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WM. PICKENS,
TALLADEGA COLLEGE,
TALLADEGA, ALA.
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J.A.K.

His Excellency,
The President of the
United States,
Dr. Woodrow Wilson.

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Dear Mr. Wilson:-

I am a loyal citizen of the United States, and I wish to add my voice to the protests against the un-American discrimination against the colored people in the employ of the Federal Government. I say "un-American", while I know that the illogical sentiment against color in a person is peculiarly American. But it is un-American in the best sense of the word "American", - in the sense of the Declaration of Independence, - in the sense of the Christian religion, - in the sense of the Constitution of these United States, by which all Federal officers are sworn.

Are we going to repeat all the sad history of this nation in regard to the Negro race? God forbid, - for indeed the repetition will be much worse than our former experiences along that line. The American Negro is daily being forced to become less "gentle" and "forgiving", because of these evil examples by white people; for such actions speak louder than all our pulpits, - louder, even, than our pre-election declarations.

I know personally many Negroes who put faith in the recent Democratic Presidential Candidate as expressing "the highest type of Southern manhood". What in the name of civilization are the Negroes to think of the South in the future if an administration headed by its highest type will do what is now being done in Washington? Such treatment of colored people will never help the white and the black race to understand each other in this country; it only prevents mutual trust and a mutual understanding on which trust and respect could be based, and prolongs the evil day in which we live.

I refer to the segregating and disadvantaging of the Negro employees, such as is being done in the Printing and Treasury Departments, where the Negro clerks are set apart as if they had leprosy or the color of their skins were "taking". -- If these people are not competent employees, why are they not discharged? If they are competent, why should they be humiliated? What reason can there be in the policy that is being pursued?

Very Respectfully,

Wm Pickens.