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WEST  
CHINA

BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
OF THE  
WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

ESTABLISHED IN  
CHENG TU, SZECHWAN, CHINA.

Lydecker Street

Englewood, N. J.

Aug. 14, 1916

George Vaux, Jr. Esq.

Pocono, Manor, Pa.

My dear Mr. Vaux,

I am very glad to receive your letter of the 12th instant and to know that you and your immediate family are well. Helen would unite in very cordial remembrances to Mrs. Vaux and to the boys, though I have never had the pleasure of seeing them. We had heard from Mr. and Mrs. Hilles of your sister's marriage and of your father's death, and I can imagine how changed your household must be with the old ties so largely broken and the new life coming in. Are you yourself keeping the old homestead of which we have such pleasant memories?

As regards the West China Union University, you will see by the heading of this paper that one of the secretaries is Dr. Hodgkin of England, and the other, Dr. Endicott of Toronto. The latter succeeded Dr. Shore and his address is 299 Queens St. Toronto, Canada. Dr. Endicott is the one to whom to write. I am, as you will see, chairman of the Executive Committee and that committee will meet the day before the Board Meeting. The treasurer is a member ex officio of the Executive Committee, and I trust that you will be able to attend that meeting. As the meeting is to be held

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in Toronto, Dr. Endicott will make the arrangements as to the time and place of meeting, and, though I have not yet received notices of the exact time, I presume it will be on Tuesday the 3rd of October, though it may be Wednesday, I am not sure.

The work of the University is, I think, most interesting and important. Dr. Beech, the President, is a strong man, and while we have had, of course, difficulty in getting money in these times, it is one of the greatest opportunities, I believe, for constructive work in Christian education that the world affords. Chengtu, as you probably know, is the capital of Szechwan province, one of the largest, if not the largest, province in China and in every respect the richest. Moreover, the people are a very keen, intelligent race with a good deal of independence, and the mountain ranges which separate them from other parts of the Chinese Empire, make them rather a part. The population of this vast territory of which Chengtu is the center, is approximately about one hundred million, or the equivalent of the population of the United States. The province adjoins Tibet, and the mountain people can be reached. Great railroads are being carried into the territory, some of which, I understand, are already planned, and the people are more than ready to cooperate with the work. As you may have heard, when Dr. Beech left China a year ago, he desired to procure from some Chinese officials, an endorsement of the work. He applied first to the Military Governor of the Province for such a written endorsement and received not only the official endorsement for which he asked, but an unasked contribution of \$3,000 toward the work of the University. He explained that he did not desire this, but it was given cheerfully. He asked for a similar endorsement from the

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Civil Governor of the province, and received it and a similar voluntary gift of \$3,000. He sought an introduction to Yuan Shi Kai, then President of the Chinese Republic, and obtained a long and very interesting interview with him, a cordial endorsement, and, to his surprise, and rather to his consternation, a gift of \$4,000, making \$10,000 in all received from three of the leading Chinese officials. It was almost as unprecedented a transaction as it was gratifying.

I shall look forward to meeting you with pleasure, and I am sure that you will enjoy your work on the Board.

With cordial regards to Mrs. Vaux, I am

Sincerely yours,

Monroe Williams

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TRANSFER

December 1st, 1916.

Mr. George Vaux, jr.,  
Gulph Road,  
Bryn Mawr, Pa.

My Dear Mr. Vaux:

I received yesterday your note of November 28th and I wish that I were able to give you the information you desire about the affairs of the Treasurer of the West China Union University, but I have not seen Dr. North, I think, since our meeting in Toronto and have no information whatever about the matter. I will, however, endeavor within a day or two to get further information and write you again.

Dr. Endicott has not written me as to any meeting of the Executive Committee, and Dr. Beech did not speak of one when I saw him. Dr. Beech was called away by the death of his wife's father, but must have returned by this time and I shall try to see him.

I presented the work of the West China Union University to our Board at their meeting at Northfield last month, having the opportunity of speaking for thirty minutes and using the slides which Dr. Beech furnished me. The Board has placed the sum of \$10,000 for the University on the list of approved property needs, and Dr. Franklin reported that he had hoped of securing a considerable sum, perhaps as much as \$15,000 to \$20,000 from persons in or near Philadelphia for the erection of buildings, so

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CHINA

that there is considerable encouragement in the situation as far as we are concerned.

I wish it were possible to reach some conclusion as to the relations of Mr. Ricker with the Board and with the architect, but the matter is, as you know, a very delicate one involving not merely the personal feelings of Mr. Ricker but the powers of the architect and the relation of the English Friends to the architect, and to the other co-operating Boards.

As soon as I have further word I will write you and I trust that we may have an opportunity of meeting. It was a great pleasure to Helen and myself to have the visit with Mrs. Vaux and you in Toronto, and I shall hope we may meet more frequently in the future.

With cordial remembrances to Mrs. Vaux, in which Helen would unite, I am

Very sincerely yours,

*Murray Williams*

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CHENG TU, SZECHWAN, CHINA.

Lydenker Street,  
Newark, N.J.  
Twenty Second March, 1918.



TRANSFER

Mr. George Vaux, Jr.,

Bryn Mawr, Pa.

My dear Mr. Vaux,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter just received from Mr. Arnap. The items to which he refers are resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Senate on September 6th last, which are as follows:

**RESOLVED:** that this body would most heartily welcome the participation of Haverford College and other Friends in America in the work of the University, and that we request the Board of Governors to consult with the Haverford College Committee and other Friends in America who may be interested, in regard to the possibility of such cooperation.

**RESOLVED:** that, provided suitable terms can be obtained, we purchase the land south of the C.M.H. plot for a Middle School site, and that the Property Committee be asked to report on the matter as soon as possible.

In view of these two matters as well as the other statements in Mr. Arnap's letter, do you think we should have a meeting of the Executive Committee before Dr. Endicott's return, and if you do, will you be good enough to indicate about the dates which would suit you for a meeting in New York City.

An early reply would oblige,

Yours very sincerely

Mornay Williams

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*Mr. Williams*

*over*



TRANSFER

Fourth Month  
Fourth  
1922

Mornay Williams, Esq.,  
Lydicker Street,  
Englewood, N.J.

Dear Mr. Williams:

I have had within the last couple of days some very interesting conversation with Robert Simkin who has, as you know, just returned from Chengtu. Although he was cabled for as soon as the gravity of his wife's condition was appreciated, she died some days before his arrival in this Country. His regular furlough would have been begun a couple of months later so he now plans to be here for something like fifteen months before returning to West China. He intends to occupy his time with working up interest in the University in Quaker circles and particularly at Haverford College, as well as following some courses of study which will be helpful to him in his work.

He brings up again the whole question of the participation of American Friends in the work of the University as a separate unit and makes out a very strong case for his contentions. Apparently Dr. Beech has changed his position on this subject, although it is necessary for us to be pretty cautious as to what we say relative to that in order to prevent complications arising. Simkin tells me that the sentiment is practically unanimous apart from English representatives who quite naturally hold together.

As I see it, it seems probable to me that Dr. Hodgkin's opposition largely arises from the fact that with the financial complications which the F.F.M.A. has to meet, he feels as though this American support was really a contribution toward the English obligations which can be more readily met in this way.

To my mind the strongest argument against Simkin's plan is that American Friends do not have in West China any considerable work which supports primary schools that can act as feeders to the University. They do have some such work however, and Simkin himself has been responsible for a school in the Manchu section of Chengtu, and as Dr. Beech points out in a letter which he wrote to Ross Hadley some months since, there would be from other local sources such a demand for accom-

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Mornay Williams, Esq- Fourth Month 4/22

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modation for students as would fill at once a modest size American dormitory, having accommodations for say thirty students.

Sinkin's idea is to try to secure sufficient funds to buy about ten acres of ground lying immediately adjacent to the premises now owned by the University close to their southeast corner, which would provide a site for a dormitory, necessary residences, and a recreation field. This site lies to the eastward of the "Mound" and would be traversed by the main road leading to the Thomas Scattergood middle school building. Apparently Dr. Beech approves of this scheme.

In view of Dr. Hodgkin's strong opposition I do not know just how such a plan can be carried out. Sinkin has an impression that Harry Silcox, who is the present general secretary of the F.F.M.A., is not adverse to the plan. What we are trying to do is to get an active backing for him at Haverford, where Sinkin graduated in 1903, with the thought that real support might be gotten not only for this building program but also for the support of Sinkin, and perhaps one or two additional men, with a woman or two in the event of the Womens College materializing. You can readily understand that an appeal for something specific will be stronger than one for anything general, and having so intangible an organization as the F.F.M.A. handling it very much detracts from its force. Local experiences also with that organization have not been altogether satisfactory, and Sinkin with some force cites the fact that several years ago \$3,000. was raised toward the cost of a residence for him. This money was sent to England; certain building materials were purchased, but nothing more was ever done, and between ourselves what was bought was not properly protected and there has probably been considerable loss upon it. For example- just one item- the window glass was secured but has been so cared for that it has been seriously damaged by breakage. It will no doubt cost much more to build the house now than it would have originally, and in addition this loss has to be met.

I have wondered whether it might be possible to work out a plan by which, if the American Friends Board can not undertake a complete share, the share of the English Friends could be split, Friends in this Country assuming a part of the obligation in it, thereby releasing our English brethren from a part of their committals and at the same time enabling this Country to act directly. This idea may be very crude, how-

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Mornay Williams, Esq.-Fourth Month 4/22  
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ever.

In the meantime I think the people at Richmond ought to do something, or we at the University should do something with regard to Ross Hadley. I understand his health has completely broken down and that it is probable he will never be able to take any active part in matters again.

I am afraid you will consider this a very long and rambling letter, but in view of the fact that Dr. Hodgkin will be here in June it seems to me it might be a good idea for the Executive Committee to thrash out the whole situation with him and Sinkin with the hope that some working basis might be reached for presentation to the Board of Governors in the autumn.

As you know, as Treasurer I have been very much annoyed by not receiving any statements from the field showing their financial operations. The last such statement I had was for 1919. I have taken this up with Sinkin, who you will recall succeeded Davidson as Treasurer. He tells me Davidson's work was left very much behind and that all his spare time was being put on getting his trial balances worked up for years during the Davidson administration, 1920 being the first year for which Sinkin is responsible. This work he had not quite completed when he had to leave China. I do not know when we shall get it all straightened out; it seems hopeless.

Awaiting your views when you can give your time to them, I am

Faithfully yours,

Treasurer.

GVJr-B

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TRANSFER

Englewood, New Jersey  
April 8, 1922

George Vaux, Jr. Esq.  
1421 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pa.

4 Mo. 10 1922



My dear Mr. Vaux:

I want to acknowledge your two letters, one received a few days ago as to the change of the date of meeting which I forwarded to Mr. Arnup, the other dated the 4th inst. to which this is a reply.

As to the change in the time of meeting, I think if it is possible to accept your suggestion of the week after that proposed, it would be well, but I must leave it to our Canadian friends to whose convenience the whole proposal for the change of date is due, and in this connection I may say how sorry I am to hear of Mr. Hadley's breakdown.

Now as to the chief matter of your last letter. I desire to write very frankly and confidentially. In the first place, may I ask you to convey to Mr. Simkin my most heart-felt sympathy in the great sorrow which has come to him? He and his wife visited us some years ago, and we were delighted with them both, and it is with a sense of personal loss that I have learned of Mrs. Simkin's death.

From what I have seen of the two men, Mr. Simkin and Dr. Hodgkin, I am inclined to feel that Mr. Simkin is Dr. Hodgkin's equal in ability and his superior in Christian attainments, and I say this without wishing to derogate from Dr. Hodgkin's standing. Dr. Hodgkin is a man of very strong personality and a firmness of conviction which renders him naturally a leader, but I do not regard him as a very clear thinker, nor a man of very wise judgment. With the convictions which he holds, he maintains with singular tenacity, but, in my opinion, he not infrequently allows his prediction for certain views to control both his judgment and his advocacy of other views which he regards as less important. He is a courageous

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and constant advocate of the views for which the Fellowship of Reconciliation stands, and, as far as I can see, he is rather inclined to advocate those principles more strenuously than those to which missionaries on the field have dedicated life and effort. This is so far the case, that unless my memory betrays me, Dr. Hodgkin has commented in his circular letters on the fact that he finds the expression of these views which he holds so strongly, better received in quarters that are not distinctly Christian, than by some of his missionary brethren. Now while I do not wonder at this, as I am quite prepared to believe that there is a very regrettable super-conservatism on the part of many Christian people, even in the missionary body, I am by no means sure that the course pursued by Dr. Hodgkin, especially during his recent trip, has been helpful to the University.

Added to this is the conclusion which I have expressed above, as to Dr. Hodgkin's lack of good judgment. This conclusion was largely arrived at by what I saw in England of Dr. Hodgkin's leadership as Secretary of the Friends Foreign Mission Association. Not only, as far as I could observe, was he far more a commander than a leader of those associated with him, but in one glaring instance, he showed both how little he led and how much he was betrayed by over sanguine hopes. He spoke in almost extravagant terms of the great opportunity that was to be afforded by a meeting to be held in Birmingham, advocating the work of the University and for which arrangements had been made in the rooms of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and under its auspices. He enlarged so much on the dignity and importance of this meeting that I ventured to ask that I might be allowed to attend and say a few words. He said an opportunity would be afforded to reach many of the leaders in the business world and, as I understood, there was, among the Friends, a large clientele who could be reached.

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At first he seemed inclined to discourage my going, saying that arrangements were already made and that it might be difficult, perhaps, to have any opportunity *of speaking* given, but finally he acceded to my going (at my own expense, of course) and I made the trip from Sidmouth, South Devon, up to Birmingham, a trip which consumed almost the entire day, leaving Sidmouth, if I remember, about eight o'clock in the morning, and reaching Birmingham after seven o'clock in the evening.

In view of all these statements I had expected something of a gathering, particularly, as I had been assured that the Church Missionary Society was ~~was~~ co-operating. My surprise therefore was very great when I found, on reaching the place of meeting, that Dr. Beech, who was to be the chief speaker, Mr. Stubbs, representing Dr. Hodgkin, the District Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, who had apparently had very little part in arranging the meeting, a gentlemen whose name escapes me, who represented the Chamber of Commerce, and myself, five persons in all, were exactly one-half of those gathered for the entire meeting, which consisted of ten persons, and, though it was explained that five hundred written invitations had been sent out, the audience, apart from those coming, ~~and~~ as managers or speakers of the meeting, consisted of only five, or one percent of those invited, and of the five who were present, one gentleman apologized for his presence, saying that he had never received any invitation, but that he was intensely interested in missions and had seen an allusion to the meeting in the daily papers. Now while I have a pretty large experience in the manifold disappointments which attend the getting-up of meetings, I think I never knew of a more mismanaged arrangement than in this case. Instead of doing any good to the cause, it simply retarded it, and I am sorry to say that other occurrences lead me to feel that this was not a single instance of failure.

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In view of all of these considerations I am distinctly inclined to accept Mr. Simkin's judgment as against Dr. Hodgkin's, and I should be very glad to support Mr. Simkin's plan. I may add that the talks I have had with Mr. Silcock lead me to believe that Mr. Simkin is right and that Mr. Silcock by no means agrees with Dr. Hodgkin's judgment. I should not wish to be quoted but my decided impression is that Dr. Hodgkin was a pretty complete failure as Secretary of the Friends Foreign Mission Association of Great Britain, and that Mr. Silcock, in giving up a work in which he was so vitally interested and in which he was doing so well in West China, to take the place of Secretary of the English Society, has inherited not only a very difficult position, but one rendered more difficult by the peculiar disabilities of his predecessor.

Forgive me if I have spoken too plainly, as I thought it wiser to let you see how matters stand in my mind. With cordial regards to Mrs. Vaux and the boys from my wife and myself, I am

Sincerely yours,

MW:RG

*Mornay Williams*

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
OF THE  
WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

ESTABLISHED IN  
CHENGTU, SZECHWAN, CHINA

FOUNDED BY  
THE AMERICAN BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY  
THE FRIENDS FOREIGN MISSION ASSOCIATION  
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND  
THE GENERAL BOARD OF MISSIONS OF  
THE METHODIST CHURCH, CANADA  
THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS OF THE  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, U.S.A.

Mar. 2, 1923

George Vaux, Jr. Esq.  
Gulf Road, Bryn Mawr  
Penn.

TRANSFER

WEST  
CHINA

My dear Mr. Vaux:

The telegram which you sent me a week ago today was not delivered till a number of days later. The Western Union telephoned the contents of the telegram, but I did not receive it and did not hear anything about it until last Saturday, after I had written to Mr. Simkin on the subject. Of course, I was careful in writing to state that what I wrote was my own opinion simply, and I cannot see, in thinking it over ~~that~~ I would have changed what I said even if I had received your telegram. I have no copy of the letter I sent to Mr. Simkin, which I wrote with my own hand, but in substance I said what I certainly believe, ~~that~~ personally I could see no possible objection to the Board of Governors of the West China Union University welcoming the American Friends Foreign Mission Society as a co-operating board if they should apply for such a position, and that the fact that the Friends Foreign Mission Association of Great Britain was already a co-operating body did not seem to me to be any more an objection to the American Friends co-operating than the fact that already there were co-operating two distinct Methodist bodies, viz. the Canadian Methodists and the Methodist Episcopal Board of Foreign Missions of the United States. While I could see that American Friends might be more likely to contribute (which they had already done very generously) if their own Board of Foreign Missions was a co-operating body.

I judge that you perhaps would not concur yourself in my opinion, but as I review the circumstances I cannot see that I have done anything more than I was justified in doing, and I trust you will agree with me in that judgment, even though you may differ as to my conclusion. With cordial regards,

Ever sincerely yours

Mornay Williams

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Form 120

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
Telegram	
Day Letter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Night Message	
Night Letter	

Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired; OTHERWISE THE MESSAGE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-RATE TELEGRAM

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Receiver's No.
Check
Time Filed

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

*China*

**TRANSFER**

Philadelphia February 23d, 1923

DAY LETTER

MORNAY WILLIAMS,  
Lydecker Street,  
Englewood, New Jersey.



Am leaving Richmond Indiana three Saturday for conference with friends  
board Simpkin case stop Consider situation grave stop Fear Simpkin  
over enthusiastic respecting financial support stop Committee here  
backing him is not committed to his plan stop Statements behalf  
university should be very guarded.

GEORGE VAUX JR.

paid

50¢ pd

0776



*John*  
*over*

TRANSFER

1606 Morris Building, Phila-  
delphia, Pa.

Third Month  
Sixth  
1923

WEST  
CHINA

Mornay Williams, Esq.,  
Lydecker Street,  
Englewood, N.J.

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am just in receipt of your letter of March  
2d.

I have not seen the letter which you wrote  
to Mr. Simkin although he read some portions of it to the Com-  
mittee which met at Richmond, Indiana, on Monday of last week.  
What I have been afraid of is just this: Dr. Beach and the  
rest of you who know the situation from the University side  
only are, of course, anxious to get another unit supporting it.  
Simkin is using this desire to apply pressure to endeavor to  
force the American Friends Board to take favorable action on  
his plans ahead of the Board's financial ability to meet the  
obligations that are involved should it become one of the co-  
operating units in the University. Simkin is exceedingly en-  
thusiastic and I think he has exaggerated the support he has.  
This letter is really very indefinite and arises almost entire-  
ly from the personal interest in him of some of his old college  
associates and is not by any means a correct measure of the in-  
terest that there is among members of the Society of Friends in  
the work in West China.

I think from the standpoint of the Univer-  
sity, and also from that of Mission work by the Society of  
Friends in China, it would be a calamity for the American Friends  
Board to come in to the University as a cooperating member and  
then should anything happen to Simkin find that the financial  
support for that work was absolutely cut off and that it would  
be necessary for it to withdraw. This would put an incubus  
on the movement which it would take years to overcome and to  
my mind would result in the whole work being seriously retarded.

I have a high regard for Simkin but I fear  
he is a man difficult to work with and that a large part of the  
trouble he thinks he has experienced can be traced to his own  
personality.

There was another meeting of what is called  
the Haverford Committee held here yesterday and in a six hour  
session, and it was finally decided as the best way to handle

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1606 Morris Building  
Philadelphia

#2- M.W.

Third Month  
Sixth  
1923

the situation, to authorize Simkin to see whether between now and early autumn when he should return to West China, he can raise a sufficient amount of money to provide for the purchase of a moderate amount of land, the erection of one or two houses and the support of himself and wife, and one or two additional workers. The response which he will receive to these efforts will feel out what his support really is. Up to the present time it has been exceedingly difficult to raise the comparatively modest amount of money which has been gotten to provide for Simkin and his work. My concern has been only that the prestige of the University should not be used in order to prematurely force a situation which ought to be developed with greater caution if it is to be permanent.

I think at heart your views and mine are probably identical.

With high regard, I am

Sincerely yours,

GVJr-B

Treasurer.

0778

200721-35073



*John*

**TRANSFER**

Twelfth Month  
Eighth  
1923

Hornay Williams, Esq.,  
Lydecker Street,  
Englewood, N.J.

Dear Mr. Williams:

Some days since when I received a note from Dr. Endicott's Secretary asking whether December 12th would suit me for a meeting of the Executive Committee, I made reply that I should be in Washington the bulk of next week in connection with the Committee of One Hundred appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to make suggestions relative to the activities of the Indian Bureau, and I stated further that I thought the fact that I was unable to be present should not interfere with the meeting being gone on with at a time which was evidently most convenient to many of the members. Apparently this suggestion was followed and the meeting has been called accordingly.

As it is not possible for me to attend, I am writing you with regard to some matters in the minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Governors which possibly the Executive Committee will expect the Treasurer to comment upon.

No. 595. I have been unable to do anything with Mr. Lamont. I do not know what may have been done by Dr. Ward or Dr. North. Up to the present time I have tried to correspond with Mr. Lamont but without success, although Dr. North it is I believe who has succeeded in keeping in touch with him.

No. 596. In connection with the clock tower, I have received the letter which I enclose from the Meneely Bell Company and would suggest that some of you who are, through geographical location, so fixed that you can much more easily get in touch with Dr. Coles than I can, should take the matter up with him and see what can be done. Dr. Ward, when we left Toronto, informed me that he was going West for a more or less extended trip and that he would let me know when he was back in New York and ready

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#2- M.W. Esq.

Twelfth Month  
Eighth  
1923

to give some attention to University affairs. Up to the present time I have not heard from him.

No. 603. If satisfactory to the F.N.N.A. will it be satisfactory to the Executive Committee to convert the Mex. into gold on the basis of two to one and give the credit at current rate of exchange?

No. 623. I have no further information on this subject.

No. 624. In Toronto it was agreed between Dr. Ward and myself that he would let me know when he returned to New York and that I should then join him in visiting the people at the Union office in New York City but as stated above, I do not know whether or not Dr. Ward has yet been able to get back to New York City.

I have no information respecting the question of bursar or the accounts on the field.

Kindly convey to the members of the Executive Committee my regret at my inability to be present with them at the approaching meeting, and with best remembrances to Mrs. Williams, I am

Yours very truly,

GVJr-B  
Enclosure

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