

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY  
PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
DALLAS 5, TEXAS

Nov. 12, 1959

Dr. H. Richard Niebuhr  
409 Prospect  
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Dr. Niebuhr,

Thank you for your letter informing me of the action of the Graduate Faculty. I appreciate the criticism of the readers and I regard it as entirely just. I am chagrined that the matters which need correction did not receive attention earlier. Please be assured that I shall make a thorough stylistic renovation of the entire dissertation.

Mr. Decherd H. Turner, <sup>the adept superb</sup> ~~our~~ <sup>Perkins</sup> ~~gifted~~ <sup>librarian</sup> at Perkins, whose ~~work is well-known by Mr. Morris,~~ has graciously offered to work with me on the manuscript until it is cast in a finished and inflexible English style.

Naturally, I hope that in the process of revising the dissertation <sup>stylistically</sup> ~~along the grammatical and syntactical lines~~ suggested by the committee I can also improve upon the argument and substance of the dissertation itself. You noted in your letter that various criticisms had been made by the readers especially on the introductory and concluding sections. I am anxious to improve these sections ~~also.~~ <sup>in order to rework them.</sup> While I appreciate your making it clear that the committee has asked chiefly for corrections in <sup>grammar</sup> style and syntax, I would like to express my hope that these sections, as well as the whole of the thesis, could be improved in the ensuing revision, not only in form but also in content, not only in style but also in substance.

May I express my embarrassment and chagrin that I did not see to it that all things were in order before submitting the dissertation. You allowed me, for the most part, to be responsible for my style, and I feel that I did not prove myself to be as mature as you and Dr. Shipley expected me to be. A part of the difficulty, if I may say so without trying to dodge responsibility, is the inadequacy of grammatical, stylistic and syntactical training which we receive in elementary schools in the southwest. I proofread my own manuscript in a way which I thought was thorough, but I ~~found~~ have since come to the conclusion that after one works on a manuscript at great length it needs to be proof-read by another reader. I would never ~~have~~ submitted my dissertation with dozens of errors in it.

I hope that when you see the dissertation again it will be sans peur et sans reproche. My thanks to you for your good counsel & spirit. Again it is the case that amid judgment grace appears.

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS  
DALLAS, TEXAS

Nov. 12, 1959

Dr. Richard W. Nisbun  
409 Prospect  
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Dr. Nisbun,

Thank you for your letter inquiring as to the status of the  
Graduate Faculty. I appreciate the criticism of the readers  
and I regard it as extremely helpful. I am convinced that the  
matters which need correction did not receive attention earlier.  
Please be assured that I shall make a thorough stylistic  
revision of the entire dissertation.

Mr. Richard W. Nisbun, our gifted dissertation at Parkers, whose  
work is well-known by Dr. Nisbun, has graciously offered me  
work which he is the manuscript until it is cast in a finished  
and intellectually brilliant style.

Naturally, I hope that in the process of revising the  
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