

Parsonage,
First Presbyterian Church,
Nyack, N. Y.

Ms. B. 106 n. 1394.

Dear Bro. Belden;--

Procrastination is my lifelong foe yet companion; but serves a man driven to such an amount of work that he is obliged to keep this wretched servant in his company. Yours of Dec. has waited because I have been, was on its receipt, hurrying to its finish another Chinese story. Because a firm expected it, I put everything else off. Yet that story is not out of my hands. Mrs. Lavis' illness, pastoral duties, and, not least, nor lamented, a precious work of grace in church and village have made writing thirdary if not tenthary. Hence delay in all letters not calling for immediate responses.

Let me thank you for pad of mission paper. It came in due time, and proves far better than previous paper. I did not write Dr. Gracey, because so busy, for other kind. May later, but what I have may prove sufficient until season for new comes.

The name of that Somerville pastor, (of 1st. Reformed church), was John S. Vredenberg. While I wrote up that story a number of years ago, and it was published in the Christian Weekly, dead several years ago, it will be no harm to publish it again. Go ahead: it is worth repeating, and can only do good. The Christian Weekly may not have been the paper, but I think it was. I cannot, among such a mass of articles, find it, so cannot verify my belief. The same story is often published again and again, and, in different periodicals, reaches different readers.

I am sorry that you have suffered from the grip. Mrs. Lavis has had three attacks, last very severe, since winter began. She is now around, but weak and slowly gaining. Her health, improved in Nyack air, is far from good; and it is to be feared that she must go farther from the coast if she ever becomes strong again. Yet the improvement is encouraging even here.

We find Nyack most delightful, and people thus far seem worthy the place. My church, not large but financially strong, and said to contain the brains of the town. I am not sure as to that, but find some brainy people; among them I think families of at least four judges.

We have held for several weeks a Baptist reformed evangelistic nightly service in the reformed church, with good results from spiritual standpoint, and eminently so from that of interdenominational work. Upwards of fifty have given evidence thus far of a desire to live Chris-

tian lives. That, however, does not include all who have really started lately. Many have told their individual pastors, who have neither risen for prayer nor signed cards. The Nyack people say such meetings have never before been held here. Surely it has made the outside world wonder and shut its mouth.

Looking again at yours, I see that I did not answer all inquiries about Mr. Vredenberg. He was pastor about 21 years. Somerville N. J. was the town.

By the way, Dr. Clark and I have corresponded regarding Clifton Springs, and telling missionaries about forming C. E. societies among converts. He may be with us for a day to answer questions, and, if we wish, to make an address. I think it will be a good thing to have him present, not by invitation but as representing the C. E. organization. He may help that, while he helps missionary work, and both will probably help the I. M. U. Do you know Rev. Ross Taylor, son of Bishop of Africa? His home is Nyack, he being editor of African paper, and Sec. of that mission. I invited him and wife to be at next I. M. U. He was missionary a short time in Africa, and can tell much about that mission. He gave me help on paper read before pastors of N. Y. City recently. I have met several men and women whom I hope to get to next gathering, and who will be additions to it. I unfortunately have had no time to think of anything for circular or yet program. Dr. Gracey wanted to know about Geo. Smith. He returned to Gt. Britain some months ago. By the way, his name only would be of service, not his speaking, according to good judges. He was anything but a good speaker, when he addressed New Brunswick Theo. Sem.

A year ago you wrote that you had suggested my name to Grace church Oswego. Have they called a pastor? If not can you get me a chance to supply that or Ist. church of which Charles Burrows was pastor? I do not wish to preach as a candidate, but would like to commend my younger brother, pastor at Bound Brook Pres. ch., who has been advised by physicians to go farther from coast. If I might supply, I could commend him; for I don't care to ask one, a stranger to him, to do it.

How are you getting along? Is your health in workable order? Do you write much?

By the way, I probably can get Rev. T. L. Gulick, my classmate, and schoolmate of Queen Lill. and Pres. Lolo, to attend I. M. U. He was born in Hawaii, lately pastor there, formerly missionary to Spain, where they tried to shoot him. He is worth getting. May settle here. Will be good I. M. U. permanent man, I think.

With warm regards to you yours and all friends,
heartily yours,

J. A. Davis.