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April 4, 1918.

*File*  
Prof. R. L. Cheney,  
Y.M.C.A. College,  
Springfield, Mass.

My dear Prof. Cheney:

I am now doing that which I have failed to do during the past 28 months, and which I regret that I have not done, viz- write you a letter.

I must cover with a few lines all that has transpired during the last two years: Immediately after I saw you at the Cleveland Convention, I responded to the call of Mr. E.C. Carter and went out for service among the Indian troops. I remained in India for about six months working in the camps and spent about two months visiting the colleges and educational centers in India.

I will not undertake here to say anything about my experience in India.

When my division was ordered to East Africa, I was asked to go along with it which I did and was of service in Africa with the British, Indian and African forces. After a year filled with all kinds of experiences of which nine attacks of African fever played no little part, I had to leave Africa and return to America via India and France.

As I said, I wanted, and did plan to write you quite frequently both while in Africa and India, but the uncertainty of mails and the fact that so many of my letters went down on steamers that were sunk discouraged me to the extent that I wrote very few letters. I have however, some very full notes which I shall use in writing you a very detailed account of my experiences.

I am quite sure you will be glad to know that I met several Springfield men in India. I was with Rossetti in several parts of India and had some delightful experiences with him. He asked me to send word to Springfield that he had not yet decided to put off his "mortal coil".

I was also with Hodder in Bombay and the Physical Director in Bombay whose name I do not recall. I need not tell you that it was a pleasure to be with these men. This information will perhaps be very interesting to you. While passing through France my train stopped for two hours one night in Lyons for dinner. On returning from the dining room, I saw a long line of American officers leaving one train and going into the restaurant for a bite before taking another train which was to convey them to the trenches. I said to myself, surely I should see someone in this crowd whom I know. I had not waited long before my stay had been

Prof. R.L.Cheney

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satisfied with a sight of one whom I knew and loved in Springfield I refer to Heinel, from Wilmington, Delaware. I suppose Heinel was as glad to see me as I was to see him, he immediately dropped both of his bags and gave me a hearty hand-shake which so truly characterizes his great spirit. I went back into the restaurant and had a second dinner with him and had the opportunity to hear of his experiences in the training camp in France. I need not tell you that he went with all the enthusiasm and manly spirit so characteristic of Springfield College.

While at Paris I had the good fortune to see and have a long talk with Dr. McCurdy. I was very glad to see him and talk with him, because it put me in touch again with Springfield College.

I am now back in America, in the work which I left to go out to India. of course, I cannot give any information concerning my future activities since they are a bit uncertain. I shall be glad however, to keep in touch with you and I do promise now, to write you a very full letter.

Since I have been gone I have thought very often of you and of the fellowship we enjoyed while I was a student, and during these days of great changes a fuller meaning of that fellowship dawns upon me.

Please remember me to my friends at Springfield, both of the faculty and student body.

With every good wish, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

*Max Ferguson*

JEM/LEM