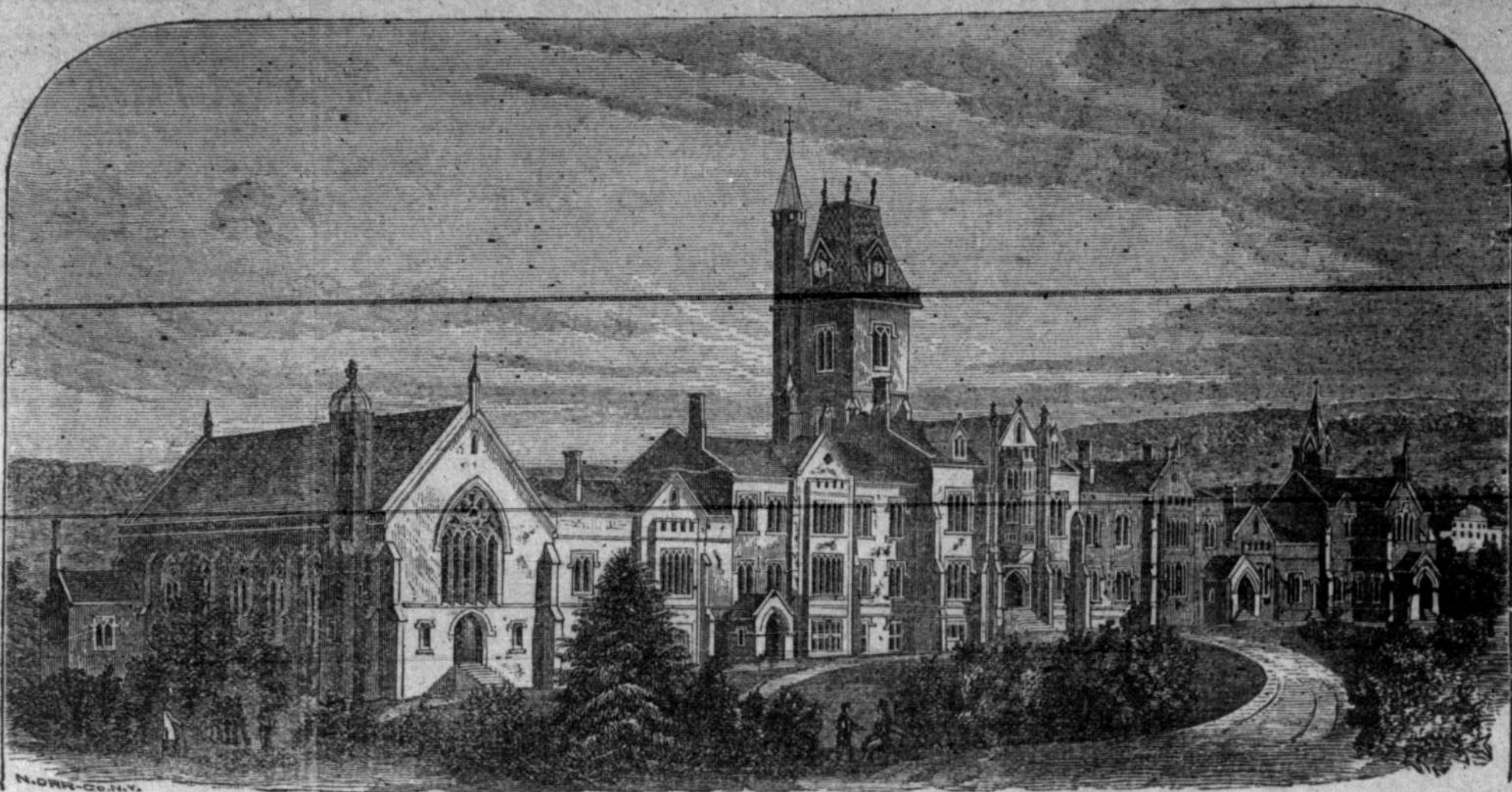




TO THE FRIENDS OF BETHANY COLLEGE.

This institution is now in the midst of the forty-third year of its useful career. It was founded by Alexander Campbell in 1841, and was presided over by him till his death in 1866. Since then it has been under the presidency of W. K. Pendleton, who was one of its original faculty, and has rendered continuous service to it for forty-three years. We need not remind those familiar with the writings of Alexander Campbell how earnestly he labored to build up this most cherished of all the varied means which he so actively employed and relied upon for the growth, support and enlightenment and educated defense of the great work of reformation which, under providence, we all recognize he was called to inaugurate and establish. He said that, in an age of general popular education and ever advancing scholarship, the Church must lay hold of these instruments to advance and defend the claims and principles of apostolic Christianity; and, with the characteristic promptness and resolution of his great and devoted heart, he proceeded at once with his own means to erect the necessary buildings, employ a competent faculty, and so to begin the great work which we recognize to-day as the invaluable result of this movement.

The matriculates of the college count by the thousand, and, at the end of this current year, the number that will have taken full degrees will be over six hundred. It is not too much to say that they constitute the large body of regulative and controlling mind in our ranks. They occupy, in a good degree, our most commanding pulpits, fill our editorial chairs, man our colleges and academies, carry our plea abroad as missionaries, write our literature, conduct our discussions, oral and written, in defense of our position, and ennoble and adorn, by their Christian virtue and culture, every walk of social and public life in which they move. Through them, the college fulfills the noble ministry of the gospel, in diffusing its leaven throughout all the ranks of life.

In this essentially Christian service it has never done better or more thorough work than it is doing to-day. It has a complete and competent faculty, comprehensive courses of study, thorough and faithful instruction, and a class of students capable of high development and inspired by noblest motives of public usefulness. Its senior class is characteristically large, and will add about twenty to the distinguished

corps of licensed workers already in the field from its halls.

The church was never more in need of the services of Bethany College, than now. The congregations, all over the land, are calling for reapers for the ever ripening harvests. Our most promising students are sometimes tempted to go forth under the urgency of these calls before they have finished their college studies. Bethany College should be enabled to furnish ten times the number to meet this want that it now supplies. The great duty the church owes to herself is to fill the fields with skilled and proved laborers. No thoughtful Christian can shut his eyes to the fact that this must be done largely through our colleges.

Alexander Campbell used to say, "If the brethren do not support Bethany College, its great work must cease." This is true. It has no means of meeting its expenditures, save those which come from the free will offerings of the Disciples. It was founded in the interest of the Church and depends upon the appreciation and liberality of its members. It has always been so. It has never been independent of the brethren. We believe it is true of all our colleges, that they have been compelled to stand in the attitude of perpetual beggars. This is no reproach to the colleges—humiliating as the necessity may be. They must do this, or give up this good and necessary work.

We acknowledge with gratitude the fact that this support has never utterly failed Bethany College. It has enabled its trustees to erect the largest and most creditable college building owned among us, to equip it with suitable apparatus, and for near half a century to pay a meager support to its faculty, and to retain a small nucleus of endowment. But for the last ten years the income from all sources has fallen short of the expenses of the most economical management. Previous to that time a large part of the income was derived from interest paid annually on notes given by friends to the college, but the principal of which had never come into the hands of the trustees. The wide-spread financial disaster which swept over the country in 1873, not only destroyed our hope of getting the principal, but also cut off the payment of the interest. This fact was stated to the friends of the College, and they were called upon to come to its aid in annual contributions of small sums for current expenses. This call was met with a liberality that

saved the College from immediate suspension, and it has been in this way that it has been enabled to continue its services till now. But the time has come when this can no longer be relied upon, and we feel constrained to make the fact known to the hundreds of thousands of disciples who do not mean that Bethany College shall be deserted.

The building of Bethany College, which for architectural beauty and adaptation is a monument worthy of its great founder, needs repairs, and the increasing attendance of young ladies demands a suitable boarding-hall for their accommodation. Above all, the faculty must be provided for. It is known to many that our president is giving gratuitous service in his arduous and harassing position, and that none of the faculty is receiving more than a bare support. From time to time we have been compelled to give up our able and approved professors, because we could not compete with other and younger, but better endowed, institutions, in the matter of salary. Men who, in Bethany College, had built for themselves a national reputation, we have been mortified to have taken away from us, simply because we could not pay them a reasonable support, or as much as was offered them elsewhere. We believe that the friends of Bethany College will say this ought not, and must not, continue to be, and therefore we make this earnest appeal to them for aid.

We would not be understood as disparaging any other educational interest among us. Bethany College cherishes no spirit of rivalry with its many daughters. It rejoices in the prosperity of all, and would be gratified that they were all free from embarrassment, and enabled to work on a larger scale of usefulness. We trust this plea will be felt by the faculties and friends of other colleges, to be not unreasonably addressed to all. As our oldest institution and the *alma mater* of many of our most distinguished professors in our other colleges, it has a claim upon their gratitude and fostering care that no generous heart can ignore. We expect that this will be promptly acknowledged. It is proposed, therefore, to make this appeal as universal as possible. We wish to have it personally presented to the members of every congregation in the United States, and wherever the memory of Alexander Campbell is revered or his great work is appreciated, we expect to have it liberally responded to. It will come to some who

have already given us something, and to others who have given us pledges that are not yet paid. To the former we return our thanks, and earnestly request them to remember our wants still once more; to the latter, we trust it will be a sufficient inducement to make good existing promises. But we expect it to reach tens of thousands who have never contributed a cent to Bethany College, and to those we say, give; if it be only a small token of your interest in Bethany College, still give something. If three-quarters of a million of Disciples will do it promptly, Bethany College will be relieved of her financial difficulties, and permanently secured against future want.

We appeal to six hundred alumni, to five thousand matriculates, to five thousand one hundred churches, to three thousand seven hundred and eighty-two ministers, and to five hundred and ninety-one thousand, eight hundred and twenty-one Disciples of Christ to give us each and all something, and give it promptly.

A. E. MYERS, GEO. H. ANDERSON, J. W. LEWIS, J. C. PALMER, C. H. BEALL, J. E. CURTIS,	Executive Committee of Bethany College.
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P. S.—The foregoing statement and appeal of the Executive Committee of Bethany College is sent forth with my most hearty approval and fervent prayers. I trust it will not fall unheeded. I have given all the years of my public life, directly or indirectly, to the interests of Bethany College, and there is nothing which I cherish with so earnest a hope as that I may be spared to see it permanently and adequately endowed. I have asked the trustees to relieve me, after this year, of the daily drudgery of teaching, but I trust to be able only the more usefully to serve the college in other ways. The present necessity is an adequate provision for the support of our faculty. This, and a large attendance of students, we must work for. Our friends must help us. If there be any veneration for the memory of Alexander Campbell, let it be shown to the college he founded; if any appreciation or approval of my life-long services in its halls, let my friends help me to accomplish this most earnest desire of my heart, and lend me generous and speedy aid in endowing Bethany College.

W. K. PENDLETON,
President of Bethany College.