

(Important)

RWB.

Dr. Peabody
Important

13 Kirkland St., Cambridge, Mass.

June 3, 1919.

My dear Brackett,

Gertrude's absence with me at Hampton, when your Trustees last met, prevented her and me from hearing of your announcement of withdrawal from the School, and the news of this decision has reached me only within the last few days. It is a very serious transition for the School, which you have created and sustained so wisely and so generously. I have always thought that your scheme was more judicious than that of any other school, and that you had set a standard for all such education throughout the country. Your discretion, foresight, and scrupulous devotion have been beyond praise, and it was a constant happiness to me first to have you as a colleague at Harvard, and then to watch the developments of the School. What I felt about the violent rupture of the School from the University I should not like either to write or to say. It seemed to me inconsiderate to the School and seriously injurious to the work of my Department in Cambridge. If we might have headed the other way, to the development of a graduate school, we might have looked forward to a future of very large usefulness. Your own self-restraint and patience at that time were a wholesome lesson to my impetuous disposition.

On the other hand, I cannot help believing that this withdrawal will give you a larger opportunity for usefulness. There is a wrench about it which I know from my own experience; but the deliverance from routine, and the incessant care of detail, and the problems of individuals, become very exhausting, although very interesting, and--to speak of my own experience--I wrote Dr. Pritchett some time ago

that it was as if a lump of lead had been taken off the top of my skull. You have not had a fair chance in these last fifteen years either to write or to think, as your powers make possible, and I look to you for leadership in the principles of social work and in academic relation to it. You are easily the most important adviser in our community, and your time ought not to be longer consumed by administrative cares. On the whole, therefore, I hear of this change, though not without anxiety to the School, with a confident hope for your usefulness and happiness.

Affectionately yours,

Francis J. O'Leary