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The S. P. Lins Collegiate Institute
of
Jackson, Ky.

The first to recognize Jackson as the key-point of the mountain section of Kentucky, and as the future center of its educational influence were Gen. A. P. Dodge of New York City and Rev. J. J. Dickey. These gentlemen, both deeply interested in the intellectual and spiritual welfare of the mountain people, in 1882, founded the Jackson Academy. To maintain the institution a fund of \$7000⁰⁰ was raised, Gen. Dodge personally contributing more than half this amount. For nine years the Jackson Academy, under the management of Profs. Dickey and Goff, struggled on, when financial failure overtook it, resulting in the sale of the property, in the spring of 1891, to Central University. The corporate name was changed to Jackson Collegiate Institute, and with the change a new era of progress dawned upon the school. Backed by a strong University, and under the vigorous and intelligent administration of Chancellor Blanton, the Jackson Collegiate Institute took on new life, broadened its lines of work, and rapidly grew in favor and in influence with the people. To meet the large and growing needs of the school, Chancellor Blanton had erected in 1897, a handsome, modern, and commodious college building, which with fitting ceremonies was

dedicated to the cause of Christian education. The magnificent, new building, with large, beautiful grounds, and elegant boarding halls stand as a loving, enduring monument of Christian zeal and philanthropy. Many noble-hearted, and generous people of Kentucky, who felt a sympathy and an interest in the mountain work, liberally contributed to the funds for purchasing the grounds and erecting the buildings. To Mrs. S. P. Lero of New York City, and to Mrs. N. F. McCormick of Chicago is mostly due the distinguished honor of rearing this grand institution to help neglected young men and young women of the mountains to adorn themselves with the graces of a Christian education. God endowed these noble women with golden talents, and generous hearts. Each contributed towards this commendable work the handsome ^{sum} of \$5,000⁰⁰.

This glorious institution, founded in such a spirit of love and unselfishness, God has richly blessed. The halls of the Institute are filled with a large number of worthy young people, who are reaping the benefits of this noble generosity. A liberal education is within reach of every mountain boy and girl. A first-class institution is at the doors of all who desire to enjoy the highest good. Instruction is limited not merely to the ordinary requisites of Higher Education,

but each child is carefully taught refined manners and correct habits, in addition, thorough religious training is offered in all departments of the school work. Eager and thirsty for knowledge more than 200 pupils, from ten mountain counties, are annually given instruction in the S. P. Liss Collegiate Institute. To teach these successfully a large force of instructors is employed, meaning a considerable outlay in expense. The hard times have fallen heavily upon the mountain people. Many pupils of the Institute are unable to pay the exceedingly low tuition rates. The school lends all the help it can to the deserving. The income of the school is not sufficient to meet current expenses.

The field here is most important. Jackson is unquestionably the strategic point of the mountains. No grander missionary work is done anywhere than that done by the S. P. Liss Institute. The work is difficult. The prayers of Christian people are needed. The progress too of the Institute must be hampered without the hearty, continued support of its generous friends. In many ways there is need of expansion and improvement. There are no books in the mountain homes. The Liss library consists mostly of theological works of little practical value. To aid the teachers in their work, & to uplift and invigorate

the mind and heart of the pupils, the library should be supplied with standard literature.

The Institute has two large and beautiful society halls for boys and girls, neither of which have been properly furnished for satisfactory work. Just now there is greatest need for the founding and equipping of a manual training school.

The education of the mountain people will be incomplete until hand, head and heart have been harmoniously trained. There is a large number of girls in the school whose tastes are uncultivated, and whose hands are untrained in the domestic arts. A manual school that would teach them to cook, to sew, to make some attractive work, indeed, be a blessing. The boys should be taught the simpler kinds of carpentry and mechanics. They should know how to make chairs, tables, gates and fences, and how to put up comfortable and convenient homes. Cunning in the hand, knowledge in the head, grace in the heart. Trained thus, these people will lead happier and better lives.

When the S. P. S. Institute is so equipped that it can give this three-fold training to mountain boys and girls then will the desires of its founders be a successful and a realized fact. Let there be no going backward, no retrenchment in this great work. Let God's favored people yield it substantial support, with confidence that "what's done for God can never die".

H. P. Seeley College
at Amherst College

Jackson, N.Y.

Master Sir

Prof. G. W. Morse
