

Stamp H R.

025

April 27th, 1898.

Dr. J. L. M. Curry,
1736 "M" Street,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Curry:-

I am laid up at my home with another carbuncle, from which I have suffered much. I write now to tell you that I am disturbed about the apparent misunderstanding between the Trustees of the Slater Fund and Mrs. Hobson. She has come here especially to confer with me about the position in which she is placed. It is quite natural for her to do so, for I suppose I may be regarded as the father of the movement inaugurated by her. The resolution prepared by me and offered at the January meeting of the Educational Committee, was, as you know, altered to meet the views of the gentlemen present, and was modified so as not to cover all the recommendations made by the ladies in their report, but unfortunately the resolution as finally adopted, had attached to the close of the principal clause "etc". This "etc." Mrs. Hobson construed to mean to refer to the plan as following the first or opening paragraph.

In my letter to Mrs. Hobson accompanying the resolution, among other things I especially suggested to her the importance of consulting with yourself and obtaining your full co-operation before she made her final arrangements. She tells me that she had an interview with you, and that she laid her plans before you; that she stated that she had understood that you did not entirely approve of them before the Board; that now, that she had explained them, she wished to know if you did so, for

in Decap
17

Dr Curry

unless you approved them, she knew it would be impossible for her to carry them out. That you replied, among the other things suggested, that you had always wished such a work as was proposed, to be introduced in the public schools; that now she would have your hearty co-operation, and that you parted from her, as she supposed, her cordial co-worker and advisor. This being her understanding, I do not see now, how any of us can fairly disapprove of the plans marked out by the ladies for the expenditure of the \$5000 appropriated. It is a great pity I think now, to do anything that will tend to check the enthusiasm and devotion of these women. I find in my experience, that it is very hard to get good consecrated women, or in fact men, in an unselfish manner and with no pecuniary reward, to carry on any good cause, and that when we have found them, I think we should give them our sympathy, although the line of work may not be exactly in accord with our views. It is unfortunate, I think, that Mrs. Hobson feels you are not now in sympathy with the plans inaugurated, and she has expressed to me the opinion that rather than have you in this position, she would prefer to abandon the whole undertaking.

I must say, since my interview with Mrs. Hobson, I feel that we should bid her "God Speed" and give her our co-operation and sympathy, trusting that the result from her work may be such as will have our entire commendation in the future, and give us that experience which will enable us another year, to act wisely and in full accord.

Dictated.

Yours very truly,