

(3) some teachers spent more time teaching students to dance than they did in conducting their classes; (4) students were urged to take up dancing even when it was against their convictions; (5) Mr. Lord had advised wine-drinking, and (6) Mr. Lord had turned a student away from the ministry as a life work.

Mr. Lord disposed of each of these charges by asking the students in each case, "is it true?" The students knew that in each case there was no foundation for the charge, hence the whole being no greater than the sum of its parts, the entire pattern of charges was shown to be a tissue of lies.

He asked the students:

Is the moral tone of this school lower than that in which these students are accustomed to dwell? Are standards of right living lower here than in your homes, in your communities, and in your Sunday schools and churches? Has the great virtue of truthfulness been taught in this school both by precept and example? Has another great virtue, courage, been taught by both precept and example? Is the liar, the sneak, and the coward, despised by God and man alike, been held up to obloquy? Has the truth speaker and the truth seeker and the brave man been made attractive as examples for you to follow? You must answer these questions.

Mr. Lord reminded the students that from the criticism of honest and upright people the school had nothing to fear. As for the motives behind these attacks, "if the motives are good, although mistaken, they must be respected; if the motives are to seek notoriety, to develop a sensation, they are unworthy." The students and teachers of the school, Mr. Lord said in conclusion, "know each other pretty well and each has a good degree of confidence in the other, and I hope nothing will occur to lessen or shake that confidence."⁴⁵

The matter probably would have blown over without further furore, if it had not been for the chastisement visited upon "Gus Marsh" by his indignant fellow students. Although responsible for the attack in the *Mattoon* paper, he was posing as a peace-maker. But Mr. Lord saw through him, and his fellow-students also sized him up about right. At noon on March 4 he was seized by a group of students, given a "trial" in which he "admitted" sending exaggerated reports to the *Mattoon Star*, and forthwith was marched to the campus lake and dumped in.⁴⁶ This incident was widely reported. It appeared in the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* in a curiously distorted form. Mr. Lord, it appeared had been thrown into the Normal School pond by a mob of indignant citizens!⁴⁷

On March 9, 1909, the father of "Gus Marsh" caused the arrest of those who dumped his son into the lake, on a charge of riot, a felony.

⁴⁵Typescript text of talk by Mr. Lord, no date, in Lord Letterbooks, No. 37. Talk was printed in the *Courier*, March 4, 1909.

⁴⁶*Charleston Daily Courier*, March 4, 1909. The Normal School controversy had more front-page space than the inauguration of President Taft.

⁴⁷McKinney: *Mr. Lord*, pp. 239-240. Mr. Lord protested against the falsity of the article. Letter, L. C. Lord to Editor, *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, March 8, 1909. Lord Letterbooks, no number.