

[TO: Elias Carr Raleigh, N.C.]

OFFICE OF

T. B. KEOGH,

GREENSBORO NATIONAL
BANK BUILDING.

Confidential

GREENSBORO, N. C., May 24, 1896.

My dear Governor,

I want you write you a personal letter about the Presidency of the A. M. here. I see in your ~~document~~ ^{letter about} ~~document~~ of Peques you say you have endorsed another man for the place - Atkins I infer from a remark you made to me one day. I know the Winston people are very strong for him - I mean the white people - I have had my eyes opened in my one year's service on the Board, and I can understand how white people are deceived by a certain class of so-called negro educators. There is a pitched battle now going on for this Presidency between the Baptists and the Methodists - Atkins is an improvement on Crosby in moral character and ability as a teacher, but he is just as full of the idea that he wants this school as a stepping stone to dine in the clubs of Philadelphia and New York and Boston, so as to get somewhere near to the heaven which Booker Washington now circulates in. I may put my peg too high, but with the same curriculum and equally good equipment as the white A. M. I cannot see why we should not seek skilled and competent men to handle this College - If quacks and egotists are to be voted into the management of the

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school I think it would have been better to have allowed it to remain as it was a year ago, - a mere make shift to be used as a legal wedge to open the U.S. Treasury for money for the white A & M, and also to raise a fund to be used by a bank here. If I could have my say about it I would not let a man into the Faculty who would not pass an examination that would qualify him to teach in any like college.

The negroes are, under the lead of Crosby forcing the color line. The truth is that none but a competent white man should be made President. Prof. Merriam who is said to back Crosby ought to give up Shaw to a negro. Hampton is under a white man, and I am of the opinion none of these schools will prosper under negro Presidents. I talked with a man named Davis in Raleigh that I think would make a better President for this institution than any one I have heard named yet. He struck me as a man that would not feel it a solemn duty to have the President of the A & M appear on every excursion, at every association, religious meeting, or political convention to illuminate with his great personality. He would not think the welfare

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of his race demanded that he should appear at Washington Phil & N. Y., Boston every few weeks; and that a biennial trip to England and the Continent, must be made to hold him in proper place with his race, I liked the way he talked.

Governor, I have learned a heap in twelve months. The other members of the Board come here on pleasure trips but I get a regular diet of it - and I must say that I am about discouraged in attempting to carry out or rather discharge what I consider my duties under the law establishing this College.

I want to carry out your ideas in this matter; because I know you feel a sincere interest in the welfare of the School as a state institution; but must say that I believe if men like Crosby, Peques, and Atkins are elected it will not be many years before the Institution will collapse as a victim to incompetency and charlatanism. I would have been glad to go to see you but I cannot get the time before the meeting, Thursday -

Yours truly
T. B. Keogh