

THE COLOR LINE IN COLLEGE.

To the Editor of the Herald: With reference to the item which has appeared in the newspapers, stating that a colored boy had been refused admission to the preparatory department of Dickinson College, at Carlisle, Pa., one of the college professors writes, in answer to inquiries, as follows:

"The slip which I have received from you is partly true and partly false, but is altogether misleading. In the first place, the authorities of the college have never had anything to do with this matter. There is a preparatory department here, but it is virtually a private school. The principal manages its affairs as seemeth good in his sight, and the admission or rejection of a colored boy there would not prejudice his case when he applied for admission to the college. Secondly, there have been no threats of violence to anybody in case the boy was admitted, as has been alleged. There has been some opposition on the part of some of the boys, but a large number have kept agitating the matter in the boy's favor, and it is from these that all these newspaper squibs originate. The principal of the preparatory school would probably have been glad if the matter had been dropped, so as to save him the trouble of settling it definitely; but some of the boys kept the thing stirred up, and the result is that the boy has been admitted to the preparatory school, and all seems to be going on smoothly. This is undoubtedly the entering wedge, and the question, which has never been presented here, of admitting negroes to Dickinson College, will probably have to be met by the trustees in a year or two; but there is not the slightest reason to suspect that they will not meet it in a manly way, and settle it by admitting any one who has the necessary qualifications. If you will kindly ask the editor of the paper from which you cut this slip to state at least these two facts, I shall be obliged: 1. The faculty of Dickinson College is in no way responsible for the irresolute conduct displayed in this case. 2. The colored boy has been admitted, and thus far his admission has not caused a ripple on the surface." Dickinson College, therefore, seems to stand exonerated. The verdict as concerns the preparatory school must be, "Not guilty, but don't do it again." The fact that the management was so desirous to be "saved the trouble of settling the matter," and that its attitude toward the colored boy before his admission was such as to compel so much agitation on the part of his friends, would seem to indicate that the color prejudice still lingers in spots north of Mason and Dixon's line. It is to be hoped that the college will now set its foot on it very firmly.