



June 24, 1918

The Rev. George V. Dickey,  
P. O. Box 1320,  
San Juan, P.R.

Dear Mr. Dickey,

Your letter of June the 11th while not a surprise was a real shock. I had counted so much on great things from you, and the discovery that like many another good man you were not fitted for work in the tropics was a pretty hard blow.

Let me put two thoughts into your mind which I hope will not only rest there forever but will enable you to bear this cruel disappointment.

In the first place, Bishop Colmore and everybody from Porto Rico has always spoken in terms of highest regard for you and not one suggestion even has been made that you are not a sincere and worthy minister of the gospel. In the second place, many a good man has similarly come to grief in the tropics. You doubtless know the story of the first Bishop of Porto Rico, how that he was a man of exceptional vigor and judgment in his Massachusetts home and how that he lost out under the tropical sun.

After all the high hopes that I had for you and the deep admiration that I felt for the great sacrifice you were making, and after you broke up your comfortable home in Newport and cast everything to



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the winds to serve your Lord, it is nothing less than a tragedy. But using the words in their old Greek sense, tragedies can be always turned into comedies if the principal characters thereof will only prove heroes and rise superior to buffalafftings of fortune.

A man who made so splendid a renunciation as you made when you went to Porto Rico certainly has it within him to rise up and do bigger things and finer things than ever before. It is indeed my prayer that you thus will be able, not only for your own sake but for the sake of the Church which needs you so badly, to be a Man, as Kipling defines in that inimitable poem:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss.

When you come back to New York be sure and let me know, but I hope it will not be during August because I expect to be away at that time. The last ten days of July I hope to be here.

Very faithfully yours,

Secretary for Latin America.

ARG/M