

1 Linwood St. Boston, Mass.  
(Roxbury Station) March 17, 1886

Prof. John W. Dawson L.D. F.R.S.

Dear Sir,

I take the liberty of sending herewith a copy of the last published Catalogue of the Hartford Theological Seminary, and I also enclose a brief Statement relating to that Institution. I trust that the circumstance of my not having the honor of a personal acquaintance with you, will not make this communication seem obtrusive.

I am aware, through my brother, Prof. William Thompson, that you have lectured in Hartford, as elsewhere with very great acceptance. You doubtless had opportunity to learn what are the creed, the teachings, the aim and spirit of the Institution.

As one of the Trustees, I am desirous of discharging my duties to their full extent, and of aiding those with whom I have the honor to be associated, in meeting the special responsibilities which seem to rest upon them at the present time. My own deep conviction is that certain drifts of religious thought and theological speculation are now tending to emphasize the importance of such a School of the Prophets, which is eminently Biblical in its attitude and tone, and which rests

immovably upon a foundation a good deal older  
and firmer than certain recent so-called advanced  
methods and positions.

Vigorous efforts in the line of a more full  
equipment of the institution are now greatly needed.  
I desire to have the opinion of three or four gentlemen like  
yourself regarding the present and prospective demand,  
in the providence of God, for such a Seminary. Does the  
general theological outlook of the times, does the Eastern  
Congregational pastorate, does the great and growing West,  
does the Foreign Missionary field of the American  
Board of Missions, require, and are they likely to con-  
tinue requiring men trained for the ministry as  
they are trained at Hartford? Your judgment in the  
premises will carry great weight. Will you kindly  
give me your estimate?

I do not ask this favor with a view to  
publication, but with a view to private use among  
the Trustees, and for the purpose above indicated.

With deepest respect,

I am, dear Sir,

Very truly

Yours,

A. C. Thompson

Senior Pastor of the Eliot Church

1845

## Statement

The Hartford Theological Seminary is not an experiment, but an assured success. It now has more students than at any former time in the course of half a century. Its constituency represents a wide and varied area. Eighteen different colleges are at present represented by its undergraduates, who come not only from the New England States, but also from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Nebraska, Iowa, New Jersey, New York, and Canada. More of the Alumni, in proportion to the whole number, have entered upon missionary work, home and foreign, than of graduates from any other of our Theol. Seminaries. For the sake of our pastorate in older parts of the country, for the sake of our Great West and of the unevangelized world, it is highly important that this institution which is built upon "the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone," be well equipped.

The buildings, among the best for the purpose in the country, were the gift of one gentleman, the late James B. Hosmer of Hartford, and cost one hundred thousand dollars. A valuable library of more than 40,000 volumes is on its shelves. The

Faculty are a corps of able, harmonious and laborious instructors. Gratifying results of their labor as editors and authors are before the public. One specially is the careful attention bestowed by the Associate Professor of Sacred Music upon the conduct of public worship, upon the theory and practice of church music, and upon hymnology. It is believed that this department in conception, scope, and method, is entirely unique among the theological institutions of our land.

Students engage efficiently in gratuitous Sabbath School and city mission work in Hartford. The atmosphere and general tone of the Seminary commend themselves to serious-minded observers, while the fundamental requirements, the avowed aim, and the spirit of this School of the Prophets, command the confidence and sanction the hopes of intelligent friends of the better type of New England Theology. Such is becoming more and more deeply the conviction of well-informed men in different parts of the land.

The Pastoral Union, composed of gentlemen in the New England States and elsewhere has immediate charge of the Seminary. For membership in that body any one must be nominated at least one year beforehand, be elected by ballot, and then qualify by written assent to a fixed

creed. The Trustees, one third of whom are chosen annually, must assent publicly in the presence of the Pastoral Union, each year to the same creed. The Faculty are required to appear before the Trustees year by year, and assent to the creed. The "William Thompson Fellowship" recently established, is also guarded, from any abuse of its fund by the waywardness of an incumbent, more carefully, it is believed, than any other similar foundation in the United States. It is not out of place to add that great financial skill and fidelity have been shown in administering the funds of the Seminary, and that not a dollar has ever been lost to the institution through bad investments.

Is not that Institution attracting to itself more and more the confidence and hope of friends of evangelical truth? May not its guardians be fairly regarded as having a trust of eminent responsibility - a trust of great importance to the entire congregational body, indeed of great importance to some of the more vital and some of the broader interests of Christ's Kingdom on earth? Is it not deserving of special confidence, and entitled to a more general and liberal support? Such support is much needed.

Wm. H. Mumford  
L. Mumford  
Wm. H. Mumford

The President of the United States has been elected  
and the inauguration will take place on the 4th of March  
next. It is a great pleasure to me to hear that  
you are all well and hope you will continue to be so  
for many years to come. I am sure you will all  
be very successful in your respective spheres of  
activity. I am, dear friends, ever your affectionate  
friend and well-wisher.