



### **Transcription**

Letter from W.F. Ferguson to John Finley Crowe, April 18, 1844

MSS1\_Box2\_F2\_8

Hanover College, Crowe Family Papers, MSS 1

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Thorntown Ia April 18. 1844

Rev. & Dear Brother

I have just received a circular from you respecting Hanover Collegiate Institute, I had heard before of the reckless course pursued by the professors of Hanover College and I looked upon the whole move as one most disastrous to the interests of our church. You know that, I as well as other members of the synod, took a deep interest in the prosperity of the college and it at once struck me as a betrayal of the trust committed to the offices of that institution to pursue the course they did. As far as I have been all to learn the minds of members of pres they are generally of the same opinion. We were all of the opinion that the charter of Hanover College had not been taken away. In this it seems we were mistaken. We however took up the subject at our recent meeting of pres and unanimously passed very strong resolution in favor of sustaining Hanover College which were ordered to be published in the protestant and herald and Presbyterian of the west, in which you may see them. I know of no person in this region that is disposed to encourage a university at Madison. I have had a few

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students under my care who are preparing for college and who have all been thinking of Hanover as the place of their destination. The crash of that college was a great disappointment and now they are undecided as to what they will do. They are poor young men and to wish to economize. One of them is a son of Rev. Mr Taylor of Frankfort who feels on this subject just about as I do. His son is now at home as he needs his labor on the farm in the summer. He is about ready to enter a freshman class or nearly so. I have another young man who is pursuing his studies this summer a pious young man candidate for the ministry & is clearing all his expenses by his labor. He is now nearly prepared for the sophomore class. He has been sadly disappointed about Hanover. I am highly pleased with the effort to revive Hanover College & shall do all in my power both privately and as a member of Synod and I hope that synod will take action upon this subject at its next meetings. In the mean time I shall encourage young men to attend the collegiate institute. I hope to see you in the fall if we all live.

Mrs. F. sends her respects to yourself & lady remember me to Mrs. Crowe

Yours in gospel bonds

Mr. T Ferguson

*Transcription by Takudzwa Chidzodzo (HC 2022)*

