Copy-

1425 N. Y. Ave. Washington, D.C.
Sept. 15th 1894.

The Rev. Geo. O. Ferguson:
My Dear Bro:

I am requested to write you that your letter to Bp Hurst of Sept. 13th, offering $500 toward grading and improving the Site of the American University, on certain conditions, was laid before the Ex. Com., yesterday & the following action taken: "On motion of A. B. Browne the proposition was accepted, and that Mr. Ferguson be advised that it is the purpose of the Trustees to improve the grounds during the coming season as far as practicable, and as soon as we know the grades established by the District Commissioners upon the sts & Ave's, now projected through and adjoining the grounds." It was suggested also that I ask you the meaning of the condition, "the money to be paid on demand at the time of the completion of said work." The work you speak of as the "laying out & grading & improving the Campus." While there is no doubt about the "laying out," and a good deal of "grading and improving", it is doubtful if all this can be "completed" ~~at the near future~~ at a very near date. We hope that "improvement" will progress for a good many years yet. I might say, by way of additional information that the first studies of Olmsted & Co. for the "laying out & grading & improving" are now in our possession, but that Nebraska Ave., is just being laid out on the line of the Longfellow Road, & Mr. O. thinks we ought not to go any further till the grade of that Ave is finally settled by the Dist. Commissioners. As soon as this can be settled, the plans will be completed, and then work can begin. Until it is any attempt at plans, grading or improving would be likely to be a waste of money.

There is no doubt about work beginning by May 1st. I hope it will sometime before that.

Yours Sincerely=
Samuel L. Beiler
V-C.