

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

Northwestern University.

Evanston, Illinois.

March 3, 1899.

President William R. Harper,
Chicago.

Dear Mr. President:-

I have yours of the first. I returned home yesterday morning from Springfield. I found that the bill was as dead as a doornail. The committee on education had not the slightest intention of reporting it. The discussion which occurred did not effect the matter one way or the other except, I think, to convince the committee that something had to be done. They had no idea of the state of things in Illinois. They did not, however, dare to report back our bill favorably. The Catholics were dead set against it, and when that is said, enough is said. The bill had been misrepresented at the start as being a blow at the smaller institutions; that created a prejudice also. It was thought to be by many a scheme concocted in the interests of these two universities here in Chicago.

I am not without hope, however, that a great deal may still be accomplished. We sat up until late in the night with Senator Berry and drafted a new bill, which provides for a commission with power to fix a standard and compels degree-conferring institutions to come up to the standard. The bill was to have been introduced yesterday. It will, I believe, pass the Senate and I am not without hope it will pass the House. We had quite a delegation from Chicago but nothing could have saved the original bill. We issued a statement of fact embodying an address to the legislature, the action of the colleges endorsing the

March 2, 1933

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bill and the opinion of the prominent physicians, lawyers, and dentists of the state in its favor. I will have some copies of this sent down to you, for it will be of interest.

Yours very truly,

P.S.

Henry Wade Rogers.

I think it is wise to have members of your Faculty with their representations at Springfield urging the passage of the new law creating the educational commission. I shall make that suggestion to the members ^{of our Faculty}. But neither your Faculty, nor mine, should write on paper with the name of the University on it. They think we are in a conspiracy against all the rest of the State.

You were included in the editorial in Friday's Chronicle.

It is especially important that letters be written to Representative Krowbridge - Chairman of the House Committee on Education.

But it will do harm for you to write. They think you have some design to get control of everything

