

STATEMENT AND APPEAL

IN BEHALF OF

CENTRE COLLEGE,

DANVILLE, KY.

CINCINNATI:

THE STUDENT PRINTING COMPANY, INC. AND ITS SUCCESSORS.

1871.

STATEMENT AND APPEAL.

THE Synod of Kentucky, at its recent session in Bowling Green, directed to be prepared and addressed to the friends of Centre College, Kentucky, a statement of the condition and wants of that Institution. In view of what this noble church school has done, and is doing, for the cause of sound learning, and for the cause of Christ, in view of the demands coming up from our churches in every quarter for a higher culture, and at the same time for a culture that is permeated by the religion of Jesus, the Synod felt it to be a solemn duty to commend Centre College in the most earnest manner to the prayers and generosity of the Church under Synod's control, in Kentucky, and to appeal on behalf of that Institution to the liberality of Presbyterians throughout the country.

The preparation of the statement above alluded to was intrusted to the undersigned. Omitting at least for the present all allusion to the earlier history of the College, to its struggle for existence, to the subsequent period when, though named and located, it had no life save in the faith of those of God's people who sustained it with their prayers; without referring now to its later long and brilliant career under Presidents Young, Green, and Breckinridge, we would come at once to its more recent history, its present condition, and to its demands upon the Church.

RECENT HISTORY.

Our College did not escape many of the disasters that overtook similar institutions in the Southwest during the recent civil war. The line of march of the contend-

ing forces often lay through Danville, the seat of the College, and the streets of the town itself witnessed more than one conflict. The College buildings were seized successively by Federals and Confederates for hospitals. Students were driven from its halls by the terrors and troubles of war, and the interest felt in the Institution by its best friends was partially lost, like all other subordinate interests, in the all-absorbing excitement of the conflict. But while suffering in the loss of our students to like extent with other colleges, we were in some respects peculiarly fortunate.

The vigilance and fidelity of those to whom the financial interests of the College were committed, carried them safe through every danger. True, some few subscriptions will in consequence of the war never be collected, some few stocks purchased before the war were depreciated by its results, yet the war, which left so many institutions in the South financially wrecked, left Centre College, under prudent management, every dollar, principal and interest, of her endowment fund.

But trouble and division in the Church, hardly less disastrous than war itself, followed the civil struggle. Our efforts at a peaceful solution of our College difficulties are known to all. We do not propose at this time to discuss the causes of their failure, or to reopen here the question of an adjustment by which all the Presbyterians of Kentucky might again be, as they once were, united in the support of Centre College. We content ourselves with expressing the opinion that our people, while not wishing to force themselves upon those who desire no union with them, are, and will ever be, ready to meet every indication of friendship with kindness and liberality. We can not, however, overlook the fact that a large number of the former friends of the College have withdrawn from it their support, and that the responsibility of the Institution is thrown upon the smaller body of friends who adhere with unshaken fidelity to its interests. Brethren, the burden is of

God. Let us in his fear assume it. In his fear let us inquire as to our duty and discharge it with manly courage. In order more clearly to understand what is required of us, let us look next at

OUR NEED OF A COLLEGE.

We thank God that no argument is required to convince Presbyterians, and especially Kentucky Presbyterians, of the necessity of church schools. Who does not know that wherever a Presbyterian church has been planted, by its side a school has been organized? The theory of Presbyterianism is that good education is essential to good citizenship, and that a thorough grounding in religious truth is the essence of good education. Not in religion, not in education, but in religious education, has Presbyterianism led the Protestant Church. We tell with just pride the story that the first school ever taught in Kentucky was a church school, and that it was established nearly a century ago by Rev. David Rice, a Presbyterian minister. It startles our inactivity and indifference when we recall the early persistent and self-sacrificing attempts made by our fathers to found successively Kentucky Academy, Transylvania Seminary and Transylvania University. The history of these schools is the history of baffled efforts, and of a renewed determination to succeed. The story of Transylvania University is that of the others, and will illustrate the spirit of the Church half a century ago. To the endowment of Transylvania the Presbyterian fathers gave liberally of their scanty means. They rallied to its support with their patronage and moral influence. They saw it lifted to an elevation exceeded by only two other institutions in all the land; but when it passed under the administration of an unsound, though brilliant, minister, they withdrew from its support, sacrificed every dollar of the fund they had contributed, and moved toward the establishment of a school of their own. The final struggle lasted for years,

but nothing could thwart their determination. Centre College was the first result, and in 1830 it passed under their influence. Brethren, we need church schools as our fathers needed them to educate our own children in our own way, and under our own influences. We need colleges from which to supply our seminaries, and seminaries from which to send strong, fresh laborers to reinforce the weary few who are toiling and dying in the whitened and whitening harvest for the Master. Was there a necessity for a college in the past? That necessity is still more pressing now. In the condition of our country the primary education of our children is left almost unavoidably to the common schools. In some of these the daily reading of a chapter from the Bible is prohibited; from most of them religious instruction is in a large measure excluded. But this is not all. In many parts of our country there have been founded by the munificence of States or that of private individuals institutions of a high order. Many of these look with indifference upon religious instruction, and among the faculty of some we fear infidelity itself has found a lodgment. The assailants of our religion, to-day, are not ignorance and vice, but learning in the highest places. The weapons of warfare are science and philosophy in the hands of able and acute men. There is but one way to meet the attack. The common and professional schools, to a great extent, are perhaps forever lost. We must save the *colleges*. There we must oppose learning with equal learning. There we must educate our children without exposure to those assaults that in early life they have neither the strength nor the knowledge to resist. These thoughts lead us to consider, in the next place,

THE CHARACTER OF CENTRE COLLEGE.

Under the management of such men as Chamberlain, Blackburn, Young, Green, and Breckinridge, the character of Centre College could not fail of assuming a re-

ligious cast. All the facts sustained this view. How many precious revivals has the College enjoyed, and from those revivals what blessed results have followed? Look into the long list of the College's graduates and count the number that have studied theology. In her early years Centre College gave promise of shaping to a large extent the religious thought of the Mississippi Valley. Nobly has she fulfilled, and more than fulfilled, all expectations. Her sons have circled the earth in the gospel ministry, and in power, and courage, and martyr spirit they are the pride of the Church. But it is not in the ministry only that the effects of these oft-repeated revivals are seen. How many a church session has drawn from these same gatherings one or more of its most intelligent and useful members? How many sons in the legal and medical professions, and in the other walks of life, attest by the spotless purity and devotion of their lives the thoroughness of the work of God's Spirit during these gracious revivals? Brethren, those to whom Centre College is now intrusted are resolved, with God's help, to preserve and perpetuate the religious character of the school. To Rev. J. L. McKee, whose power and earnestness are known wherever he has been called to speak, has been committed the religious training and oversight of the classes. He gives daily instruction in the Bible to all the students. To those who know him and his colleagues, it is not necessary to say that they never inculcate narrow or sectarian tenets. But while this will be avoided, they will earnestly strive to imbue the minds of their pupils with such deep convictions touching the great central truths of Christianity as will withstand any shock of philosophy or science, falsely so called. With the prayers of God's people, these instructors would do still more. They would strive in the future, as they have done in the past, to interest every student committed to their care, in his own personal salvation, being assured that divine grace in the heart is at last the surest

defense against infidelity in all its forms. But, brethren, to carry out the plans of the Synod for Centre College as a school of religious instruction, we must have the aid of its friends everywhere. Do you ask in what way that aid can be rendered? We answer, first, by sending to the school a

A GREATER NUMBER OF STUDENTS.

If the College is doing any good, that good will be increased in exact proportion to the increase in the number of those who enjoy its advantages. In any particular community, it is remarkable how few persons can, or at least do, avail themselves of a collegiate training. The territory from which every college, with many students, draws its patronage, is always large. Of course, under such circumstances, faculties can know but a very small portion of those whose attention is turned toward colleges. We can but believe that with earnest, combined and continued efforts on the part of the friends of the College, we should find a large accession to the number of its students, and through this accession an enlargement of the usefulness of the College.

Buildings, apparatus and corps of instructors are all provided. A hundred additional students would bring no additional expense. Friends of the College, shall we not have them? To aid in the work, consider some of the

ADVANTAGES OF CENTRE COLLEGE.

And (1.) The relation in that school between professors and students. In Centre College the tutor system is unknown. Every class is taught by a professor of long experience. Every student is brought into direct personal contact with his professor. Every teacher knows every pupil, and it is but simple justice to the faculties of Centre College to add that they have always held the *loco parentis* theory of discipline, and that the personal interest of their members in the welfare of students is akin to that of a father for his son,

and only less pure and strong. (2.) The students board in private families. Would that we had space to give the testimony of hundreds of the ex-students of Centre College as to the refining and purifying influences of Danville social and home life upon their characters. The Presbyterians of that town accepted the responsibility arising from the establishment of a church school in their midst. They recognize that its local guardianship was intrusted by God through the Church to them. The most cultured family circle parts and widens when a student asks admission. But more than this. These families in which students find homes are Christian families. A home in a Christian family, with its restraining and refining influences, with its regular attendance upon the means of grace, with its prayers and admonitions—this is what Centre College offers to a boy. Brethren, is man depraved? and is the religion of Jesus a power? Compare Centre College life with that of other institutions where students are herded in dormitories, and there left to the naturally downward tendencies of the soul. Grant that some of these colleges have superior appointments for instruction—and this we do not altogether concede—how can these advantages compensate for the absence of religious and social culture, of the graces of heart that make the Christian, and the graces of manner that make the gentleman? But (3.) Centre College has never lost sight of the fact that it was a very important part of her mission to train the intellects of her sons. Has she been remiss in this duty? Or has she been unequal to the task? Have not her alumni left her halls with that vigorous mental development essential to a successful grappling of the hard problems of life? The question is answered by the eloquence and influence of her two hundred sons in the gospel ministry, by her long roll of eminent statesmen, judges, lawyers, physicians, and teachers. She has her representatives in every branch of business, and she points with pride to their tact, their standing and their success.

Whatever the future may have in store for Centre College, this much is history, and it is secure. It is cause for gratulation that to-day she is better prepared for her intellectual work than ever before. Her faculty was never so large, nor her standard of scholarship so high, nor her appointments so complete. While conserving all that is good in the old, she is striving to meet every reasonable demand of the most recent culture. For acquiring a practical knowledge of the modern languages she affords facilities equal to those of any college in all the land. Her English course has been extended to four years. Our own language is now thoroughly studied in its grammatical, logical and rhetorical aspects, in its history and its literature. Composition and elocution are receiving the attention that they so much deserve. In the department of Natural Sciences much has been done, though it is admitted that much remains to be done. The liberality of a noble-hearted donor who, for this and other generous acts, will live in the grateful love of the College when he has gone, has laid the foundation of a Museum of Natural History, while the apparatus for Chemistry and Philosophy is sufficient to illustrate most of the important principles in those sciences. We are thankful that in the expensive matter of college buildings, the liberality of the Church, before the war, met every demand. A new, beautiful and commodious edifice, costing nearly sixty thousand dollars, is now completed. With its numerous and comfortable lecture-rooms, its large and elegant chapel, its neatly furnished society halls, it stands a monument of the benevolence of the little band of Kentucky Presbyterians; and we trust that it will be accepted of God as a thank-offering for his goodness to our fathers and to us. Praise be to his holy name for the past.

But, brethren, the present, with its necessities, is on us, and the future, fraught with good or evil to the Church, is at hand. Progress is the watchword of the

age. Earth never saw a period of such intellectual activity. Every thing is in motion. Least of all can the Church of God afford to be idle. Her Master is calling upon her in tones that can not be mistaken, to impress his image upon this molten American civilization. Her enemies are leaving no stone unturned for her destruction. Can we stand with folded hands? If we would catch the spirit of the age, if we would shape the thought of the after time, we must do it through the increased power of our colleges and seminaries. Church and State have recognized, and are acting upon, this truth in other localities. Yale, with her hundreds of thousands of dollars, is in the field for a million more. She feels, and would respond to, the mighty call for a higher culture. The endowment of Harvard amounts, we are informed, to nearly three millions, and she has need for it all. A noble benefactor, Mr. Pardee, of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, has recently donated to Lafayette College about four hundred thousand dollars. Since the accession of Dr. McCosh to the presidency of Princeton, three-quarters of a million have been added to the funds of that venerable church school; and what Presbyterian does not see it coming back in blessings that can not be numbered to the Church and nation, in every part of the land? But the elder East is not to be excelled by the younger West. Kansas and Nebraska start their new State universities into life with an endowment each of sixty thousand acres of the finest western lands. Nor is this all. Unwilling to sacrifice an acre of those endowments, and waiting with wise foresight for a denser population, and an increase in the value of land, each of those States for the present supplies its university with a competent faculty and adequate appointments directly from the State treasury. Michigan had set the example by adopting a similar policy nearly twenty years ago. She is reaping the harvest in her noble University at Ann Arbor, in which she gives free academic and professional instruction of the highest

type to a thousand of her children. We need not, however, go so far for examples of colleges that have caught the spirit, and are trying to meet the requirements of the age. Here, at home, Kentucky University has received nearly one million dollars from its friends. With these facts before us we can not shut our eyes to the necessity on our part of earnest effort to increase the endowment of Centre College. If such sums have been needed to equip the colleges alluded to—and that they have been is shown by direct statements and by appeals for additional aid—then are our wants made conspicuous. Formerly distance prevented competition between our College and the great schools of the East; but railways have practically abolished distance. We are thus brought into direct competition with every institution in the land, and while our own school has, as we believe and have attempted to show, many advantages, there is a pressing necessity for additional facilities which must be furnished, or we shall be eclipsed. Space admits of our naming only the more prominent wants of the College. We need

I. ENDOWMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL PROFESSORSHIPS.

It is a settled principle in economics that division of labor secures efficiency of labor. The principle is not less applicable to colleges than to manufactories. Even if it were possible then, it would not be desirable for one man to conduct several distinct departments of a great institution. But it is not possible. The day of general scholarship is passed, and passed never to return. It requires a life of unremitting toil to keep pace with the progress of just one of the sciences. True, only *so much* can be done for a student in his college course, but we should have force sufficient to *do what can be done in the best possible manner*. Brethren, we must permanently increase the number of professors in Centre College. Dr. J. L. McKee, the Vice-President, is rendering great service to the College without compensa-

tion. The pastoral care of the students has been intrusted to him. He gives daily religious instruction in the College. He is performing important work for the school in visiting and preaching to the churches in Kentucky and the adjoining States. This work is put upon him in addition to the pastorate of the church in Danville, upon which alone, we regret to say, he can not altogether rely for a support. The combined labors of teaching and preaching are very arduous; and it can not be expected that he will long perform both. *The difficulty will be removed by the endowment of the chair he occupies.*

II. SALARIES OF THE PROFESSORS NEED TO BE INCREASED.

When the College was first organized, seven hundred and fifty dollars was fixed as the salary of a professor. It was thought impossible for a teacher with only a moderate family to live upon a smaller amount, although he might practice rigid economy. The salary of a professor at present is fifteen hundred. But this is only an apparent increase. The cost of living has more than doubled. A professor with a wife and three children would consume almost his entire salary by boarding at current rates in Danville. If he should hire a house at current rates, it would require the most careful economy simply to live within his income. This reproach to the Church must not exist. For the poor and aged minister, worn out in the service of the Church, some slight provision is made; for the teacher, none. But the question is not one merely of feeling or even of principle. Teachers, however great their spirit of consecration, are, like the rest of us, but men. Again, whatever may be the prevailing theory, to teach well requires extraordinary natural gifts and extraordinary attainments. The demand for teaching talent of a high order is great, and constantly becoming greater. Teaching is at last, what

it should long since have been, a distinct profession. *We can not permanently retain first-class instructors in Centre College and pay them inadequate salaries. We need*

III. A LIBRARY FUND.

Books are a professor's tools. For a professor to furnish himself with these implements is impossible. Every passing day witnesses the publication of new works in every department of learning. The College does not seek them to adorn its library shelves. They are sought because they contain the most advanced thought of the age. They are to the scholar what improved machinery is to the farmer or mechanic. The work might possibly be done without them; but what farmer would dispense with the improved machines that science has put into his hands, and go back to those of twenty years ago? They fatally err who imagine that there are no new and better methods of imparting knowledge. The inventions of which we have just spoken do but mark the progress made in every direction, in thought as well as in the mechanical arts.

Our students too need books of great variety and of a different class from those required by the professors. To meet these wants of the College we must have a permanent library fund of which the income alone will be sufficient to supply them. We need

IV. APPARATUS, CABINET OF MINERALS, ETC.

In these appointments, more perhaps than in any other, the older and wealthier excel the younger and feebler institutions. They can be had only at heavy expense. For a well-endowed institution to pay twenty or thirty thousand dollars for a cabinet of minerals alone is nothing uncommon. These are little liable to decay, and while they may be indefinitely multiplied do not often

need to be replaced. The case is different with apparatus. This is constantly wearing out, and must be constantly renewed. In all the departments of Natural Sciences—in Chemistry, Zoology, Botany, Physics, etc., large outlays might be judiciously made to increase our educational facilities. For this purpose a permanent fund should be established, and, as in the case of the library fund, only the interest used. Let us take courage from the history of Harvard's magnificent cabinet, and let us learn the lesson which that history teaches. Says Prof. Agassiz, in reply to an address of welcome at San Francisco: "I went single-handed to Cambridge to teach Natural History twenty-five years ago. When I delivered my first lecture there was not in the University a single specimen that I could use to illustrate what I had to say. And yet a little band of students thought such a pursuit was worth encouraging, and by and by the idea arose that a museum would be of use; and the means were gradually forthcoming, at first sparingly, in small contributions, but gradually more liberally, in larger sums, until at this moment, after fourteen years only, the museum at Cambridge stands, in my estimation, without a parallel in the world." * * *

Again: "I hold that it is one of the duties of those who have the means to help those who have only their heads, and who go to work with empty pockets. I deem it one of your duties, besides fostering and and nurturing the interest you individually feel for science, to arouse that general interest in the community which will make every true patriot, every lover of his State, every philanthropist, every man who has the heart to leave a good repute and an honorable memory, desirous of contributing to the progress of knowledge."⁷

But again, we must cheapen the cost of living at Centre College, and for this purpose we need

V. A COLLEGE HOME FOR STUDENTS.

We would not supplant further than is necessary the

system of boarding in families, to which feature in Centre College we attach so much importance. The Faculty of the College have, we understand, given the subject careful consideration, and have reached the conclusion that the most advisable plan would be to establish a College Home in which the professors, with their families, and as many of the students as choose to do so, may reside. The economy of this plan, as compared with others, is not its least recommendation. With such a home, with a common parlor and dining hall, under the care of a competent landlord, it is the judgment of the Faculty that much cheaper boarding might be had, without losing the advantages of family influence. By reducing at the same time a professor's expenses, it would answer to some extent as increase of salary. These are some of the wants of Centre College. To meet all will of course require a large sum. By a vote of the Synod, held at Bowling Green, we were directed to appeal to the friends of the College for at least one hundred thousand dollars. Dr. J. L. McKee is the agent authorized by the Synod to solicit this fund. To the Church and the friends of the College we most heartily commend him and his cause. It will be left to those who are disposed to give to say to what purposes their benefactions shall be applied. If the matter be left to the Board of Trustees, they will endeavor to make such uses of the donations as will accomplish the greatest amount of good. It may be that there are those who can not conveniently contribute now, but who are willing to pledge themselves to contribute at some future time. Such donations will be thankfully received. Forms of bonds for these and other gifts may be found in the appendix to this appeal.

Christian brethren and friends of the College in Kentucky, we appeal to you for aid in this matter as God has given you the means. Christian benevolence can promote no nobler end than Christian culture. God

has owned and blessed the princely gift and the widow's mite in such a cause, and he will own and bless them again. Centre College is a Presbyterian College. It is yours after years of struggle to establish a school of your own. It was founded in your prayers. It has been sustained by your liberality. In past days it has been the cherished object of your affections. The honor you have put on it, it has reflected back upon you in a thousand forms. Above all, it has given you a sound and godly ministry. In the recent mournful struggle, when all the sky was black, when the College had enemies on every hillside who deemed it God's service to slay her, when our motives were misrepresented, when our reputations were blackened, when the *Maysville Eagle* was almost the only Kentucky paper that gave us a cheering word, when those friends who dared to speak for her were roasted before a public opinion, the flames of which were fed by passions growing out of the war, through all that dark era you did not, God would not let you, abandon this child of the Church. Nor will you now desert her. The sunlight of returning prosperity is flashing from the hilltops, but it will only rouse you to renewed exertion. You will lift this school on your hearts to Almighty God, even as you lift the children of your own loins. By a strong, brave effort we will start Centre College on her second half century with equipments that will carry her to the close of a hundred years. There we may leave her. Our children and her children will, under God, then take up the work, and send her freighted with still more precious blessings to the coming ages.

PRESBYTERIANS OF THE UNITED STATES, and especially of the East, we congratulate you that the smiles of God are your portion. The spirit of unity is in your ranks, and prosperity is over all your borders. May this prosperity increase, and with it may grace and peace be multiplied. Especially do we join with you in prais-

ing God for his rich mercies toward the institutions you have founded in the East for the education of the nation's youth. We ask for your sympathies and prayers in return. The Church in Kentucky has had to march through the valley of affliction. The chastisement of God has been her lot. We try to look up through the gloom and thank him that he has counted us worthy to suffer. When the sad alternatives were forced upon us of cleaving to the Church of our fathers, or of abandoning it for the companionship of those to whom we were bound by nearly every earthly tie, we own that the struggle rent our hearts in twain, but we could not go. It is charged that unworthy considerations determined our choice. We own that we loved our country, and we love her still—her freedom, her greatness, her every thing; but we regarded a schism in the Church as a still greater evil than a schism in State. It is charged that we followed an apostate Church—a Church that is "no more nor less than a political prostitute." Our answer is that she never claimed infallibility, and that she has never refused to retract a discovered error. The Presbyterian Church of the United States is our spiritual home. There, if anywhere, we were born unto God, and there we wish to die. This much in explanation of our position.

It has long been the hope of the Church that it would be able to furnish for America a number of institutions of learning that in the grandeur of their appointments, in power and influence, would approach to the great schools of Europe. It is the dream of our hearts that Centre College may be one of these. She has prestige, she has geographical position, she is a church school in every sense of the word. You have your noble Princeton in the East, may not Centre College be a Princeton in the West? One thing is certain, the Church in Kentucky will do her duty. Weak though she be, she will help herself as long as she can raise a hand.

We know the immense drains that have been made, and are making, upon your liberality, but it is our deep conviction that the planting of a University, with ample endowments, in Kentucky, would be as rich a blessing as the Church could bestow upon the great valley of the Mississippi. Will you not help us?

E. P. HUMPHREY, Chairman.

J. M. WORRALL.

W. ERNST.

J. B. TEMPLE.

L. L. WARREN.

Committee of Synod.

Form of Obligation.

187

I _____, of _____,
State of _____, promise to pay the
“Trustees of Centre College,” of Kentucky, or
order, _____ after date, the
sum of _____ dollars, with
interest at the rate of six per centum per annum,
payable _____ annually. The prin-
cipal to be held as a permanent fund for _____

the interest only to be used in aid of that object.

Form of Bequest.

I, _____, of the County
of _____, and State of _____,
do make this my last will and testament, namely:

I hereby will, devise, and bequeath to the " Trustees of the Centre College, of Kentucky," located in Danville, Kentucky, the sum of _____ dollars, [or, if real estate or other property, describe it here fully and accurately] to be paid said Trustees of the Centre College, of Kentucky, within _____ [months or years] after my death by my personal representative or representatives, to be appropriated and used for the following purposes: _____

In witness whereof I have here-
unto subscribed my name this _____
day of _____ 18 .

A. B.

Subscribed and acknowledged
by A. B. before us, and attested
by us in his presence, and in the
presence of each other at his re-
quest this _____ day of _____,
18 _____.

C. D.

E. F.

NOTE.—Persons providing in their wills for a bequest to the College, are requested to advise the Trustees or some member of the Faculty of that fact; also of the names of the witnesses to the will and executors named therein.