Chapel, March 16, 1927

President Wright

I want to talk to you this morning on some of the things that come into our lives on account of our Negro problem. I believe this thought that I have this morning will be helpful to you, - helpful to all of us.

Since the Civil War the Negro has been a free man in our country, and to protect ourselves we have made a number of laws that were intended, in a large measure, originally to help solve the Negro problem. There are no laws on the statute books, so far as I know, of that particular kind, but there has grown up a feeling in our midst and we have put it into effect pretty rigidly making it rather stringent on the Negro to obey the laws. In some respects we have been more stringent on the Negro than we have on the whites, and in other cases we have been more lenient, because we have said, "O, well, he just didn't know any better," but there has grown within us a spirit of making him stay in his place. Now what is the result of that? The result of that is showing itself now in this generation, and we are finding a constantly decreasing number of Negro criminals. That is very much to the credit of the Negro. As I told you sometime ago, when I read that extract from a letter of Governor McLean, the ratio at one time was three to one of the criminal class, -- three Negroes to every white person. But today the ratio is not three to one, there are more whites going to than there are colored. Now I believe that comes as one of the results of our Negro problem. We have said that the Negro must stay in his place, and the white men are going to see that he does. We almost have to do that to protect the white women, and we are going to protect the women, law or no law. The people of North Carolina are going to do that. But it has made the Negro realize that he must be a law abiding citizen. Ever increasing numbers of them are realizing that, but growing up with that same idea has grown up an idea among the white people that law was not intended for them, and that today runs all through the white population of North Carolina, that it was not intended for me. "O, yes, I believe in prohibition, but it was not intended