

For your information only,
with greetings from your grateful pupil,
G. W. Lawrence.

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.
November 24, 1924

To the Editor of the New York Times
Times Building
New York City

My dear Sir:

I have read with much interest your editorial pertaining to myself in the issue of November 20th.

I regret exceedingly that such a gross misunderstanding should arise as to what was meant by "Divine inspiration." Inspiration is never at variance with information; in fact, the more information one has, the greater will be the inspiration.

Paul, the great Scholar, says, Second Timothy 2-15, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a Workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Again he says in Galatians 1-12: "For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Many, many other equally strong passages could be cited, but these two are sufficient to form a base around which to cluster my remarks. In the first verse, I have followed and am yet following the first word of study.

I am a graduate of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, located at Ames, Iowa, taking two degrees in Scientific Agriculture. Did considerable work in Simpson College, Indianola, along the lines of Art, Literature and Music.

In Chemistry, the following persons have been my inspiration and guide for study; Justin Von Liebig, Dr. Leroy J. Blinn, Dr. Ira Remsen, Drs. L. L. De Koninck, E. Dietz, Robert Mallet, William G. Valentin, J. Meritt Matthews, Edwin E. Slosson, M. Luckiesh, Harrison E. Howe, Charles Whiting Baker, Helen Abbott, Michael, Mad. Currie, Geo. J. Brush, Charles F. Chandler, G. Dragendorff, Frederick Hoffman, Josef Bersch, Arthur C. Wright, M. W. O'Brine, Lucien Geschwind, Stillman, Wiley, Dana, Richards & Woodman, Harry Snyder, Coleman and Addyman, Meade, Ostwald, Warrington, Winslow, and a number of others, all of which are in my own library with but few exceptions. In Botany, Loudon, Wood, Coulter Stevens, Knight, Baily, De Candole, Pammel, Bessey, Chapman,

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Gray, Goodale, Youmans, Myers, Britton and Brown, Small, and others. These books are also in my own library. Dietaries, Henry, Richards, Mrs. Potter Palmer, Miles, Wing, Fletcher Berry, Kellogg, Nilson, and others.

In addition to the above, I receive the leading scientific publications. I thoroughly understand that there are scientists to whom the whole world is merely the result of chemical forces or material electrons. I do not belong to this class. I fully agree with the Rt. Rev. Irving Peake Johnson, D. D., Bishop of Colorado in a little pamphlet entitled "Religion and the Supernatural." It is published and distributed by the Trinity Parish of your own city. I defy any one who has an open mind to read this leaflet through and then deny there is such a thing as Divine inspiration.

In evolving new creations, I am wondering of what value a book would be to the creator if he is not a master of analytical work, both qualitative and quantitative. I can see readily his need for the book from which to get his analytical methods. The master analyst needs no book; he is at liberty to take apart and put together substances, compatible or non compatible to suit his own particular taste or fancy.

An Example

While in your beautiful city, I was struck with the large number of Taros and Yautias displayed in many of your markets; they are edible roots imported to this country largely from Trinidad, Porto Rico, China, Dutch Guiana, and Peru. Just as soon as I saw these luscious roots, I marveled at the wonderful possibilities for their expansion. Dozens of things came to me while standing there looking at them. I would follow the same or similar lines I have pursued in developing products from the white potato. I know of no one who has ever worked with these roots in this way. I know of no book from which I can get this information, yet I will have no trouble in doing it.

If this is not inspiration and information from a source greater than myself, or greater than any one has wrought up to the present time, kindly tell me what it is.

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."
John 8 - 32.

Science is simply the truth about anything.

Yours very truly,

Director of Research and Experiment Station.

GWE:H