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Letter to Dean Hoskins from W.L. Holt

W.L. Holt

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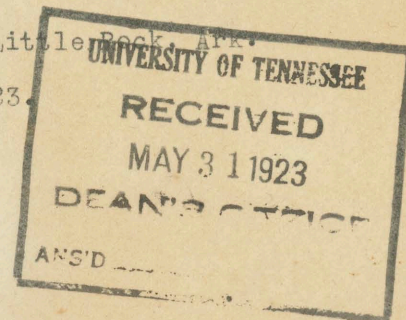
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4318 Lee Ave., Little Rock, Ark.

May 28, 1923.



Dean Hoskins
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee

Dear Sir:

I hear that there is quite a movement among the students at your good university to get you and another dean to resign. For the good of the institution Dean Hoskins, I believe you ought to do this, and because I have a real interest in the struggle for academic freedom and the teaching of the Truth about Religion and Evolution and the overthrow of the tyranny over the faculty, I make bold to "rush in where angels fear to tread". I assure you that I have no hard feeling towards you, for, altho it was a hardship at the time and it hurts one's pride not to be appreciated when one works hard and knows one has done well, I could not have stood long the academic tyranny and out-of-date ideas of your administration, and I like my present work and residence much better.

It may help you to see that you better resign to know the following words which one of your faculty wrote me in this connection recently:

"The chief enemy of progress here is the amiable dean. He is practically proof against the absorption of any new idea. The institution can never amount to anything until he loses his authority and his influence. (italics mine) He, more than all others, is to be held responsible for present stagnation in Tennessee educational affairs. "

I remember that you are a pillar of the Second Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, and think you may be pleased to know that I am a member in good standing of the Second Presbyterian Church here. The minister, Mr. Hay Watson Smith, is truly liberal and welcomed me as a Christian when I told him I was a Unitarian but as there was no Unitarian Church here, and he had preached such a liberal sermon, I should like to join if I did not have to subscribe to any orthodox creed. He published last winter an excellent booklet defending the doctrine of organic Evolution, called "Evolution and Presbyterianism". It would do you great good, I believe, to read it. If I had a copy, I would send it to you. You can get it for \$1 from Allsopp & Chapple, 307 Main St., Little Rock.

I hope that you will take this as it is meant, in a friendly spirit.

Do read The Goose Step and write me what you think of it.

Sincerely yours

Wm L Holt, M.D.