

Northern Kentucky Views Presents

First Annual Report
of the
Western Baptist Theological Institute
of Covington, Kentucky



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INTRODUCTION.

As within the last year no inconsiderable solicitude has been manifested by our brethren, and by the friends of the Baptist denomination, and of Theological Education generally, to learn the particulars of the origin, progress, existing condition and prospects of this Institution: and as several notices, containing a partial statement of facts, have found their way into the periodical journals, the Trustees have judged that the time has arrived, when it is expedient to present to the public a brief statement of the leading facts in the history of this important enterprize, and, as it is the first occasion on which the Trustees have spoken on the subject, they have deemed it proper to give to the statement the form of a *First Annual Report*.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

It will be recollected by many of our brethren that a General Convention of Western Baptists was organized at Cincinnati, in the month of November, 1833. At that meeting a constitution was adopted, among the provisions of which, it was stipulated that at each annual meeting, committees should be appointed to prepare reports on such subjects as might be deemed expedient; among the most prominent of which was MINISTERIAL EDUCATION. In accordance with this provision of the constitution, a committee of five brethren was appointed, to prepare a report on this subject, including an inquiry respecting A CENTRAL THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION. This committee consisted of S. M. NOEL, J. M. PECK, S. W. LYND, E. FISHER and E. ROBINS, who, the following year, presented an able report, prepared by JOHN M PECK, several extracts from which we have appended to the present report, as illustrative of the views of the founders of the Institution, (See Appendix, note A,) which views are in entire harmony with those which this Institution is designed to perpetuate. At the close of the report of that Committee, the adoption of the two following resolutions was recommended, viz:

1. *Resolved*, That a Baptist Theological Institution of the character contemplated in the above report, ought to be established at some eligible point in the Western country.

2. *Resolved*, That this committee be discharged, and that the subject of location, with any further measures it may be thought proper to adopt in relation to such an establishment, be referred to a select committee, consisting of the following brethren: J. L. HOLMAN, E. ROBINS, J. M. PECK, JNO. PRATT, J. S. WILLSON, CAVE JOHNSON, H. MALCOM, GEO. MATTHEWS, G. C. SEDWICK, J. E. WELCH, S. W. LYND, P. S. GAYLE, THOS. P. GREEN, THOS.

P. JONES, C. VANBUSKIRK, J. GOING, R. E. PATTISON, E. DODSON, and U. B. CHAMBERS. This committee, after mature deliberation, reported in favor of a central Theological Institution for the great Western Valley, and likewise recommended the immediate formation of a Western Baptist Education Society. Whereupon the following resolutions were adopted by the Convention:

1. *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Convention, the wants of the valley of the Mississippi require that there should be established an Institution intended solely for the education of those whom the churches shall approve as called of God to preach the gospel.

2. *Resolved*, That it is expedient that a Western Baptist Education Society be now formed.

The same day, (November 10th,) during a recess of the Convention, "THE WESTERN BAPTIST EDUCATION SOCIETY" was organized, and a constitution adopted, which provided for the appointment, by the society, of a board of directors, consisting of two members from each Western State, and one from each Territory, whose duty it was made "immediately after their election annually," to "make choice of an Executive Committee of twelve members," who should "have the entire management of the pecuniary affairs of the society," and who should "judge of the qualifications of applicants for patronage"—they were, moreover, authorized to "take measures for the establishment of the Theological Institution" contemplated in the resolution, as described above, and "if such measures proved successful," they had power to "determine the location, character and general principles of the Institution, to appoint its first Trustees and Instructors, and to fix the tenure of their offices."

Of the original members selected by the directors as the Executive Committee, six only resided in Cincinnati and its immediate vicinity, viz: S. W. LYND, E. ROBINS, N. S. JOHNSON, J. STEVENS, J. COLBY, and J. B. COOK; the others were located at a distance, in the different Western States. The six resident members, after spending five or six months in the examination (both personally and through their agent, EZRA GOING,) of various sites in the vicinity of Cincinnati, fixed at length upon a tract of land in the rear of the city of Covington, Ky., as the most desirable location, and in the spring of 1835 they purchased, on their

own responsibility, three several tracts of land adjoining each other, delightfully situated about three-fourths of a mile from the Ohio river, on elevated ground, overlooking the city of Cincinnati; the whole containing about 370 acres, for the sum of \$33,250, (for the particulars of which, see Appendix, note B.)

An interesting reference to the existing and prospective population of the Mississippi Valley, and to the importance of a central Theological Institution for the Baptist denomination, and the advantages of Covington as a centre of influence, was furnished in the First Annual Report of the Western Baptist Education Society, shortly after the purchases were made; an extract from which Report, with some modifications, is given in the Appendix. (See note C.)

The Executive Committee having completed these purchases, in order to provide for the payments, which early fell due, succeeded in the summer of 1835 in effecting a sale of 90 acres of the land, (less three acres, reserved for a church and a high school,) for the sum of \$22,500, of which amount they received within twelve months \$10,000, in cash: and the remaining sum of 12,500 has since, with the exception of a few hundred dollars, been realized.

From the date of these purchases, in 1835, until the spring of 1838, embracing a period of nearly three years, although the Committee held regular monthly meetings, yet, from a variety of causes, which it is not now necessary to detail, but little was attempted beyond renting the land from year to year for farming purposes.

During the year 1838, the Executive Committee perceiving that the undertaking would prove disastrous, unless immediate measures were taken to extricate it from the embarrassments which threatened it, committed the enterprize to the management of an energetic superintendent, who proceeded forthwith to the adoption of preliminary measures: and early in the following year presented a plan, which was unanimously adopted, for laying out the whole property in town lots, reserving an oblong square of 12 acres, beautifully situated upon the highest ground in the tract, as the site for the public buildings.

Immediately after the property was thus laid out, a regular system of public improvements was commenced, by neatly

enclosing and grading the public square; grading the streets; commencing the erection of the public buildings, and enclosing and laying out an extensive Rural Cemetery, with other improvements.

The activity thus manifested, gave an earnest of the determination of the Executive Committee to prosecute the enterprize with energy and perseverance, and the purchasers of lots were thereby encouraged to commence building and improving their property; and thus, from that period, the public and private improvements have been steadily advancing. So that within three years, extending up to the present time, about one hundred and fifty buildings have been erected within two squares of the public grounds.

In the autumn of 1839, the Executive Committee having already in conformity with the power granted by the constitution of the Western Baptist Education Society, "taken measures," as we have seen, "for the establishment of a Theological Institution," and having witnessed the "success of such measures," and "determined the location, character and general principles of the Institution," proceeded "to appoint its first trustees, and to fix the tenure of their offices," in accordance with the constitution of the society, and in the winter of 1839-40, the trustees applied for, and obtained, a liberal charter from the Legislature of Kentucky, under the style of "the WESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, of Covington, Kentucky," under which charter the Trustees forthwith organized themselves into a Board, and immediately afterwards, the entire property held in trust by the Western Baptist Education Society, together with all its liabilities and obligations, were legally conveyed and transferred to the Trustees of the Western Baptist Theological Institute.

The public square has been laid out with symmetry and taste, and embellished with a great variety of forest trees, evergreens, and shrubbery. One of the principal theological buildings has been erected; an elegant brick structure, four stories high, exclusive of the basement, surmounted by a balustrade or observatory, commanding one of the most extensive and beautiful panoramas which can be presented in this or any other country, embracing in its circuit the cities of Cincinnati, Covington and Newport, with the beautiful Ohio gliding majestically between them, and

bursting upon the sight at either extreme of the landscape; the whole scene relieved in the back ground by lofty hills and dark woodlands. This edifice is 120 feet long and 46 in width. Its internal arrangements are exceedingly neat and convenient, and will accommodate about 100 students. Its aspect is very commanding and beautiful as seen from any point, but especially from the opposite city of Cincinnati. Neatness, strength and durability have been consulted throughout, in its construction.

The Pavilion or Mansion House, at the west end of the public square, presents a beautiful front of 82 feet, including wings, embosomed in a grove of forest trees, and from the colonade in its rear, overlooks the entire public grounds.

A very interesting and valuable appendage to the property of the Institute, is the LINDEN GROVE CEMETERY, located one-fourth of a mile from the public square, at the extreme south-western limit of the whole tract, and in the midst of the richest and most romantic scenery. It was laid out and enclosed in 1841.

The gardener's lodge, a neat brick edifice, commands the entrance to the Cemetery, and near the centre of the grounds stands the public or receiving vault, for the temporary deposit of bodies. The tract now appropriated to this use, contains about 22 acres, and presents sufficient variety of surface to furnish appropriate sites for private vaults and tombs, as well as numerous lots for families. The whole area has been tastefully laid out and embellished with forest trees, evergreens and shrubbery, skirting its various paths and avenues. It is intended to continue these improvements from year to year, and, when necessary, to add to the ground a beautiful tract adjoining, of about 30 acres, principally of woodland, owned by the Institute; so that for extent, beauty of location and general attractiveness, it shall be unrivalled by any cemetery in the Western country.

It has already been stated, that in the summer of 1835, a sale was effected of 90 acres of the land of the Institute, at \$22,500, since which there has been realized, from public and private sales made from year to year, \$39,500, making an aggregate of \$62,000, which has been appropriated as follows, viz: In payment of original purchase money and interest \$23,000; in the erection of the theological edifice about \$25,000; of the Pavilion \$7,500; in enclosing and grading the public square and the Cemetery; in the

erection of the gardener's lodge, the public vault, and improvements of the ground, and in opening and grading two miles of the streets intersecting the property in various directions, \$6,500. It is proper to say, that a very large amount of the entire sales was not available in money, but was by contract made payable in labor, and materials for the buildings; grading the streets, public grounds, and other valuable improvements; otherwise the whole, or nearly so, of the balance now due on original purchase money, would probably ere this have been paid.

The present indebtedness of the Institute is as follows, viz:

1. *On original purchase money, viz:*

U. S. Bank Agency	\$3,200
Heirs of Robert Kyle, viz:	
to Jos. Rich	\$2,000
to H. Dixon	3,000
	<u>5,000</u>
	<u>\$8,200</u>

2. *On money loaned, viz:*

Of Jona. Batcheller, principal	\$5,000
Balance of interest thereon to January, 1843,	1,500
	<u>6,500</u>
Of R. Willard, J. Stevens and others,	4,700
	<u>11,200</u>

3. *On labor and materials for building:*

Balances due to sundry persons,	2,500
	<u>\$21,900</u>

Deduct debts due to the Institute, 4,900

Balance of indebtedness of the Institute, \$17,000

To meet this indebtedness, the Institute has property as follows, viz:

700 town lots, averaging, at a moderate estimate, \$100 each,	\$70,000
40 choice lots, adjoining Theological Square, \$400 each,	16,000
14 acres hill woodland, at \$70 per acre, say	1,000
1600 lots in Cemetery, averaging \$15 each,	24,000
	<u>\$111,000</u>

Amount brought forward,	\$111,000
From which deduct the above balance of debt,	17,000
	—————
Leaving an excess of	\$94,000
for the endowment of Professorships, purchase of Library, and erection of other public buildings.	
Add value of public buildings now erected, viz :	
Principal building,	\$25,000
Pavilion or Mansion House,	7,500
	—————
	32,500
	—————
	\$126,500

From the foregoing statement, the inquiry may very naturally be suggested, why has the opening of the Institution been delayed, and any part of its indebtedness suffered to remain while such an amount has been expended in laying out, grading and embellishing the grounds, opening streets, and other improvements. To this it may be replied, that it early became the fixed determination of the Trustees, (and all their measures have been shaped to conform thereto,) to adopt such a policy as should apply the proceeds of the cash sales of lots to the reduction of the debt to the greatest possible extent ; and thus extinguish, at the earliest period, every claim against the Institute. *They clearly foresaw, however, that this could not be effected, but by adopting simultaneously, and strenuously pursuing, a prudent, but at the same time an active and resolute system of public improvements.* Hence the opening of the several streets—the enclosing of the Theological Square—the erection, first, of the Pavilion or Mansion house, and subsequently of one of the main theological buildings—the enclosing and laying out of the Rural Cemetery—the erection therein of the public vault, and the gardener's lodge—the opening of public avenues and walks, both in the Theological Square and in the Cemetery, and adorning each with ornamental trees and shrubbery,—all these have been clearly indispensable to the success of the whole operation ; for without the full demonstration furnished by these important and permanent improvements, steadily pursued from year to year, the sales of town lots could never have been made, and the numerous buildings thereon would not have been erected, and the whole enterprise would have proved

ultimately, like too many others, a splendid and disastrous failure.

To meet the pressing responsibilities of the Trustees, there will be required *immediately*, the sum of \$5,000, and during the year 1844, the further sum of \$5,000, to be applied as follows, viz:

To extinguish the balance of the debt to the United States Bank,	\$3,200
To extinguish one-half of the balance of the debt to the heirs of the late Robert Kyle, deceased,	2,500
To pay the balance of the interest now due to Jonathan Bacheller, Esq.	1,500
To pay money borrowed of sundry individuals, and for outstanding debts due for materials and labor,	2,800
	\$10,000

The amount of aid thus timely afforded, will effectually relieve the property of the Institute from all embarrassment. The remaining balance of debt (\$7,000) can, without difficulty, be deferred, and paid from the proceeds of sales of property at good prices; but unless aid is soon afforded through the liberality of our brethren and friends, to meet the claims as above stated, the Trustees will be compelled to make sales at very heavy sacrifices, of an important part of the valuable property still held by them, and thus essentially diminish the means which they have hitherto relied upon for carrying out their original plan; and thereby, in a great degree, the design of the Institution will be, at least, retarded, if not defeated. But if the aid now asked is afforded, the Trustees will be able to retain this property still in possession until sales can be advantageously made, from time to time, and thus the ardent anticipations of all its friends will be fully realized.

In addition to the amount required for this purpose the Trustees present the claims of this Institution *for the endowment of professorships and for a theological library*. It is proposed to commence the Institute upon a foundation of three professorships of \$15,000 each. The number may be hereafter increased to five or more. It is intended that the library shall be an extensive one, and it will require a separate fund of from five to ten thousand dollars at the commencement. For both these objects the Trustees appeal on the present occasion to their brethren, and to the

friends of theological education generally throughout the country.

The Trustees have delayed, from year to year, this *first appeal* to the liberality of the churches, and to the friends of education at large, in behalf of this enterprise, in the hope that they might be able *themselves*, from the proceeds of the current sales of property, to prosecute the enterprise to its successful close, without extraneous aid; and this would unquestionably have been accomplished, had not the well known, unexpected and unprecedented pecuniary embarrassments of the country interposed. During these embarrassments, however, they have by no means been disheartened, but have continued steadily to prosecute the work, by making contracts for labor and materials, payable in building lots at fair market prices; and in this manner the necessity of money contracts has been, to a great extent, avoided.

The inquiry has frequently been made, "How soon will the Institution go into operation?" The Trustees deeply regret that there should be any further delay in making a commencement; but depending entirely, as such an institution must, upon its endowments for its income, (since tuition is in all cases to be gratuitous,) it will be readily seen, that a commencement cannot be made with any prospect of permanency, until such an income shall have been secured.

The Trustees have, from the first, determined to avoid the reproach into which so many similar efforts have fallen, of commencing the Institute with feeble and contingent resources, and after an inefficient and spasmodic existence of a few months or years, being subjected to the mortifying necessity of a partial suspension of the object, or of its entire abandonment.

The details in the foregoing pages, will furnish data, from which to judge of the probable period when a favorable commencement can be made. On this point it will be sufficient to say, that it will greatly depend,

First, upon the liberal dispositions with which the churches and our more wealthy brethren respond to this appeal. Or should the benefactions of our brethren, in addition to furnishing the relief from existing indebtedness, which we ask, fail of making the permanent endowments, necessary for a favorable commencement, then it will depend,

Secondly, upon the improvement of the financial affairs of the

country, so far as to enable the Trustees to dispose of, or lease building lots at a fair value, and thus furnish the requisite endowments. It will at once be seen, that if the Trustees are compelled to rely upon the latter alternative, several years longer must inevitably elapse before the seminary can go into operation. The Trustees, however, indulge the ardent hope, that the liberality of the friends of ministerial education will interpose, and that means will be thus afforded for the early and successful commencement of the theological school.

It may be proper here to state, that in the prosecution of this enterprise thus far, the Trustees have never sought assistance, nor have they received any pecuniary aid whatever, by contributions or donations from their brethren; but have made all their payments, and carried forward all the improvements thus far, entirely from resources drawn from the sales of the property originally purchased. (See Appendix, note D.)

The Trustees, however, acknowledge their obligations to several individuals, who nobly came forward at the commencement of the undertaking, to sustain it by loans of money at simple interest. (See Appendix, note E.) They have, however, obtained no money on loans from any banking or monied institution whatever.

They will also add, that from the commencement of the undertaking to the present time, not a dollar has been received by any individual of the Trustees for any services they have rendered; nor has any loan or payment of money been made to them, or either of them, notwithstanding their labors have occupied no ordinary portion of their time, and have been connected with a very heavy amount of pecuniary responsibility. (See Appendix, note F.)

The Trustees have thus presented a plain statement of facts for the consideration of the churches and of their brethren generally. They have indeed greatly mistaken the importance of this cause, if the interests which cluster around it, and the claims which it urges, are second to any other of the various benevolent enterprises, which have enlisted the prayers, and appealed to the sympathies, and solicited the benefactions of the denomination.

By a reference to note C, in the Appendix, the magnitude and importance of our enterprise will strike every reflecting mind.

The ultimate destiny of the United States is inevitably associated with the future condition of the Western Valley. The interests of the north and south are centered here; and the exertions which these portions of our country have, for several years past, been making, through moral and religious influence, sufficiently indicate their sense of the immense importance of the west, to the country and to the world. Our brethren east and south, have more at stake in the institutions of the Valley, than they have in their own institutions. It must be apparent to all persons of ordinary foresight, that the pastors and evangelists of the western churches must, to a very great extent, originate among themselves, and receive their education in the west; and that even those in the east who desire to pursue a course of instruction, with a view to settlement in the valley, will find it essential to their highest success to acquire their theological knowledge, and their general training, in this field.

We ask the solemn and prayerful attention of our brethren in all parts of the United States to these points, and earnestly hope that their reflections will lead to corresponding action in aiding to mould the infant, but giant-like growth of the Western Valley. Especially would we appeal to our brethren to whom the Lord has committed property, to take this enterprize into serious consideration, and before they depart hence to their high and eternal reward, to dispose of that property so as to make it, through the gospel which it may be the means of dispensing, a sweet savor of life unto life to descending generations.

Finally, the Trustees desire to record, with sentiments of devout gratitude, the manifestations of Divine goodness which have been so apparent throughout this undertaking, and they entertain the firm persuasion that to this interposition they are indebted for the signal success which has hitherto crowned their labors.

They commenced the arduous undertaking, and have prosecuted it steadily from year to year, in the full confidence of its ultimate success; they have exulted in the bright anticipation that by persevering exertions this institution, situated in the centre of the Mississippi Valley, sustained by the whole weight of the denomination, and so accessible from the East, from the West, from the North and from the South, would hereafter prove an invaluable legacy to the churches, that when their toils

on earth shall have ceased, others would enter with all their hearts into their labors and cherish with more intense solicitude than they have done, these sacred interests, and that under their auspices this institution will become "a radiatory point of grace and truth," whose increasing splendors ascending up on high will shed its glories afar over the Western churches from age to age, penetrating, enlightening and cheering the moral wastes of this great Valley, and extending its holy influence to other and distant lands.

APPENDIX.

NOTE A.

Extracts from the Report on Ministerial Education.

“NOT a few worthy brethren, from a mistaken notion of the nature and design of proper ministerial education, conceive that if God converts and calls a man to labor in the gospel field, who is already a man of study and reading, he may go forward in the work; but if he calls an illiterate and uninformed man, no measures must be adopted to instruct him, but he must at once enter into the gospel field, depending alone on the Spirit of God, irrespective of all appropriate means of instruction. * * * *

* * Let it then be known, that in advocating ministerial education, we mean the cultivation of such ministerial talent as may be found in such men as the providence and Spirit of God and the voice of the church designate for the purpose. Let our brethren, then, make the proper distinction between educating men *for the ministry*, and educating in a *Scriptural manner*, such men only as God calls, and the churches approve or license, for the ministry—in a word, ministerial, and not ordinary education. * * * *

“It is the revelation that God has given in the Scriptures, and not another revelation received by the speaker, that must be preached. The gospel is a complicated subject. It is made up of a great variety of principles, facts, duties and promises. To every man who would understand a complicated subject, and instruct his hearers therein, comprehensive views, clear discernment, and the art of arranging his thoughts with skill and propriety, are indispensable.

“These attainments are to be had by laborious study, exact discrimination, and the habits of classifying ideas. Every preacher of the gospel should have a well digested system of doctrine, derived from a close study of the sacred Scriptures. * * * *

“In all ages and countries, God has called to the work of the ministry men of various talents, and in his providence has provided means for various degrees of mental cultivation and improvement, to qualify his ser-

wants for the stations they are destined to occupy. But upon every grade he has enjoined, in express terms, the duty of reading, meditation and study.

“The principal object of study to the preacher is the word of God; hence it is needful that he should become acquainted with ancient history, so far as connected with the Scriptures. He should have some correct knowledge of the ancient customs, to which frequent allusion is made in the Scriptures—of the geography of the countries mentioned, and the difference of style in various parts of the sacred volume. He should understand the structure and meaning of the language in which he preaches, the literal and figurative use of words, and be enabled to discern the difference between a metaphor and a plain sentence.

“It is useful not only for the preacher to study the word of God intensely and abundantly, but also to become acquainted with the languages in which it was originally written. The importance of this knowledge is seen from the fact, that the meaning of the language of Scriptures is, ultimately, what it was when it came from the hands of the inspired writers, and not as it came from the hands of the translators.

“An acquaintance with ecclesiastical history, will teach the minister of the gospel, the sins and virtues, the errors and sound doctrine, the prosperous and adverse circumstances of the church, together with the causes by which they have been produced.

“Nor should the preacher neglect to cultivate an acquaintance with learned and judicious commentators; not for the purpose of receiving implicitly their dogmas, but for the same reason that a man would hear a sermon or a theological lecture. With the motto firmly fixed in the mind, “Prove all things: hold fast that which is good,” the biblical student may derive much benefit from the labors of those that have gone before him.

“*Logic*, or the art of drawing correct conclusions from just principles, is not merely useful, but indispensable to make a preacher a sound reasoner; as *rhetoric* is, to instruct him how to write and speak with skill and success.

“The knowledge of *history* and *geography* is of material advantage to all men who would make contemplation or instruction any serious part of business.

“*Human nature*, in its various lights, shades, and colorings, is, to every preacher, an important object of investigation, that he may know the kind of beings he addresses, without which he cannot preach long in an interesting or useful manner, nor explain and enforce many passages of Scripture.

“Generally, *all the stores of wisdom and science* may be turned to a

good account by the preacher of Christ. It was not the wisdom resulting from a correct and extensive education that Paul condemned, but the false philosophy, mythology and superstitions of the Greeks and Romans. He never contradicted the assertion of wisdom in the book of Proverbs, "That the soul be without knowledge, it is not good." His remarks to the church of Corinth are in exact accordance with the assertion of Solomon: "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning," (Prov. ix, 9.) * * *

"A public institution, prepared and conducted for the specific purpose of ministerial education, with able and experienced instructors, a well furnished library, and all the facilities for mental co-operation in study, is really a saving of time and money, in comparison of which the mode of private instruction bears no proportion.

"From the views presented, the importance and utility of such an institution in the Western States, for our denomination, cannot be questioned."

NOTE B.

The number of acres, and amount of each purchase was as follows, viz :

193 acres of the Bank of the United States, (Fowler farm,)	\$14,750
41 " of Alfred Sandford,	5,000
136 " of the heirs of Robert Kyle, deceased,	13,500
—	—
370	\$33,250

Payment of which was stipulated to be made as follows, viz:

Cash in hand May, 1835,	\$8,450
Payable in May, 1836,	2,950
Do. in May, 1837,	2,950
Do. in May, 1838,	7,950
Do. in May, 1839,	2,950
Do. in May, 1840,	8,000
	—
	\$33,250

NOTE C.

Extract from the First Annual Report of the Western Baptist Education Society.

The Theological Institution occupies a central position in the Valley of the Mississippi—a region on which is fixed the eye of the statesman, the philanthropist and the christian, with intenser gaze of hope and expectation than on any other portion of the globe. Sixty years ago, the first En

glish settlement was made in Kentucky; and fifty years ago, the population of the Valley did not exceed 140,000; now it may be fairly estimated at 7,000,000. The increase for the last twenty years having been estimated at 100 per cent. in ten years, if we suppose the increase to go on, only at the rate of 75 per cent. in ten years, the population of the Valley in 1853 will be 12,000,000, and in 1863 upwards of 20,000,000, which is greater than the whole present population of the United States, and by the close of the present century upwards of 100,000,000 will probably occupy this Valley.

Every thing resulting from human enterprize and human skill is advancing with corresponding celerity and vigor. Thus we are in the midst of a region in whose character and destiny is involved much of the happiness of our race. Our hope is to aid in moulding this character aright.

We have said that our Institution occupies a central position in the Valley. Take Covington, Ky., or Cincinnati, O., as a centre, and describe a circle of 250 miles. The boundaries of this circle will embrace a population of four-fifths of the whole Valley, and more than three-fourths of the members of our churches. It *always* will be central, if not to the whole Valley, yet to an immense population.

Our location is easily accessible at all times, and from all parts of the Valley, and of the United States. That it stands on the banks of the fine river Ohio, is sufficient to indicate its advantages of natural water communications from the West and South. It is open from Washington city, Baltimore and Philadelphia, through rail-road and canal. From New York and the North-east, we come through the Erie canal and rail-road to Lake Erie, and from thence through three or four channels to the Ohio river.

Our location is commanding in another point of view—being near Cincinnati, the great literary emporium of the West. For here are to be found the book-sellers and book publishers; libraries, public and private; the public journals and repositories of general knowledge, both of our own and foreign countries; literary institutions of every grade and of every character; making it a principal fountain of general intelligence. Here, too, by common consent, is the established place for the annual assemblage of the great literary, scientific, benevolent and religious conventions of the West; thus bringing together from all parts of the Valley and from the East, the collected intellectual and moral strength of our land.

Let us look for a moment at the central position we have taken, in reference to Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky, especially the two latter. The

idea is one of thrilling interest, that these States are to be bound together by so strong an attraction. Kentucky will indeed have the location of the Institution: but the citizen of Ohio passing his eye across to that point, will lose sight of the river which rolls beneath and forms the boundary line between the two States. He will discover one continuous line of buildings, and feel as proud as though it were on his own soil.

The location is in Kentucky, while yet the citizens of Ohio can look out from her metropolis and behold its classic walls, with scarce a consciousness that a river rolls between. Kentucky will feel pleased that it is hers; Ohio will feel pleased that it is hers; while, in fact, it belongs to neither, but is to be looked upon as a great Institution, devised for the benefit of the West, to belong to all who give it the aid of their countenance, prayers and co-operation.

NOTE D.

At the several meetings of the *Western Baptist Education Society*, held at Cincinnati, in the years 1834, 1835 and 1836, contributions for Ministerial Education were made by the members, principally in donations of \$1 00 each, to the amount of \$188 50; and at the last meeting, in October, 1842, there was a further contribution made, of \$11 37; making a total of \$199 87, which is in the Treasury of the *Western Baptist Theological Institute*, and is ready to be paid over to the *Education Society* on demand.

NOTE E.

Jonathan Bacheller, Esq., of Lynn, Mass., with characteristic benevolence, at the commencement of the undertaking in 1835, loaned to the Executive Committee at simple interest, the sum of \$5000, and he has generously and cheerfully continued the loan to the Trustees of the Institute, till the present time.

Brother David F. Newton also, with the same benevolent disposition, loaned to the Committee \$1000, in 1836, at simple interest, for which he has recently offered to receive in payment, from the Trustees of the Institute, two acres of land, which offer the Board have gratefully accepted.

The Trustees have also derived important aid, from time to time, from loans from several other brethren, which they acknowledge with gratitude.

NOTE F.

The untiring labors, and personal and pecuniary sacrifices of the Treasurer and General Superintendent for four or five years past, and his sted-

fast devotedness to the cause, is believed, by the Trustees, to have been of the utmost value to the Institute. For these labors and sacrifices he has neither received nor asked any compensation whatever; but as a recognition of the importance of his services, which the Trustees were unwilling to receive without some suitable acknowledgment, they have deemed it their duty to make a donation in land, for the benefit of his family hereafter, and have recently adopted a resolution accordingly.