

March 24, 1921

Mr. Enrique Molina
Rector of the University of Concepcion
Concepcion, Chile.

My appreciated friend and colleague:

Your letter of February first contained precisely what I expected from a man of your eminent qualities of mind and heart. When you perceived how much you had hurt my sentiment of devoted friendship you promptly did all that was possible to heal the wound. Our second thought it became evident to you that I had not deviated one iota from the sincerity of my interest in the welfare of the relationship of cordiality that ought to exist between my countrymen and yours. All that I had done was to point out how difficult it is to place that relationship as the basis of a sound understanding, so long as misapprehension on both sides exists. Such, certainly, was my earnest intention. At the same time I am duly appreciative of the fact that the thought which I wished to convey was liable to misconstruction. At the period of writing the article, however, no idea of the interpretation that might be put upon it crossed my mind. Could I have imagined the consequences I would not have expressed a word of it. I have learned a lesson for which I am profoundly grateful. This lesson

has been imparted in two ways: first, by the
misconstruction and second by the splendid
way in which you have acted to remove it.
I wish only that I could tell you in person
how deeply I appreciate what you have done.
If the written word suffices, then am I happy
indeed. Our friendship remains as it always
has been - pure, serene and true!

It will interest you to learn that I expect
to be absent from the University on leave during
the academic year, 1921-1922. When I abandon
my professional duties on such an occasion,
I like to feel myself, during some part of the
period, transported on the famous magic
carpet of the Arabian Nights. That it happens
that my arrangements for spending the leave
of absence are definite only to a certain extent.
Having been appointed a delegate to the
Conference of Professors of History at London
in July, I look forward to meeting my colleagues
from English-speaking lands, for the establish-
ment of the personal and professional contact
which is so desirable. In the autumn, also,
I expect to go to Madrid, there to conduct courses
under the direction of the "Centro de Estudios
Históricos." Since these will have to be given in
Spanish, I must resume my close acquaintance
with the language that I love next to my own.
¡Buenos sea yo chapucero y poco más, tengo
la osadía de creer que soy capaz de dejarme
entender! What I shall do when the courses
in question shall be completed is "as the lap
of the gods!" At all events I start Europe-
ward in June.

Believe me as ever

Yours sincere friend
William R. Shepherd