AR. SSB 109

S.S. "CELTIC."

Mid-Ocean July 5. '05.

Rev. J. M. Frost, Secty.
Nashville, Tenn.

My Dear Bro:

I called a caucas of Southern brethren this morning to discuss three matters, one of which was the B.Y.P.U. situation. I learned from Dr. T. S. Barbour, Secty., that a Com. of seven Northern brethren are appointed, I suppose, by the B.Y.P.U.A., to consider the "A" situation, to meet in Oct. next, etc. The "A" is $20,000 in debt. "Service" just does care for itself & the movement cannot financially get upon its feet, it has no sec. now & the situation is critically acute. Dr. Barbour says there is talk of turning the "A" over to the Home Mis. Society, or at least of getting that Society to sustain a Secty. for the "A". That led me to call this Caucas, to which I suggested that we abolish our So. Ex. Com., at Birmingham, & turn over its work to our Sunday School Board. After considerable discussion that was agreed to with the understanding that the B.Y.P.U. state meetings go on & that they & individual Unions keep their general connection with the "A." tri-ennial convention. A com. was appointed by the Caucas (Prestridge, Sams, Bealer) to take up this matter with you, Hanson, &, perhaps, a few other leaders. The Com

suggests that we give up our B.Y.P.U. Day preceding the Convention, & ask for the Morning of Thursday, the day added at Kansas City, in which your whole report of your Board's double work, its "Teaching" & "Training" departments. The Caucus & its committee are of one mind in thinking that it will be wise, & more, i.e. would be, for you to keep alive the name of the B.Y.P.U. We fear the uniting out of the Union wd. open the way for the Christian Endeavor, besides the reaction from confessing that the B.Y.P.U. was dead. This wd. hurt badly, says Laws, in Maryland. Time may be counted upon to set all things right. You, this time, can be counted upon to do the right things delicately.

It was agreed that your Board's machinery, with an enlargement of the B.Y.P.U. quarterly, & perhaps a field Secty., specially gifted in Training work for young people, would enable us to do a greater work for our young people.

Of course we understand, & you will, that this caucus is composed of comparatively only a few of us, they away from home on the high-sea, & that their committee is only a voice.

Please send a copy of this letter to Dr. L. O. Dawson. The Com. wish him to know the words of this voice.

Yours truly,

H. Prestridge.

We are having a great voyage. The Sea is well behaved & glorious.