

Leon, Mexico, March 26th 1906

Dr. R. J. Willingham,

Richmond, Va.

Dear Brother:--

Your kind letter received a few days ago and will try to answer now. I do not fully understand your letter, or reference, rather, to the paper. I do not know where the difference of opinion comes in and so cannot say what I think. You may have heard that I was in the way somewhat. Well, in one way I am. It was suggested that Dr. Chastain take the editorship and I take the business management of the enterprise. He was high up over it and wanted to start it right off. I confess that I was not so very much enthused. And why? Well, we have had to wait on him several times for Expositor and in fact are tied up now in every thing on account of not having a certain lesson of the next Expositor. He is very slow, and more than that he goes off on long trips and cannot write. Well, I told them I was in favor of Dr. Chastain for the post of editor, but that I would not undertake to be responsible for the financial end of the work unless he was willing to get me the copy for the paper in good time rain or shine. He did not seem pleased and from his reply I took it that he thought I wanted to be editor. Well, now I can disclaim any desire for the position. I so wrote him but still he has said nothing since though I have tried to talk with him about the matter. I hope I am understood by you at least. I am not in the way of the paper. I want it but I want it run on business principles. I don't care who prints it or who manages it, I want to do all I can for its success, if it is started. I am with the majority.

As to the Printery, I have said all along that it was not mine.

I have likewise said that it was given to me for mission work in Mexico and this is the truth. It is the property of the Board but I do not think it would be right in any sense for the Board to take it out of my hands and put it into the hands of another without my consent. I gave about \$100 worth of material in the very start. My friends gave the rest and though I always said it was for the Board yet many gave because it was for me. I want to see the work built up. All I ask is that you ^{respect} ~~treat~~ my claim as above indicated, as I know you are perfectly willing to do, and all will be well. The amount I brought was \$455 of which I put in nearly \$100 and my friends gave the rest. Then the Board has bought the engine and the small press extra. We have a plant easily worth \$1200 gold. We have worked hard to put it onto its feet, but yet I owe some \$250 Mexican on the plant besides a bill of some \$50 for paper and material. We have on hand however material worth \$150 to \$200--I mean paper and such material. As soon as I can get time, will make an inventory and send it to you.

Our work here is building up nicely. We had 24 last night. Our congregation was 5 or 6 when we came, now we always have 20 to 25. There is some good interest. We are trusting in God and working.

We went to Panindícuaro week before last and spent the whole week preaching. I baptized 4 there for the church and one was received for baptism. This work is young and is under the protection of Dr. Chastain's wing. We preached to 50 and 60 every night.

I promised you our report some time ago. Had it all ready when the Bank of Richmond sent back Bro. Mahon's check and this upset the whole thing. Now it is again about ready to forward. I am very sorry the work came to me as it did. The books should have been audited. I expect to have it done at our mission meeting. We have printed some new bank checks, similar to the old ones.

Fraternally and lovingly

J. C. Davis

Thank for your kind remarks about our tracks. We have printed more than 500,000 pages of literature so far. Why not send property here in León if it is worth while staying? Our women want to see the property we are in and the we have a school yet we could have trouble.