

McLean County Museum of History

Horatio C. Bent Collection

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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1945 - 1956
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History

Horatio C. Bent was born June 24, 1881 to Horatio G. and Adah Crist Bent. Bent Elementary school in Bloomington was named for his father, Horatio G. Bent. Horatio C. served on the school board for many years and later as business manager. He graduated from Illinois Wesleyan Law School, and was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. He married Daisy Churchill on July 26, 1928, she was his only survivor.

Horatio C. Bent became well known to *Pantagraph* readers through his frequent letters to the editor. He sent his manuscript, "The Christian-Democratic World Society," to many universities and seminaries for validation, as well as editors for publication. Mr. Bent also wrote to congressmen and senators about his views on a post WWII world society, secular and religious education, the Marshall Plan and other topics of the day. In his letters he often referred to his membership in the Baptist Church. He died June 20, 1956.

Scope

This collection includes a short biographical review. There are Letters to the Editor, religious and personal correspondence, government correspondence, A Plan for World Peace, Christian Democracy in Action, Newspaper and Other Publications, Manuscript Correspondence, Miscellaneous, and copies of Articles, Letters to the Editor, *Pantagraph*, unless noted. All correspondence and writing from Horatio C. Bent are carbons.

Box and Folder Inventory

Box 1

Folder 1: Biographical Material

- 1.1 "Horatio C. Bent, Retired Attorney," *Pantagraph*, June 21, 1956.

Folder 2: Letters to the Editor

- 2.1 To Editor *The Pantagraph*: regarding Reinhold Niebuhr article in previous Sunday paper, January 19, 1948.
- 2.2 To Editor *Pantagraph*: regarding editorial article on the Corporation, *Pantagraph* article attached, "Is the Corporation An Evil Concept?" 1947.
- 2.3 "The Goose and the Golden Egg," partial copy of letter to the editor, *Pantagraph* articles attached, By the Public and By The Pantagraph, 1948.
- 2.4 Editor *The Pantagraph*: letter copy regarding primary election law and *Pantagraph*, By the Public article attached, 1948.
- 2.5 Editor *The Pantagraph*: letter copy regarding world peace and *Pantagraph*, By the Public article attached, October 15, 1948.
- 2.6 Editor *The Pantagraph*: letter copy regarding unity of government and *Pantagraph*, By the Public article attached, May 23, 1949.
- 2.7 Editor *The Pantagraph*: letter copy regarding mines should be nationalized and *Pantagraph*, By the Public article attached, November 18, 1949.

- 2.8 To Mr Tate, from Horatio C. Bent regarding publishing an article about the changes in rural life, June 15, 1952. (2 copies)
- 2.9 Editor *The Pantagraph*: regarding world order, 4 pages, no date.
- 2.10 Editor, *The Pantagraph*: typed copy and article attached, "Would Shift Population of Nations," no date.
- 2.11 Editor, *The Pantagraph*: regarding security in the World for Democracy, 2 pages, no date.

Folder 3: Religious and Personal Correspondence

- 3.1 To Dr. Edgar DeWitt Jones, Central Woodward Christian Church, requesting a manuscript entitled "A Society For Democracy" be returned, February 7, 1946.
- 3.2 To Mr. Bent from Frank Larson regarding economic plan presented in Voorhis book January 15, 1948, 2 pages.
- 3.3 To Editor, *Christian Century*, response to several editorials regarding religion in public schools, May 1, 1948, 5 pages.
- 3.4 Letter to Frank Larson praising article in *Pantagraph*, December 29, 1948
- 3.5 Letter to Mr. Bent from Frank Larson comments on Bent's manuscript, January 3, 1949, 4 pages.
- 3.6 Letter to Frank Larson (penciled in corner) titled "A Letter to a Friend, no. 1" discussing a book by Jerry Voorhis including subjects of economy, agriculture, national government January 13, 1949, 7 pages (2 not readable).
- 3.7 Letter to Frank Larson (penciled in corner) titled "A Letter to a Friend, no. 2" discussing government, labor, taxation, and other national problems. January 18, 1949, 2 pages.
- 3.8 *To Crusader* regarding their article, "Baptist Parochial Schools?" September 1, 1949, 3 pages.
- 3.9 *Union Theological Seminary* letterhead to Horatio C. Bent, returning manuscript, September 30, 1949, (original)
- 3.10 The Christian-Democratic World Society letterhead essay presenting Christian Action suggestions and ideas, no date, 2 pages.
- 3.11 To Dear Brother in the Church: enclosing a booklet on Christian Action, no date.
- 3.12 To *The Crusader*: Essay of goals to be pursued by Christian-Democratic thinkers, no date, 2 pages, 2 copies.
- 3.13 Untitled essay: against religion in schools, no date, 6 pages.
- 3.14 Untitled essay: against religion in public schools, no date, 3 pages
- 3.15 Untitled essay arguments against religion in public schools, no date, 2 pages, 2 copies.
- 3.16 "Religion and Education," by Horatio C. Bent, exploration of consequences, 6 pages, no date.

Folder 4: Government Correspondence

- 4.1 To Horatio C. Bent from L. C. Arends, Congress of the United States, House of Representatives letterhead regarding Bent's recent letter about the Marshall Plan, January 27, 1948.
- 4.2 Letter addressed "Dear Friend," from W.L. O' Daniel, United States Senate letterhead acknowledging Bent's recent letter, February 3, 1948.
- 4.3 To Horatio C. Bent from Scott W. Lucas United States Senate letterhead presenting his views on the Marshall Plan, February 3, 1948, 4 pages.

- 4.4 Bent sample letter, "Dear Sir," regarding the Marshall Plan and other post war strategies, February 4, 1948.
- 4.5 To Horatio C Bent from Scott W. Lucas, United States Senate letterhead thanking him for his letter regarding the Marshall Plan, February 14, 1948.
- 4.6 To Mr. Bent from Richard D. Winslow, United States Mission to the United Nations letterhead acknowledging recent letter, February 27, 1948.
- 4.7 To Horatio C. Bent from Warren E. Burger on Stassen for President letterhead acknowledging recent letter, March 12, 1948.
- 4.8 To Horatio C. Bent from Joseph H. Ball on United States Senate letterhead regarding his thinking on the European Recovery Program, March 13, 1948, 2 pages.
- 4.9 To dear Friend from William Langer United States Senate letterhead requesting opinions on whether the United States should recognize the new Communist regime in China, November 3, 1949, 2 pages 2 copies.
- 4.10 Reply to above letter: To William Langer from Horatio C. Bent, views on foreign policy, November 18, 1949, 2 pages.
- 4.11 To Hon. Paul Douglas regarding admission of Alaska and Hawaii as states, February 28, 1952., attached "Dear Sir" letter on Christian-Democratic Society.
- 4.12 To Hon. Dean Acheson, Secretary of State, copy of one page of letter regarding Marshall Plan, no date
- 4.13 Horatio C. Bent letterhead: one page essay on postwar Europe.
- 4.14 Sample of views sent to Senators and Congressmen, 2 pages

Folder 5: A Plan For World Peace

- 5.1 "A Good Peace" from the "Peace of Nations" by Horatio C. Bent, brochure (5 x 11), 4 pages, 2 copies
- 5.2 To Horatio C. Bent from Gloster Morris *Christianity and Crisis* letterhead, thanking Bent for "A Plan for World Peace" article, but returning as unable to use, November 24, 1947.
- 5.3 "A Plan For World Peace," addresses the state of the world after WWII and suggests solutions, 6 pages, and a penciled emigration chart, 2 copies.
- 5.4 To Horatio C. Bent from Michael Straight on *New Republic* letterhead: unable to use article "A Plan For World Peace," returning, but keep in touch, January 23, 1943.
- 5.5 To Sen. George Malone (penciled in) from Bent referencing a *Chicago Tribune* report of a speech by Sen. Malone, February 23, 1946.
Reply from Sen. Malone agreeing with Bent's "Plan For World Peace," as presenting possible answers as well as his Monroe Doctrine theory, March 2, 1948.
- 5.6 To Senator George W. Malone (penciled in) from Horatio C. Bent regarding solutions for post WWII, March 13, 1948, 5 pages.
- 5.7 To the *Christian Science Monitor*: regarding League of Nations, world politics, February 2, 1952, 2 pages.
- 5.8 To Horatio C. Bent from Tully Nettleton, the *Christian Science Monitor*, reply to above letter, w/copy, February 21, 1952, 3 pages.
- 5.7 "A Plan For World Peace," solutions for post WWII world, 2 copies, 2 pages each, one signed, no date.
- 5.8 "A Plan For World Peace," on Horatio C. Bent letterhead, solutions for post WWII world, no date, 6 pages, no date.

- 5.9 "A Plan For World Peace" and "World Peace," 4 pages and 6 pages respectively, rough drafts, penciled over, and lines added to text, no dates.
- 5.10 No title, Horatio C. Bent letterhead, post WWII solution, no date, 1 page.
- 5.11 pages 2, 3 and 4 of Bent's world view – no title page or last page.
- 5.12 "A League of Free Nations," By Horatio G. Bent, no date, 19 pages.
- 5.13 Horatio C Bent letterhead discussing post war peace and world order. 3 pages, no date, 2 copies.
- 5.14 Single page – part of a letter – addressee unknown, no date.

Folder 6 Christian-Democracy Action

- 6.1 To Edgar DeWitt Jones, Central Woodward Christian Church, letter regarding a copy of "A Society for Democracy," being sent, December 19, 1945.
- 6.2 To Horatio C. Bent from Reinhold Niebuhr, *Christianity and Crisis* letterhead: comments on church and state, February 9, 1948
- 6.3 To Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr from Horatio C. Bent regarding state and religion, February 5, 1948.
- 6.4 *Union Theological Seminary* letterhead to Horatio C. Bent from Reinhold Niebuhr with criticism, letter copy and newspaper article, February 4, 1949.
- 6.5 To Dear Brother Loidolt from Horatio C. Bent regarding article on "Christian Democratic Society," March 18, 1949.
- 6.6 Handwritten letter from John Dewey and Bent's reply regarding attitude of Christian followers, May 25, 1949.
- 6.7 To Mr. Dewey from Horatio C. Bent, regarding organizational Christianity, June 1, 1949.
- 6.8 To Mr. Loidolt regarding Dewey's letter and "A Christian Democratic Society," June 21, 1949, 3 pages.
- 6.9 To Dear Brother Loidolt from Horatio C. Bent regarding current Christian-Democrat thought, January 5, 1950, 2 pages.
- 6.10 To Mr. Erwin D. Canham regarding "The Christian-Democratic World Society," January 19, 1951, 3 pages.
- 6.11 To Dr. John B. Bennett, Union Theological Seminary, from Bent requesting establishing chapter of the Christian-Democratic World Society at seminary, March 16, 1951.
- 6.12 To Horatio C. Bent from the *Christian Freedom Foundation, Inc.* critic of letter sent for publication, 2 items, March 3, 1952.
- 6.13 To *The Christian Century*, Paul Hutchinson, Ed., from Horatio C Bent, regarding Christian attitudes and practice worldwide, no date.
- 6.14 To Dr. Bennett (penciled in) from Horatio C. Bent discussing the state of Christianity in the world today, 2 pages, no date.
- 6.15 The *Christian-Democracy* letterhead, Horatio C. Bent, District Organizer, essay titled, "Christian Action," discusses the church meeting the challenges of today's society, no date, 3 pages.
- 6.16 The *Christian-Democracy* letterhead, Horatio C. Bent, District Organizer, letter discusses Christian Ethic as distinct from theological approach, no date, 2 pages
- 6.17 "Christian Action," essay discusses meeting the challenges of today's society, 3 pages, no date.
- 6.18 "Democracy" essay for world order under Christian-Democratic principles for a Democracy, a Democratic Society, 14 pages, no date.

- 6.19 “Addendum:” letters from Directors of Christian Action leaders reflecting views of Organization and Church, 4 pages, no date.
- 6.20 “Democracy,” reflections on world peace and democracy, 2 pages, no date.
- 6.21 *The Christian-Democratic World Society* stamped envelope addressed to Editor, *The Pantagraph*, no date (not cancelled).
- 6.22 “Applied Christian Democracy: The Beginning and The End,” essay, no date, 2 pages.
- 6.34 Horatio C. Bent letterhead to Dear Sir: regarding Christianity and World order, no date, 2 copies.

Folder 7: Newspaper and Other Publications Correspondence

- 7.1 Addressee unreadable, letter is concerned with the Marshall Plan, communism, economic philosophy, January 14, 1948.
- 7.2 To Eileen J. Garrett, Editor, *Current History*, on Horatio C. Bent letterhead regarding post-war foreign policy, January 23, 1948, 2 pages.
- 7.3 To Horatio C. Bent from *Chicago Tribune* acknowledging receipt of letter to Colonel McCormick, January 29, 1948.
- 7.4 To Arthur Hays Sulzberger, Ed. *New York Times*, on Horatio C. Bent letterhead regarding post-war foreign policy, January 31, 1948, 2 pages
- 7.5 Horatio C. Bent letterhead, no addressee regarding post-war foreign policy, February 4, 1948, 2 pages
- 7.6 First page of above letter – no addressee, no date, no letterhead.
- 7.7 Horatio C Bent letterhead to “Dear Sir,” regarding Marshall Plan, February 4, 1948
- 7.8 Horatio C Bent letterhead to “Dear Sir,” regarding post-war foreign policy, February 4, 1948.
- 7.9 To “Dear Sir,” regarding post-war foreign policy, February 15, 1948.
- 7.10 To “Dear Sir,” regarding strengthening Western Democracy, no date.
- 7.11 *The Atlantic Monthly* letterhead to Mr. Bent thanking for letter – attached copy, March 12, 1948, 4 items
- 7.12 Paul Harvey letterhead to Mr. Bent thanking for letter - attached copy, October 15, 1948, 3 items
- 7.13 Augustana College letterhead to Mr. Bent regarding his reply to newspaper article (attached), October 18, 1949, 2 items.
- 7.14 To Thomas M .McGowan from Horatio C. Bent regarding comment in the *Pantagraph*, January 1, 1952.
- 7.15 To Mr. Bent from *The Reader’s Digest* Editors thanking him for copy of letter to Senator Douglas regarding article in August issue, September 18, 1961, - attached letter copy, 6 pages
- 7.16 Horatio C. Bent letterhead to “Dear Sir,” cover letter for an enclosed article about Christianity and Democracy, no date.
- 7.17 One page of a letter warning of Russia and countries behind The Iron Curtain, no date.
- 7.18 Horatio C. Bent letterhead to “Dear Sir,” regarding Marshall Plan, no date, 2 pages.
- 7.19 Postcard from *The Nation* acknowledging Bent’s letter of January 14, dated 1/19/48.
- 7.20 To “Dear Sir,” regarding post-war foreign policy, no date, 2 pages.
- 7.21 “Is There a Middle Way.” Bent essay on Liberty and Equality, no date, 1 page.
- 7.22 To Reinhold Niebuhr from Bent, sending reply and article, January 19, 1948.

- 7.23 To Horatio C. Bent from Reinhold Niebuhr, *Christianity and Crisis* letterhead, thanking for letter and enclosures, January 30, 1948.
- 7.24 To Reinhold Niebuhr from Bent, thanking him for prompt response to letter and return of enclosures, February 5, 1948.

Folder 8: Manuscript Correspondence

- 8.1 To Horatio C. Bent from Wm. L. Sperry, *Harvard Divinity School*, returning manuscript, September 12, 1949.
- 8.2 To Horatio C. Bent from Kenneth Underwood, *The Council for Social Action*, unable to use, September 16, 1949.
- 8.3 To Horatio C. Bent from Christine Knudsen, Sec. to G. Bromley Oxnam Bishop of Methodist Church, N.Y., N.Y. Bishop Oxnam traveling, unable to read, October 5, 1949.
- 8.4 To Horatio C. Bent from John A. Mackay, *Princeton Theological Seminary*, returning manuscript, October 13, 1949.
- 8.5 To Mr. Jesse H. Baird, President San Francisco Theological Seminary from Horatio C. Bent requesting suggestions on article, "The Christian-Democratic Society," October 15, 1949.
- 8.6 To Horatio C. Bent from John R. Mott, *World Council of Churches*, handwritten message is unreadable, Oct. 22, 1949.
- 8.7 To Horatio C. Bent from H. J. Ockenga, *Park Street Church*, Boston, Mass., no time to evaluate, October 24, 1949.
- 8.8 To Horatio C. Bent from Wilbour E. Saunders, *Colgate-Rochester Divinity School*, misplaced at this time, December 27, 1949.
- 8.9 To Horatio C. Bent from W. E. Garrison, Chicago, Il, critique of Bent's ideas, Nov. 3, 1949, and Bent's letter of reply, Nov. 7, 1949, 3 pages.
- 8.10 To Horatio C. Bent from H. J. Ockenga, *Park Street Church*, Boston, Mass., time does not permit additional reading, November 4, 1949.
- 8.11 To Horatio C. Bent from Wilhelm Pauck, *The Chicago Theological Seminary*, not an authority on these problems, no suggestions, November 21, 1949.
- 8.12 To Horatio C. Bent from E. G. Nourse, no time to read, returning manuscript, November 25, 1949.
- 8.13 To Horatio C. Bent from Henry Smith Leiper, Assoc. Sec. *World Council of Churches*, returning manuscript as no time to read, December 2, 1949, 2 pages. Second letter on December 9 reiterating first message, 2 pages
- 8.14 To Horatio C. Bent from Elmo L. Greenwood, *The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America*, returning manuscript with favorable comments, December 2, 1949.
- 8.15 To Horatio C. Bent from Roger Hazelton, *Andover Newton Theological School*, no record of having received the manuscript, December 2, 1949.
- 8.16 To Horatio C. Bent from Clifford F. Morehouse, Rd., *The Libing Church*, returning as no time nor interest, December 12, 1949.
- 8.17 To Horatio C. Bent from Harold E. Fey, Ed. *The Christian Century*, unable to read and make suggestions concerning manuscripts, December 20, 1949.
- 8.18 To Horatio C. Bent from L. Otto Nall, *The Christian Advocate*, points of agreement and disagreement, December 20, 1949
- 8.19 To Horatio C. Bent from B. Margaret Rieber, Sec. to Dr. E. F. Adams, returning unable to read, December 21, 1949.

- 8.20 To Horatio C. Bent from G. W. Buckner, Jr. returning manuscript as cannot give careful consideration, December 21, 1949.
- 8.21 To Horatio C. Bent from Harry D. Gideonse, President, *Brooklyn College*, returning, no time to read, December 23, 1949.
- 8.22 To Mr. Bent from John C. Bennett, *Union Theological Seminary*, good points with critiques, Dec. 24, 1949
- 8.23 To Horatio C. Bent from Gerald E. Knoff, Assoc. Gen. Sec. *The International Council of Religious Education*, cannot give statement on article, December 27, 1949.
- 8.24 To Horatio C. Bent from M. D. McDougal, The Board of Christian Education, et. al. returning manuscript, unable to read, December 29, 1949.
- 8.25 To Horatio C. Bent from Thoresten Sellin, Ed., *The Annals*, returning manuscript, no time to read, January 5, 1950.
- 8.26 To Mr. Bent from Bruce Bliven, Ed. *New Republic*, returning manuscript, unable to make comments, January 4, 1950.
- 8.27 To Horatio C. Bent from George Britt, Ed., *Survey Associates, Inc*, congratulations, but unable to use, January 5, 1950.
- 8.28 To Horatio C. Bent from Earl J. Hamilton, *The University of Chicago*, “should not express an opinion,” January 5, 1950.
- 8.29 manuscript, January 12, 1950. Note at bottom of Bent cover letter.
- 8.30 To Horatio C. Bent from Mary E. Mitchell, Sec. to President, *The Lutheran Theological Seminary*, returning manuscript, no time to read, January 16, 1950.
- 8.31 To Horatio C. Bent from D. G. Redmond, *Forum*, returning manuscript, generally favorable, January 24, 1950.
- 8.32 To Horatio C. Bent from C. W. Efroymson, generally favorable, January 24, 1950.
- 8.33 To Mr. Bent from Hiram L. Jome, Depaw University: comments and suggestions on manuscript, February 1, 1950. Attached letter responding to Mr. Jome from Horatio C. Bent defending thesis, February 6, 1950, 3 pages.
- 8.34 To Mr. Bent from Stanley E. Howard, Prof. of Econ., Princeton University thanking Bent for manuscript and returning with suggestions, February 4, 1950.
- 8.35 To Mr. Bent from William A. Carter, Prof. of Econ., Dartmouth College, returning manuscript unable to give full attention, February 7, 1950.
- 8.36 To Mr. Horatio C. Bent from John H. xxxx, Office of the Dean, Eureka College, handwritten thank you for sending copy of manuscript, February 8, 1950.
- 8.37 To Mr. Bent from Elton Trxxxx, Earlham College, handwritten comments on the manuscript, February 15, 1950.
- 8.38 To Mr. Bent from Mrs. Gilbert E. Barnes, English Instructor, Ohio Wesleyan University, found manuscript to be interesting, February 15, 1950.
- 8.39 To Rev. G. Bremley Oxnam, NY, N.Y .from Horatio C. Bent requesting manuscript opinion, February 18,1950, and 2 letters from Oxnam’s office, February 21, 1950 and Rev. Oxnam, February 27, 1950, unable to devote time to proposal.
- 8.40 To Mr. Horatio C. Bent from Jerry Tallmer, Asst. Ed., *The Nation*, returning manuscript, read with interest, February 21, 1950.
- 8.41 To Mr. Horatio C. Bent from Edwin H. Wilson, Ed., *The Humanist*, critique of manuscript, march 3, 1950, 2 pages, and attached response letter from Bent, March 9, 1950, 2 pages.

- 8.42 To Horatio C. Bent from H. L. Yochum, Pres. Returning manuscript as no time to read, March 6, 1950.
- 8.43 To Horatio C. Bent from E. G. Homrighausen, Princeton Theological Seminary, returning as no time to read, March 8, 1950.
- 8.44 To Howard E. Kershner, President, Christian Freedom Foundation, from Horatio C. Bent requesting change of recent communication, March 12, 1952.

Folder 9: Miscellaneous

- 9.1 America's Town Meeting: "What Free Speech Means To Me," short essay by Horatio C Bent, February 18, 1948, 2 copies
- 9.2 Dear Mary, from Your Cousin, family news, June 1, 1949.
- 9.3 Radio Star Contest, from Horatio C. Bent, praise of Lowell Thomas broadcast, December 15, 1949.
- 9.4 The Christian-Democratic World Society, 4 ½ pages, partial pamphlet 10 ½" x 7 ½".
- 9.5 Note "To My dear Husband," from Daisy.
- 9.6 Amateur Musical Club program, 2 pages, November 1, 1936.
- 9.7 Preliminary Draft report of Committee on Resolutions, American Baptist Convention, May 22, 1952, 8 pages, 6" x 9" pamphlet.
- 9.8 Illinois Wesleyan Bulletin, August, 1956, 24 pages.
- 9.9 McLean County Historical Society Gift Agreement from Principal Jeff Geringer, Bent Elementary School, correspondence of Horatio C Bent (son of Horatio G.), April 29, 2011

Folder 10: Newspaper Articles, Letters, *Pantagraph*, unless notes

- 10.1 "How Time Flies," 50 Years Ago, May 18, 1903.
- 10.2 By the Public "Sen Flanders Peace Plan Called Weak," Horatio C. Bent, no date.
- 10.3 By the Public "He Disagrees With Mowrer World Policy," Horatio C. Bent, no date.
- 10.4 By the Public "Offers Plan For Preserving World Peace," Horatio C. Bent, no date.
- 10.5 By the Public "Says Man Comes First in Unity Of Government," Horatio C. Bent, no date.
- 10.6 "Proposes New China Committee, Horatio C. Bent, no date.
- 10.7 By the Public "Model Church Villages Urged For County," Horatio C. Bent, no date.
- 10.8 By the Public "Offers Solution for World Peace," Horatio C Bent, no date
- 10.9 "Islands Should Secure Loans of Debtor Nations," Horatio C. Bent, no date
- 10.10 "Sees Setup Of Present U.N. Faulty," Horatio C. Bent, no date
- 10.11 Untitled, Horatio C. Bent, no date.
- 10.12 "A Positive Declaration," Horatio C. Bent, no date.
- 10.13 *The Christian Science Monitor*, "Accent on the Positive section," "A Positive Declaration," Horatio C. Bent, no date