

Prof. J. K. Patterson E. K. L. Asylum 4/8/87
Pres. A. M. College
Lexington Ky

Dear Sir

Supr. Dr Clark
was requested & authorized me to
write to several members of your
board the following. I feel dis-
posed to trust that a communication
to you also will be kindly
appreciated. My hopes are based
upon the interest you manifested
in me, in according to me so
much of your attention last Board
meeting, as also the disposition
to carefulness & thoroughness you
exhibited, in the treatment of my
matter, in your examination of
me then.

I learn from home
that my mother (Maria Thompson
Daviss) is ill. She is very
old (72). Thoug previously quite healthy

I fear that her death is approaching, & the family are endeavoring to keep from me her true condition - fearing it might distress me, when I am unable to come to her bedside. I therefore permit me to say, I think the vanity of a boy over his mother is not only permissible, but commendable. Not only do I think I have the dearest mother in the world, (the world itself says that), - that I love her with all my soul's truest & purest devotion you must know, but of her I can say I am justly proud, as I told you in your conviction, her house, to day, is filled with silver ware, the rewards to her, for intellectual excellence, in the various ~~of~~ fields of literary endeavor, & it is said of her, by all who know her, that she is the greatest of all her illustrious family, & this is a great compliment

I assure you indeed.
She is also published in a book
of the distinguished writers of
the South. I trust Mr Patterson

I have not offended your sense
of propriety, in this praise of a
son for his mother.

Two of your
Board, familiar with my troubles,
have signified their willingness
to discharge me, This I believe
is a legal discharge, I am
especially anxious, on account
of your recognized probity of
character at home & abroad, to
have your name on my discharge
though needless, Selark has
suggested to me to write you
for permission to call on you
to obtain this. I profoundly trust
Mr Patterson, you will grant
me this favor, Forget not I am
imprisoned for daring to do my
duty. "Successfully" befriending
a ruined woman, when to cham-

= given the name & fame of one it almost
jeopardised the life of my kinsman,
"little Phil" Thompson, who was then
my first cousin & best friend, (not even)

I determined, & made the world believe,
that her innocence, should not be
sacrificed to his safety. From this
you must know, my sternness, in
always doing, what I conceive to be
my duty.

The 3^d woman,
I had trained to be gracious with
a cunning, unscrupulous, ^{impure,} man
to save her husband from the pen-
& ^{confined}

= tentary, whether she knew he would
go, & afterwards tried to warn me
against him, which warning I did
not remember, in the surprise trial.

Please observe, Mr Patterson, in my
efforts to befriend, I have succeeded
never failed & this is one of the factors of

my trouble. When you remember I have ^{been}
confined in the Home for the insane, since last December
one of its officers (unmasked by me) voluntarily
telling Clark & Kimbrough in my presence
the other day, that he had never seen
anything wrong with me, from the day I
came until the present time, yet

associating with me, every day
and then you have been previously
written a long letter by me, &
have since seen & talked with me

(7)
P.S. In interview with
you accorded, would under-
take to satisfy any mis-
-understanding, or mis-ap-
-preciation of facts or cir-
-cumstances, which your
mind may now entertain,

For instance, why my
mother did not interfere
in my trial - This was
because she knew nothing
of it, until ^{after} ^{verdict} ^{vs} ^{me}
told her of it. She was
sick in bed & even if she
had have been well, I feel
no necessity for her testimony
in beginning of trial, & should
not have used it, Had she
been present, I was sur-
-prised & trapped, after I
came off the stand, by the
man who thought I was
trying to seduce his wife.
— again, why the balance

of the Board did not remain
 the other night, with you
 to hear the continuation of
 my argument - ~~tho~~ This
 was because, they were
 thoroughly familiar with
 my troubles, by personal
 conversation & letter &c
 I used nothing of what I told you in regard on ^{trial}

And your Christian
 conscience permit you
 to drive out Sunday or
 Saturday evening & see
 me, I believe the Good
 Book teaches to visit the
 friendless & imprisoned.

In conclusion, Mr
 Patterson, allow me to
 say, as before, that you
 now show me, only, a
 fraction of the mercy, I
 have always spent my
 life, showing my fellow-men
 If you do I am safe,
 Respectfully,
 G. Joseph Davis

except Court's discharge

(5)

when the knowledge of my great wrongs, stored me into an unusual manifestation of feeling which I could not then control, & then the narration of my troubles to you, in conversation, was at least plausible, After all the foregoing is by you ^{& kindly} calmly considered, - forgetting not the length of imprisonment, - since last December, & testimony to my sanity by its officers, do you not think you do me great injustice to longer detain me ^{as a prisoner} on a mere suspicion of the falsity of some of my representations.

Now Mr Patterson, is not this longer imprisonment unjust, & unwarranted, when I further tell you I desire now a discharge for the purpose of possibly seeing my grand old mother die, & then using ~~my~~

your discharge, only temporarily
while arranging for a change
of Venue, & ~~new~~ trial by a
jury of your Citizens, which
Clark has advised me to
do, in order to obtain, what
I have remained, a prisoner
so long in your custody
for, ^{to wit} a Thoroughly protective
discharge. one that will
protect me in the future, should I ever
again knock down a man, who first
assaults me. If a man of your (by
me) supposed mentality intellectually
& scholarly culture, should now deny
me this favor - as I said before, it
would shake my faith in the existence
of a merciful God, ~~to~~ to whom
I bow low my reverential head,
whose helpless & friendless, I have
always befriended, & but recently
moved to the Coffin & shroud,
two destitute pauper negroes in
hottest & coldest weather - This
refusal on your part, to now
befriend me, would not only make
me infidel to the faith, in the ex-
istence of such a God, but would
dry up forever in me, my streams
of mercy on all mankind. Trusting
& believing I will receive from you, a
favorable response, I have the honor &
pleasure of remaining your obedient servant
See additional sheet = Wm Joseph Davies

E. K. G. Asylum #3/84

Prof J. K. Patterson, President
A. M. College Tex Ky

Dear Sir,

Supt H^r Clark advised me to write my friend Mr Gibbons a communication somewhat similar to this I now take the liberty of addressing you. ^{also} Last Dec, was maliciously imprisoned in your custody. I made the greatest sacrificial haste to put my self under the skilled competent eye of your authorities in charge of the Home for the Insane - knowing they had vast experience in all the phases of the aberrated ^{anticipating quick release} mind. After arrival & narration of my ~~story~~ troubles to Clark - a few days afterwards he told me that when I first told them to him he suspected they were untrue & fanciful

but that now he believed them, =

If you will kindly permit me will only now say a word or two in regard to them. First = my reason for so doing is because Clark has failed to get you in your Conventions to entertain the matter of my discharge & I believe kind Sir if I could only slightly arouse in you an interest in my behalf then at your next board meeting you would ^{assist} my friend Mr Gibbons ^{Clark & Clark} in getting the matter before the House,

The start of my troubles dates back to my public prof vindication of the name & fame of two (then) ruined women. This was done in Cincinnati Commercial Gazette & New York paper. The women were Mollie Garnette Thompson & Miss Julie Buckner. The latter is now upon the stage winning the laurels of fame as "Edythe Byrne".
But the immediate present cause

of my troubles is occasioned by the
coming to me of a beautiful im-
moral acquaintance of my younger
reformed days who had since
married her husband was a
refugee from justice for shooting
without just cause or provocation
a Mr Bryant, I carried her to
our parlor & spent 1/2 day drilling
her what to say to her husband's
irate bondsman to prevent him
re-arresting her husband & peniten-
tiating him. I told her to
be gracious with him, ^{as he is the father of our friends Justice} He com-
pelled her to sit on his chair and
loaned her \$10⁰⁰. She had to
plead the lateness of the hour to
get away from him. She 2 nights
afterwards tried to warn me
against him & while brushing my
hair, but unfortunately I then
attached no importance to her
warnings until too late to protect
myself. The reason he treated me so
cruelly was because he recently caught
up with his wifes drunkenness & sent

her to inebriate asylum. On her return
desiring to re-establish herself in his now
shaken confidence represented to him I was
trying to seduce her - when she should
have told him truthfully I had twice re-
-ferred to have immoral relations with her
-when invited by her. - This aspect of my
case resembles accurately the Bible Joseph
with Potiphar's woman - my name being
Joseph also. = Thus Mr Patterson, be-
-thinking I had endeavored to seduce his
-wife got the consent of his conscience to
-imprison me to get hold of the pretty
-woman whom I had instructed to be
-gracious with him to prevent his arrest of
-her husband.

So I beg & trust Mr
Patterson you will kindly assist Mr.
Gibbons Mr Clay & Dr Clark in getting
my matter before your next convention
-When I think that all my troubles,
-are traceable directly & indirectly to my
-befriending 3 friendless women = it makes
-me infidel to the belief that a God lives
-who permits me to be thus punished
-for my noble espousal of the cause of
-his afflicted. When thus reflecting, sad
-is my heart as my tears fall around
-me almost shrouding my hopes in their
-fall = So good Sir can I trust
-you will assist me to a discharge
-at your next convention, Am my mother's
-oldest son & adviser. She is very
-sick & may yet die before I see her
-Am now imprisoned at the most crisis-
-ical period of my young manhood
- & at period most critical in my mother's
-affairs, if released would scarcely
-have time to remain at home 3 days before
-going East. Read kindly & appreciatively again
-This letter understand well. Kindly & respectfully
-Yours Wm Joseph Davis
-W-L

E. K. L. Asylum 4/13
87

Prof J. K. Patterson
of A. & M. College
Lexington Ky

Dear Sir

Letter just received from little
Niece says my mother is visiting
her mother (my sister) Mrs
Jean Gm Warren Danville Ky
Hence address your letter to
her as above.

^{certified} Extract from her letter to me
dated Feby 3^d 1887 if carefully
considered by you will destroy
the necessity of letter to her from
you to wit = "You know ^{that} Will
(my first name) - for all these long
years I have never in my
intercourse recognized the
fact that you were regarded
as insane - nor has it been
the habit of people to speak of

This thing to me" (intended to certify
here that this is true copy from mothers
letter but Clark has just called up to me that
it is needless, wanted some officer to certify it ^{that} ^{is}

Now Mr Patterson whom
you remember as I told you
I am my mothers eldest son
& adviser - she has never done
any thing without first getting
my advice & approval - even since
my imprisonment, ^{here} has written
for my advice about changing
from her place of rented
residence to one of her
own cottages - I immediately
replied & dissuaded her
from doing so & she has not
& will not do so, - then
when you understand this
you will readily perceive
that "she" herself did not
regard me as insane her-
-self - not only - but
was even ignorant of the
fact that any one else did

I beg you, kind sir, to thoroughly understand foregoing if you please, —

In same letter she says on next page in regard to my discharge from the College Hill Sanitarium of which the Colonial Insanity Expert Dr Everts is proprietor

Dr Everts — forget not — charged me \$15⁰⁰ for 6 days stay with him & it was to his interest to have detained me longer but he released me & wrote my mother the following

also certified ^{to} to —
= "That I might be too much deranged to be agreeable at home but not enough so to be a fit inmate for his asylum" ^{intended to just certify, alas but Clark said it was null}

= & nurse released me after 6 days stay with him ^{over}

Dr Clark was just telling me
you have been informed I was
a dangerous citizen in the
community &c = Now good
Sir if you will permit me
to go to Harrodsburg I will
undertake to easily get
you 100 Affidavits that
my name has never been
once on Police Docket
in same Affidavit will
show by my own oath & the
oaths of 100 others that I
never had but two dif-
ficulties in the town in
all my life of ^{nearly} 34 years
The first was with a
desperate man who had
attempted to defile my
intimate friend's wife = I
secretly & quietly prevented
him doing so but said
nothing about it to any one
but he knew it & one night
while drunk got mad because

because he heard the How
Gno C Thompson tell me to
take him home & to bed he
then - knowing I had but re-
= cently prevented his ad-
= sitting with my friends
wife turned on me & cursed
& abused me terrifically
called me a damned son
of a bitch & I even took
that & then he advanced on
me & slapped my jaws & I
turned & knocked him down
& as he arose he drew a
pistol & I did not move
out of my tracks just as
he pointed it at me the
crowd of 20 men caught
him & prevented his shooting
me, The next morning
he came to me & apologized
for his treatment of me
& I forgave him all - There
was 20, or 30 spectators to this

my next difficulty was with Mr
Colman who your brother told
you was a rough brutal man
livery stable keeper. He kicked
me for friendly slapping him
gently gently on the shoulder
& calling his attention to change
in the weather - he thinking
I was cowardly turned
& kicked me & then I knocked
him down, Even in this dif-
-ficulty which 10 people
saw he first assaulted
me hence had no excuse
in law - His family arrested
me on writ of insanity & after
I had nicely won my case
was testified against by
my old intimate Employer
who jury did not know he
thought I had endeavored
to seduce his drunken wife
& swore so against me to
get hold of the woman
who had tried to warn

me against ~~me~~^{my} while brushing
my hair & I was smoking &
reading a newspaper. Her
warnings I thought so absurd
that I forgot them in heat
of trial, & did not recollect
them until on train coming
here — 3 Please do not
forget Mr Patterson nearly
all I have told you I
used not on trial — I
did not even summon a
witness & Mr Bohon was
summoned to produce me
& as I showed you letter
in which he said he thought
I had more sense than
the entire Court which
tried me for insanity — he
almost so swore on trial
yet he was expected to
testify against me. Forget
not his standing — is director
of Mercer Nat BK & regarded
shrewdest man in my —

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Colman who your brother told
you was a rough brutal man
livery stable keeper. He kicked
me for friendly slapping him
gently gently on the shoulder
& calling his attention to change
in the weather - he thinking
I was cowardly turned
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in law - His family arrested
me on writ of insanity & after
I had nicely won my case
was testified against by
my old intimate Employer
who jury did not know he
thought I had endeavored
to seduce his drunken wife
& swore so against me to
get hold of the woman
who had tried to warn

=Country — Will only too gladly
pay expenses of my self & guard
to Harrodsburg Ky to procure
^{sworn} affidavits & in number to
the truth of every thing I
have told you from most
responsible Citizens. If you
will only show me this sim-
-ple mercy, for it, will be
thankful, & if I do not
will be content to fold
my hands over my face
& die the death of a sane
man shut up in the home
for the insane & never
breathe another word in
my justification to its officers,
whose duty I think it is
to protect from malicious
incarceration its humblest
citizen as well as its greatest.
My case is precisely so far analogous
to that of God himself in flesh except
that I have not yet been put to death
but we go to Harrodsburg with guard & will
certainly show it. He was put to death for
befriending. I am about to be ~~put to death~~
see next page of W. L. H. P. D. S.

My friend Logan Hocker advised me
not to ~~again~~ tell your Board the
complicated history of my troubles.
This was excellent advice doubt-
less, but the frankness of my
nature — believing the truth ^{must}
never be suppressed — forced
me to disclosure. Had I
have thought of the natural
aversion of the human mind
to truth I would have acted
differently. The worst ^{and}
most unpleasant feature of
my trouble is, some few years
ago I deserted agnostic
infidelity, becoming convinced
of Christian truths gradually.
Shortly after this I championed
the name & fame ^{in newspapers} of Mollie
Garnett Thompson & Miss Jessie
Buckner (now Edythe Byrne).
These noble acts on my part
are yet proud of — proceeding from

Esquisite sense of right & duty, These
women were ruined utterly when
I took host of them, My advocacy
of their character journalistically
came near at the time involving
me in very serious trouble from
which I escaped however - and
now to think that my present trouble
is directly traceable to these Chris-
-tian acts when befriending suc-
-cessfully a 3^d woman to save
her husband from the penitentiary.
It looks decisively to me that
there is no God ^{in whose existence I once disbelieved} to reward the
faithfulness of the virtuous & the
good. ^{me} Previous to my conversion
from infidelity - (though am now no
church member) all my ways were
those of pleasantness - no trouble
had I, I drew 7 distinct salaries
but since my conversion to God
my troubles have piled upon me
in a most shameful, shocking way
whereas previously I had none, as
said they have all come on me since
my effort towards Christianity and

I now feel strongly disposed to go
back into the deserted years ago
pathless regions of agnosticism
in which I once prospered so,
while there, How aptly to
me the lines of Bryant =
"Leman thou contrasted lake
With the world I dwell in is a thing
Which by ~~thy~~ stillness warns me
Life's troubled waters for some purer spring"

My older brother Jno. B. S. =
= Darius it is charged committed
killed himself, on account of
his troubles, I used always
to wonder how any man's
troubles could drive him
voluntarily into the coffin &
shroud - but now I understand
this & do not blame my brother
for killing himself, His
life had simply become un-
endurable & he sought death
as welcome release, so now
my affairs have almost made

my life mendurable, & death
to me, ^{through} by others dread will
wear indeed a friendly aspect
& when my summons comes to
join the pale faced nations
of the dead, shall go not
as whipped slave to hateful
task, but like one who
draws the drapery of his
couch around him & lays
down to pleasant dreams"
Kindly & Respectfully
Wm. Joseph. Daviss.

P.S.

69-W-LH

Please inform me of any
thing you may ~~hear~~ ^{hear} derogatory to
my case. You have been informed
I was a dangerous citizen, in a
community where in all my life I never
had but 2 difficulties as narrated into
which I was forced by almost my own
sheer cowardice in both cases can easily
prove I fought for self protection, One
of your officers was told I was a bore
when Christmas night while imprisoned
here had been invited to ^{my} seat in carriage by
2 parties to distant town they paying all ^{Expenses}
Res. WJ Daviss

Will's insanity and desiring to have my opinion
about it. He also tells me "that whatever may be
my reply Mr. Darrap will expect to see it"
This places me in a cruel dilemma, as I have
informed you, but Mr. Patterson of course did not
know or consider, that I am now past my three
score and ten years and that I am the only person
who can properly be expected to protect & care for
my unfortunate child and therefore, cannot
afford to alienate him from, or incense him
against me, by stating what he would consider
wanton falsehood. I must therefore leave the
responsibility where I think it belongs of judg-
ing whether he has been restored to sound
mental condition & consequently harmless
& that is to the Board of Commissioners.
They have had him in care now
for several months with daily opportunity
for observation on his mental & moral
condition. I am going to write to Will a

candid and faithful letter & after his reply
will write to Mr. Patterson —

The object of this letter to you is to enquire
whether you could not offer to him a release
on ~~a~~ conditions of a little longer probation.

Remind him that he came to the Asylum
with the marks of strife upon him, that he
has written many letters from it containing
such charges as would according to the usual
ideas of honor in this State, require satisfaction
on the field of honor; of his long hair, his fast
and his unaccountable departures from business
after so active and successful career even
in his youth. Cannot you offer to test his

business discretion by allowing him to keep
some books for which he is amply qualified
G. D. Clark, pardon me, pardon me this imposition
upon your time & sympathy. If indeed
the judgement of the Board is correct, I cannot

47-M-64

express my joy at his restoration, nor can I convey
to you an idea of the uneasiness I endure
with the thought that under a mistake
he may be released to fatal danger to
himself or others. The men with whom he
was at Stupe when he was carried away
are a numerous & reckless people chiefly; those
he charges with conspiracy are my own &
his dearest kin and have been as children
in my house & have been employed for
the past three weeks in the effort to
save the remainder of our large estate from
total loss by law. Consider my plan and
I will meanwhile be trying to find some
place of refuge which will not willingly
be afforded me with my unhappy
companions; by the time he will be discharged.

Yours most respectfully

Thos. M. J. Davers

OFFICE OF

→ KOHN & BARKER, ←

Attorneys at Law,

COURT BLOCK,

Nos. 529-531 COURT PLACE,

Louisville, Ky. May 27 1887

My Dear President,

Your note of the 24
inst rec'd; I know Dr Clark well - have
known him all his life and will do any
thing in my power to serve him, both
for his own & for your sake - You did not
indicate how I could serve him or with
whom - I know so little of Lunatic
Asylums (thank Heaven) that I am ignorant
of how the Superintendents are appointed
let me know who holds the strings and I will
try and aid you in pulling them -
Am glad to find that Frank stands so
high in your estimation; it is a sure
sign to me that he ought to be retained

With kindest regards to you self and
family I am as ever your
friend

A. S. Barker

President J. H. Patterson
Lexington
Ky.

Eastern

Kentucky Lunatic Asylum,
Dr. G. W. Clarke, Sup't.

Lexington, Ky., May 28 1887

President J. K. Patterson
State College

Dear Sir

I have just read Henry
Bosker's letter which I return.
I hardly know whether to
be more gratified by the
pleasant expressions of my
old schoolfellow, or the
kindly interest which you
manifest in me. I assure you
I appreciate both, and trust
that your confidence and es-
teem may not be wholly un-
reciprocated, but that at some
time I may be able to

47-M-64

reply your kindness

Very Truly
F H Clarke

JNO. O. HODGES,
SUPERINTENDENT.

OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS,

Lexington, Ky., Aug 2 1888

Pres^t Jas K Patterson
State College
Dear Sir

This is to certify that
Miss Rosa Speyer passed with credit
the entire course in the public schools
attaining in general average $96\frac{1}{3}$
percentages, and that she is entitled to
one of the scholarships offered such
pupils by the State College

Respectfully

Jno. O. Hodges Supr.

↔ Eastern Kentucky Lunatic Asylum ↔

SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Lexington, Ky., March 4, 1889

Commissioner James H. Patterson —

Sir: The Board of
~~Your term as Visiting~~ Commissioners of the E. Ky. L.
Asylum commences ~~meets~~ Wednesday March 6/89 and
~~ends~~ at usual hour

A. W. Marshall
CHAS. W. KIMBROUGH, Sec'y.

47-M-44



NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS CAN BE PLACED ON THIS SIDE.



Prof James H. Patterson,
of A. & M. College,
City.