

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

CINCINNATI, OHIO

October 27, 1939.  
(Dict. Oct. 26)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

10 31  
Professor Millar Burrows,  
48 Knollwood Road,  
Hamden, Conn.

Dear Professor Burrows:

Your good letter of the 24th inst. reached me this morning and is being answered at once. I need not assure you that I will keep its contents entirely confidential.

I have noted with interest all that you say about Nelson and the possibility of his making his connection with the School in Jerusalem permanent. I have discussed this same question with Nelson very frankly and objectively here in my office in the last ten days. I think I can assure you that Nelson contemplates nothing for the future except a return to the Hebrew Union College to resume his work here, and to remain here permanently. I put to him the question whether he would not prefer to remain permanently with the School. It was obvious that, quite naturally, he has a strong desire to finish the work which he has already begun and which he can scarcely do in the comparatively brief period still remaining of his leave of absence. Also he is of course tremendously interested in archaeological work. Yet he seems to realize perfectly that to do this would necessitate his severing his connection with the Hebrew Union College completely and I am quite sure that he is not thinking of such a step. Obviously he is torn between two loves, but I feel certain that there is no question in his mind that since he must choose between them his choice will be to remain here at the College. This was taken for granted in our discussions; and in answer to my point blank question he said very positively that it was his complete intention to resume his work here at the College next September.

In the light of the contents of your letter I shall of course discuss the matter with him again when he returns here in December after the completion of his lecture tour. But I am quite confident that his decision will remain steadfast.

I can well understand how you got the impression that he might be tempted to remain in Jerusalem permanently if he were asked. This would naturally be inferred from his deep interest in and affection for the institution and the work which he has been doing in Palestine. But I am sure of the position which I stated above. On the whole, therefore, I do not see any reason why you should not continue, certainly for the present at least, to think of Dr. Engberg as Nelson's successor.

Of course, should I be mistaken in my judgment, or

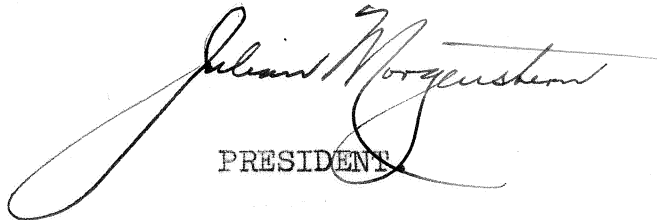
-2- Professor Millar Burrows.

should Nelson for any reason change his mind in this matter, the whole question would have to be taken up anew. What the attitude of the authorities of the College would be in such case and after having continued to pay Nelson \$1,800. a year as a part of his salary for a period of four years, which was in the evident expectation that he would return to the College at the end of that time, I cannot say at this moment. None the less I am sure that neither I nor the authorities of the College would insist upon a professor remaining here when his earnest desire was to work elsewhere. But I feel certain that this situation will not arise. 4 years

Should you have the opportunity during the next few weeks, as you may well, to discuss this matter with Nelson, I would suggest that you do so frankly and you may feel at perfect liberty to show him this letter if you desire. It is of course a matter of great importance both for Nelson, on the one hand, and the School and our College, on the other, that this matter be settled definitely within the next few weeks.

With cordial greetings for yourself and Mrs. Burrows and looking forward to seeing you in New York in December, I am

Very sincerely yours,

  
PRESIDENT

JM/s