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TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

OF THE

# Protestant Episcopal Church,

IN THE DIOCESES OF

North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida,  
Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas,  
Texas, and Tennessee,

DEAR BRETHREN:

The sudden and much to be lamented death of the Bishop of Georgia having devolved upon me the Chancellorship of the "University of the South," I hasten to the performance of such duties as the present condition of that Institution calls for at my hands.

As several years have elapsed since any efficient steps were taken for its advancement, and, as many seem doubtful whether the enterprise will be carried out, it may be well to invite the public attention to the subject, by briefly recapitulating some of the statements, heretofore given, with regard to the objects which it has in view, the wide scope of instruction proposed, the advantages of its local position, the means already provided toward its completion, and the great need which exists for just such an Institution in the present condition of our country.

Before the commencement of our recent troubles, there was universally felt throughout the more southern portions of our Union, the need of some Institution of Learning more worthy of our wealth and intelligence, and high moral character than any which, up to that time, had been of easy access to our people.

It is true, and as *Americans* we were proud of the truth, that Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Virginia and North Carolina could point, with pride, to their respective and time-honored Universities. But still the question was asked by many of our leading and more patriotic spirits, "Why should the great southwest, possessing as she does, every facility for the erection and successful conduct of such an Institution, be forever compelled to send her sons abroad, or at a distance from their own domestic relations, to be instructed in a wider range of literature, or in the higher departments of sciences?" But, something more than this was called for by the more thoughtful, conservative, and religious portion of our people. An Institution was needed which, while it stored the mind with all that was rich and noble, and worthy of remembrance in ancient and modern learning, should, with like care and in a corresponding degree, train our youth in the principles of a true patriotism, guard them against the vagaries of a one-sided philanthropy, and teach them that true religion consists not in cant phrases or in an officious intermeddling with the things of others, but, in the study and practice of whatever is "pure, and lovely, and of good report."

To the establishment of such an Institution on a scale worthy of the people for whom it was intended, the minds of several of the leading spirits of our

church were turned at least ten years ago. And, when I place among the most of those leaders the names of OTEY and POLK, I feel that I give them no more honor than is their due; and, I trust that at the same time, I ensure for their favorite enterprise a portion of the regard once felt for them, its true and zealous founders.

The first step to be taken was to obtain a suitable site, one that would be as nearly central as possible to the region more particularly interested, and at the same time exempt, to the greatest extent, from the diseases incident to our southern climate. After a fair and careful examination of several places liberally proffered for the purpose, in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee, choice was made of a beautiful plateau or piece of table land on the Cumberland Mountain, in Franklin County, Tennessee, at an elevation of 850 feet above the plains below, and nearly 2000 above the level of the sea;—a region of the purest atmosphere, where sickness is almost unknown, which abounds with freestone, limestone and chalybeate waters;—presenting magnificent views in every direction, underlaid throughout its whole extent by beds of richest coal, covered with timber of every useful kind, abounding with every variety of stone necessary for both useful and ornamental building, and overlooking valleys rich in every product of the earth. No sooner was this lovely spot fixed upon as the most eligible site for our purpose, than the neighboring landholders, with a praiseworthy liberality, made over to our trustees, several tracts, amounting in all to a solid body of nearly ten thousand acres. To this was added a liberal charter by the Legislature of Tennessee, which granted every power and privilege that could be desired for our purpose. Application was then made to the friends of our undertaking, and in a few weeks the sum of *four hundred thousand dollars* was obtained in reliable subscriptions, the interest only of which was to be called for from year to year, and expended in the erection of buildings, and for other necessary purposes. After a due examination and comparison of the advantages of our own and of foreign universities, a constitution was formed for our guidance and statutes enacted, which looked to the establishment of thirty schools or colleges as constituent parts of our contemplated university. Pledges were at once made towards the endowment of several of these schools or professorships, and we were even assured by one of our Bishops that the churchmen of his diocese alone would found one-half of the proposed number.

The corner-stone of our main or central building was laid with becoming religious solemnity in the presence of thousands; and the jubilant strains of the "*Benedicite*" were heard on that hitherto silent mountain top, calling upon the "dews and frosts" and "hills and waters" to join with the "children of men" in praising the Lord.

Amidst these prosperous and promising beginnings came the shock of war, suspending our operations, and by its sad results compelling us, as it were, to begin our work anew. We have *now* to mourn the general impoverishment of our country, the bankruptcy of many of our firmest friends, and more than all, the death of five of those Bishops who joined heart and hand with us in the inception of this noble enterprise. But, the spirit that animated them, lives in their successors.

To the oft-repeated question: "Will you attempt, with your diminished resources, to carry out your undertaking on the same extended scale?" the answer is, "*By the help of God we will.*" Such was the unanimous and unhesitating resolve of the Board of Trustees at their late session. Our landed possessions remain to us as undiminished in title or extent, and unsurpassable for every advantage that we could desire. We can rely upon one-fourth, if not more, of our original subscription-list: and, for the *future* we have an abiding confidence in the good sense and liberality of our people. What we need for our immediate use is about *twenty-five thousand dollars* or *fifty-thousand in hand* for the purpose of erecting buildings which will suffice until we can avail ourselves of what is on our subscription list, and until the condition of our country should become something like what it was before the war.

In anticipation of these larger accommodations, and as a pledge that our work has been recommenced in earnest, a classical school of high character has been

established at Winchester in the valley below, numbering already 140 pupils; and, connected with it is a theological department with an increasing class of students. As soon as either of the above named sums shall be obtained, the required buildings will be pushed to completion, and admittance given to the many youths who are now knocking anxiously at our doors.

At this interesting and trying crisis in our affairs, is it expecting too much of you, dear friends and brethren, that you will aid us in our attempt to set our enterprise in operation without delay? If God has spared you from the desolations of war, let us share with you in your abundance. If, with the great mass of our people, you have been spoiled and impoverished, fear not to give us *something* out of your poverty. God will bless both you and your offering, if it be given with a cheerful spirit.

We send to you our beloved brother, the Bishop of Tennessee, as the recipient of your bounty, commending him to your confidence and warm regards, as well as to the direction and blessing of the Giver of all good. Receive him, brethren, as our much loved and trustworthy agent, and as one who is zealously laboring for the best interests of your country, your children, and your children's children.

W. M. GREEN,

*Chancellor of the University of the South.*

UNIVERSITY PLACE, Jan. 8, 1867.

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P. S.—The Chancellor of the University of the South has given notice that the next meeting of the Board of Trustees, will be held in the City of Montgomery, on Wednesday, the thirteenth of February, 1867. In order that the work may be begun without delay, I would suggest that a collection be made in every parish in the several dioceses, interested in this great enterprise, before the meeting of the Board, and the offerings forwarded to Mr. Charles Pollard, of Montgomery, Alabama. I hope to visit the principal cities, but, the time is so short, that I must ask the prompt and cordial co-operation of all the clergy.

CHARLES TODD QUINTARD,

*Bishop of Tennessee.*

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