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(Scotland)

of Mr. Downie.
19. Castle St:
Inverness.

Feb. 28th 1934.

Rev. Prof. Karl Barth 22.
Bonn.

Dear F. Barth,

I am at present reading your 'Epistle to the Romans'. I have not finished it yet. I have, however, read everything written by you translated into English, and everything written about you printed in English, except, I believe, a volume written by an American living in the middle West.

Although I had heard much about your work previously, it was not until I arrived in San Francisco in 1930 that I obtained a copy of 'The Word of God and the Word of Man'. I thought it contained many passages that I should like to have written myself - strong, ringing words of challenge to the religious world. The prophet always appeals to me far more than the theologian.

I want to tell you what my own position is. I am a Presbyterian minister.

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I was born in Edinburgh in 1886. After the war I went in for the ministry at San Anselmo, California. I graduated in 1922. In 1924 I was ordained.

The desire to be at home (Scotland) caused me to leave California about six months after I was ordained. I have been wandering about the British Empire ever since. No British country or colony seems to consider an American ordination equivalent to a British ordination, unless one happens to be a famous man. And if you turn your back on America, especially California, once, they have no further use for you.

The paradox of it all is that I have been considered an exceptionally fine preacher by all congregations everywhere.

But that is not enough, seemingly, to get me admission to any denomination. British institutions are very hide-bound.

Everywhere I have preached the

pure Gospel. I should say my matter and style resemble that of J. S. Jones, but the style is more compact.

At the present time I am absolutely at a loose end as to what to do. I certainly have a message, but I can't find an audience for it. I might write books, but frankly, I am not scholar enough to write a theological treatise, and who would read sermons published by a man who hadn't a church?

Could you suggest anything - ~~either~~ to be tried either in this country or on the continent? I have never met F. Emil Brunner, or any other writer, British, American, or Continental, who has written about the 'theology of crisis'. Could any one of them suggest any line of conduct for me. I should be glad to supply all information that may be desired.

Yours faithfully.

J. S. Wood.