

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

University of Alabama,
University, Alabama.

12/9/1900.

Confidential-

My dear sir,

I write to apprise you as a member of the Board of Trustees of the condition here, of which you may have seen or heard something.

Last Friday morning about ~~1~~ 1:30 o'clock, there was disorder in barracks which had the appearance of being carefully planned and prepared for in advance.

At the request of Captain West, acting Commandant, I came over. On going to the foot of the stairs leading into the dormitory I found the way carefully obstructed with barbed wire. From the stairs I called to the young men above and requested them to desist and to go to their rooms. This they did promptly, and the barracks became at once quiet. I then, in company with the Commandant, Private Secretary and Acting Post Adjutant, went to the other stair, and finding similarly obstructed, I went at once to my home. So far as I know there was no further disorder during the night. Before leaving this point it is proper that I say that when I first reached the foot of the stairs missiles, perhaps pieces of coal in the main, were being rolled or thrown down the steps, breakin as they rolled. So far as I know no missiles were thrown at me. I do not think that it was over five minutes from the time I entered the Quadrangle until I left it, when, as already stated, quiet was restored.

Next morning I called a Court Of Inquiry to "investigate recent disorders" in Barracks. This Court sat nearly all day, and until after ten o'clock Saturday morning, when it made "Report 1" and recommended that "the entire matter be referred to the the Faculty as a whole for further consideration". In the mean time having sent to me eight young men for refusing "to take the oath and testify before the Court".

The Faculty met at my call ay 10:30 (Saturday morning) when the entire matter was laid before it, including a paper that was addressed to the Faculty, signed by two cadets, as a "Committee appointed by the students". In that they ask for ~~certain~~ ^{certain} reliefs from military duties and forms of punishment, and refer to a "demonstration made on the night of the 6th.

The cadets who brought the paper to me emphasized the disclaimer therein contained of intentional disrespect to the President, (or any other officer) except the Commandant. Their hostility

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to Captain West is apparent, and yet so far as I recall not one of the complaints had hitherto been brought to my attention.

The Faculty adjourned at six o'clock last night without action on the matter referred to them on the recommendation of the Court of Inquiry, to meet again to-morrow. They did, however, refer to the President and Commandant the question of the relief from the calls referred to in the paper already herein mentioned.

It appears before the "demonstration" of Thursday night about sixty or seventy pledges of secrecy as to what happened were obtained, though so far as I could judge there were nothing like that number engaged in the disorder when I came over.

Since that time the corps has been quiet, but to-day, Sunday, they are not obeying military calls. This I hear is in accordance with an understanding reached among them last night.

In my opinion it is an organized resistance of authority administered in accordance with the Laws and Regulations of the University, led by a few whom that discipline pinches.

It is understood among the members of our Faculty that we would keep our own counsel in the matter. I have great confidence in the wisdom of such a body, and confidently look for them to solve the problem aright.

A similar letter goes to each member of the Board of Trustees, marked confidential, as is this.

Very truly yours,