

Cushney & I intend to come to Cl. Spr.
On Monday aft- 3²⁰ further
Hempstead N.Y. Oct. 27th. 1892.

Think on Lewis
suffering

My Dear Dr. Gracey; -

Lest you make yourself entirely
bald, and so bring unjust blame on Mrs. Gracey, by trying
to evolve I.M.J. ideas, I write to give what I can resur-
rect. By the way, it is doubtful if ideas come from the
head as hair grows. Yet, I have not got bottom facts to
dogmatize. I find that a similar process on my part only
evolves hair, until my head becomes bushy with a heavy
and ambitious growth. But to I.M.J. ideas.

Literary work of an urgent kind will prevent my be-
ing at Clifton Springs either this or next week. And the
same work has buried my I.M.J. ideas. If you ever get head
and feet absorbed in some book work, you know now it is
yourself.

I do not quite understand your reference to subdivis-
ion of work to wrestle with, for I hardly know what work
is waiting for a tussle. I am willing to take a full share,
however. If it be writing to Missionaries and getting at-
tendance, I will take Dutch and Presbyterian churches. If
trying to get railroad special rates, I will take N.Y.C.
and West Shore. I think I can get half fare on latter. May
get reduction on former. If arranging program, as far as
possible before meeting, I will do piles of thinking, and
let you know results in time. If letters to be written, I
will do what I can through my copyist. You are President.
Tell me my duty, and as far as possible I will do it.

As to new plans, I doubt if we can change greatly to
advantage; yet have several suggestions to make. Some were
made at Clifton Springs. They may bear repetition. But, re-
ally, I have forgotten some of them. I suggest that on Wed-
nesday night, after opening meeting, there be fifteen minutes al-
lotted to organization for work. And that it be done by
calling each field together in a certain part of the room,
that it may choose chairman and secretary, who shall be
announced next morning. Then, all business connected with
different fields, can be done through those officers. It
will as it seems to me, expedite matters not only but save
the Com. and officers much anxiety and difficulty. Each
field can thus select its own speakers, if fields be pre-
sented, such as China, India, Japan, Siam, Africa, etc. We will
throw responsibility on the field for selecting speakers,
and doubtless will stand a better chance to get good ones
than if we chose them. Apart from such organization, the
officers of I.M.J. can select any speakers we choose.

Then, I suggest that, after devotional meeting and bus-
iness, each morning have an hour devoted to a free parliament-

Free Parliament

on some subject of general mission interest. Perhaps we might have another hour after opening in afternoon, for discussing matters of interest to all Christians. I suggest topics for such parliament, Heathen Traditions of Bible Truth. ~~That might be better for afternoon.~~ Monotheism among the Religions. Cannibalism a Religious Rite. Sacrifices a Remnant of Messianic Revelation. All these might be suitable for afternoon. Girls' Schools Peculiarities and Success. Grades of Preachers. Promotions of Preachers. Special Work Under Care of Individual Churches. How Shall the Missionary, while at Home, Best Serve his Mission? These are enough as specimen topics.

My thought is that they be presented by some one in a five minute speech, and then allow any to follow in a remark, or talk limited to three minutes.

Of course I hold to popular meeting in evening. But that might be changed, to apply Denham's admirable plan of prepared questions, asked of the speakers, occasionally.

It seemed to me that the I.M.J. is developing, or can be developed, into a school of religions, and of missions for other than missionaries. It seems too that missionaries are spies returning from viewing the land, and the church should know what they report. This not to displace, but supplement, the regular work and object. If you saw my article in S.S. Times in July, also in Golden Rule in Sept, you may have noticed my thought in this line. Those articles have brought me letters, asking if meetings are open to all; indicating that others than missionaries are anxious to attend. So I think it might be well to advertise, that is send notices of meetings to papers ~~a month or two~~ before, giving facts about meeting. It will help Dr. Foster, that is the Sanitarium, as well as the church at large, to have the people attend.

I have not given up my idea of district meetings of Union. But that is a matter for future consideration. I am convinced that the best place, all things considered, is Clifton Springs for the central meeting. But the I.M.U. looms up before me in the future as something to bless the church, and to strengthen the bulwarks of Revelation. I cannot help thinking that the traditions among the heathen are pregnant with testimony for the truth of Revelation.

I wish to give another hint. I recently received a letter from the Arabian Mission at Busran, asking for information regarding papers on Mohammedanism read at C.Spr. We ought in some way be able to publish an annual, giving best papers and facts brought out. Such a book ought to more than pay its cost. By the way, can you give information sought in enclosed letter. If so kindly send to me with letter.

Heartily yours,

Write if you wish me to do more. J. A. D.