

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

Section 5, Pages 121 - 150

Charles M. Sheldon (1857-1946) served as minister of the Central Congregational Church in Topeka, Kansas from 1889 to 1920. He was also an author of the international best seller, *In His Steps*, which was published in 1897. A series of correspondence, presented here, is arranged in chronological order. A complete description of the entire collection is available through a link below. The correspondence consists of letters, postcards, cards, one notebook containing letters and newspaper clippings, and assorted personal items such as his self-portrait drawings. The majority of the correspondence consists of handwritten and typed letters to and from individuals, members or groups related to the Central Congregational Church, and organizations associated with his lifelong activities as a pastor and author, including Theo Peers, Ethel Peers, Anna Heartburg, Dorothy Heartburg, Helen T. Capps, Lida R. Hardy, May Flickinger, Charles Warren Helsley, Luther D. Whittemore, Hamilton Holt, Robert Thomson Jr., Norman J. Rimes, Lloyd George, James Wise, Arthur Capper, Michael I. Pupin, Alf M. Landon, Roy B. Guild, Arthur E. Hertzler, Samuel J. Crumbine, Wilbert E. Dull, M. de Arrude Camargo, Frank J. Warren, Beatrice Hoover, Samuel C. Spalding, H. T. Chase, Bishop Wise, The Emporia Gazette, Green Gables (the Dr. Benjamin F. Bailey Sanatorium), The Atlantic Monthly, The World's Christian Endeavor Union, Plymouth Congregational Church, University of Illinois at Urbana Department of Physics, Abraham S. Hoyo, Harry Emerson Fosdick, International College in Turkey, Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, Rollins College in Florida, The Topeka City Commission, Students' Christian Association of South Africa, Crosset & Dunlap Inc. Publishers in New York, Christian Herald Association, The Texas Herald, The Henry F. Henrichs Publications, Frankfort Rotary Club, and Notre-Dame de France/Jerusalem. There are letters involving other individuals, including Charles W. Helsley, Emma Crabb, H. J. Colburn, Robert Stone, Arthur G. Sellen, Henry F. Henrichs, Logan Shoop, Frank Jacobs, Hugh F. McKean, Lee Braxton, Cady Hodge, Charles S. Lawrence, Elizabeth Turner Rawlings, Elisabeth Ebright, R. L. McNatt, Gale L. Beck, John H. Lehman, Helen Bradford, and Everett R. Daves. Charles W. Helsley was a minister at the Central Congregational Church after the passing of Charles M. Sheldon, and Emma Crabb was in charge of the Sheldon Collection at the Central Congregational Church.

Date: 1888-1984

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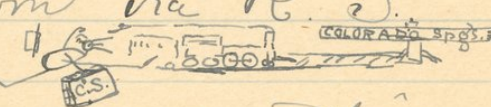
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Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

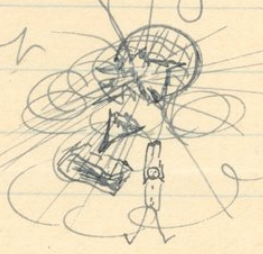
There! I flatter myself
that is a definition of education
that would bear analysis.

What thinkest thou? In any
case I hope Lena will fit
in to the place where she ought
to be in the college, and at the
end of the year she will prob-
ably be ready to go to Chicago
or elsewhere for special training
in her chosen work of kinder-
garten if that seems to be
her work.

I have spoken to
Deacon Tynan to take charge
of the Thursday evening meeting,
and he said he would. That
lets you out. Dr. Peers will
take charge next week. I
am off this noon via R. I.
(Rock Island) ~ 

Can I get you anything
except a paper weight?

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

5.
 Any thing in the line of Cas-
 cades, cañons, bridal ^[le] falls,
 ozone, chunks of climate, or
 petrified languages? If I
 am not  tested before
 I return from the upper
 regions: will to earth I
 see what
 I can do —
 Yours —
 The Cardinal
 Charles M. Sheldon —
 To The Professor —
 Topeka, Kansas.



Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

1249 Polk St. Oct. 8 1889.

My Dear Professor.
Mens carus "

Id dabit nos
magnam voluptatem habere
te et tuam cororem honor
nos cum tua societate et
si gratum ad vos, Fri dies
vesper, sex temporis pacis.

[time-piece.] six o'-
clock.) Tenesne? [Do you catch on?]
[this is not slang. It is in Terrence.]

Venite sine rite (ceremony) ~~but~~
^{sed} ne venite sine fame. Mens
sana in sano corpore. "Mens
Conscia recta -" Also, (atque), Mens
et womans conscia recta. [This
is aside from the point but
a fine quotation. I do not know

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

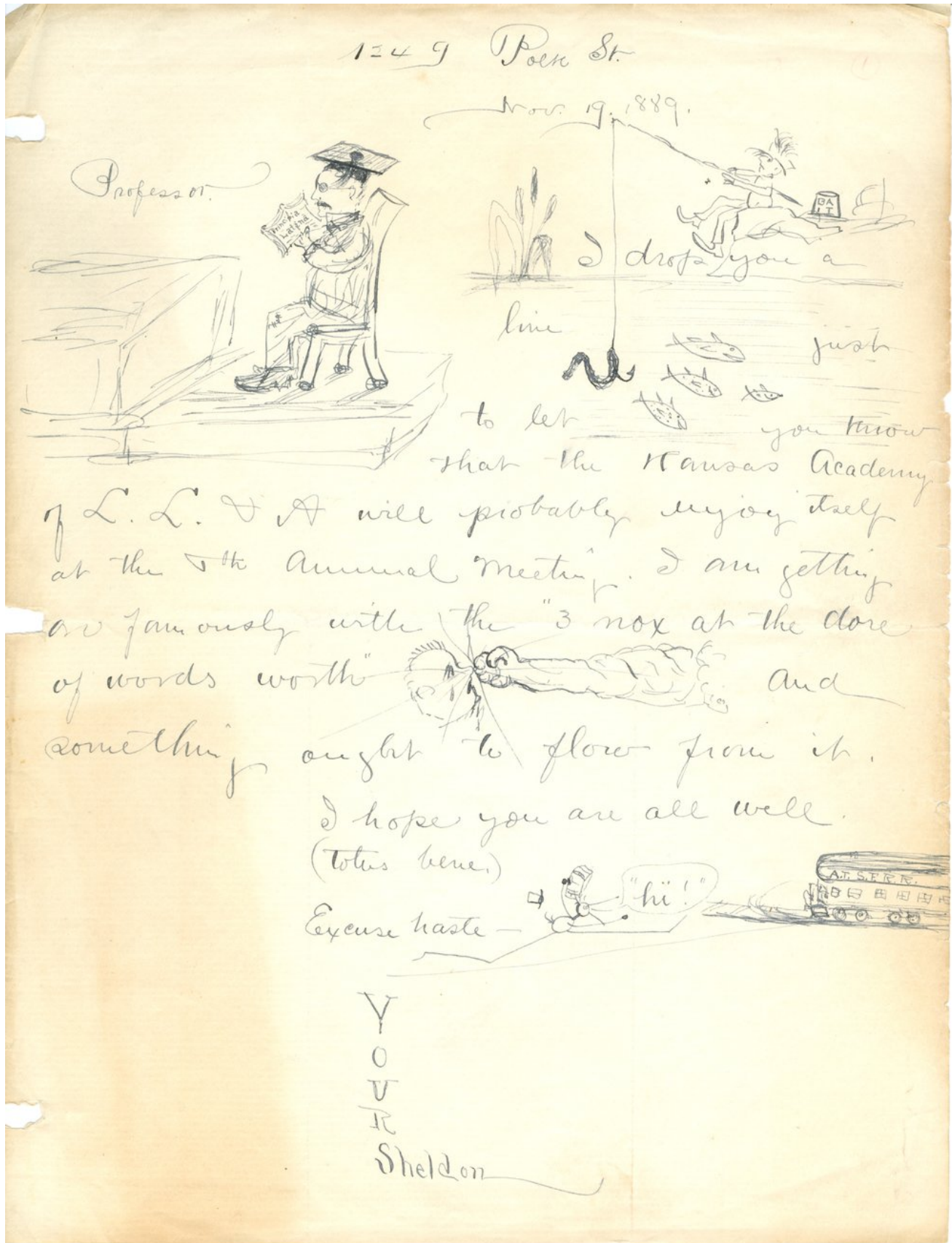
whether it is one of Nero's or
not. But in the language of the
most classic writer of this or any
other so-called 19th Century, when
a fine quotation comes into the
~~my~~ thought - "ignis via, et
nunquam animus," ("fire
away, and never mind.")

Expectabimus vos sine
dubio. Meherce! Si vos
non venitis, erimus in
lacrymis! Ephuribus unum!
"Thou art one of many! O Profes-
sor!" as the man said of his
last umbrella. Sed ego
iendus ad cubiculum.

Vale! Ego voluntas
mare te tardior. I will see
You later?

The Parson
Pater-filius.

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence



2

HUNTOON ST.
POLK

1249
Nov. 25. 1889.

WASH BURN COLLEGE.


A hand-drawn illustration on a piece of aged paper. On the left, a wavy line represents a road. A street signpost stands on the road, with a horizontal sign reading 'HUNTOON ST.' and a diagonal sign reading 'POLK'. To the left of the signpost, the number '1249' and the date 'Nov. 25. 1889.' are written. A horse-drawn wagon is on the road, moving towards the right. The wagon is labeled 'WASH BURN COLLEGE.' and has a driver and a horse attached to it. The entire scene is drawn in a simple, sketchy style.

I have borrowed a

and made Rome

ink out of a box of old shoe blacking, and I now
take my pen in hand to let you

know that "The ~~Three~~ Trucks at
the Door of "M. W." [Wordsworth] are going on
as fast as possible.

as rapidly as possible. ὡς τὰχιστα.
Occasionally I lapse into Greek, although Latin is my
native tongue.  Speaking of Latin reminds

Speaking of Latin reminds me
of a little Latin poem I lit

"Native Tongue." (already) on a while ago. I append it.

with the necessary translation.

Inmudeelsar,
Inclaynonlare.
Inpinetaris,
Inoatnoneis.

Translation

In mud ells are.
In clay none are.
In pine tar is.
In oak none is.

Hoping the ACADEMY will enjoy it self Fri. PM.

I am

[C.ms. pinxit.]

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence



Polk St.

Nov. 26, 1889.

My Dear Troop.

I hope you are not lying awake nights worrying about those "III" notes at the door - because I am doing the best I know how at it, and will surely be the crack Friday afternoon unless I am knocked out in the 3rd and last round.

"Since seeing you I have been very busy", as the tack said to the new school teacher ~~itself~~ when overworked in the district school.



And I have so much before me tonight that I know I never can get through unless I write a letter or two and oil up my poetry machine to get into a working mood. There goes -



My Girl Here's to the fairest, sweetest, best,
The one I love more than any other;
Drink to her health [in water] with keenest zest,
And let me whisper her name, - "My Mother!"

[over]



Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence



The mud.

Oh the mud, the mud, mud, mud ! ! ! !
The Kansas — — — — mud ! ! ! ! !
The slipper on the street with a sickening thud,
And he swore in 6 languages he would have blood
The reddest, most copious, goreified blood
Of the villain who said that there was no mud
in Kansas.



I.
"Sweet Rosalie,
Wilt thou love me?"

II.
"Ah, indeed, no sir!
I have a beau, sir!"

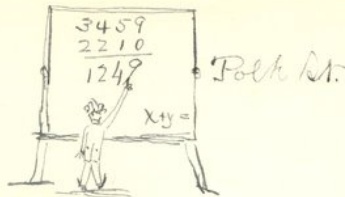
III.
This is the ^{beau} _{bow} that Rosalie
Used when she shot and wounded me.

The machine broke at this point. While
am mending it - "good night!"



Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

Charles M. Sheldon.
Topeka.



Professor
LUTHER D. WHITEMORE,
Latin et cetera.

I am going away to be gone
aday or two and in case you should write
or call I shall not be in until I return.
I have also received some new writing paper
which I hope you will like. Can I do any
thing for you? If so, why not? "What is the
matter with the custard pie?"
Nothing. It is the best pie in
the lot. The moral to that story of Dejew's is
simply get all the pie you can in this
weary world. Aeneas pius erat. Whitemoreus
pius potest esse.



Graviora ~~canedo~~ no. I mean
scribebo." or "scribam."

Thinking over the subject
which came up at the tea table and after,
I am more & more impressed with the

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

Charles M. Sheldon.
Topeka.

idea that a great big truth is tucked away in the thought of individual newness of life as transformed by ^{an} inner Christ. So much does this appeal to me that I find myself mapping out my morning sermon along the line of the words "if any man be in Christ he is a new creature". Query for such a sermon - "Have we got the real thing unless we have the newness? And can we preach it to others unless we do have it?"

If I could only get a personal interview with Saint Paul, I think he might throw light on it. The hardest thing for me in my preaching so far is the feeling that I am not enough possessed with what I give out. But what is preaching good for unless it is of the nature of an artesian well, flows without being pumped, from the inward pressure, not from the outer suction.

Good thing, time, eh? I don't know but I would rather grow than belong to the ready-made order of goods.

"no erat -
atque - no est.



Yours - see upper left hand corner

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

Charles M. Sheldon.
Topeka.

1 P
S 20 t.
4 L
9 K

Monsieur Professor.

Yours of the 7th inst. received

and contents duly noted.

Dear Sir,

As to the sonnets, designated adjectivally as "Amorous", your request

is couched in such a roundabout

phrase that I am somewhat embarrassed

to know just how to answer it.

You say, [to quote verbatim as taken by my stenographer] "if I should

ever have occasion to use such language or sentiments which I may not." In that case, my answer would be, "whether the use of the sonnets under those circumstances would be advisable or not could be determined only by the facts in the case as to whether the use was advisable in cases where the party either was certain or uncertain of the circumstances all around when there was uncertainty in respect to the



Instantaneous photograph of head while reading Yours of 7th inst.



[Another view.]



"Somewhat Embarrassed"

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

Charles M. Sheldon.
Topeka.

circumstances, the party himself
being the judge." As near as I could
put it in the usual lucid phrases
of legal lore, that would be my answer. Do there
any probability that you may or may not
ever have occasion to use them, and if so, when?
In other words, do you think the emergency either
for or against, is liable to break out at any
moment so as to render the use of the sonnets
as you say you may or may not wish to use
them, advisable?

In case of pressing need,
I could furnish sonnets very cheap, although in
case of real business, sonnets would be quoted
at par. (and mar.)



as easy for me as it was for Words-
worth. Indeed, some of his sonnets appear
labored. Mine never do. As for example.

The moon went out for a walk one night,
And saucily kissed a fleecy cloud;
And while it was blushing with all its might,
A youth kissed a charming maid out loud.

Now I ask you if there is any need of buying
an expensive glossary of antiquities before the
mind can grasp the sentiment of the above?

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

3.

Charles M. Sheldon.
Topeka.

Don't it perfectly plain at
right, or even when the light
is dim? Yes, you may
use the annets - with discretionary powers.

But I must stop at
this point.



Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

MCCXLIX POLK St.

Dear Professor.

I am sorry I cannot be present at the meeting of the Academy ~~to~~ night. I send 50 cts. to pay for my share of the membership. And I will pay the rest for annual dues after Sunday, if my salary holds out.

The "Three Manks at the Door" is now regiescat in pace. Is there anything I can do for you in the literary, financial, poetic, linguistic, Academical, artistic, or piscatorial line? For if there is anything of that sort I will gladly give it my attention. When you want Belles Lettres, Past History or Future, Language, [Latin specially preferred] Poetry, Caricatures, Cash, or cut bouquets of Scholarship apply at this office.



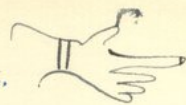
[Head of a German Scholar phrenologically considered.] (Red & View)

Yours for fun or sobriety

Charles M. Sheldon

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

Charles M. Sheldon.
Topeka.
Central Congregational
Church.

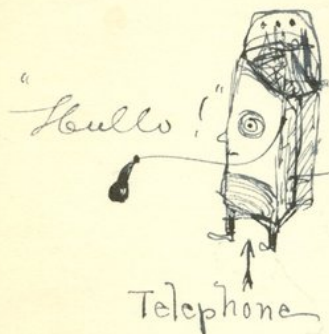


1249 Polk St.

Dec. 18, 1889.



Dec. 18.
THIS IS MY
SICK DAY.
But I work
just the same.



"Hello!"
How are you? Pretty
well. How are you? Fair
to middling! Can I do
^{thing}
any for you? No thank
you. Much obliged. Call again. Good
bye. That's all.

Take care of yourself, Latimer!
It is turn negotium to do it. You can
just reckon I won't come to see you
not more'n once in XXIV hours if you're
going to act mean about this, you know.
Witness my hand and seal.





Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

Charles M. Sheldon,
Topeka.



OLD ROMAN COIN.

6

Professor.

William Aye observes in a recent oration on Thought, "who can overtake or put salt on the tail of thought? No one can. Then let us encourage thought in others and do some of it ourselves."

Now in the 1st place -

(a.) Wish you a HAPPY 1890.

(b.) If there is any thing I can do for you let me know before next year.

(c.) Hope you'll have a good time in the happy hunting grounds of Hiawatha.

2nd ly.

Brethren and sisters. principally brethren. What is education? It is "trying to put salt on the tail of thought," and that is

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

22.

where the ~~suitor~~ minister becomes
left, on a Monday morning.

Why? Because there

is no thought left. The minister is
left but the thought isn't. vide?

I now slip easily into my native
tongue or lingua, which is Latin,
or Latina. Did you ever hear this
old examination said to have occurred
between an old Theological professor and
a bright young theologian?

Professor. "Quid est fides?"

Student. "Quod non vides."

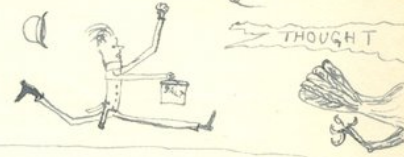
Prof. "Quid est spes?"

Student. "Nondum res."

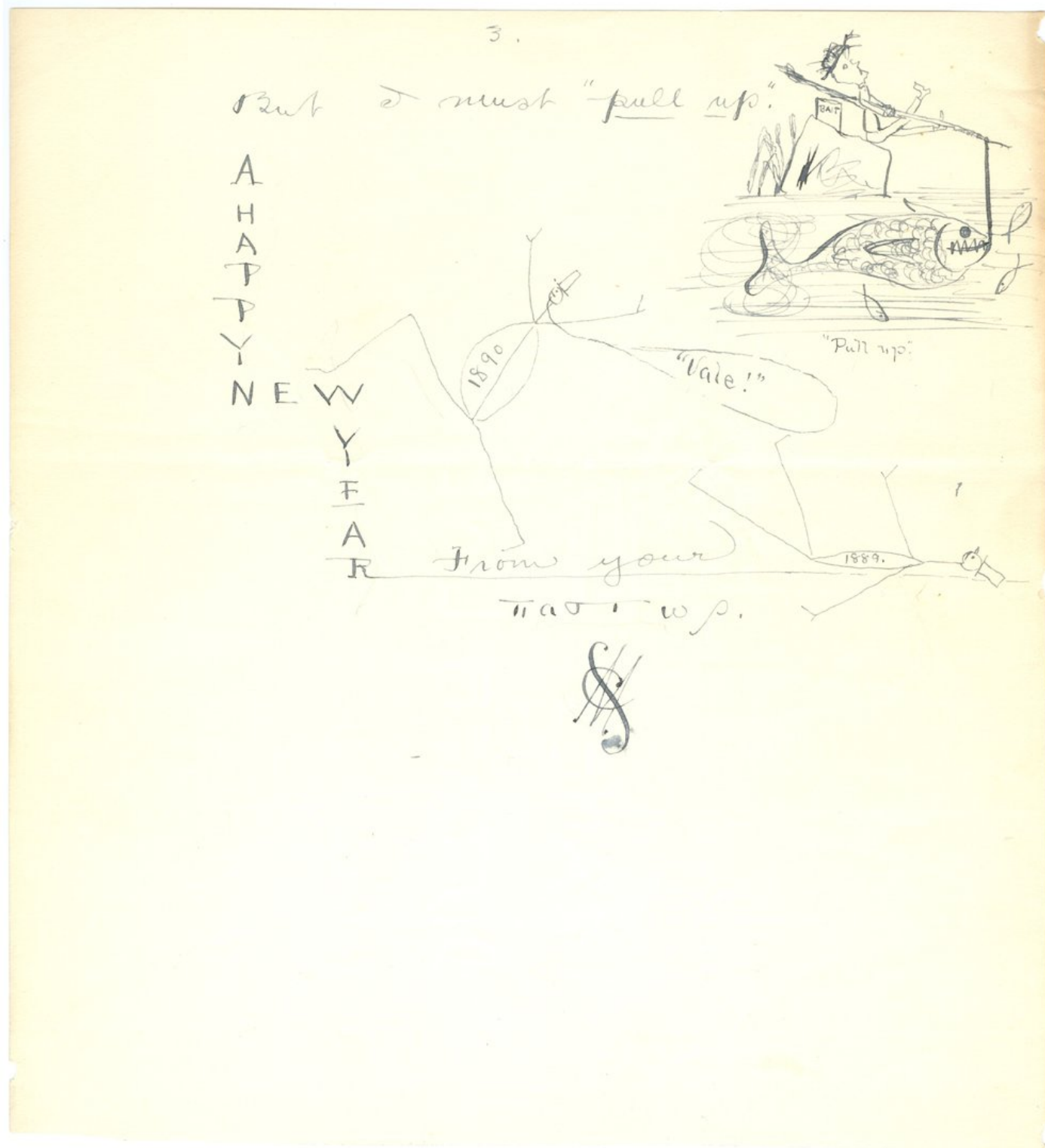
Prof. "Quid est caritas?"

Student. "Id est raritas."

This is as good as Oliver
Grundell Holmes' phrase for "none of
your business!" "nullum tui negotii!"



Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence





Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

Charles M. Sheldon,
Topeka.

1249 Polk St.

January 4, 1890.

One o'clock P. M.

L. D. Whitten -

Member of the Board of Trustees,
Hiawatha Academy &c. &c. &c.

Dear Sir.

Yours of the 3^d inst. received
and contents duly noted, analyzed, and revised; and
would say that no apology is necessary on your
part. I understand you fully in spite of the
language used. As to the examination for en-
trance, I am confident of being able to pass
it. I have passed a good many examinations;
indeed, my Mathematical examinations were what
you might call *passée*. Others I have passed
by, and still others I have passed over,
and yet others I have passed under. This
experience has been invaluable for me, and
as I am very anxious to pass into the
Academy I will give you a sample of

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

my qualifications as a candidate by answering
the sample questions forwarded by you in
yours of the 3^d inst. I do not ask for any
favors in this quasi (so-to-speak) examina-
tion except that I may be credited
with at least 95 percent on original
Latin work.

You say -

A. 1. How old are you?

This is a question that involves much
thought, and scholars are divided on it. vide
Reimer Vol. I pg. 47. See 24, note 2 (1). Also idem
Vol 2627. § foot note. παραχέδους εἰς προίδην εἰς.
Consult Aufkenschossenden Βίβλιος ἐν πρὸς-
Some the best writers are of following opinion -

שְׁנֵי עָשָׂר שָׁנִים

[read this way.]

The best answer we can
give to this question is
purely conjectural.

2. Have you cut your wisdom teeth?

I have.

3. Who is responsible for your good behaviour?

No one. I have no visible means of support
in that direction.

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

(3)

4. Are you engaged?

Not at present. Formerly I was engaged for a term of not more than 6 months at a time in handling around clams at a seaside resort on Narragansett Bay where the salary was no object. My other engagement was a naval engagement when I came in contact with the briny deep between Boston & Liverpool.

5. Do you wish to become so?

Under other circumstances it has sometimes appeared to me that if it had been feasible there would have been if all other things were taken in the account more or less, a wish one way or the other according to personal preferences.

6. If so, why not? And how many?

(1) Because. (2) No objection to a reasonable number.

b. 1. Quid est fides?

Die Natur hatte ihn mit einer einnehmenden Gestalt.

2. Quid est spes?

vide Webster.

3. Quid est caritas?

Id pendet. (That depends.)

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

C. 1. What is your native tongue?

I was born of English speaking parents, but strange to say my native tongue is Latin. I spoke Latin before I thought. It is very difficult for me to think, but I can talk Latin without thought. e. g., exempli gratia. suaviter in modo, et fortiter in rebus. nihil nihilisti, nihilit nihilimus nihilistis, nihilierunt or ere.

2. What is education?

Education is a process which costs about \$1000 a year for 8 or 9 years, and leaves a man wondering what in thunder he can do in the ~~or~~ world to make a living. (ask me something harder.)

3. What is thought?

thought with a small letter "t" isn't much of anything. But Thought with a capital is the world's brains and dollars. Specially dollars. I would bet on Thought every time if I were a thinking man.

4. Can its tail be salted?

It can not. But what of it?

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

(5)

d. ¹ Write the full names and address of all your correspondents.

L. D. Whittmore, Washburn College, Topeka, Kan.

2. How many ends does correspondence have?
I hope that yours and mine won't have any end.

3. Write from mem. last clause of 345 line of 4th book of Aeneid.

As I recall it, it goes something like this.

He tāwāthā, He tāwāthā, "glad to see you!!
glad to see you!!"

Come back early, if not sooner.

(e) ¹ Would you like to attend concert re.

Duod. But where is the ticket?

2. Don't care a mite if I do.

How do you like to be 2^d Choice?

Better than being sinistra. (left.)

3. Do you miss my calls?

Adieu va sans dire.

4. Did you get my last.

The last one I got from you was the last.

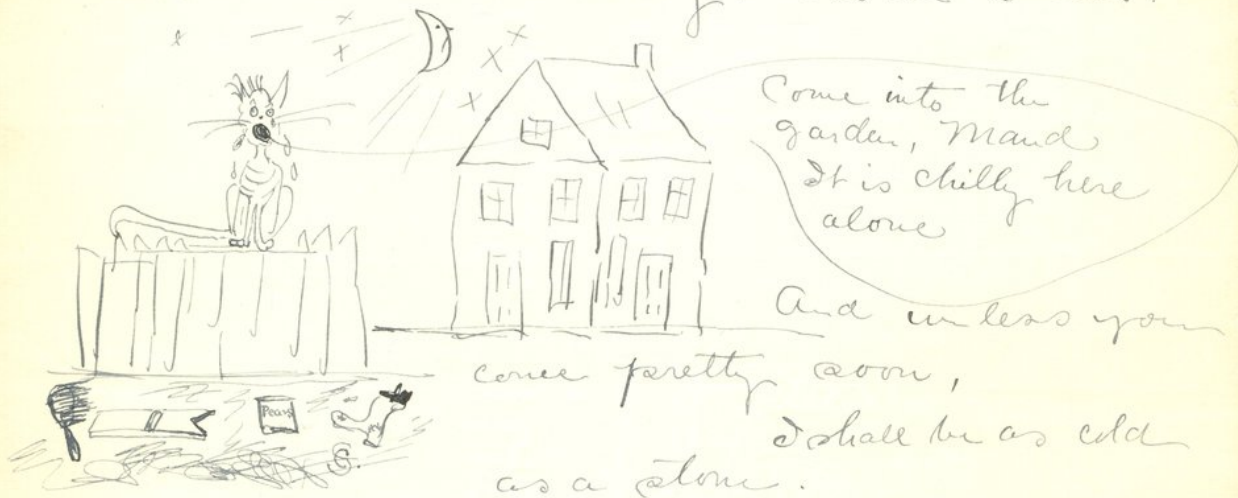
Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

5. Have you answered it?

I have. 4 or 5 times.

f. " Write a poem as good as the following -
Maud, do you know of the havoc
you are making in my breast - re.

Perhaps, that's nothing. Listen to this.



Oh, Maud, I have waited year
And have dodged the bootjack's whiz
And am very free to state
I am getting tired of the biz.
My heart is very sore
But unless you come right soon
I shall get down off this fence
And shut up my bassoon.

PASSED. 100.

[N.B. Marked it, to save you the trouble. C.M.S.]

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

2. Analyze the state of feelings implied in the same and state the analysis of your own.

Chem. anal.

$LOVE_2 + Night_1 = 2\text{fools} + 1PA + 1MA +$

\$2000 a year. \therefore I FOR DO NOT

WANT ANY IN MINE, Q. E. D.

I hope this will prove satisfactory. Any permanent position will satisfy me. I have not told all I know on this paper. I have held myself in for fear of seeming pedantic. I enclose stamp for a reply.

Very truly yours,

1249 Polk St.

Topeka, Kansas.

My *nom de plume*
nomen belli is Charles I.

Stamp
1883
value

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

Charles M. Sheldon.
Topeka.

1249 Polk St.

Jan. 5, 1890.

To L. D. Whittemore.

Dear Doc.

I hasten to reply to yours of A.D. (Anno Domini) containing necessary prescription &c. Words cannot express the benefits which I have already experienced from the prescription. I had it made up at once and tightly corked and shaken. I then carefully removed the cork, smelled of it, and I am a new man. A case of acute perichondritis aestheticus which has kept me awake day times for 37 years, at once disappeared, and has not since returned. No reward is offered. I was also troubled with a corn on the ball of my left heel which also disappeared 5 minutes after I smelled the cork, going through the sole of my shoe and making it necessary

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

for me to have my shoe repaired.
I do not blame you for this, however.
Only I should advise you to make up
the prescription hereafter without the
Lin Dapomis 3^r. It is very strong.
Too strong for any but the hardiest con-
stitutions. Thanks to this ~~prescription~~
prescription I am now the perfect
picture of health. My consumption has
ceased (except at meal times.) I no longer
have to go around on crutches. I have thrown
away my false teeth and swapped my
glass eye for a complete set of Aluey's
Mathematics. In short I am a well
man. You are at liberty to use this
testimonial in your practice. When you
see me, dear doc, you will be surprised
to clasp the hand of one who now walks
with an elastic (gum elastic) tread.



Before
taking



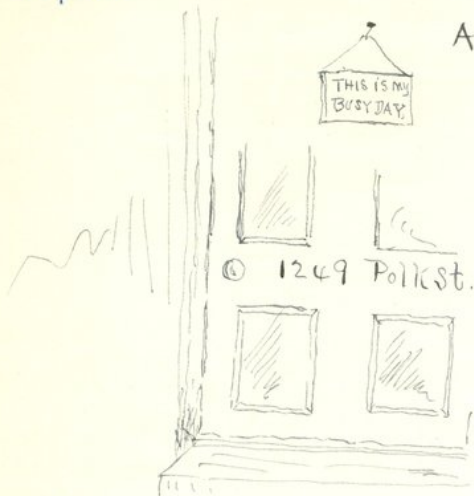
after
taking.

S.

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

Charles M. Sheldon.
Topeka.

CALENDS OF JAN.
ABOUT THE XI.
MDCCCXC.



Dear Professor.

I am awaiting, behind closed doors, with a good deal of anxiety, the result of the expert examination of my MSS which you inform me is now pending at the Washburn College Library. This anxiety has no reference to myself at all - it is entirely for the examiners. But if they spell one another with care taken for their upper brain cells they may pull through. However this is not what I started out to say. I am informed by you officially that steps are being taken



to confer the degree of "M. B." on myself. I appreciate the honor, and will gracefully meet it half way. Let it be conferred, and change

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

the same to me. If there is anything I can do for you in return, let me know, and if it does not cost over \$2.50 I will try to get it. Meanwhile I will suggest your name to several colleges as a worthy candidate for the degree of M. P. [Magister Poetatorum] Master of Poetry.

Your suggestion concerning the high mark on the poem was received in the spirit that gave it birth, but I suppose you are ignorant concerning my regular custom of marking poems on a scale of 10⁰ and mountains on a scale of seventeens.

Specimen products of your native tongue in verse might help your case in the matter of degree, M. P. Please forward by express and charge to anyone you see fit.

"Yours, by degrees", (as the young woman said after being courted 10 years without an offer)

Yours, by degrees,
Charles Monroe Sheldon, Magister Baccal-
aureum.

To Professor Luther Denny Whittemore, Magister Poetatorum.

Charles M. Sheldon and Central Congregational Church correspondence

Charles M. Sheldon,
Topeka.

(On the move).

Jan. 31, 1890.

7

To Professor D. Whittenor, [M.P. ?]

Have received sample stanza of Pastoral Pome and marked it \$2.50. As an example of iambic pentameter the examiners are of the opinion that it will hardly pass, but as a specimen of making both ends meet, (which is one of the prime prerequisites of 1st Class A1 Poetry,) they agreed in giving you the palm.

PALM.



Another view of
"giving the palm."

You are aware,
I suppose, that
the school of
poetry is at