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March 14, 1946

Dr. & Mrs. J. Will Harris
Dilley, Texas

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Harris:

In about 15 minutes I am going to do one of the hardest things I have done since I have been here. Namely, tell the students and faculty that I have resigned my position to take effect on July 3rd. At the last meeting of the trustees my resignation was accepted and we all agreed not to announce it until March 15th, because we did not want to take anything away from Founder's Day celebration or cast a shadow upon your delightful visit or Mr. Leker's well merited honors.

There is an individual group of prominent men in the Church, Dr. Mackay of Princeton, Dr. Cotton of McCormick, Dr. Lawry President of Wooster, several prominent ministers and laymen who have taken over the old Presbyterian and wish to issue it in new form with new personnel, new vigor and make it to reach beyond the denomination and beyond the nation. They have been searching for nearly two years for an editor in chief and in desperation have offered the job to me, who I am fairly unexperienced for such work.

Edith's health is the real cause of our decision. You know that for two years or more we have faced this possibility and now it seems that we should make this change. We worried over it a great deal, and prayed over it still more and it seems to be God's leading.

The committee to select my successor is Dr. Keigwin, Dr. Wilson, Dr. Odell and Roswell, and they have approached at least one man to my knowledge. I wish it were possible for me to announce my successor today and I hope very much that I can announce his coming within a few weeks. A period of uncertainty may do considerable injury to the school.

I cannot then add my word of deepest appreciation to both of you, who in every respect have been cooperative, loyal, encouraging and sparing in everything we have attempted her in these last nine years. If there are hearts in Texas that have left a part of themselves in the hills of "Santa Marta", there will also be hearts in Philadelphia under the same conditions.

Yours sincerely,

President

JSM/tr