

TO THE BENEVOLENT.

We rejoice in being permitted to lay before you at this interesting season, the *rise, progress, plan and designs* of an institution which claims the highest consideration of every enlightened citizen; an institution, which presents an aspect worthy of the support of every friend of Science, Literature and Religion.

In presenting to your view, the prominent features of the Lane Seminary we observe, that it originated with Messrs. E. & W. A. Lane, Merchants of New Orleans. These gentlemen, actuated by the pure principles of benevolence, arrived in this town some time in October last, and for the purpose of investing their surplus funds in such a manner, as best to promote the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom and produce the greatest amount of good. On their arrival, a few individuals of this city, convened at their request, to whom they disclosed the plan of a school and submitted it to their judgment and discretion. Here it is worthy of remark, that some of the individuals who attended on this occasion, had been deeply impressed with the importance of this subject, and anxiously solicitous that something should be done in this section of the country for the cause of Zion. It may well be supposed then, that no time was lost, in embracing the proposed plan, which was so admirably adapted to our wants, and the more so when they had the additional encouragement, of a permanent support from its projectors. A Board of Trustees, consisting of 23, were selected at the request of the Messrs. Lanes, and organized on the 27th of October last, under the style and title of the "Ohio Board of Education." These gentlemen then submitted the direction to the Board, after entering into the following legal obligation with them, viz: That they will pay over to the Treasurer of the Board, semi-annually, for the support of the professors, and for the purchase of a library and philosophical apparatus, or to be appropriated otherwise as should best promote the interests of the institution, one third part of their net annual income, for the first three years from the opening of the school, and one fourth part thereafter; and in order that the Board should be assured of a certain amount, they further agree, that the appropriation shall amount for the first four years to the sum of four thousand dollars. The conditions of this agreement, were predicated upon the following, which is the plan of the institution.

That the institution be located in the vicinity of Cincinnati. That as a fundamental principle, each student shall be required to spend a certain portion of time in manual labor, in farming or the mechanics, which time is prescribed by the Board at not less than three, nor more than four hours daily. That it consists of a Preparatory, a Literary and a Theological department, and these departments to be entirely distinct. That the time for the Preparatory course is indefinite, for the Literary four years, and for the Theological three years, and each department to have its appropriate Professors and Teachers. The course of studies in each of these departments will vary only from other colleges, in the expulsion of such branches as are less useful, and the introduction of others of greater utility. The support of the institution will depend principally, upon the industry of its members, and in this we feel sanguine, that from experiments already tried in several places, that the amount of the proceeds from labor bestowed, will more than balance the whole expense of the institution.

One thousand dollars paid at any one time, will constitute a permanent scholarship, and the interest of a thousand dollars a temporary scholarship. These considerations, however, will be relinquished if they are found unnecessary.

The inquiry will now arise, what has been the progress of this institution? In answer to which we observe, that every exertion has been made that could be made under the peculiar circumstances which they have been placed; weekly meetings of the Board most part of the time have been held, and all information on the subject that could be obtained, has been sought for. A farm in some eligible situation was found necessary, and after much labor the Board have procured an hundred acres of land, situated on Walnut hills, two miles from this city. The situation is well known to most of the inhabitants of this city and its vicinity, and therefore it is hardly necessary to add that it is an elevated, salubrious, and healthy place; in corroboration of this fact, it is sufficient to say, that the inhabitants in that neighborhood, seldom require medical aid. The soil is rich and fertile, and is watered by the purest and best water from perpetual springs. The Board have made every exertion too, to obtain agents to solicit funds for the erection of the buildings, and have appointed several; but never until the present time, have they been able to obtain one for Cincinnati and its vicinity; a few days since they were able to prevail upon the Rev. Mr. Cox, (who being impressed with the great importance and imperious demand for an institution of this kind, and, notwithstanding the multiplied calls for his labors in other places,) to remain with us a few weeks for this purpose. The Rev. George C. Beckwith of Lowell, Mass. has been appointed Professor of Biblical Literature and Ecclesiastical History, and he has signified his acceptance of the appointment. Mr. Beckwith will be here about the middle or before the close of October next. Every arrangement is now made for the erection of the necessary buildings, except the finances.

ings, except the finances.

Most of the materials for the buildings can be obtained on, or about the farm, and upon the most reasonable terms. The principal designs of this institution are to prepare young men for the gospel ministry, and to open the way for the most indigent young men to obtain with any commendable exertions, a Literary or Theological education. The board do not place this seminary upon the broad basis of charity, but only to open the way whereby any enterprising individual can assist himself, and to bring forward that class of talented individuals, who through the depression of means, have been kept back from greater usefulness.

We presume, however, it will not be understood, that the rich will be excluded; but that the institution so far as its means extend, will be open for all of a good moral character, either indigent or opulent. We have now laid before you the general features of the "Lane Seminary," and will inquire, shall it still remain only in prospect and exist only in name! But it is said perhaps, that it has one material fault. What is it! It is *sectarian!* It is Presbyterian. It is only Presbyterian as it regards the Theological department. What then should we, who are Presbyterian, have made it! Episcopalian? Then the same objection would arise? What then! Methodists? When it is still sectarian, Baptist! here we beg leave to suggest, that the benevolent founders of this institution, are Baptists, and it was with their advice and consent that this should be, what it is. They *knew* no sects, for the cause of the Redeemer was their object in this great enterprise. As it is a Presbyterian, where is the harm. Will a session, a Presbytery, a Synod, or a General Assembly, prevent men from going to heaven? aside from this, where is the *essential* difference, between the denominations just mentioned. We are thankful that the great Redeemer of men, is fast bringing about the destruction of party distinction, and is giving to his children a new name, even the name of christian; and we believe before the walls, walls do we say? Yes, the walls of this edifice, for they *will* go up, shall be broken by the lapse of time, no party distinctions will be known, save that of the *righteous* and the *wicked*.

Is there no other objection made? Yes, the labouring system. Students will not be

subject to a formal daily task. Let us ask if you ever heard this objection made by students in any of the institutions where labor was required? Never, we presume; but, that on the contrary, they long for the hour to arrive, that they may engage in it, and it is on this very ground, that we have had applications for admission into this school. For this country, no other system will succeed. It combines health with exercise and profit, and furnishes an additional and extensive source of information.

Although it may be conceded that this institution, upon the whole is as unexceptionable as any other, yet we fear, that the most important objection that may arise, will be the inexpediency of raising funds for its accomplishment at the present time. Here let us pause and reflect. We know the liberality of this people and the vast sums of money, that have been appropriated for religious and benevolent purposes: and we frankly acknowledge the belief, that more money has been expended in this place, within the last year and a half, than ever was expended within the same space of time, in any place of equal dimensions, since the landing of the Pilgrims. But should this be the test, whereby to judge of our present condition? Is there an individual who can say in truth, that he has been materially injured by his liberality. Has not the blessing of God been experienced; have you not been the more prospered, and is not the approving conscience a solace when you lie down, and when you arise up. May you not rest assured that the Lord will bless you in proportion to your obedience to his wise commands. Then think not of the past, but the present. The plan of an institution lies before you, which calls for your aid; which, when carried into operation will be a greater consolation than thousands of silver and gold. Have you not something more to spare? The Lord calls for it, and can you deny him! The sons of iniquity call for it, and will you reject their petitions! The destitute population of these western wilds, call for it, and will you consent to sink them deeper and deeper in distress, for the lack of the knowledge of the truth. All, all my friends, that is worthy of your highest regard, all that is connected with the salvation of souls, all that is conducive to health and the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, is concentrated in the subject presented before you, and will you leave us to take up the lamentation, O Lord Jesus, has it come to this, must we still be left to beg for thy cause.

In reference to the above communication, and in order to give an idea of the sources from which demands upon the benevolent are continually made, we introduce the following list of institutions which are dependent upon their aid.

1. The Board of agency for Foreign Missions.
2. Miami District Bible Society.
3. Female Branch Bible do
4. do Missionary and Tract do
5. Young Men's do and do do
6. The Wesleyan Sunday School do
7. Hamilton County Bible do
8. Cincinnati Tract do
9. do Sunday School Union.
10. Female Infants School Society.
11. do Auxillary Bible do
12. do Missionary Association of the 1st Presbyterian Church.
13. do do of the 2nd do do
14. Young Ladies Education Society.
15. do Men's Bible do
16. do do Tract do
17. Cincinnati Colonization do
18. do Benefit do
19. Lafayette do do
20. Franklin Benevolent do
21. Western Sunday School Board of Agency.

Several other societies are formed whose objects are more circumscribed. In addition to this, *eleven* Churches have been built or are building, within the last year and a half. We fully accord with the sentiments expressed above, that greater exertions have never been made, nor more money has been paid in the short period of eighteen months, among a population numbering only *twenty-four thousand*. But does *giving* impoverish! certainly not, if given with a right spirit. *He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord, and it will not return unto him void!* And we do beseech our worthy friends, who have so generously aided the benevolent operations of the day, seriously to inquire before they witho'd the helping hand from an institution of such vital importance to the people of the west, as is the "Lane Seminary."— Have you sons! Let interest then excite you to assist: for where will you place them, that their health, their education and their morals will be equally promoted. Have you worthy friends, whose dependence is upon you? then do something for this institution, that they may assist themselves. Have you *bowels of compassion for the indigent!* stretch forth your hand *now*, while the opportunity offers, for you to relieve them. In so doing, generations yet unborn, will rise up and call you blessed, and a crown of rejoicing will be your rich reward.