

Civil War

To the General Assembly of Virginia

The undersigned, Professor of the Medical College of Va. respectfully represents: - That the "bill to reorganize the militia," which has passed the Senate, and is now pending in the House of Delegates, provides, in Section — that students of the University of Virginia and incorporated colleges, under the age of 21 years, and the professors thereof, shall be exempt from enrolment under the said act, during their connection with such institutions, on condition of being organized as one or more companies, and regularly drilled &c.

We beg leave to urge upon your consideration the propriety of ^{expediently} removing the limitation in regard to age, at least so far as medical students are concerned. While the majority of such students are ~~generally~~ under the age of twenty one, a certain number (in every class) will be ^{generally} found above that age; and this is especially true of those who are advanced in their studies, and are on the point of completing their professional education. It is precisely this latter class ^{on grounds of public expediency} who are more entitled to protection during their collegiate course than those who are beginners, and who are therefore generally younger, because they are approaching the term of that preparation which will qualify them for useful life in the public service as medical officers, or to the general public as practitioners.

We deem it important to call your attention to the fact that the college in which we have the honor to hold chairs, and the medical dept of the U. of V., are the

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only medical schools, within the limits of the C. S. which
~~have~~ ^{are now in operation} have survived the troubles of the
times and have continued in regular operation since the
commencement of the war. The education of physicians for
the whole South, therefore, must be carried on for the present
in the schools of Virginia, - a circumstance which gives them
~~an~~ a strong claim to your consideration.

It would ^{remark} suggest that it is neither necessary nor
wise that the business of medical education
should be suspended.

That medical education should be contin-
ued without interruption ^{even} during ~~the war~~ ^{a state of war,} ~~the war~~
is evidently a public necessity. That it is im-
portant is referenced to the public service itself, is
proved by this fact, which we would take the liberty of
citing, - viz: that ^{not more than half} of the graduates of the Medical College of Va
at each of the two last sessions have already entered the pub-
lic service in professional positions, - nearly all of them hav-
ing been commissioned as Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons of
the Army and Navy, after an approval of their qualifications
by the proper Examining Boards.

It would further remark that the annual course of
this institution at present commences on the first Monday in
November, and ~~ends~~ ^{close} on the first of March, - being confined
therefore to a period of the year during which active military
operations are for the most part suspended.

It trust that your honorable body will find sufficient
reason in the foregoing considerations to extend the ^{temporary} protec-
tion afforded by the bill to all medical students in attendance
upon collegiate instruction, without regard to age.

Copy of letter
to
C. S. Rogers