

April 8, 1916.

Mr. A. Stuart Robertson,
Staunton, Virginia.

Dear Mr. Robertson:

I have just returned from a trip to Portsmouth on school business and find your letter. While I am rushed with work today and cannot answer fully as requested by you, I hasten to say/once that I feel that I owe you an apology for speaking as I did ~~Saturday~~ the other day. The truth is I was feel/rather "down and out", I had been working until nearly midnight every night for about a week, getting various matters in shape for the new catalog, an address to the teachers of the 2d Congressional District, etc., etc. In addition to that I had a number of more or less important difficulties arising during the past week in the boarding department, and these were on my mind, so much so that I was "on edge" so to speak.

I shall very gladly write you or go over with you when we have time a number of matters referred to from time to time in your reports to the Executive Committee which I think have placed our school a rather unfortunate light. I do not consider these of sufficient importance, however, to warrant any special report from you to the Board and I should certainly not ask you to make anything of the sort.

So far as you personally are concerned I wish to acknowledge with gratitude your unfailing courtesy, and I sincerely believe that as we become better acquainted, and as you get more into the details of the work of our school, the bond of sympathy which ~~should~~ exist between us will be greatly strengthened. As to your official duties I wish to say that I believe you perform them in an entirely conscientious manner, and I do not believe you would knowingly do anything which would be in the slightest way unjust to anyone connected with our schools.

Unfortunately for myself I have a way of speaking my mind very frankly, and frequently make rather untimely remarks or make them in such a way that they are misconstrued and maybe resented. I have often wished I might be like some of my friends who, while they think just as radically sometimes, have the judgment to keep their thoughts and feelings to themselves and are cautious in their speech.

I think you are entirely right in asking for an explanation, and I trust that this letter will suffice until we have time to talk matters over here sometime when neither is in a hurry.

Very truly yours,