

President Wilson:

After much consideration, I feel I may have seen the proverbial light and may have come around to your way of thinking about coeducation. In my research this summer for the archeology laboratory, I came across a few ideas which might be of interest to you at this time. Your erudite nature possibly has already caused you to read Boley's Lexington in Old Virginia. In any case, two potentially helpful quotations follow:

1. This is an excerpt from Dr. Henry Ruffner's (president of Washington College, 1837) inaugural address:

Students in the higher schools of learning are separated, in a large measure, from the common mass of society and associate chiefly with each other. This seclusion is favorable to their progress in learning, but it generates some moral evils which the faculty find difficult and very often impracticable wholly to correct. It is a common observation that soldiers, seamen, and artisans congregated in large manufactories and, in general, wherever men live apart from mixed society, are prone to adopt the vices and neglect the decencies of life. Even the religious communities of monks and nuns, however pure originally, in Europe became the most scandalously dissolute. It is only by the intermixture of ages and sexes and the influence of family relations, so wisely ordained by Providence, that human society can be purified and refined (p. 58).

2. This is part of Boley's comment on the advent of Lee to Lexington after the Civil War.

With his coming, the college doors again opened and, more than ever, were thronged with eager and ingenuous boys from every section of our common country, whose zeal and devotion in search of knowledge won the commendation of both the community and the college authorities. The homes of the village were also opened, for General Lee preferred that the boys stay in the Lexington homes, where they would come in contact with the best society and its wholesome influence (p. 120).

I hope you can use these this weekend. Let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Warren Taylor

*All be in special collections in the library afternooon.
W.T.*