

Pemaquid Point, Maine, U.S.A.



July 12th, 1906.

My dear Goldyiker

— So I would call you in Scotland and you too, call me in your letter "Lieberl Mackay".
— Your letter of July 12th has filled me with caution.

First for your own health. You are evidently very tired and nervous. Rest it what you need, and after a rest things will look quite different to you. Especially there is no need for you to be frightened by the American lectures. They want a general course — not a course for specialists — and you can write it straight off. If you are technical and

Muhammad and Wahmudism, 1-3,

4^a. So there is my second caution.
I am afraid you have no idea how
few were knowing anything about Muslim
theology. I have myself been astounded.
Sall his broken down completely when
brought to the test. He does not
know the commentaries or the books
on theology; he uses translations, even
of the Qur'an. De Vans has given me
a very poor paper on Abd al-Qādir
al-Jilānī; his theology he hardly
touches. Vollers has given me little
on the theology of ash-Sha'rānī, but
he is better than de Vans. Arnold
has disappointed me greatly on al-
Ash'arī; his paper was very superficial
and did not even mention

go into details, your audience
will not be able to follow
you, for it will be a misall-
aneous audience. Budder's
little book - excellent as it
is - cannot have taken him
long to write, and yours must
be still more popular because
people know much less about
Islam than about the O.T.
So do not be frightened by that.
Get your nerves once steady
and that will go all right.

Second, about the Hastings
matter. I find I have you
down for the following articles.
Biographies of 'Abd al-Wahhāb,
Ibn Dā'ūd al-Zāhiri, Ibn
Haym, Ibn Taymīya; articles
on Education, Eschatology, Miracles,
Philosophy, Poetry, Saints;
finally the long article on

change of view at Bagdad.
So you see where I am, I can't
do without you. The honest
truth is that if you and I
together could write all
the articles, it would be better
all over!

Now let us look at the matter
straightly. You have two
difficulties:—(i) time and
strength, (ii) you can't repeat
(guminate!)

I. As for the repeating:—The
Biographers want repeat and
you have all the materials
for them. Philosophy you have
at your finger-end just
now; you are lecturing on
it. Saints you know all
about; for Education you have
a pile of material and I can
send you some notes of mine;

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Eschatology, Poetry, Miracles,
certainly want repeat and
you have stuff enough. The
long article on Muhammad
and Muhammadanism remains.
Could you persuade Snooks
Burgoyne to take it? If
you can that will clear
out of the way your only
piece of repetition. And the
Qizib just could do it easily,
though not as easily and well
as you. I have been looking
eagerly for your view of the
development of Muhammad
and the origin of the Qur'an.
But if that is not Qib, I
will try and be a Muslim,
though with a bad grace, let
Snooks for that article and
I will let you off.

It is for time and strength.
Both of these will find themselves
when you are rested. The
articles are coming in so slowly
that I don't think the pressure
of time will be great. Your
only one early in the alphabet
is Tha Abd El Wahhab which
is under A. The next is
under D.

That, then, is how it stands.
If you desert us, the bottom
will drop out of the bucket!
You know what that means?
And you need not desert us,
for you can do it all but
the long article quite well.
Honestly, if you go I shall feel
like throwing up my editorship.
Please, now, consider all this
very carefully, and, above every-
thing, keep your courage up.

Once you are rested, things will
look very different.

I hope most sincerely that
you will go to Aberdeen,
but don't get the Aberdonian
accent. It is supposed to be
one of the worst in Scotland.
They did not invite the Harp-
Seminary and I am too
busy any way to cross this
year. With fine next year
I hope to enter on my
Sabbatical year. Then, of
course, we go to Egypt, and
I fear that we shall not be
here when you come.

This summer we are both
in very fair health and most
comfortably settled in our
cottage. My wife can walk
much more easily than she
could last year, and we can

go about quite a good deal
together. My work is to get
into book shape my Chicago
lectures but besides that I
am trying to learn some Persian.
It is a very jelly-fish of a
language!

My wife sends her best
greetings and desires to be
remembered most heartily both
to you and your wife.

And I am always,

Yours most Sincerely,
Herbert B. Woodard.

Believe me that you have my
most sincere sympathy. I know
what it means to feel an
avalanche of work descending.
But avalanches, I find, always
pass.