

Yours sincerely,
C. B. HEBERDEN.

From the same to W.O.

CUS417/3.9
Brasenose College,
Oxford.

May 27, 1911.

Draft.

My dear Nicholson,

As you know, the Curators of the Bodleian Library have been condiering the difficulties created by the state of your health. They desire to treat your interests with the utmost consideration, and they recognise fully and with gratitude the devoted services which you have rendered to the Library since your appointment in 1882. But they cannot conceal from themselves the fact that the library has been suffering during the last two terms from your prolonged absence and from your having been unable to do the full work of the Librarian after you returned to the Library. The Curators are aware that you have latterly been able to increase the number of hours during which you have been in attendance at the Library, but they think that your health does not allow of your carrying out completely the very arduous duties of the Librarian when you are present, and, as responsible for the welfare of the library, they cannot ignore this. The difficulty is all the more serious because it is a critical time for the Library, the preparations for the printing of the catalogue and the rearrangements necessitated by the new bookstore involving heavy work and great additional expense which require the constant supervision of the Librarian in every particular.

The Curators have with great reluctance come to the conclusion that it would not be fair to put this strain upon you, and they are therefore prepared, in the interests of yourself no less than of the Library, to propose to Convocation that you should be allowed to resign the office of Librarian, receiving the full pension, viz. £500 a year, which is assigned after 30 years' service under the Bodleian Statute.

I shall be glad to see you about this proposal, and to discuss the matter with you if you should desire it.

Yours sincerely,

C. B. HEBERDEN.

W.O.'s typewritten note on the back of this letter is as follows:-

This letter was the outcome of an informal meeting of the Curators on the 27th of May 1911. We had had the perlustration, and had arranged to meet quietly without Nicholson's knowledge in the Delegates' room after the inspection. We had been there about ten minutes and had listened to a report on the legal position drawn up by Goudy and Anson, a copy of which is here appended. While we were discussing it in walked Nicholson, who had evidently had rumours of the meeting. It was a very awkward position, but Heberden told him plainly that he did not think his presence necessary. Then he asked to make a statement, and said he was gradually getting back to full work. My opinion with reference to his physical condition was that he was getting back to full work rapidly, but there was at any time a liability to break down, and that he was hard hit in mind, body and estate, and assured the Curators that he had not the slightest intention of resigning.