

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
UNIVERSITY, ALABAMA

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT
GEORGE H. DENNY

June 16, 1917

My dear Doctor Patterson:

Just a line to say that I am sincerely glad that the trustees refused to do anything to humiliate you. I say this not merely as your friend, but also as one who has in mind the long and distinguished service you have rendered the University of Kentucky. Those who know what that service meant to the institution in the dark days when its very life was threatened will be profoundly grateful that nothing has been done to cause you distress.

Believe me, Yours sincerely,

George H. Denny.

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Confidential.

My dear Doctor Patterson:

I am deeply grateful to you for your
kind letter. I do hope that everything is
quiet again.

Two men who are restless in their
present positions have asked me to recommend
them to the Neutral trustees. This I have
not felt at liberty to do, as I am certain
that the situation demands a man whose
record will strongly guarantee his success.

Most failures in college presidencies
may be traced to the inexcusable policy of
accepting the mere opinions of well known
men who know little or nothing of the
actual worth of the men whom they recommend
or reject. They give opinions based frequently
on personal prejudice or personal friendship.
These opinions are accepted in preference to the
actual record of the man. The result of this
method of procedure is the overwhelming
rate of official mortality among college
presidents. A man like Babcock always has
opinions to give. Unfortunately these opinions
do not always square with the record. The only

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Safe place to study a man is in the immediate sphere of his activity. Pitchell's opinion is worthless in the presence of a man's record.

I recently heard that Mitchell, of Delaware, was to succeed Baeker. After his stormy career in South Carolina I wonder if he will want to try his hand again in a State institution in the South. Perhaps he will hesitate, at his age, to take up a problem that would tax a younger man.

With best regards,
Yours friend,
H. B. May

