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Downey, John F. 1916-1919

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John F. Dawney

The University of Minnesota  
College of Science, Literature, and the Arts  
Minneapolis



OFFICE OF THE DEAN Emeritus

Augusta, Georgia, TRANSMITTED  
March 27, 1916.

President N. J. Bowen,  
University of Mankato.

My dear President Bowen:

A few days ago I met here your Professor Joseph Baillie, and a conversation with him resulted in my becoming much interested in the work that is being done by your University—so much interested that I am inclined to offer to come over and help you.

For thirty-four years I have <sup>been</sup> head of the Department of Mathematics, and for the last fifteen years Dean of the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts as well, in the University of Minnesota. When our University was placed on the Carnegie Foundation, our Regents named sixty-eight as the retiring age for all. Last year I reached that age and retired, the Regents making me Dean Emeritus and Professor of Mathematics Emeritus. I am much younger than most men of my age and I am in full vigor of body and mind.

0033



Mr. Bailie thinks that, while the positions to which salaries are attached are all filled, you have need for more men. I have a salary sufficient for the needs of myself and wife and, if our transportation and traveling expenses over and back were provided, I would contribute my services, and would agree to do full work for at least one year.

The positions I have occupied will sufficiently indicate my qualifications. In addition to my long service with the University of Minnesota I was, for eight years, Head of the Department of Mathematics and Astronomy at the State College of Pennsylvania. I am author of a High School Algebra, a Higher Algebra, Elements of Differentiation and Integration, and The New Revelation through the Spectroscope and the Telescope. The last was published a year ago by the Kingsdon Press, Cincinnati and New York. I am qualified to teach elementary mathematics, higher mathematics, and Astronomy, and I could help in some other lines if needed. I am fond of teaching and have always gone to my classes with zest.

The University of Minnesota  
College of Science, Literature, and the Arts  
Minneapolis

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

I have done a great deal of lecturing on scientific and secular subjects and I have often spoken as a supply in churches. I speak without manuscript and I am considered an effective speaker. At the suggestion of Mr. Bailie I am enclosing copies of three letters.

You will know from the above that I have led a very active life. As I am still vigorous, I wish to continue to do things that are worth while; and it seems to me that the work I could do with you, if you are not fully supplied with helpers, would be quite worth while.

My permanent address is 1115 Fifth St. S. E., Minneapolis, Minnesota, and letters are forwarded to me from there.

If you would like my help and can arrange matters, please let me know as soon as you can.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Downey

0035

Copy

The University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis

Office of the President.

TRANSFER

June 13, 1914



To Whom It May Concern:-

This will introduce Professor John F. Downey. For thirty-four years Professor Downey has been Professor of Mathematics in the University of Minnesota. For the last fifteen years he has been Dean of the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts. He is planning to spend some time in Europe and desires access to universities, libraries, museums and other institutions. Any courtesies that may be shown Professor Downey will be appreciated by the University of Minnesota.

(Signed) George E. Vincent

TRANSFER

"COPY"

South Pasadena, Cal.,

January 11, 1916.

Prof. John F. Downey,

Claremont, Cal.,

My Dear Prof. Downey:-

I am writing to you simply to thank you for the delightful and profitable address ("sermon" I should call it) given to our people in the morning service of the church. We were all very greatly profited and have expressed to us their personal sense of benefit from your beautiful and helpful message. I rejoiced myself in its spiritual tone and evidence of a great underlying faith in our own soul. I trust the Lord may use you abundantly while you are with us in Southern California.

With warm Christian regard believe me

Sincerely yours,

Signed: Charles E. Fisher.

0037

TRANSFER

"COPY"

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Minneapolis, January 28, 1915.

To Clergymen in California;

Dean John F. Downey was my Associate in the Faculty of the University of Minnesota for nearly twenty seven years. He has occupied various pulpits in Minneapolis when churches needed a temporary supply, and he has always proved most acceptable to congregations. He is a very able and interesting speaker. He is a Methodist but not unduly sectarian. I commend him to you as a brother beloved who if he should be asked to supply your pulpit in a time of need, will edify the congregation and render you a real service. A man of sterling character, of scientific training, of extensive knowledge and experience, any congregation may deem itself fortunate if it has an opportunity to hear him.

Signed: Cyrus Fortinop,

President, Faculty of the University of Minnesota.

0038



May 4, 1916.

*Mr. Downey letter*

Professor John F. Downey, Dean Emeritus,  
College of Science, Literature, and the Arts,  
University of Minnesota,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

My Dear Professor Downey:

I have your letter of March 27 and, also, letters from Mr. Baillie regarding your coming out here. It is very good indeed of you to make such a generous offer and we are delighted that the work here has appealed to you as a place where something worth while can be done. We feel very decidedly that China (and Nanking) offers opportunities for doing things that are worth while, as few other countries or places offer.

Of course there is absolutely no question regarding your qualifications for our work here. We only wish you were twenty years younger, but Mr. Baillie says you are "still good for twenty years of active work". Dr. W. A. Martin, who is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and has met you and knows of you and your work, is enthusiastic about your coming to us. I am sure that you could do a very good work for us and for our students. As you well know, the Chinese respect age very highly, and, with the long years of university teaching and organizing of departments and your experience in dealing with students and young men that would especially recommend you to our students and teachers, you would find that they would give you a most respectful hearing and following. It happens also that we do need some one to teach our college mathematics, and I feel that you would also be a very great help in matters of organization and co-ordination of our various departments and work.

The chief difficulty, of course, is the financial one. While you would be self-supporting, we must first make arrangements for the outcoming expenses and, possibly, return expenses. It would seem to me best, perhaps, for us to agree to pay the outcoming expenses of yourself and Mrs. Downey



J. F. Downey, #2.

May 4, 1916.

but not your return expenses, unless you could stay for a period of, say, three years; and it would also seem the wisest plan, perhaps, for you to live with some of the missionaries here rather than to take a house and have to depend on Chinese servants and run your own house, not having the language. It would be rather inconvenient, and I do not doubt but that we could find suitable quarters in some of our homes for you and Mrs. Downey-perhaps two rooms, with, of course, a study at the University-and you would be taken into the home as members of the family.. The expenses in this way would be considerably less, probably, for you. Board here is \$45.00 to \$50.00 (Mex.) per month, and you would thus be free, also, from the worry of keeping house, which is not inconsiderable to people newly arrived in China.

In order that the whole question of your coming might be most speedily settled (for, in case you come, we should like to have you here early in September), I am sending your letter with enclosures to Dr. J. B. Williams, who is Vice-President of our school here and who has just left for America. He will take the matter up at once with our Trustees in New York and will also have to make some arrangements - probably go out and raise the money - for outgoing expenses, and he will write to you at the very earliest possible moment. Perhaps you could write to him also in New York. His address is, "Dr. J. B. Williams, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City."

We shall hope to hear from you and from him, favorably, in the course of a few months. We shall be most delighted indeed to have you here with us. We are all more or less younger men and, with the Chinese, will appreciate having a person of your age and experience on our staff and in our councils.

Again thanking you for your very kind letter and generous offer, believe me,

Very cordially yours,

0040

over John F. Downey



34 Mellen St.,  
Cambridge, Mass.,

June 7, 1916.

Dr. J. E. Williams  
156 Fifth Ave., New York.

TRANSFER

My dear Mr. Williams:

I received at New  
Haven from Mr. Henry S.  
Ditchett, President of the Board  
of the Carnegie Foundation  
for the Advancement of  
Teaching, the following tel-  
egram: "The Executive Com-  
mittee sees no reason why

you should not engage in  
the proposed work in China."  
I am glad the Committee gave  
this interpretation or made  
this exception to its rule.

This bar being removed,  
I am anxious to know as  
soon as possible, as I told  
you in New York, whether  
your institution wants  
me on the terms proposed,  
viz., that I do full work for at  
least one year, receiving no  
salary, the University simply  
paying, from Minneapolis  
and back, the transportation  
and the living expenses en-  
route for myself and wife.

I have no doubt that we shall want to stay longer than one year, but I state this as a minimum.

The man who occupies our home in Minneapolis would like to retain it, but he must know by the 12th, as he is holding for a short time an option on another house.

In New Haven I interviewed Messrs. Harlan Beach, Fred W. Williams, and Amos P. Wilder with reference to the work in China. They confirmed and somewhat ex-

tended what I had heard  
from yourself and Professor  
Baillie.

In case your institution  
does not want me, the Yale  
people would like to have  
me for their college at  
Changsha.

Please let me hear from  
you regarding the matter  
as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

John F. Downey

TRANSFER



June 9, 1916

Dr. John F. Downing  
27 Mellan Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

My dear Dr. Downing:

I am very glad to learn from your letter that Dr. Pritchard has raised no objection to your going out to China. I am very glad for this on your account for the sake of the great service you can render, also as opening up the way possibly for other teachers to render the same sort of service. Your proposition seems a very reasonable one from our side. Your tickets can be secured thru our office in New York, first-class from St. Paul via Vancouver or via San Francisco to Shanghai for about \$220 gold. Thirty or forty dollars would cover the stock of a few days en route. The incidental expenses, of course, would be what one would care to make them. It could be covered comfortably without a stop of more than a couple of days for from \$30 up. If you could go on the arrangements you proposed of a minimum of one year, we provide \$1200 gold for travel out and back, you may consider the arrangement closed.

You will see that conditions are considerably disturbed in China. It may not be possible for us to open in the fall. However, this we should know in plenty of time for you to sail in order to be present at the opening in the fall.

I am pleased that you met Mr. Beech and Dr. Wiler. You doubtless could learn many things about China thru them. I feel confident that when you are on the field you will be very happy in the relationships there and can render service that can give us both the utmost satisfaction.

Very sincerely yours,

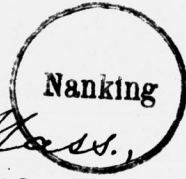
JEW/MAB

0045



over

J. L. Downing  
37 Mellen St.,  
Cambridge, Mass.,  
June 14, 1916.



Dr. J. E. Williams,  
156 Fifth Ave., New York.

TRANSFER

My dear Mr. Williams:

Your letter of June 9th, stating that you desire my services for the University of Nanking and that you will provide \$1200 gold for transportation and other traveling expenses for myself and wife, out and back, with the understanding that I give at least one year of service without salary, has been received.

In reply I will say that

you may count on our  
going and upon my using  
my best efforts for the good  
of the institution.

As my proposition was  
that you pay our transportation  
and our living expenses en route,  
I assume that you have found  
that \$600 will cover these one  
way, though it is \$100 less than  
the estimate you named in  
New York.

As we are not good sailors—  
indeed are usually quite un-  
comfortable while on board—  
we shall want a good loca-  
tion, not too far from the middle,  
on one of the two large boats of  
the Canadian Pacific Company,

such as rooms 118, 121, 132, or 135 (preferably one of the first two) on the lower promenade deck of the Empress of Asia.

The agent of the Canadian Pacific here tells me that, for married couples, the regular price of rooms of this class is \$225 each (the same as for three in a room if not husband and wife), with a missionary rate of \$168.75 each. In order to secure one of these I should think it would be necessary to make early reservation.

I note that the Empress of Russia is to sail from Vancouver on August 10th and the Empress of Asia on Sept. 7th. As we could

not well leave so early as August  
10th, I should think that passage  
should be engaged at once on  
the Empress of Asie, sailing Sept.  
7th. That would not bring us to  
Hanking by the opening of the  
school year; but you thought  
that my work could be car-  
ried by others for a short time.

Please let me know how the  
reservation is to be made.

We expect to go from Minneap-  
olis to Vancouver by the Great  
Northern Railway. The agent of  
that road tells me that the fare,  
at the missionary rate, is \$35.

Are tickets from Shanghai to  
Hanking bought here or at Shanghai?

Sincerely yours,

Dear

John F. Downey

TRANSFER

Nanking

June 19, 1916

Dr. John F. Downey  
37 Mellan Street  
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Dr. Downey:

I was very glad to learn from your letter of June 14 that you have decided to go to Nanking (on the basis of my letter) with the understanding that you will give "at least one year of service without salary". I feel very sure that you will so enjoy the life of Nanking and be so satisfied with the opportunity for service that you will be pleased to extend the time much beyond anything you could feel like promising now.

While I was not able to reply to your letter, I took up immediately the securing of the reservations you desire on the "Empress of Asia". They were written for the day of the receipt of your letter. I am sorry that I cannot be more sanguine about your securing any one of the rooms named, 118, 121, 132 and 135. Shipping facilities have been very limited on the Pacific, and the larger Empresses are especially popular.

Your inquiries about the cost of travel are about as we have them here. If you are able by any means to secure the rooms you like, all the better. We are exerting every influence of our office here toward the arrangement you desire.

I think you will find upon the missionary rate, \$300 gold, you will land very comfortably in Nanking. Nanking is only two hundred miles distant from Shanghai. First-class fare on the railway would be about \$5 gold. The railway is in English style with large compartments and the daylight trip up is very comfortable. Your going by the Empress of Asia on September 7 will land you in Nanking in good time for the work of the fall term. I would not advise your arriving in Nanking before the middle of September as earlier than that date the climate is still excessively warm. We will provide \$600 at the time you are ready to go, the return to be arranged at the time of year return. I should be very pleased if you know of anyone especially interested in the project of your going who might be enlisted in the help of providing traveling expenses.

Hoping that all your plans are developing satisfactorily for your going, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

JEW/MAB

0050



John F. Downey over  
2 Allen St.,  
Cambridge, Mass.,  
June 27, 1916.

Mr. Russell Carter,  
Asst Treasurer, Board of Foreign Missions, etc.,  
New York.

My dear Mr. Carter:

Your letter of the 24th, enclosing certificate for securing missionary rates and stating that a second cabin room on the Empress of Asia, sailing Sept. 9th, had been provisionally reserved has been received.

As formerly stated to Dr. Williams, both Mrs. Downey and myself are very poor sailors and, under the most favorable con-



ditions, we are sea-sick during much of a sea voyage. We cannot consider the proposition of occupying a second cabin room. Since the first cabin room is available for Sept. 4th, I have engaged, through the Canadian Pacific office here, room 109 on the Empress of Russia, sailing Oct. 5th.

I am sorry to miss work at the opening of the school year, but will take hold with vigor immediately on arriving.

The agent informed me that room 109 was the only one not already engaged for Oct. 5th. The price is \$188.75 each.

We shall be here until July 3d. For two weeks after that date our

address will be Anthony Cottage,  
Jamestown, ~~New Jersey~~ <sup>Rhode Island</sup>.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Downey

6/28 John F. Downey recd

97 Mellen St.,  
Cambridge, Mass.,

TREASURER'S OFFICE

June 24, 1916.

Mr. Russell Carter,  
Asst Treasurer Board of Foreign Missions,  
New York.

My dear Mr. Carter:

I wrote you this morning  
that I had engaged room 109  
on the Empress of Russia, sail-  
ing on Oct. 5th. I did not then  
know how much deposit  
would be required. On visiting  
the office this afternoon I  
found it necessary to deposit  
\$85.00 in order to hold the

0054

the room.

As I cannot now spare this amount from my own funds, I have written to Dr. Williams and asked him to have a check for this amount sent to me. I need to have it before leaving Boston on the 3d of July.

Inadvertently I wrote New Jersey instead of Rhode Island in my letter this morning. After July 3d our address for two weeks will be Anthony College, Jamestown, Rhode Island.

Very truly yours,

✓ John F. Downey

1000  
check sent 6/25

John F. Downey



84 Mellen St.,

Cambridge, Mass.

TRANSFER

June 27, 1916.

Dr. J. E. Williams,  
New York.

My dear Mr. Williams:

I received from Mr. Russell  
Carter a letter stating that a sec-  
ond cabin room had been  
provisionally reserved for us  
for the sailing of Sept. 17th.

As I previously wrote you,  
both Mrs. Downey and myself  
are very poor sailors and, un-  
der the most favorable con-  
ditions, are sea-sick during

0056



the greater part of a sea voyage. We cannot consider the proposition of occupying a second cabin room.

Since no first cabin room is available for Sept. 7th, I have engaged, through the Canadian Pacific office here, room 109 on the Empress of Russia, sailing Oct. 5th. The agent informs me that the Montreal office telegraphed that this was the only room not already engaged. The price is \$188.75 each. In order to hold the room it was necessary to deposit \$85.00 at once. This I did. As I cannot now spare this from my



own funds, I request you to have a check for this amount sent to me. I need to have it before leaving Boston next Monday, July 3d.

I have written to Mr. Carter to the above effect and asked him to cancel the provisional reservation for the sailing of Sept. 7th.

I am sorry to miss the work at the opening of the school year. I hope it will be a small fraction of the time I shall give, as I have no doubt that we shall want to stay considerably longer than one year. I shall try

to see to it that Mr. Speer is  
not disappointed in his ex-  
pectation.

After July 3d our address  
for two weeks will be Anthony  
Cottage, Jamestown, Rhode  
Island.

Please have the check sent to  
me here at once.

I have a receipt from the  
Canadian Pacific Co. for the  
\$85.00 paid.

Sincerely yours,  
John F. Downey

June twenty eighth  
1916

Dr. John F. Downey,  
37 Mellen Street,  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Dr. Downey:

In reply to your letter of June 27th I am herewith enclosing you check for \$85.00 covering the deposit which you have paid upon your tickets for the SS EMERESS OF RUSSIA, sailing October 5th, and assure you that we are very glad to learn that you have secured satisfactory accommodations. As a matter of fact if you had advised us we could have had the reservation transferred to New York and in that case we would have avoided the necessity of making the deposit upon the tickets as the Board is never required by the Steamship Companies to make such deposit. If payment has not actually been made by you this still can be done. You do not state in your letter to me that you have paid the money over but in your letter to Mr. Williams (opened by me as he is away in Cleveland and Pittsburg and has requested me to care for his mail) I understand you to make such a statement and I am therefore sending you check covering your disbursement.

Very sincerely yours,

Treasurer

C-D  
Enclosure

P.S. We note that you quote the price of the ticket as \$188.75 each. Our price at missionary rates is \$168.75 plus \$5.00 war tax.

0061

John F. Downey  
(Address July 30 to July 17th, Anthony  
Cottage, Jamestown, Rhode Island.)

37 Mellen St.,

with

Cambridge, Mass.,

June 29, 1916.

Mr. Russell Carter,

156 Fifth Ave., New York.

My dear Mr. Carter:

I thank you very much  
for your letter of yesterday,  
with enclosure of check of  
\$85.00 to reimburse me for  
deposit on tickets.

In your former letter  
you had said, "These times  
such rooms [first cabin rooms]  
(no; the few very choice rooms)"

would have to be engaged six months ahead to be secured." Nevertheless, I thought it worth while to try for one for Oct. 5th. When the Montreal office telegraphed that one and only one remained, I thought I should lose no time in securing it, notwithstanding the fact that it is \$20 each higher than the rooms that are scheduled at \$168.75 for missionaries.

The agent here explained as follows regarding the price: Rooms 102, 103, 104, and so on, with some omissions,



to 155, are \$225 at regular rates and \$168.75 at missionary rates. If a missionary ticket is bought for a room the regular price for which is greater than \$225, the buyer must pay the excess of this price over \$225. Rooms 108, 120, 123, 130, and 133 are \$245 at regular rates. He, therefore, required \$20 in addition to the \$168.75, as the room secured is No. 109.

If this is not correct, the agent here will be very ready, I think, to adjust it if you will have a statement sent from the

New York office; or I can send  
you the receipt, on the back of  
which, the whole transaction  
is written, and you can  
adjust it at the New York  
office, pay the balance at the  
proper time, and send me  
the tickets a short time be-  
fore we start for Vancouver.

I paid the deposit of \$85 at the  
time of engaging the room.

I am seeking out various peo-  
ple who have been in China  
for a considerable time and  
getting as much information  
as I can, in preparation for  
my work.

Sincerely yours,  
John F. Downey

TRANSFER

June 30, 1916

Prof. John F. Downey  
Anthony Cottage  
Jamestown, R. I.

Dear Dr. Downey:

Our treasurer, Mr. Carter, remitted to you for your \$85 deposit. Certainly you could not undertake to travel out second-class, that is in second-class cabin altho given first-class accommodations. I came over that way and if you could have been assured of the whole cabin to yourself you would experience no discomfort. I am glad you have a reservation secured on the "Empress" for October 5. There is a fine new steamer, the Venezuela, sailing from San Francisco on September 10 on which our office has just secured reservations. This steamer is as large as the Shinyo or the Tenyo, is an oil burner and first-class in every respect. The reservation is for one of the best rooms on the promenade deck. The voyage would be broken at Honolulu, which would be a very pleasant diversion for you. It occurred to me that with this reservation as an alternate you might contemplate changing to the Venezuela.

It has occurred to me that thru your wide acquaintance with men at present on the faculties of the universities here or with young men preparing for teaching as a life work that you may know of strong and promising men who could be added to our faculty in biology, physics, or chemistry, and also in English. While our resources are limited we must straighten our faculty in these departments at the earliest date and if we knew of specially strong and promising men available the matter of support might be attended to much more easily. I should be glad of any suggestions you may have.

Hoping that you are having a pleasant summer, I am

Very sincerely yours,

JEW/MAB

0066

over John F. Downey

Anthony Cottage,  
Jamestown, Rhode Island,  
July 5, 1918.

Ranking

Dr. J. E. Williams,  
156 Fifth Ave., New York.

My dear Mr. Williams:

Your letter of June 30th  
has been received.

We have now adjusted our  
schedule of appointments in this  
country to the sailing of Oct. 5th  
and think it best not to change.  
As the time for the voyage is less  
by the Empress of Russia than  
by the Venezuela, the difference  
in the dates of arrival is less than  
the difference in the dates of sailing.

0067

I note what you say of  
your need of men for biol-  
ogy, physics, chemistry, and  
English. I think it would  
be very difficult at this late  
date to secure men for the  
coming year, as desirable  
men are, in most cases, al-  
ready placed and cannot be  
released. I know of an excellent  
man for English who, I be-  
lieve, might secure his release.  
He was in the Department of  
English at Adelbert College  
of Western Reserve Univers-  
ity, but resigned some years  
ago to become head of the  
Department of English in a



Large City High School. If you will let me know what salary would be paid, I will, if you desire, ascertain whether he is available and, if so, write you full particulars regarding him.

I shall bear the other needs in mind, especially with reference to a man for a later date.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Downey

TRANSE



July 13, 1916

Dr. John F. Downey,  
Anthony Cottage,  
Jamestown, R. I.

Dear Dr. Downey:

I was very much interested in what you wrote in your last letter of an excellent man in English, who was in the Department of English at Adelbert College. I should like to know more about him. Where did he take his college course? and what special work has he done in English; his age -- is he married?

I always feel in an awkward position in making these inquiries, for we have not the funds in hand to call one directly to the work. We can sometimes secure the funds better when the man available is known.

I have felt a great burden, since my return, for the medical department of the University, and how we are going to provide for the medical work in the city. After full conference with Dr. Buttrick of the China Medical Board, in compliance with his request, I prepared a statement of a proposition for the support of the hospital for the medical board, and also for the support of teachers in the pre-medical work of the college. Dr. Buttrick assured me that my propositions would have his hearty support and that he thought they would meet with the approval of the board. If they provide for the support of three men in biology, chemistry, and physics on the college staff, it will greatly strengthen my hands in securing the support of the additional men in these departments.

I hope you are having a pleasant summer. I leave New York this week for a visit with my mother and family in Ohio, and expect to be there several weeks. My mail will be forwarded, as usual, from the office here.

Sincerely yours,

J.E.W.-ET.

0070

over John L. Down

TRANSFER

Anthony Cottage,  
Jamestown, Rhode Island,

July 24, 1916.

Dr. J. E. Williams,  
156 Fifth Ave., New York.

My dear Dr. Williams:

Your letter of the  
13th was received.

I hope your scheme of  
strengthening the College of Arts  
and Sciences by having Dr.  
Buttrick's Board supply some  
of the teachers for the pre-med-  
ical work will carry.

I wrote to the man whom  
I suggested for English to

ascertain whether he would be available. The work appeals to him greatly; but on account of his aged and feeble mother, who lives in his family, he would not be able to go.

Please let me know how the transportation matter is to be managed. The agent with whom I made the deposit of \$85 to secure a room said that the balance could be paid at any office of the company by the presentation of the receipt, and the tickets se-

cured. As we are to be in  
Minneapolis from about  
Aug. 25th to Sept. 23d, would  
it not be best for you to  
have Mr. Carter send me  
<sup>there</sup> a check for the balance of  
the \$600 allowed us for trans-  
portation and other travel-  
ing expenses, and for me  
to get the tickets there? There  
is a Canadian Pacific of-  
fice in Minneapolis.

Should we have passports?  
We shall be here until the  
29th. After that, until Aug. 15th,  
my address will be River-  
ville, N. Y., although we



shall not reach there until  
about the 12th, as we are  
going on a motor trip with  
friends, through Massachusetts,  
New Hampshire, and  
Maine.

I hope you are having  
a pleasant visit and <sup>an</sup> ~~an~~  
invigorating vacation in Ohio.

Possibly you have some  
additional instructions to  
give me.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Downey.

**TRANSFER**



August 18, 1916

Mr. John F. Downey  
Niverville, New York

Dear Mr. Downey:

The request in your letter of July 24 was turned over to Mr. Carter, our treasurer, to arrange for the fund.

I hope you have been having a fine motor trip and that you are both feeling greatly recuperated and refreshed by it. I have been back in New York for about two weeks, called back for conferences with Mr. Brockman and others of the Y. M. C. A. I am leaving this afternoon for a couple of weeks in Ohio. Please address me at New York address as usual.

I shall not know the decision of the China Medical Board about our proposition until about the middle of September. I expect to be back in New York about the 5th or 6th of September.

Very sincerely yours,

JEW/MB

0075

over

John T. Downey  
The University of Minnesota  
College of Science, Literature, and the Arts  
Minneapolis

FILING DEPT.

SEP 6 1910

TREAS. DEPT.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

9/5

802 Fourth St., S. E.,  
Minneapolis, Minn.,

Aug. 30, 1910.

RECEIVED

SEP 8 1910

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Mr. Russell Carter,  
158 Fifth Ave., New York

My dear Mr. Carter:

Your letter of the 18th (per C.B.)  
was received at Brooklyn, Michigan.

I thank you for the certificate  
and for the information regarding  
rates.

I presented the certificate to the  
agent of the Canadian Pacific line  
here and he stated that he would sell  
us the tickets to Vancouver at the mis-  
sionary rate; also that he could issue  
us the steamer tickets on payment of  
the balance

It was arranged (see Mr. Williams'  
letter of June 19th) that the University  
would furnish \$600 for our trans-  
portation and other traveling expenses.  
Of this \$85 has already been paid in

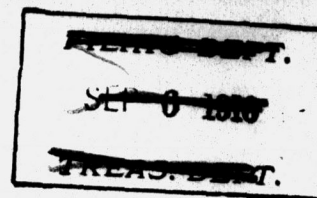
0076

deposit on tickets. A check for the balance should be sent me soon to enable me to make final arrangements for the trip in good time.

We are to have a few weeks with old friends here.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Downey



September 5, 1916

Prof. John F. Downey  
802 Fourth Street, S.E.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Prof. Downey:

In response to your letter of August 30 just received I am herewith enclosing you check in the amount of \$515, balance of the travel allowance arranged for between you and Mr. Williams. I am very glad to learn that with the certificates sent you you have had no difficulty whatever in securing missionary rates.

Trusting that the voyage out may be pleasant,

Very sincerely yours,

RC/MB

Assistant Treasurer

0078



John F. Downey

The University of Minnesota  
College of Science, Literature, and the Arts  
Minneapolis

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

802 Fourth St., S. E.,  
Minneapolis, Minn.,  
Sept. 8, 1916.

Mr. Russell Carter,  
New York.

My dear Mr. Carter:

Your letter of the 5th, containing check for \$515, has been received. I thank you very much.

We have nearly completed our arrangements for going, and today we are starting for a motor trip with several friends to the northern part of Minnesota.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

John F. Downey

0079

Nanking

September 30, 1916

Dr. John F. Downey  
Passenger, S.S. "Empress Russia"  
Vancouver, British Columbia

Dear Dr. Downey:

I hope the open-air recreation during the summer has greatly invigorated Mrs. Downey and yourself and that you are feeling perfectly well and you start off on your journey for China. I was in conversation the other day with Dr. Firth of the Carnegie Foundation and he seems so very pleased that you are going out for this experiment. He also added that they were so sorry that the limitations of Mr. Carnegie's Foundation prevented them from entering in to the work in China.

I am still in frequent conferences with Dr. Buttrick and others of the China Medical Board trying to secure a final settlement of what share they will take in our enterprise. I was in hopes that I could send word of the final arrangement by this mail but that has not been possible.

Upon your arrival at Shanghai you will probably find it more comfortable to go to the Astor House or the Palace Hotel. About half of the missionary body go to the Evans Missionary Home in Shanghai. It's rates are about 3 Mex. a day. Dr. Bowen will be on the lookout for you. However, I should advise your wiring him as soon as you arrive in Shanghai.

Wishing you a bon voyage and a happy time in Japan and a happy meeting at Nanking where all are prepared to welcome you, I remain

Most sincerely yours,

JEW/MAB

P.S. I am sending, under separate cover, one of President Bowen's report just received.

March 20, 1918.

Dr. John F. Downey,  
10 Woosung Road,  
Shanghai.

My dear Dr. Downey:

Your letter came in this morning. There is nothing to telegraph as I am writing you. The city is not quarantined yet but it is not the fault of the foreign doctors. They have been doing their best to try to get it quarantined. Apparently there is considerable opposition to the foreign doctors doing very much - perhaps owing to two causes: First, because of the business element of the city, who do not wish trade to be interfered with, and, secondly, and perhaps more important, because of the military people, who are more or less expecting some fighting not far from Nanking and they wish communications to be open. However, the officials have designated a place where those who are sick can be isolated, and they are taking some precautions to quarantine places where people have died.

The doctors have found the plague bacilli in a man who was suddenly taken sick by the foreign school and had all the other symptoms of plague. He had come from Pengpu where plague is known to have been, so the doctors are quite convinced it is plague and are doing all they can to control the matter and the officials are beginning to do something.

It will be highly inadvisable for you to come to Nanking at this time, I am sure. Practically all of our students have left; in fact all who can leave have gone and we are keeping everything closed down. However, we are planning to keep the students working through correspondence so that they can take the examinations whenever they do come back. In case you have any trunks or boxes here that you want sent down, let us know as there are people going down from time to time and we will try to get them down to you. Of course, we have no idea how long present conditions will obtain or whether or not the officials will ultimately stop communications. All the foreigners and students and a few of the soldiers are going around with masks on their faces. I believe the doctors report sixteen authenticated deaths and eighteen or twenty additional cases, more or less doubtful.

With very great regrets that we cannot probably have you here immediately, and hoping that things will clear up in the near future so that you can come,

Very cordially yours,

0081

over

109 Woosung Road  
Shanghai, March 22, 1918.

Dear President Bowen:

Your letters of the 18th  
and the 20th were received.  
We are very sorry that the  
plague has come to Hanking,  
bringing death to some and  
aversion to many, interrupt-  
ing the work of the schools, and  
upsetting many plans.

We had not intended to  
trouble anybody to send  
down all our things; but  
we are glad they are here,  
as we can now go to Japan  
without waiting for the time



when we could get them  
ourselves. We thank you and  
Mr. Clemons very much for  
attending to the matter. I  
have asked him to send  
me a statement of the ex-  
pense, that I may reim-  
burse him.

As you know, we had in-  
tended to go to Peking by way  
of Hanking, and from  
there through Korea to Japan.  
Instead of that we shall now  
go from here to Yokohama,  
and probably to Korea later.

We had counted confi-  
dently on seeing you again,  
saying our good bye, and tell-  
ing how much we appreciate  
all your courtesies and kind-  
nesses, and how much we



have enjoyed our associations with you and having your friendship. For us it has been a year and a half of rich experiences and most enjoyable associations. It will be a delightful memory the rest of our lives.

I wrote, as you remember, to my successor as Head of the Dept. of Mathematics at the U. of Minn. and asked him to take his sabbatical leave, next year, come out to China or send one of the other men of the department, and go on with the work I have been doing in the University of Nan-king. I enclose his letter. As you see, he was very enthusiastic about it, but could

not get the consent of the President. I am much disappointed.

I had intended to tell you on my return of a matter that we have been considering. Last summer at Keeling Bishop Lewis, when I told him that we intended to return to America at the end of this school year, expressed the wish that we would stay another year and give it to the Peking University. I did not at the time give the matter any serious consideration. Lately there has been some correspondence between President Lowry and myself regarding the matter. He thinks they need me very much. Of course

it would greatly extend our acquaintance in and knowledge of China, and seems an opportunity for rendering needed service. I have not given President Lowry a definite answer, but told him that we were to visit Peking the latter part of March and that I would decide after looking the field over. The proposed visit is now cut off, for we do not want to go by one of the coast boats, and we must decide without first visiting the University. All things considered, we think we ought to accept the invitation.

As we had decided, before the matter came up at all, to go home next June, we

hope this will not seem un-  
gracious to Hankin. We are  
aware that there is opportu-  
nity for service - and I judge  
your University is of higher  
grade than that at Peking - and  
we are glad that we have been  
able to render some; but look-  
ing at the matter broadly, con-  
sidering not only the assist-  
ance we may be able to ren-  
der in the field, but better  
acquaintance with the situ-  
ation and work in China for  
use at home, as well as new  
interest for ourselves, it  
seems desirable that we go  
to Peking next year, rather  
than go home or return  
to Hankin.

The unstable, rapidly  
shifting conditions in China



may prevent our going to  
Peking next autumn for  
work as they have already  
three times prevented our go-  
ing there for a visit; but our  
present plan is to spend the  
summer in Japan and go  
to Peking in the early part of  
September for a year's work.  
In case this is carried out  
I shall refund to you part  
of the return fare which has  
been paid me and have  
the Peking University share  
the expense.

We thank you very much  
for writing to Joplin in our  
behalf and we are glad to  
have the favorable replies.  
We shall surely take advant-



age of them.

Our address will be here  
until we leave on the  
Columbia, of the Pacific Mail  
Steamship Co., on the 30th.  
After that, until farther notice,  
it will be Ch. Rev. J. I. Ward,  
179 Bluff, Yokohama, Japan.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Downey

work

## The University of Nanking.

JOHN F. DOWNEY.

Doctor Downey is Dean Emeritus of the College of Arts and Sciences in the University of Minnesota and is Lecturer on Mathematics in the University of Nanking.

In the midst of the world's oldest, but least progressive, civilization, with its hampering traditions, superstitions, and reverence for the past, surrounded by the low, unheated, windowless houses that are little different from those that were here a thousand years ago, in an ancient walled city that was long the capital of China, stands the University of Nanking, an American institution offering modern education and teaching Western ideals. The young Chinese are seizing with avidity this education and gaining in some measure these ideals.

The University is supported by seven religious denominations of the United States, viz., the Methodist North, the Methodist South, the Northern Presbyterian, the Southern Presbyterian, the Christian, the Northern Baptist, and the Southern Baptist. Three of these, the Methodist North, the Northern Presbyterian, and the Christian, by uniting in 1910 their educational work in Nanking, started the University and the others joined afterward. In 1911 a charter was granted to the University by the Regents of the University of the State of New York, and its graduates receive their degrees and diplomas from that body.

The University is composed of the College of Arts, the College of Agriculture and Forestry, the School of Education, the Language School, and a Preparatory School. Until last year it had also a Medical School, but this was absorbed by the Medical Schools established by the Rockefeller Board in China. The University Hospital, however, with a staff of four foreign and four Chinese physicians and surgeons, eleven nurses, three pharmacists, a laboratory assistant, and twenty-five coolie workers, remains. This is for Chinese patients, and that it is doing a great work is seen from the fact that nearly twelve hundred have been cared for in the

hospital during the past year and nearly twelve thousand visits have been made by the hospital physicians upon outside patients. By the generous gift of President A. J. Bowen, of the University, a good hospital is now provided for foreign patients.

The University grounds consist of seventy-five acres, well situated. The upper part of the campus, adjacent to the old, monumental Drum Tower, erected by one of the Emperors of the Ming Dynasty, the beating of whose huge drum in the olden time gave warning of an enemy's approach, is occupied by the College of Arts, with its educational buildings, dormitories, hospital (for Chinese patients), and dwellings for members of the faculty. A Science Hall, the gift of Mr. Ambrose Swasey, of Cleveland, and two additional dormitories, the gift of Madam McCormick, of Chicago, have just been completed and are now occupied. Another dormitory, also the gift of Madam McCormick, an Administration Building, the gift of Mrs. Dudley Allen and Mr. John Severance, of Cleveland, and a Chapel, the gift of Mr. Dwight Day, of New York, have been begun and will be completed next year.

The middle part of the campus contains the gardens, the nurseries, and the experimental plots of the College of Agriculture and Forestry.

The next part of the campus is occupied by the Language School. The building contains ample class rooms and administrative offices, and is surrounded by a high brick wall. Within the same enclosure in the process of construction is an apartment building, which will contain rooms for unmarried students, suites for married ones, dining hall, and kitchens.

Across a lagoon from this is the oldest part of the campus, now occupied by the School of Education and the Preparatory School. It is surrounded by a high brick wall, and a gate-man is always on duty at each of the two gates. The enclosure is well covered with substantial brick buildings, including students' dormitories as well as buildings for the educational work. Beyond this, at the lower end of the campus, are several dwellings for members of the faculty. The University has

twenty-five good brick houses, all of them surrounded by high brick walls, for members of the faculty.

Of the sixty-five composing the staff of instruction and administration in the University and its Preparatory School more than half are Chinese, twenty of whom have received degrees in American universities. This policy of filling so many of the teaching positions with educated Chinese seems an admirable one and it commends the institution to Chinese youth.

The curriculum of the College of Arts is much like that of small colleges in the United States. Whether the students enter from the University High School or from similar schools elsewhere, they have been trained in English, and all of the instruction in the College, except that in Chinese Language and Literature and in Philosophy, is given in English. However, most of the chapel exercises and Sunday services for students are in Chinese. Frequently, by means of an interpreter, an address is given in both languages.

The students are anxious to learn and most of them are good workers. The members of my classes in Higher Algebra, Trigonometry, Analytical Geometry, Differential Calculus, Integral Calculus, and Astronomy pursue these subjects with zest and obtain an intelligent understanding of them. The curriculum provides nothing in Mathematics beyond Calculus; but all of the students in that subject petitioned for work in advance of that for this year, and this has been granted. This is a good indication of their ability, desire to learn, and willingness to work.

The College of Agriculture and Forestry is doing an excellent work for the country. The Chinese government has given it recognition by assisting it financially and by transferring to it the forestry students at Peking, while the governors of four provinces have sent to it scholarship students and the governor of a fifth has aided it by a money grant. By action of the government and through the Colonization Association the whole of Purple Mountain is available for experiments in reforestation, and much of the mountain and all of Beh-gih-goh Hill, which is within the wall, have been

*Purple Mt. is not at present under our control but we have been promised a large tract near the University.*



planted with trees, which have now had several years' growth. This is stimulating similar work in other parts of China.

We have here not only Chinese students under American teachers, but, in the Language School of the University, American and European students under Chinese teachers. These are newly appointed missionaries, who spend their first year in acquiring use of the Chinese language. Sixty-eight of them were here last year, and a fine lot of young college people they were.

The large increase in the number of students this autumn, especially in the College of Arts and the College of Agriculture and Forestry, where it is fifty-five per cent, shows that as fast as additional accommodations and additional facilities are provided young Chinese come to have the advantage of them. This is very encouraging to us and ought to be gratifying to the large-hearted donors who make the work possible. These students come from twelve of the eighteen provinces of China, from Korea, Java, the Philippines, Hongkong, and Hawaii. It is thus seen that the University is not simply local in its appeal, but draws from a large area.

While members of the faculty are chiefly occupied in teaching their respective subjects, they are Christians of the practical sort, and the evident sincerity of their faith and the consistency of their lives make a strong appeal to the young men. Many who do not, on entering the University, accept Christianity become convinced during their course here of the validity of its claims. Statistics show that sixty per cent of the students in the College of Arts this year are Christians. The University Y. M. C. A. is a strong organization and many of the most promising students are active members of it. Each year it holds, in combination with its own individual and general work, a series of "decision meetings," in which a number of prominent speakers present the various phases of Christianity and the Christian life. These efforts have resulted in leading many students to decide for Christ. Three years ago this organization started a People's Evening School, for the benefit of those who could not attend the regular schools. So great was the demand for instruction

that the number grew to five the second year, and to eight last year, with sixty voluntary teachers from the student body. The pupils are from fifteen to fifty years of age and are mostly working people. To help in the support of these schools the Y. M. C. A. gave, near the close of the year, a highly creditable dramatic entertainment, which netted \$370.

The students have literary societies, debating teams, or oratorical contests, glee clubs, and athletics as in American universities. One of the most active officers of the institution is the Director of Athletics, and his commands have an incisive ring that secures prompt execution. Association football, baseball, basket-ball, volley ball, and tennis are played, and track athletics and gymnasium work are well supported. The Chinese, so far as I have observed, have no out-door games of their own--indeed they have regarded bodily exercise as degrading and would not even walk if they had the price of a ride in a ricksha or sedan chair. It is claimed that the introduction of foreign out-door games is having a very wholesome influence upon the young Chinese. To abide by the rules of the game, to be a plucky loser as well as modest winner, to be able to take hard knocks cheerfully are lessons which they very much needed to learn, and exercise they very much needed to have.

The influence upon China of the young men who go out from this university and other foreign institutions of higher learning will be very great. Equipped with a modern education, their eyes opened to the deplorable conditions in China as compared with those in Western countries, with higher ideals than those of the average of their countrymen, they will raise the standard of living, improve sanitary conditions, eliminate some of the old evils of officialdom, banish some of the superstitions that oppress the minds and hamper the actions of the people, and, best of all, pass on to others in increasing numbers the better knowledge and higher ideals.

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Peking

TRANSFER

July 2, 1918.

Dr. John F. Downey,  
Peking University,  
Peking, China.

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Downey:-

I hope the various turnings and over-turnings, pneumonic plague, etc. have not prevented the carrying out of your plan of spending another year in Peking. I am sure you will greatly enjoy the many interesting things there. In many respects I think Peking has a peculiar interest surpassing any city in the world. We spent three months in Southern California, mainly at Pasadena and enjoyed it greatly. It is such a different climate and the habits of life are so different as to constitute a region in itself. It is delightful to meet friends there, the Wheelers, Gambles, Mrs. McCormick and others. We came on to S. Salem together. I spent part of the day, and then had to come directly to New York to attend a Board meeting of the Board of Trustees. In these strenuous war days it is difficult to get men together for any other purpose than to plan some war relief measure. You would hardly know the United States to-day. War is about the only legitimate business. If you are engaged in anything else, other than in the Army or Navy, or providing munitions or planning direct relief, you feel you are a slacker. It will not be easy to carry thru the program we have in mind for advance work in China. However, we are not giving it up; we expect to succeed. Mr. Severance and his sister increased their gift for the central building by an additional \$15,000. gold. The most difficult phase of the work will be to secure the staff that is required.

Lilian and the children are still at their home in S. Salem where I am joining them next week. We shall all rusticate and farm for a month or two. We are expecting to settle next Fall again at Montclair. After canvassing the whole situation, it seems better to have the girls attend the beautiful new High School there. There is a fine staff of teachers and it is a delightful community to live in. When we return to China we shall probably send them again to Abbot Academy to finish the course there. Harry and Jennie are now settled in our house. What changes in a great time! I hope they will be as happy as we have always been there. It will be delightful to re-assemble there again with you both upon our return. Lilian and the children will all be joining me in love to you both.

W.-K.

Very sincerely yours,

0094

Nanking

TRANSFER

July 2, 1918.

Dr. John F. Downey,  
Peking University,  
Peking, China.

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Downey:-

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W.-K.

Very sincerely yours,

0094

over

John F. Donney

RECEIVED

SEP 8 1919

Ordway, Colorado,  
Sept. 5, 1919.

Dear Dr. Williams:

As you see by the heading, we are again on American soil. We are hoping that you and Mrs. Williams and the rest are still on that same soil and that we shall see you before you get off it. We are here with Margaret's father and her brothers and their families, but shall leave for Minneapolis toward the close of the month, and shall be in our house on the first of October and either soon after. If you are coming that way after that date, be sure and come and see us. In the deprecatory language of the country from which we have just come, you would honor us by coming into our wretched hovel; and in the more frank language of our own country, you would be most welcome.

0095

in our home. It would be awfully good to see you.

We left Peking June 12th, came thro' Manchuria, Korea, and Japan, stopping at a number of places, giving several addresses along the way and going again for ten days to Burnside. Our voyage, beginning at Yokohama July 25th, was a good one, though Margaret was not happy all the time, as she is very sensitive to the motions of the ship. Since arriving here I have had a fine six-day motor trip into the Rocky Mountains.

We enjoyed the year at Peking, though the University is too new as a union institution to have been well organized and in smooth running order. You are to be congratulated at Peking on having so lightly passed the difficulties of bringing several boards into harmonious working order. Dr. Stuart is doing great things in harmonizing matters at H. Univ. in Peking. Please write to us and tell us all about yourselves. They just joined in you to me. Sincerely, John F. Downey  
Good letter from Cha Chien yesterday.



Rev. John F. Downey.  
TRANSFER

Nanking

September 23rd, 1919.

Rev. John F. Downey, Ph. D.,  
1115 Fifth Street, South East,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Downey:

I was delighted to receive your letter of September 5th and to know that you are back safely home visiting among your people after your experience in China. I am greatly relieved that you are back safe and well after the severe illness that you underwent there, and the strenuous life that you led. I can feel now that in advising you to go I did not act unwisely and the experience warranted all the outlay of time. I am writing this that it may greet you when you get back to your own home and are settled again.

Mrs. Williams and I are very pleased to know of your route in return and how you have fared. I should enjoy some time talking over with you both your experiences in Peking, which I am sure were full of greatest interest. I should also like to know your observations upon the educational situation in the light of your wider experience at both centers and your observation of conditions in China.

It has been a hard year to accomplish much for the University. Since the first of April I have been acting as Secretary of the Foreign Board attending to the correspondence of Dr. Stanley White and his six missions while he was on a journey to Syria for investigation and study of the problems of reconstruction after the war. With the end of this week he returns to the office and my responsibilities in that line will terminate. It was not easy to accomplish things for the University. However, we have been able to secure through the co-operating Boards some \$18,000. to liquidate all indebtedness through the low exchange for the years 1917-18 and with the assurance that the rate of two for one will be continued from now on. This was a great lift on current expenses. We also secured from the Methodist Board \$9,000 to purchase one of those two residences and from the Disciples Board \$5,000 for another. We secured \$25,000 for building the chapel. Mr. Day being willing to utilize his \$15,000 in other lines. The Severances had to increase their original gift of \$35,000 to \$65,000 and it will require even more to complete it. The building is going up rapidly at present I hope you were able to have a look in on Nanking before you returned. I am sure you would have found the physical aspect of the property very changed and I believe you would have found a very great development in the spirit and work of the school.

0097



We are planning to add four or five additional men to the department of Agriculture and Forestry and their support has been secured. Two men went over this summer, - Mr. Griffing under salary from us provided by the Cotton Millowners' Association, and Dr. O. C. Cook from the Agricultural Department at Washington, the first expert in the United States in Cotton culture.

Mr. and Mrs. Ritchey will go out next month. Mr. Twin-  
em an attractive young man graduate of Wooster who took his M.A. in Astronomy at Princeton, afterwards completed his Seminary course at Hartford, has gone out as instructor in Mathematics. Dr. and Mrs. Daniels, very attractive people, he graduated Minnesota by the way and P & S Medical, have gone to the hospital. Dr. Fellows, a Chicago man, a dentist, has also sailed on the Express the fourth of September. Miss Bauer, a laboratory technician who did all that work in the Howard Kelly Hospital in Baltimore, has gone to the hospital. Dr. and Mrs. Wilmot from the Christian Church are also going to the hospital this month. So you see, we are gathering up a few additional. It was my hope that this Fall I could put a few things worth while across. I wish we might secure one-half million which would provide adequate revenue for the salaries which we are now providing from hand to month, as it were.

If I am out West I will certainly make a point of getting over to Minneapolis to see you. Our family just at present is very much scattered. Faith has just entered Oberlin and combining college and music course. Her mother took Dorothy to Abbott. I had to make a hurried trip from New York to Northfield where we had been stopping, to bring Mary to New York for an operation for appendicitis which was performed on Monday the 15th. She is getting along finely, dear girlie. It was just caught in time. Dickie is out at Montclair going to school with our friends the Speers and I am in and out of New York as usual. So that is the family story just at present. Mrs. Williams will give you more of the real touches of it when she can write.

With affectionate regards to you both,

Very sincerely yours,

JPM:M.