

do not at all correspond with mine. The
grammar to consist of about 75 pages 12^{mo} - he
says he can't afford to "pay more than Fifty Dollars!"
He wants to pay for it "out and out," by that I mean leav-
ing the Author no further interest in it. Now I think this
perfectly unreasonable; but I did expect to hear any opin-
ion on the subject, thinking it best, first to confer with you.
For the larger grammar, he proposes to pay, say one
or two cents per copy sold or written, any bonus,
or advance to the author. Now as the proposition was
originally to you and as he of course would prefer you
to make the book, I merely "took the matter under ad-
vise ment." - Now I would scarcely write a primer, to
be published under my name, for \$50.00. It is certainly
worth as much or more to write the smaller grammar,
than it was to complete the speller. And even in my pres-
ent condition, I would be very sorry to undertake it
for less than three hundred dollars, to be paid
soon as the MS. ~~is~~ should be delivered.
As to the larger book, I feel inclined to in-
sert on a bonus of \$200.00 and 2¢ per copy
afterward. It would certainly require a much con-
siderable amount of science to write this book, than was
employed by Dr. Ray in the preparation of his Arith-
metics. It is very certain that Smith knows it
to be indispensable to have the names of the Guffey
to these books - to make them correspond with the rest
of the series, if for no other reason. To some extent
therefore, we may be said to hold the stick in our own
hands. I would not however use any advantage of
this kind except in self defence, to secure a reason-
able compensation. The other books have been made
cheap enough, in all conscience. But I seem to think
that every successive work should be cheaper than its
predecessor. - But in my present condition, my necessities
are so great, that I must work for half price, if I can't
do better. Pray give your views about these matters

118-2AE

to: W.H. McGuffey

from: Alexander McGuffey

(after June 17, 1845)

(attached to letter 130-2AP)

(87A)

as soon as you have reviewed. If you approve
of my views as to the value of the labor to be done, I think
I will tell Smith, that the "lowest rates" are \$300 for
the smaller, and \$200 bonus, with a 5 per cent profit
for the larger book. My neglected words lead
me now to prefer a fixed price for the large book
as well as for the small. If that arrangement
should be made what sum do you think should
be paid for it?

The children are both well. They have this day
changed both our accounts. Our yellow nurse is going to
marry a Methodist Preacher with six children, and
our old Irish Cook can't get on with our work.
Their success from the family and your "reasonably
well recommended" I trust the "may" get
on well, for with two children, and a sedentary man in
a family, any domestic arrangement becomes a ser-
ious matter.

The Dr. is about as usual, and is
driving away at his books.
Ely abhors dirt, and I give her best love,
to you and Sister, and Charley sends his to
his Cousin, whom he distinguishes by calling his
good Cousin.

I trust that you may
find both your happiness and usefulness increased
by your change of location.

I hope to hear from you sometime
after your arrival at the University.

Affectionately,
Your Brother Alex.

P.S. Henry has not been seen or heard from
since you left.