

[Apr. 2, 1896]

Lexington, Ky., 189

Hon. A. L. Pittman.

Dear Sir.

In the current No. of "The Southern School" in an editorial on "Educational Progress in Mississippi" an insidious comparison is made between the University of Mississippi and the State College of Kentucky and by implication between the Chancellor of that institution and myself. The one is injurious to the State College, the other unkind to me.

To any one acquainted with the facts the College needs no apology. The only matter of surprise is that it survived the fierce ecclesiastical opposition which it encountered and the indignant support of capricious and ~~many~~^{time serving} friends.

I have no desire to precipitate a newspaper controversy, my work whether much or little speaks for itself. I may however express my deep regret that in relation to the College it should suit you

purpose to misrepresent the facts, and in relation
to myself that the disparaging comparison
comes from one whose apparent sympathies
and antipathies I seem to have entirely
misapprehended.

I need scarcely say that this letter is personal
and not intended for publication.

Yours obt. servant
James K. Patterson

Sept. 1896

Lexington, Ky., 189

Hon. A. L. Peterson
Editor "Southern School"

Dear Sir,

In your issue of the 31st March an
editorial on "Educational Progress in Mississippi"
makes an invidious comparison between the
University of Mississippi and the State College
of Kentucky and by implication between the
Chancellor of that institution and myself.

In view of the relations which have heretofore
existed between us I am unable to account
for the animus which inspires the conclusion
of the article. The editorial does the State
College gross injustice, it does one equatorial
injustices.

To any one who cares to make himself acquainted
with the facts the State College needs no apology
The only matter of surprise is that it has smothered
the fierce assault of its ecclesiastical and political

opponents and today stands head and shoulders
above all its assailants.

I have no desire to precipitate a newspaper controversy.
My work whether well or ill done speaks for itself.
I may however express my deep regret that in
relation to myself the disparaging comparisons
comes from one whose apparent sympathies
and commendations I seem to have entirely
misapprehended, and in relation to the college
that it should suit his purpose to traverse
and misrepresent the facts.

Respectfully yours
James K. Patterson

[Apr. 2, 1896]

Lexington, Ky., 189

Hon. R. L. Tetruman

Dear Sir

In the current No. of the Southern School is an editorial on Educational Progress in Mississippi an invidious comparison is made between the University of Mississippi and the State College of Kentucky and by implication between the Chancellor of that Institution and myself. The one is unjust to the State College, the other unkind to me.

To any one acquainted with the facts the College needs no apology. The only matter of surprise is that it survived the fierce ecclesiastical opposition which it encountered and the support support of capricious and mercenary friends.

I have no desire to precipitate a newspaper controversy. My work whether much or little speaks for itself. I may

Lexington, Ky., 189

express my deep regret that in relation to the College it should suit your purpose to misrepresent the facts, and in relation to myself that the disparaging comparison comes from one ~~to~~ whose apparent sympathies and antipathies I seem to have have entirely misapprehended.

I need scarcely say that this letter is personal and not intended for publication

Yours Obedt. Servant
James H. Patterson

State College of Kentucky,
Jas. K. Patterson, Ph. D., President.

Lexington, Ky., April 1, 1896.

Hon. A. L. Peterman,
Editor "Southern School",

Dear Sir:-

In your issue of the 31st., March an editorial on "Educational Progress in Mississippi" makes an invidious comparison between the University of Mississippi and the State College of Kentucky and by implication between the Chancellor of that institution and myself.

In view of the relations which have heretofore existed between us I am unable to account for the animus which inspires the conclusion of the article. The editorial does the State College gross injustice, it does me a gratuitous unkindness.

To any one who cares to make himself acquainted with the facts the State College needs no apology. The only matter of surprise is that it has survived the fierce assaults of ecclesiastical and political opponents and today stands head and shoulders above all its assailants.

I have no desire to precipitate a newspaper controversy. My work whether well or ill done speaks for itself. I may, however, express my deep regret that in relation to myself the disparaging comparison comes from one whose apparent sympathies and commendations I seem to have entirely misapprehended, and in relation to the College that it should suit his purpose to traverse and misrepresent the facts.

Respectfully yours,

Jas. K. Patterson

State College of Kentucky,
Jas. K. Patterson, Ph. D., President.

Lexington, Ky., April 1, 1896.

Hon. A. L. Peterman,

Editor "Southern School",

Dear Sir:-

In your issue of the 31st., March an editorial on "Educational Progress in Mississippi" makes an invidious comparison between the University of Mississippi and the State College of Kentucky and by implication between the Chancellor of that institution and myself.

In view of the relations which have heretofore existed between us I am unable to account for the animus which inspires the conclusion of the article. The editorial does the State College gross injustice, it does me a gratuitous unkindness.

To any one who cares to make himself acquainted with the facts the State College needs no apology. The only matter of surprise is that it has survived the fierce assaults of ecclesiastical and political opponents and today stands head and shoulders above all its assailants.

I have no desire to precipitate a newspaper controversy. My work whether well or ill done speaks for itself. I may, however, express my regret that in relation to myself the disparaging comparison comes from those whose apparent sympathies and commendations I seem to have fully comprehended, and in relation to the College that it should not be so grossly misrepresented to traverse and misrepresent the facts.

Respectfully yours,

State College of Kentucky,
Jas. K. Patterson, Ph. D., President.

Lexington, Ky., April 2, 1896.

Hon. A.L. Peterman,
Editor "Southern School",

Dear Sir:-

In your issue of the 31st., March an editorial on "Educational Progress in Mississippi" makes an invidious comparison between the University of Mississippi and the State College of Kentucky and, by implication, between the Chancellor of that institution and myself. In view of the relations which have heretofore existed between us I am unable to account for the animus which inspires the conclusion of the article. The editorial does the State College gross injustice, it does me a gratuitous unkindness. The conditions under which the University of Mississippi and the State College of Kentucky, ^{came into existence} and under which they have developed are so dissimilar that the data for a legitimate comparison do not exist.

To any one who cares to make himself acquainted with the facts the State College needs no apology. The only matter of surprise is that it has survived the fierce assaults of ecclesiastical and political opponents and today stands head and shoulders above all its assailants.

I have no desire to precipitate a newspaper controversy. My work whether well or ill done speaks ~~well~~ for itself. I may however express my deep regret that in relation to myself the disparaging comparison comes from one whose apparent sympathies and commendations I seem to have entirely misapprehended, and in relation to the College that it should suit his purpose to traverse and misrepresent the facts.

Yours respectfully
James K. Patterson

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ASSOCIATE EDITORS.

W. Y. DEMAREE, MANAGING EDITOR.

THE SOUTHERN SCHOOL,

LEXINGTON, KY., AND
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

PUBLISHED BY
THE SOUTHERN SCHOOL CO.
INCORPORATED.

C. C. CALHOUN, BUSINESS MANAGER.

HOME OFFICE

LEXINGTON, KY., April 3, 1896.

President Jas. K. Patterson,
City.

Dear Mr. President:-

Your favor of even date referring to what you are pleased to term "invidious comparison between the University of Mississippi and the State College of Kentucky, and by implication between the Chancellor of that institution and myself (yourself)", is just received. I am surprised to find that you trace comparisons out so minutely as to make out of my article an "invidious comparison" between you and Chancellor Fulton. I assure you that I had no intention of instituting a comparison between you and that gentleman, nor do I see that my language justifies such a view.

I meant a comparison between the institutions, not their Presidents or Faculties. Certainly a man is allowed to commend one man without being supposed to reflect upon another in a like station, when the other's name is neither called nor intimated.

The conditions and history of the University of Mississippi and the State College of Kentucky are of course quite dissimilar, but I think not so dissimilar "that the basis for a legitimate comparison does not exist". Of course you cannot lay two colleges down side by side and measure their dimensions, as you can two walking canes. But investigation of the conditions of the two institutions will certainly not show that ten years ago the University of Mississippi had a more hopeful outlook than the State College of Kentucky. Of course I am aware that the State College has had to fight for its life; if not for its life, at least for its growth in endowment; but in this respect it is in no wise dissimilar to its sisters in other states. You will also notice that the complaint in my editorial was not alone at what the State College has failed to accomplish, but that also in attendance it is on the down grade from year to year. As I got my facts from your own catalogue, they come from an authoritative source.

You speak of having no desire to precipitate a newspaper controversy. I might infer from this that your letter was intended for insertion in our columns, but there being no express hint to this effect, I shall hold it subject to your order, promising that I shall gladly publish if you desire.

You also speak of spending the remainder of your life in peace, quietness and charity with all men. For my part I cannot see that a public criticism of a public institution should in any wise lead its president to lose any quietness or charitable disposition. Would you allow me to say that I think your annoyances in such matters come from your disposition to be continually confounding yourself with the College of which you are the head? Can't a public man in a public capacity

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HOME OFFICE

LEXINGTON, KY.

discuss the policy of a public institution without being supposed to be unfriendly to its chief?

In esteeming me your friend you were strictly within the facts. I know few men, if any, of whom I have a higher opinion or to whom I feel more kindly than to yourself; but had it ever occurred to you that while I owe you something as my friend, I also owe something to the public which as an editor I should humbly strive to enlighten on public matters? Has it also ever occurred to you that it would be disloyal to my people to fail to give them such facts as I have regarding the institution which is costing them so much?

So deeply do I feel my personal obligation to you that I shall publicly acknowledge it in an extended article concerning the College, to be published in our issue of the 14th inst. I assure you that I have no other object in this discussion than the improvement of the great institution of which you are the honored head. I do not mean to criticize it in any particular, except in its lack of touch with the people. This criticism is certainly legitimate, and the people will see its legitimacy, even if you do not.

With great respect,

Yours sincerely,

A. L. Peterman.

[Apr. 7, 1892]

Lexington, Ky., 189

Hon. A. L. Putnam,

Dear Sir,

I thank you for the receipt of your letter of the 3rd inst. in reply to mine of identical date.

I am not prepared to admit that the State College in its attendance is on the down grade from year to year, the alleged facts as to numbers matriculated, and as to the relative attendance in the Preparatory Dept. and in the College proper you never get from any catalogue of ours.

A comparison of the State College of Kentucky and of its sister Colleges founded in other States under the act of 1862 would be quite legitimate. I still hold that the conditions for a legitimate comparison between the University of Miss. and the State College do not exist. The former is a denominational institution founded long before the war, and though crippled in its resources and its operations by the civil strife, by the

Lexington, Ky., 189

Comparison would seem quite incongruous.

A word in regard to your public service as an editor. I readily grant that you have a public duty to discharge. But there may be two ways of performing a public duty in the event that the remedy exists. Suppose that I, as your friend, should conclude that the paper which you so ably edit and which and you and I have a very intimate relationship exists, fails adequately to perform the functions which it assumes to discharge, that its results are incommensurate with its possessions its opportunities and its resources, I might assail publicly and without warning its *bona fide* methods and results, causing you embarrassment, mortification, perhaps doing you a palpable injustice. Or I might, as your friend, say to you, "your paper though a good one errs here, commits mistakes there. It exaggerates this, minimizes that, makes the worse appear the better reason, violates public

aid of its former position and the generosity of its friends soon secured its former activity, the latter is of comparatively recent origin, embarrassed and almost ruined during the earlier part of its brief existence by an unfortunate connection which at the close of its 13th year left it without a broad habitation and scarcely with a house; the former intended mainly to provide an education in the liberal arts and requiring therefore expensive material equipment, the latter an education for the industrial classes at the expense of costly apparatus and laboratories; the former usually endowed by voluntary individual benefactors, the latter after long and persistent solicitation partially and occasionally endowed by state aid compensating in some degree for the sacrifice through incompetent state officials of the magnificent original endowment by the Federal Government; the former enjoying quietly the revenues accruing from voluntary bequest, the latter compelled to fight every two

Lexington, Ky., 189

years to sustain the state aid grudgingly given
and reluctantly continued; the former at par with
with all its contemporaries, the latter surrounded
by persistent and inveterate enemies and forced
to repel malicious attacks from every quarter, the
constitutionality of its maintenance contested in the
courts meanwhile; the former drawing its patronage
mainly from Urban constituencies and well to do
planters, the latter from a rural population
poor and of very moderate means. Lastly you
candidly do these contrasts furnish you the basis
of a legitimate comparison and if so would it be
such as you conclude? I know that an
skillful dialectician may find elements of
comparison in incompatible subjects, in a
polytechnic school and a theological seminary -
both educational institutions, and in a church
steeple and a railway bridge - both works
of engineering, but to most minds the things

State College of Kentucky,
Jas. K. Patterson, Ph. D., President.

Lexington, Ky., April, 7, 1896

Hon. A. L. Peterman,

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd. inst., in reply to mine of identical date.

I am not prepared to admit that the State College in its attendance is on the down grade from year to year. The alleged facts as to numbers matriculated, and as to the relative attendance in the Preparatory Dept. and in the College proper you never got from any catalogue of ours.

A comparison of the State College and its sister Colleges founded in other States under the Act of 1862 would be quite legitimate. I still hold that the conditions for a legitimate comparison between the University of Mississippi and the State College do not exist. The former is a denominational institution founded long before the war, and though crippled in its resources and its operations by the civil strife, by the aid of its former prestige and the generosity of its ^{friends} funds soon recovered its former activity, the latter is of comparatively recent origin, embarrassed and almost ruined during the earlier part of its brief existence by an unfortunate connection which at the close of its 13th. year left it without a local habitation and scarcely with a name; the former intended mainly to provide an education in the liberal arts and requiring therefore inexpensive material equipment, the latter an education for the industrial classes at the expense of costly apparatus and laboratories; the former liberally endowed by voluntary individual benefactors, the latter after long and persistent solicitation partially and precariously

State College of Kentucky,
Jas. K. Patterson, Ph. D., President.

Lexington, Ky.,

(2)

endowed by State aid compensating in some degree for the sacrifice through incompetent State officials of the munificent original endowment by the Federal Government; the former enjoying quietly the revenues accruing from voluntary bequest, the latter compelled to fight every two years to retain the State aid grudgingly given and reluctantly continued.; the former at piece with all its ~~contem~~ contemporaries, the latter surrounded by persistent and inveterate enemies, forced to repel malicious attacks from every quarter, the constitutionality of its maintenance contested in the courts meanwhile; the former drawing its patronage mainly from urban constituencies and well to do planters, the latter from a rural population possessed of very moderate means. I ask you candidly do these contrasts furnish you the basis of a legitimate comparison, and if so would it be such as you conclude? I know that a skillful dialectician may find elements of comparison in incompatible subjects, in a Polytechnic School and a Theological seminary - both educational institutions, and in a Church Steeple and a Railway Bridge - both works of Engineering, but to most minds the things compared would seem quite incongruous.

A word in reference to your public mission as an editor. I readily grant that you have a public duty to discharge. But there may be two ways of performing a public duty in the event that the necessity exists. Suppose that I, as your friend, should conclude that the paper which you so ably edit and between which and yourself a very intimate relationship

State College of Kentucky,
Jas. K. Patterson, Ph. D., President.

Lexington, Ky.,

(3)

exists, fails adequately to perform the functions which it assumes to discharge, that its results are incommensurate with its professions its opportunities and its resources, I might assail publicly and without warning its tone, temper, methods and results, causing you embarrassment, mortification, perhaps doing you a palpable injustice. Or I might, as your friend, say to you "your paper, though a good one errs here, commits mistakes there, exaggerates this, minimizes that, makes the worse appear the better reason, vitiates public sentiment. I might in a quiet conversation convince you that reformation was needed in these. Now which of these alternative courses do you think a friend would take? Do you not concede that I would more effectively vindicate my title to your friendship by the latter course? You have been on pleasant terms with every member of our faculty, so far as I know. We meet and exchange salutations day after day, and yet so far as I know you never hinted defects in the management, or suggested how the College might become a more potent leverage for good. You might say that personal considerations should not withhold criticisms of a public institutions, and yet if I am credibly informed personal considerations did for a year or more estop censorious public criticism in the columns of the "Southern School". Should you doubt this statement I could give chapter and verse should the necessity arise.

I readily accept your disclaimer of unfriendliness, but I think most people would agree that you adopted a rather odd way of manifesting your friendliness. I stand about as close to the State College as you

State College of Kentucky,
Jas. K. Patterson, Ph. D., President.

Lexington, Ky.,

(4)

do to the "Southern School". Not that the State College belongs to me, but the public holds me responsible for any alleged imperfection in its management and results. You seem to ^{not} ~~not~~ unlike the Physician who makes a diagnosis and assumes the existence of a malady without having seen the patient or taken the trouble to ascertain ^{whether} ~~what~~ morbid symptoms exist.

Neither my former letter nor this are for publication, at least not yet.

Your Ob't. Servant,

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C. C. CALHOUN, BUSINESS MANAGER.

HOME OFFICE

LEXINGTON, KY., April 9, 1896.

President Jas. K. Patterson,
City.

Dear Mr. President:-

Your second favor, dated April 7th, is just received. I assure you it gives me sincere pleasure to have this full and free discussion of a subject so differently viewed by you on the one hand and by me on the other.

You lay great stress upon the "College proper", and I am entirely willing, for when the "College proper" is compared with what might be termed the "college proper" of the University of Mississippi, the disparity is even more glaring than when the two institutions are considered as aggregates.

Since you insist so strenuously, however, that the comparison shall not be set up between the Kentucky State College and the University of Mississippi, I am willing to take your suggestion and attempt a comparison between the State College and a sister college, founded in another state, under acts granting portions of the public domain to state institutions. The Arkansas Industrial University at Fayetteville, without any Normal annex, but with a Pedagogical department, in which the matriculation amounts to some thirty a year, has enrolled a total of 570 students since the beginning of the present collegiate year. About one hundred and ninety of these, as President Buchanan informs me, are in what you would term "the college proper." Now, how many students in the "college proper" of the State College?

You insist upon close likenesses in comparing public institutions, and yet you liken my relation to The Southern School to yours as President of the State College, and "by implication" you liken the journal to a state institution. May I remind you that the state wholly owns the College and has not a cent of stock in The Southern School; and on the other hand, that the editor is one of the owners of The Southern School, while your sole relation to the State College is official? You think that a "skillful dialectician might find elements of comparison in incompatible subjects, such as a church steeple and a railway bridge." May I not add that in this case such a dialectician seems to have discovered elements of comparison between a state, its property and one of its officers on the one hand, and an editor and his journal on the other?

Yet, even if you should, as my friend, conclude that the paper fails "adequately to perform the functions which it assumes" and should state that fact publicly, I can't see that I should have any reason for accusing you "by implication" of being unfriendly to the journal, much less to me. I should have less reason for reaching such a conclusion

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if you had for some years been one of its writers, had fought its battles all over the state, both in public and private, and had come to be recognized by the masses as one of its most steadfast friends. Your comparison is further weak in not remembering that as one of the directors and the largest stockholder in The Southern School, I am far more responsible for its success or lack of success, than you as President of a college, with a big board of trustees behind you, primarily responsible for the College's policy. Are you willing to admit that you are responsible for the present course of things on the State College campus? Your unhappy comparison, when handled, dissolves. It reminds me of the hair of a mummy which crumbles into dust on exposure to the atmosphere.

You say I "never hinted defects in the management or suggested how the college might become a more potent leverage for good." As a matter of fact—and I am surprised that you have forgotten it—I urged a popularizing policy when I first became connected with the college, continued it during all my relation as one of the faculty, and have persistently recommended that course since my resignation. So fully did I believe in such a step that I followed it in my own work, and I am confident that nine out of every ten people who know me and the College and my former connection with it, will remember that this is the complaint I have made against the management since 1888. In fact, I have discussed this question with you personally so often that your forgetfulness astonishes me, when I remember your prodigious memory for facts, dates, places and persons.

You say if you are "credibly informed, personal considerations did for a year or more estop censorious public criticism in the columns of The Southern School." I am not sure I can interpret your intimation. If you mean that "personal considerations"—personal friendship—delayed the criticism I am now making upon the management, I plead guilty. Is this your charge?

You compare me to a "physician who makes a diagnosis and assumes the existence of a malady without having seen the patient or taken the trouble to ascertain whether morbid symptoms exist." In this case, I have visited the patient for years; I have sat up with him for a long while; I watched over his bedside and noted his excessive sleep; I urged him to take exercise—to get the outdoor air; I entreated him to go among his friends who were begging for his company, telling him to quit being so suspicious. Not content with that, I analyzed the contents of his stomach, and after this diagnosis, and considering the large quantities of financial "elixir of life" that have been injected into him, candor compels me to pronounce him a very "sick man." Shall his friends come to his rescue, walk him up and down and shake off his drowsiness, or leave him in this comatose condition and suffer his sleep to become death?

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LEXINGTON, KY..

Again, I may asseverate my friendship for the institution and for you. I felt confident at the outset that you would not believe me, and that fact kept me from speaking longer than it should. It is a fact, however, known to everybody else who knows me at all—a fact which you will confess when all things are reckoned up. I waited for years for a change of policy; having despaired of that marvelous "going to be" of which I have been so long and so confidently assured, I have at last concluded that I should labor publicly for a course which will bring the College into touch with the people for whom it exists.

Yours truly,

A. L. Peterman

[Apr. 13, 1896]

Lexington, Ky., 189

Hon. A. L. Peterson,

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your
favor of the 9th inst.

In my comment on the editorial in your issue
of the 31st ult. I raised two principal issues with
you: first, that the basis for a legitimate
comparison between the University of Mississippi
and the State College of Kentucky did not exist,
second, that the statements in regard to the
matriculation of the two institutions, and the statement
in regard to the relative proportions of students
matriculated in the Preparatory Dept. of the State
College and the College proper were without
foundation in fact.

Of these two issues the second contains the
essence and core of my contention.

In your first reply you quoted the College Catalogue
as your authority. I met this with a

State College of
Kentucky,
President's Room.

Categorical denial. The figures necessary to sustain
your allegation have not been furnished forthcoming. All else that
may be said is obiter dicta. As an honorable gentleman

Lexington, Ky.,

189

~~You are bound to make good your assertion in
regard to numbers matriculated in this college and then to
propose or to withdraw it as publicly and unambiguously as
it was made. - Till then further discussion is useless and
Categorical denial. In your last reply you are~~

~~silent. Now as an honorable gentleman you are
bound to make good and to justify your
allegation contained in the last dozen lines
of your article or to withdraw it as publicly
and unambiguously as it was made,
and as far as I am concerned will close with this letter.~~

In regard to the first: I am not surprised that
you virtually abandon the untenable ground which
you had taken and delectably substitute the
Arkansas Industrial University for the University of
Mississippi in the comparison. But inasmuch
as the substitution of the Arkansas Industrial
University introduces matter irrelevant and extraneous
to the subject-matter of the original comparison, it
may very properly be set aside. The Arkansas
University was certainly not in evidence in the
editorial the propriety of which I called in
question and whose alleged facts I ventured
to deny. In Lincoln is credited with having

Lexington, Ky., 189

statement. I might in a quiet conversation convince
you that reformation was needed in these, how
which of these alternative courses do you think a friend
would take? Do you not consider that I would
more effectually indicate my title to your friendship
by the latter course? You have been on pleasant
terms with every member of our faculty so far as
I know, we meet and exchange salutations day after
day, and yet so far as I know you never hinted
defects in the management, or suggested how the
College
it might become a more potent leverage for
good. You might say that personal considerations
should not withhold criticism of a public
institution, and yet if some creditably informed
personal considerations did for a year or
more stop censorious public criticism in
the columns of the Southern School. If you
doubt this statement I can give Chapter and
Verse should the necessity arise.

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I readily accept your disclaimer of my friendliness, but I think most people would agree that you adopted a rather odd way of manifesting your friendliness. I stand about as close to the State College as you do to the Southern School, not that the State College belongs to me, but the public hold me responsible for any alleged imperfection in its management and results, just as one would impute the physician who makes a diagnosis and assumes the existence of a malady without having seen the patient or taken the trouble to ascertain that morbid symptoms exist.

As to my former letter on this one for publication, at least not yet

Yours Obediently

James R. Patterson

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LEXINGTON, KY., AND
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

C. C. CALHOUN, BUSINESS MANAGER.

HOME OFFICE

PUBLISHED BY
THE SOUTHERN SCHOOL CO.
INCORPORATED.

LEXINGTON, KY., April 14, 1896.

Pres. James K. Patterson,
City.

Dear Mr. President:-

Yours of April 13th, announcing further discussion useless and closed, so far as you are concerned, is at hand. I regret this decision, for I know few mental exercises from which I derive more profit, or for which I have a better relish than for dissecting your logic.

You asked for a comparison with some other institution than the University of Mississippi. You got it, and now you are even more anxious to get rid of it. You seem to have almost as much dread of seeing and reading the figures of other colleges, as of giving your own. As statistics are so offensive to your nature, I forbear to offer others.

My statement regarding the attendance upon the University of Mississippi and the attendance upon the State College, seems to have contained two errors; first, in saying Kentucky's population is a third larger than Mississippi's, when it is really a half larger; second, in assigning to the Academy too large a proportion of your matriculates. If you can get any consolation from these corrections, you are welcome to it. You need it, and may it do you good.

Your oft reiterated statement that the basis of a legitimate comparison between the two institutions does not exist, is so evidently wide of the mark that it were childish to treat it seriously. Run over this as a sample of your reasoning: "The University of Mississippi draws its students from an urban population", etc. Mississippi's "urban population!" Whoever heard of it before? How potent is the imagination in building cities! Should prosperous times ever return, what a princely salary you might draw from "boom" promoters by filling their barren wastes with "urban populations."

We are agreed on one thing—that my conception of friendship differs from yours. Thank you. You might go farther and make the same assertion as to almost any one else. Suppose you try it, and then test the results.

Certainly you took "the initiative" in my work in the college; and just as certainly I was "fully paid" for my services. There is an impression that you too are "fully paid" for these "initiatives" you take, and numerous others you don't take. When and where I fought any of the college battles "you do not know." Certainly you don't; you cannot be justly accused of knowing anything that takes place in the educational

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Pres. J. K. P. # 2.

world outside of the State College campus, and outside of Frankfort when the Legislature is in session. "No echoes reached" you. Truly not; an echo would be in poor business searching for you through the mazes of your shell.

"Even while a State Senator, what measure did I introduce or carry for the benefit of the college?" None; I did not know that you were hiring me for that purpose. What question could more completely turn your soul inside out? You hoped through me "to get money for additional buildings," but some of my "colleagues thought it would be best to raise no question of my connection with the college." Certainly they thought so; they had some delicacy of feeling, some sense of propriety. They were not willing to destroy me for the "benefit of the college." They too differ from you in your "conception of friendship." You wanted me for a tool, but you mistook your man, and herein lies your grievance—your same old malady. Are not "friend" and "tool" synonymous in your vocabulary? With this as your "conception of friendship", no wonder the report of the Joint Committee as to my performing my work by proxy haunts you, bobbing up in your face at every dark corner. I always thought that report did you an injustice, but they seem to have known you better than I fancied. Is this not a serious admission on your part, and don't you, deep down in your heart, wish you had not made it? What would you give to have it back? Any one who knows you could swear that you were "rattled", else you never would have made such a confession. Now, I am sure you will want(?) the correspondence published!

Perhaps my solicitude for the college would have been different had I "continued to be the recipient of the financial 'elixir of life'." Possibly, but your widely known capacity for receiving injections of that article, in the way of salary, made me despair of their being enough for both "me and thee." That you wanted me to continue a "recipient" is shown by the fact that you wrote two letters and made four calls to persuade me to withdraw my resignation. Doubtless you knew better than I the quantity of milk in the college udder.

You want a few of the dates of my "professional visits" to the "sick man", to refresh your memory. They would not be hard to give, but it were useless to refresh a memory so fertile in what it wants and so barren in what it doesn't. What a blessing a memory must be when its owner can, at his convenience, draw therefrom things "both new and old."

I have pitched this correspondence upon a professional plane, but if you choose to drag it down to the mire of personalitites, I will try to follow at a limping gait.

Yours truly,

A. L. Peterman.

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HOME OFFICE

LEXINGTON, KY., April 21, 1896.

President Jas. K. Patterson,
City.

Dear Mr. President:-

I postponed reply to your favor of the 16th ,
owing to absence from the City the latter part of last week. This ac-
knowledgment is probably unnecessary, but I want to tell you how much
I appreciate its kindly tone. Neither now, nor at any other time, have
I felt the least unkindness toward you. Our discussions in the recent
correspondence referred strictly to public affairs.

With all hearty wishes,

Yours cordially,

A. L. Peterman.

47-11-64

replied, "No". When asked if I had any recommendation to make concerning "none", that the sole and exclusive object which I had in view was to bring the condition of the Diplo. before the Board, I should therefore not have felt elated by your removal nor disturbed by your retirement. The foregoing facts I state in answer to your assumption viz: "Dutifully, patiently, persistently, singly, your plans embraced my engaged retirement", Your statement that "only men of narrow interests, selfish purposes, extraneous relations, colorless personalities can stay in the Faculty" is a libel on such men as Amelle shackled and whose some of whom have been with me more than a quarter of a century.

In reference to my personal relations I will also state some facts susceptible of inspection from the record. Over two years ago when you were obliged to resign the Trusteeship of the Students mess on

2000000

State College of Kentucky, President's Room.

June 9, 1897

Lexington, Ky.,

June

1897

Professor J. P. Ashson

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 4th inst. came duly to hand. Your irritation caused by the action of the Board of Trustees in passing an order requesting your resignation seems quite natural. The further fact that you credit me with an influence in the Board of Trustees which I do not claim and which I certainly do not possess makes it quite natural that in looking around for some one to blame you should conclude to level your shafts at me. I beg to say that I do not think that the disturbance contended in your letter is supported by the facts. I shall not follow you in detail, you deal with assumptions and inferences. I shall discard that method of procedure and place before you in reply a few plain statements of fact the verbal accuracy of which you cannot gainsay.

You have known for at least four years that your work was not satisfactory to the Board. In May 1893 just before the Annual meeting Dr. Spurr and Judge Kimball both requested me to move the Board to request your retirement. I declined to accede to their request saying that I was not responsible for your introduction and I would not under the circumstances thus hinting suggest or insinuate your exclusion. After the close of the meeting I told you in substance of the request made to me, but withheld the names, and frankly acquainted you with the grounds of dissatisfaction. You received the information and admonition with manifest irritation but formally thanked me, there was however no impropriety.

At a subsequent meeting of the Trustees a motion introduced requesting your resignation was defeated in consequence of my opposition thereto. This is a matter of record. I was then if I remember correctly directed to admonish you, which I did reluctantly but faithfully. The grounds of dissatisfaction, were looseness of organization, the

poor introduction of material matter in your class room instruction with the belief that sometimes attempted explanations did not ^{explain} elucidate, (in other words that patient directions took the place of knowledge.)

In my last report to the Board, through calling attention to the fact that your department did not grow, did not advance pari passu with other courses of study in the College I further advised and suggested your retirement. Indeed I had a conviction that you might obtain the Consulship which you seek and thus relieve the College authorities of an embarrassing situation. This opinion was shared by other members of the Faculty than myself. I was therefore surprised when the Committee which visited the College some weeks previously embodied in its report a recommendation that your resignation be requested. When I considered deliberation and careful procedure on the issue presented I was asked explicitly whether my report was intended to be construed as suggesting or favoring your retirement. I

47-21-64

State College of
Kentucky,
President's Room.

Lexington, Ky., _____ 189

account of a shortage of several hundred dollars
I endeavored to screen your delinquency by giving
you mortified by one cheque for the deficit
and in joining on you the necessity of squaring
your accounts with the Mess Board at once.
You used the money thus advanced for other
purposes and exposed the credit of the Mess to
become compromised because there was not a
dollar in the Treasury to meet our obligations.
Cheque upon cheque drawn on the Phoenix
Bank was returned disallowed, your knowing
meanwhile that you had not a cent in the
Bank to your credit as Treasurer, wrote passed
before the Mess could obtain a settlement from
you and then not until the Board informed
you that unless adjustment was made at once
your shortage would be reported to the Executive
Committee of the Board of Trustees, who was
your friend at that juncture?

I will add that though repeatedly called for by me and provided by you an itemized statement of the quotas due and paid to the students of the Press at the close of the session of 1893-4, has never been made, though I called your attention to the various current that amounts due to certain ones who did not submit remained unpaid. Yet I did not seek to embarrass or compromise you by giving publicly - to this fact. Who was your friend in this instance? Had these transactions been known to the Board of Trustees do you think they would have returned you as Dean of Civil Engineering?

You answer the delicately phrased statement of the Committee "Lack of exclusive interest" in your department by the plea that you were "busy with general public affairs but of exclusive interest to my department or to myself" when in common with you in a small degree and with others in a larger there has been interested profoundly in protecting the property of these like yourself from the assaults of Agrarianism". There are

impossibilities that you were more profoundly interested in laying the lines for an application as Counsel to Shanghai than you were in protecting my property or the property of any one else from the assaults of "Agrarianism" or any other "ism". Whether there should public services in "great matters" can be charged up as an effort to respect of College duties I shall not assume to determine. Every man must judge for himself the relative claims of Civic and Covenanted duties and obligations.

I write with no animus and no ill will. Slights like yours have been made before and have fallen harmless. I know that irritation and disappointment might impel you to say more than you may not feel justified in saying hereafter. Hence no desire to engage in controversy. If you think that it would serve your interests to place your letter and mine before the public without further note or comment I shall not object. I seek no controversy and avoid no issue which you may be disposed to raise, germane to our relations whether personal or official. Yours Obedt. Servant
James R. Patterson