

*Presented by Rev. James Green
Indianapolis*

SPEECH

OF

MR. MAC MASTER

IN THE SYNOD OF INDIANA,

OCTOBER 4, 1844,

IN RELATION TO

MADISON UNIVERSITY.

MADISON:
JONES & LODGE.

1844.

Mr. J. M. Jones
Madison

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[In the Synod of Indiana, in Session at New Albany, October, 1844.—Mr. Mac MASTER presented a communication from the President of the Board of Trustees of Madison University, transmitting, by order of that Body, an authenticated copy of the Act of the Legislature creating that corporation; (which Act provides that the Synod shall have power to appoint one half of the Trustees,) and a summary statement of the organization of the Board under the said Act, the establishment of a College for general academical instruction in the said University, and the condition, designs and prospects of the institution. Mr. M. expressed the purpose to avail himself of the occasion of presenting these papers, to offer some remarks, with a view to place their subject properly before the Synod; but, having stated that it was not his intention to offer any motion for the ultimate disposal of the subject, nor to participate in any debate that might arise on such motion several members objected to his being allowed to speak. The Moderator decided that it was the right of a member presenting a communication, to accompany it with remarks for the purpose proposed by Mr. M. Objections being still urged, Mr. M. said, that the decision of the Chair doubtless was correct; but he wished to secure to himself the right to say what he thought fit on this subject, and therefore, to obviate the objections urged, he moved, That the Synod do now proceed to consider the communication from the Trustees of Madison University. This motion being seconded, Mr. M. addressed the Synod, in substance as follows.] *

MR. MODERATOR:

It is *not* my purpose to make any motion for the disposal of the subject of this communication, nor to participate in the discussion that may arise on such motion. That the subject may be fairly before the Synod, I however feel called on, in presenting the communication, to offer some remarks; and I avail myself of this opportunity to deliver what I think it my duty to say.

What I have to say is chiefly on a subject, which is only incidentally connected with that of this communication; but which some, I presume, suppose to have an important connection with it, and which may have much influence on the disposal they shall think should be made of it. This Synod was pleased at its meeting last year, (and perhaps on former occasions,) to pass certain resolutions expressing the interest they felt in the College at Hanover. It is therefore, perhaps, due to the Synod; I presume it is expected; and, at all events, it will be respectful, to make to you a statement of the causes of the subsequent dissolution of that

* The following marginal notes contain the substance of various explanations upon points on which the statements of Mr. M. were assailed, and other matter brought out in the course of the discussion which followed in the Synod, so far as these are deemed necessary to the understanding of the subject.

institution, for the purpose of justifying the act of the Trustees therein. Moreover, from the relations which I sustain to the new institution, in the control of which you are invited to unite, it is felt, I presume, that the propriety of *my conduct*, in the agency which I have had in bringing about the dissolution of the College at Hanover, possesses an importance which would not otherwise belong to it; it is, I suppose, expected of me, and I feel called on, to vindicate my own personal conduct in that matter. In doing this I shall have occasion to speak freely and unreservedly of my own acts. I think that I may appeal to those who have the opportunity of knowing, that I am not accustomed, even in the freedom of private intercourse, and much less on public occasions, to make myself and my doings the theme of my discourse. And I trust that the consideration which I have just mentioned and the circumstances in which I have been placed, not voluntarily but by the acts of others, in relation to this whole subject, will exempt me, in speaking in a manner which otherwise I should feel to be indecorous, from the imputation of improperly or indelicately obtruding myself or my personal acts upon this body. If any further apology be necessary, it may be found in the fact that there has been an assiduous endeavour, pursued with a constancy that could not have been without intention, to separate me in this affair from *the Trustees*, who alone had power to act, and who alone are properly responsible in the case, to keep *them* as much as possible out of view, and to excite against *me* odium on account of the measure; and that when, in the only public notice that I have thought fit to take of the matter, I drew attention to the action of *the Trustees* in the premises, I was, in an attack on me in a public newspaper, taunted with seeking to shelter myself behind their reputation from a just responsibility for my own acts.

I have a remark or two more of a preliminary nature to make, before proceeding to what I mainly intend. Some of the good brethren seem to apprehend, that there is great danger of heat and excitement in the Synod upon this subject. So far as I am concerned, the brethren may dismiss their fears. I will not be heated: and it is not my purpose to say any thing to unduly heat or excite others. It may be that, sprung, though it be somewhat remotely, from that land whose national emblem is of the genus *Carduus*, I may, when wantonly assailed, sometimes for a moment feel my veins pricked by the spirit of the national motto, *Nemo me impune lacessit*. But, sir, I disclaim the sentiment. I acknowledge that there is a more excellent way; and that better is he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. I believe too, that my temperament is not peculiarly choleric: and, at all events, I must ask of you to take knowledge of me, that on this occasion at least, I am as cool as the Nones of October which we are approaching. At the same time, compelled after

long endurance and against all my wishes, to enter upon this defence, I think it fitting to speak in terms so explicit and so plain, that the case shall be clearly and, so far as may be, fully understood. If what is said shall affect unpleasantly any on whom it may bear, I beg that it may be remembered that this arises from the necessity of the case, and that this necessity is not of my seeking, but has been forced upon me.

From my former relations to the College at Hanover and the agency I was obliged to take in its affairs, the vindication of my own personal conduct in relation to that institution, and that of the conduct of the Trustees with whom I have acted and by whom my conduct has been approved, will to a great extent be found in the same course of remark. To that vindication I now ask your calm and dispassionate attention.

Let the object of this defence not be misunderstood. Mr. Moderator, in the congregation where I was a worshipper, and in the presence of the pupils of the institution of which I had the charge, under the form of prayer to that great and dread Being to whom we are all accountable,—an exercise in which I have been taught to think, that, if ever, man should feel himself a sinful worm and not revile others,—I was put into the same category with Satan, and while God was besought “to defeat the machinations of the Wicked One,” he was intreated “to bring to nought the evil devices of those who were devising evil against the College.” Pending the application to the Legislature for the Charter of the institution at Madison, letters were sent to members of that body charging me with having brought about the surrender of the Hanover Charter by “under-hand intrigue,” and by “a sudden and unexpected packing of the board of Trustees” for that purpose. Subsequently through a course of nine months, with great assiduity, orally, by private letters, and in the columns of a scurrilous newspaper, the grossest misrepresentation and abuse of me were spread over the country; and an individual, in his place in the Board of Trustees of Hanover College, and over his own name in the columns of one of our religious journals has, among other things, charged me with acting “under a pretext,”—with “acting fraudulently;” with “treachery;” with being a party to a “plot;” and with being a party to “a conspiracy.” These aspersers of character seem to have acted on the maxim of old father Valerian; *Calumniare audaciter, semper aliquid hæret*. Now, sir, to all these charges what have I to say?—Why, sir, just what I have always uniformly said to them;—NOTHING AT ALL.—*Mor-dear opprobriis falsis?* To reply to these charges is not the object of my defence.

But, Mr. Moderator, those who have assumed to speak in the name of two of the Presbyteries of this Synod have expressed publicly their disapprobation of what was done in the dissolution of the College at Hanover; and they and others may think that I

availed myself of my position in that institution, to exert an influence in bringing about, without necessity and in an improper manner, its dissolution. From liability to the common errors and infirmities of humanity I claim no exemption; and to an inquiry directed to the point now stated I will answer.

In justifying the act of the Trustees in dissolving the College at Hanover, and vindicating my own conduct in the whole matter, I think it necessary and proper to go back a little in the history of that institution. I ask your attention to

I—THE CONDITION AND CHARACTER OF HANOVER COLLEGE,
AT THE TIME THAT I BECAME CONNECTED WITH IT.

I here state, *that I was brought to the College under a misrepresentation* (I do not say intentional) *of its condition and its character.*

1. OF ITS PECUNIARY CONDITION.

When I was applied to in reference to the Presidency of the College, I wrote to Hanover making such inquiries as seemed to me proper. There lies before me a letter written in reply to my inquiries by a committee of the Trustees. In that letter it is stated, that the debts of the College amounted to between \$12,000 and \$14,000, and that the property was of about equal value. The debt turned out to be more than was stated; and the property could not then, nor at any time since, have been sold for *one-third* of \$14,000; nor, from its unsuitableness to the purposes of a literary institution, was it worth to the College *one-half* of the amount of the debt. The letter states, that a special fund had been provided for the purpose of "making up any deficit there might be in the President's salary for the first year." There occurred such deficit in the President's salary to the amount of more than one-fourth of the whole sum promised, which was never made up in this manner, nor in any other way, but by his relinquishing it: nor is there any evidence, from either the Records of the Board, the Treasurer's books, or, so far as known, any other source, that except to a very limited extent any such fund was provided. (I beg that it may be understood that I mention this, not to complain of the pecuniary loss to myself; but to show the condition of the College, and the manner in which its business was transacted.) The letter states that "*the active and efficient friends of the College were numerous, who would exert their influence to aid its funds.*" These *numerous* active and efficient friends have not been found. *A few* individuals have acted generously and done what they could. The letter represents that there were excellent prospects for the future in respect to funds as well as to other things. I hold in my hand letters from two very intelligent and respectable gentlemen, at that time members of the

Board. The first is from J. W. G. Simrall, Esq. and is as follows. [The capitals are mine.]

DEAR SIR:—Being requested by you to give a statement of the position taken by myself as a Trustee of Hanover College at the meeting of the Board some years since when you were elected President of that Institution, I will state that I then said to the Board, that I could not, CONSISTENTLY WITH MY VIEWS OF INTEGRITY, promise you, or any one, the salary offered, that such was the condition of the pecuniary affairs of the institution that THERE SEEMED SCARCE A POSSIBILITY THAT A PROMISE OF PAYMENT COULD BY ANY MEANS be fulfilled. Therefore although the very existence of the College confessedly depended on the prompt filling of the place of President, I could not vote for any one who was not fully and intimately acquainted with the affairs of the College. I did not then, and do not now, feel disposed to censure those who differed from me, and were willing to risk their ability to comply with their engagements, HOPING FOR SOME PROVIDENTIAL INTERPOSITION to enable them to do so. I need not say to you, who know so well the condition of the institution for years previous to your election to its Presidency, THAT ITS PECUNIARY CONDITION WAS SO DESPERATE, that no great while before you became President, a member of the Board at one of its meetings proposed an ENTIRE ABANDONMENT OF THE ENTERPRISE.

Respectfully yours,
JNO. W. G. SIMRALL.

The other letter is from the gentleman referred to in that which I have just read, the Rev. Mr. Belville of Ohio. I read so much of it as pertains to the point before us. It is as follows.

"In view of the pecuniary responsibilities of the Board and the small amount of means they had been able to secure for the literary department, and the embarrassed condition of the Theological, I did advise that the literary department should be given up, and all our efforts be concentrated for the up-building of the Theological. This last I added because of the declaration by some member, or members, of the Board, that it was impossible to endow a Presbyterian College."

Such was the pecuniary condition of the College. When I came to it I found it insolvent; its debt exceeding by from \$7,000 to \$10,000 its property; without a dollar, and equally without credit, to borrow a dollar. Even its own former President in its palmy days would not trust the corporation; but when he lent his money for its use, required individual securities. It is matter of general notoriety that, from a period prior to my coming to it down to the time of the payment of the old debt in 1842, the almost universal impression throughout all the region, was that it must inevitably sink under its embarrassments.

2. THE CONDITION OF THE COLLEGE, AS TO STUDENTS, ITS RELATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY, AND TO OTHER COLLEGES WITH WHICH IT MUST COMPETE.

The letter of the Committee of the Trustees to me stated that "the number of students in attendance was but about a hundred." If there were about that number, or near it, at any period of the year in question, it is known that at the time I was written to, from the condition of the College, there had been, or was likely to

be, to a great extent, a dispersion of the students. The College books show that the number the next session was 67. But this dispersion was not told me: nor was it told me, that a majority of these students were mere transient comers and goers not expecting to complete the College course of studies. I inquired; "What extent of country, and what proportion of the people within that region look to Hanover as a place of education for their sons?" The letter answered; "The extent of country is immense the inhabitants of which are disposed to patronize our College;" and *eight* States were named and a large batch of others in the lump were thrown in to boot. Causes were given of this extraordinary "patronage," which were not the true causes of whatever prosperity the College had enjoyed. That prosperity, such as it was, never rested on any solid foundation. It seems to have arisen mainly from two causes. First, the introduction of the manual labor system, holding out to young men the hope of supporting themselves at College, brought for a short time an influx of students desirous of thus obtaining some education. Second, the College grew up from 1832 to 1837,—that period of unnatural and extravagant inflation in all sorts of business, when men's pockets were crammed with what for the time they thought was money. Pretty large sums of this, easily collected and improvidently spent, enabled those who managed the affairs of the institution to keep up their manual labor scheme, and by means of it to swamp the institution in some \$15,000 of debt, which those who came after had the pleasure of finding the means of removing. When these swimming times went by and the manual labour scheme went down, the students scattered as speedily as they had come. It was at this juncture that I was brought from a distant part of the country to the College. But, though I inquired, I was not informed of the true condition of things. A representation was made of a former prosperity, as if it still existed, subject only to a partial and transient reverse; and causes of that former prosperity were given which were not the true causes. It was stated in terms, the College "has grown to be one of the most respectable Colleges of the West;" and it was said "The College is now manifestly rising." I inquired, with what other Colleges Hanover would have to compete. *Two* only were named as those with which there was likely to be any serious competition. Every body knows that, within the region spoken of, there were at that time *twenty* that had as good a reputation as Hanover.

3. THE CHARACTER OF THE INSTITUTION.

[1.]—Of the Trustees.

The original Trustees of the academy out of which the College grew, and who continued to have the chief management of its af-

fairs, lived in and near to the particular locality of Hanover. Of these men generally it may be said, that their conception of what a college should be, and their competency to manage the pecuniary affairs of such an institution may be judged of, the one by the College which they made; the other by the condition into which they brought its pecuniary affairs, in a period, not of general embarrassment and derangement, but of a plethoric fulness of business and of money in the country—a period during which, it would seem, that, instead of involving the institution in an overwhelming debt, it would have been comparatively easy, by any active and well directed efforts, to have effected its endowment. I might, as all who are acquainted with the case know, use with perfect truth much stronger language and make a much stronger representation on this point of the competency of most of these men to the business which they undertook. But I forbear.[b] I desire explicitly to except from any application of what in these remarks might seem to be wanting in due respect to them, my venerable friend, the late Dr. Blythe, who however to his other and far higher excellencies, did not add that of adaptation to secular business; the venerable Dr. Matthews, who then resided at Hanover, but who, I believe, though a Trustee, for reasons which doubtless appeared to him sufficient, habitually abstained from taking any part in the pecuniary affairs of the College; and my much esteemed friend, the Hon. Williamson Dunn, whom in all my intercourse with him I have found to be, what all who are acquainted with him know him to be, a man of intelligence, of integrity, and of honorable and generous feelings. Of one or two others, too, it may be true that their chief fault was the heedless negligence which led them to allow the business of a Board of which they were members to pass as it did. There were other Trustees residing elsewhere, who were every way most intelligent and respectable men, and competent to the management of the business of such an institution. But they resided at a distance; some of them were prevented by the engagements of their private business from often attending the meetings of the Board; and others, perhaps not much relishing some of the association, into which it brought them, found little attraction to attend. The result was, that the business of the Board fell into the hands of a few individuals, who

[b] In reply to this the chief speaker of the Hanover men gave a pretty long account of the way in which the College became involved in debt. This account instead of invalidating in any degree, fully corroborated the representation of Mr. M. by giving the details of what he had expressed in general terms. For example, this speaker stated that the Hanover Trustees had, among other things of the same sort, been enticed by somebody to set up, at a heavy expense, a printing establishment and a newspaper, but finding the concern unprofitable, suddenly sold the whole, type, presses, stock, subscription-list &c. &c. for, not only less than was due, but, as he believed, for less than could have been collected on the subscription-list. *E uno disce omnia.* Take this as a specimen of the whole.

managed it in their own way. Others, when they attended, from the manner in which the business was done and the accounts of it kept, were unable to understand it; and supposing that perhaps it was in the main right, or at least not seeing how to mend it, and wishing not to be troublesome, let it pass. This will account for much of what I have before stated.

[2.] *The Literary Character of the College.*

If it had ever had any literary character, (which I do not here call in question,) this had gone down to the lowest point that can well be imagined. Its Presidency had gone in vain a-begging over the country to I know not how many men, to find a decent man that would look at it; and at last had picked up a strolling vagabond from a foreign country by the way of the Canadas, where for his immoralities he had been deposed from the ministry:— *and I was kept in ignorance of the facts in the case.* Some vague and indefinite rumor of some misconduct on the part of this man, (it was not known what,) had indeed floated to me through other mediums: but in answer to a letter of inquiry concerning the College, *not a syllable on this whole subject* did the committee of the Trustees communicate to me.[c] Of the remaining members of the

[c] The facts on this point, as they came out in the Synod, made a much stronger case than that originally stated by Mr. M. The Chairman of the committee of the Trustees and writer of their letter stated in broad and sweeping terms that another truster had in a previous letter informed Mr. M. of the whole case of this quondam President, *as fully as it was known to the Trustees themselves*, and that *therefore* they did not think it necessary to say any thing about it to him. He also stated, in reply to interrogatories on this point, that during the sessions of the General Assembly, (that is in the end of May, or first days of June,) Dr. Witherspoon sent to him a printed copy of the Minutes of the Canada Synod, containing a full report of the charges, trial, and deposition of this man. Mr. M. produced the letter referred to, and read the whole of what related to this subject. It is as follows, "Painful, indeed, have been the circumstances which have led to the necessity of addressing you on the subject of this communication. I am informed that the intelligence of the immoral conduct and deposition from the ministerial office of Dr. —, the President of our institution, reached Philadelphia, before we had any intimation of it in this town, and was talked of quite publicly there. I am sorry to say that we were all astonished at such news; and although the information was received from such authentic source, we were almost unwilling to credit it, and many with the Dr's explanation of the affair believed him an innocent, persecuted man. Still we had to believe that his connection with the College should ere long be dissolved. After he found that the report had reached the ears of the people here, he lodged with the Vice President a notice that he should resign his office: at the end of three months, that time being required by the Board of any officer that should leave the institution. That resignation will be acted on, Deo volente, on the 1st of next month, and will undoubtedly be accepted. As we are informed brother Matthews, who was a commissioner to the General Assembly from our Presbytery, conversed with you on this much lamented subject, it will be unnecessary for me to say any thing on the case of Dr. —."

Mr. Matthews communicated no information on this point to Mr. Mac Master, beyond some floating and vague rumor of some alleged misconduct. The conversation held on the whole subject of the College was very slight, as Mr. Matthews

* A Rev Mr McDowell

Faculty, after the abscision of this its illustrious head, I wish not to speak in terms of unkindness or disrespect. I limit myself to the statement of two or three facts. The first on the list, though bearing the title of Professor of *four* important branches of learning, during the five years of my connection with the College, with the exception of hearing a single class during one session in Blair's Lectures, and some teaching during a part of the time in some of the lower classes of the preparatory School, performed no service; and the instruction in the whole field of which he had nominally the charge, I was obliged to perform as I best could, in addition to my own proper duties and to much beside which in no wise belonged to me, but which I was under the necessity of undertaking. The other two professors were at that time young men, who had not long before closed their course as students at Hanover. One of them had been urged away from studies preparatory to another line of life and put into the place of a professor, against his own wishes, and with the understanding on all hands that it was a mere temporary make-shift. It is uttering nothing derogatory either to the natural talents of these men, or to any acquisitions which they may have since made, (concerning which I have no occasion here to speak,) to say that under such circumstances, and with such means as Hanover furnished to enable them to discharge properly their duties, it would have been most unreasonable to expect them to perform what belongs to the places of professors in a respectable College. No principal of the preparatory school was provided, and no means of paying one; but this school, including more than two thirds of the whole number of the students, was thrown, with the small College classes, upon the hands of the College professors.

Such was Hanover College as I found it. When I was applied to in reference to its Presidency, I wrote, as I have said, to Hanover, making such inquiries as seemed to be proper, and received from the committee of the Trustees the representations which I

seemed to *know* very little about it, and Mr. Mac Master *cared* as little. The facts, then, are these. The Trustees at Hanover had in their hands in the end of May or first of June, the Minutes of the Synod, containing a report of the whole charges, trial and deposition of this man for gross immoralities. Yet, on July 17th, one of their number at the request, as he says, of several others, writes Mr. M., representing their information of the case as that of a rumor which had reached them, but which *they were unwilling to credit*; that *many believed him an innocent, persecuted man*; and that (instead of ejecting him as an impostor,) as perhaps any other men would have thought they owed it to themselves and the College to do,) *they allowed him to resign*; and even to do this only "*at the end of three months, that time being required by the Board.*" and on Aug. 16th, this Committee of the Trustees write, and say not a word about this case, *because*, as the Chairman says, *they were satisfied with the representation of it given in this letter!* Verily, it was with reason that Mr. M. said in the Synod, that, if it were the pleasure of all concerned, he should be glad to suspend his remarks and let these men tell their own stories about the matter.

have stated, with much more to the same effect. I also made inquiries in other quarters as I had opportunity, and was referred to the names of several very respectable gentlemen published as members of the Board, as affording some probable guarantee for the respectability of the College and the truth of the representation made by the committee of its Trustees. I, in common with many others at the East, had felt a deep interest in the cause of sound and Christian education in the young but great and rising West. Perhaps on this account my inquiries were the more readily satisfied. My engagements did not conveniently allow me to visit Hanover; and I consented to come to it without having previously seen it. It was the most foolish act of my life, on any occasion of any considerable importance to myself or to others; and abundant occasion have I had to be most heartily ashamed of it. Had I known the seventh part of what I knew three weeks, I may say three hours, after I set my eyes upon the place, I would never have been in it. When I saw the place, the College, its provisions and appointments, the men who had for the most part the management of its affairs, my strong impulse was to turn on my heel and retreat. I expected to find things new in a new country, and to meet the obstacles usually incident to an enterprise of this kind in a new country. That I did so was no matter of surprise, and has been no subject of complaint by me. But to find the men and things of what was represented to me to be "one of the most respectable Colleges of the West,"—"patronized" by eight great States named and a lot of some half-a-dozen others, and declared to be "manifestly rising,"—such as I found them, I had not been led to expect. To run away was not pleasant. I still, too, felt in *the object* the strong and lively interest which had brought me to the place. I may add that it is perhaps a weakness of my nature, that I have an excessive repugnance to even the appearance of vacillating in my purposes or failing in my undertakings. I entered upon the place, hoping that notwithstanding the unpromising condition of things, by patience and perseverance obstacles might be conquered and the object aimed at be attained. The longer I remained the more difficult I found it to retreat. That I did not retreat when first I saw the place was my great error of omission, as my coming to it without having seen it was of commission. I remained.

II. THE AFFAIRS OF THE COLLEGE DURING THE PERIOD OF MY CONNEXION WITH IT.

Such was Hanover College as I found it. I entered on the duties of my place. The Trustees,—that is some six or eight of them in and near Hanover,—met, did nothing to provide for the debts of the institution, to furnish to it any pecuniary means, or to improve in any way its condition, proposed nothing, and ad-

journed. Five months passed away during which I laboured to get, so far as from the disorderly condition of its business this was possible, an understanding of its affairs; and in casting about to find what could be done.

At the end of that period I proposed to the Trustees a plan for the endowment of the College. I was told by one who had hitherto had the chief agency in the management of its affairs, and who, I presume had therefore the best opportunities of knowing in what credit the institution then was with the community, that a subscription of \$1200 could not be obtained for it in the whole State of Indiana. The plan was however adopted, and in execution of it I obtained, at such times during the summer of 1839 as I could withdraw from my own proper duties, subscriptions to the amount of about \$12,000. Toward the close of that summer we were overtaken by the pecuniary disasters which involved the whole business of the country in the embarrassments from which it is only yet partially emerged. This arrested the further execution of our plans, and rendered impracticable the collection of the subscriptions which had been made. In the mean time its heavy debt pressed upon the College, and put in requisition every possible resource, to pay such portions of it as could not be postponed and to prevent its accumulation. No means were left for the current expenses of the institution, except the meagre proceeds of tuition fees, made still less than they would have been, by the great scarcity of money in the hands of the community, and the consequent failure of an increase in the number of students. Professors left; new ones were appointed, and such as were competent either declined, or soon went away in discouragement and disgust.

During this period again and again I revolved in my mind successively the questions of a withdrawal from the whole enterprise;—of a removal of the College to some more eligible place;—and of the abandonment of the old College and the attempt to establish a new institution. The first of these it was urged upon me, by those whose opinions I felt bound to respect, that I ought not to do; and, so long as there was any hope of accomplishing the objects aimed at, I did not see it to be my duty. In the way of the second there were obvious obstacles. The third would have been incomparably easier than the attempt to raise up the College at Hanover, and was on many accounts the most eligible; and of it I, at different times through the years 1839, '40, '41, spoke with a few friends to whom I had access and in whom I could confide. But there lay against it this objection,—that to abandon the old College and allow it to go down under its debts, and immediately to establish a new institution to be to a great extent under the control of the same men, and intended to subserve the same religious interest, would have had the appearance of an unfair evasion of the payment of a debt which, by whatever improvidence

and mismanagement, had been contracted, in some sort on behalf of, or at least for the benefit of that interest. This view of the subject decided the matter in my own mind. In the spring of 1842, I proposed to the Trustees a plan for the removal of the debt of the College, which was adopted and its execution thrown upon me. I relinquished for the benefit of the sinking-fund for this object \$1000, and in the final adjustment of the business assumed and gave my personal note to an individual, without any remuneration whatever, for \$110; and received for a balance of about \$800 due me from the trustees, property in Hanover which at the time I offered to them for \$600, and have since offered in vain for \$400. My vacations, instead of being given to study, or relaxation, or the claims of friendship and kindred, were, with such portions of time as I could snatch from my own duties in the College, devoted to the irksome and ungracious business of travelling the country, to obtain the means of liquidating an old debt contracted by others and before my connexion with the College. I could not even so much as get, either from any funds of the College or from what they owed myself, the means of defraying my travelling-expenses; but, in the failure of all other sources, *borrowed of my own father*, and owe him to this day, the money which paid my way in going over the country to find the means of liquidating this debt. The object was by liberal sacrifices on the part of a portion of the creditors, and contributions by others, in the course of the summer accomplished.

The incubus of the old debt which had so long lain upon the College, having been removed, it was obviously an incumbent duty to follow this up with prompt and vigorous measures, to improve its condition; or rather to create *de novo* the means of making it an efficient and respectable institution. It was felt to be necessary that there should be brought to the corps of instructors some additional men, possessing some character, and capable of rendering some assistance in building up the College. Two gentlemen were appointed professors; and one of them, extensively known to the community, and not more extensively known than respected for his talents and his moral worth, accepted the appointment and entered with zeal and success upon the duties of his place. Contemporaneously with these appointments there was urgently pressed upon not only the Board of Trustees but other friends in different parts of the State, the necessity of a united and vigorous effort on the part of its friends generally, to provide the pecuniary means of supporting a corps of competent instructors and furnishing to them some means of making the College a useful and reputable institution. The appeal, as to Indiana, was in vain.—Not a dollar was obtained: nor, from this period till the dissolution of the College, were ten additional students sent to Hanover from the whole State. I know the community was heavily pressed with pecuniary difficulties; and I mention the result, not to

complain, but to make known a fact important to this defence.— When I went to the East to seek aid, I was met with the answer; “Why, we have formerly given a good deal of money to Hanover; if it is still so destitute we don’t know about giving more.” To the best apology I was able to make, I received in reply expressions of good-will, and a postponement to a day indefinite of aid. Thus things passed on till the autumn of 1843.

III THE CAUSES OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE COLLEGE.

These are perhaps sufficiently indicated in what has been already said. The College was dissolved, because after a full and fair trial, it had become manifest that the attempt to build up an efficient and reputable College at Hanover *was a failure*. I here take leave to say, (and it is in reference to this point that the foregoing statement has been made,) that this failure does not lie at my door. Placed as I have been in an institution broken down, so far as it was ever up, without a sufficient corps of instructors, without funds, without decent buildings, without any thing that deserved the name of a College library, or respectable appointments or means of any kind; obliged to attempt instruction in subjects numerous enough to occupy at least three professors, beside the general charge of the College; and at the same time to find the means of extricating the institution from an old debt far exceeding the value of its property, and of sustaining it in a new country, and during a period of such prostration of business in the community as that through which we have been passing;—I say, that, thus situated, I have had no opportunity to make trial of what, with the possession of the requisite means, I could do in conducting a literary institution. I have been as a man bound hand and foot and laid down without the instruments of work, and yet expected to perform work of the most difficult kind.— Yet it has been acknowledged in different quarters and in various ways, and in terms which I will not here repeat, that I have not failed in a reputable discharge of my own proper duties as an instructor, and as the President of the College. *Even the individual who has taken the lead, and I believe, gone farther than any one else, in the obloquy and abuse recently heaped upon me, has spoken of “the exalted opinion he had formed of my character,” and of “the unbounded confidence” of himself and others in me. At the meeting of the Trustees at which the charter was surrendered, he said, “Until these recent proceedings, (referring to the dissolution,) we supposed that we had all we could desire in the way of a President. I had admired his spirit, as much as his talents and acquisitions.”* I marked these words at the time, foreseeing that I would probably have occasion to refer to them. I trust it will be understood that I cite them now only to show that it was confessed even by those at that time exasperated

Supposed to be Dr. Brown.

against me, that the condition of the College was not owing to a failure on my part in the duties of my own place. Other people will remember the maxim of the Roman satirist; *Nemo repente venit turpissimus*; and will be apt to think that the present sinister squint of that individual diverges from the right line of vision, by an angle probably about equal to that of his former dexter squint; and that I am neither so good nor so bad as he would make me, but very much like other mortals. All that I claim is, that the failure of the College at Hanover was not owing to any failure on my part in my own proper duties as President. Moreover that I did not fully and faithfully, during a period of five years, and under circumstances of great difficulty and discouragement, make exertions and sacrifices, not belonging to my own office at all, as great as could reasonably be expected of me, to save and build up the College at Hanover, I think none will say who have attended to the foregoing statement, and it is a simple statement of facts that cannot be controverted.

But, it is denied that the enterprise at Hanover was a failure; or that there was any necessity of the abandonment of the institution: and a great handle is made of a representation which Prof. Anderson is said to have given of the prosperous and promising condition of the institution at the last meeting of this Synod. I was not present at that meeting, and do not know precisely what the representation given was. I regret that Mr. Anderson is not here to answer for himself. In his absence I will venture, with your leave, a solution. Mr. A. was then a newly fledged Professor of Rhetoric in the illustrious seat of learning at South-Hanover. Eager to seize the first opportunity of so venerable a presence, to make proof of his new function, and elated, I grant somewhat extravagantly, with his new dignity, so powerful was the stroke of his pinions, that he was borne aloft through the regions of thin air, in a flight immeasurably more sublime than he himself had any thought of, when he took leave of *terra firma*,—any solid ground he had to stand on. Mr. Moderator, I must beg on behalf of the Professor, that before you too severely censure the weakness of human nature, you will remember the power of the temptation! I do not vouch for this solution. But there is another solution for which I do vouch. Every body knows that among the excellencies of that gentleman, as of most other men who do any thing in the world, is an ardent mind that leads him to enter with a plerophoristic faith and hope into whatever enterprise he embarks in: and every body equally well knows, that he has the power to make upon the minds of other men a strong impression in favor of what he himself is interested in. But it is due to Mr. Anderson and to the truth to say, that, until a period subsequent to the Synod he was but partially acquainted with the pecuniary condition of the College and other difficulties in the way of its success. I had indeed spoken freely to him of these

before his becoming connected with the College; as I felt bound in honesty to do, especially so far as he was to be personally affected by these. But to hear of these things by the hearing of the ear, and to have learned them by a five years struggle with them were two very different things. If a high-minded and public spirited man, under the impulse of noble and generous purposes, but whose circumstances had prevented him from being fully in possession of the whole case, in addressing his brethren in the ardor of an extempore speech, and when the very object of that address was to incite them to render that efficient aid which during many long and weary years most of them had withheld, and which now was alone necessary to the success of the enterprise, allowed his own mind to be too exclusively engrossed with those things which were encouraging in the condition and prospects of the college,—why, those who themselves have souls to sympathize with such a man will not wonder at the fact, nor be disposed to make it matter of crimination. Especially does it ill become those whose apathy, leaving other men to struggle for years unaided and to sacrifice all they had in the endeavour to save the institution, has caused the failure, now to utter reproaches. Yet such for the most part are the men who have raised a clamor on this subject. With the knowledge of the whole ground which my situation gave me the opportunity of possessing, I could have made no such representation as is said to have been given.

It is true that the condition and prospects of the College were *in some respects* greatly improved. It had been relieved of its old debt; a valuable accession had been brought to the strength of its faculty; the number of its students was considerably increased; and it was coming to be looked to with favour from various quarters and by a larger portion than formerly of the community, as a place of education for their sons. But there had been an utter failure to provide the pecuniary means of sustaining the institution. Without any tolerable provision in buildings, library, apparatus, or any other means whatever to enable the professors to perform properly what belonged to their places; it was at the same time destitute of any funds for the support of the professors, save that from the meagre proceeds of tuition fees, made still less by drafts upon it for every other purpose of the institution. The professors were actually receiving less than three-sevenths of salaries, too meagre, if the whole had been paid, to command the services of competent men, who were not held by some other consideration. The most valuable of the professors distinctly told me, (as indeed I knew without being told,) that he could not remain. Another, I was informed, had come to the same conclusion. In the mean time, within a period of sixteen months, a new debt had been created of about \$2400, and was continually accumulating, without any means, or prospect of means of paying it. Thus the institution, after having been extricated from a similar burden by

sacrifices that those who made them were ill able to bear, was plunging headlong into another ruinous debt. Those who can incur obligations of this kind without either fore-thought or after-thought of the means of meeting them, might go on in this course. Other men, with their views of integrity, could not. Beside, such of our professors as could render any efficient aid in building up the College, I was given to understand, must withdraw from it, and we be left to continue to drag on through an indefinite term of years with such men as we could pick up and keep for less than \$300 a year. Such an institution could not be expected to attract students, or to retain them if they came. But the number of students was increasing it is said, and if there had been a little patience, there would have been means enough from that source. The number of students was increasing! Yes. Three worthy and excellent brethren from the Crawfordsville Presbytery have gravely told the public, that in their region, extending over some fourth part, more or less, of the State, there were *three* young men who were *preparing* to come and had made *some* proficiency in their studies therefor. I say *gravely*, but with some doubt: for I have not been able to satisfy myself quite whether this whole thing was not intended as a broad jest. But, assuming that the brethren were serious; I would like seriously to propose to them a problem for solution. I presume the *three* brethren are skilled in the *rule of three*. Now we will feel obliged if the *three* brethren will by the rule of *three* direct, directly tell us, if it takes five years to find *three* young men who have made *some* proficiency in preparing for College, how long it will take actually to bring to the College enough to attain the ends of a College, and, in default of all other resources, to furnish the requisite pecuniary means—and, as a question of casuistry for they are divines too, whether men who have waited for five years, toiling and sacrificing all they have, ought to be expected to wait on for the consummation of the up-building of a College by a process of this sort? The number of the students was increasing! Sir, it was idle to expect any permanent increase, unless the men and the means were provided of making an institution such as to deserve and by deserving to command the public confidence. Yes, sir, by influence exerted abroad we could bring students; but when we got them we could not keep them. The distinct prospect was that the current which to some extent began to set favorably toward us, finding what the College was, would flow away again and leave us as we had been. *I did not choose that the institution should go down in that way.* If it was to go down, I chose that the true cause should be understood,—the failure to provide the pecuniary means of securing the services of competent men and furnishing them with what was necessary to the proper discharge of the duties of their places. Even if we could have dragged on with the College as it had been and

was, *such* an institution could not accomplish the objects for which alone the existence of a College is desirable. I repeat it,—that, after a full and fair trial prosecuted in good faith, as long, and by exertions and sacrifices as great as could be reasonably expected, it had become manifest that the attempt to build up an efficient and respectable College at Hanover was a failure. [d]

IV. THE DISSOLUTION OF THE COLLEGE, AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THIS WAS EFFECTED.

In this condition of things the question pressed itself upon me, What ought to be done? Ought the whole enterprise of building up in this region an efficient and respectable College, to promote sound education in subserviency to the interests of true religion as held by the Presbyterian church, to be abandoned? Or shall the attempt be made to establish in some more eligible location and under more promising auspices, an institution that shall be capable of accomplishing this great object, and such as shall be worthy of the Presbyterian name, and as ought to satisfy an intelligent Presbyterian community? The inquiry arose, whether, by going to some other place able to render efficient aid, a local interest might not be enlisted, which should furnish to a very important extent the pecuniary means of establishing an institution such as we desired to make? The further question occurred, If this be attempted, shall it be by a removal of the College at Hanover, or by the undertaking of an entirely new and independent institution? I determined to submit the whole subject to those to whom it belonged for their decision.

I have no wish, however, to conceal my own agency in the matter, nor, as I have been accused, to shelter myself under the reputation of the Trustees from a just responsibility for my own acts. I therefore avow that *it was I* who proposed to the Trustees the course taken in the whole business; who drew up the re-

[d] It was denied that there was such a failure of pecuniary means as to render the abandonment of the College necessary; because the Trustees held a subscription of \$12,000. To this it is replied; 1, If this could have been collected, the Trustees were expressly prohibited by the terms of the subscription from using the capital for current expenses; and the interest which alone was applicable to that object would not have been equal to *one-third* of the means requisite therefor. But, 2, It was impossible, from the difficulty of the times, to collect either principal or interest; and the moral certainty was that before this could be done, a new debt equal to the whole amount must be incurred. Ought this to have been done?

Again, it was said, "The professors were living, and they could have live!"—Mr. Mac Master, having the promise of \$1,000 a year, had sacrificed (including various expenditures for which he never charged the College) in five years near \$3,000, and had run himself into debt for the means of a bare subsistence. And he is told, "he was living and could have lived." The professors were receiving less than half the small salaries promised them, and were either running in debt, or procuring their bread from their private means. And they, too, "were living, and could have lived!"

port on which their action was based; offered the resolutions by which the charter was surrendered; and had the chief agency in carrying the measure into effect. For these acts I hold myself responsible.

And here, in justifying the Trustees in general and myself in particular; first, the question arises; *Why dissolve the old College at all? Why, if dissatisfied with it, not withdraw and leave it to pursue its course?* I meet this issue.—Why not withdraw and leave it to pursue its course?

That, Mr. Moderator, is the very question which we looked at again and again, and went around and around, and turned over and over, to see if it were not possible to do this consistently with the obligations of duty. The parable of “the ewe lamb” was quoted against us, and great wonderment has been expressed by the orator that the argument did not prevail. Sir, if it had been possible to return “*the little ewe lamb*” to the paternal embraces of those who had begotten and nourished it, just *such* as they had begotten and nourished it, and as *it was* when committed to our charge,—its deformed and rotten head kicking as a foot-ball around the streets of Madison, pelted by Hanover missiles;—around its truncated neck a mill-stone weight of an old debt of \$15,000;—and the body ——— just such as it was; most gladly would we have done it. I assure you, sir, we had no desire to steal the thunder of “*the little ewe lamb*.” It did not appear, however, that this could be done. First, it did not seem right and proper that all that had been gained by five years of much toil, and patience and sacrifice, the removal of the old debt of the College, and the preservation thereby of its existence, the obtaining of a subscription of some \$12,000 toward its endowment; the collection of a body of near a hundred students; and the favorable regard which had been drawn to the institution—should be lost to a new enterprise. But, second, there was a yet more serious difficulty in the way of this course. In providing for the liquidation of the old debt the donors to the sinking fund for that purpose had acquired the right of scholarships in the College. Moreover the subscribers to the fund for endowment were still held bound by their obligations to the amount of \$12,000.—When then it had become manifest that the attempt to build up a respectable College at Hanover was a failure, the question pressed itself upon us, Would it be *just* and *right* to leave the contributors to these two funds bound to pay their obligations to an institution abandoned because the effort to make it what deserved the name of a College had proven a hopeless failure, and to receive in return only such benefits to themselves and the public as an institution such as this must become could render? It was felt that this would not be just and right. For myself, from the personal agency which I had had in obtaining these subscriptions, although I was not responsible for the failure of the College, I

felt bound,—bound in conscience and feeling,—in the event which had now occurred, to do the best that could be done, to relieve these donors from hardship and to protect their interests. The difficulties of the case were sensibly felt. The only thing in our power was, by a dissolution of the old College to discharge the subscribers to the fund for endowment from their obligations, and as to the donors to the sinking fund, to give to them, in the place of their now worthless scholarships in a College abandoned as a failure, scholarships in a new institution undertaken under encouraging prospects of success. This course accordingly, though there was no legal obligation to do so, was taken. [e] But, third, Why not dissolve the College at Hanover? If the attempt to establish it there had proved a failure; or, if this was on any ac-

[e] This statement was assailed in the Synod on two points. 1, It was represented that the design of giving to the donors to the sinking fund scholarships in the new institution was no part of the original plan, but an after-thought trumped up when it was found convenient to assign a regard to the interests of these donors as a reason for dissolving the old College instead of withdrawing from it. Mr. Mac Master called up five gentlemen in the house, who testified not only that this had been proposed from the beginning and fully agreed on, but that they and others had actually in the institution at Madison seven or eight students free of charge, on account of these very scholarships, during the first session, and in anticipation of the formal action of the Trustees. 2, An attempt was made to show a discrepancy between the present statement, that one reason for dissolving the old College was to release the subscribers to the fund for endowment, and a representation that Mr. Mac Master was said to have authorized to be made last winter to the citizens of Madison, that the old College held a subscription of about \$12,000 which might be brought to the new institution. Mr. M. explained. As he had already stated, it was a question much considered from the beginning, whether the old College should be transferred to Madison, or an entirely new and independent institution be established. He himself had for various reasons, been strongly in favor of the latter course; but those with whom he acted preferred, with a view to conciliate the friends of the old College, to transfer the old organization to Madison, thus preserving the identity of the institution; and in this view he had at one time cheerfully concurred, provided it should be found that there would be no legal difficulties in the way. But subsequently from an examination of the points ruled by the Supreme Court of the U. S. in the case of *Dartmouth College vs. Woodward*, and the consultation of legal gentlemen, it was concluded, in order to avoid all questions of this kind and for other reasons, to be best to establish a new and independent institution. It was on Dec. 13th, while this question was yet unsettled, that the printed statement referred to as having been made on the authority of Mr. M., was published. The prevailing opinion at that time, was in favour of a transfer of the old College: and hence the printed statement speaks of "the removal of the College at Hanover to this place," (Madison,) as the thing desired. In that case, of course, the subscribers would be held bound. There was no intention nor desire to release them. But between that time and Dec. 18th, the day on which the charter was surrendered, the course ultimately taken was finally decided on. Then the desire to release the subscribers from paying, not to an institution at Madison, but to one abandoned as a failure at Hanover, took effect, and as stated, was a principal reason of the decision to dissolve the old College. This would release from the legal obligation to pay any where: but even in that event there was good reason to believe that the subscribers would voluntarily renew their subscriptions to the institution at Madison, with the exception of those living at Hanover. Some uneasiness having been expressed by some of these latter, that they might be held to pay, to satisfy them, the board passed a resolution discharging them from obligation to pay, though it was known that the dissolution of the College would effectually release them.

count desirable in order to the attainment of the great object at which we aimed;—especially if there existed the strong reasons for the measure which I have just mentioned, pray, why not dissolve the College? Was this the personal property of those, who have raised a clamor about its dissolution? Was it their private concern? Or was it a public institution to be administered and disposed of for the public benefit? And to whom did the control and disposal of it legally and of right belong? I supposed to the Trustees. Was there in the College at Hanover some inherent majesty,—something like “the Divine right of Kings” to which men owed an allegiance so that for *the Trustees* themselves, the *very governors* of the institution, to whom alone the law that created it had given the whole control over it, to say, even under the stress of an inevitable necessity, that it could not be longer continued was treason? I had not so understood the subject. The fact was, if the College had been left just in the condition to which those who have raised an out-cry about its dissolution, had brought it, it must have perished years ago. Whatever there was favorable in its present condition and promising in its prospects, had been created by the efforts and sacrifices of those who now felt obliged to give it up as a failure. The private views and wishes of these men, if of any, had a right to be consulted. I submitted the question to *the Trustees* to whom it belonged.

But *the manner* in which the dissolution was effected,—Was not this precipitate? Was it not without consultation?—And, was not there something wrong in the means by which it was brought about? So the accusation is.

The charge has been made and assiduously spread, that the dissolution was effected “by secret intrigue,” and “a packing of the Board” to procure a result different from what would have been under other circumstances.

Mr. Moderator, will you remember who these men are, who were either present at the meeting of the Board at which the charter was surrendered, or who were fully cognizant of and concurred in the whole procedure? Judge Bigger, at the time Governor of the Commonwealth, and as much distinguished for his private worth as for the eminent station he occupied: the Judges of the Supreme Court, and especially Judge Sullivan and Judge Dewey, men of the highest personal character, whose whole lives are devoted to the daily exposition of the principles of justice, and the application of these principles, (often in cases involving the nicest and most delicate distinctions of right and wrong,) to the infinitely diversified affairs of human life: and other gentlemen of standing as ministers and elders in the church, such as that of Messrs. Anderson, Gurley, Blake, Ray, Marshall, King, and others of the highest respectability for intelligence and character. Are these gentlemen men to be hoodwinked, and used as instru-

ments, and packed for an improper purpose?—or to be packed for any purpose, by any man; and especially *by me?* Mr. Moderator, I am ashamed to repeat the accusation; and I turn away from the indecency of the charge as it bears upon these men. If I had been in doubt about any part of my own conduct, the fact that men such as these, who were consulted at every step, fully approved of and concurred in the whole course which was taken, would have re-assured me and confirmed me as to the propriety of my course.

The facts as to the surrender of the charter are simply these.—Before bringing the matter up formally in the Board, I communicated on the subject either by personal interviews or by letter with *all* the Trustees residing in the State, with the exception of those living in Hanover and its vicinity, and two others whom contrary to my intention I was prevented from seeing. Before these Trustees I laid the whole subject; expressed to them my own views of the condition and prospects of the College, and of the impracticability of sustaining it and making it a respectable and useful institution at Hanover; and informed them of the project of a new institution elsewhere which had been thought of.—I have, I suppose, avowed my own personal agency in this business, distinctly and fully enough to show that I do not shrink from meeting the responsibility of those acts which are my own. The Trustees must also meet the responsibility of those acts which are theirs. I wish therefore to draw attention to this fact;—that while I expressed to the Trustees my own views and convictions upon the subject and suggested to them the project of a new institution, I at the same time distinctly stated to them that if they did not concur with me in opinion, but thought it best further to continue the College at Hanover, I was ready quietly to retire from it and throw no obstacle in the way of their doing so. With this statement I submitted the question to them for their decision.—Of *sixteen* Trustees so addressed *fifteen* decided in favour of the attempt to establish a new institution. The sixteenth did not reply to my letter to him.

At a regular adjourned meeting of the Board on Dec. 8th, the following resolution was adopted: Resolved, That a Committee of five be appointed on the state of the College, with instructions to report concerning the practicability and expediency of selecting a new location and the erection of new edifices thereon; and also on the ways and means of effecting the same and of meeting the current expenses of the College.” I shall recur to this resolution again.

Subsequently to this meeting, a proposal was made by the citizens of Madison for the establishing of a University in that town, and promising a contribution stated by them at \$20,000, with the prospect of more, for the use of the institution. Great complaint has been made, that I communicated with the citizens of Madison

on the subject, and at their request made statements of the objects which we desired to accomplish by the establishment of a literary institution in this region, the advantages which it would confer on the place where it should be established; the means necessary to this; and what I supposed, with the requisite pecuniary means, were the prospects of success: and even the printer's boys' receptacle of old copy has been rummaged to reveal the fact that a hand-bill, setting forth these things, was sent to the printer in my hand-writing. To this I have only to say that, in the position in which affairs then were,—the attempt to sustain the College at Hanover having proved a failure, a large majority of the Trustees, including nearly all in the State except those residing at Hanover, having been previously consulted, and having approved of the attempt to establish a new institution, I felt at liberty to make any inquiries and to receive and give any information that might be in my power; and even that, as the chairman of the Committee appointed under the resolution of Dec. 8th, it was my duty to do so;—when the whole object was only to submit the information obtained to the Board of Trustees, the legal and rightful governors of the College, for their action.

At a second regular adjourned meeting on Dec. 18th, a full report was made on the whole state of the College, and nothing having been offered of any other nature, or from any other quarter, the proposal from Madison was submitted. The subject was fully, and on one side at least, calmly and dispassionately discussed, and a series of resolutions was adopted, in substance, that with a view to the more successful prosecution of the objects aimed at by the College at Hanover, it was expedient that a new institution be established elsewhere, and that the interest which had been concerned in the old College should be united in the support of the new; and that, as the best means of effecting this, the charter of the old should be surrendered, and it dissolved. So far from this meeting, as it has been represented, having been suddenly called together for a special and generally unknown business, thinly attended and packed to procure a particular result, the contrary of all this is true. It was a regularly adjourned meeting: Every trustee residing in the State had been, by myself or others, informed of the time and place of the meeting, and that this business would come up to be acted on. The number of the Trustees actually present at the meeting was *fourteen*, a number much larger than had attended any meeting for more than five years; and just twice the number that could usually be gotten together. Of these *fourteen* trustees present, on a full and free discussion of the whole subject, *nine* expressed themselves as clearly and decidedly in favour of the course adopted. On the passage of the resolutions the vote stood for them 8; (the chairman concurring made 9;) against them 2; not voting 2; unknown one. Beside, of the Trustees not present, *three* sent to the Board in writing informa-

tion of their concurrence in the course proposed, and *three* others authorized the same concurrence on their part to be communicated orally.

So that, of the *twenty* Trustees who were present, or who authorized the expression of their views to be communicated, *fifteen* were in favor of the course adopted; and as before stated, against it 2;—not voting 2;—unknown 1. Of the whole number of Trustees, (27,) so far as their opinions have been made known, 17 approve; 7, (of whom 5 reside in Hanover and its vicinity,) are understood to disapprove; the remaining three have not, so far as known to me expressed any opinion on the subject.

It has been matter of complaint that the Synod of Indiana was not previously consulted. Now, to this I *might* answer, that I have always understood that obligations of this kind among men are reciprocal: and that, seeing the "*patronage*" of the Synod had been so little fruitful, that during a period of five years that we were left to struggle amid the greatest difficulties, even for existence, arising from the causes I have stated, there was not given (irrespective of the provision for the old debt,) for the current expenses of the institution from all Indiana the half of \$500, and that it was seldom that a dozen students could at any one time be counted who were at the College by reason of any influence of the Synod or its members,—I say I *might* answer, and very truly, that in this state of the case, it perhaps would not have been strange if the obligation to consult the Synod had not been so strongly felt as it ought to have been. But I will answer, not as I *might*, but according to the real state of the case. The fact then is, that there was no indisposition, but on the contrary there would have been every desire, to consult the Synod, if it had been practicable. But the case was this. The subject was felt to be one full of perplexity and doubt. I knew the difficulties that were to be encountered in abandoning the College at Hanover and the attempt to establish a new one elsewhere. I knew, too, the sort of opposition which would be raised. No unexpected thing in that regard has happened. That an opposition, of precisely the kind which has appeared would be stirred up, was distinctly foreseen: and, though not much accustomed to shrink from what I think it my duty to do, on account of opposition, I naturally hesitated before exposing myself to the *sort* of opposition which I foresaw would arise, and of which I would be the principal object, for the chance of building up a new College in Indiana. It was not till after the meeting of the Synod in the autumn, and till pressed to it by the urgent necessities of the case, that my own mind was brought to the conclusion to which it came. What would it have availed to go with my own mind hesitating, and with nothing definite to propose, to *talk* vaguely and loosely to a public body, and to have the *rumor* of this talk about the failure of the College spread over the country? What would have been the *effect*

of this on the College? Who does not see that such a course, if the College was to be continued, would have been most indiscreet? I might, indeed, privately think that so far as its continuance at Hanover was concerned, it was a failure at any rate. But others, to whom the direction of the institution belonged, might think differently; and I was bound to do nothing, contrary to their views, that might appear to be injurious to it. When after the Synod, I was forced to the conclusion to which I came; and when the course proposed met the clear, full and decided approbation of the Board of Trustees, to whom alone it belonged to act in the case, would it have been wise, to go on another whole year; to run the College debt up to \$5,000 or \$6,000;—to oblige the instructors either to run themselves yet deeper into debt than they had gone, without any prospect of the means of payment, or to leave the institution, and have our students scatter;—and all this on a point of *courtesy*, to enable us to take the advice of Synod, who, every body knows must, from their want of acquaintance with the details of the subject, have at last depended on the information and impressions given them from the Trustees of the College for the grounds of the advice they might give? I trust the Synod will appreciate these difficulties, and believe that the omission to consult them proceeded from no want of proper respect for them. If the matter needed proof, those concerned have given the best possible evidence of this, in offering to the Synod an organic connexion with and a legal and effective control over the new institution, which they never had, and by the charter could not have, in the case of the College at Hanover.

But great complaint is made, that the Trustees living at Hanover were not consulted; that the whole business was managed privately, and they were not previously apprised of what was designed. As to the *manner* in which the thing was done, this is indeed the whole head and front of my offending. Now, to this I might answer, that in this matter I did but what every man who acts in affairs of public interest does,—consulted those whom I deemed, by their capacity, their information, and their freedom from the bias of private interest and feeling, competent to give counsel, and omitted to consult those whom I deemed, on all or any of these accounts, incompetent. But I will not put the matter on this naked ground. I had no wish to give any men occasion to feel that they were not treated with the consideration due to them. I ask a candid consideration of the case. First, then, the attempt to build up at Hanover a College, that deserved the name or could accomplish the ends of a College, having failed, ought the whole enterprise of establishing such an institution elsewhere, to promote what are deemed great and vital interests in this region, to have been abandoned, and the thing at Hanover, such as it could be made there, to have been at all events continued, in deference to the views and wishes and interests of the few men

living in that place, and against the clear and decided judgment of almost the whole body of Trustees residing elsewhere? Was it the Hanover concern that the community and the church were tied to, for better or for worse? Had that particular locality and the men living in it such prerogatives in the case, that the whole interest of College education under Presbyterian control in the State must be hopelessly sacrificed to them? If not, then, second, does any one suppose,—is it even pretended by any body,—that, with the conceptions which most of these men have of a College, and their little private pecuniary interests and personal feelings being connected in the way they were with the Hanover concern, there was the slightest probability that any representation that could possibly have been given of the impracticability of making a respectable College there, or of advantages to be gained by going elsewhere, would have persuaded *them* to consent to an abandonment of that particular spot? If not, third, would it have been more acceptable to these men, to have asked their advice and immediately to have acted contrary to it, (for to remain at Hanover was out of the question,) than to leave the matter, as was done, without consulting them, to the decision of the Board to whom it belonged?—But why not, at least, treat them with so much respect as to consult them? Why consult others and neglect them? Why even at the meeting of Dec. 8th not inform them of what had been spoken of elsewhere? The answer is very obvious. There was no disposition to treat the men at Hanover with any indignity. The case was simply this. At the time I visited and wrote to the trustees elsewhere, I did not know whether one of them would concur in my views, or consent to abandon Hanover. If they should, I did not know whether the project of a new institution elsewhere would meet with such encouragement as to give promise of success. If both these events concurred to favour it, and the enterprise was determined on, we wished to prevent agitation, to avoid the evils of uncertainty under which the old College had so long and severely suffered, and to carry our students in a body to the new institution: if either event failed, it was my purpose to withdraw from the College, and my desire to do this quietly, and in a way that it should suffer no injury from me. Hence the necessity of the *privacy* that has been complained of. This will explain my silence on the subject even at the meeting of Dec. 8th. At the time of that meeting I had not spoken of it to a man in Madison, except the Trustees.—Even after this, I broached the subject at first to a few men of principal influence, and to them in the first instance indirectly, to learn their sentiments on the general question of such an institution in their town. Now, if the matter had been made known to the Trustees at Hanover, would *they* have observed this privacy, while these inquiries were being made and the question was under consideration by the Trustees generally? Would they not

have immediately raised an open and violent opposition? And what would have been the effect on the College of this blowing of the matter? Was it not obviously the course of common sense to keep the matter private, while it was yet the subject of informal deliberation? Was there any thing improper in this course? It has been said, that *a wise man, even when his hand is full of truths, will often open only his little finger*. I suppose that it does not take a Solomon to know, that *there is a time to keep silence, and a time to speak*; nor that it is necessary to candour and frankness, that a man should always, on all occasions, and to all persons, without respect to circumstances, make a clear emptying of himself, of all he thinks and purposes, immediate and remote, unconditionally and contingently. As to the resolution of Dec. 8th, of which a handle has been made, every one will see that the appointment of the Committee which was its object, though a customary and convenient mode of bringing up business, was of no material consequence; that the whole business could just as well have been brought up directly without a committee, and hence that I could have had no motive to trifle with the Board, in moving them to make the appointment.

Such, Mr. Moderator, is a simple history of this affair. It thus appears that I was brought, under a misrepresentation of its condition and character, to an institution; whose own former President even in its palmy days would not trust it with his money which he wished to loan; which at the time of my appointment was insolvent, its debts exceeding by from \$7,000 to \$10,000 its property; whose pecuniary affairs, according to the testimony of its own Trustees which I have here read, was in a condition SO DESPERATE, that, in the Board, no long while before, *an abandonment of the whole concern had been proposed*, and my appointment was opposed, as being an imposition on me as a stranger, *inconsistent with integrity*, and that those who incurred the obligations involved in that appointment did so, as it is said, when *there seemed scarce a possibility* that these *could by any means* be fulfilled, and only *hoping for some Providential interposition*, (that is for a miracle,) to enable them to discharge these obligations. (See letters of Messrs. Simrall and Belville, p. 7):—that I was brought to an institution that sustained no such favourable relations to the public, and in respect to other colleges, as it was represented to me to sustain; an institution whose affairs were in the hands of some half-a-dozen “Home-Trustees,” as they have been by one of themselves ludicrously designated, who, acting whiles as “the Executive Committee,” and other whiles as “the Corporation,” displayed, in both capacities, their extraordinary fiscal abilities, in bringing its affairs, in a period of what was only an excessive fulness of money and business in the country, into the condition in which I found them; whose previous President was a strolling vagabond, without ei-

ther character or reputation, deposed for gross immoralities from the ministry; and the rest of its Faculty, — such as has been stated: — that I was brought to an institution, which, instead of being, as it was represented to me, “one of the most respectable Colleges of the West,” and “now manifestly rising,” held no such rank, and had no signs of “rising,” unless it were, that it had gone down to the lowest depths to which a college could go, and so, as it *could* go no farther down, *might* go up.

It appears that, brought thus, under misrepresentation, to an institution bankrupt alike in fortune and in character, if it had ever had any of either, during a term of five years, beside discharging, without any adequate means and under the greatest disadvantages, as is acknowledged in a reputable manner, the duties of my own office, I laboured by exertions and pecuniary sacrifices to the amount of near \$3,000, in no wise belonging to that office, to retrieve the affairs of this broken-down and “*desperate*” concern, and to build it up at Hanover: that, while those whose affectionate zeal on its behalf has flamed out only since that abandonment of it of which their own apathy was the chief cause, proposed nothing, executed nothing, for the most part gave nothing, did nothing in any way for its benefit, there were, in a period of unexampled prostration in the pecuniary affairs of the country, measures proposed and executed, by which the College was relieved of a ruinous debt contracted before my connexion with it; a subscription of \$12,000 toward its endowment was obtained; its Faculty was strengthened by the accession of a professor of talent and character; the number of the students was increased by about one-third; a favourable regard was drawn to the institution, on the part of many in whose nostrils it had been a stench; and that, the “*desperate*” affairs of this concern having been so far retrieved, an urgent appeal was made, — but made in vain, — to its professed friends now to come forward, in united and vigorous efforts to place it on such a footing as to make it a respectable and useful institution.

It appears that the causes of the abandonment of the College do not lie at my door; but are found chiefly in the utter failure of its professed friends, and specially of those who have since raised a clamor about its dissolution, to furnish the pecuniary means to make it such an institution as to attain the ends of a College.

Finally, it appears that, when it had become manifest that the attempt to make it such was a hopeless failure, I went first of all to the *Trustees of the College*, to whom exclusively the whole direction and disposal of it legally and of right belonged; laid before *them* my views of its condition and prospects; suggested the project of a new institution; and offering, if they did not concur in my views but thought the College ought to be continued at Hanover, quietly to withdraw and throw no obstacle in their way, I submitted the whole subject to *them* for their decis-

ion. The *dissolution* of the College, instead of a *withdrawal* from it, was decided on; because the preservation of the very existence of the College and all that was favourable in its condition and prospects were the fruits of the exertions of those who now felt obliged to give it up as a failure, and it was felt to be a duty not to lose to a new institution what had been gained by years of toil, and patience, and sacrifice; because in the measures that had been taken to retrieve the affairs of this bankrupt concern, other men had been induced by our influence to bind themselves to the payment of money, which it was felt it would be unjust to leave them held to pay to a concern such as Hanover must become, and had acquired rights which we felt bound, so far as it was in our power, to protect; and because we supposed that the College was in no such sense a private institution, as to preclude *its own legal governors* from disposing of it in such way as to promote the public benefit. The course taken was that which was demanded by every consideration of public duty, and of justice to all concerned. And I here challenge any man to put his finger upon an act of the Trustees, which was not what was fit and proper in the case, or on an act of mine, which was not in conformity with the strictest rule of propriety, and what was even required of me by my position in reference to the whole matter.

Such is the true history of the affair. And yet the representation has been made, that a valuable institution, one founded by the labours and prayers and tears of humble and unambitious men, and that has done so great good by reason of its humble and plain character, has been sacrificed by us,—and sacrificed to ambitious views of establishing *a great institution*, but which has not the religious and Presbyterian character that belonged to the College at Hanover,—is an institution of an altogether different kind, and can never accomplish the ends which the old one was designed to attain.

Mr. Moderator, I scarcely know how to treat discourse of this kind. I give to it this short answer. 1, *How valuable* the institution sacrificed was, as it came into our hands, judge you. 2, While I do not suppose that usually there is really the most of prayers and tears in a public cause, where there is the most of *talk* about these, yet God forbid that I should make light of the well-meant, however imperfect, labours, and much more of the payers and tears of honest, however humble men: but if these have resulted in an enterprise that has proved remedilessly and hopelessly abortive, why, there is an end of that matter. 3, Of the imputation of impure motives I have nothing to say. 4, As to the character of the institution dissolved in comparison with the new one established, it is difficult to us to see how an institution, which by the express terms of its charter, is established for the promotion of education and learning, “having a just relation to and including instruction in the religion of nature and of the Ho-

ly Scriptures," and is put, through the appointment of its Trustees, under the effective control of "the Synod of Indiana, in connexion with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S., commonly known and distinguished as the Old School Presbyterian Church," and whose whole existing Faculty are ministers and elders of that communion, is less a religious or even a Presbyterian institution, than is one, whose charter professed no such object, gave to no ecclesiastical body any such control, and whose former professors may be found in the ranks of the Campbellites and the Socinians. But, sir, if, as some men seem to think, *stolidity* and *meanness* be of the essence of *Christian humility*, and *shabbiness* be *godliness*, why, then you ought to reject the institution offered you: for, we have not been so taught, and have done our best to avoid all these things. As to the institution at Madison not being one of the same character with that lately at Hanover,—*it is true, Sir.* They are *not* of the same character. They were different in their inception, nature, aims; and they are in no wise, nor in any respect akin. Sir, the naked truth is, that there was for five years a struggle, to put a decent face upon, and at the same time to infuse a decent spirit into *that*, which was, from its inception to its dissolution,—*AB OVO USQUE AD MORTEM*,—natively, inherently, and essentially, of another nature. We failed in it. There are contrarieties that cannot be harmonized. Nature can't be forced.

If, Mr. Moderator, this expose be disagreeable to those whom it affects, I would say to them; Remember who is to blame for it. I surely had no disposition to proclaim these things. Ye have compelled me.

Before leaving this subject I wish to offer a word of explanation on a subject incidentally connected with it. The only instance in which, in this whole affair, I have departed from that silence which I thought best became me, is that of a note of mine in the Protestant and Herald of May 9th, animadverting on certain resolutions of the Presbyteries of Madison and Crawfordsville. This note has, I am told, been charged with *PERSONALITY* and excessive *SEVERITY*. Is it justly so chargeable?

First, With *PERSONALITY*? Remember the facts. 1, Uniformly, first and last, I have refused to be drawn into a *PERSONAL* controversy on the subject. For five months before, misrepresentation and calumny had been assiduously spread in different forms over the country. To this I made no reply. Precisely similar was my course, when subsequently an individual published over his own name a long attack on me in the Protestant and Herald. So long as these things were spread by private persons, either anonymously, or with no other claims to credit than belonged to their own proper names, I refused even so far to notice them, as

x Rev Dan Lattimore, then
of Ticonderoga - Ind.

Now the Herald, my Presbyterian.

to refute the gross charges made against me. But, 2, Certain men in these two Presbyteries, co-operating (whatever were their motives,) with the previous labourers in this worthy business, saw fit to assume the name and authority of these ECCLESIASTICAL BODIES, to convey; as was done, in one instance directly, and in the other, though obliquely not the less really, censure upon those by whose act the College had been dissolved. This presented a new case. The question arose to me; Ought I, my position in relation to the whole business being what it was, to be silent, and to allow the Trustees, myself, and the new institution we were endeavouring to establish, to suffer the injury which, with those who did not know their origin, these resolutions, ostensibly coming from ecclesiastical bodies, were adapted to produce? It seemed to me not. 3, To the attacks of these ECCLESIASTICAL KNIGHTS-ERRANT, who had undertaken the championship of the defunct "ewe-lamb," I made the following defence. I showed in the case of the Crawfordville men, that in proceeding to censure their absent brethren and post them in the newspapers, in relation to a matter wholly extra-presbyterial, and every way beyond their cognizance, they had acted, as appeared from the face of their own record, and as has since been publicly confessed by themselves, under an entire want of information concerning the material facts in the case; and I ventured the remark, that this did not evince that tender regard to reputation, that becomes men who themselves know the value of character, or expect their ecclesiastical judgments to have much weight. In the case of the Madison Resolution, I showed that it was really the act of two or three men, (*five* out of *eight* of the clerical members being either absent, or opposing it,) who had no peculiar qualifications *for the office of public censors* of other men in the matter of a literary institution under their charge. All that I have said of these men had relation to the single point of *their competency* for this *public office*, which they had seen fit to *publicly* assume and proclaim. I say not a word of them in any other respect. If then my animadversions were PERSONAL, they were so only QUO AD HOC,—that is, so far forth as PERSONAL qualifications must of necessity be considered, in estimating the *competency* of these men to the *public office* they had been pleased to go beyond their record to take upon them. Was it not my *right*, not to say my *duty*, under the circumstances to defend myself, those with whom I acted, and the institution under my charge, when thus attacked? If so, was the case susceptible of any other answer? Was any other possible?

Second, Undue SEVERITY? This is alleged especially in reference to the individual referred to as the mover of the Madison resolution. It would not be difficult to show, that, interpreted according to its subject-matter, (the *competency* of this person to the office of a censor of other men in respect to a literary institution, which he had gone out of his way as a presbyter to take

upon himself, and to the proper force of the terms employed as determined by this subject-matter,) the language of my note does not necessarily require the sense that has been put upon it. I do not however care to defend this language as what was best in the case. I now think that it would have better comported with what I owed to myself, as well as to others, to have preserved in this instance the same silence, which I have maintained in respect to those who have satisfied themselves with attacking me, either anonymously, or with only the claim to consideration that belongs to their own proper names. Since then my note has given offence, which I have no desire to perpetuate, and especially since I desire to put myself right in the only instance in which in this whole affair, I am conscious to myself that I may have erred, I now *withdraw* the whole note, and wish to place myself in the position in which I would have been, if I had been *silent* from the beginning.

Upon the main subject of this communication, Mr. Moderator, I have very little to say. It has been our aim to lay the foundations of an efficient and respectable institution of learning, which shall afford the means of sound and thorough education, having, in the language of the charter, a just relation to, and including instruction in true religion,—an institution intended to subserve the great interests of truth and godliness, one such as should be worthy of the Presbyterian name, and as ought to satisfy the Presbyterian Church. We have a charter, which has been pronounced by the highest legal authority to be the best of any similar institution in the State, granting the powers of a University, ample, and liberal in their provisions; under which we and those who come after us, may build up just as great an institution, as we and they may find the ability and the means to create. The papers communicated to you inform you what has thus far been done, and what is proposed for the future. A beginning has been made.—We do not expect to accomplish all necessary to make an institution such as we desire that this should become, in a day, nor in a year, nor in our life-time. Our aim has been to project an institution on a liberal scale, and, so far as we are able, to execute what we execute in a liberal spirit,—to lay the foundations of what those who shall come after us shall make a great institution, shedding its blessings upon the community, the church of God, the country, the world, long after we shall have ceased from our labours. The charter provides that this Synod shall have power to appoint one-half of the Trustees, thus offering to you an effective control over the institution, and giving to you the power to make it what you will, and to wield it, in all time to come, as an instrument for the service of Him to whose glory it was, at its very organization, dedicated by solemn prayer.

From the circumstances under which this communication is made, I think it proper to say, that, in offering this overture to you, we desire not to be misunderstood. I have then to say to you, with perfect respect, that we do not come *as supplicants* to your doors, to implore you to lift upon us the light of your countenance and grant us your "patronage." Patronage, patronize, patron.—Johnson, in his great English Dictionary, I think, defines a *patron* to be a "wretch who protects with insolence and is paid with flattery." A *client*, then I suppose is a wretch who is protected with insolence and is expected to pay with servile fawning. Sir, we cannot do it. "*Patron*," "*patronise*," "*patronage*"—they are words that belong to barbarism and servitude. They ought to be banished forever from the vocabulary of freemen. For myself I have paid court to no man for his suffrage in this case. I have sought the vote of no man. I have spoken or written on the subject, to no member of the Synod, save the few who had first spoken or written to me—not amounting, I believe, to more than five or six in all. No, sir, we come not as supplicants seeking *patrons*. We come as Christian freemen to you, and say to you, that if, as our brethren, and fellow-servants with us of Him whom alone we call Master, you will unite with us in this enterprise, we will be glad of your company, and your co-operation. If not, we must go on as we best can without you. We hope even in that case to succeed. We may be disappointed.—This community may fail to sustain us. It may be that the time is not yet come for establishing in Indiana an institution of learning, on a broad foundation, and building it up on manly and liberal principles. If so, we will submit, and leave to the times to come, in what has been attempted, a memorial of the fact, that, even in these times, there were a few men whose hearts conceived what, from the unpropitiousness of the circumstances by which they were surrounded, their hands were unable to execute. Yes Sir, we will submit. For myself, I will submit without a murmur.—Indiana may REPUDIATE me, for having desired, and in conjunction with others attempted, to found such an institution as we aim to make this one. In that case, however I may regret the cause, I shall not deplore the event. No Sir. I will adopt the language which the Roman Orator put into the lips of his client, Titus Annius Milo, (though I disclaim the character and principles of that client,) and will say, *Ego cedam atque abibo. Si mihi republica bona frui non licuerit, at carebo mala. Et quamprimum tetigero BENE MORATAM et liberam civitatem, in ea requiescam.*

POSTSCRIPT.

At the close of the foregoing remarks a member of the Synod rose and attempted a reply. He professed not to be able to go over the whole ground which had been traversed; but laid hold upon such parts of the subject as he supposed he could turn to his own purposes. Mr. Mac Master rejoined. He repeated, that it was not his intention to make any plea for the acceptance of the trust offered to the Synod, nor to offer any argument to induce the Synod thereto. But he felt called on, he said, to correct some misrepresentations that had been made, and to remove misapprehensions that might exist, in relation to certain matters of fact that had been called in question. He was unwilling to occupy the time and weary the patience of the Synod, in going into a minute narration of all the details of this business. He felt a difficulty in descending to such details. Indeed, there were some parts of these, that were of such a sort, that he felt a strong repugnance, though he knew the necessity of their exposure, to his own perfect vindication, to become the narrator of them. If, however, he said, as he proceeded to correct the misrepresentations which had been made, on the only points on which this appeared to himself necessary, there were any other points, on which the mind of any member of the Synod laboured, or light was desired, he was ready to give the requisite explanation. And, strongly asserting that there had not been throughout the whole business an act of his which would not bear the light of day and the severest inquiry, he offered himself to a course of cross-questioning, and urgently courted the most searching scrutiny of his whole conduct in the affair. This course of cross-questioning, in connexion with his rejoinder, was accepted by those members of the Synod, who were especially displeased with the dissolution of the College, and was pursued by them with an eager avidity, so long as they could see what seemed to be so much as a shadow of any error, or improper act, on his part, upon which they supposed they could lay hold; and, with a view to bring out the truth, was pushed by the friends of that measure, long after its opponents, finding the revelations which this process was making and the impression it was producing, were heartily sick of it, and had become clamorous that an end should be put to it.

The explanations on matters of fact brought out in the course of this rejoinder and cross-questioning, so far as this is deemed essential to the understanding of the case, are given in the foregoing notes. Of other developments the writer of this note cannot persuade himself to become the historian. Of the scene during and at the close of this rejoinder and the accompanying cross-questioning, no adequate representation will ever be given to those

who were not present. A long series of little details, in the aggregate making up a *case*, cannot be written; and there are *looks* of men that cannot be represented by types or pen.

A resolution having been moved that the Synod accept the trust offered them and appoint Trustees; the question was by ayes (19) and noes (26) decided in the negative. On this decision three remarks may be made.

1, It settled nothing as to the real mind of *the Synod* on the question. The whole number of ministers belonging to the Synod is 49—Voting against the resolution 18. The whole number of elders, according to the Statistical Tables, entitled to seats in Synod is 91—Voting against the resolution 8. Total, if the Synod were full, 140. Total voting in the negative, 26. But deduct 40, on account of the small vacant churches that, if they had a settled ministry, would be embraced in united charges, and so diminish the ratio of the eldership entitled to seats in Synod, and there will remain, Total, if the Synod were full, 100—Total voting against the resolution 26. What the result would have been, if the Synod had been full, is not known. Beside, the attendance being what it was, a different result *could* have been had, if it had been thought worth the while to use the means.

2, A previous knowledge of the influences under which many members of the Synod came together and the majority acted, precluded surprise at the result. For nine months calumnious misrepresentations in respect to the dissolution of the College at Hanover, and especially to the agency of Mr. Mac Master in the affair, had been assiduously spread over the country. Neither Mr. M. nor his friends could notice these calumnies. This was known, and seemed to embolden these vilifiers of character in their work. Many members of the Synod, including some who ultimately voted with the majority, declared in the course of the debate, that their minds had been ABUSED by what they now found to be misrepresentation, and that they had come to the Synod prepossessed against the whole movement, and against Mr. M. in particular. As *specimens* of the means employed for this purpose, two instances that came out in the Synod may be mentioned. The following extract of a letter addressed to Mr. M., in April, by a gentleman of Cincinnati, was read.

"DEAR SIR: I am induced to address you, from my attention having been directed to certain letters received in this city. These letters are addressed to — — —, — — —, — — —, — — —, and others of this place, and I understand similar ones have been sent to all the old and influential students of Hanover College.— These letters are written by — — —, and are well calculated to mislead. The matter contained in them *all* tends very much to excite ill will toward you. *Many of 'the facts,' as he calls them, I know to be untrue.* He winds up his letters requesting, 'that all students may be warned against going to Madison.' I am aware that — — cannot effect much with those who *know* him; but there are many that do *not*;—and then he has managed so as to give the names of — — —, &c. as subscribing to his 'statement of facts.' I thought it might be of some service to give you this information."

The other instance is this. It will be recollected, that an attempt was made to represent, that it was no part of the original design to give to the holders of scholarships in the old College, similar scholarships in the new, and to create a prejudice against the Madison enterprise and especially against Mr. M., on account of alleged injustice in this case to these persons. (See note *e.* p. 21.) While this point was under inquiry, two clerical members rose in their places and made the following statement: That another person, (one of the twenty-six,) had, while labouring to impress on them this view of the subject, read to them A PART of a letter of Mr. Mac Master, (giving it to them as the whole,) written last winter to one of the holders of these scholarships, (which letter this person seemed to have procured and to be carrying about with him for this purpose,) which part TAKEN ALONE was adapted to produce the impression he was seeking to make, and had SUPPRESSED a subsequent part of the same letter, which explicitly and fully declared, that it had been the intention of the Trustees, from the beginning, to grant to the holders of these scholarships similar ones in the new institution. Another prominent member of the Synod subsequently said, that HE HAD HEARD FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS OF THAT LETTER BEING USED AGAINST MR. MAC MASTER. The name of the individual implicated, as of every other person whose conduct is unfavorably animadverted on in the forgoing speech and notes, is suppressed, as there is no wish, even in self defence, to do him harm. Those present at the Synod know the parties; if THE FACT be denied by the party implicated, the names of the gentlemen who exposed him will be given. Such is a specimen of the means employed to procure the decision given by the majority. The members of that majority know OF WHAT SORT were the appeals urged, before the Synod assembled and during its sessions, in the house and out of it. They know (at least it is decorous towards them to presume that they know,) whether these were SUCH as ought to rule the conduct of gentlemen, of scholars, and christian ministers,—of intelligent, conscientious and high-minded men, acting in reference to a great public interest. The subject is left to their reflections.

3, The decision, (whatever may be said of the causes producing it,) IS NO CAUSE OF REGRET. Why should it be? Do but consider the case. Of the twenty-six Synodics, whose decision it was, near, if not quite, one half were either the Alumni of "the ewe lamb," or those whom in one way or another she had nourished, gathered to behold the cruel wounds of their slain ALMA MATER. What more reasonable than that, under the stirring call of Antony, "Romans, if you have tears, prepare to shed them now," there should be stirred in their breasts resentment against the wicked Agnacidēs? Then, there were the men, in whose eyes the very SHADE of "the ewe-lamb" was of such estimation, that they had thought a formal, solemn, ecclesiastical commenda-

tion of it, months after the thing itself had ceased to be not unfitting their sense of its worth. How much more valuable the very body and substance of the creature? Then, there were the men to whom it is NATURAL to sit in the wind, till they see which way it blows, and to go with it. Now, according to the philosophy of one of the old schools, *virtue* consists in acting according to nature, and ought not these men to act ACCORDING TO THEIR NATURE, and so to act VIRTUOUSLY? Again, there were the men who voted they knew not why; and sure *they* were not to blame for that. But, finally, the whole twenty-six have united in saying, that they rejected the trust in the institution at Madison, "because it has been established, so far as it is established, by the sacrifice of another valuable institution." Very well. Value is a relative idea. The twenty-six have pronounced that relatively to them, their views, and desires, the concern at Hanover was "a valuable institution," that ought not to have been sacrificed, and it would not become others to call in question their judgment in the case. There are doubtless correspondencies and fitnesses of persons and things, that ought not to be disregarded. According to the fine remark of an old writer, "The Author of nature has set one thing over against another." The twenty-six had better try and reanimate "the ewe lamb" and get it on its legs again, or make another of the same sort, if that be, IN RERUM NATURA, possible. As this latter point is doubtful, they had better get up the old one. Nothing like it.

*Qui simul aspexit, quantum dimissa petitis
Præsent; nature redeat, repetatque relicta.
Metiri se quemque suo modulo ac pede, verum est.*

The decision is of little importance to the institution at Madison. If it could have succeeded *with* the aid of these twenty-six Synodics, it can succeed *without*. If it fails, there will nevertheless be a College at Madison. Whatever these men may think, it remains true, that of all places in South Indiana, this town is, from the position and natural advantages of the locality, *the place* for a College. Let this institution fail, and ROME—mark the word,—will plant a College *at this place*; and those by whose means the present institution fails, may, (with the comfortable reflection that the ground *was* pre-occupied and *might* have been retained by them,) sit down under the shadow of THAT PLANTING, and eat ITS pleasant fruits.

So far as the decision may be supposed to affect Mr. Mac Master personally, he hopes to be able to maintain a good degree of equanimity under it. Mr. M. suffered no disappointment at the Synod. Feeling that, along with disadvantages of a very serious and grave character, to which none but those of the narrowest views can be blind, there are also important advantages in the plan of Colleges connected with and under the control of ecclesi-

astical bodies of particular denominations, he was desirous that a course should be taken, to gain the advantages and avoid so far as possible the disadvantages. A curse of good education in the West, and which is *one* of the evils promoted by the plan of denominational Colleges, is the existence of a multitude of little wretched shools, which are called Colleges, but are not. Mr. M's. plan was to project a University on a liberal scale, in the hope that to it there might be drawn the support of the whole old Presbyterian interest, between the Scioto and the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Lakes, thus making for this great and fine and free region, *one great Presbyterian institution*, to be a strong place of munition in the battles of that great moral warfare in defence of all that is valuable to man and to the kingdom of God, of which this land is to be the field, and to which it is evident we are speedily approaching. But Mr. M. was satisfied, before the meeting of the Synod, that the time for establishing in this State, such an institution of learning as was desired, unless it should be forced up by means brought from without, had been anticipated by himself and those intelligent and highly respectable gentlemen with whom he acted, and whom he will ever feel a pride in numbering among his most valued and respected friends. The undertaking was, indeed, a last venture in a series of efforts to establish a respectable institution; and was decided on, not without some foresight of how the probabilities on the question of success stood. It is often difficult to decide beforehand on the line of conduct which duty requires. Possibly there are some who may think, that, in view of the whole existing condition of things, it would have been wiser to have withdrawn from the concern at Hanover, and left it to exist. It may be so. There are many persons humbler than Cato, to whom, and many things of less note than the fortunes of Rome, in reference to which, the spirit of Cicero's remark is applicable;—"Optime sentit, sed nocet interdum reipublicæ: loquitur enim tanquam in republica Platonis, non tanquam in fæce Romuli." Mr. M. obtained at the Synod all which he expected; an opportunity to acquit himself of his own duty, in offering to them the overture which was made;—and one of which he could, without a feeling of self-degradation, avail himself, to vindicate his own conduct and that of the gentlemen with whom he has acted, by a clear and full expose of the whole case. Having done this, he will decline, as he has hitherto done, to enter into any personal controversy on the subject, replying neither to any misrepresentation of facts, nor to personal abuse of himself, from the quarters from which these may come. He is now done with the affair forever.

October, 1844.

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