

ADDRESSES
ON THE
INAUGURATION
OF
Rev. R. L. Stanton, D. D.,
AS
PRESIDENT OF MIAMI UNIVERSITY,
JUNE 27, 1867.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE BOARD.

OXFORD:
RICHARD BUTLER, PRINTER, CITIZEN PRINTING HOUSE.
1867.

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DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE

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PRESIDENT OF MIAMI UNIVERSITY,

June 27, 1867:

Together with certain proceedings of the Board of Trustees for the
Improvement of the University.

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THE Inauguration services were conducted on Commencement Day, June 27, 1867, immediately after the conclusion of the usual exercises of Commencement.

HON. WILLIAM S. GROESBECK, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the University, delivered an Address to the President elect; after which FERGUS ANDERSON, Esq., President of the Board, administered the oath of office, and delivered to him the keys of the University. Dr. STANTON then delivered his Inaugural Address; and the exercises were closed with the benediction, pronounced by Rev. DR. HARPER.

Address to the President elect,

BY

HON. WILLIAM S. GROESBECK.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: By the unanimous vote of the Trustees, at their regular meeting, a year ago, Dr. Robert L. Stanton was chosen to be the President of this University, and we are met to-day to invest him with the office, publicly and in a formal manner. It is customary, and very proper, that the Trustees should say something upon such an occasion, and as one of their number, I have been appointed to represent them.

I do not appear to deliver an address, nor do I propose to deliver a specific charge to the gentleman, to whose care and oversight we have entrusted the interests of this University. The Trustees might well do this without exceeding their proper jurisdiction; but it is not considered necessary. All the members of the Faculty have been elected for their fitness and qualifications for the professorships they severally hold, and we have confidence in their zeal and ability. We are not here, therefore, to charge the President and Professors, but rather to make known to you, fellow-citizens, that we shall open the approaching term with a full and able Faculty, and to commend the institution to your continued patronage and support.

Allow me to do this very briefly by referring to its history, its character, and its reasonable prospects.

I begin by saying it was organized about half a century ago, and has been in regular operation from the time of its first organization. During all this time it has merited and received its full share of the public favor. It has been a successful institution. I desire to emphasize this statement, and to repeat that it has been a most successful literary institution. I am aware that in comparison with some Eastern colleges, its endowment is small, its Faculty incomplete, and the number of its graduates few, and yet I affirm that, according to their opportunities, no one of them has accomplished more. Nowhere in the land, probably, has an equal endowment for educational purposes done more good. The graduates from this college will compare creditably with the same number from any other. They have been, generally, very successful and prosperous

men in all the departments of business, in all the learned professions, in private and in public life. The *Alumni* are among our most useful and distinguished legislators, governors, judges, lawyers and divines. It has been so all along our history. It is so now. What does this mean? Is it an accident that has been repeating itself so long and regularly? Let me say to parents here and throughout the West, it signifies this: From the beginning, and always, the students of this University have been well cared for in instruction, in morals, in religion, and in general preparation for the duties and responsibilities of active life. Nor have they been without the lessons of patriotism. I need but point to the long roll of students and Alumni who served in the recent difficult struggle for the preservation of the Union, to show that they have been well instructed in the most trying duties of citizenship. This brings me to say a few words of the character of this University.

It is a State institution. The Trustees who superintend and control it are appointed by the State. It belongs to no sect or religious denomination, and therefore does not teach exclusively any sectarianism. But let no one suppose it is indifferent toward religion. In the sacred compact or ordinance of 1787, under which the State was organized, in our State Constitution of 1802, and in that now in force, it is proclaimed that "religion, morality and knowledge are essential to good government, and shall forever be encouraged;" and in the act itself incorporating this institution, it is declared to be established "for the instruction of youth in all branches of the liberal sciences and arts, the promotion of good education, and of virtue, religion and morality." In the spirit of these declarations, this institution always has been and always must be administered. They are the law of its being, which may not be violated by the State, or the Trustees, or the Faculty.

If there be any subject upon which I would undertake, Mr. President, to charge you and your associates also, it is that of religion. In the language of our charter, we desire that "youth may be instructed, here, in all branches of the liberal sciences;" but I think I represent every member of the Board of Trustees in saying we require, to the extent of our authority, that all these subjects shall be taught religiously. We would have you shun the paths that conduct to atheism or rationalism in any form, and teach of all sciences, that laws are never self-originated, that matter is never self-organized. We believe, as has been well said by one of your predecessors, that

"among all the various sciences, religion, natural and revealed, holds the chief place. It is that, in reference to which the ultimate scope of all the sciences is to be contemplated; the science of sciences, to which they all ascend, and in which they all meet; the comprehending bond, which gives to them all unity of design, and discloses their common end. It is that in which they all properly terminate."

Nor is this all. Our desire is not merely that it may be taught in the class-room, but that it may be inculcated by precept and daily example and in the rules and practices of the University. We hold it to be quite as important that you should improve the character as the minds of the students, and we recognize no agency so good as this, to form a proper character. We notice in your "course of studies" that you teach "Moral Philosophy." That is well, but we are glad to observe that you do not consider it enough. Moral science may inform the mind upon right and wrong, good and bad, duty and obligation. There it ends. It is a dead letter and a most tame reformer. We need a higher and stronger agency, one that shall not merely inform the mind, but work also at the heart—a system whose precepts have sanctions and whose principles are ever attended by a quickening Spirit and a renewing power. Be assured, Mr. President and Professors, that religion is the instrumentality by which you may promote that "good education" required by the terms of our charter.

I notice, also, Mr. President, that you are directed to teach political science, including the Constitution of the United States. This, too, is well. Such instruction could not be omitted in any proper, liberal system of collegiate education. Rome furnishes a beautiful precedent. She well understood the necessity of a wide dissemination of such knowledge, and required the very boys to commit to memory her twelve tables, as a *carmen necessarium*, or indispensable lesson. This knowledge is of paramount importance at the present time. Just emerged, as we are, from a long, wasting, fratricidal war, with our land in mourning and the Government overburdened with debt, with agitations and animosities still dividing us, and serious trials and dangers yet to be encountered and overcome, we were remiss indeed, if we did nothing to prepare our youth for these responsibilities, and to educate them in the duties of citizenship. I have no political theories which I would urge here and now, and an institution like this is no fit place to train young men for mere partisanship. I would not add to or take from the course of instruction already prescribed. It is

enough, and the best on this subject. Teach the Constitution of the United States. How wise and admirable the plan of government there unfolded? How beautiful our system of State governments, united "to insure domestic tranquility, to promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Let us rejoice that we have not been sundered, to waste each other through all the future by sectional strife and growing discord. How magnificent the spectacle of our united nationality! A few years ago an obscure and feeble Government; to-day its walls are the shores of a great continent, and its rank and influence acknowledged throughout the earth. May the young men that go out from these walls be prepared to cherish and maintain it, in the theory and spirit in which it was established, as a constitutional government, all whose powers are conferred by the States and the people, and as consisting in a union of States that are sovereign in the management of their own domestic concerns. This is the excellent contrivance that has done so much for us in the past, and which, in preference to any other, we should continue to trust. While we shun secession, so justly odious from its recent wicked and unjustifiable struggle, let us not rush upon the equally dangerous rock of consolidation.

We are at the threshold of a new era. Slavery, our great trouble, is gone, never to be re-established. Let no one, for a moment, believe the nation will go back upon this step; but yet we are not without troubles—the troubles that are always incident to a wide-extended, bloody and protracted civil war. The war is ended, it is true. Its drums are silent, and the arsenals are shut, and the roar of cannon has died away to its last reverberations; but strife is not ended, and there is enmity and ill-will in the South, and in the North, and between the races now constituting one people.

Allow me, Mr. President, to express the hope, that whatever of political science and the duties of citizenship is taught here, may be presented in the spirit of the Divine Teacher, whose mission was peace on earth and good will among men, and whose great and comprehensive command was Love. If we would not encourage and perpetuate jealousies, and hatred, and prejudice, surely it is the highest wisdom that we put away all evil passions, and cherish and apply the healing and powerful virtues of charity, and forgiveness, and kindness—section toward section and race toward race.

Fellow-citizens: I have said this was a successful institution,

and that it had done much good. I do not propose to qualify the statement, but let me add, that Miami University is not what it should be. It has not kept pace with the growth of the country. Thirty years ago, twenty years ago, ten years ago, it was comparatively greater and stronger than it is to-day. You behold it now with the same endowment, the same resources, and the same numerical strength in its Faculty, which it had then, while all around it has grown to gigantic proportions.

There are two great literary institutions in the United States. Both of them are East of the Allegheny Mountains, and too distant for the population already gathered and rapidly increasing throughout the West. Be assured of one thing. There are to be somewhere between the Allegheny and the Rocky Mountains, institutions of learning, quite as large as those to which I have referred. Why may not Miami University be one of them, and why may not Oxford in Ohio become as populous and prosperous as Cambridge in Massachusetts? The most timid, doubting inquirer can not assign a reason against it. Without instituting a comparison, it is enough to say that this climate is as good; the location of this University on this beautiful spot, as healthful, as convenient, and in every way as desirable; its surroundings in wealth and population and growing prosperity quite sufficient. Its history, thus far, is honorable and commends it to increased favor. Its existence is not temporary or uncertain. It will live as long as this village, as long as the State lives. Small as is its endowment, it is indestructible, and enough to maintain it in the future, as it has done in the past. The question is not whether it will survive, but whether it shall expand to the symmetry and full proportions of a University.

Fellow-citizens of Oxford Township, suffer me to address this question to you. The institution is in your midst, and you live upon the land which constitutes its primary endowment. You hold it at a trifling, very inadequate rent, and that rent is fixed and unchangeable. The land is already valuable, and increasing in value every year. The value and the increase are all yours. You are very fortunate in this; you have made an excellent investment. Nor is this all. You enjoy it with a large immunity from taxation. Has not this University a claim upon you, and may it not appeal to you in its present need?

It wants a new College Building, or the present one greatly improved, and a larger Faculty.

We inaugurate, to-day, a new President, and start, as it were, anew, and with fresh hopes. The time seems to be auspicious for such a movement. Just such movements are being made in behalf of other colleges in the West and everywhere. The Trustees feel that they would be neglecting a plain and pressing duty if they folded their arms and allowed this institution to languish in its present condition. We trust you will take the same view of your own duty, because we believe if the citizens of this township will co-operate with us and manifest a reasonable liberality, the needed endowment can be obtained. Where else may we go with any propriety, if we may not approach you; to whom may we appeal, if we may not appeal to you? I call you to witness that while you have been liberal in other directions, you have done nothing in this. I mention this not in complaint, for I believe you have never yet been applied to; but to commend to your favor this first and only application during the long period this institution has been struggling in your midst. We do not desire that you should take upon yourselves the whole of this work. That were unreasonable. Do your fair part, and we will finish it; give us your sympathy and co-operation, and we can labor elsewhere with courage and hope.

Inaugural Address,

BY

REV. ROBERT L. STANTON, D. D.

GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND FELLOW-CITIZENS: Dr. Blair, regarded by some persons as a high authority in matters of rhetoric, states that the main purpose of an inaugural address is to please the hearers. You will allow me, in advance, to ask your pardon, if in this instance I fail to observe this canon. Higher duties than any attempt to please befit this occasion, and in my honest endeavor to discharge them, as they lie before my mind, I fear that I shall awaken in the breasts of some who hear me, other emotions than those of pleasure. I may say, however, to you, gentlemen of the Board, that I thank you for the honor you have conferred upon me, in calling me, by your unanimous vote, to the office into which to-day I am formally inducted. I am not an alumnus of your University, and I was, at the time of my election, personally a stranger to your entire number, with two exceptions. These considerations deeply impress me, and serve to awaken a profounder sense of the responsibilities of my position; but I am gratified with the assurance that in my earnest efforts to meet them, I shall have your hearty co-operation.

I shall not select, as my theme, any of the topics commonly handled on such occasions: such as the true idea of a college, in itself considered, or as adapted to our country and the age in which we live; nor canvass, *pro* or *contra*, the opinion becoming more widespread and agreeable to the multitude, that colleges, in their course of study, should be radically changed and popularized; nor vindicate the wisdom of retaining in the college curriculum, as among the important means of a thorough mental discipline, those branches of study which have come down to us through the ages past, the Latin and Greek classics; nor entertain any of the questions recently propounded in the remarkable emanations from the oldest University of our country, in which a venerable Professor and Doctor of Divinity seriously urges that students in their college course should be left to choose for themselves the studies they shall pursue, and be placed under no coercive restraint as to their manners or morals; nor notice as a natural product of

these Harvard doctrines, the decision of an Ohio court, which, whatever may be said of the merit or demerit of corporal punishment in primary schools, directly tends to sap the foundation of all authority of the teacher over the pupil, in institutions of all grades; nor, finally, attempt to trace to their ultimate results upon the community at large, such teachings in high places, upon morals and authority, all tending to produce, not only, but actually producing, the most alarming evils, in lawlessness, violence and blood, and threatening to subvert all the foundations of government and public order.

Any of these, and other kindred topics, present interesting and vital points for discussion, as showing the place which a well ordered college should hold, and the influence it should exert, conservative of every thing valuable in society. But I pass these themes wholly by. The doctrines of Harvard, a natural outgrowth from the system of theology taught there, have been thoroughly met and exposed by President Woolsey, of Yale, and by other writers. The decision of the court referred to has been widely canvassed by the daily press, and the discussion will result in good. As for the ancient classics, whose castigation or vindication is so commonly seized upon when opportunity offers, they have been recently and elaborately defended as an essential part of college study, in the inaugural of Mr. John Stuart Mill, one of the popular idols of the day, on the occasion of his induction to the office of Lord Rector of the University of St. Andrews; being the same theme, and upon the same side, which the Parliamentary leader, Mr. Gladstone, chose for his valedictory, on leaving a similar post in the University of Edinburgh. We can therefore afford to leave the classics, for the present, in their hands, and also in the hands of President Woolsey in his reply to Dr. Hedge, of Harvard. In regard to the more general topic of college reform, whether as to the introduction of branches of study not generally hitherto embraced, or modifying those in the time or manner of pursuit now taught, so as to meet the growing demand of our times and country, or extending to other internal changes, relating either to study or general management, it would be vain to assert that the present methods could not be improved. This would be equivalent to the position that the college system stands out alone, among all human institutions, as that which has arrived at perfection, and that too, mostly in years long since past. But upon this I can not enter. The field is large, and my present aim is different.

Passing all these subjects, I now come to that which should

engage our whole attention. If it shall prove less interesting to some because it is local in its bearings, for that very reason it should more deeply concern others, and especially those who are the guardians of Miami University and have its interests at heart. There are other things besides charity which should begin at home. We need not, on such occasion as this, standing in these classic shades which have echoed to eloquent voices for nearly half a century, consider topics which might befit other places and times, when with us the present question is, almost that which agitated the bosom of Hamlet—"to be, or not to be"—or, at least, whether we are to make progress and live in comparative respectability, or, failing to keep pace with the educational world, decline and perish. Do not be startled at this presentation of what I regard as the essential condition of our continued life. I think you may see, in the sequel, that there is more pertinence in this view of the case, than perhaps to some of you may at first appear.

I announce, then, as my subject, **THE PRESENT CONDITION AND WANTS OF MIAMI UNIVERSITY.** The gentlemen of the Board are practical business men, and I wish to deal with the subject in a practical business manner; and I am happy to observe, though knowing nothing of it till the present moment, that the gentleman of the Board who has addressed you on their behalf, coincides in the main with the view I shall present.

This theme naturally has relations with the past, and even with the present, bearing directly upon matters which concern both the present and the future, with which some here to-day are more familiar than myself. If, therefore, I fall into error, either of fact or opinion, I trust you will set it down to inadvertence. I am not so much of an advocate as to wish to gain a verdict at the expense of truth.

It seems to be generally conceded—even, indeed, in the address to which you have just listened—that Miami University has reached a crisis in its history. Certain measures adopted by its Board of Trustees, one year ago, to which I shall briefly revert hereafter, as well as what is often heard from the lips of its friends, and what we all may see moving in the world about us, seem fairly to warrant this position. It must hereafter take a higher stand, both in order to maintain its previous good character and be able to compete with other institutions, some of which are much younger than itself, now springing up in all parts of the West; or it must speedily fall in the rear, be largely deserted of its patrons, and drag out a lingering existence, or expire of inanition. I am happy to be able to say,

however, here in the presence of the Board and this large assemblage, that certain measures projected by the Board, at its present meeting, and still under consideration, give promise and hope that the latter alternative will not be realized.

We are standing to-day near the middle of the fifth decade since the University was put into actual operation. Its regular graduates, within that time, number over eight hundred. Besides these, a considerable number have taken the scientific course, and many more, without graduating, have here received their entire academic education. Among these several classes, are men who have occupied or who do now fill high positions in the councils of our own and of other States, as well as in the councils of the nation; others, who adorn all the professions and other walks of life; many who have distinguished themselves and illustrated their patriotism and valor upon the theater of war; and more than two hundred who have devoted their lives to preaching the Gospel of Peace. The standard of attainment for entering the regular classes, and the demand requisite for graduation, so far as the course of study extends, have compared favorably with other institutions in any part of our country.

As a general thing, we may also say the same with truth concerning the moral deportment of the students of the University, and the religious influence which has been maintained among them during all periods of its history. Among the men who have filled the various chairs of instruction from the origin of the University to the present time, have been some of the most distinguished educators of our country. Some of the earliest of them still survive and enjoy their well earned renown; some have gone to their reward among the blessed in Heaven; several are now filling, with great distinction, chairs in other universities, and in colleges and theological seminaries at the East, at the South, and in the West; while some of the present Faculty have been connected with the University for more than twenty years.

Such, in brief, is the record of the past, a history full of honor, full of success, full of credit to all concerned. I wish I could add that this history is equally full of hope. But, to my mind, the present and the future have a sombre hue, which, however, I admit is somewhat relieved by the action now under consideration before the Board. This discouraging aspect does not arise from any coloring emanating from myself personally, for I am apt to be sanguine rather than despondent. But the time has come when we can no longer live upon the

past, when our duty will not be done by attending the holiday ceremonies of Commencement, by enjoying an alumni dinner, by making pleasant speeches, by recounting the incidents of college life in years gone by, and by joining hands and circling around that noble tree in the Professor's yard and singing "Auld Lang Syne"—things in themselves entirely appropriate. Sterner work is demanded by each one who claims to be a friend of the University, if its career is to be any thing else than downward from this day henceforth.

To note the force of this, compare the University with itself in the light of a few facts. It has not to-day so many branches of study separately pursued, nor so many chairs separately filled, nor so many instructors actually employed, as it has frequently had during several periods of its history—even twenty-five years ago, as I discover from consulting its catalogues. This is not because the light upon the dial plate of the educational world is moving backward. It is moving forward with rapid strides, and it is for this very reason that this comparison of the University with itself presents so disheartening a contrast. It has had, in former times, chairs specifically devoted to history, to modern languages, embracing French and German, and to other branches; while far better provision was made than is now made for instruction in that most essential department, the knowledge of our own language and literature, the necessity for which, in the last branch at least, I may say, without any disparagement to the speakers themselves, has been somewhat illustrated before you to-day. Besides what thus belongs to the course of study, the buildings which would answer for the University at a former period, will not answer now. Then they were new, and were probably superior to those of any similar institution West of the Allegheny Mountains. Those now occupied for dormitories, and which were repaired last summer, promise to be in good condition, equal to any, East or West, when they shall be completed. But the main edifice, crowning yonder beautiful elevation, in which is the chapel, with the library, the society halls, the grammar school, and certain recitation rooms, is a dilapidated pile, presenting its broken panes to the howling winds of autumn, its shattered roof to the drenching rains of summer, and its doorless halls to the drifting snows of winter; the butt and the jeer of all passers-by, fair game for the ruder boys, a grand old monumental pile for preserving the quaint architecture of a bygone age, but repulsive to every gentleman who brings his son to the University, and a stand-

ing reproach and a shame—I say it respectfully—to every one who claims the University as his Alma Mater.

If we compare the University with many other institutions in the country, several of which are younger than itself, we find the contrast still wider. On this head I can speak from the record, for I have been at the pains of collecting the catalogues and codes of law of more than forty colleges and universities in our country, and of examining with care the materials which they furnish. To say nothing of the better presentation made in buildings—a feature of a public institution of any kind which strongly strikes the popular mind—the courses of study in colleges and universities, East and West, older and younger, are far in advance of what they were a few years ago within themselves, while our University, as I have already said, is not in this respect equal to what it formerly was. To this statement, this qualification in our favor is due: While our several chairs are ably filled, the chair of mathematics covers even a more extended course than that of any other college in the West, and surpasses that of Yale and others at the East. It is also true that the chair of natural science, although embracing subjects which are distributed into several in some institutions, covers now much broader ground than was ever hitherto occupied by this department in the University. It should also be added, as a subject to be set down to the present year, and which, we trust, may be continued in the future, that a course of lectures on law has been inaugurated. Some of the ablest men of the legal profession gave their gratuitous services to the University, for which they deserve our warmest thanks. But after making all due allowance for this advancement, it is still palpably true that in some respects we are much behind other institutions. I do not specially refer to Harvard, and Yale, and Union, and Princeton, and Amherst, and many others at the East, which have gone steadily forward, under their munificent and constantly increasing endowments, keeping fully abreast with the progress of science, literature, and the arts; but it should be specially noted that in some of our Western States, are colleges much younger than our University, which stand far ahead of it in the facilities furnished for a thorough education. In the State of Michigan, for example, a State not even admitted into the Union until Miami University had been in operation some twelve years, stands a University at Ann Arbor, opened a few years ago, now numbering over twelve hundred and fifty students, with thirty-two professors, with a course of study

which does credit to the times, and with tuition at a nominal price.* Even our nearest Southern neighbor, so often made a butt and a jest for its semi-loyalty, has a University located upon the grounds of the sage of Ashland, which, through the munificence of the State Legislature and the exertions of its friends, has funds, as I learn from a letter of the Regent, to the amount of "about seven hundred thousand dollars in endowment and real estate," supporting "an aggregate corps of more than twenty professors, and with about five hundred students;" and yet the Kentucky University was opened only two years ago this month. Our adjoining neighbor on the West (Indiana) has a well equipped University at Bloomington. The Legislature of that State, during the last year, paid a debt of the University amounting to fifteen thousand dollars, and now makes for its support an annual appropriation of eight thousand dollars, thus making its income nearly sixteen thousand dollars, a larger revenue than that of any institution in the West, except that of the Michigan University. This is sufficient to provide for a large corps of instructors, enables them to maintain an extended course of study, and secures a larger body of students, the present number being three hundred and twenty-five.† I need scarcely name the Virginia University,

* A Professor in old Harvard (Dr. Hedge) speaks of the Michigan University, in an article on "University Reform," in the *Atlantic Monthly* for September last, as follows: "As an illustration of what may be done by public patronage, when States are in earnest with their Universities, and as strangely contrasting the sluggish fortunes of our own Alma, look at the State University of Michigan. Here is an institution, but twenty-five years old, already numbering thirty-two Professors, and over twelve hundred students, having public buildings equal in extent to those which two centuries have given to Cambridge, and all the apparatus of a well-constituted, thoroughly furnished University, . . . to which students flock from all parts of the land, and which offers to thousands, free of expense, the best education this continent affords. . . . It is the only Seminary in the country whose liberal scope and cosmopolitan outlook satisfy the idea of a great University. Compared with this, our other colleges are all provincial; and unless the State of Massachusetts shall see fit to adopt us, and to foster our interest with something of the zeal and liberality which the State of Michigan bestowed on her academic masterpiece, Harvard can not hope to compete with this precocious child of the West." If the University of Michigan bears such a relation to Harvard, what must Miami be in the comparison?

† In the last catalogue of the Indiana University, just issued, occurs the following: "The Legislature, at their last session, have, by an appropriation of eight thousand dollars per annum, greatly increased the resources of the University. Some new chairs will likely be established, by the Board of Trustees at their coming session, and the corps of instructors enlarged, and the facilities for education multiplied." "No tuition is required of any student in the college department."

founded by Jefferson, one of the very highest character, maintaining twenty Professors, with a little short of five hundred students, and with a course of study equal to that of any other, having in its chair of moral philosophy one of the ablest of instructors, (McGuffey), who was once an ornament of the Faculty of our own University. Passing to the States west and north-west of us, we find that nearly every new State is laying broad and deep the foundation of colleges and universities, based upon grants of the public domain, and by legislative appropriation from the respective State treasuries, which in a short time will rival or excel their older sisters of the East. There is, indeed, scarcely a State in the Union, even the youngest, which, *by direct State patronage*, is not better provided with institutions for the higher departments of education than the State of Ohio; a State which claims to be the third in wealth and population in the Union; a State whose citizens are intoxicated with the boast that she is the mother of nearly all the great Generals of the army; that she has the ablest delegation in Congress; that she furnishes the President of the Senate, the Chief Justice and one other Justice of the supreme Court, with the Attorney General and the ablest minister of the Cabinet in the Department of War. Surely, a State whose citizens are never tired of making all this glory, and much more, their daily song, should not be content to have it written that she stands at the foot of the roll as the patron of higher education. But such is the fact, be it said to her praise or her shame.

Passing by this slight digression, in compliment to the State if you please, is it not a little humiliating that Miami University, a "State institution," should be obliged to hold the place which the facts assign it in this comparison with other institutions?—not able to keep pace with the educational demands of our age and country; falling in the rear of institutions springing up on every hand about it; obliged to make obeisance to its vigorous infantile sisters of the younger West; not equal even to its former self in the qualifications noted; standing in the midst of a territory of unsurpassed beauty and wealth, and yet taking no earnest step in advance in this day of wonderful progress in every department of literature, science and the arts, in which colleges and universities are expected to take the lead?

As a natural result of this comparison, both of the University with itself and with other institutions, the number of students has not been equal to the number within its walls in former days. This could not be expected, without reversing all

the laws by which human conduct is usually governed in like cases. With the facilities furnished elsewhere, and increasing and expanding daily, forcibly contrasted with our present condition, can you expect students to flock hither in great numbers? This University holds no such place as it once honorably did in comparison with other institutions. This you have just been told, in the earnest and eloquent address to which you have listened, from one of the Board of Trustees. On what ground, then, can you reasonably or honestly expect it to be as well patronized in the future as it has been in the past, unless the measures which the Board has now under consideration shall be adopted and vigorously carried out? Is it at all surprising that Trustees, Alumni, and other friends of the University, should send their sons and wards to the East, to the West, to the North and to the South, rather than send them here? Is not this precisely the way men do the world over, in trade, in commerce, in manufactures, in every department of business in active life—send their wares to the best market, and make their investments where they can get the best returns? Who can blame them for acting, in the vital matter of education, on that principle which governs them, and which of right should govern them, in all the other important concerns of life? It is not in me to complain, for I should do the same if standing in their place. College education is a matter which can be attended to but once for a life-time. Who can be blamed for striving to gain the best? Other institutions, with better equipments in libraries, cabinets, apparatus, buildings, and all other appliances, with larger Faculties and more extended courses of study, leave us far in the rear.

The picture I have drawn might truthfully be embellished with darker shades, but I forbear. It is time to inquire into the cause of this state of things, and, if possible, devise a remedy. The cause is no mystery. It has been declared in the address to which we have just listened. The words which express it spring to the lips of every one who at all ponders the subject. *It is the want of money.* With this want supplied, the demand for buildings and endowment can be met; and there need be no limit to improvement but in the amount of money furnished. It is also true that *this is the only want.* Give me the money—I ask nothing more—and I will build you a college or university in any suitable place, with ample buildings, libraries, apparatus, cabinets, with the ablest corps of instructors the times can furnish, and with students crowding all its departments. Money will procure all this, and nothing else will.

There is a point just here which deserves a passing notice. It is known that the German Universities—the most numerously attended, and in some respects the most renowned in the world—carry on their extensive operations without buildings, except to a very limited extent, and that, as the Professors find convenient lecture halls in all the cities where their universities are located, they laugh at us in this country for expending such large sums in brick and mortar, which might otherwise be devoted to endowments. There are some persons to be met with on this side of the Atlantic who sympathize with this view. But the proper answer to all this is, that we are not Germans, but Americans; that our system of civilization, from foundation to top-stone, and the phases of our social life, in many respects, widely differ from the systems of Europe; that we can not apply, even if desirable, in a new country like ours, all that may be deemed wise and best for the other nations of the world; that it is not ordinarily our policy, for the best of all reasons, to have our colleges and universities in large cities; that the exceptions to this are mostly cases where the institutions were planted in the early settlement of the country, and where cities have since grown up around them; that, from the policy of locating our colleges elsewhere, the necessity has arisen to provide ample buildings; and that, beyond all this, we deem it eminently proper—American, if you please, though not confined to us—that, to a certain extent, architecture, one of the most noble of the arts, should stand forth as the well chosen exponent, at our higher seats of learning, of literature, science, the arts, and of all that is elevating and refining in forming the character of the well educated gentleman. If this is an American idea, we hail it with satisfaction. There is, in short, no more reason for our departing from it to follow the German notion, than there is in our forsaking the philosophy of common sense, so well propounded by Sir William Hamilton, and adopting the jargon of these same German Universities, through which certain very distinguished men attempt to evolve a philosophy which neither the world nor themselves have ever been ample to comprehend.

If, then, money is our great want, can it be procured? and if so, how? This is the vital question, and to it there is certainly a negative and possibly a positive side. As to the negative view, I assume at once that Miami University will never receive a dollar from the State. That dream, in my judgment, may as well be permitted to vanish. I may be entirely mistaken, but it is my firm conviction that you will get no part of

the Agricultural Fund, nor a farthing from the State treasury. The reasons for this opinion appear palpable. The discussions in the Legislature during the past winter, as well as the discussions among other bodies of men in different parts of the State—particularly, certain speeches of members of the Lower House, one of whom was upon a committee that once visited these grounds to inquire into the condition of the University with reference to bestowing the Agricultural Fund—exhibit a prejudice against the University, and present such a misconception of the facts, that it is difficult to determine the motive by which they were prompted. In any view, such utterances are unpardonable in public men, in the exercise of their public functions, concerning a public institution whose relations to the State should make it their interest to protect rather than defame; and yet, after all, such emanations are but a reflection of a wide-spread popular sentiment. Add to these things the consideration that political influences are always at work in the Legislature when any favor of this kind is sought; that members feel impelled to present the necessities of colleges in their own districts or neighborhoods; that all the numerous and respectable colleges of the State, whether justly or not, claim an equal share of patronage with its two Universities; that these Universities are in the southern portion of the State, and ours is located in one corner of the State, and within five miles of the Indiana line, while the preponderance of population and political power is north of the old national road; and then tell me, with these and other considerations in mind which I need not name, if there is the least shadow of hope that Miami University will ever be aided by State patronage from the State treasury. I am well aware that some members of the Board of Trustees differ with me in opinion here, and I shall rejoice more than you all if my predictions prove incorrect. The pittance which is now paid to both Universities out of the State treasury for the tuition of those who served as minors in the Union armies during the rebellion, should be admitted as an exception; but this is scarcely worth mentioning, and in a year or two more will of necessity cease from the cessation of this class of beneficiaries.

While the State is thus indisposed to grant any aid, its Legislature in former years has not been backward to take measures which have operated seriously to the detriment of its two Universities in regard to the several townships of land donated for their support by act of Congress. I am not entirely familiar with the details of the case, and shall not therefore

dwell upon them. It is well known, however, that at a former period, these lands were subject to a revaluation every fifteen years; that a decision of the Supreme Court of the State, in favor of the Ohio University, in which its interest in the lands in question was involved, was overruled and nullified by an act of the Legislature in 1843, depriving the University of the power to revalue the lands, and making the lease rates perpetual. It is also known that the Trustees of that University, prompted by a sense of the injustice of this legislation, had a bill introduced into the Legislature, last winter, "to enable the Ohio University to bring an action against the State, upon the claim for damages caused by the legislation of 1843," hoping, apparently, that a better generation had arisen to administer justice; but the bill failed to pass either House. In all important respects, touching at least the equity and justice of the case, it is presumed that the claims of the two Universities upon the State stand upon substantially, if not precisely, the same ground. I have been assured by an officer of the Ohio University that the amount of revenue which that institution might derive from its lands, if based upon their present value, would exceed \$20,000 per annum. If that is a fair estimate, the revenue which Miami University might receive, on the same basis, would be much greater. In view of this, it may prove a somewhat difficult achievement in legislative casuistry—if there be such a thing still extant—to show either the justice or sound policy of the status in which this question was placed by the law-makers of a former period. But I leave this feature of the case, by referring to a conversation I had in January last, at Columbus, with the Governor of the State—a gentleman not more distinguished by his heroism in the field as a Major General in the recent war, than for his pleasing manners, accomplished education, and successful administration of the affairs of the State. He said, in substance, that the State had been defrauded out of the advantages which the people might otherwise have enjoyed in its two universities, by the singular course of its Legislature in former years, and that could a suit in any part be properly brought in the Supreme Court of the United States, that legislation could be set aside. Governor Cox further said, that, as some slight remuneration for the injustice hitherto done, he thought the Legislature should give to each of the Universities a portion of the Agricultural Fund; but, he added, that he had no hope this would be done.

Dismissing, then, all prospect of aid from this source, where

next shall we look for money? If the State will not come to our aid, may we turn confidently to the Church? I need not here detail the propositions made one year ago by the Board of Trustees to several ecclesiastical bodies of the State. Suffice it to say that these propositions embodied an offer for them to endow chairs in the University, these bodies to hold the funds, through boards of trust of their own selection, and pay over the interest to the University Board, annually, and continue this support as long as they might deem proper, giving twelve month's notice of withdrawal. These propositions were adopted at the same meeting at which the Presidency of the University was offered me. Finding them thus extant, I deemed it my duty to lay them before the organizations contemplated. Three different religious bodies accepted these propositions, on certain conditions which the Board afterward ratified, resolving to endow four additional chairs. So far the prospect seemed fair. But the world too well knows that, between passing resolutions, even with great cordiality, and raising the money promised by them, there is a wide difference. This action was taken in October last, and although I have had frequent interviews with leading men in these several bodies, and have visited many of the principal towns of the State where their most numerous and wealthy congregations are located, for the express purpose of encouraging and aiding in this work, nothing has been done sufficient to give assurance that this plan will succeed. In looking at this result, while the State treats the University as some unnatural mothers treat a deformed step-child, I can not justly say that the Church treats it as an alien. On the contrary, much cordiality has been shown, and many good wishes have been expressed, favorable to the project; but the churches, as such, have their own congregational and denominational enterprises on hand, which always claim their first attention—building church edifices, sustaining pastors, establishing academies, endowing theological seminaries, besides sustaining all their missionary operations—matters which make a constant drain upon them for money. I am therefore convinced, from a survey of the whole ground, that this proposition to the churches will prove practically unavailing; at least, that it cannot be realized, if ever, for many years to come. As an illustration of the poor success attending an attempt to raise money for educational purposes, the Board of Trustees of a Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Chicago, had several agents employed during the last year to increase their endowment. Their field of operations embraced the

churches in the western half of Ohio, and in the States of Indiana, Illinois, and all the States of the North-west ; and yet the whole amount received, in money, notes, and other obligations, was less than twenty thousand dollars.

What, then, is the next resort? I confess to you that I see no hope on which to rest with confidence that the University can obtain the money needed to enable it to compete with other institutions, go forward, and command for the future even a living patronage, unless its numerous alumni, and other friends, furnish it, and that, too, to a very large amount. You will agree with me that, for these purposes, at least one hundred thousand dollars are requisite. Can that amount be obtained? You can answer this question as well as I can. I gladly acknowledge that the measures initiated by the Board, at its present meeting, give more encouragement than any plans which have hitherto been adopted. If they are prosecuted with energy a brighter day is before us. There are two classes to which these measures strongly appeal. One is, the citizens of Oxford and of Oxford Township. They have already been appealed to by the member of the Board who has just addressed you, and I second most heartily all he has said. This town owes its existence and all its prosperity, first to the location of the University here, and then to the hitherto flourishing condition of this and the other institutions of learning which have been here founded. The citizens of Oxford ought therefore to contribute liberally to the present wants of the University. If they do this, its greater prosperity will enhance their wealth. If the relation of their landed estates to the University gives them manifest advantages in exemption from a higher rate of taxation, and if this exemption is to be perpetual under present legislation, then as a matter of simple justice they should aid the friends of the University to increase its funds. It may be well to say, that it has often been mentioned—I have heard it spoken of in the Board—that unless there is manifested a disposition to respond to the present call, it might be well to make the offer of a new location for the University, to Dayton, to Springfield, to Xenia, to Lebanon, or some other town in the valley of the great Miami River. This deserves serious consideration by all who feel a special interest in the prosperity of Oxford. The other class to whom this appeal is made is the Alumni of the University. They are a numerous body of noble, energetic men. Many of them, we know, have wealth. All of them can aid. Will they second the Board in its present plans, for the honor of their Alma Mater, and the

cause of sound learning and science, and make Miami University what it ought to be, and what it may be, by their well-directed efforts—the Yale of the West?

What is the inevitable alternative? With only the present income from a township of lands, with the buildings in their present condition, and with the certainty, under these circumstances, of a diminished number of students, the University may continue its present life, maintain a small Faculty, and do a small work. But the time has gone forever when it can do even what it has hitherto done, for the reasons already given, without greatly enlarged facilities in every respect. For one, I would close these halls for twenty years, and allow the funds to accumulate, sooner than make no effort to put the University upon a level with other institutions, and make it equal to the demands of the times. These grounds, unsurpassed in extent and natural beauty in our country, represent what the University should be in all its appliances. I see sons of Yale here to-day. The corporation of Yale would give half a million of dollars for this campus of sixty acres, covered with this natural forest, if it could be set down in the city of New Haven. But the University needs more substantial aliment for its vigorous life, growth and expansion, than that derived from inhaling this healthful air, sitting beneath these spreading shades and being fanned by these refreshing breezes. These stately trees, these gently rolling grounds, of which all the sons of Miami are so proud, are all the more beautiful for having been, for nearly fifty years, the silent witnesses of the bestowal of honors upon class after class, as they have stood here to pronounce their “farewells” to their beloved Alma Mater, and then have gone forth to receive higher honors from their country, in its halls of legislation, in the Cabinet, amid scenes of war, and as the heralds of the Gospel of Peace. The memories, too, which are called up at the thought of the men of learning and scholarship who have successively presided at these annual festivals, as Bishop and McMaster—I name only the dead—and their faithful associates, some of whom now occupy chairs of instruction, contribute still more to deepen the reluctance with which I have spoken of our condition. But it is patent to the world. Why then not, as honest men, look the facts fairly in the face, and endeavor to do our whole duty in view of them?

And now, guardians and friends of Miami University, I leave the case in your hands. I have endeavored to discharge an unpleasant but what I regard as an imperative duty. The

present condition of the University is not such as to cause its friends to despair, but rather to mourn. Shall it nerve them to action? The Board are now maturing plans which give encouragement. Shall they meet a liberal response from a generous people? It demands not only wisdom to plan, but the boldness, the energy, the courage, the confidence, to execute, which are always essential to insure success.

It is possible that many of you, personally, may have a larger stake in the determination of the issues here presented than I can have. When written to by one of the Board, just before my election one year ago, to know my views upon accepting the Presidency of the University if offered me, I stated that I should be governed very much by the determination of the friends of the University to place it upon a higher plane of enlargement and usefulness than it had hitherto occupied; and when assured from the same source that measures for this would be adopted, I based my acceptance, in response to the committee, informing me that my election was unanimous, upon the confidence I then entertained and expressed, that measures to secure that end would be successfully carried out. That which thus formed an element in my willingness to accept enters into my willingness to continue. The post I occupy is no sinecure. Its cares and anxieties you little know. I am willing to stay in it while I can be useful, provided the course of the University is to be onward and upward; otherwise, I shall be much more than willing to leave it, and will do so at any time when it shall be the pleasure of those who called me to its responsibilities. It possibly may not be indelicate in me to say, what however you all know, that Miami University furnishes no house for its President; a fact without a parallel in any other respectable college in the country. Of this it does not become me to complain, but it is a fact which contributes neither to its honor nor its usefulness. I am aware that the lives of some men must be spent in laying foundations, upon which those who come after them may build. If it is to be my lot to assist you in any part of this work—to build more largely on these foundations, laid more than half a century ago, or to lay other foundations and build elsewhere—I am ready, and shall give all my energies of head and heart and hand to the work. But, I beseech you, let us strike boldly and promptly on some plan—that of the Board is now in the right direction—which shall put the University in a position to command, more extensively, the confidence and patronage of the public, and not leave it to drag out a lifeless course, a reproach to the great State of Ohio, and to the times in which we live; or let us abandon it, and write "Ichabod" upon its crumbling walls.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD.

At the annual meeting of the Board in June, 1867, it was resolved to put the University Buildings in complete repair, and erect additional buildings, as the wants of the University might require and the funds would warrant. For this purpose, measures were inaugurated to raise, immediately, Fifty Thousand Dollars. A liberal subscription to this fund was opened among the members of the Board; and it was proposed to the citizens of Oxford, including the village and township, that they should raise one-fourth of this amount, and in that case the Board would secure the remainder; and furthermore, that the Board would raise, outside of Oxford Township, three dollars for every dollar which the citizens would raise within it, to any amount beyond their proportion of the Fifty Thousand Dollars now contemplated.

These propositions are remarkably liberal. The citizens of Oxford and the country immediately surrounding the University, are more interested in the success of these measures, both in an educational and pecuniary point of view, than those of any other part of the country. The Trustees have no more direct personal interest in their success than any other equal number of citizens in like circumstances. But one of their number lives in Oxford; only three others live in Butler County; while the remaining fourteen are residents of other counties of the State. If they give liberally of their time and money, without remuneration, for the sake of advancing the cause of education by the enlargement and improvement of the University, is it not reasonable to suppose—*is it not a plain duty*—that the people of Oxford, who are to reap all the advantage, and that too a large and ever-increasing advantage, should promptly re-

spond to these proposals and insure their success? They have never yet given a dollar to the University, because they have never heretofore been called upon. Now is the time to make an investment in its behalf by a liberal contribution to its funds, which will return a better interest in money than any other equal outlay, and bring social, literary and moral advantages beyond any adequate estimation. The Trustees distinctly say, that unless the citizens of Oxford contribute the proportion specified, they can not raise the money. It is in vain to appeal elsewhere until their quota is secured. This may then be regarded as the indispensable condition. If the present plan should fail, they will feel compelled to entertain the question which has already been canvassed, whether their duty as guardians of the University, would not require them to seek another location.

It has always been the policy of the Board to preserve the University free from debt. Many of our colleges are groaning under a heavy debt. Miami University is free from this burden. The Board expended, during the past year, some nine thousand dollars in improving the buildings. Much more is required for this purpose. If the present plan should succeed, it is their purpose to add one or two Professorships to the present course. The Law Lectures, which were introduced last year, will be continued.

All who feel an interest in the University—its Alumni and other friends throughout the country, as well as citizens at home—may thus see how much is depending upon the success of these measures; how beneficial, in every point of view, if successful, and how disastrous their failure.