

# Kansas Memory



## Temperance history correspondence

### Section 14, Pages 391 - 420

This correspondence was sent and received by Kansas State Temperance Union secretaries T.E. Stephens, A.D. Wilcox, and J.E. Everett. Each exchanged letters with religious leaders across the state, including Rev. H.G. Fraser from Ottawa, Rev. C.C. Brown of Tonganoxie, Rev. J.M. Leonard of Iola, Rev. R.A. Bolton of Junction City, Rev. James Kerr of Scandia, Rev. J.K. Miller of Manhattan, Rev. A.W. Cummings of Canton, Rev. John A. Holmes of Harper, Rev. W.H. Eaton of Cherryvale, Rev. H.H. Bowen of Glen Elder, and Rev. Fred Grey of Alton. Organizations involved in the temperance movement include the Kansas State Temperance Union (KSTU), the Twentieth Century Total Abstinence Union (TCTAU), the Anti-Cigarette League, the American Anti-Saloon League (AASL), the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and others. This collection also includes local subscription lists for those supporting the Kansas State Temperance Union in Phillipsburg, Lakin, LeRoy, Cimarron, Dodge City, Liberal, Greensburg, Cunningham, Sedgwick, Mount Hope and Colwich. Other correspondents include attorney John Wiswell in Columbus, Elmer Lawrence, publisher of The Sunbeam, a weekly Christian journal in Galena, and several members of the Independent Order of Good Templars, including George F. Fullinwider of El Dorado, S.S. Jackson of Scranton, and Mrs. Kate A. Billings of Clyde. Much of the correspondence concerns efforts to advance anti-liquor agendas in local, state, and national politics. Considerable correspondence with organizations in other states is included. Although Kansas was the first state to adopt a constitutional amendment prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors in 1880, the law was largely unenforced.

Date: 1858-1902, bulk 1900-1902

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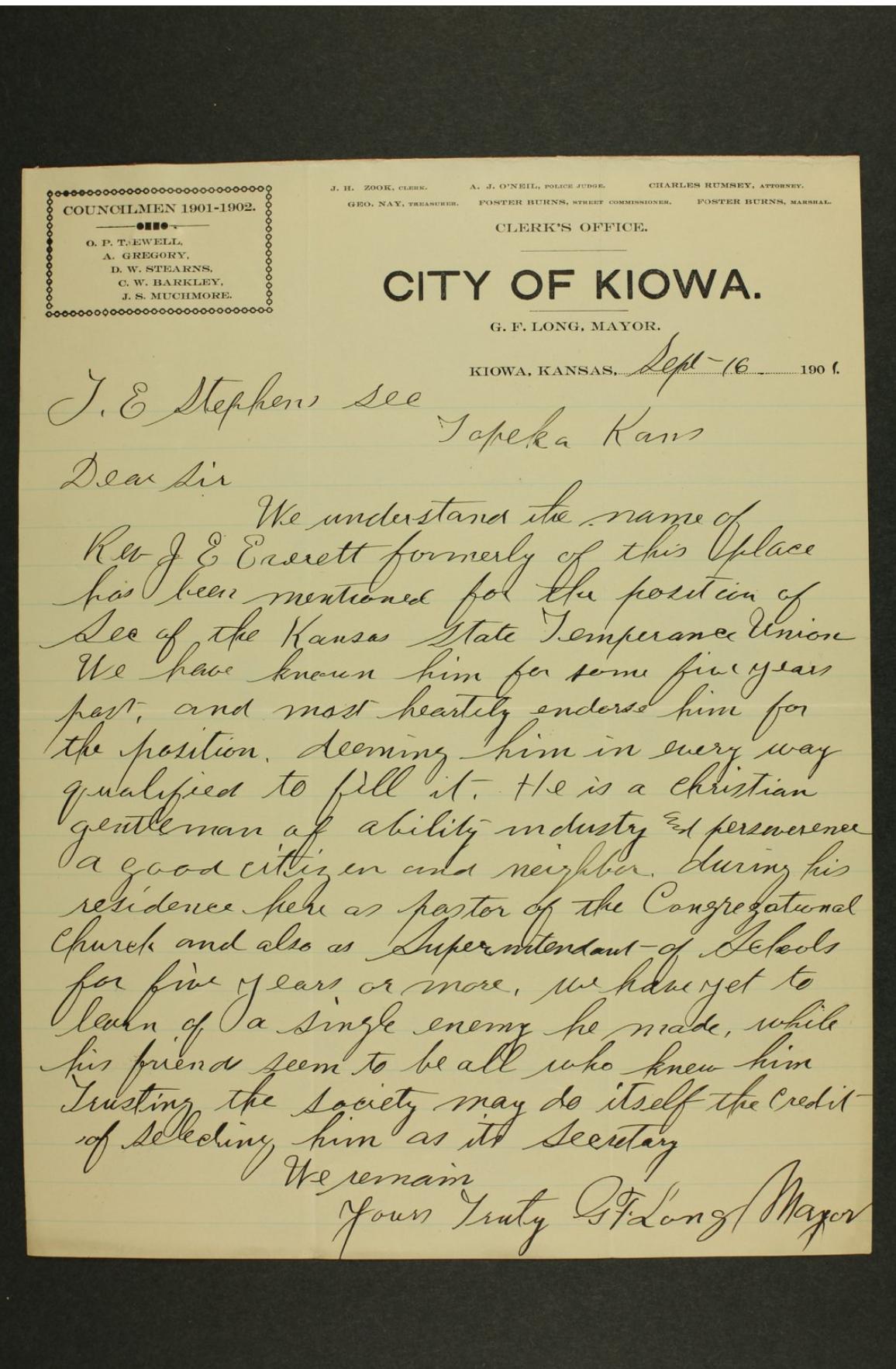
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HISTORICAL  
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Extract from a letter received from Rev. Robert McDowell, President Federation of Good Citizens' Leagues, dated at Girard, Kansas, July 23, 1901.

"His method of sending reports is also strangely lax and unsatisfactory, as for example, I very quietly discussed the plan which I thought should be followed, in justice to himself, the leagues organized and to the County executive Committee; and thinking that a suggestion would be sufficient I suggested the following course to be followed in Crawford Co.; viz., that when he entered a town or community and organized a league that he place it upon a working basis, turn over to the secretary of such league a report of all subscriptions taken, the amount of money collected, the amount remaining unpaid, making provision for its collection, and to give the executive committee a similar report with the names of the officers of such society so that we could place ourselves in touch with the same. Such plans have been ignored and we are in possession of a lot of signed cards which it will be difficult to handle except that some one goes over the same ground and brings these leagues down to a workable basis. Even the cards as reported do not represent all work done; he has left the County, gone to Fort Scott or to Bourbon Co. and has not yet rendered us his full report."

Extracts from a letter received from one of the officers of the Federation in southeastern Kansas, dated September 10, 1901.

"Fraser's work down here seems to have pretty nearly ruined us in every county that he touched, and we cannot get over it. He came and took all the cash that he collected, never made any reports while he was in the county, and in each case claimed a small balance."

"If when he had organized a league, he had arranged for collectors, and the work had ~~underwritten~~ what had been expected of them we would have gotten money for the work without going over the ground again.

"The fact that he took all the money that he collected has soured the people and leaves us really in a worse condition than if we were to take up the work from the start; that is this is the way that the matter has presented itself to me.

"From the experience that we have had since he left, he has thrown a cloud of doubt and disappointment upon the entire work, and reports from Crawford County seem to harmonize with the results in this county."

Pittsburg, Ks., Sept. 14, 1901.

Officers State Temperance Union,  
703 Jackson St., Topeka, Ks.  
Gentlemen:

Your letter of the 9th to Mr. Wiswall concerning Mr. Fraser's relation to our organization has been referred to me for reply. At the regular meeting of our Executive Committee in Columbus, Aug. 6th, the following motion was passed: "That the Federation dispense with Mr. Fraser's services as an organizer." I was instructed to write Mr. Fraser of this action and did so, and the opening words of that gentleman's letter in reply, (which I have on file) are as follows: "Your letter of Aug. 8 to hand. In reply would say that at no time have I asked or wished to enter their employ and although requested by the President of the Federation to enter their services gave no promise that I would do so." Again he says, "had decided that I would not accept his offer and made other arrangements for work some days before your meeting of Aug. 6th as I can show. So that your dispensing with the services of one never in your employ is amusing."

If the action of the Federation in dispensing with Mr. Fraser's services is amusing to him, what shall we say of his conduct in "advertising himself by signed statements through the press as the state lecturer of that organization" after having written the letter from which I have quoted?

It seems to me, gentlemen, that no further comment is necessary. You are at liberty to use this letter or the facts contained therein in any way you may deem best for the cause either with or without my signature.

Very truly, AROLD B. WRIGHT.

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Onaga, Kans. SEP 16 1901

Dear Sir

It affords me a great deal of pleasure to recommend to you my friend Rev J E Everett who has been Pastor of the Congregational Church here for the last two or three years & is a Gentleman in the Pulpit & out of it & any favors you can bestow on him will be duly appreciated

Yours truly,  
A. McClellan P.M.

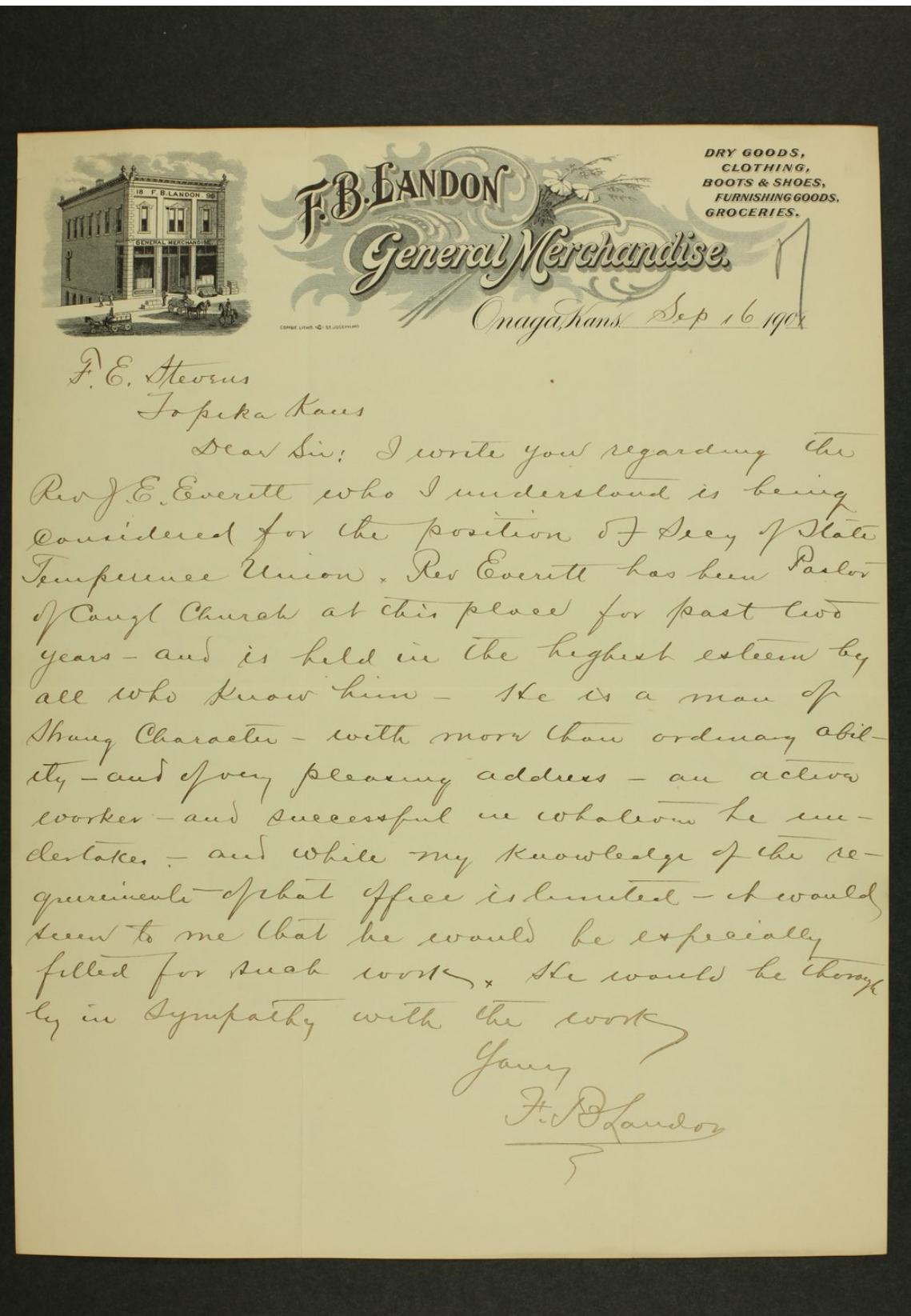
Mr T. E. Stephens  
Topeka  
KS

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## Temperance history correspondence

President, Rev. Frank Fox, Kansas City      1st Vice-President, Rev. C. L. Milton, Fort Scott      2d Vice-President, Prof. Otto W. Newby, Sterling  
Secretary, Dr. G. A. Crise, Manhattan      Treasurer, Geo. H. Gillies, 603 Kansas Avenue, Topeka

\*SUPERINTENDENTS  
Juniors—Miss Addie Mains, Oskaloosa  
Missions—  
Good Citizenship—E. R. Simon, Topeka  
Tenth Legion—A. R. Comstock, McLouth  
Press Sec'y, Rev. S. W. Nay, Leavenworth

DIRECTORS  
Rev. W. A. Sprague, Kansas City  
Rev. F. W. Emerson,  
418 Sixth Ave. West, Topeka  
Rev. A. M. Reitzel, Hutchinson

B KANSAS

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR UNION

NEXT STATE CONVENTION, LEAVENWORTH, 1902

THE KANSAS ENDEAVORER—Official Organ of Kansas C. E. Union  
F. W. Emerson, editor. Subscription, 50c a year, payable in advance

World's Christian Endeavor Union  
Vice-President for Kansas, C. R. Boyd, Kansas City

wichita  
TOPEKA, KANSAS, 9/17/1901

Dear Bro Stevens,

We have had two good street meetings. The prospect is that we will have to continue there. The churches will not open their doors to us. The Central Christian, the 1<sup>st</sup> M. E., and the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist have either refused or made such stringent terms that we could not meet them. Conditions here are deplorable. There is no trouble of any moment among the Temperance people but they are discouraged and need help. Wichita can never fight her.

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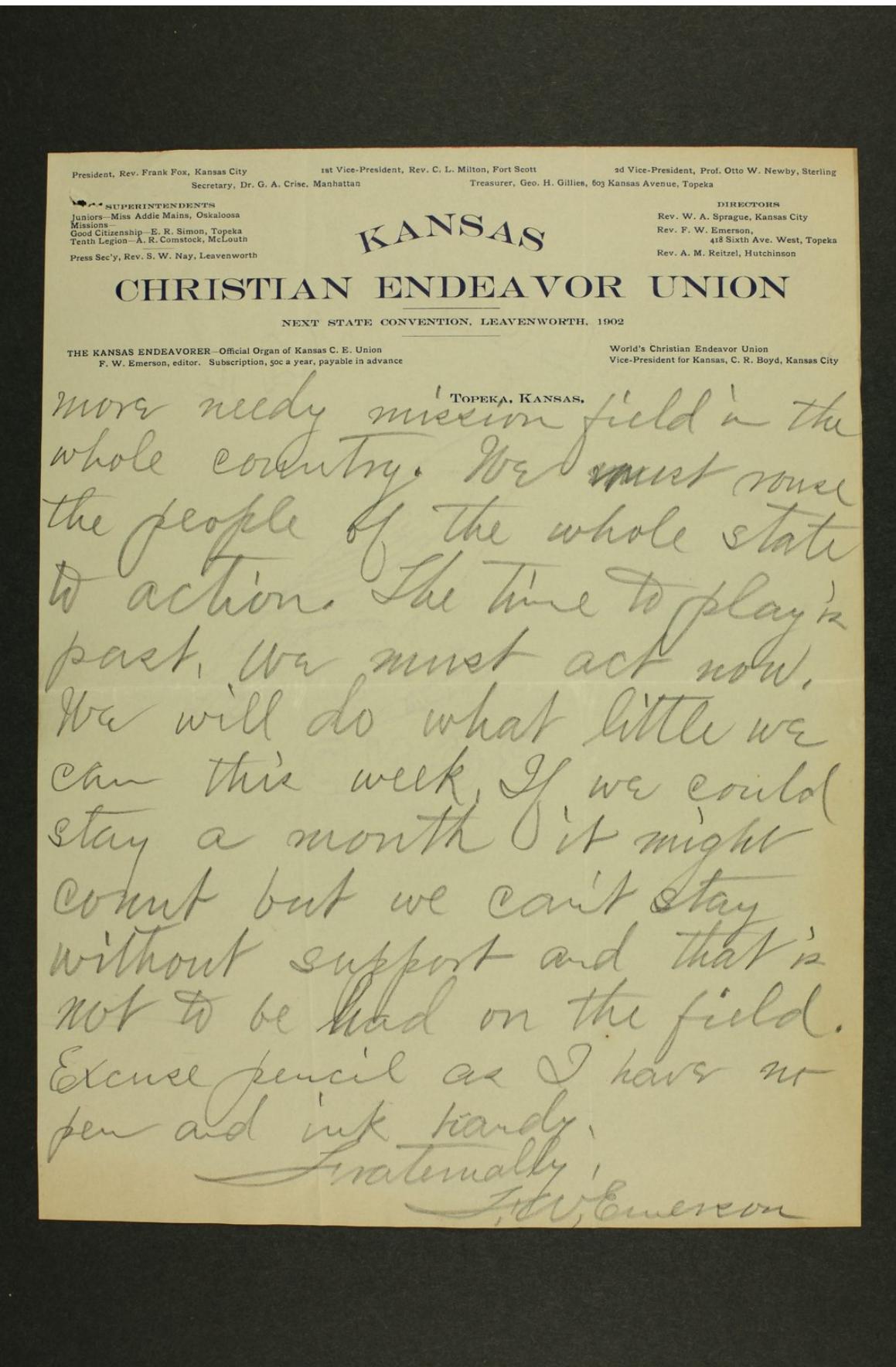
TOPEKA, KANSAS.  
battle alone. She must have  
outside help. The press is in  
the hands of liquor supporters.  
Immorality is overrunning the whole  
city. The churches are cowed  
and as a leading pastor said  
to me yesterday, the preachers  
have been "slapped to sleep"  
and dare not open their  
mouths. The picture is a  
terrible one but cannot be  
painted in too dark colors.  
It is a modern Sodom. An  
American Nineveh. I know of no

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A. Drumm, Pres.      C. P. T. Ewell, V. Pres.      J. L. Ellis Cashier      A. Johnston, Asst. Cashier

### Bank of Kiowa.

Kiowa, Kans. September 17th, 1901

T. E. Stephens, Secy.,

Topeka, Kas.

Dear Sir:-

Rev. J. E. Everett informs me that he is a candidate before your board for the position of Secretary. If my voice can possibly have any weight in this matter it would surely be cast for Mr. Everett for I cannot conceive of a more perfect Christian gentlemen, a man who wins the love and admiration of all with whom he comes in contact, a man of wonderful resources. During his stay here we found him up to every requirement as minister of the Gospel, superintendent of our public school, and a strong leader in our local temperance work, and I will say that in a great measure the seed sown by him here is now ripening, the fruit of which a town where for fifteen years saloons were tolerated we now have none.

I feel that to give Barber and Harper Counties a voice in your selection Mr. Everett would be their unanimous choice for this position.

Yours truly,

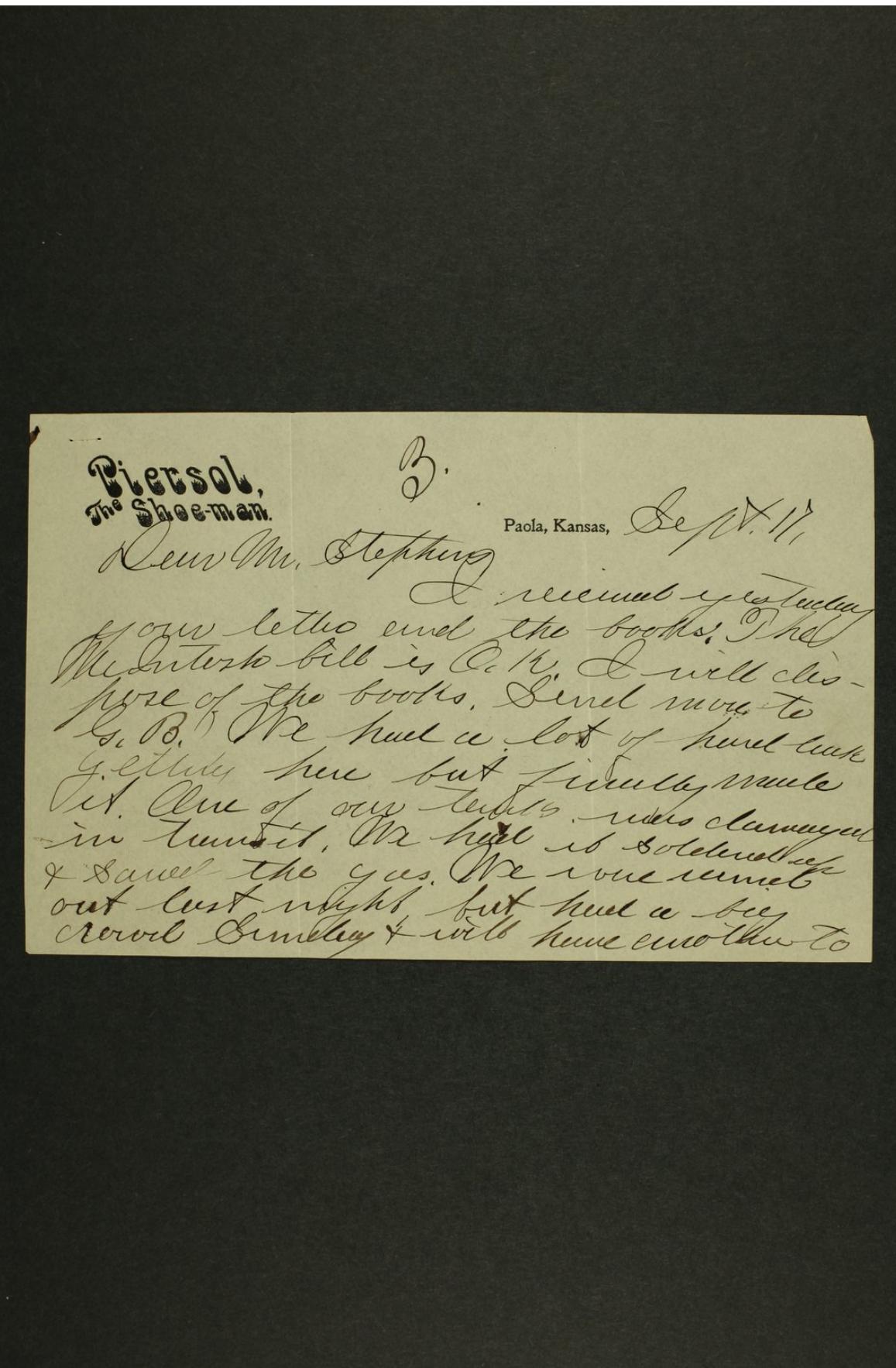
D. P. G. Ewell

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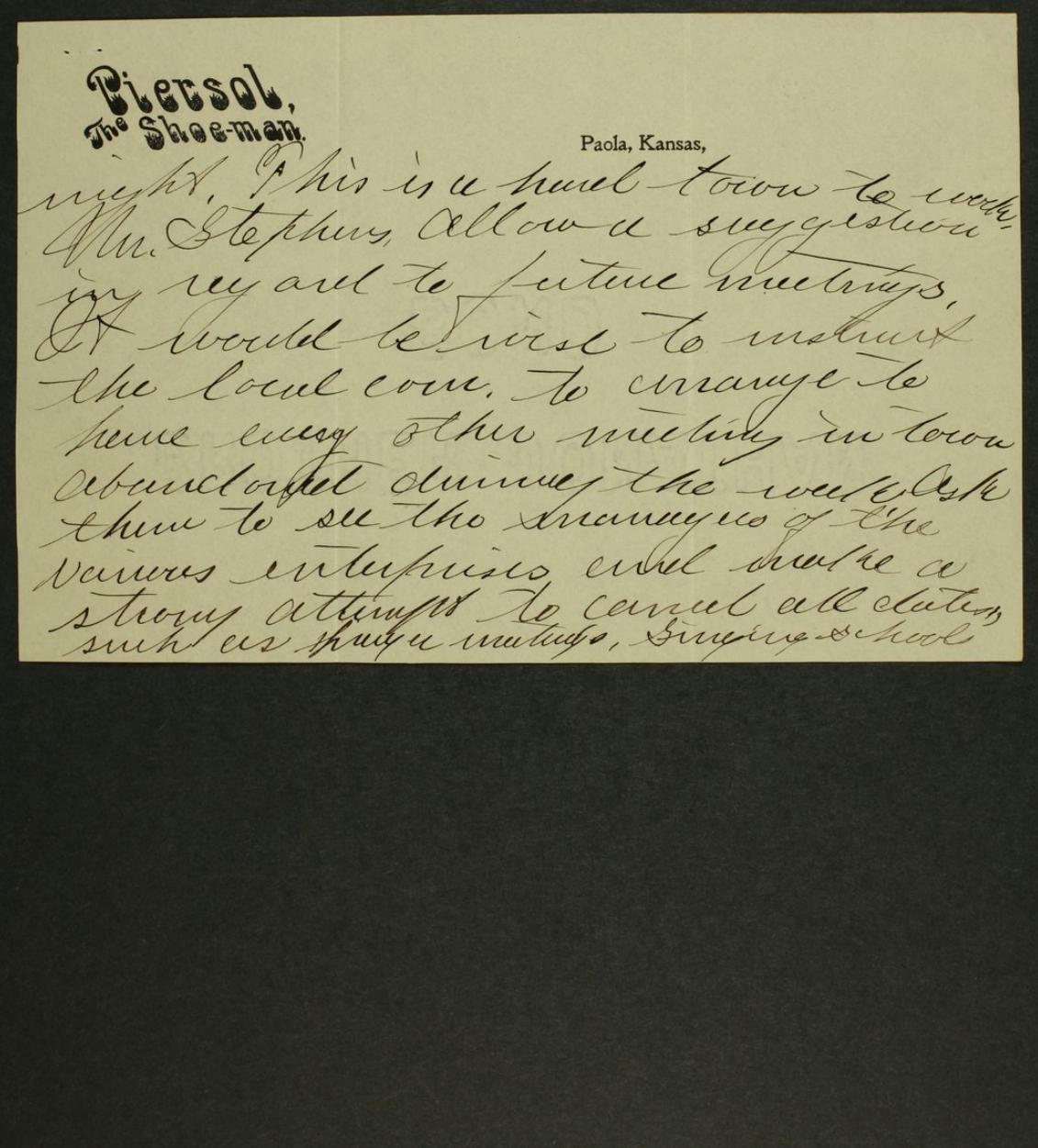


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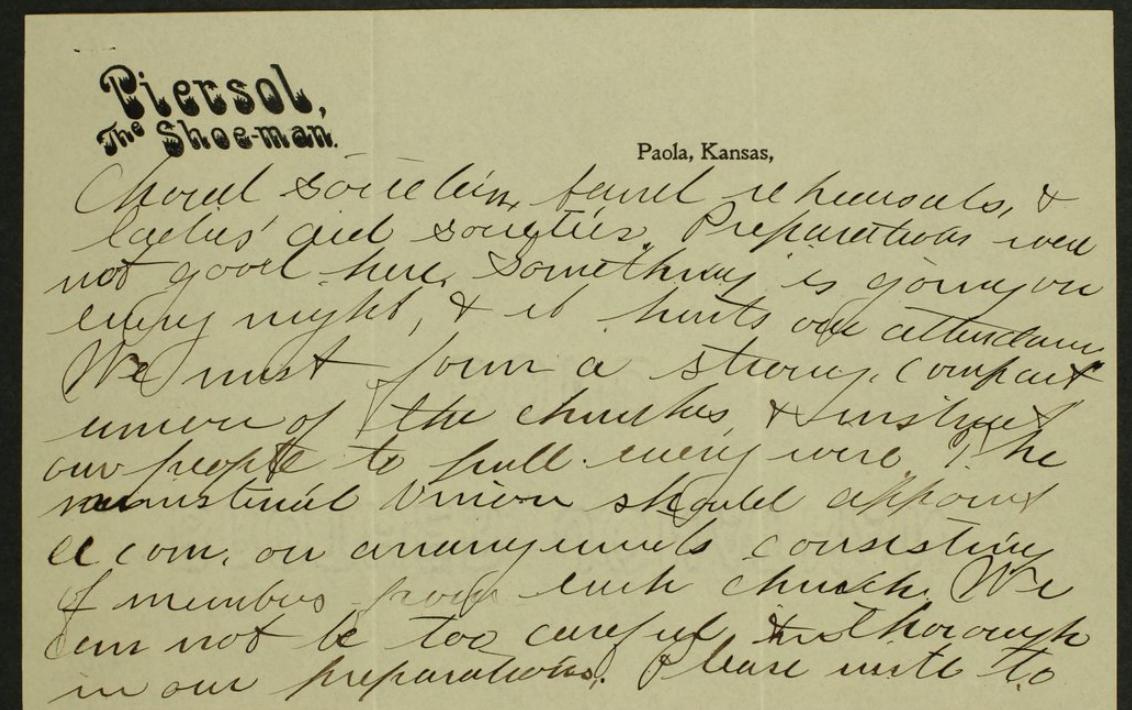


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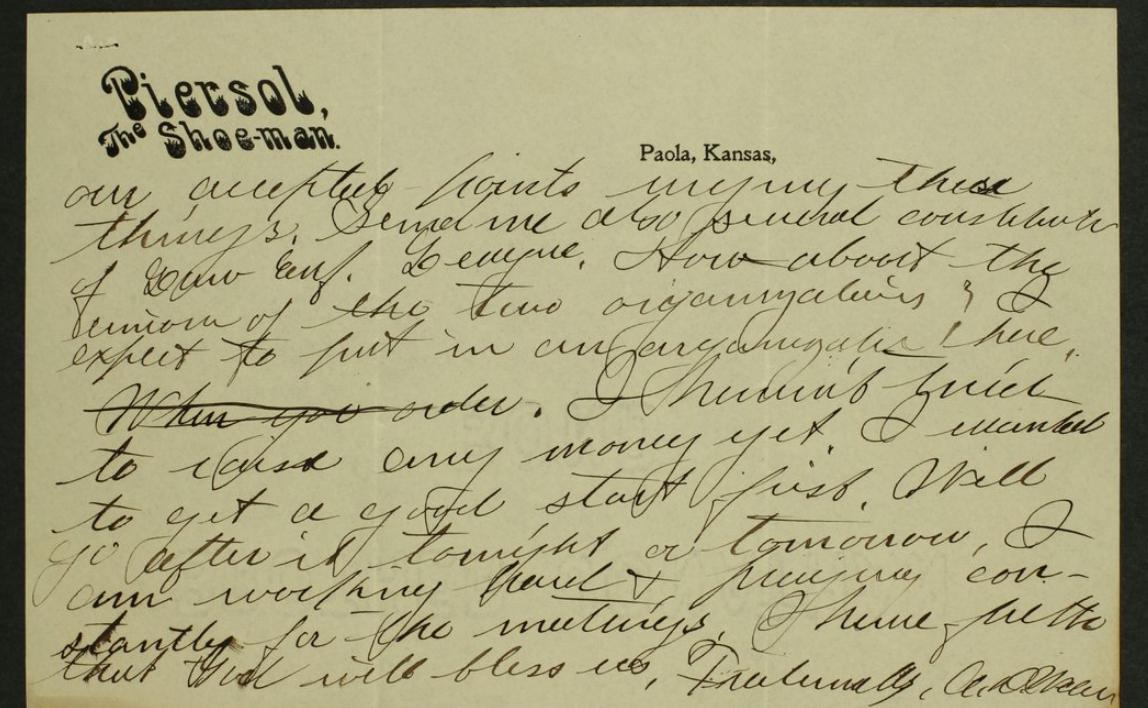


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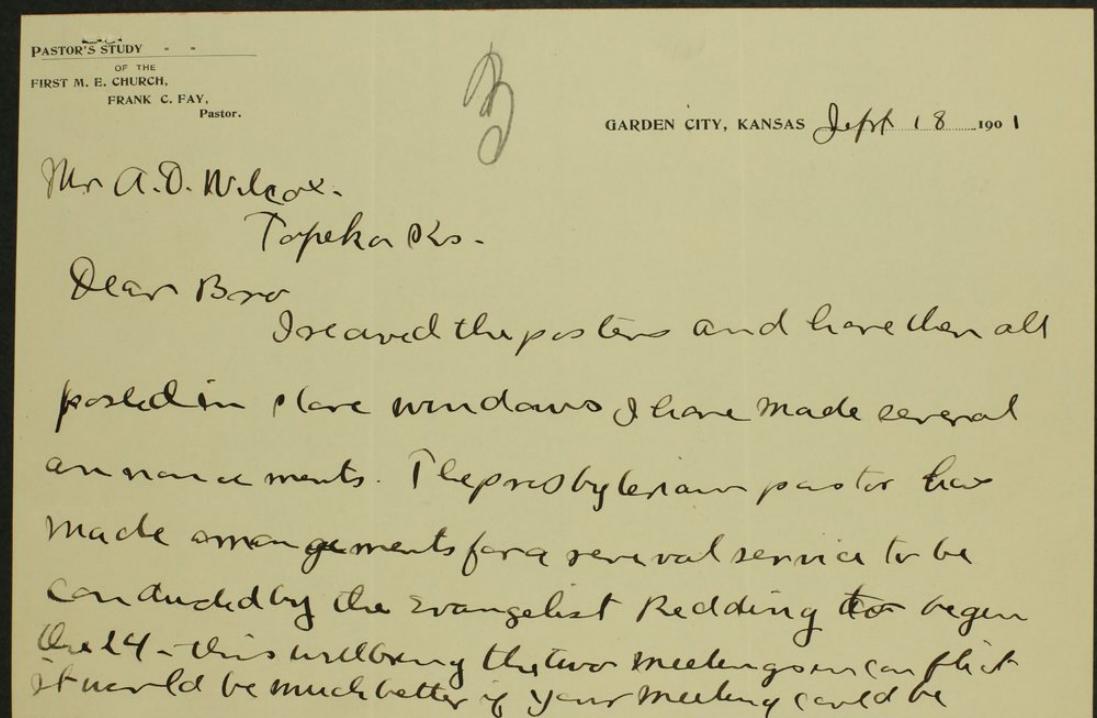


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PASTOR'S STUDY  
OF THE  
FIRST M. E. CHURCH,  
FRANK C. FAY,  
Pastor.

GARDEN CITY, KANSAS ..... 190

postponed until Oct 6. Also the  
Presbyterian pastor at Dodge City has  
expressed a wish that their meeting could  
be made the 29 rather than Oct 6 -  
if you can make this a change it perhaps would  
be better if not we will go right ahead  
and have it for all that it is worth.

May I hear from you by return mail.

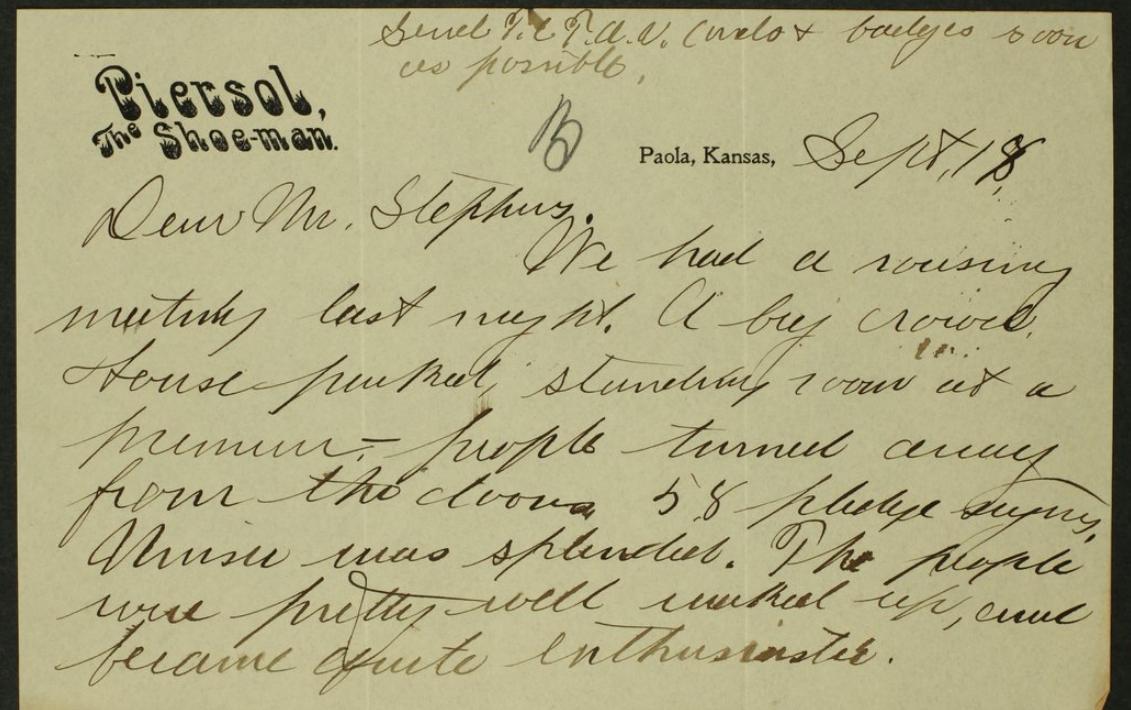
Yours sincerely Frank C. Fay

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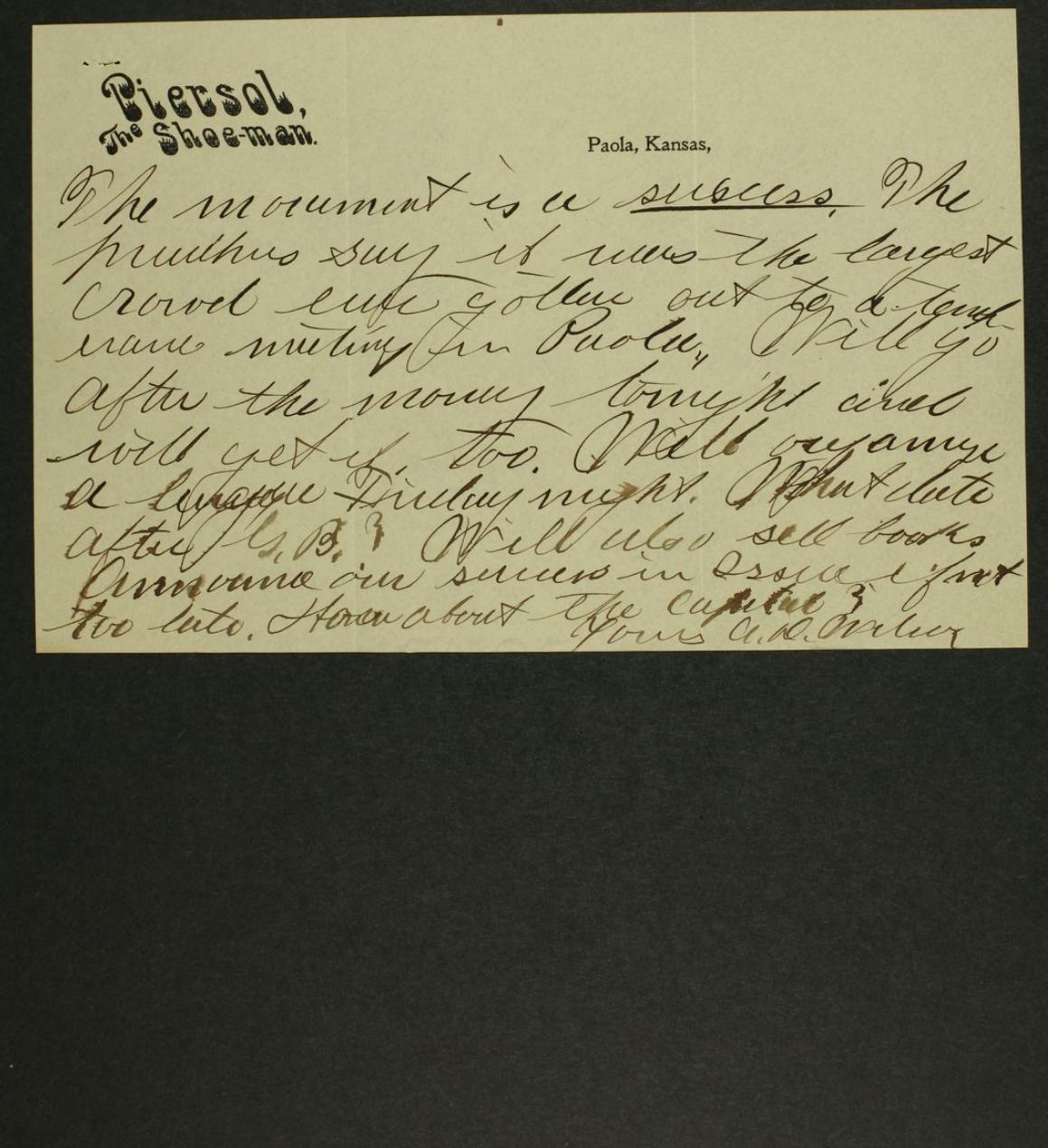


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Onaga, Kan., Sept 18, 1901. —

Mr. J. E. Stephens,

My Dear Sir:

I revealed my candidacy for the Secretanship to a few friends on my return from Topeka, and think it probable that you have by this time received a few letters recommending me for the position. I still hope strongly that I may have an opportunity to "try it." And by the way, I have been thinking of your criticism of that expression, and I must say that it seems to me that as a true man, I could hardly speak in any other way. It is right for us to regard the future with modesty. All we can do is to do our best. We cannot with assurance prophesy results. It is a splendid thing for one to be able to overcome difficulties. It is also good for one to have sense enough to recognize an insurmountable wall or a deadly precipice before him.厄运 may come to the wayfarer along life's path. We are always going forth into the future, "trying" the way. If that be treason — make the most of it! — And I may add that I saw in last night's "Star" an interview with

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Mr. F.D. Coburn, on the question of his possible appointment as Secretary of Agriculture in case Roosevelt makes a change. Coburn is reported as saying that in case a change were made, he "would like to make a try at it."

With this brief criticism of your criticism, I may pass on to say that I have been also thinking about your proposed change, and it appeals to me more strongly the more I think of it.

Questions regarding the work often arise in my mind, but nothing that need be answered now. If I should be appointed, I would want to post myself on methods and details as quickly as possible.

I shall of course be interested to learn, as soon as may be, the committee's decision. At present my plans are in suspense, and must be until I learn how this matter is settled.

Most sincerely yours,

J.E. Everett

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A

Onaga, Kan. Sept 20, 1901.

My Dear Mr. Stephens:

Yours of the 19<sup>th</sup> is at hand. Thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending me Mr. Wilcox's letter.

Regarding the decision of the Committee as to the Secretaryship, I feel that Providence will direct. I realize the seriousness of the work and its greatness. The thought of it sobering me. Perhaps it ought to frighten me. It rather awes and strengthens my purpose and steadies my nerve. The practical value of the work, the noble ends in view, appeal to me strongly, and inspire my desire to be selected for the position. On the other hand, I recognize the greatness and the difficulties of the work and my strong desire to engage in it is qualified by the higher consideration that not my desire but the prosperity of the cause is the chief thing. I feel that I ought hardly to think of my desire in the matter at all. I believe I never was brought to a fork in the road where I felt more deeply the spirit of "They will be done," than I do now. Whatever is best I am disposed to accept readily, and I am disposed, too, to accept the decision of the Committee as an indication of

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What is best, While I strongly hope and desire that this decision may be favorable to me, if it should not be, I would feel that all were for the best,

Most sincerely yours.  
J.E. Everett

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A

Address  
142  
Rev. P. G. Moore Sept 21

Dear Bro.

We will not be able  
to have our Esauishing next week,  
as our trial was continued until  
next Friday. We tried our last  
two. He was found guilty as charged  
on two counts was sentenced to jail  
for 60 days and a fine of \$200.  
The execution of judgment was stayed  
for ten days in which he is to arrange  
his business to leave the state & return  
no more. Thus we will clear the  
bottom of him. This is his first  
offense and he says he will never  
sell again. He can live only a  
short time and we would not insist  
on his going to jail.

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The other one is an old offender  
and we expect to have no mercy  
on him we have a strong case  
against him and will jail him not  
less than three months and perhaps  
six. We got 50 bottles of beer and  
two jugs of whisky from the first  
trial and will get about this much  
from the next one.

Adeline is now free from foists  
and we propose to keep it such.  
The people are respecting the whisky  
men are swearing. I have been  
compelled to make this a personal  
fight though the sentiment of the  
town is with me. The novelty  
of this trial was that it was held  
in the lecture room of our church where  
I have my study as no other place

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could be secured to accommodate the people. Thus the joints were not only closed by the preacher but the pastor's study became the courtroom where they were tried over.

I will write you later as to the time we will celebrate. I am very thankful to you for securing us a speaker and if the nights do not remain so cool we will want him so soon as we get possession of the remainder of the stuff.

You may publish our doings here as you please only do not mention any personal letter from me.

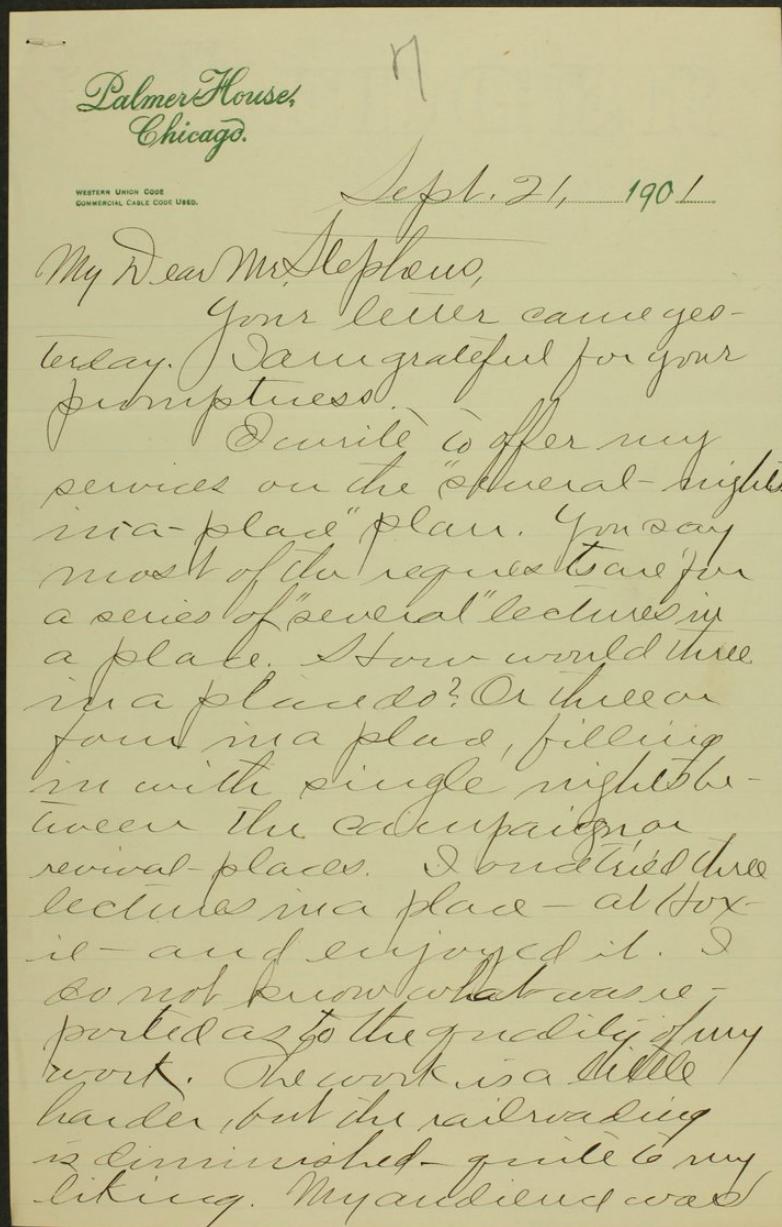
I wish you would send a notice of it to the Capital & Journal. As Adair has had quite a fine reputation we would like to redeem it. J.H. Purdee

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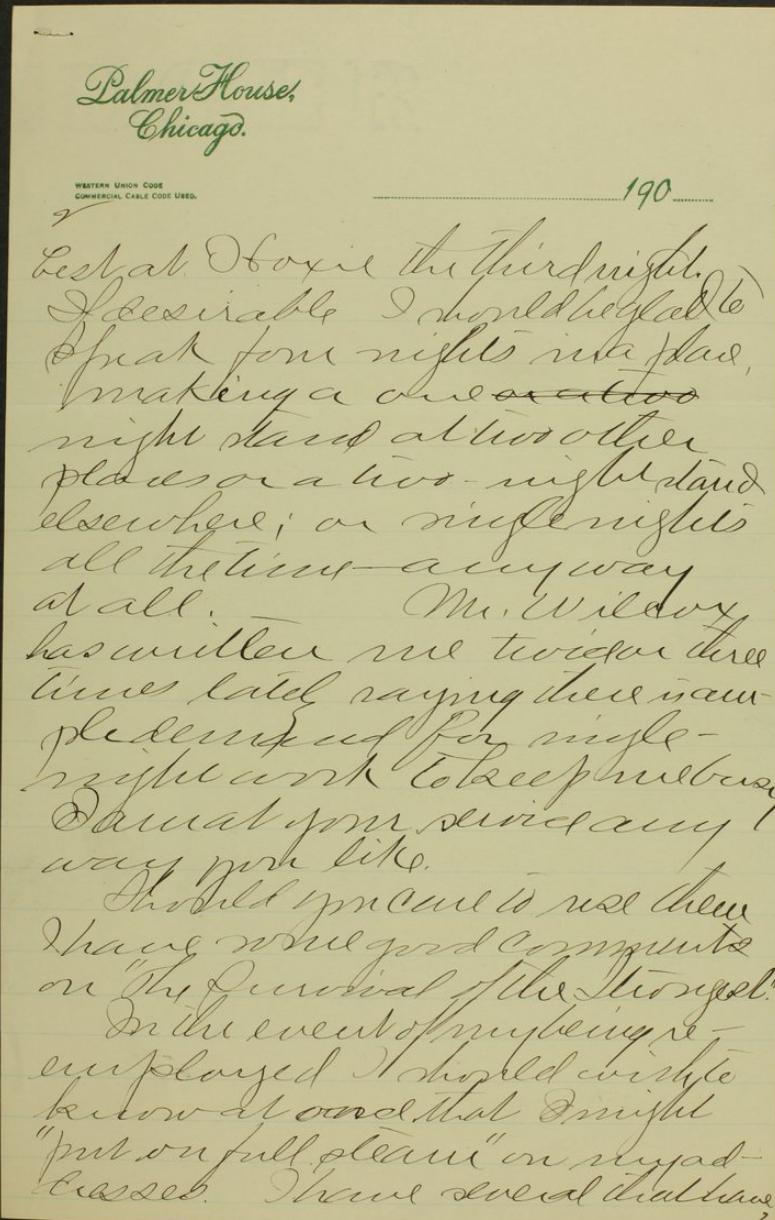


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Palmer House,  
Chicago.

WESTERN UNION CODE  
COMMERCIAL CABLE CODE USED.

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3 - to use one of Hawthorne's expressions, before "growing in my mind" for a considerable time. But now working on them somewhat, in view of the possibility of my returning.

The Board of Education passed two new, sweeping, revolutionary rules lately; the first that ~~that~~ no class in the High School should be organized and taught for fewer than twelve pupils; another, that all H.S. teachers shall teach six periods per day. This being an increase needed, twenty-eight old teachers becoming supernumeraries, and new ones are made superlatively superfluous. I was appointed, and stood one day - the first day, but was found not the needed, as were three old teachers in the same scholastic which I was appointed.

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Palmer House,  
Chicago.

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COMMERCIAL CABLE CODE USED.

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I seem to be in favor as a candidate for place in Mich. and in Wis., but these places will fizz if I have nothing to say.

Would you be willing to go with me?

M. Wilcox assured me work would be assigned me in the N.E., N., and W. part of the State in the event of my return. This would suit me best since one of my lectures "The Survival" is complete already for those localities, not having been used there.

What kind of arrangements are to be made in the matter of remuneration, collections, &c. Probable first date to come?

I trust Mrs. Stephen will have a pleasant visit. Speak of me

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Palmer House,  
Chicago.

WESTERN UNION CODE  
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Kindly send your folks at home. Dear Frank - I'm so glad he can return and does not have to work his head off for trillions more. He's easily one of the noblest young fellows Kansas has yet produced.

Speak of me kindly & Miss Robertson - please.

I am not boarding at the Palmer House. Really do not like this stationery. I am waiting on some friends who are taking a Trunk bath. While they are having a real hot time, I am trying to engage to "save the country".

My kindred and most painful regard to the members of the Co., whether I return to Kansas or not.

Dear glad you are serving the Union. Please send me a "Prohibition in Kansas" your book at once. I will promptly return.

Most cordially,

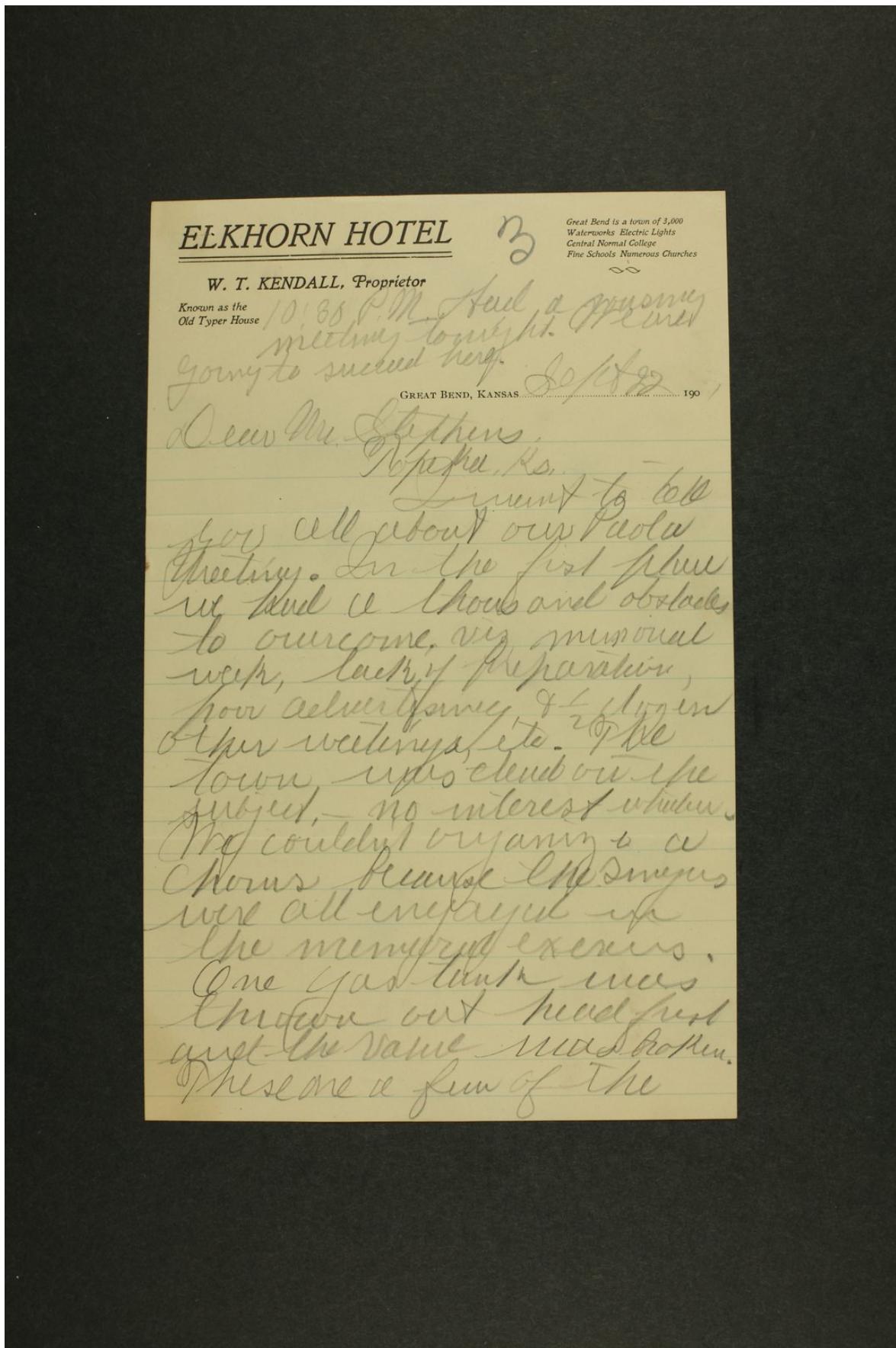
George R. Kirkpatrick.  
I presume Mr. Wilcox is now on the road?

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