

January 4, 1944

There are undoubtedly more Baptist students at the University of Kansas under the leadership and direction of Mr. Thomas than there are Baptist students at Ottawa University.

A large number of students who are now foreign missionaries secured their education at Kansas University and the dean of the college is the son of missionaries born in India and is the pastor of one of the local churches.

Dr. O. C. Brown and Dr. Frank Jennings, former pastors of our church, were graduates of Ottawa University and Dr. John F. Watts and the late Rev. Howard E. Koelb were constant and ardent friends of Ottawa. The senior deacon in our church and at least two members of our Board of Trustees were Ottawa students and all of us resent the irritating, but ineffective campaign that has been made by Dr. Martin to smear the state institutions.

Of course, K. U. is too big to retaliate. On its faculty are members of practically every church--Jews, Gentiles and Catholics. The number of teachers not identified with a church doubtless is rather small.

Many of my good friends in the Kansas ministry have studied at the seminary in Kansas City, and I think that Dr. Dana is doing a good work. We of the Lawrence church have always been friendly and kindly toward the seminary although at times we could not greatly admire the character of its scholarship. We hope that it may grow in numbers, in scholarship and in spiritual power.

I regret the narrow-minded policy on the part of Dr. Martin which I believe is more injurious to Ottawa than it is to the state schools. I rather think that the time has come when the trustees of Ottawa University should assert themselves to see that Ottawa University is conducted upon the same forward looking honorable policy that seems to govern the other denominational schools of Kansas.

Baker University, one of the oldest denominational schools in Kansas, is in Douglas County and only seventeen miles from Lawrence. It is an outstanding Methodist school and yet the relationship between it, the people of Lawrence, and the state university is most cordial.

With best wishes to you and your family for the coming year, I remain

Cordially yours,

WCS:df

W. C. Simons

P.S. Your letter dated December 13th with the intention of reaching Kansas Baptists in time to influence their giving during 1943, arrived at my desk this morning, January 4th. It was stamped by the post office in Wichita on December 21st and carried three cents prepaid postage, so there was seemingly no reason for its delay of two full weeks.

W.C.S.