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Letter to Dr. Brown Ayres from The Methodist Episcopal Preachers' Association of Knoxville and Vicinity

The Methodist Episcopal Preachers' Association of Knoxville and Vicinity

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Knoxville, Tenn.,

July 24, 1916.

Dr. Brown Ayres,

President of the University of Tennessee,

Knoxville, Tenn.,

Dear Sir: Signed statements of Mrs. J. H. Knox, Mrs. R. W. McGranahan and Mrs. H. M Dobson, of this city, are in the hands of the Methodist Episcopal Preachers' Association of Knoxville and Vicinity, to the effect that Prof. Schaeffer, a teacher in the University of Tennessee in the course of a lecture delivered before the Anti-Vice League of this city, June 19, 1913, advocated a double standard of morals for men. We also have a copy of a letter from Mrs. J. H. Knox to you dated June 23, 1916, in which she states that she is willing to make oath before a notary public regarding these statements. In our minds this is a serious indictment and one not lightly to be passed over by the University authorities.

In our judgment it makes no difference whether Prof. Schaeffer may have made these statements before a few women not connected with the University or whether he may have made them before University classes. If he believes in and advocates a double standard ~~standard~~ Of morals for men, and as these statements allege approves a double standard for his son, he is unfit for a professorship in our University.

We respectfully request that you give this matter most serious consideration and that suitable action in the case be taken.

Wishing for you continued prosperity in your work we beg to remain,

Cordially Yours,

The Methodist Episcopal Preachers' Association of Knoxville and Vicinity O. R. Tarwater, President

Erwin Omohundro, Secretary.