

1602 Chestnut Street,
Philadelphia, 1891.

Dear Sir :

I have the honor to inform you
that you have been elected a member of

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY

for the

EXTENSION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHING,

the scope and object of which, together with
the list of officers, you will find set forth in
the accompanying papers.

George Henderson

General Secretary.

To *Mr. A. W. Tourgee*

.....1891.

Mr. George Henderson, General Secretary,
1602 Chestnut Street, Phila., Pa.

Dear Sir:—

I have received your communication notifying me of my election to membership in the American Society for the Extension of University Teaching, which I hereby accept.

Very Truly Yours,

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THE AMERICAN SOCIETY

FOR THE

Extension of University Teaching.

HOME STUDY WORK.

THE American Society for the Extension of University Teaching has taken up, as an integral part of its work, the encouragement of home study. It proposes to stimulate the desire for study in the great mass of the people, and to assist those who wish to take up serious lines of reading in every department of literature and science.

This is as truly missionary work as any other department of educational effort; and to carry it on successfully, contributions must be solicited from all friends of popular education. This branch of our educational system must be endowed like the others.

It has been found that, even when people are able and willing to congregate together in large numbers for the sake of carrying on their studies together, as in colleges and universities, it is impossible for them to raise money enough by their fees to provide adequate educational facilities. Consequently public-spirited citizens, who recognize the necessity of popular education, have given large sums of money to endow grammar schools, academies, seminaries, colleges and universities. Thus, it is estimated that, in our larger institutions, like Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Cornell and Pennsylvania, the university pays out for every student from three to five hundred dollars per year, while it obtains from him, in the form of tuition fees, only about one hundred and fifty dollars.

Now, such institutions benefit directly only those students

who are able to spend the time and money to attend them. There are, however, thousands and tens of thousands of young men and women who have the earnest desire "to learn of higher things," who have neither the time nor money to attend college, and yet who sorely need assistance in their studies.

It is to these and such as these that the Society for the Extension of University Teaching hopes to bring aid and comfort. To do this sort of work satisfactorily, however, will be, comparatively speaking, expensive. Of course, the possible limits of the work are much narrower than those of the college. We cannot hope to bring to each of these isolated students the advantages of a great chemical or physical laboratory or the inestimable advantages of personal contact with teacher or professor.

But there is a vast range of possible good to be accomplished, which is limited only by available funds. The work cannot be of a high character and still pay for itself. No purely educational work ever is. But if the Society can secure endowments for a number of lecturers or professors who can thus give their whole time to this work of aiding, by correspondence, the isolated students or the isolated groups of students, vast and beneficial results can be achieved. Every dollar added to the funds of the Society, either in the form of membership fees or additional contributions, will aid in this great enterprise.

There is still another side to this question. The average child in our American cities leaves school before he is twelve years old. He has learned to read, but not how to read or what to read. To what uses he puts this power in many cases the literature on our news-stands testifies. At present it is a question in the minds of many people whether the ability to read is, on the whole, a benefit or not in the case of large classes of our population.

We must rely on non-school agencies to stimulate a love for good and useful literature in the great majority of our children. These agencies are at present too few and too

weak. The University Extension will powerfully aid in these good efforts.

It is sometimes said that there is no demand for this work, or else it would be self-sustaining, *i.e.*, it would be supported entirely by the fees of those who profit directly by it. Those who assert this lose sight of the fact noted above that no truly educational work along higher lines has ever in any country been self-supporting in this sense. It must always rely either on the proceeds of taxation or the gifts of public-spirited citizens. Even the public schools, those elementary necessities of our modern State, would be closed by the wholesale if they were suddenly made dependent on what they could collect in the way of fees. If Harvard or Yale or Pennsylvania were to attempt to raise their fees to such a point as to defray all expenses from this source alone, the result would be such a falling off in attendance as would permanently cripple the institution.

The true test of a real demand for an educational institution is not whether there is a sufficient number of people who so earnestly desire its benefits that they will pay in the form of tuition enough money to sustain it, but whether it can excite in the community such a demand for its services as will lead to the full utilization of its facilities. Every great educational institution is quite as much, or even more, the creator of a demand as it is the result of a demand.

The institution makes the student even more than the student the institution. At least half our present college students to-day in this country are seeking the higher education because the colleges themselves have aroused their interest and attracted their attention. In a word, the number of people who will be stimulated by the existence of educational facilities to take advantage of opportunities to improve their minds is vastly greater than the number of those who would actively assist in creating a demand for such institutions in order to satisfy their longing for higher things.

So it is with University Extension in all its departments, and especially in the branch of Home Study. There are

to-day thousands who desire such facilities as this work can offer. If these facilities are so created, they will stimulate other thousands to a desire to avail themselves of them.

Is there any educational work of a popular kind which promises more for a given expenditure of money than this? Can you not help it on by your influence and contributions? Even the small contributions involved in membership in the American Society for the Extension of University Teaching will be of great aid, for a large membership of this Society would enable us to carry on an extensive work.

The fundamental principle of the American Society for the Extension of University Teaching is self-help. Our motto is: "Help people to help themselves." It is believed that the work will ultimately be as largely self-sustaining as any other great department of higher education. With this conviction, we feel fully justified in making an earnest appeal to all friends of popular education to come to our aid in this movement.

Send your name and address, together with the annual fee (\$5.00), to the **General Secretary, GEORGE HENDERSON,**
1602 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

N. B.—All money should be sent by money-order on Philadelphia or draft on Philadelphia or New York payable to order of **FREDERICK B. MILES,** Treasurer of American Society for the Extension of University Teaching, 1602 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

It is proposed to offer courses adapted to isolated students during the year 1891-1892, in the following subjects: History, Literature, Natural Science, Mathematics, Economics, and Pedagogy. Persons desiring to pursue courses in any of these subjects should send their names as soon as possible to the General Secretary of the Society.

President,
Edmund J. James

Treasurer,
Frederick B. Miles.

General Secretary,
George Henderson.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY

FOR THE

Extension of University Teaching.

GENERAL OFFICES,
1602 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

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President of the Drexel Institute. | |

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY

FOR THE

Extension of University Teaching.

THE American Society for the Extension of University Teaching was founded in response to a deeply felt want for a National Association which might assist in promoting the work of University Extension.

The friends of popular education feel that the time has come for a better utilization of the facilities for instruction which are to be found in our existing educational institutions.

Our common schools, academies, high schools, colleges and universities offer good opportunities for an education to those who are able to attend them for twelve or fifteen consecutive years. But the persons able to do this in our communities form a very small fraction of the population. The average child can attend school only four, or at most five, full years—a period barely sufficient to make a beginning in the rudiments of an education. This is a significant fact, and it justifies the statement that the great mass of the community are in large part cut off from any direct participation in the higher branches of science, for the cultivation of which our advanced institutions of learning are organized.

The credit of recognizing this fact in all its significance, and of determining to change it, if possible, is due to the English Universities. In order to test whether it were not practicable to utilize the magnificent facilities of the old English centers of learning for the purposes of popular instruction, a movement was organized to which the name of

University Extension was given, and which involved sending out lecturers and professors from the universities to give courses of instruction at various places throughout the country. The effort was crowned with success, and has attracted universal attention.

Among the first communities to recognize the possibility for such work in the United States was the City of Philadelphia. For the purpose of testing whether there was a general demand for University Extension, a call was issued for a meeting of those citizens interested in the movement. As a result, a local society was organized in order to make an experiment in and around Philadelphia. Having assured itself of the co-operation of the professors of the colleges and universities in or near the city, including the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Bryn Mawr, Haverford, Rutgers and Swarthmore, the Society sent its Secretary to England to study the movement there and make a report, and submit plans of organization.

The services of Mr. Richard G. Moulton, of Cambridge, England, were secured, and aided by professors from the above institutions, systematic instruction was undertaken at several different points in November, 1890. The success far exceeded all anticipations. Over forty courses of instruction, embracing two hundred and fifty lectures, were given, with an aggregate attendance of over 50,000, thus surpassing all English records. The demand for courses from a distance was so great that it could not be met.

As a consequence of this experience it was determined to establish a National Society to aid in the inauguration and prosecution of this great work, and to do, as far as possible, for the country at large, what the Local Society has done for Philadelphia. The co-operation of a large number of representative institutions was assured from the outset, and the number of institutions committed to the movement is rapidly increasing.

The American Society proposes to collect information as to the experiments now going on in this work in the various parts of the world, and make it accessible to all who are interested in this movement. It will, as far as possible, form branch societies to take up and push the work in and around their

localities. It will try to secure a staff of persons trained by actual experience in organizing and lecturing, who may be placed at the disposal of the local societies to assist them in organizing and prosecuting the work. It will strive to make every college and university in the country a center of University Extension.

It is confidently believed that University Extension will not only aid greatly the progress of popular education by affording vastly increased facilities for study, but will also benefit the colleges and universities by exciting a widespread interest in the work.

The Association proposes to publish a journal to be called the "University Extension," which will serve as a medium of communication between the National Society and the local branches, and will give full information as to the progress of the work in all parts of the country.

To do this work efficiently will require large funds. The only sources of income at present are the fees of members (\$5 annual fee, \$50 life membership fee) and the voluntary contributions of friends of the movement. You are cordially invited to become a member of the Society and to present its claims to your friends and acquaintances, who are, or should be, interested in the work. A National movement like this can only succeed when the people take hold of it in earnest, on the one hand, and the colleges on the other.

The membership fee and all other contributions may be sent by Postal Order, or draft on Philadelphia, or by draft on New York, payable to the order of **FREDERICK B. MILES**, Treasurer of the American Society for the Extension of University Teaching, 1602 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

All other communications should be sent to the General Secretary, **GEORGE HENDERSON**, 1602 Chestnut Street.