27 October 1921.

Dear folks:

I can tell you nothing about the new president for I do not know anything save what you do. His name was not heard on the campus even by way of rumor until the week before his election and no one here knew that the trustees were to meet until a few days before they did, and many were taken entirely by surprise. From what we hear, I think the faculty is content with the situation. It is too bad if there is sensitiveness about the publication that he is not a Methodist. He is not and his church relation is a matter of public interest. It has not been suppressed in the newspapers and it seems to me both foolish and tactless to try to keep it out. I would be interested to know where you heard that he had an understanding with the trustees as that rumor has not reached us.

I have been on the point of going to Boston on two or three occasions but the pressure of work here is very great. I am carrying extra history teaching this half year and I started a series of lectures last night in the chapel on interdenominational questions. There will be six in all and they are to come on every alternate Tuesday.

We are now talking of coming to Boston at Christmas. Walter and Harriette planned to have a house warming and have asked us to come. I should like, of course, to go to Washington, or to the meeting of the American Historical Association in Richmond, but I have not the money or the time to do those things. Moreover, I must push forward with this book which lays dreadfully.

I hope you have a lovely trip to Florida. I am certainly glad that you are starting off upon it, and trust that your work out to the fullest of all your expectations.
3 November 1921.

Dear Folks:

I am glad that you are "boating." It is good business. You took precious little summer vacation and you deserve some during the winter. It is too bad it could not come a little bit later, when Jack frost is more active up here. We have had the finest "spell of weather" I have ever known in Middletown. Perfectly marvelous clear sky, sunny day, and wonderful foliage.

Tomorrow is the big day. It is a dangerous thing to be a prophet, but after having the old diviners for fear we would be tied up for months, it begins to look now as though Coolidge would "cut 'em up" though some of the bones may stick in his arm.

Doctor Sonney was here yesterday with the tidings that the new president was to come and take charge on the first of February, and his installation ray come on the nation's Birthday. We shall all be glad to have the Interregnum over. "The King is dead, long live the King!" is a proclamation of excellent judgment, though not a very tender sentiment. The sooner he is in the saddle, the sooner we will know what the plans of the new administration are to be. People are very hopeful and optimistic. The word has come out that the trustees are behind him and that we can look for some new buildings in a not distant future.

Just when do you plan to come north, and just what are your plans in Florida? The days go by with such extraordinary rapidity that it is very difficult indeed to realize how the year goes on. I have hardly gotten used yet to writing 1921 at the head of a letter.
Dear Folks:

The days run along amazingly and I find it is over two weeks since I wrote to you. Last week-end I spent in New York again. The business of running this Endowment Campaign gets more and more complicated and begins to take too much of my time and energy. Consequently, I went to New York and with the chairman of the Committee, went to see one of the professional agencies for running campaigns and have taken up with them the possibility of turning over the management of the campaign. It only involves a little matter of $21,000 for them which they are to have in weekly installments whether we get a dollar or not. The meeting has been called for the week from tomorrow for decision by the Committee and the Executive Council of the Association whether to get on or get off. It is going to take a good deal of faith and optimism to shoulder so large an expense account.

What news do you get from Albany? If you hear anything at all, do not fail to pass it along.

We are standing guard for whooping-cough, and mumps and scarlet fever, all of them have been rampant and the children have been exposed to one or another of them a number of times. So far they have come through.

You will be interested to know that the wood-pile in the back yard is on its last legs. Some of it we have stored in the cellar and much of it we gave away, and much of it we are burning right where it is. It makes the yard seem much bigger and we will have many sighs of relief when that eye-sore is gone.

Middletown is beginning to have its spring charm. You ought to come and try it out. Come any old time for we are to be here right along except that I plan to go to Washington for a week in April. I am hoping to go down of the 19th and come back on the 25th. Whether I can or not depends on the state of weather, health and many other considerations. I have been itching to get there for some months and have now an opportunity to go and have my railroad fare paid so I want to take advantage of it.

I suppose that Conference is now occupying your time and thought. Unfortunately, President McNaughey will not get home from his western trip in time to appear in person, but he has revived the custom of having a representative of the College speak, a custom which had fallen into abeyance, and Chanter is to do the job. Chanter's value here grows steadily, I think, and I think he has also a more optimistic outlook on the future. Certainly if the President keeps up the pace he has set and continues to show the tact and good judgment he has combined with his energy, it will make a big difference.

I hope you are in good health, "bos" of it.
Dear Folks:

The dye is cast; the Rubicon is crossed, and we are going to go. The news will be released from Appleton after the Trustee meeting on the 2nd of July. Till then the Exon's Herald paper and the rest must say nothing. The newspaper here had the story but agreed to stay still until it was released from the Wesleyan end which we will do at the earliest possible moment.

The President of the Board came on and spent the weekend with us last Saturday and Sunday and the Bigelow's were down and things were virtually sewed up at that time, but Doctor Loveland intervened to say that with view to the fears of some regarding my health, I should go to some consulting internist and to some nerve specialist and have a thorough examination. On Tuesday, consequently, I went to Doctor Walter Steiner of Hartford who thumped me from stem to stern and top mast to keel and declared me sound in wind and limb except for some teeth which are already wearing yellow tickets to be taken out. Yesterday I went to New York and had the nerve specialist tickle my toes and generally make me miserable and he pronounced me perfectly safe and sound to be at large and in fact advised me to make the change, saying he thought the satisfactions in the work and the better salary and a number of other things would tend to make it a better occupation.

Ruth has been an extremely good sport about it and her people have been equally so. They all advised us to take the opportunity. Of course, it is a terrible wrench to give up our home and the almost ideal associations and surroundings and I feel a great pang at giving up some of the students who were to work with me next year. The next year senior class has some of the finest boys, both in mind and character, that I have ever had anything to do with and I looked forward to some intellectual adventures with them, but we must take one job at a time, and I look forward to more friends out there and to other students in due time.

It is understood that I am to begin my duties about the first of October. We are going to go along here as though nothing had happened, making no preparations to move. After Williamstown is over, we will send in the moving man and let them bear the heat and burden of the day. The business being now decided we are very happy about it.
Dear Henry:

We leave at five o'clock on the New York boat by way of Cape Cod Canal, and expect by ten o'clock tomorrow morning to be located at 1895 University Avenue, Bronx, N. Y.

We certainly will be anxiously awaiting the announcement. The few confidential friends to whom I have communicated your prospects expressed heartiest congratulations and confidence that you are in the right place. Among these is Ex-President William E. Huntington in whose judgment I have great confidence. He knows the school well and says it is one of the best opportunities in the Church.

We shall be thinking of you on Saturday when you come to the next milestone. At any rate, you were elected College President before you were 36!!

Doctor Udell was here yesterday and I showed him around Newtonville Church and College Avenue. They tell us there is an extra bed and accordingly we shall have no trouble in putting you and Ruth up.

[Signature]

With love from both sail,

[Signature]

Your affectionate,

Father