



THE GRIEVANCES
AGAINST
PROF. G. M. P. KING,
PRINCIPAL OF WAYLAND SEMINARY, WASHINGTON, D. C.,
AS STATED BY
THE COLORED BAPTISTS
OF THE
District of Columbia, Alexandria, Va.,
and Vicinity



**To the Baptists of the United States, and
Especially to the American Home
Mission Society.**

We, the Baptist Churches of the District of Columbia, Alexandria and vicinity, with their pastors, in convention assembled, do hereby enter our protest, and make known publicly our disapproval of Prof. G. M. P King, Principal of Wayland Seminary, for his repeated assaults upon female students, and his ungentlemanly bearing toward them.

We regret that his actions of late and recent occurrence have rendered him unfit for the position which he now occupies. He has not the sympathy of his students, nor of the Alumni Association, nor of this community in which this institution would so grandly prosper; one in which the people would feel a peculiar pride and interest, if they could be only a harmony of feelings between them and the Principal of Wayland Seminary.

However, we desire to be understood, that we have nothing against the institution as such; nor would we do anything to impede its true progress, for we love and revere the school that bears the honored name of Dr, Francis Wayland, and would rather co-operate were it not for the ungentlemanly and unchristianly attitude of the Principal of this institution toward students, especially females. We are as ready to-day as ever to advance the cause of Christian Education; but we *cannot* and *will not countenance*, nor *palliate* an injustice to any people, ours not excepted. As men, we feel it to be our duty to resent, in the most positive and unmistakable terms, every thing that even looks toward our degradation in destroying manhood and womanhood rights.

In asserting ourselves we feel that we have done no more than any other people would do under similar circumstances. No one with the sense of right would suppose that any person or class of persons would stand

idly by and see their women *insulted, abused* and even *assaulted*, and not resent it in the most emphatic manner.

There is no white community within the vast domain of this country which would not have resented the vile treatment which the Principal of Wayland Seminary has inflicted upon lady students, and upon *one*, a woman of twenty-three years of age, to such a degree as to leave bruises upon her person.

The cardinal aim of the education of the negro is to make him wiser and better, and know his rights and have them respected. If it does not do this, then it is a mockery, a farce, a waste of time, money and talent, and in the end will be more injurious than healthful. To better the Negro's condition in every way possible was the leading motive that moved the christian philanthropy of the North and has multiplied friends on every hand.

We are not blind to the fact of the good that Prof. King has done; but this by no means can justify, nor apologize, nor exonerate him for his maltreatment and *repeated assaults* upon lady pupils. He is incapable of governing himself, and therefore, he cannot govern others. We are not ungrateful for what he has done, we give him full credit; but his actions of late have placed him in such an unfriendly attitude toward us, that it is impossible for him to receive that amount of respect and consideration which is due a leader. He cannot possibly be our leader any further. Our confidence in him is lost. Another fact is noticeable, Prof. King has made it appear that he only assaulted female students, but here is a case of an assault upon a poor, ignorant African man who was sent to Wayland Seminary to be educated. In the year of '78 Prof. King became exasperated at this heathen, whose name was Young. There not being a friendly feeling existing between the two, Prof. King attempted to drive Young from the chapel up stairs. Young did not move as fast as Prof. King desired, so he attempted to accelerate his speed by laying his hand on Young's shoulder. The African immediately resented it, feeling that he was unjustly dealt with. He became so furious that Prof. King had to leave

him forthwith, and avoid direct contact with him for two or three days. Young, before this trouble between him and Prof. King, was never heard to say anything improper; he was apt to learn, he was ambitious to prepare himself for the ministry and then return to Africa to work, but when he saw that Prof. King proved unfriendly to him, he became reckless, indifferent in his speech and lost all hope to carry out his purpose. He often cried like a child because of the betrayal of his confidence in Prof. King. At last he was turned out upon the cold charities of Washington, and joined the Methodist Church.

We come now to the facts in question. At Redbank, N. J., when Prof. King was with his jubilee troop, he became angry with one of his lady singers, to wit: Miss Anna M. Mason. When she attempted to ascend the steps of the cars *en route* to Washington, his passion so far got the better of him that he pushed her forcibly from the second step to the first, against the car, and he thereupon hurried into the car, taking no notice of the woman he had thus treated.

In the spring of '78 a lady student, Miss Maggie A. Washington, who had been quite ill for several weeks, and as a result had a very poor appetite, went to Prof. King's door while he was at luncheon (the students at this time were not allowed luncheon). She asked him "If she might not ask the cook to give her a piece of bread." Thereupon he became enraged; told her "to leave the door and go down stairs." She replied that "she was too feeble to go." Then he seized her by the arm and forced her down stairs at a rapid rate into the kitchen, jerked her around and hurt her side, from which she had been suffering during her illness. This manner of treatment caused a serious relapse, the details of which are not necessary to further relate.

The case of Miss Mary E. Williams is doubtless well known to you all. This young lady was a member in good and regular standing of one of the Baptist churches of the District, and was, also, very pleasing in manner, and possessed an intelligent bearing. She was most violently and outrageously assaulted by the Principal of

Wayland Seminary. He seized her by the arm; jerked her loose from the balusters; forced her backward into her room; her cries filling the entire building, he closed the door; forced her down into a chair, and placed his knee in the lower part of her stomach to keep her there. This is her sworn testimony. Very great violence must have been used, for bruises were left on her person. Upon this he made the statement: "If he had an occasion to do the same thing, he did not know that he would act any differently;" and then in his closing remarks to the school three years ago he said: "I want you to understand that I do not propose to act differently from what I have acted, I propose to be the same G. M. P. King." And in keeping with this threat, in the winter of '84-85 he assaulted Miss Lillie Williams in a manner very similar to that in which he had assaulted Miss Mary E. Williams on a former occasion, throwing the whole school into confusion and chaos for two days in succession,

In view of these facts, and others not herein mentioned, we have repeatedly appealed to the Home Mission Society to remove Prof. King, and our appeals have as repeatedly been scorned, or, as we rather believe, ignored and set aside by the Secretary of the H. M. Society. We are not careful about having any man at the head of Wayland Seminary of the Negro race, we simply ask for a change of administration. But seeing that the H. M. Society are determined not to listen to our grievances, we appeal to Ministers of the Gospel, School Teachers, parents and friends of education every where, to recommend to those in the States who desire an education, institutions which are run on *Christian* principles and not Wayland Seminary.

Rev. R. S. Laws,	} Committee.
Rev. Walter H. Brooks,	
Rev. Wm. J. Walker,	
Rev. W. H. Scott,	
Delegates,	
C. H. Parker, 4th Ch.	
Robert Harris, 5th Ch.	}

The following Churches were represented:

(District of Columbia.)		
First (19th street),	Second,	Third,
Fourth,	Fifth,	Seventh,
Shiloh,	Liberty,	Salem,
Virginia Ave. Bapt Ch.,	6th st. s. w.,	Macedonia,
Central,	Israel,	Rehoboth,
Mount Hermon,	Zion Baptist Church,	Mount Hor.
(Alexandria, Virginia.)		
Third,	Ebenezer,	Beulah,
Shiloh.		
(Arlington, Virginia.)		
Mount Olive,	Mount Zion,	Roslyn.

The First Baptist Church, of Georgetown, did not send a delegate, but the pastor, Rev. S. Alexander, called on the Secretary and told him that his sympathy was with the meeting.

The Berean did not send delegates, yet Rev. William Waring was in sympathy with the meeting.

REV. WILLIAM WALKER,
President.

REV. W. H. SCOTT,
Secretary.

Done at Shiloh Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., on the 15th day of June, A. D. 1885.

