

Bloomington, Ind.; May 25, 1911.

Confidential

Dr. J. M. Coulter,

Dear Sir,

I have received an appointment at Harvard to a \$300 scholarship. Therefore in accordance with the advice both of yourself and of Dr. Jordan I enclose my resignation. There are two things I would like very much to have the Board understand. First, that I cannot in justice to myself bind myself to return to a subordinate position here. Second, that I am very anxious to return to Indiana University. I believe in Indiana University and like the field of work here very much indeed.

It is my desire to teach the masterpieces of literature in my own ways and according to my own convictions. Of course this I can only accomplish in a thoroughly independent position. My work during the past two years has been seriously hampered by the fact that I have had no opportunity of teaching the work I could teach best.

In addition to the possible changes in the present condition of the English Department there are some other possibilities that I hope I may, in the present

condition of things be allowed to mention. When I went into the work of the English Department De Jordan suggested as a possible outcome the division of the chair into English Language and English Literature giving me the latter. Such a position I would gladly accept.

One other possibility: It seems to me certain that in a few years there will be established in all our Universities chairs of General Literature i.e. the study of the masterpieces of thought as Homer, Aeschylus, Dante, Goethe, etc. in English translations. Few students in the present condition of our Universities master Greek, Latin, German, French, & Italian so as to be able to read easily the literatures. And yet every University should teach the masterpieces of the world's literature in a manner accessible to ^{all} students.

If Indiana University were to establish such a chair I should be glad to be considered an applicant for it. ~~Whether~~ If either of the above possibilities strikes you favorably I should consider it a great favor to have it mentioned to the Board.

I take the liberty of stating the matter thus plainly because you encouraged me in our late conversation to state freely my plans and wishes.

The question is with me to no important extent a salary question; but a question of securing a position where I ~~can~~ will have entire freedom to do the work I can do best and which will bring me greatest growth.

(2)

If anything like my appointment to a chair of General Literature should be intended it would be of great importance for me to direct my studies ~~in~~ with that in mind next year; otherwise I shall work for a position somewhere in English Literature.

I sincerely hope that I may remain connected or ~~renew~~ in a short time my connection with Indiana University.

Very truly yours

Edward H. Gregg