Tidewater

My Dear Sir,

I have only reached the State House this morning and have not as yet had an opportunity of communicating with Mr. S. at an early hour as I was engaged in my other business. I will give you my views on the matter of a military establishment at the State House, and you can communicate them to the Governor, if you so desire. I have written to him this morning, and I send your letter to him with a request that he will come around at the State House, and I will delay no longer.

I think it best to take the fundamental position that the College must be kept open, and so it must be. The idea that it is a "sinking ship" is not to be tolerated for a moment. It must be kept afloat somehow during the war, and then with proper management a sound and stable financial condition must be attained. I am fully convinced on this point, for I believe that if the College is disbanded now it will be impossible to re-establish it ever. It has been a sickly affair, as will be the fate of most of the numerous colleges in the South. While it can be kept up during this struggle, it will have a prestige which it would not have had otherwise. It is the duty of the authorities who control the University to give it all the support it can receive, and I am sure that I am not alone in my determination to make good sacrifices, if it be necessary, in order to keep it open.