

rec'd May 27-
Ans'd

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL
SOUTHBOROUGH
MASSACHUSETTS

25 May, 1924

Dear Mr. Deane,

Since your visit, I have spent several hours carefully checking up the bound volumes of the earlier issues of "The Vindex" now kept in the School safe, with the result that I have good news for you. I find that, in spite of what I told you the other day, we have complete files of "The Vindex" from the first issue in February, 1877, through June, 1887. One of these bound volumes is inscribed with your name and the statement that it was presented by you to the School on 9 November, 1897. And I judge that some of the other volumes came from you, too. There is, therefore, no reason after all to think that any of your gifts have gone astray. I am delighted to find this the case.

The errors in the typewritten list I showed you arose from the incomplete information on the covers of some of the books. For example, one book is inscribed

"Volume V," but on inspection proves to contain Volume VI as well. When I listed the volumes, I was in haste, and did not sufficiently examine the interiors. I am sorry to have raised this false alarm.

Some of the books I have examined contain miscellaneous issues for various years, which has made the process of checking up a bit confusing. For example, one book has parts of Volumes I, VIII, IX, and X. But I have gone into the matter thoroughly and have made a list that shows me now exactly where we stand. I can therefore let you know exactly where we run short.

It was very generous of you to take the trouble to write out a detailed list of the issues you have on hand. As I find, however, that we have complete files of all numbers of "The Vindex" through June, 1887, I do not feel that we ought to ask you to give up any of the issues you mention.

On the other hand, I have a plan which I should like to carry out if it meets with Dr. Thayer's approval, on his return from Europe next week. I should not have time to carry out the plan until next fall, but then I should like to have our binders separate the miscellaneous issues that are now combined in books including several volumes, and rebind them in separate volumes representing the actual volume numbers of "The Vindex," so that Volume I will be by itself, Volume II by itself, and so on.

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The census I have just taken shows that by this separation, we could have two copies of each volume up to 1887 by this method, if a few missing issues were supplied. I should then suggest keeping one of these copies of each volume in the School safe, and placing the other in the new Vindex Room which we are now fitting up for the editors.

Of the issues mentioned in the list you have sent me, I find that we have two copies of nearly every one---enough to carry out my plan. Of a few issues, however, we have only one copy. I give a list of these issues:

- / Volume I, Number 1
- / Volume II, Number 1
- / Volume II, Number 3
- / Volume II, Number 8
- / Volume III, Number 1
- / Volume III, Number 5
- / Volume III, Number 10
- / Volume X, Number 2
- / Volume X, Number 4-5

We have, too, only one copy of "The St. Mark's Courier," Volume I, Number 1.

Now, whether or not these issues that I have named would be useful to us all depends on Dr. Thayer's approval of my plan for re-binding so as to have two copies of each volume, one for the safe and one for the Vindex Room. He may feel that these early numbers are of such value that they should be kept as they are in the safe. In that case, these issues that I have listed would not be missed so much. In case he does approve of my plan, however, any copies that you might wish to spare would be of great value. It might be well then to let the matter rest until after Dr. Thayer's return, when I can write you more definitely. In any case, I should not wish to ask you to give up the one copy of Volume I, Number 1 that you have, or Volume III, Number 5, which you mention on account of its particular association. And it might be that you would prefer to hold all the copies for the present, in view of the fact that we have at least one copy of every issue of the first ten years. We do not wish to impose on your generosity. If, however, you were at any time thinking of destroying any of the issues you have, we should be glad instead to have them for our permanent files.

It was a great pleasure to see you here, and now that you are once more acquainted with us, I hope that you can drop in frequently. And when I can, I should be very

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happy to call on you in Cambridge.

From your interest in "The Vindex," I am wondering if you did not act as adviser to the boys in getting out the early issues. I have been helping the boys in this work for a number of years.

You ask about Mr. Cheney. He is not directly connected with the School, but is in close touch with it, as he is Vicar of St. Mark's Parish Church, of which Dr. Thayer serves as Rector. On Sundays, the School attend services in the Parish Church. It happens that temporarily Mr. Cheney has some classes in Sacred Study, substituting for Dr. Thayer. But this is only for a few weeks.

With all good wishes, I am
Very sincerely yours,

George B. Fernald

I was thinking of making out sometime a list of former Editors-in-Chief of "The Vindex." I notice that the term is not used in the early issues. Can you tell me whether the boy first named in the list of Editors was in a way considered as Editor-in-Chief?



Fernald, George B. 1924. "Fernald, George B May 25, 1924." *Walter Deane correspondence* –.

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