Crozer Theological Seminary
Placement Committee:
Confidential Evaluation of
Martin Luther King, Jr.,
by Morton Scott Enslin

21 November 1950
Chester, Pa.

A very able man. All is grist that comes to his mill. Hard working, fertile
minded, rarely misses anything which he can subsequently use. He will prob-
ably become a big strong man among his people. Inclined at times to "put on
the [rousers?]," but I pray that that will not hinder him any in the field he is
likely to serve.

AFmS. CRO-NRCR.

Book Review of A Functional Approach
to Religious Education by Ernest J. Chave

[12 September—22 November 1950]
[Chester, Pa.]

King took Davis's course the Religious Development of Personality during the first
term of his final year at Crozer. Davis required his students to review five books
and offer their "critical reaction to them"; he advised the students: "Do not give
back the content of the books." King chose books on the early stages of personality
development, reflecting the course's concentration on the development of religious
experience in children. In this first review, he agrees with the author, Ernest
Chave, on the importance of a religion informed by scientific insight and
discipline, echoing previous comments King had made in other Crozer and
Morehouse papers. He finds fault, however, with Chave's implicit humanism,
realizing that "I guess I am a little more conservative theologically than I thought I
was. Somehow I cannot stop with nature, [for] Christianity to me is a revelation of
the nature of nature." Although Davis did not grade the book reviews, he
remarked: "This is a good review and the type I believe helpful to the reviewer as
well as the reader." He suggested that "for your future use, you should give
complete bibliographical details in listing date, author, etc."

Baron Friedrich Von Hugel, the Roman Catholic interpreter of religion,
always said everything he could in praise of a book he was reviewing be-

1. King, Class notes, Religious Development of Personality, 12 September—22 November
1950, MLKP-MBU: Box 106, folder 22.