A MILLION DOLLARS FOR ENDOWMENT

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF RELIGION

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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Board of Trust

W. A. HARPER, *Professor of Religious Education*
Special Faculty Representative and Campaign Director

July 27, 1932

Dr. Ida M. Tarbell,
Bethel, Conn.

Dear Dr. Tarbell:

For many years I have been reading the biographies that have appeared from your liberal pen, but I doubt if I have every read anything in the biography line that quite equals the Life of Owen D. Young.

I am very frank to confess, Dr. Tarbell, that I read this biography with a definite purpose in mind, which you have already surmised from the stationery I am using in writing.

Several people have mentioned Mr. Young to me as a possible liberal giver in our campaign. They have alleged that he is liberal in his religious views, generous in giving and that he is particularly interested in the South at this time.

The Vanderbilt School of Religion is unique in the sixteen Southeastern states. It is the only free, liberal, independent, interdenominational, theological seminary in this entire area and as such it is rendering an outstanding service in producing a liberal leadership for this area. These friends think that Mr. Young will be particularly interested in helping to strengthen and further such an enterprise.

I will, of course, never make use of your name in connection with this campaign, but I will appreciate your advice on two points.

First, knowing Mr. Young as you do, does your judgment coincide with that of other friends who have suggested him to me as one who would consider giving to our present endowment campaign?

Second, If your answer to the first query is affirmative, will you please suggest to me the proper channel or channels to approach him? Should I undertake to interview him direct or approach him through certain persons? If the latter, would you be so kind as to give me the names and addresses of such person or persons?

Digital Image, 2011, The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library.

I do not desire unduly to annoy Mr. Young, because he has so many interests already, but we are hopeful that the judgment of reason friends who have suggested his name is correct and that by use of your intimate knowledge of him you will be able to support their views.

Thanking you for the intimate study of him, which I have just read, and with every assurance of good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

W A Harper

WAH:s

W. A. Harper

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