DEAR SIR:

THE TRUSTEES AND FACULTY OF THIS INSTITUTION are more anxious to elevate its standard of Scholarship and morals than to increase its numbers. To this end we are gradually increasing the rigor of the examinations for admission into College, and for advancement from class to class. The salutary effects of this course are already apparent; yet the hearty coöperation of the Parents and Guardians of the pupils is indispensable to the full accomplishment of these purposes.

Half the States of the Union are represented in our Catalogue. We have Students from about thirty Colleges in various parts of the country from Vermont to Texas, and are thus enabled to compare ourselves with other Institutions. The comparison gives us much reason to be satisfied with the condition of things among us; and we may add, that at no previous period has our corps of Instructors been more efficient, or the morals and scholarship of our Students more encouraging. The two new College edifices will be ready for occupancy by the opening of the next session, and we shall be enabled to enter upon the new year under still more favorable auspices.

To render our efforts more successful we beg leave to call your attention to an evil which we are especially anxious to remedy, viz: tardiness at the beginning of the session, and unnecessary absence during its progress.

The Laws of the University require, that leave of absence shall be given only in cases of necessity, and that in every instance, where the Parent or Guardian does not reside at such a distance as to render reference to him impracticable, the application shall not be made without his previous permission.

It can scarcely be necessary to intimate, that not merely the best interests of your Son but the welfare of the Institution depend in no small degree upon the faithful observance of these regulations. A permission to be absent extended to one, too frequently produces a desire on the part of his more intimate associates to accompany him, and ingenious devices are readily adopted to accomplish the purpose. The contagion spreads rapidly, and the occurrence of a Concert, a Circus, a Political Meeting, or the State Fair, begets a spirit of restlessness in the Institution for days before and afterwards altogether unfavorable to the quiet and diligent performance of duty.

The loss of time and money occasioned by these excursions will not be disregarded by prudent parents, and the reflection must be forced upon them that these are not always, and perhaps not ordinarily, the most serious evils to be apprehended from frequent indulgences of this character.

The State Fair will be held sometime in the next month. According to our regulations no Student under the age of twenty-one is permitted to attend without the written statement of his Parent or Guardian that he will himself be present and desires to meet his son or ward there. If you desire your son to attend the Fair please to communicate your wishes, in writing, to the President.

A circular will be sent a few weeks hence, showing his progress during the first half-session; his punctuality, the state of his accounts with the Bursar, and giving such other information as may, in our judgment, call for your commendation or reproof.

DAVID L. SWAIN, PRESIDENT.