

# DOCUMENTS

RELATIVE TO THE ENDOWMENT

OF THE

**CENTRE COLLEGE**

BY THE

**SYNOD OF KENTUCKY;**

CONTAINING,

*ADDRESSES TO THE PUBLIC,—BY THE SYNOD, AND  
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINT-  
ED BY THAT BODY;*

TOGETHER WITH

*A PLAN FOR RAISING THE NECESSARY FUNDS, &c.*

.....

*LEXINGTON, KY.*

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1825.

## TO THE PUBLIC.

THE Board of Trustees appointed by the Synod of Kentucky, to carry into effect the plan of a literary institution, adopted by said Synod, have the pleasure to announce to the public, and all concerned, that a kind Providence has, in a remarkable manner, succeeded the efforts which have been made, and that there is now the most cheering prospect of realizing the object which has been so long and ardently desired by the friends of sound literature in this part of the country.

An agreement was entered into last October, by this Board on the one part, and the Board of Trustees of Centre College on the other, according to which, if ratified by the Legislature, the Synod were to have the control of the said college upon the condition of endowing it, to the amount of twenty thousand dollars. This agreement has been recently ratified by the Legislature of Kentucky, by an act which, though probably not exactly such as either party would wish, yet it is calculated to answer the purposes intended, and therefore, this Board have resolved to accept it on behalf of the Synod.

According to this act, the former charter is altered to suit the views of Synod, and put beyond repeal, or amendment, by the Legislature, unless any donations, bequests, or devises which may be vested in the Board of Trustees, be refunded to the treasurer, subject to the disposition of the Synod.

The Synod, in anticipation of the aforesaid agreement being adopted, drew up an address to the public, and a plan for raising funds, and appointed some solicitors in addition to those formerly appointed. This address and plan we have thought proper to publish, with one or two trivial verbal alterations. The names of the solicitors appointed by Synod at different times, we have collected and inserted together, and added to the number the Rev. Gideon Blackburn, D. D. who is hereby authorized to solicit contributions to the funds of Synod, for the space of three months, in the southern states, and such other places as he may choose to visit.

What the Synod has stated respecting Danville, the town where the college is located, is by no means exaggerated; and it may be proper for us to add, that the college edifice, the lot on which it stands, and the funds of the institution, are estimated at twenty thousand dollars. The public are giving it more attention and patronage than could have been justly anticipated, considering the difficulties under which the Board has laboured. And if amply endowed and judiciously conducted, it cannot fail to be a source of the richest blessings to the state, and to the western country. Here a good solid education, and that education which prepares for efficient and useful services in the various departments of civil and religious society, will be in the reach of those in the ordinary ranks of life; and here, we hope, their sons may pluck the richest fruits of science, without

hazarding their morals, and may contemplate the prominent and transforming features of Christianity, equally free from the distortions of sectarianism, and the meretricious colourings and deformities of heresy and superstition.

By order of the Board,

B. MILLS, *Chm'n.*

JANUARY 14TH, 1825.

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*THE ADDRESS OF THE SYNOD OF KENTUCKY TO THE PUBLIC.*

To the friends of literature and religion in all places to which these presents may come, the Synod of Kentucky, in connection with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, makes the following representation and appeal, viz.

The Synod has long been impressed with the great importance of having a literary institution under its care and direction, regulated and conducted upon such principles as are calculated to bring forth an adequate supply of able ministers of the New Testament, for the rapidly increasing population of Western America. Over the schools, public and private, which have here been instituted, and which are now in operation, the church has no efficient influence or control. Her youth who have been placed within the walls of these institutions for the purpose of acquiring an education preparatory to the study of the

ology, have generally been corrupted in their principles and morals, and have declined her service. The Synod knows of no remedy for this evil, and no method so well calculated to furnish the church an asylum and a nursery for her sons destined for the holy ministry, as the institution of a college according to Bible principles, and to be under the control and direction of the friends of religion. For the attainment of this object, the Synod has made more attempts than one, but always failed until the present time.

A charter from the state is now obtained, such as we have long wished; and a site is selected, which in all respects is the most desirable that could be presented in the west. It is a pleasant, salubrious town, in the midst of a fertile country, so far removed from any exporting, mercantile town, that marketing will always be at a cheap rate; and few opportunities will be afforded for those amusements and dissipations which are inimical to learning and the interests of religion. And had the Synod the means to endow and put the college into complete operation, the population and wealth of the religious public in the west would be abundantly sufficient for its support and continuance.

The Synod cherishes that liberal and catholic spirit which constitutes one of the prominent characteristics of the age. And if we were not disposed to cherish this spirit, our charter prohibits the inculcating of any thing in the course of education peculiarly sectarian.

Taking a geographical view of the great valley of the Mississippi, and the rapid settlement and increasing literary and religious wants of that vast district which stretches across the plains of the Missouri, and over the heights of the Rocky Mountains to the shores of the Pacific, it becomes a most desirable and interesting object to the literary, benevolent, and religious world, to have some point within the latitude and longitude of Kentucky, in which they can concentrate their efforts and benefactions, and whence the streams of light and life may be made to issue and gladden this extended wilderness. Just *such* a point, this Synod holds up to view in the institution which it has established.

With these views and declarations, the Synod of Kentucky appeals to the liberality of the friends of literature and religion, to aid in its important and difficult enterprise. Money, lands, books, charts, maps, philosophical apparatus, &c. &c. will be gratefully received through the agents appointed, whose names are here subjoined. The Rev. John McFarland, Rev. John T. Edgar, Rev. Nathan H. Hall, Rev. Samuel K. Nelson, Rev. John Breckinridge, Rev. David C. Procter, Rev. Sam'l. K. Sneed.

Done at Shelbyville Church, this 18th day of October, 1824.

By order of Synod,  
**GIDEON BLACKBURN**, *Moderator*  
*of the Synod of Kentucky.*  
**JOHN BRECKINRIDGE**, *Clk. S. K. p. tem.*

## A PLAN

FOR RAISING FUNDS FOR THE SUPPORT AND PROMOTION  
OF THE LITERARY INSTITUTION TO BE UNDER THE  
CARE OF THE SYNOD.

Provided the Legislature of this state sanction the agreement entered into by this Synod and the Trustees of Centre College;\* or provided that it is not done, and another charter be procured; then the following plan shall be pursued in procuring contributions in aid of the funds of this Synod for the support and promotion of the literary institution under its care.

1. It is recommended to every person in full communion in the Presbyterian Church, under the care of this Synod, to contribute annually, for the space of five years, at least 25 cents, specie, to the object above specified. And it shall be the duty of all the members, severally, of this Synod, and of all the licentiates under its care, and of all the church sessions, to open subscription papers within the bounds of their labors, for the collection of such donations and bequests as may be made by persons so disposed, and report annually to this Synod.

2. A competent number of the members of this Synod shall be appointed to collect abroad, from year to year, so long as may be deemed necessary and advisable, in such parts of the United States, and for such a length of time as may be designated

\* This agreement has since been ratified in substance.

by the Synod or Board of Trustees; and report annually to this Synod.

3. One agent shall be appointed and engaged positively as solicitor, for one year or more, commencing the ensuing winter or spring, to procure contributions in this or any of the United States, and also, if practicable, in Europe; and report to this Synod, at the meeting subsequent to his return.

4. The members and licentiates of this Synod, performing the duty assigned them in their several bounds, shall have no pecuniary compensation.

5. Those members who may be appointed to collect abroad, and who may have the charge of congregations, shall have their pulpits supplied in their absence, as hereafter provided, and their expenses paid; but if they should have no charge, they shall receive merely the usual compensation of missionaries, to be paid out of the funds of the Synod. But it shall be their duty to keep a journal of their doings and diligence, and present the same, with their report, to Synod, before such compensation be granted.

6. If any of the aforesaid agents should act in the double capacity of solicitors of this Synod, and commissioners from their Presbyteries to the General Assembly, then the compensation received as commissioners shall be deducted from the sum assigned them as agents of the Synod; and the Synod, in such cases, shall make no provision for the supply of their pulpits.

7. When a minister having a charge shall be ap-



pointed agent by this Synod or the Board of Trustees, for any term not exceeding three months, to solicit contributions abroad, his Presbytery, having notice thereof, shall supply his pulpit, as in the case of their sending a commissioner to the General Assembly;—and if two or more shall be appointed at the same time from one and the same Presbytery, then the next adjoining Presbytery or Presbyteries from whom no agent is appointed, shall aid in equal proportion in supplying their pulpits, notice being given by the Moderator of Synod, or by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, to the said adjoining Presbytery or Presbyteries, through their moderator, whose appointments, upon such notice, shall be of the same force on the members of said Presbytery or Presbyteries as if given in the usual form by them.

8. The agent appointed for one year or more, not having a charge, shall receive from the funds of the Synod the compensation usually given to missionaries; but if he should have a charge, he shall not only have the said compensation, but also his expenses borne, and his congregation shall be supplied regularly by such a preacher of the gospel as he or his congregation may approve and procure, at his own expense, or for the salary promised him by his congregation.

9. The agents appointed as solicitors, are authorized to receive subscriptions in money, books, maps, charts, philosophical apparatus, and land, and make return thereof to this Synod.

10. For the purpose of putting a liberal education within the reach of young men of talents in indigent circumstances, scholarships may be instituted in this College by any individual or individuals, congregations, societies, corporations, counties, or states, by paying, or securing the payment, to the Treasurer of the Board, two thousand five hundred dollars for each scholarship;—and he, they, or their heirs, thus constituting said scholarship, shall have the privilege of naming it, and also of filling it, from time to time, with such scholar as they may select; but if the privilege of filling it be not exercised by him, them, or their heirs, who constitute it, then the Faculty of the College shall fill it.

11. Twenty thousand dollars shall constitute a professorship in this College; and any individual or individuals, congregations, societies, corporations, counties, or states, paying said sum, or securing the payment thereof, shall have the privilege of naming said professorship.

12. In order to give efficiency to the agents of this Synod, and to facilitate the accomplishment of our object, a copy of our plan and proceedings shall be laid before the next General Assembly for their approbation.

## FORM OF A SUBSCRIPTION PAPER.

We, the undersigned, friends of Literature, wishing to promote the cause of Education in the Western Country; and being informed that the Synod of Kentucky has entered into an agreement with the Board of the Centre College, by which it is to have the control of said College, upon the condition of endowing it to the amount of \$20,000, promise to pay to the Trustees of the Centre College of Kentucky, or their authorized Agent, for that purpose, the sums attached to our names, severally, in equal, annual instalments.