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**Letter from Nathan J. Morrison to
William H. Willcox, 1899 August 21**

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Boston, August 21, 1899.

Rev. W. H. Willey, D. D.,

President Congregational Education Society.

Dear Sir:--

As is well known, Dr. D. K. Pearsons, of Chicago, offers to give \$50,000 towards the endowment of Fairmount College, provided other friends of the College shall raise for the same purpose \$150,000 prior to July 1, 1900. Dr. Pearson further stipulates that on the date mentioned the College shall be free from debt.

If this endowment fund--\$200,000--were once in hand, evidently the permanent prosperity of the College would be assured. So much progress in the canvass for the \$150,000 has already been made, that I am warranted in saying that more than half of it is already in sight; i. e., the major half is assured when the minor half shall have been provided. It is, then, of almost vital moment to the College that the canvass for the "Pearsons Fund" should be pushed to a successful issue within the limits of the present College year. This result is also, I think, of much importance to the Society. I am not authorized, of course, to counsel your venerable Association as to its policy of administration. But I hope not to seem impertinent to offer a suggestion.

My suggestion is this: That the Society, in conjunction with representatives of Fairmount College, make a special effort, strenuous and systematic, to secure for the College the "Pearsons Fund", by organizing a "campaign" of six or nine months among the churches of the Middle West, New York and New England; the campaign to be one of public information and education on the great work of the Society in "advancing learning" in the country,--public meetings to be held wherever practicable and wide public interest aroused by lectures and addresses

the College to share with the Society in the financial results of the campaign on terms mutually satisfactory.

The results which I confidently believe would follow the energetic prosecution of such a campaign are: 1st, for the Society, more revenue than for either of the last half dozen years and a revival of general interest in the appropriate work of the Society; 2nd, for the College, an endowment fund, adequate for the present, and, in consequence, the voluntary retirement of the College from the list of the Society's beneficiaries.

Such a campaign, wisely directed, might be expected to quadruple the number of churches now practically hospitable to your work; would tend, incidentally at least, to shut out from the churches many schools and colleges now preying on the churches, which acknowledge no allegiance to your Society.

Should the Society receive this suggestion with favor, I shall take pleasure in conferring with the officers respecting the matter at their convenience.

Very respectfully yours,