

Reid. Lab. Vassar Coll.

Nov. 28th 1894.

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My Dear Mr Whitman

I received your very kind letter yesterday and I want to say in advance that I thoroughly appreciate the generosity of your offer and am much honored by it. My impulse would be at once to accept, and if it were not for family circumstances and reasons that make it a matter of right to earn as good a salary as possible, I should undoubtedly do so with but little hesitation. The house and ground that are furnished us West-^{er} here could not be had in Chicago for ^{\$}500⁰⁰ a year, and in addition I am paid an annual salary of \$2500⁰⁰. I judge from your letter that it would not be reasonable to expect as much as ^{\$}3000 a year from the Univ. of Chicago, though you do not state and I do not know positively what an asst prof's salary is with you.

I talked the matter over with Dr Taylor yesterday and he was kind enough to say that, while he would greatly regret my departure, the college would "assume the burden of another vacancy", if I judged it best to go. In the course of further conversation with him he assured me that, if the election were satisfactory in my department next semester, I could arrange my work as to amount, number of assistants and so on, practically as I pleased another year. He feels confident that the new laboratory will be started in the Spring; already \$20,000 is in hand, and he says very positively that the \$20,000 planned for must and will be obtained.

You will see that the outlook here is very satisfactory for me, if

I can succeed in eliciting the interest of the students; and it seems probable that I shall succeed sufficiently well in that, though the department is rather run down at present, and our present quarters absurdly inadequate.

But I miss the stimulus of university work and the spirit of investigation; already I begin to fear for my brain with so much elementary instruction. And so if the Univ. of Chicago will give me a salary nearly equal to the one I enjoy at present, and can give me reasonable assurance of permanency of position and promotion in the regular way established there, I believe that I should come. I desire that my next position should be one that I can hold for many years.

As to the work I think that your proposition is certainly sufficient by general. I should prefer to devote myself to embryology with such cytological departures as are strictly relevant, e.g. the structure and origin of the sex-cells, and the problems connected with fertilization cleavage and differentiation. I would be very glad indeed to take such charge of your investigating students as you might care to entrust to me; and would give you my heartiest support and cooperation in all possible ways.

Will you in any event hold the matter open until I shall have heard from you again.

Amant Parker & M. B. S. —

To return to the personal matter, could it not be left open until the Christmas vacation when I could come to Chicago and some agreement might be arrived at?

Yours very truly
Frank R. Lillie