination in our church would be long and doubtful in my case; there is a small RE church I could possibly get.

Smith and Strong urge me to hang on here as long as possible. Smith even suggested that I do not send out a proposed tract, The Disobedient Missionary (see Westlake), but even if the tracts were not anonymous, I do not see that they can get me in more trouble than I am in now. And I do not relish the notion of keeping quiet. It is distinctly a question of Christian ethics how quiet I can conscientiously be. I have tried to limit myself to the Westminster Confession, and the result is that I am considered "extreme." Other Presbyterians do not believe the Conf. as I do, therefore that proves I am extreme. Et c.

You once had a hope of a college for our church, or for the Reformed Alliance. Of course there is Calvin College. And there is the ever present question of finances. And perhaps your hope has gone the way of dreams. But, since I am thinking of everything possible these days, I gave this a thought too. Here is a very minimum plan:

One man, twelve hours a week, twenty four credits a year, teaching three years of Greek; one man teaching sixteen credits a year of German and eight of history; one man giving sixteen credits a year of English and eight of history; one man twenty credits of philosophy; one man sixteen of Math and six of philosophy. This makes five men and one hundred fourteen hours of work. It omits Physics and Zoology - these require expensive equipment and could be arranged for by transfer credit. This would throw the total offerings over the minimum 120 hours for a four year course. If the salaries of the five men ranged from 3000 to 1800, that item of the budget would be eleven or twelve thousand. But I am afraid that the financial condition of the country after the war will not be favorable to independent colleges.

Well, I send you the news next week. Take care of yourself; don't let the brakes wear you down.

Cordially

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 H. 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) 3. 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
expurgated Bible.
cant even 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 ^{1.}
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

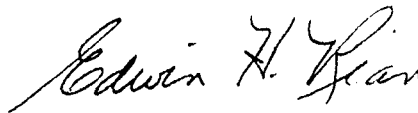
September 3, 1942.

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

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?

For p. 1. (sixth §).

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.

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).

The will of a man is a faculty of the soul
which may be seen to be rational
with the spiritual, non-mechanical explanation of vision
but problems are connected with the ordinary explanation
that we cannot see through opaque bodies, and hence
that the explanation of the bodies, air included, is
that it would be difficult to maintain that

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,



President of the
Board of Trustees

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

November 9, 1942.

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

Dear Gordon:

I shall speak to Tom Birch about the Christmas issue of the Guardian hoping that we can have some appealing articles. I wish that we could include some worth while news about the Seminary, especially since the issue is going to Wheaton graduates. The issue just off the press has the testimonies of the new students in it. How does that appeal to you?

I appreciate your willingness to send your check for the Cincinnati conference to the Seminary to be used for the next conference. Very likely you will receive such a check from Marvin Derby within a few days.

I have not had an opportunity to read your expositions of I Peter, but will do so at my earliest convenience. Off-hand I should say that we ought to be able to use it in the Guardian when Hamilton or Goddard's expositions are finished.

Please continue to jot down ideas about the university, since these will multiply as the project nears reality. I spoke with a keen and intellectual lawyer in Pittsburgh about the university and he took to it like a duck to water and immediately offered his help. That seems to be the reaction of most every one with whom I broach the idea even in a general way as I did with him.

Again let me say how much I appreciated your speeches at the Cincinnati conference.

Sincerely yours,



President of the
Board of Trustees

Nov. 13 1942

Rev. Edwin H. Rian
Westminster Seminary
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Ed,

Before coming to other matters, I wish to direct your attention to these items.

There is a magazine published on college publicity called, The College Publicity Digest. The editor is Floyd Tiffit, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y. In its various issues there may be useful material for us.

Also there is a semi-useful article in The American Scholar of spring 1942 by F. P. Keppel on Will the American College Survive. He brings out a number of factors which favor and which oppose the survival. Some of the factors can be controlled.

There are also legal problems. In Europe the faculty was usually the University. Here in America the trustee system has developed out of the system of judicial visitors. The result is that the faculty member is nothing but a hired man, perhaps with a contract; but he has no 'freehold' on his position. Some colleges have had competent trustees; but more frequently the trustees do not understand the needs. I suggest that if it is at all possible we revert to the European model; or at least have the full professors be or be on the board of trustees.

This and other legal matters relating to the troubles of a half dozen universities in the last two or three centuries is contained in a book, Academic Organization and Control, by J. E. Kirkpatrick, The Antioch Press, 1931. No doubt you can get copies of Pennsylvania laws on the subject. If you can get such easily, send me one sometime,

As for the Christmas issue of the Guardian, don't take the whole thing too seriously; my only idea is to keep it readable for the 12 year mentality. The testimonies of the students as to why they chose Westminster seemed good; a student here, Van Dyke, was greatly impressed with Tompkins' and Jewett's statements. Van Dyke expects to get to Westminster in Sept. 1944. I think we got another student for next September, one I hardly expected, comes out of Pentecostalism. There is another who might well come, if we can detach him from his girl. She want him to go to faith.

I want you to think over the problem of having an anthropologist in our college and graduate school. Anthropology has not been a prominent subject in small schools. But ~~his~~ this man can publish a great deal, can inspire students, and has boundless energy. On the other hand his energy impells him to ask too largely. We might make a written agreement on how much money (aside from salary) could be given him each year for books and exhibits. He no doubt would soon ask for a building for his subject. He is disgusted here, and would want to come. But I do not care to tell him much of anything unless there is a reasonable hope for him. He was born in the Caucasus, has studies in Berlin and Paris, was an officer in the Czar's armies.

Since I am having the Cincinnati speech typed for Miss Shillito, I shall send you or Tom Birch a copy. If you ~~sz~~ are stuck for material, you could use some excerpts perhaps.

Cordially,

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

November 16, 1942.

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

Dear Gordon:

I believe we can use your expositions of I Peter as soon as Hamilton has finished his on Ephesians. It would not be well to run two at the same time.

I shall look into the two magazines you mention, The College Publicity Digest and the American Scholar.

I think that there are several ways to secure harmony between a faculty and board of trustees in a university. One way is to have several members of the faculty at each board meeting to act in an advisory manner. Another method is to have the president of the university also president of the board of trustees. In this way he can act liaison between the two bodies and with understanding. I am enclosing a copy of our Charter and Constitution, which may give a number of ideas.

I have been discussing the procedure of launching a university association with Marsden and John Murray and have come to the following conclusions: First, I propose to call a meeting of 10 to 15 men living in this locality to meet about the middle of January in Philadelphia to discuss a university association in a preliminary way. I think of inviting from the O.P.C. John Murray, Robert Marsden and Lawrence Gilmore; two from the Covenanters; two or three from the Reformed Presbyterians; two or three from the Christian Reformed; two from the Reformed Church of America; one from the Hungarian Reformed, - all of whom will live within 100 miles or less of Philadelphia. I hesitate to ask any one like yourself to come such a long distance. We fifteen can then discuss the matter and in turn invite 25 or 35 additional laymen and ministers of several churches, including the Southern Presbyterian and the Canadian Presbyterian, to sign a joint letter inviting between 100 and 200 individuals to meet in Cincinnati in March to discuss the formation of a University Association and if

Bob. Reed 1/2

Apr. 9-20

Dr. Clark

November 16, 1942.

possible look forward to the establishment of a university. At the meeting in Cincinnati officers and an Executive Committee could be elected.

The members in power should also make some provision for an auxiliary membership by the payment of one dollar or more a year, in order to support the Association and the university. How does the line-up appeal to you?

I am happy to know that there are others at Wheaton who are looking forward to coming to the Seminary within the next few years.

With respect to the curriculum that will require much thought and discussion. Above all our greatest difficulty will be a faculty. The anthropologist of whom you write I do not know, but we can become acquainted with him as time goes on.

I shall be happy to receive a copy of your speech at Cincinnati.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin S. Ryan

President of the
Board of Trustees

P.S. In President Hutchins book, "The Higher Learning in America", page 106ff., there is listed the faculties that would make up a university. What do you think of his division?

COPY

November 17, 1942.

President Robert Maynard Hutchins, Ph.D.,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Hutchins:

I have read some of your articles and books and the volume which interests me the most is "The Higher Learning in America". I am particularly impressed by your description of a university composed of three faculties, Metaphysics, Social Science, and Natural Science, with technical institutes attached to the university. The idea which is most urgently needed is your insistence of a unifying principle for the whole curriculum, so that the students will have some orderly conception of the truth. Your unifying principle of Metaphysics, however, seems inadequate because it will eventually run into empiricism which you are trying to avoid.

A number of us from different denominations are contemplating launching a university that will have as a unifying principle the Christian world and life view expressed in Calvinism, which we believe is the most logical, consistent, systematic and full presentation of Christianity. We look upon Christianity not as consisting of a few isolated doctrines, but as setting forth a whole system of truth which embraces every field of human endeavor. With this unifying principle we are convinced that a great center of Christian learning can be established. The reason for such an institution is apparent to any one who has studied the educational system in America which is almost completely secularized. Some of the universities, like Yale, tried to carry out what we have in mind but never succeeded. For one thing the founders had no broad conception of Christianity as a world and life view. Our plan is on the order of the medieval universities and consequently is ambitious. But we feel that the need is imperative and there is practically no competition.

It is our conviction that only when a university can graduate students as lawyers, doctors, statesmen, teachers, and so forth, (Christian ministers are not enough) who have been trained in the Christian theistic viewpoint, can we expect to have leaders in this country who will guide us in the way of truth, righteousness, justice and peace. In our judgment there is no such thing as Christian, or spiritual truth on the one hand, and scientific truth on the other. All truth is one and you cannot be on so-called natural ground. Your idea of a unifying principle is correct, but metaphysics will never unify because Metaphysics by itself ends in the sands of human speculation.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

EDWIN H. RIAN

President of the
Board of Trustees

November 18 1942

Rev. Edwin H. Rian
Westminster Seminary
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Ed,

If we encourage between us a correspondence on university affairs, it will soon know no bounds. And yet by making carbons of these letters, I have a record of some ideas that may prove useful.

Before you set your mind on the form of legal organization, take the trouble to read some of Kirkpatrick's book, mentioned in my last letter. You need to read no more of the history of Harvard and Yale than interests you, but some chapters on general principles about two thirds through the book contain important material. My concern in this matter centers around the ability of non-resident trustees to appreciate professional ideals. And I am convinced that what we need is standards to which most Americans are not accustomed. I hope that we can make clear to ourselves exactly what our aims are, and then not deviate to club houses and subsidized athletics. Faculty, library, and laboratory are my goals.

In order to seem to have a wider denominational backing, can we not invite Robert Rudolph to participate. I know that the faculty of Westminster thinks their seminary a poor one and their denomination Arminian. This latter part is hardly so. At least Bob Rudolph is pretty solidly Calvinistic, and he is making his church more so. And in any case, his church is no worse than some from which you will choose men, the Canadian Presbyterian, for example. In fact, they call themselves Reformed Episcopalians.

I am very happy to see that you will call a meeting in January, and the larger meeting in March. Our spring vacation is set for April 9-20. In March I could leave for a day or two. I wish I could get to the first Philadelphia meeting, but it would be quite a strain. But tell them that Francis Turretin wants to be dean of

the College.

As for the dues in the Society, is one dollar too cheap-looking? Of course it is just a nice way of asking for contributions; but most people would be glad to pay five dollars a year.

I am working out details for the college. But the question of the anthropologist is a special problem. There are such distinct advantages and such distinct disadvantages to him. Undoubtedly he will publish a good deal. Undoubtedly he will stimulate students to work. Undoubtedly he will want more funds (not salary) than we can give him, and perhaps more space too. Then anthropology is not such a pedigreed subject as German and mathematics. There is also the question of theology. He claims to be Calvinistic; but he really does not know much about it. And aside from him, I think you must face the fact that there will be few professors of history and physics who can meet the requirements of the Westminster faculty for being reformed.

You refer to Hutchins book, page 106ff., on the faculties of a university. Hutchins, in my opinion, has some excellent ideas; and the book you mention ought to be read by the inner circle establishing our university. But he has not said the last word. The division of faculties you refer to, is not really a university organization. It is rather a substitute for departments in a college.

This raises all sorts of problems. Should we try to start with departments, or with the divisions of natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Should we drop out the freshman and sophomore years, and abandon the field to junior colleges? To this last question I say No, because the High Schools are doing a rotten job, and the Junior colleges will do not better. We need a stiff lower division curriculum to overcome bad preparation, to prepare for advanced work.

As for university organization, we must start with a college and a graduate school; the next, because least expensive, is a law school. Beyond that I do not see. In fact, that much is amazing; and how it can be financed is a mystery. In thinking out the affairs of the college, could you suggest the number of instructors with which we might reasonably start?

I do not want to deluge you with college detail, unless you ask for it; but one matter can well receive your attention from the beginning. That is a statement of purpose. You will have to try to make one for the university as a whole. Here is something of a tentative draft for the college.

Subsidiary to the general aim of the university, the purpose of the College of Arts and Sciences is to bring the student into contact with a faculty engaged in contributing to the sum total of knowledge; to provide the student with a fund of knowledge sufficiently extensive to enable him to appreciate the scope of conflicting world-views; and to initiate him more particularly in the knowledge and technique of one field so that later he may make original contributions to scholarship.

And finally, impress the preliminary meeting, and the second meeting in Cincinnati, that a year's groundwork can well be spent before opening for students; at least a half year.

Cordially,

mentioned Carol Jan Smith.

COPY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Chicago, Illinois

November 20, 1942

Dear Mr. Rian:

I should be very glad indeed to see a university established for the purpose of training all its students in the Christian theistic view point. Those of us, however, to whom faith has been denied must continue to seek the unification of knowledge through philosophy. It may be that by these efforts we may sometime attain to faith.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT M. HUTCHINS

Mr. Edwin H. Rian
President, Board of Trustees
Westminster Theological Seminary
Chestnut Hill
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

November 23, 1942.

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

Dear Gordon:

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Robert Maynard Hutchins of Chicago and of his answer, which to me is most encouraging.

I expect to be in Chicago on December 18th and if my train arrives on time, I will be free from 10:00 A.M. that day until 11:30 P.M. when my train leaves. How about you and I running down to Valparaiso University to see O. P. Kretzmann, the President. This will give us a marvelous opportunity to investigate their setup and to talk with him. He might be able to give us many good suggestions. I am sure that we shall both profit by our consultation with him, as he is very brilliant.

I am glad that you mentioned Bob Rudolph, as one to have present at our first conference about a university. He certainly is a Calvinist and a very good man to be associated with such a movement. I shall refrain from answering the specific points in your letter until I hear whether or not we can meet for a conference on December 18th, as it is far more satisfactory to have a personal conference.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin H. Rouse

President of the
Board of Trustees

*P.S. Valparaiso is only 44 miles south of Chicago
Indiana.*

Mar 26th 1942

Rev. Edwin H. Fien
Westminster Seminary
Phila., Pa.

Dear Ed,

I shall be delighted to go with you to Valparaiso on December 18. Shall I meet you in Union Station at 10 AM? I do not know the time of trains to Valparaiso, nor even the best railroad. When you make your appointment with Kretsmann, get the information and let me know where we can meet.

In spite of rumors that the war may be over next June, it may not be - do not see how it can be, and for other reasons as well, our University may not get started next year. Therefore let us try to get me a job at Valparaiso. It would give me a much better opportunity to learn the set up than an afternoon's visit gives.

It is too bad that Hutchins did not reply more cordially. He rather shuts the door to further correspondence. Maybe you should have asked him a question or two.

Because it is more economical to have a fixed schedule for all students than to have too many electives; and because certain definite courses fit in with what Hutchins calls general education, I am working out a two year fixed roster (assuming as we must that the freshmen know no languages) that will prepare them for solid study in one field. Look over this outline. Some people will think it long on science and short on history and social studies.

Enclosed also is a carbon of my Cincinnati address. Perhaps you could use excerpts for the Guardian.

Cordially,

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

January 12, 1943.

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

Dear Gordon:

Paul Woolley has made an excellent suggestion, in my judgment. He thinks it proper for you to present your case to the Association of American Universities and to the North Central Association of Colleges, especially that part of the case which has to do with the understanding when you were employed. I agree with him that Wheaton has made a breach of contract, which especially the Association of American Universities will regard as a serious matter. If you can present your case to them it may affect Wheaton's standing in those associations. In other words, Wheaton is not acting with academic integrity.

With respect to your letter to college presidents which you enclosed, I do not know what to say. Let me think it over for a day or two. I shall see Westlake and talk with him about your tract campaign.

I have mentioned your situation to Miss Shillito and hope that something may come of it.

Sincerely yours,



President of the
Board of Trustees

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

January 27, 1943.

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

Dear Gordon:

I have talked with John Harper and we both agree that your statement of resignation written in September last year is far more dignified than your statement of recent date. Mr. Harper has made one or two suggestions with respect to your September letter, which are agreeable to me. I would advise you to send in that revised September letter. Your recent letter would only infuriate them and perhaps lead them to have their motion of expulsion stand.

I do not think it wise for you to send out another letter to colleges telling of your resignation and eagerness for a position. It is far better for others to do that. I shall be glad to help you out in any way that I can. A letter from O. P. Kretzman, of Valparaiso, this morning says, "I was very grateful to you for calling my attention to Professor Clark. He made a very fine impression on me and I shall certainly keep him in mind if we run into a vacancy in the upper academic levels."

In view of the college situation, it may be necessary for you to be used in our cause in some other capacity than teaching, at least temporarily. I shall bring your situation to the attention of the Home Missions Committee when it meets tomorrow.

Dr. Clark

January 27, 1943.

I am pleased to receive the information about Mr. Johnston of New York. We are considering March 25th as a possible date for a meeting of individuals from eight or nine Reformed denominations to consider the formation of a Christian University Association. I will let you know in plenty of time. It is likely that the meeting will be held in Philadelphia, as I am eager for the brethren to see the Statesbury estate.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin H. Rinn

President of the Board of Trustees

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

January 29, 1943.

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

Dear Gordon:

Bob Marsden no doubt will write you about the decision of the Home Missions Committee yesterday. We voted to employ you as student adviser at Wheaton, beginning July 1, at a salary of \$170.00 per month. The men were enthusiastic in this decision and wanted you to know that they back your stand 100%.

The following eight members of the committee, plus Marsden, were present: Elder Ferguson, of Kirkwood, Elder McClay, of Philadelphia, Bob Strong, Ned Stonehouse, Dick Gray, John Galbraith, Sam Allen and myself. All of those present, except Bob Strong and me, were in favor of your being fired rather than resigning, although they did not wish to endanger your future. I still believe that when you are confronted with a decision between being fired and resigning it might seem as though you were flinging a challenge in their faces by choosing to be fired. When you state the reasons for your resignation, I do not see how you are compromising. Furthermore, a resignation might ease your position as student adviser.

Perhaps Bob Marsden will give you his point of view about resigning or not.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin H. Rein

President of the
Board of Trustees

P.S. The entire faculty of the Seminary disagree with me and think that you should be allowed yourself to be fired.

310 Howard Street
Wheaton Illinois

Feb. 3 1943

Dear Ed,

Thank you for your special delivery letter announcing the good news from the Committee on Home Missions. Marsden's longer letter came the following day. I have replied to him at some length.

So far the matter of resignation goes, it seems to me to stack up as follows. If the trustees here had adopted the policy without firing me in the first place, I would have resigned. If they rescind their action firing me, they are more foolish than I am. And to demand to be fired looks rather like being a boor. You probably saw Harper's draft of my resignation. There is no compromise in it. I not only refuse to continue indefinitely with them, but I specifically refuse to obey their new policy during my remaining days. Would it not be ludicrous, if, after they rescind their firing, they dislike my resignation and fire me over again? They may. My principle of action is not to advise them what to do. I neither ask to be fired, nor ask to be permitted to resign. My responsibility lies wholly in my reaction to what they do. Edman, before they fired me, tried to get me to say what I was going to do if they adopted or did not adopt the policy. I refused to answer. Fischer sort of sounded me out on the rescinding; but I told him it was not my business to advise the trustees. And after Edman informed me that I was fired, I told him I was quite satisfied with that action. I really do not see how I can attempt to ask the trustees to do any one thing rather than another.

Now, an idea or two about the Christian University. If the finances could be arranged, it would be, I think, a good bit of advertizing to offer one semester's free tuition to any one discharged from the military services at the end of the war. I said anyone; I should say, offer a hundred such scholarships. They need not come all in one term. Demobilization may be progressive, and we could spread the load. But I think we ought to make a bid for students to continue their education.

The other point is the library again. Get the sponsors to put up some money so that the program starts as soon as possible. Even while working for the Committee on Home Missions, I could collect several lists of books, and begin ordering. They could be

stored somewhere in Phila., until the building was purchased. If I were working full time on the project, I guess I could get together 20,000 books in a year; but even desultory work could produce one or two thousand. Of course, if it were thought wise to purchase a complete set of the Loeb Classical Library, the number of books obtainable in a year would quickly increase. One letter would bring a couple of hundred volumes. The hard work would be selecting single volumes and getting all from one publisher in one list. Get the sponsors acquainted with the fact that the library may average five dollars a volume. When to employ a librarian, it will be at least that or more.

Your letter of Jan. 27 raises one more point. You advise against seeking a position in some college this spring. My previous letters were sent in September. March is more nearly the time that changes are decided upon. It might not be unwise to send a note saying that I am still interested. Why do you think it would not be wise. Of course I am deeply grateful for whatever my friends can do. There is one thing that they can do with perhaps more grace than I. That is, to acquaint the A. A. U. and the North Central Assn. with the situation, as per Woolley's suggestion. If I should write to them, I would have to use the semi-subterfuge of asking them to inform me of any opening they may know of. Of course, such is not their business. Think it over, and let me know who, if anyone, should write to them.

Cordially,

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

February 5, 1943.

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

Dear Gordon:

As I stated in my former letters, I agree that you should resign now that you are confronted with a choice. You cannot tell the Board of Trustees of Wheaton College what to do. You will simply have to react according to their decision.

We have finally decided to call a meeting to discuss the formation of a Christian University Association for March 25th in Philadelphia. I hope that you can be present. We expect to send out the letters February 25th, which will give people a month's notice and that ought to be sufficient. We are inviting 28 in all from 9 Presbyterian and Reformed denominations, namely, The O.P.C., The Christian Reformed, the Covenanters, the Reformed Presbyterian, the Reformed Church in America, the Southern Presbyterian, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Magyar Reformed, and the German Reformed. I hope that a goodly number of this 28 will be present so that we can discover whether or not we are like-minded enough to go ahead with this proposition. If we are agreed on the main proposition we might be able to draw up a general resolution which all can sign and announce the association to the world, after which a sub-committee could draft a proposed constitution for submission to the whole at a later meeting. At any rate the idea is taking shape and I pray that the Association will become a reality. We are keeping quiet about the affair since the meeting is preliminary and our discussions tentative.

My chief reason for not sending out letters to colleges is the same as I would have against a minister applying for jobs himself. It probably should not be in the same category and is foolish on my part. I will think over if and how the matter of your situation at Wheaton should be brought to the attention of the A.A.U. and the North Central Association.

We can discuss the university matters if you come to the meeting, or after the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin H. Rian

President of the
Board of Trustees

610 Howard Street
Wheaton Illinois

Feb. 17 1943

Dear Ed,

On last Saturday the trustees adopted the report of their committee, concerning C. I. Brown. I was informed of their action on Tuesday, and I handed in my resignation today. The text of the resignation is only slightly changed from Harper's suggested form, and I am enclosing a copy.

This raises the question of publicizing it. I have asked Harper's advice, and I should like to know what The Guardian wishes to do.

Publicity has already reached 25% of the best "revival" they have had here. It was what I judge such a nice setting out: loss of affection of mine, depreciation of doctrine, and so on.

At the same time the president of the Faculty, USA, Dr. C. H. C. (?) was on the campus gathering applicants for his institution. The committee report in my case says college faculties should not be loaned to those who advocate controversial positions.

Although I have accepted the offer of the Home Missions Committee, and have applied for ordination, I do not think I am justified in ceasing to look for a college position. For Rudolph has located a possible mode of approach to Columbia University, through a friend of his. Hence I wrote to see what could be done.

And as for the Christian University, the matter of the library is still on my mind. Today a book catalog came with Lavisse et Rambaud's history of France from the fourth century on, at \$35.00 for 12 volumes. This is the first time I have ever seen that set for sale. If it is the regular quarto edition, it is a bargain that cannot often be found. The bookseller is W. H. Allen about 51st and Walnut (or is it Chestnut?).

Cordially,

610 Howard Street
Wheaton Illinois

March 1 1943

Rev. Edwin H. Rian
Westminster Seminary
Phila., Pa.

Dear Ed,

It may be about time to think if and how
The Guardian will publicize my resignation. No doubt
it will publish the letter of resignation.

In this regard I have today from Dr. Edman
the following note:

"Your letter of February fifteen addressed
to the Trustees of the College and to me was presented
at the latest meeting of the Executive Committee. By
vote of that Committee your resignation to be effective
at the end of the 1942-1943 school year (August
thirty-one) was accepted. The action of the Committee
refers solely to the resignation and does not imply
acceptation of the reasons ~~stated~~ therein stated."

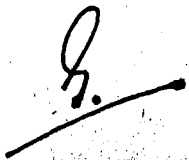
What the legal or other effect of the last
sentence is, I am not sure. I shall send a copy to
Harper.

If an article should accompany the publication
of my letter, would it be wise to recall that Buswell
and I were the two most active persons fighting modernism
on the Wheaton faculty. That the dismissal of Buswell
has never been satisfactorily explained - a significant
matter since his success was so outstanding. That
questions were then raised in the public mind as to whether
Wheaton was going modernistic. That the president who
followed him was not known for his opposition to modernism,
and that now he has permitted the USA Seminary of Omaha
to recruit students on the campus.

How is the meeting for the Christian University
shaping up?

There were twenty four at Creed Club last
night. After the regular two hour session, twelve of
them stayed for another two hours. All in all, from
five to nine.

Hope you are in good health and that everything
is going smoothly.



WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

March 25, 1943.

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

Dear Gordon:

Bob Marsden and John Murray, with whom I have consulted fully over a period of months about the Christian University, felt it wisest for us to consult with a number of brethren in this area before we went further with the idea. On Tuesday of this week we had a meeting with ten other men and discussed the whole project. At the end we took a secret vote for seven men from our own group who should carry forward the idea of inviting men from other denominations and to launch the idea. Those seven men are: Glenn Andreas, John P. Clelland, Lawrence B. Gilmore, Robert S. Marsden, John Murray, Edwin H. Rian, and C. Van Til. I became convinced that since you would be given most serious consideration as a faculty member, it would be embarrassing for you to serve on the association. This idea was also expressed by one or two others.

We are planning to invite brethren from other church groups to meet at the Seminary on May 13th to explore the whole idea of a Christian University Association, with the hope that such an association will be launched, leading to the establishment of a Christian university as soon as practicable. I rejoice in the progress made and believe that the ground work already done has paved the way for ultimate success.

A conference with the moderator of the last Synod of the Christian Reformed Church, the Rev. N. M. Monsma, yesterday heartened me tremendously. He is very enthusiastic for the idea and realizes that the undergraduate school in a university, which is necessary, would be worthy competition for Calvin. This worried me somewhat, but now that several of the Christian Reformed brethren see the need of it, we shall hurdle any possible jealousy that might arise.

I expect to write a short article about you and Wheaton College and when it is finished will send a copy to you and to John Harper for comment before publishing it.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin H. Rian

President of the Board of Trustees

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

March 30, 1943.

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

Dear Gordon:

I am enclosing a copy of a proposed article about Wheaton College and your resignation. Will you check the accuracy of this statement. I am also sending a copy to John Harper.

Will you please send it back, with your suggested changes, by airmail, because it must be in Tom Birch's hands by Thursday, April 8, at the latest, so that it can appear in the April 25th issue of the Guardian.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin H. Rian

President of the
Board of Trustees

March 31 1943

Rev. Edwin H. Rian
Westminster Seminary
Phila., Pa.

Dear Ed,

I am returning your article, and these are the comments.

The main points to be made and the length of the article are for you to decide. Some of my suggestions may lead too far afield on both these scores.

On page one, paragraph two: "So acceptable was" etc. Would it be better to say that after a year's scrutiny of my position, it was found acceptable. There was not exactly a promotion from Visiting Professor to Associate, except in a very technical sense. And I think the point should be stressed that my views were well known. At the bottom of the page you say that this point is of prime importance, but you do not say why.

In this connection you might stress the fact that the college has altered its doctrinal position.

On page three, you might comment explicitly on the words of the catalog that the student is to study both sides of the question; while the trustees report forbids it. You imply this of course; it is merely a choice of emphasis.

Page three, three lines from the bottom: the tentative report sent to me reads as you have quoted. I was never given the final report; but I discovered that they changed the word 'author' to 'originator.'

On page four, middle, we should avoid giving the impression that the particular beliefs are wrong. They are inadequate particularizations. You might say that the trustees carefully avoided using any of my quotations from the Confession in their report. And by all means, included, as you have done, the wording of the Confession.

In your final paragraph, you might add the note that since the trustees have now dismissed the two men who more than any others in their employ have fought against modernism, it is not so much Dr. C. who is under scrutiny etc.

Page four, middle paragraph, line 3, "this is ^{at}

six

sin," and page 5 lines 9 and 8 from the bottom, ought to be reworded for clarity.

As you no doubt mailed your letter before my last one arrived, I shall ask again whether you or Woolley have written to the North Central Assn, or the A.A.U.

Has Stonehouse or anyone reviewed Thiessen's book on N.T. Introduction? Not having read it (just out a week or so ago) I do not know whether it contains blunders similar to those in his Theology.

Cordially,

WESTMINSTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CHESTNUT HILL

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

April 5, 1943.

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

Dear Gordon:

I have your suggestions with respect to the article and expect to incorporate most of them.

I have not written to the North Central Association, or the A.A.U. about breach of contract, because I have changed my mind somewhat. Your case might be stated something like this. Wheaton hired you, knowing that you held some doctrines different from their general position, with the belief that it would work out all right. After some years they have come to the conclusion that it is working out to their disadvantage. Under these circumstances I suppose it is possible for an organization to say that they now find those difficulties a barrier to your continuing with them. Bob Marsden seems to feel strongly about this and that any mention of it in an article would weaken our argument. Consequently I left it out of my article.

I will speak to Stonehouse about Thiessen's new book on New Testament Introduction.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin N. Riss

President of the
Board of Trustees

April 12 1943

Rev. Edwin H. Rian
Westminster Seminary
Phila. Pa.

Dear Ed,

You are one hundred per cent right in omitting mention of breach of contract in your article about Wheaton in the Guardian.

But whether for this reason you should not write to the North Central Association and the A.A.U. is another matter. In this latter possibility it is not so much an alleged breach of contract as it is the fact that under the requirements that the trustees tried to lay on me, a liberal arts college cannot function. I stress the breach of contract to preserve my reputation, to make it clear that I never worked under such restrictions. The accrediting agencies would probably not be interested in my individual case, nor would they consider the legal merits of a breach of contract, but they might be interested in the policies of the trustees.

A letter from Buswell on April 5 says, "When the board of trustees put me out of the college, in effect they repudiated my ideas of academic freedom, of individual responsibility for the purity of the church, and of other important matters."

What harm it would do to present the trustees report to the agencies and my resignation, I do not see. I do not think I should do it; and if you still are of the opinion that you should not, I'll let the matter drop, for while I cannot see any harm in doing so, I do not see any good resulting from it either.

When you get time, let me know how the university is progressing. Reactions beginning to filter in on my resignation indicate some desire for a Christian college of high standards. Of course I hear largely from those inclined toward me, so it must all be discounted, but I judge there is some call for a new institution. I think your article will increase that call.

Cordially,



WHEATON COLLEGE

"For Christ and His Kingdom"

WHEATON, ILLINOIS

OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

August 26, 1943

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

My dear Dr. Clark:

Mr. James E. Phillips, the Comptroller, has sent me word that he has a fund of seventy-five dollars given by you, to be used for a reward for a short story based on the Reformation. Notice of the competition for the prize will normally be given again in the fall, especially through the English and History Departments. There is the possibility that you would prefer to withdraw the offer, in which case Mr. Phillips' office will refund the money to you. I shall greatly appreciate your advice in this matter.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Y. R. Edwan

VRE:ah