

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY.

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE.

L. H. BLANTON, D. D.,

CHANCELLOR.

Richmond, Ky. Feb: 11

1892

My dear Mrs. McCormick,

Feeling encouraged by your kind interest in what I had to say, on my recent visit to Chicago, and reference to needs of Christian education for the mountain people of Ky. I beg leave to submit to you the following of facts:

1. Eastern Ky. or the Mountains of Ky. as that section is popularly called, comprises about one third of the territory of the state. It is bordered on all sides by high mountains. Rail roads have just begun to penetrate this hitherto inaccessible region. The Ky. Union R.R. has just been completed to Jackson a branch at a distance of about 80 miles from Lexington & Pietmord. Jackson is situated on the head waters of the River, & is a distributing point for no countenance is of key to the

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Whole Mountain County.

2. The people who inhabit this section are mostly Scotch Irish who came from Penn. Pa & N. Carolina. They are a brave & sturdy race - uncultivated & ignorant yet possessing many noble qualities. They were generally loyal to the U. S. Government during ^{the} war & many thousands enlisted as soldiers. The army records show that their physical development was superior to that of soldiers of any other race. By actual measurement they were larger & taller. This is not ~~to~~ an inferior race therefore to whom we wish to carry Christian education.

3. Even years ago the friends of the ~~university~~ entered upon its scheme of evangelistic labor.

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+ some of our strongest & most eloquent ministers -
two were sent to the mountains as evangelists,
notably, to Rev. W. S. Gurnea. During this
period of years two raised or an over
all about \$14,000 a year for the support of
the work - several new churches have
been organized with 800, houses of
worship have been erected & pastors ap-
pointed - have been settled & sup-
ported. The membership of the Synod has
doubled, the Branches almost in ten times
4. The Synod has labored for permanent
results from the beginning. There is much
now among us reached to conclusions
several years ago that facilities of high-
er education must be provided for these
people - ~~How~~ But how was this to be done?

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Our people were already taxed beyond their ability to maintain a Evangelistic work & a Committee decided that they could do nothing in that direction. One dollar was asked & raised was needed support to Evangelical & Social Evangelists. These people built churches & kept a reading which had been so-
 5. At this juncture, I asked permission of the Board of Curators of Central University to make an offer to ~~establish~~ ^{purchase or erect} an Academy or High School ~~to afford a desirable joint with~~ ^{maintain}. This was given, but was not all the board could do. ~~This was allowed by~~ ^{the charter & use of a dollar of its funds under its control for any purpose other than to support of the University.} Without having a dollar in hand I purchased a property for \$4.000 which cost about

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\$10,000 - By ~~expecting~~ a few private friends
+ especially by the liberality of a New York
lady who gave me \$1,000 - I have been able
to meet the first payment. I will be
able, I think, to raise in small sums
in the amount sufficient to pay the ~~sum~~
of outstanding notes when it falls due.

6. But what we need + must have now
to carry forward the work is the erection
of a Boarding Hall - just summer - Hall
I hope to raise ^{a small} ~~at~~ an ~~endowment~~ for
the Hall, ~~which~~ - which is now filled by
one of the ablest + in some respects most
accomplished men in the Southern Church -
The Boarding Hall is an absolute + most
pressing necessity - without it the work
can not go forward.

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I Enclose for a brief note from Dr. Mich
of which shows the present condition of the
School.

With this statement of facts, + ~~with the~~
prayer that God will bestow upon you
useful life, I am,

Very Sincerely + Truly Yours
L. H. Blanton.

Index of Letters
written Mrs. M. —
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