

143 Sigourney Street, Hartford,
Conn., U.S.A. 21 / xi / 20



Dear Soldier,

Both my wife and I rejoiced to see your name again on a letter. When I got back that day from the Seminary the first thing my wife said to me was, "There is a letter from Dr. Goldyiker". Then I read it to her and we were both glad and sorry; glad to hear from you again, sorry for all your sorrow and trouble and ill health. I had already heard a little about you from Swonds but no details.

Now let me first answer your question. The English translation of your "Vorlesungen" was a very unfortunate affair. The translation was made by Mrs. Kate Chambers Seelye, Ph.D. and, according to

I cannot recount. I wrote out one to Torrey at Yale and found that he too, had noticed the béves, and so had George F. Moore. It came up, I understand, at a meeting of the American Oriental Society which I did not attend and made quite a small scandal. I was asked not to review it but along with Torrey and G. F. Moore, to give a notice in it to the Yale Press. The result was that the book was withdrawn and, I am sorry to say, no attempt to revive it and would it possible was ever carried out. I need not say to you that my whole thought in the matter was that your book — so beautiful and so valuable — should not appear in so erroneous and inadequate form. I have since offered my services and those of my old students and now calling American to review it but the Yale Press has not seen its way to put more money in the venture. I will try to get them to send you a copy which you can put among your autographs.

Morris Jastrow's prefixed "Introduction" has version was compared by him "sentence for sentence with the original". It was then published by the Yale Press in February, 1917. A copy was sent to the New York "Nation" for review and naturally came into my hands. I had been looking for the translation eagerly as I was tired referring my students to my own books and, as you know, there was, and is, very little else in English to refer to. But I found that the translation was full of the most howling blunders — was, in fact, indescribably bad. I did not, and do not, know anything about Mr. Seelye except that he is a niece of Talbot Williams, whom you may remember, but Morris Jastrow certainly knows German and English and probably some Greek and how he could have revised it at all

a monument of a great failure. But I see from Seuthner's 'Ephemerides' that a French version is about to appear.

As to Seuthner's gazette addressed to you and your wife I have written to him asking him to write to you and to send him a copy. I cannot procure it here; it is in a little sketch of the Arabic metres which I printed at Cairo.

With Woldabe and Sachau I have already been able to exchange letters. With Snouck, of course, there has been no break. Your information about Dr. Friedländer is unhappily only too true.

I fear that my output of published work for these years, that the locust hath eaten is not very great. I am not very strong now and I cannot work late at night. Every week, too, I have from 15 to 20 hours of class teaching and when it is done I am very tired. But now I am trying to write the article Kalāms for the Verlag Encyclopedia and it is taking much

3.69 time and strength. In the Volume dedicated to E. S. Browne I shall have a longish article and I am trying to write another for the IKAS. I have ~~tried~~ had I write a number of little, popular, articles in the N. Y. Nation and Review on the wars in Bolivia and Turkey and the Constantinople question; so few people here know anything about these things. The ZDMG, ZA and Das Islam I have still to read up and your books on the Qur'an commentaries I look for eagerly. My Prolegomena text is moving along and I think I am in a fair way to clear up its literary and textual history at last. I have carried the matter much farther than Zotenberg.

But we are above all anxious to hear from you in detail how it has gone with you and your household. We are still busy our bits a days and getting old in it. The years have been full of labours of many kind and sorrows of

many kinds and the end is not
yet. The world is still sick and
we are sick with it. But we remember
the old years and our old friendships,
and how you were with us here
in Hartford and our long correspondences
since and we would fain begin
again. *Vestigia nulla retrocedunt*
is ever my motto; begin and go
straight on.

Be very sure, then, of our interest,
love and sympathy in all that
has befallen you and that I am
always

Fervently Affectionated Yours,
Dennis B. MacDonald

