Chapel Hill
Oct. 10th 1856

My dear Sir,

Before some "living, driven & quartered" on account of the serious charges exhibited by Mr. Turner against several members of the Society, amongst whom your humble servant, unfortunately, was found to be numbered, I desire to say a word or two in justification of my innocence.

At Whitaker's trial, before the Society, as used in your Society's letter to the Trustees, by Mr. H. was a motion made to dismiss him, which was lost by the casting vote of the President, who demonstrated that the proceeding was irregular, because no full meeting had not been called and was not present. A motion was then made in directing me to take Mr. Whitaker's, his mother, state the case to her fully, and if she could not bring her authority to bear on her child, that at least no further trouble from him might be apprehended. She expressed her thanks for the kindness shown to herself and the leniency with which her son had been treated. I begged that, if possible, no further steps should be taken for the present in the case until a reply to a letter written to the President should be received. She further said that Williams had told of what had occurred to her, and in remonstrating with him for his disrespectful conduct towards his teacher he said that he believed, if his class, as well as the "Frenchman was a liar and an infidel," that he could not respect him. This conversation appeared privately to Gov. Swain, before the meeting of the Society, to whom I only made known Mr. Whitaker's feelings, and request for a reproof.

As to the vote I gave in the Society, I must say that after the lapse