



9-7-1916

Letter to J.A. Baylor from Bolton Smith

Bolton Smith

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Sept. 7, 1916

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Rev. Dr. J. A. Baylor,
President Ministers' Association,
Knoxville, Tenn.

Dear Sir:

I received your communication in reference to a matter about which Mrs. French had written me and after some consideration, referred it to Dr. Ayres who is in correspondence with you about it. As I have written Mrs. French, nothing was further from the committee's intention than to make any reflection on these ladies or against their perfect sincerity in all that they had done; but I have found myself often wrong in my recollection and have assumed that such a contingency could happen to others.

I am sure, if I could talk the matter over with you, you would realize that my desire that the youth of our University be given the highest ethical standards is as great as yours. The fact that such standards are admittedly more difficult of attainment with men than with women, is no reason why we should not strive for them. The fact that they have not generally been attained in the past is no reason why we should not hope for better things. These are matters which I would find somewhat difficult to discuss with a lady but which I am sure you and I could talk about without misunderstanding.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) *Barton Smith*