Williamstown, N.C. 12th June 1867

Hon. Charles Mann.

Dear Sir,

I had the privilege of attending Commencement last week at our University. I was disappointed in not seeing you there, but understood your health was poor. I was mortified to witness the languishing condition of the College, and discover the little interest that is felt in it by the citizens of our State.

There were only seven trustees present, including the president of the faculty of Low, North. Nothing was done or proposed in regard to the prosperity of the Institution, and I could not understand that the cause of its languishing condition had been ascertained either by the trustees or the Committee appointed by the Legislature to investigate it.

Patronage is needed, without which, Institution cannot survive. In order to obtain it, it is not necessary to adopt such a course of studies, in such grade of scholarship, as is maintained in some other Colleges, that are now drawing off the young men of North Carolina, to be educated without the hazards.