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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale University Divinity School Library
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
divinity.library@yale.edu
http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections

CALL NUMBER: RG 37

CREATOR: Brown, Charles Reynolds, 1862-1950

TITLE: Charles Reynolds Brown Papers

DATES: 1860–1957

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 9 linear feet (17 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection documents Brown’s long and active career as a Congregational minister, Dean of Yale Divinity School and author. Prominent correspondents include William Lyon Phelps, Washington Gladden, Booker T. Washington, Henry Sloane Coffin, Herbert Hoover, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., John R. Mott, William H. Taft, Theodore Roosevelt and Luther A. Weigle. Charles Reynolds Brown was born in Bethany, West Virginia on October 1, 1862. He was educated at the University of Iowa and Boston University, and received several honorary degrees. He was a prominent Protestant clergyman in Congregational churches across the United States, Dean of Yale Divinity School (1911-1928) and an author. He served as Moderator of the National Council of Congregational Churches and as Chairman of the Congregational Education Society. He died on November 28, 1950.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.037

Requesting Instructions

To view manuscript and archival materials at the Yale Divinity Library, please submit the request form at https://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/form/yale-divinity-library-mss-request-form.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of the Brown family.
Conditions Governing Access
Open to qualified researchers.

Preferred Citation
Charles Reynolds Brown Papers (RG 37), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Biographical / Historical

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1862 Oct 1</td>
<td>o Born in Bethany, W. Va., son of Benjamin F. and Sarah T. Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>o A.B., University of Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>o A.M., University of Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1889</td>
<td>o S.T.B., Boston University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1889-1892</td>
<td>o Pastor of Wesley Chapel, Cincinnati, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1892-1896</td>
<td>o Pastor of Winthrop Congregational Church, Boston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896 Sep 23</td>
<td>o Married Alice Tufts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896-1910</td>
<td>o Pastor of First Congregational Church, Oakland, Ca.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>o Professional study in Egypt and Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911-1928</td>
<td>o Dean of the Yale Divinity School - Pastor of Yale University Church for twelve years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913-1915</td>
<td>o Moderator of the National Council of Congregational Churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xx</td>
<td>o Honorary degrees from Yale, Boston U., Brown, Mills College, Oberlin, U. of Vermont, Wesleyan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xx</td>
<td>o Chairman of Congregational Education Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928-1950</td>
<td>o During the years of his retirement Brown continued to preach and write extensively. He was considered to be one of the nation's foremost Protestant clergymen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Dean Emeritus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950 Nov 28</td>
<td>o Died</td>
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</table>

Scope and Contents

The first series, Correspondence, is divided into Family Correspondence and General Correspondence. Within each of these sections the correspondence of Brown’s wife is separated from his own. The Family Correspondence dates from 1886 to 1944. It includes letters to or from Brown, his wife, mother, father, sister, niece and cousins. Brown wrote long and detailed letters to family members regarding his trips abroad in 1894 and 1897 and regarding the San Francisco earthquake in 1906. During trips to Europe in 1911 and 1931 Brown wrote daily to his wife.

General Correspondence dates from 1894 to 1951 and consists primarily of letters received by Brown. The letters in this section are useful for tracing the development of Brown’s own career. Factors influencing his
decisions first to accept a call to Oakland and later to become dean of the Divinity School are evident in his correspondence with friends and colleagues. Matters regarding Brown’s extensive publications and his involvement in the affairs of the Congregational Church are also dealt with in the General Correspondence section. An abbreviated list of notable correspondents would include: Henry Sloane Coffin (1919, 1922, 1943), Alfred Coit (1920), David E. Fitzgerald (1922), Washington Gladden (1906), Herbert Hoover (1917, 1920, 1940), John R. Mott (1921), William Lyon Phelps (1928, 1939), John D. Rockefeller Jr. (1919), Theodore Roosevelt (1926, 1932, 1933), William H. Taft (1914, 1916, 1923, 1926) and Booker T. Washington (1902).

The second series, Notebooks and Journals, dates from 1883 to 1947 and includes material written by Brown and by his wife. Engagement record books and a record of sermons preached document Brown’s long and active life. Other notebooks include notes for sermon illustrations. The journals of Alice Tufts Brown record daily activities during trips abroad in 1897, 1898, 1928, and 1931.

The Writings of Series III are divided into four sections.

a) Addresses and Sermons (1891-1946, n.d.); primarily in manuscript form.

b) Published works (1898-1944, n.d.); primarily in printed form with a few typescript drafts

c) Miscellaneous (1860-1946, n.d.); including notes for lectures and published works, an unpublished manuscript, publication agreements and a few writings by others.

d) Reviews of Brown’s books (1924-1944, n.d.)

The material in this series supplemented by the newspaper clippings in bound volumes 1 through 7 gives a reasonably complete picture of Brown’s career as a preacher and writer. The collection contains little which deals with issues or events at Yale Divinity School during Brown’s tenure as dean.

The fourth series, Personal Items and Memorabilia (1883-1951, n.d.), includes biographical material, memorabilia, newspaper clippings which spotlight important events in Brown’s career, and one folder of photographs.

Bound volumes 1 through 7 contain primarily newspaper clippings about Brown, by him or reviewing his publications. These volumes are recorded on microfilm. Bound volume 8 is apparently a record of members received by the churches Brown served from 1889 to 1896. Bound volumes 9 and 10 contain the International Sunday School Lessons written by Brown from 1911 to 1917. Bound volumes 8 - 10 and microfilm (vol. 1-7) are found in the oversize box.

Arrangement

I. Correspondence, 1886-1951
II. Notebooks and Journals, 1883-1947
III. Writings, 1860-1946, n.d.
IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia, 1883-1951, n.d.
# Collection Contents

## Series I. Correspondence

Family Correspondence is arranged chronologically with the recipient or sender other than Brown noted on the folder. The correspondence of Alice Tufts Brown follows that of her husband. General Correspondence is arranged chronologically. Notable correspondents are indicated on the folder headings. The correspondence of Alice Tufts Brown again follows that of her husband.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1</td>
<td>CRB: To/from mother</td>
<td>1886–1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 2</td>
<td>CRB: To parents ret trip abroad</td>
<td>1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td>CRB: To fiancee, father, sister incl. ret trip abroad</td>
<td>1896–1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4</td>
<td>CRB: To parents ret trip to Hawaii</td>
<td>1898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 5</td>
<td>CRB: To mother incl. ret San Francisco earthquake</td>
<td>1906–1907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 6</td>
<td>CRB: To parents, sister ret trip abroad</td>
<td>1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 7</td>
<td>CRB: To/from mother, sister</td>
<td>1910–1911 Jun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 8</td>
<td>CRB: To wife from Europe</td>
<td>1911 Jul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 9</td>
<td>CRB: To wife from Europe</td>
<td>1911 Aug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 10</td>
<td>CRB: To wife from Europe</td>
<td>1931 Jul. Aug</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 11</td>
<td>CRB: From cousins</td>
<td>1939–1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 12</td>
<td>CRB: To mother</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 13</td>
<td>ATB: Incl. to parents</td>
<td>1906–1908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 14</td>
<td>ATB: To sister-in-law, niece</td>
<td>1928</td>
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</table>

### Correspondence: General

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<td>b. 2, f. 15</td>
<td>CRB: Re. call to Oakland church</td>
<td>1894–1896</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 16</td>
<td>CRB: Re. publications 1898-</td>
<td>1899</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 18</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Washington Gladden</td>
<td>1906</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 19</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Geo. Gordon</td>
<td>1907–1908</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 20</td>
<td>CRB: Re. publications</td>
<td>1909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 21</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. ret leaving Calif.</td>
<td>1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 22</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Charles Eliot</td>
<td>1911–1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 23</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Wm. H. Taft</td>
<td>1913–1914</td>
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### Correspondence: General (continued)

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 24</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Arthur Twining Hadley Dotha Bushnell Hillyer</td>
<td>1915–1916</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 25</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Herbert Hoover, Charles E. Jefferson</td>
<td>1917–1918</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 26</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Arthur T. Hadley, Henry Sloane Coffin</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 27</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Herbert Hoover, Alfred Colt, John R. Mott</td>
<td>1920–1921</td>
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<td>b. 3, f. 28</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from David E. Fitzgerald, Henry S. Coffin, Wm. H. Taft</td>
<td>1922–1923</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 29</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Theodore Roosevelt, Wm. H. Taft</td>
<td>1924–1926</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 30</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. ret publications</td>
<td>1927</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 31</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from James R. Angell, Wm. Lyon Phelps, Luther A. Weigle</td>
<td>1928–1929</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 32</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Charles McLean Warren</td>
<td>1930–1931 May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 34</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Theodore Roosevelt</td>
<td>1933–1934</td>
<td></td>
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<td>b. 3, f. 35</td>
<td>CRB</td>
<td>1935–1937</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 36</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Wm. H. Danforth, Wm. Lyon Phelps</td>
<td>1938–1939</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 37</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Herbert Hoover</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 38</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Harry Emerson Fosdick</td>
<td>1941–1942 Jun</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 39</td>
<td>CRB: Re. his 80th birthday</td>
<td>1942 Sep–Dec</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 40</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Henry S. Coffin, Anson Phelps Stokes</td>
<td>1943–1949</td>
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</table>

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 41</td>
<td>CRB: Incl. from Henry S. Coffin, Harry Emerson Fosdick</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Series II. Notebooks and Journals**

Notebooks belonging to Brown are arranged chronologically within each of three sections: a) Engagement record books; b) Record book of sermons preached; c) Miscellaneous notebooks. The fourth section in this series, the travel journals of Alice Tufts Brown, is also arranged chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td><strong>Engagement Record Books</strong></td>
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<td>b. 4, f. 43</td>
<td>CRB: Engagement Records LA</td>
<td>1883–1893</td>
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<td>CRB: Engagement Records 1894-1913</td>
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<td>b. 4, f. 45</td>
<td>CRB: Engagement Records</td>
<td>1914–1919</td>
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<td>b. 4, f. 46</td>
<td>CRB: Engagement Records</td>
<td>1920–1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 47</td>
<td>CRB: Engagement Records</td>
<td>1927–1932</td>
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<td>b. 5, f. 48</td>
<td>CRB: Engagement Records</td>
<td>1933–1938</td>
</tr>
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<td>b. 5, f. 49</td>
<td>CRB: Engagement Records</td>
<td>1939–1947</td>
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<td><strong>Record Book of Sermons Preached</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 50</td>
<td>CRB: Record of sermons preached</td>
<td>1912–1945</td>
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<td><strong>Miscellaneous Notebooks</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 51</td>
<td>CRB: Miscellaneous notebooks</td>
<td>1908, 1910, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5, f. 52</td>
<td>CRB: Miscellaneous notebooks</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Travel Journals of Alice Tufts Brown</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 53</td>
<td>ATB: Journals from trips abroad</td>
<td>1897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 54</td>
<td>ATB: Journals from trips abroad</td>
<td>1897, 1898</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 6, f. 55</td>
<td>ATB: Journals from trips abroad</td>
<td>1928–1931</td>
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</table>
## Series III. Writings

Series III. Writings are arranged alphabetically by title with dates indicated when available; Published works are arranged chronologically; Miscellaneous writings are arranged alphabetically by type of material, i.e., notes, publication agreements, unpublished manuscript, etc. Reviews of Brown’s books are arranged alphabetically by the title of the book being reviewed. One folder of miscellaneous reviews follows those arranged by title.

### Addresses and Sermons

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<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-Ch</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Da</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De-Dr</td>
<td>1943, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>1898–1946, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fa</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fi-Gi</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go-Ha</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He-Je</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jo-Ju</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-Le</td>
<td>1898, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Li-Ma</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Me-N</td>
<td>1924, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O-Pa</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pe-Pu</td>
<td>1923, 1933, n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>S-So</td>
<td>1917, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sp-Su</td>
<td>1932, no.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>1891–1943, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>U-We</td>
<td>1945, 1946, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wha-Whe</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who-Y</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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<td>Untitled</td>
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### Published Works

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<tr>
<td>Various</td>
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### Miscellaneous Writings

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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 86</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 87</td>
<td>Notes for The Art of Preaching</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 88</td>
<td>Notes on “Care of the Parish”</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 89</td>
<td>Notes; incl. on Methodist polity</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 90</td>
<td>Publication agreements and records; incl. list of published works</td>
<td>1898–1946, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 91</td>
<td>Unpublished manuscript</td>
<td>1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 11, f. 92</td>
<td>Writings by others</td>
<td>1860–1942, n.d.</td>
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### Reviews of CRB’s Books

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 93</td>
<td>Being Made Over</td>
<td>1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 94</td>
<td>Dreams Come True</td>
<td>1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 95</td>
<td>Finding Ourselves</td>
<td>1935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 96</td>
<td>Have We Outgrown Religion?</td>
<td>1933–1936</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 97</td>
<td>Ten Short Stories From the Bible</td>
<td>1925</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 12, f. 98</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1924–1939, n.d.</td>
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</table>
**Series IV. Personal Items and Memorabilia**

a) Biographical material is arranged chronologically; b) Memorabilia is arranged by type of item; c) Newspaper clippings are divided into biographical, regarding sermons and addresses, and miscellaneous. The clippings are arranged chronologically within these sections.; d) Photographs are arranged chronologically.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Memorabilia</td>
<td>Marked Bibles belonging to CRB and ATB</td>
<td>1900, 1929, n.d.</td>
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<td>Incl. Masonic Material</td>
<td>1883–1937</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newspaper Clippings</td>
<td>Biographical</td>
<td>1892–1939, n.d.</td>
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<td>Biographical</td>
<td>1950, 1951</td>
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<td>Regarding sermons and addresses</td>
<td>1896–1943, n.d.</td>
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<td>Regarding sermons and addresses</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photographs and additional memorabilia</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1906, n.d.</td>
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<td>Photographs</td>
<td>Honorary degrees and citations; Guest books; Bon voyage greetings written by friends of the Browns on occasion of their trip to Japan; Photo of League of Nations traveling group (boxes 15 and 16)</td>
<td>1910–1939</td>
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<td>Honorary degrees and citations; Guest books; Bon voyage greetings written by friends of the Browns on occasion of their trip to Japan; Photo of League of Nations traveling group (boxes 15 and 16)</td>
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<td>Bound Volumes 8-10, Microfilm (vols. 1-7)</td>
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Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library’s online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects
Authors
Clergy
Congregational churches -- United States

Occupations
Deans

Names
Brown, Charles Reynolds, 1862-1950
Coffin, Henry Sloane, 1877-1954
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964
Phelps, William Lyon, 1865-1943
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930

Corporate Bodies
Congregational Education Society
National Council of Congregational Churches
( Boston, Mass.). (1865 .)
Yale University. Divinity School