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REPORT OF THE FACULTY

...OF THE...

KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE

UPON THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ALLEGED

ASSAULT UPON MR. D. B. GOODE.

The Faculty of the State College of Kentucky has carefully investigated a disturbance which recently occurred on the College grounds, and unanimously submit the following as a full and fair statement of the essential facts as they were detailed by numerous concurring witnesses:

1. On the afternoon of April 9th, Mr. D. B. Goode, a newspaper reporter, came to the College to gather information for use in his paper concerning a disturbance, involving the Commandant of Cadets and certain students, which he heard had occurred in the New Dormitory the evening before.

He first called upon the President, but being unable to see him at once, Mr. Goode left, intending to return later. After leaving the President's house, he stopped in front of the Old Dormitory. While standing there, conversing with some students, water was thrown, from an upper story, upon him and upon the students; the probability being that those throwing the water did not distinguish between Mr. Goode and his companions, but were indulging in what appears to be a not uncommon form of practical joke among the students.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Goode returned to the President's house and was granted the interview sought. He then called upon the Commandant, taking a "short cut" from the President's house. While he was on his way to the Commandant's house, some of the students observing him cried "Coward" at him, possibly being under the impression that he was now avoiding them. He replied to them, saying he would return. During his interview with the Commandant, 15 to 25 students collected in the road leading from the Commandant's house, at a point near the Natural Science Building, and about 150 feet from the Commandant's dwelling. This group was swelled to a crowd of between 50 and 100 (the estimates, including that of Mr. Goode, ranging between these extremes); and, as we gather from the testimony, the number concerned, including participants and observers, never at any time exceeded 100.

As shown by the testimony, the purpose of some of those in the crowd was to prevent publication of a report upon the incidents of the preceding night; the purpose of others was simply to see what was going on.

When Mr. Goode left the Commandant's house and was approaching the waiting crowd, a number of eggs (estimated by witnesses as from two to eight) and a few small stones were thrown from behind him,—the missiles passing some of them over him, and some of them to either side of him. None of the missiles hit him, and probably none were intended to hit him, the object apparently being to alarm but not to injure him. Mr. Goode, who upon request also testified, estimated that there were "between one dozen and two dozen" missiles thrown, including the eggs and stones. By whom the missiles were thrown, and how many persons were engaged in throwing them, was not developed in the investigation, though efforts to do so were made.

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When Mr. Goode reached the waiting crowd, he stopped of his own volition and began to address the students, (who then surrounded him), alleging that by their gathering they had frightened Mrs. McKee. But he was interrupted with the reply that they had entire respect for Mrs. McKee and had no disposition to alarm her; but that they had no respect for him, and he was not desired on the grounds. Some one of them told him he would be given two minutes in which to leave. After farther parleying between him and some of the crowd, (conducted, according to all witnesses, in a quiet manner and in an ordinary tone), Mr. C. R. Gilmore, a personal friend, took Mr. Goode by the arm, remarked, "Come, let us go;" (or words to that effect), and, the crowd parting for them to proceed, started to escort him along the road leading out from the campus.

Mr. Goode and his companion were followed by the crowd, or the larger part of it, as far as the "Cross-roads" near the southeast corner of the Main Building, a distance of 225 feet from where they started. There the students stopped, while Mr. Goode and his companion proceeded, unmolested, along the road passing the south end of the Main Building; which road, if followed straight ahead, leads out of the campus by way of the turnstile, and is the shorter route (much used) to the street. No students were on said road between Mr. Goode and the turnstile, or on the campus in that direction; and Mr. Goode's companion testified that he thought the disturbance was over. With his companion, however, Mr. Goode turned the southwest corner of the Main Building and followed the circular road, leading along the west side of said building and out by way of the large gate. After Mr. Goode and companion had passed the northwest corner of said building, the students (or the larger number of them), who meanwhile had passed along the east side of the building, followed them and overtook them at a point about midway between said northwest corner and the gate—a distance of about 250 feet from the gate.

There the crowd became demonstrative, and jostled Mr. Goode and companion, the latter becoming separated from Mr. Goode though still remaining near him. Thereupon two other students (intending, they declare,—their words being strengthened by other testimony,—to protect him from possible harm as well as to hasten his exit) took him by the arms, one on either side, and led him at a trot down the road toward the gate, followed by the crowd, some of them pushing him on. When they neared the gate, a cry was raised by some of the younger students to "throw him into the pond" near by; but one or both of the older students aforesaid rebuked the demonstration, prevented such proposed indignity, and led Mr. Goode through the gate to the street, where they dismissed him with a shove.

It is worthy of remark that Mr. Goode was at pains to testify that, during the entire performance, there was not an obscene or profane word uttered by any one.

2. So far as the testimony shows, no missiles of any sort were thrown after Mr. Goode reached the "Cross-roads" near the southeast corner of the Main Building. There is evidence that on the route between the northwest corner of the Main Building and the gate, some kicks were delivered toward Mr. Goode, but that none reached him. Efforts to trip him may have been made, though Mr. Goode was the only witness who was under that impression. Mr. Goode testified that at or near the gate he was kicked once. Also, that during the missile-throwing he was struck on the shoulder, by a stone he presumed, the spot struck being indicated only by a slight pain felt when it was pressed upon. He also testified that some one, when the cry to "throw him into the pond" was raised, caught at him and momentarily grasped the edge of his shirt collar. One student witness testified that Mr. Goode was "kicked or kicked at near the gate," but he was unable to name the one committing the act. All

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other witnesses deny knowledge of his having been either caught at, kicked or struck.

3. The evidence shows that, during Mr. Goode's call upon the Commandant, Prof. Walter K. Patterson went to a group of students standing near the "Cross-roads" and asked them the cause of their gathering. That, upon receiving the reply that they "did not want that reporter to publish anything about the College," he advised them that they were not proceeding in the proper way; that they should send a committee to request the responsible managers of the daily papers not to publish any report they did not want to appear. It farther shows that, while standing by the "Cross-roads," he was joined by Professor Miller. That the two, after a short conversation, walked to the south end of the Main Building and there separated, Professor Miller going in the direction of his residence, and Professor Patterson going to the Main Building. That Professor Patterson took a position on the steps at the south end of said building, and there remained until Mr. Goode and companion left the students at the "Cross-roads" and passed by on the road leading by said steps, as already described, whereupon he entered the building. Professor Patterson, corroborated by Professor Miller, testified that he saw none of the missile-throwing; saw no attempts at violence; could perceive no evidence of danger to Mr. Goode; did not see Mr. Goode when the latter stopped and was surrounded, and heard nothing that was said during the parley at the point near the Natural Science Building, distant 225 feet from the "Cross-roads."

4. The evidence shows that Mr. Goode, though never a student of the College, has been a meddler in State College affairs, the impropriety of his conduct being emphasized by the fact that at the time of certain of such transgressions he was a student of another college. He has acted as would one unfriendly to the State College; and as if disposed to foment disorder among the students, to encourage disobedience, and to create embarrassing conditions for the College authorities.

It shows, for example, that at the beginning of the session of the State College in September, 1898, Mr. Goode, then a student of Kentucky University, attended a meeting of State College students held in the Y. M. C. A. Hall of the College and advised students to refuse to sign the cards obligating them to abide by the rules and regulations prescribed for the government of the students. In his examination as a witness in the present case, Mr. Goode testified that he gave such advice privately then and at other times. He offered as justification for such conduct the "right of free speech" granted by the Constitution.

It also shows that on the evening of February 22, 1900, while still a student of Kentucky University, Mr. Goode made a speech to students of the State College, urging them to take as a holiday not only Thursday, the 22d, which had been granted them, but also Friday, the 23d, whether the Faculty should grant it or not. Mr. Goode testified that this also he did. It may be explained that said students had met to discuss the question touching the extra holiday.

5. While the facts set forth in section 4 do not, in our judgment, constitute probable grounds for acts of resentment on the part of State College students in this year of grace, they do tend to indicate reasonableness in the belief which the evidence shows is entertained by the student body as a whole. To-wit: That Mr. Goode has been unfriendly toward their college; that he, irresponsible so far as State College authority extends, has been ready with suggestions that would lead them into trouble while he himself would go free; that he, an outsider, was willing to encourage them into doing that which, while for a time embarrassing to the Faculty, would recoil on them. (In justice to Mr. Goode, it is right to here state that he disclaimed being unfriendly toward the State College or its students.)

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6. The evidence shows that the student body as a whole believe: (1) That Mr. Goode is disposed to encourage acts of disobedience or of indiscretion, and thus create conditions from which to pluck "news." (2) That he is overzealous in "writing up" State College students and affairs whenever they may appear in an unfavorable light. (3) That their indiscretions are willingly magnified in his accounts. (4) That he is unfair in his reports of their games. (In justice to Mr. Goode, it is proper to state here that he disclaimed having written some of the offensive reports.) In our judgment, it was the feeling founded on such belief that caused the students implicated to misconduct themselves when Mr. Goode recently appeared on the campus, seeking information concerning the events of the preceding night, and that their hostile attitude was with respect to him as an individual and not as a reporter.

That Mr. Goode was himself not entirely unaware of the feeling of State College students with respect to him, is indicated by his own and other testimony that on more than one occasion he has come to the College grounds armed.

7. The Faculty, although many witnesses were examined, has been unable to obtain the names of any who grossly mistreated Mr. Goode. The names ascertained proved to be those of students who, as shown by the evidence, were actuated largely by a desire to protect him from harm, or were onlookers bearing no part in the affair. Two young men, S. G. McDonald and J. T. Pride, voluntarily informed the Faculty that they were the men who caught Mr. Goode by the arms. Their conduct in thus aiding to hasten him along was, when considered alone, certainly reprehensible, but, according to the evidence, including Mr. Goode's testimony, it was materially tempered by the fact that they also wished to guard him again any possible injury or great indignity, and that they did protect him when it was proposed to "throw him into the pond." On this account, therefore, and because we could not obtain names of those guilty of the more serious offenses of throwing missiles; of pushing and attempting to trip Mr. Goode; of kicking him or kicking at him, and of seeking to put him in the pond, we feel that we can not justly do more than admonish the two young men named; and we can not, for lack of names, farther arraign any certain one for his share in the affair. We do, however, deplore the indignities to which Mr. Goode was subjected and express unfeigned regret over the occurrence. It is our decision that the students, probably few in number, guilty of offering the graver indignities deserve severe censure and they are hereby censured; and, further, that they probably deserve dismissal from the College; that whether Mr. Goode had or had not meddled with the government of the College and fomented disorder in it; whether his reports had been just or unjust, and whether he was to the students persona grata or ingrata, it nevertheless was plainly their duty either to hear him politely or to have nothing to do with him.

At the same time we deem it our duty to the State College and its matriculates to protest again the ungenerous, the unjust, and the ill-advised criticisms that have been directed against our students. Such criticisms as what they are as a body ungentlemanly, cowardly, malicious; that they are ruffians, blackguards, etc.; can be founded only on misinformation, thoughtlessness, or perversity. No college in this or any other State can have a finer body of young men as students than are those now attending the State College of Kentucky. Quite one-half of them were selected and endorsed by the county authorities of their homes; the very fact of that selection is evidence that they must represent the flower of the young manhood of the counties whence they came; and we feel quite sure that no one truly acquainted with their general deportment and the influences about them will believe that they have lost their good characters since coming here.

C. W. MATHEWS,

Secretary of the Faculty, A. & M. College of Kentucky.

On Apr 30th the faculty met in Pres. Patterson's room for a few minutes in conference with the com. of the Trustees, relative to the investigation of the Woods incident, the meeting on "Woods case" being primarily that of the Committee of the Trustees, one member of that com., Mr. Nichols, serving as Chairman.

Minutes approved May 16-1902

James H. Patterson, Secretary,

A. & M. College of Ky. May 1st 1902.

C. W. Matthews, Secy

The faculty met in the President's room at 3 P.M. to further the investigation of the M^o Kee case by discussion of the verdict prepared by a committee.

The Report of the Com. was read section by section some amendments being made and was finally adopted unanimously as inserted upon the following page.

An informal discussion was then held upon the general behavior of our students, and unfavorable comment was in particular made of the general restlessness and subdued disorder so prevalent during the exercises in chapel.

Upon motion of Prof. Pence, it was ordered "that Pres. Patterson should in chapel express to the students our attitude in general, regarding such misbehavior as occurs in chapel, and upon other occasions in various ways."

The report of Prof. Kastle as chairman of com. appointed to investigate the effect of college dances upon class work, which follows was upon motion of Prof. Miller adopted

"It is the opinion of the committee that these students dances are no more responsible for bad class work on the part of students than other forms of amusement. We are of the opinion further, that such recreations as are now allowed students should not be curtailed to any great extent by the college authorities. We would recommend, however, that next year the regular student dances be given once a month instead of every two weeks; and that the Juniors and Seniors be granted the privilege of giving several additional class entertainments during the year, if they so desire."

(signed) Jo. H. Kastle, Chairman.