

Ainsworth, George J.

D.C. Gilman correspondence

~~Folger~~
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Ms. /

Amesworth

North Tennesseal Alameda Cal. Cal.
May 28th 1884

Prof. D. C. Gilman

President Johns Hopkins University.

Dear Sir:

In answer to my several telegrams to you I have received two replies and am now anxiously awaiting your third reply, which, I hope, will contain the coveted recommendation.

After receiving your very kind letter in answer to mine, of last year, I concluded, on your advice, to await a fair trial of Mrs. Reid, the University's present President. After the return of Geo. B. Edwards & his saying you would accept, if invited, to deliver the Commencement oration encouraged me to let the time go by until I could obtain your counsel in person. I saw (through another Regent) that you were invited & not long afterward was off to Oregon & Washington Territory.

S. Prof. D.C.G.

for about six weeks. On my return I inquired
& was informed you had declined the invitation.
I awaited an adjourned meeting of the Board
& then commenced telegraphing you. I hope
I have not overwhelmed you with dispatches,
but I wanted you should understand the
situation nearly as possible, and even long
dispatches or letters or a book itself could
give you no adequate idea of the situation.

You certainly cannot have a fair conception
of the outrageous manner in which Mr.
Reid was put into his present position,
or you would know at once that a
man so devoid of sensibility as he is, is
entirely unfitted to occupy such a position.

Now to begin with I want it understood
that personally I have no fault to find
with Mr. Reid, except that occasionally from
forgetfulness (let us say so for charity's sake)
he fails to tell the truth. This is the only
moral failing I know of in the man, &

3. Prof. D. C. G.

I know of that from experience of others whom I believe to be reliable. I should say from many others I think reliable.

The stand I take is as a regent and trustee of the state & as a graduate, and a strong desire to see the University made a success. Since we last met I have had (for a young man) considerable experience with the affairs of the world & have a reputation as a successful business man.

My experience was chiefly confined to the transportation business. I followed an invariable rule that whenever I became satisfied a man was in the wrong place I put him out & supplied his place with one I had cause to believe would fill all requirements.

It is that rule I wish to follow now - that I wished to follow last year. This delay of a year has convinced me more than ever, if possible, that the University's good demands Mr. Reid's departure; and

4. Prof. D.C.G.

the sooner the departure takes place, the greater the good to the University. Mr. Reid may make a very good man to manage a boy's school, I do not know how he would do there, but he certainly cannot wear a large enough hat for President of a University. In the first place (I do not know whether or not you are acquainted with him) his personal appearance is against him. He has less 'presence' than any man in the Faculty. While the Faculty pay respect to him as President they do not & cannot respect him as their equal. The students and graduates under him have gone further than that, they have disrespect for him. His influence amongst influential men is as far as I know nothing, except those who put him where he is & it is the case with only a few of them. If his name was to come before the Board now for election to the office he now holds

5 Prof. D. C. G.

I think I would be safe in saying that he would not get more than five out of twenty three votes, & I believe those five, if they would vote for him, would so do because they dislike ^{naturally} to acknowledge error in judgement in the beginning.

Whatever may be our decision as a Board for a course to pursue, Mr. Reid will be notified so he can have an opportunity to resign & avoid with care, anything of the slightest resemblance to the cold blooded, cruel, dastardly manner Dr. Stebbins & his followers pushed dear old Dr John Beane overboard & dismissed Welcher. But I am a little off the track & will return, as I fear I have already wearied you; but you will pardon me I know. My only excuse is my interest in the University. Oh! if you could only come and be our President!! I think you could name your own salary. I know one who would vote for you on

6 Prof. D. C. C.

any terms ever paid by any college or university. That would dissipate all fog & clouds & we would have clear sailing ahead. As it is, we are at sea with a captain in charge who does not know anything about navigation!

If we ask Mr. Reid to resign & remove him (I think very likely he will await removal instead of resigning) as I telegraphed you, I fear a contention in the Board on Pacific Coasters. I think they would unite on some eastern man - particularly if recommended by you. I have talked with enough Regents on this subject, & of what I am doing, to satisfy myself of that. You, of all men, best know just the kind of a man we want. If we cannot get you, we want as near your counterpart as it is possible to get. If I had known before Judge Stager went east, that you were not going to be here today at our Commencement exercises, I would have made some arrangement

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with him so we could have all worked together.
If I could arranged my business affairs I
would go east at once, but that, I am sorry
to say, is impossible at present.

I hope and pray that I may receive
a recommendation from you by June 1st.

With kind regards, & thanking you
for your prompt replies to my telegrams,
& for the interest you manifest in our
welfare & I ought to thank you for Mr. Reid
for putting in some many good words for him
& hoping that I may see you soon as a
visitor in California if not for a longer
stay. I remain

Your sincere friend
W. E. Fairbank

S. M.

Acis worth

ant

de Univ. of Cal.

Answered

Dictated

a June
13

[1884]

North Tennesseal, Alameda Co. Cal. May 30/84

Pres^t W. C. Gilman

Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

I am just in receipt of your dispatch of this date saying "I do not think any good eastern man would accept under the circumstances as I understand them"

I have argued all along with the more hesitating Regents that our first move should be to have Mr Reid resign, and the President's office vacant; then we would be in a position to offer it. If this coincides with your view of the situation, I would be glad if you would let me know. On this reaches you, you will probably have received a letter from me of date the 28th inst, in which I have endeavored to give you as good an idea as I could of our situation. I would be much pleased to hear from you, and to

Prof. Gilman 2

have your reasons why a good eastern man, you think, would be disinclined to accept under the present circumstances, if your reasons differ from the one I have already mentioned, namely, that of seeking some one while Mr Reid still holds his office.

Although in all probability, I will fail in accomplishing Mr Reids removal on the 3rd prox., I will use my best endeavors to bring it about, and as soon as possible, as I firmly believe that his departure from the University would be a great God-send to that institution.

I do not think of any better recreation you could take during the summer vacation, than to make California a visit. Mrs Ainsworth and I would be delighted to have you and Mrs Gilman make our house your home, and think that with the assistance of your many warm friends, we could make it very pleasant for you.

Hoping soon to hear from you by mail,
and with kind regards, I remain,
your sincere friend
Geo. Ainsworth

Geo. I. Ainsworth

Univ. Cal.

Answorth
Form No. 44.

NIGHT MESSAGE.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Night Messages**, sent at reduced rates, beyond a sum equal to ten times the amount paid for transmission; nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within thirty days after sending the message.

This is an **UNREPEATED NIGHT MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, General Manager.

NORVIN GREEN, President.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
613	Ch	S	22 paid nite
822a			May 28 1884

Received at

Dated Oakland Cal 24.
To President O C Gellman John Hopkins
81 Saratoga St

When you answer my telegram from
San Francisco strongly recommend if
you can the party you name telegraph
fully and day rate collect
Geo J Answorth

C. Ainsworth
Form No. 44.

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THOS. T. ECKERT, General Manager.

NORVIN GREEN, President.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
713	Co	S	32 per night

Received at 825 a May 25 1884.

Dated San Francisco Cal 24
To Pres. D C Gillman John Hopkins University

if you will not accept yourself name a man
of Republican tendencies whom you think
would accept and would fill our requirement
as president of California university answer
by telegraph Oakland collect Geo J Ainsworth

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY, OF BALTIMORE CITY.

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N. de BREE, President.

NUMBER

SENT BY

REC'D BY

CHECK

1

To Pa

122

Paid

Received at

1st District 53 Richmond Street.

May 26

1884.

Dated

Oakland Cal 25

To

Pres D C Gilbert

Johns N W

our commencement twenty eight board annual meeting June third if you can recommend someone by June first think change can be accomplished June third otherwise fear another year of present incumbent if office vacated without Eastern man to

This telegram has just been received at the office in

where any reply should be sent.

DIRECT WIRES.

recommend I fear division of board on several

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY, OF BALTIMORE CITY.

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N. de BREE, President.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
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Received at

1st District 53 Richmond Street.

1884.

Dated Pacific coasters feel confident they would
 Thine on eastern man recommended by you
 Hager now East Somewhere will endeavor to communicate
 with him to see you under present circumstances
 am forced to do everything by telegraph. Wish many of
 reputable tendencies to avoid any political aspect as majority
 board is democratic no time to send committee Hager
 working with you can do great good will look for your
 telegrams to me collect before June first where any reply should be sent.
 Yours first Geo I sineworth

WIRELESS

Ann's worth

Ainsworth
Form No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY, OF BALTIMORE CITY.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages**, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after sending the message. This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE** and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

N. de BREE, President.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
<i>X P</i>	<i>Br</i>	<i>fo</i>	<i>64 paid</i>

Received at *3rd District, 53 Richmond Street.* **MAY 27 1884** *1884*

Dated, *Oakland Cal 27*

To *D. C. Gilman Pres John Hopkins Univ.*

*I hope you will Reconsider & Be able to Recommend some one. Hager
On his way home have Consulted with several Regents whose action will
be guided by your choice we have only you to Rely upon in what
I feel to be our Emergency help us if you can & your effort will
Ever be appreciated present incumbent generally acknowledged
a total failure.*

This telegram has just been received at the office in *Go I Ainsworth* where any reply should be sent.

DIRECT WIRES.

Gilman

Mr

Rec'd Mr's letter 10 a.m. Sunday May 25th

84

Your two telegrams received. Nothing
more. Cannot suggest names without
careful consideration. Impossible for
me to accept. ~~At the long period of time~~
~~which ^{has} been~~. Can you not send a Committee
to the East before vacations begin. Will
write today

Frisworth

Wm. J. Cal

May 25
1884