



VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

(STATE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE)

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

BLACKSBURG January 1, 1919

President Julian A. Burruss,
Harrisonburg, Virginia.

My dear Mr. Burruss:

I greatly appreciated your letter of December 23rd which came during the holidays.

It is not necessary to explain to you why I have decided to accept the presidency of Hampden-Sidney College. Twice I positively declined to consider it, but the acceptance of the College by the Synod of Virginia has changed the condition, and an appeal has been made to me by the Trustees of the College, by prominent members of Synod, and by prominent Presbyterians throughout the State, with such earnestness and persistence and unanimity, that I have come to the conclusion that it is my duty to accept this new work, and to help to build up an institution having as its basis a direct Christian education, and looking, among other things, to the education of young men interested, or who may become interested, in the ministry-- something that is much-needed.

It will be a big wrench to leave here. No one could have been treated with more consideration than I have been. The citizens of Blacksburg, the Faculty, the employees, the alumni, the Board of Visitors -- all have been kind, and practically all have been doing team work for the upbuilding of the institution and for increasing its usefulness.

The correspondent here has asked me to let my announcement go through him, and it is probable that it will appear in the morning papers Friday or Saturday.

Cordially yours,

A large, flowing handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to J. G. Lester.

JDE:G