

# THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

CINCINNATI, OHIO

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 30, 1933.

My dear Nelson:

There is an old proverb, as you know, that bad news travels fast. I have some news this morning for which perhaps the term bad is a little too strong, but for which unpleasant is perhaps not quite strong enough. Probably too, it is not traveling with the utmost speed, but none the less it is traveling rapidly enough, I am sure.

As you have probably learned from your and Helen's folks, economic and financial conditions here in America are growing steadily worse and that very rapidly. As a result, the financial affairs of the College are in very bad shape. Our investments are becoming increasingly non-productive, and likewise a disturbingly large proportion of those friends of the College who contributed to the Endowment Fund upon condition that their contributions were to be paid in ten annual installments are finding themselves unable to carry out their pledges, at least for the present. The result is that, at the present moment, it seems quite certain that our resources for this year will be at least \$30,000. less than had been anticipated last May, when the budget for the year was adopted.

We have effected every possible economy that we could, such as discontinuing the Summer School for the present, planning to postpone the appearance of the next volume of the Annual, for at least a year, and other radical steps such as this. In this way we were able to effect economies amounting to about \$16,000., for this year. There was however only one way in which the remaining \$14,000. could be taken care of, and that was by another and rather drastic reduction of salaries to take effect immediately, that is, in the checks which will be payable day after tomorrow. It was decided to institute an additional 10% reduction upon all salaries larger than \$1,200., to be effective for the remaining eight months of the year. Accordingly, when your check reaches you, or in whatever form the money may be sent to you, you will find that a 10% reduction has been made. And now you have the explanation of it.

I need not assure you that the Board of Governors regretted quite as much as did the Faculty the necessity of this step. But it was inevitable if the financial status of the College was to be protected and definite assurance was to be gained that the College would be able to continue to operate in reasonable manner over the next period of years, until economic conditions shall have righted themselves. It would not surprise me at all if we would have to take an additional cut. and a quite substantial one, for next year. This will be determined in April or in May, when we see what conditions are, and what the prospects may be. We have, of course, no alternative but to make the best of this

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unfortunate situation and to realize that we are all much better off than the great majority of people, and even of scholars. Certainly our College is in better financial shape than any other similar Institution, and how they continue to exist and operate I do not understand. We at least have reason to be thankful.

One of the enforced economies was the discontinuance of our subvention to the Baghdad School. We are still maintaining our subvention to the Jerusalem School, and there seems to be a general consensus of opinion in the Board of Governors, as there is in my own mind, that we should continue that as long as possible. Certainly it will continue for the present year.

And now that I have gotten this bad news out of my system I may go on to other things. Outside of the financial problems, conditions here at the College are quite satisfactory. We have had to contend with a good bit of illness in the Faculty during the last two months. I seem to have started it by having your father-in-law take out my tonsils in the middle of December, upon the suggestion of the physicians that this might perhaps be the source of infection which was giving me trouble in my back. The tonsils are out, but my throat still bothers me a bit, and my back and leg are no better. Perhaps there is a physical depression also. But I am living in hopes.

Mr. Maximon was taken down with a bad case of the flu about the same time, and this developed into some rather severe trouble with the nerve in his left calf which confined him to his bed for a time, and after that a mild case of pneumonia set in. He was in the hospital for some two weeks and only yesterday was he permitted to return to his home. He is still a very sick man and it will be some time before he will be able to return to College and resume his work.

Next Sol Finesinger had to have his appendix removed some two weeks ago. He got along splendidly and, I believe, is resuming his classes today.

These were the major ills. Minor disturbances are not taken account of in these hard times.

In the Wednesday morning Seminar we are making slow, but interesting, progress. We are of course dealing with the War Legislation, with Sheldon leading the discussion. And interesting and important things are coming to light each week.

At home I am making slow, but fairly satisfactory, progress with Part 4 of the Book of the Covenant, in which I deal with the Mishvot. Here, too, unexpected things are revealing themselves constantly.



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As you probably know, there has been a little re-organization of the methods of conducting the two Schools. I have been made Chairman of the Committee on Personnel of the Jerusalem School. If you have any suggestions as to future appointments or Professors, Lecturers or Fellows, I would be glad indeed to receive them from you, or any suggestions as to possible reorganization making for greater efficiency in the Staff. These, too, would be most acceptable.

We all read Helen's letter which appeared in the Times Star. Just a day or two before it appeared, I had seen the copy of your letter to Professor Montgomery, in which you described the trip from your standpoint, and so I knew something of what Helen's letter told me. But it was all very interesting and romantic. Needless to say I shall be glad to hear all further details whenever the opportunity may present.

I know that you are enjoying your work and that everything is going along splendidly. Now that you are to supervise the work at Jerash, you will have another golden opportunity to acquire valuable experience. I am happy to pass on to you a very sincere compliment which Professor Montgomery paid you some few weeks ago, when he wrote to me that he wished that they could keep you permanently in the work of the School at Jerusalem,

I trust that this finds both you and Helen well and everything moving along satisfactorily.

With warmest regards and all good wishes for yourself and Helen, in which my dear wife joins most heartily, I am ever

Faithfully yours,

  
PRESIDENT.

JM/s

Rev. Dr. Nelson Glueck, Director  
American School of Oriental Research,  
Jerusalem,  
Palestine.

N.B. - After Mr. Maximon, I should have inserted on the list Joshua Liebman, our Heinsheimer Fellow, who went to the hospital about the same time for a severe operation for hernia. He has however recovered nicely and I believe plans to resume his work here tomorrow.