

R O M E; 6 th August 1926.

Mr. William Boyden,
Fisher & Boyden,
CHICAGO. ILL.

Dear Mr. Boyden,

I am glad something has come up that makes it my duty to trouble you with a letter. It is a pleasure to have any connection these days with friends in America. Possibly you do not know that I ran over here very unexpectedly towards the end of June to do my impressions of Mussolini and the way things are going in Italy. It will be impressions you may be sure, though I am dipping as hard as I can into the records of our Commercial Attache here, as well as knocking up and down the country to look at results. I have just come back from Naples, where I met a most unusual man, Dr. Vittorio Macchiore of the University of Naples. He devotes himself particularly to history and philosophy of religion, and he has written some of the most illuminating things I have ever read, all leading up to one of my hobbies, the difference between religion and theology.

Although a young man, only about 46 or 47, he is really a great scholar, and has a formidable list of publications recognised in Germany and England, and beginning to be known I think in America among open minded theologians, to his credit.

Now Dr. Macchiore wants to go to America, the reasons for which I cannot write, but which are profound, and if I should see you I should be glad to explain them to you. He has been recommended to the Chicago Congregational Theological Seminary, the President of which is the Rev. Osato Davis (where do you suppose he got the Osato?) I do not know him but I have written him a letter, a copy of which I enclose. I have of course no right to judge of Dr. Macchiore's scholarship but as a teacher he is amazing. I think he would be a good thing in the United States and he might finally give a new angle to the Fundamentalist squabble, which would be a relief. At all events, what I want to ask of you is that if you know of any opening in an open minded theological institution, if there is such a thing, for a real scholar and inspiring teacher, you say a word for Dr. Macchiore, and in case documents are wanted, his publications, the story of his life, and forth, they can be got by addressing him at Via Dom. Cirillo 57, Naples. 57.

I hope you will forgive me for troubling you. This is one of the cases where I feel like passing on a word.

I hope everything is well in the Borden connection that the wedding was as beautiful as I am sure it was. Will you not when you have the chance give my love to them all, and please remember me particularly to Walter Fisher.

Faithfully yours,