

2687 Yale Station,  
Yale University,  
New Haven, Conn., U.S.A.  
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Dear Mr Murray Brown,

I am sure that you are on holiday now and will therefore have time to read a letter from a colleague. I have been hearing regularly from Mrs Matthews about the great things you have been doing at Adams during the last term, and I am sure you must be enjoying your well-earned rest. As I am writing I have by me a copy of the "Iso Lomuzi", and every page of it tells of how the home fires are being kept burning. I am posting my copy to Reuling who wrote me last week and me to send it along, as he had not yet received one from you. Although Reuling and I have not met yet since our arrival in this country, we are keeping in touch with each other, and he is coming down to Yale for a visit next month. We had hoped that he would come during the Thanksgiving Holiday, but Mrs Reuling was unwell, and so Reuling had to go down to Michigan. Liebenberg, you know of course, is here at Yale, and we are doing our best to keep our heads above water in this great seat of learning.

It would be difficult for one to give one's impressions of either America or Yale within the scope of a singular letter. America is a land of such astonishing variety and such striking contrasts that almost any statement made about the country is both correct and incorrect. At Yale, for example, we have Americans coming from different parts of the States, speaking English with different accents and with different reactions to the same things, so much so that one would be tempted to think it was a misnomer to call them citizens of the same country. And yet the more you get to know them, the more you feel that they all have the same love of individualism, the same impatience with the slow movements of the law leading to such things as lynching, the same love of parade the same tendency to mass action in things economic, social and political. You find that they all believe in the President's programme of National Industrial Recovery although no one seems to be able to explain whether it is benefitting the country or not, the same condemnation of Prohibition even in quarters where it was warmly supported 14 years ago. All these facts make one conclude that it is possible to have a homogeneous population of 125 millions, although more than one-third consist of Italians! Yale University in the same way comprises many different nationalities, but there is a spirit of unity and a common feeling which are not easily missed. There are about 6000 students in the University, housed in different Colleges according to the Oxford and Cambridge plan. Being a very richly endowed University, it leaves little to be desired in the way of conveniences and comforts for the Students. I suppose there are few schools where work is done under such pleasant conditions as here at Yale. And yet on the whole, the students work very hard, and in the Graduate Department in which I live and do all my work, quite a lot of midnight oil is burnt daily, Sundays included. On Sundays we have a Morning and an Evening Service at which sermons are delivered by some of the leading preachers of America, but the attendance is never very large, except when some really outstanding man like Fosdick comes down. My impression of most these sermons is that most of them are apologetic, attempts to defend the Christian Religion in a world where it is felt that its influence is waning, and you will agree with me that we have not yet reached the state of agnosticism in Africa. For me religion needs no defence; but when one is preaching such an intellectual audience as exists here at Yale, questionable doctrines must be eschewed I suppose.

In the Education Department in which you will no doubt be interested, the experiment is being tried of running a course without any kind of lecture or express formulation of the subject matter to be presented to the students. For the last three months we have been going through the different fields of Education--Higher, Secondary, Elementary, Pre-School, Educational Psychology, History and Philosophy, and Religious Education--trying to discover the main problems to be faced in the different fields. Next term we shall spend on a more detailed consideration of seven problems which we have found to be common to all the fields of Education. The students take a large share in determining



what is going to be done and how it is to be done, the Professors being content to provide us with annotated readings to be done on different aspects of Education. My only quarrel with the system is that it is not every Professor who can conduct a discussion group successfully. Undoubtedly some of them would do much better work in a less complicated technique, but the American student has an unholy dread of lectures which he regards as indoctrination and repression of his personality. Well, there is much to be said on both sides ! Dr Loram does not believe overmuch in this discussion technique, and when he is in the chair, he takes the opportunity to elaborate on some of his educational theories.

The spirit of Christmas is very much in the air just now. I am going to enjoy my first experience of a wintry Christmas. We have been getting a lot of snow. the University will close for the Christmas holidays from December 20 to January 4. Most of the students are going home, while those of us who come from great distances are remaining. I have been invited to attend a Student Movement Conference which is to be held at Hamilton, Ontario in Canada from December 29 to January 1, so that I shall spend New Year's Day in another part of the British Empire. I shall feel quite homesick ! I suppose it will be much colder up there, especially as we shall be right on Lake Ontario. I shall let you know about the Conference later.

By the time you get this letter you will be getting ready to start the new term. I wish you every success in the work of the year, and before the year is over I shall be with you. I am told that it will be possible for one to leave early in June. I want to spend a few weeks in England, and possibly take a run up to Scotland before returning home. Do send me a copy of the results in all the examinations. I hope all the students did their school and themselves credit in the examinations. The American Bible Society have asked me to go and give them a lecture in New York on "Amanzimtoti" on January 28, and you bet they will hear all about it.

I must close now with best wishes to Mrs Murray Brown and all other friends at Adams. Hoping to hear from you sometime about the old school I remain

Yours sincerely,