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November 16, 1918.

Mr. Caleb W. Lawrence  
31 Avenue Montaigne  
Paris, France

My dear Mr. Lawrence:-

Yours of October 25 came duly to hand. I have talked over the question you raised with Mrs. Lawrence and others and write now to say that in view of the emergencies which are upon us and which we must not allow to go by default, it seems to us all that it would be better for you not to attempt to complete your course of study in Harvard now, but to plan to get back to Smyrna just as soon as possible.

I am enclosing two general Turkey letters which have been recently written which will tell their own story.

Dr. MacLachlan and Mr. Reed ought to come out and will need to come out just as soon as they can get out from Smyrna and their places can be filled. Mr. and Mrs. Birge will be ready to go back on the transport that we are assured will be given us by the Government. You could take your whole family then right to Smyrna. We see no objection to taking families with children into Smyrna, as the location there is isolated from the city and is most healthful. We shall expect also to have some relief workers there to assist the missionaries in relief work.

Therefore we hope you will be able to secure early release from the Y.M.C.A. and, in fact, I will write to New York to that effect now. Then you will come home and help Mrs. Lawrence in packing up and be ready to start on the transport. We rather expect it will be able to go early in January, maybe before that.

We are glad of the good work you have been able to do over there.

The world is full of joy that the war has ceased. We must now begin perhaps that which is the most critical and most important of all, the process of reconstruction.

Hastily but very sincerely yours,

JLB/M  
Enclosures

