

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

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FOLDER NO.

SCANNED

JAMES J. HILL PAPERS

PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER

[Feb. 1893]

Not reply made

An Overture.

I, the undersigned, Pastor and Professor in Theology, have for more than ten years, worked for living Christianity in the United States of America, and have, at the same time, labored for pure and good morals, and an upright and irreproachable conduct in civil life.

I will here look aside from Christianity as a saving power for the fallen man through time and eternity, and will here merely state that, according to my view, during all these ten years, I have labored to be a blessing unto these United States of America in a mere civil and human respect. It is my conviction that a nation without religion (without Christianity) is doomed to death and destruction, to spiritual corruption. But if the great multitude of immigrants, as a whole shall have any religion (Scandinavians included, to which I, as a Dane, belong) they must temporarily receive it in their own tongue, as this, until the English language is mastered, is the only one, in which Divine truth can be communicated to them.

More than ten years have elapsed since I came here. Out of private means I have sacrificed many thousand dollars for the Evangelical mission that I have carried on. My wife possesses some property - although no great amount in the old country. From there I have derived the money that I have used here.

Most of the time I have provided for my own sustenance. During more than eight years I have supported young men, Norwegians and Danes, who have been preparing themselves for the Gospel service. During the last three years

I have all alone, directed and supported a theological school, "The Evangelical Free-Church Seminary of Chicago," which has cost me out of my private means several thousand dollars. For something more than two years I have published a religious paper, "The Shepherd's Voice," (in Scandinavian "Hyrdrosten"). During this time it has gained more than two thousand subscribers. But as it is wonderful cheap, on account of poor people, it has also cost me thousands of dollars. During all this time I have implored God and men for assistance - but hitherto mostly in vain.

My self-denying and self-sacrificing wife has, during the last two or three years, gone about in Chicago month after month, time and time again - with prayer in her heart, oftentimes with tears in her eyes. She has appealed to the wealthy Christians and noble-minded benefactors of the city. Till now, it seems, she knows not where to go for help. What Scandinavians and Americans hitherto have sacrificed has only been like drops in the ocean in proportion to what is needed.

If the Lord does not send help in the near future, I myself and the Evangelical mission, for which I labor, must face ruin.

On the 1st of March this year I am obliged to move from 504 Fulton St., Chicago, where I have resided for several years, and where I have directed a theological seminary. If I do not get help from God and men I must break up, stop my work and dissolve the seminary (with its sixteen participants in the instruction) three months before the close of the regular

time of the study.

I need a great help. Besides what I have mentioned here, I and my congregation want church edifice of our own. Heretofore we have had to be content with renting an American church for our Divine services - during a long the Tabernacle Church on the corner of West Indiana and North Morgan Streets, where I preach at present to a large number of hearers.

I need at least \$50,000 in order to retrieve the Scandinavian Evangelical mission, for which I labor, and bring it upon a good and joyful track. These lines are another outcry, the last one, to the rich people of Chicago, and of North America at large, Christians or non-Christians, that have a heart for religion as a blessing to nations.

This is my plea to you, rich people: Stretch out your helping hand for the support of a good cause before it is too late!

P. C. Trandberg,
Evangelical Pastor and Professor in Theology.

504. Fulton Str.
Chicago. Illinois.

February, 1893.

We, the undersigned, trustees for The Evangelical Free-Church Seminary of Chicago (incorporated December 7th, 1891), hereby declare that we consider P. C. Trandberg's efforts in maintaining the seminary out of his own private funds as a wonderful charity, his endeavors in behalf of poor young men seeking an education unprecedented; and we hope that he will receive the aid he now asks and so richly deserves.

We second with a sincere heart this application from him to wealthy and benevolent men in or outside of Chicago. We are convinced that men or women to whom God gave a superabundance of earthly riches, support a good and beneficial cause, if they stretch out a helping hand with rich gifts to the mission in question.

Chicago. February, 1893.

J. M. C. M. D.

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