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History of Indiana University: From Seminary to College (1826-1829)

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CHAPTER II
FROM SEMINARY TO COLLEGE
(1826-1829)

Report on general state educational plan—Governor Ray’s support—charge of sectarianism—conditions prior to change from Seminary to College—the state in 1828—educational progress—newspapers—New Harmony—Bloomington in 1828—the College in 1828—election of president—Wylie’s visit to Indiana—Wylie’s solicitation of gifts of books in East—arrival of the first president.

In the beginning the Indiana Fathers had no thought of a state seminary. Indeed they had no thought of a state college. Nothing short of a university was to satisfy them, for in euphonious phrase they declared in the organic law of 1816 for a “system of education ascending in a regular gradation from township schools to a State University.”

But the State Seminary came first. That was inevitable. The time had not yet come in America when universities could be flung out upon the world, strong and full grown, by a constitutional or other legislative enactment. The Seminary was a makeshift. It was so regarded at the time of the passage of the act providing for it, and it never ceased to be so regarded by its founders and by those who had it in charge. The act of incorporation was notably defective. In the very next legislature that met after the act became a law, the education committee of the lower branch called public attention to the “materially defective” nature of this law, and at the same time reminded the legislators of the state that “the means afforded, with proper management, cannot fail to make the University of this State as rich in funds as any in the Union.”

The General Assembly that passed the act incorporating the State Seminary raised a special committee whose duty it was to prepare and report a general state educational plan to the next assembly. This committee reported early in December, 1821, covering the whole ground, and so much of their report as touches upon the subject of a state institution of learning belongs to this history. It is of interest not only because it proves how surely the promoters of higher education in Indiana still looked to the establishment of a university as the culmination of the Indiana educational system, but also, and in a still larger degree, in that it gives us a clue to what the men of that day had in mind when they spoke of a university; and, furthermore, what they regarded as an adequate endowment for their ideal institution of learning.

Daniel J. Caswell, an old-time lawyer and something of a politician who resided at Brookville, in Franklin county, was chairman of the committee and doubtless inspired and wrote the report. He was a lawyer of more than ordinary ability and was a noted special pleader. There are those who claim that he was an eastern man and a scholarly one. Be this as it may, the language of the report “bewrayeth” the lawyer. It spake the shibboleth of the bar. Its “then and in that case” was a phrase much loved by the special pleaders of that day—a phrase that even yet may be heard sounding as an echo from the dead past in the courtrooms of the state.

The committee expressed a belief that the Seminary lands could be made to realize such an amount of funds as, “with some assistance,” would “enable this state to occupy, in a literary point of view, a highly respectable standing”; and to that end they recommended that a university be established to be known by the name of “the University of Indiana.”

The committee not only was hopeful as to the future, but it ingeniously manipulated the figures so as to show good grounds for that state of hopefulness. If the funds of the institution should be “auspiciously managed,” “then and in that case,” wrote special pleader Caswell, the University of Indiana “with some assistance” (from the legislature, presumably) lay within their grasp.

But suppose the legislature to be unwilling to burden the public with any part of that support, what then? The most expedient plan, as introductory to a university, “will be to establish a college first,” say they. The report continues:

\footnote{Read by Judge Banta as the annual Foundation Day address, in the Old College chapel, January 20, 1890.}
In that case to make it respectable or indeed useful, it is respectfully suggested, that it will be necessary to place a President at the head of it, whose duty it shall be, besides exercising a general superintendency, to participate personally in giving instruction to the highest or first class in College, Logic, Metaphysics, Moral Philosophy and Criticism.

They recommended further, "a professor of Mathematics and natural Philosophy"; "a professor of Geography, ancient and modern, and astronomy"; and one of "the Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages, with one or more assistant tutors."

This is the first that is heard of a state college in Indiana, but this college was to be a temporary expedient—a stepping-stone to the more pretentious university promised by the constitution of 1816, the very university that the committee evidently had very much at heart. Found the college first, and as thus outlived, and then as the available funds increased add to it a professor of theology, a professor of law, and a medical school; and lo! you have the university the Fathers had in mind.

The General Assembly, however, did not concur in the committee's recommendations. Their report was referred to another committee, and so much as is outlined here was never again heard of. The people of Indiana were not yet ready to attempt the educational scheme proposed, and long before they were ready, the committee's plan was slumbering in the archives of the state. Looking forward to the end of a period of six years, they saw with the aid of a little arithmetical computation a fund augmented by sales of land and interest to over $250,000! What better endowment could any university want! The sixth year expired in December, 1827, at which time the best that Governor Ray, in his annual message, could say was, that the Seminary lands up to that time sold in Monroe and Gibson counties "brought a fair price, producing near $30,000." 2

"Introductory to an university will be to establish a college," said the committee, and the event proved the truthfulness of the prediction. The college was established, but not on the basis of a mistake in ciphering. It came because there was a demand for it, and it came ahead of any endowment worthy of the name.

To James B. Ray, the governor of Indiana from 1825 to 1831, a last-

*This was a mistake of the printer or of the governor—D. D. Banta.*
A painstaking investigation into the methods in vogue in the
Indiana Seminary, and for that matter in the Indiana College after­
wards, fails to disclose any teachings or practices that could have been
objectionable to the straitest of the sects, and the composition of the
various boards of trustees (being made up as they usually were of
men of all denominations) utterly forbids the thought that such was
the case. But no matter: the possession of the theological professorship
when it should come, and the menace of two Presbyterian professors
in charge, made war inevitable—a war that went on until, after many
years, a church dignitary could point with pride to the fact that a
governor had been elected in Indiana by the amen-corner of his
church.

Let no one misapprehend me. I am not assailing anybody—I am
not defending anybody. I give the facts as I find them. They are a
part of the history of the times. The action of every party concerned
in the State College controversy was the result of conditions for the
existence of which the men of that day were in no wise responsible.
The battle was inevitable, and in the long run has proved a blessing
to the state.

Between the governor’s commendations on the one hand and the
warnings against the asserted evil practices of the classical aristocrats
and sectaries on the other, the General Assembly passed a law on Janu­
ary 26, 1827, providing for a board of visitors comprising twenty­
four members, any five of whom when met in Bloomington on the
Thursdays preceding the session of the supreme court should
constitute a quorum. It was made the duty of this board, among other
things, to examine the records kept by the board of trustees, the rules
adopted for the government of the students, and to examine the
students themselves as to their progress in their various studies.

No doubt it was the legislative hope that this committee would
either be able to uncover something pernicious to sound morality and
good government or be able to give such positive assurances of the
nonexistence of anything objectionable as should allay the mistrust of
the people. At the appointed time a quorum of the members of the
visiting board met, of whom one was the governor. Another was
James Scott, a judge of the supreme court. The examination of records,
of rules, of courses of study, and of students was had as required by

law, and the governor’s next message and the committee’s report, the
latter written by Judge Scott, both bore ample testimony to the skill of
the teachers, the proficiency of the scholars, the administrative wis­
dom of the trustees, and the nonexistence of aristocratical and sec­
tarian influences. And both recommended that collegiate powers be
granted to the institution at Bloomington.

Could not this be made a solution of the whole difficulty? In the
new organic act a board of trustees could be made up so that all the
contending factions would be fully represented and the presence of
one prove a check upon the other.

Be this as it may, on the eighth day after the visiting board’s report
was read, Isaac Howk, the member from Clark and the chairman of
the committee on education, reported a bill to establish “the Indiana
College” at Bloomington.

It would not be of any public interest to follow the bill through its
various vicissitudes until it became a law. With its passage are now
known to have been connected two incidents, and only two, that
may profitably engage the attention of the hearer. One is a report
made on January 2, 1828, by Dr. David H. Maxwell, the president of
the board of trustees, in response to a resolution offered in the House
by Mr. Stapp of Jefferson, from which we learn that the fall term of
the then present academic year had opened with an attendance of
forty students, which attendance would probably be increased to fifty
or sixty during the term, and which increase, the good doctor very
adroitly suggested, would be “owing to the prospect of the Seminary
obtaining collegiate powers.” “Seven or eight young men,” the report
goes on to say, “are now at Oxford, Ohio, who before going called at
the Seminary at Bloomington, but finding everything involved in
uncertainty left our own state to obtain an education in another.”

The other incident to which reference is made was an outside move­
ment of a threatening nature, but which so far as now known had no
connection with the other troubles. A petition was presented signed
by certain citizens of Indianapolis praying the legislature to memo­rial­
ize Congress on the subject of a grant of land to establish a seminary
of learning at the capital. The success of this movement meant death
to Bloomington, and its projectors, afraid of the chairman of the
Senate’s educational committee, who happened to be the president of
the State Seminary’s board of trustees (Dr. Maxwell), took it to the House, where, after it was read, it was referred to Mr. Howk’s committee. On the same day that Dr. Maxwell’s report as to the condition of the Seminary was read to the House, the Indianapolis scheme was strangled by an unfavorable report from Mr. Howk’s committee. After this he called up his College bill, and it was passed without a call of the vote; and in due time it was also passed by the Senate. On January 24, 1828, just eight years and four days after the incorporation of the State Seminary, and three years, eight months, and twenty-three days after it was opened to students, Governor Ray signed the bill. Thus the Seminary passed out of existence and the Indiana College took its place.

Excepting its boards of trustees and visitors, the College inherited all there was of the Seminary—its students, its buildings, its reputation, its poverty, its professors, its methods, and even the contentions of its professed friends and the malice of its enemies, not to mention the venom of demagogues who were equally ready to curry favor with the populace by making empty speeches in praise of education in the abstract or by shouting with the mob in the hue and cry of aristocrat and sectarianism when the Seminary happened to be the theme.

The act of incorporation established a college professedly for the “education of youth in the American, learned, and foreign languages, the useful arts, sciences, and literature.” Fifteen trustees were provided for and named in the act, eight of whom (Edward Borland, Samuel Dodds, Leroy Mayfield, Jonathan Nichols, James Blair, David H. Maxwell, William Bannister, and William Lowe) were of Monroe county. The remaining seven were distributed as follows: George H. Dunn, of Dearborn county; Christopher Harrison, of Washington; Seth M. Leavenworth, of Crawford; John Law, of Knox; Williamson Dunn, of Montgomery; Ovid Butler, of Shelby; and Bethuel F. Morris, of Marion.

It is not too much to say that the act establishing the Indiana College was skilfully and understandingly drawn. Of the three organic acts that have from time to time been passed for the government of this institution, it is by all odds the most lawyer-like one. We may not be quite sure what the author of the act was driving at where he makes the preamble say that the College is established “for the edu-

Having thus far briefly referred to the causes that led to the creation of the Indiana College, and to the legal act of creation itself, let us here stop and take a look at the surroundings.

Lifting our eyes to a horizon bounded by state lines, we find that in spite of the poverty of the pioneer settlers and the sickness and hardships incident to the settlement of a densely wooded country, concerning which something was said from this platform one year ago, there has been a marked growth and change between the years of the founding of the Seminary and of the College. The population of the state has risen from 147,000 in 1820 to not less than 300,000 in 1828. Twenty-five new counties have been added to the map of the state, the years of organization and the names of which will indicate to one somewhat acquainted with the geography and history of the state the progress and course of settlement. In 1821 Bartholomew, Greene, Parke, and Union counties were organized; in 1822 Marion, Decatur, Henry, Morgan, Putnam, Rush, and Shelby; in 1823 Johnson, Hamilton, Madison, and Montgomery; in 1824 Allen, Hendricks, and Vermillion; in 1825 Clay; in 1826 Fountain and Tippecanoe; in

*Referring to his address of the year before, which constitutes Chapter 3 of this book.*
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1827 Delaware and Warren; and in 1828 Carroll and Hancock. No assessment of [personal] property was made till nine years after the act organizing Indiana College became a law, revenue being raised mainly by taxes laid on lands and polls; but while in 1820 the amount secured from this source was $17,000, in 1828 it had amounted to something over $43,000.

All the state from the headwaters of the Tippecanoe river southward had been cleared of Indian titles, save the "Miami national reserve" and a few other "reserves," insignificant in area; and in the same year that the College was chartered, by a treaty held at the Carey Mission, the Indian title was extinguished to fully a third of all the land north of the Tippecanoe.

The United States surveyors with compass and chain had run the lines and established the corners as far north as where the Wabash extends its course from the east to the west, a distance of nearly forty miles through the twenty-seventh tier of townships.

The year that the Seminary was chartered, the New Purchase, comprising an extensive region bordering on the north branch of White river and its tributaries, was first opened to the pioneer settlers; and now, in the year of the chartering of the College, all the state from the Wabash southward, save the "reservations," was opened to movers who were thronging in in search of homes.

The statutes of the state during these early years bear indubitable evidence of the solicitude of the public men of the state as well as of the people in general for the cause of education. In 1824 "an act incorporating Congressional Townships and providing for Public Schools therein" was passed, which, if not followed by results that were satisfactory to the friends of education, cannot be overlooked altogether by him who would know something of the educational history of the times. There were too many obstacles in the way for the establishing of an effective school system in that early day, but the Fathers planned better than they knew in providing thus early for an accumulative school fund which has grown to be larger, the state superintendents proudly tell us [1890], by more than two millions of dollars than the common school fund of any other state.

A system of county seminaries was early provided for, which, if it proved a failure in the long run, nevertheless is highly suggestive of the laudable aspirations of the time. In many counties suitable buildings were erected, and in some schools were maintained whose influence for good proved a power in the state.

*A full list showing the dates of organization of the counties of Indiana is given by Dr. Ernest V. Shockley, '09, in an article entitled "County Seats and County-seat Wars in Indiana" (Indiana Magazine of History, March, 1914).
One of these was a paper printed in Bloomington as early as 1824 by Jesse Brandon. He and his brother were the second Indiana state printers, and he brought to this town the press on which was printed the acts of the General Assembly and other state documents for many years, which press was here as late as 1854. And so was the ex-state printer, the ghost of his former self, an aged, lean, and frail bachelor who, to keep himself warm during the hard winters we sometimes had “before the war,” had a curious habit of sleeping between two smooth sticks of cordwood thoroughly heated by a drum stove.

But the greatest of all the educational forces at work in those primitive days was the country school, where “lickin and larnin” jogged along hand in hand in the good old way. I say greatest, because it was new state were taught the elements of book knowledge.

In this necessarily brief and partial review of the educational forces at work in Indiana at the time of the chartering of the College, let us not overlook the fact that the press had come in along with the vanguard of the movers. As early as 1804, Elihu Stout had packed press and types on horseback from central Kentucky to Vincennes, where he at once founded the first newspaper printed within the Indiana Territory. In 1819 John A. Scott packed a Ramage press from Philadelphia over the mountains to the head of river navigation, whence he easily descended to Indiana and began the publication of a weekly newspaper in the town of Brookville. As the population of the state increased, the printing presses multiplied, and by the time the College was chartered there were no fewer than twenty weekly newspapers issued between the Big Miami and the Wabash.8

8Dr. Logan Esarey, '05, has practically completed for the Indiana Historical Survey the manuscript for a volume on the history of the press in Indiana.
a member of the commission that framed the Indiana code of 1852—a code remarkable for its literary excellence and for the radical changes made in the law as to the property rights of married women, for both of which he is entitled to credit beyond any other man.

There were others at New Harmony who were already (in 1828) renowned or were to become renowned. There was Frances Wright, who in that year delivered her first public address in New Harmony—the first public address, I have no doubt, given in the state by a woman, if not the first in the Northwest. Thomas Say, the eminent naturalist from Philadelphia, was also there busily engaged on his afterwards justly celebrated work on conchology, and publishing from time to time learned papers on entomology, which have since been given to the world in two octavo volumes. William Maclure, geologist and publicist, was there also. He was one of the founders of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, and, in after years, with a benevolence unexampled in Indiana history, gave a large fortune to the establishing of libraries in every county of the state for the benefit of the common people. And Lesueur, the French naturalist, who had been among the earliest to study the strange forms of animal life in New Holland (near Australia), was at this very time “working on the description and figures of the Wabash fishes” with headquarters at New Harmony. And so, too, was Amphlett there, writing the text to accompany the publication of Michaux’s *Sylvia Americana*. Dr. Richard Owen, who was yet in his teens, writes that “in 1828 and subsequently I saw him at this work.”

Others might be mentioned as residents of New Harmony in 1828 who by their scientific investigations added to the fame of the place. There was Joseph Neef, a former coadjutor of Pestalozzi, and an

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*The fourth son of Robert Owen; professor in Indiana University, 1865-1879. Owen Hall commemorates his connection with the University. In 1913 his bust was placed in the Stenhouse at Indianapolis by a committee of Confederate Veterans in recognition of his humane treatment of Confederate prisoners while serving as colonel of an Indiana regiment in charge of Camp Morton. A replica of this bust was placed in the Union Building at Indiana University in 1925.*

Ross F. Leckridge, director of the New Harmony Memorial Commission, says that Amphlett came to New Harmony in 1836, “from all we can find by research here.” Therefore the date should probably be 1838, an error which might easily have been made in copying the quotation, and Richard Owen would not have been in his teens. Of Robert Owen’s sons, Judge Banta tells something of three of the four. The other one, William, was very prominent in the affairs of the New Harmony experiment and was beginning to be influential in state financial affairs before his death.
John Hopkins Harney
(1827-1832)
Professor of Mathematics

Baynard Rush Hall
(1824-1832)
Professor of Greek and Latin and Author of The New Purchase

AS YOUNG MEN THEY WERE THE FIRST PROFESSORS IN THE INDIANA SEMINARY.

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author of books on education. "He was at the head of the New Harmony Education Society." And also Dr. Girard Troost, a German geologist who subsequently made a geological survey of Tennessee, and became professor of geology in the University of Nashville [now George Peabody College for Teachers] and, later, state geologist for Tennessee.

What a community of workers to be sure! Their very presence made a university—an unchartered, unendowed world's university! How very much darker all the rest of the state must have seemed by contrast with that New Harmony light.

Outside of the work of the Harmony folk, not a book had been written and published in the state excepting the laws and other things published by public authority, and excepting now and then a political pamphlet. It was to be two years before John Finley was to write "The Hoosier's Nest," the earliest poem to survive to our times; and it was to be two years before Judge Blackford was to publish the first volume of his series of Blackford's Reports.

Let us turn to Bloomington. What of it? The population of Monroe county in 1828 was about 4,600, and of Bloomington about 600. The town was still in the woods. Its few business houses were confined to the west side and the west half of the south side of the public square. Its one hundred or more residences occupied the other parts of the square or struggled in the rear. The courthouse was finished, and when not used for court purposes was locked against all intruders, save such as had a curious longing to know more of architecture than the ordinary log cabin taught. East of the row of dwellings on the east side of the square was an open common used by the county militia on training days and by any other citizens on any day when they happened to find it necessary to settle an argument by fist and skull. It was on that common that an ingenious Monroe county man—a very prince among the slick citizens of his day—soaped himself all over and went in to win.

Bloomington was well connected by mail with all the prominent towns in the state, and its mail facilities were quite good for an interior town in 1828. Up to about 1836 it had but one mail a week, but

*Judge Banta appends here a footnote showing that he arrived at this figure by multiplying 921, the number of polls in 1828, by 5, the estimated ratio of persons to adult males.
that was quite regular save when the roads were very bad or the waters uncommonly high. Up to 1826 the weekly mail was carried on horseback by a "little old man" who announced his coming by a blast from his postman's horn. He came from Salem by the way of Sparks' Ferry on White river, and Fairfax on Salt creek. In that year the route was changed through Bedford. If there was any other change for ten years my informants have forgotten it. I suppose there was; but in 1836 a triweekly mail came. It was brought by John and Samuel Orchard, who saw that the mail bags were sent three times a week over the long road between Indianapolis and Leavenworth on the Ohio river. During the season of dry weather they sent the bags by stagecoaches, but in the winter and spring on horseback, save between Bloomington and Indianapolis. Over that part of the line the bags were often too heavy to go on horseback, and when so the fore wheels of a road wagon would be hitched to, the bags thrown on, and thus wheeled to their destination.

In 1830 a triweekly branch line was opened up connecting Louisville with the Leavenworth route at Salem. Lateral lines were established from time to time, one from Bloomfield to Bloomington in 1836 or 1837, and one to Columbus a little later. In 1848 the long lines were broken up and a system of shorter ones established in lieu of them; and in 1853 the advent of the railroad in Bloomington put an end to the further carrying of the mail bags on horseback, on wheels, and in stagecoaches.

But let us turn to the Indiana College itself; what of it on this January 24, 1828? Its endowment, as stated by Dr. Maxwell in his letter to Dr. Wylie announcing his election, was "nearly $40,000" and brought in an income which he "estimated at something like $2,000"; and from the report of the treasurer of state made about the same time it appears the unsold College lands were between seventeen and eighteen thousand acres, which it is supposed were worth as many dollars as there were acres.

There were two buildings, one built for a professor's residence, and the other a plain brick rectangular structure two stories high, containing six rooms, one of which was the chapel and another the Hendolphiisterian Society's room, leaving four rooms for recitation purposes.

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Now add the thirty-five students (fall of 1828) that Dr. Maxwell, in his letter to Dr. Wylie, says were in attendance, most of whom were in the Preparatory Department, and "none of whom except in one or two branches had advanced beyond the studies usually pursued in the freshman class," and we have the warp and woof of the Indiana College the first year of its existence.

It was without the vcest pretense of a library, and there was not the simplest article of apparatus connected with it.

Outside was the campus, containing ten acres, inclosed with a "worm" fence, and surrounded on at least three sides with walls of living trees. On the town side, the ax-men had been at work, but it was many years after 1828 before all the forest trees lining College avenue between the town and the College were cut down and destroyed.

The campus itself, however, was bare enough of tree and leaf. The pioneers were soldiers arrayed in hostility to the trees, and with such courage and persistence did they carry on the war that in less than the life of two generations of men the great forests of Indiana have been destroyed. As for the campus itself, they made short work of it. In the language of the times, they cleared it "smack, smooth, and clean," cutting off every tree save a very few in the southeast corner, one or two of which still feebly hold out against the tramp and stamp of the lusty ball-players. But the stumps of the fallen trees, some charred and blackened by fire and some in Nature's own coat of brown or gray, still thickly stood over all the ground. And amidst these cumbering stumps, here and there, were doubtless to be seen even at this early time a few feeble transplanted bushes and shrubs. Certainly they were there a few years later. It was the rule of the pioneers to spare no green thing unless it was something that might by some possibility bear fruit or make a "gate post." "Let the sunlight and the sunlight, and after­wards made free efforts towards ornamentation by transplanting black locusts, horse chestnuts, willows, or some other abomination to be found somewhere in our American forests.

*When this address was written, although the University was located on its present site, the athletic field was still on the Old College grounds.*
The street leading from the College to the town was unpaved and the sidewalk was a footpath in clay. The first improved walk to the College, consisting of hewed logs strung end to end, was not yet laid down. Young Joseph G. McPheeters and George Washington Parke Custis, the purchasers of the logs and the promoters of that enterprise, were not yet students in the Indiana College.

Let us now pass to the organization of the College. On the first Monday of May (5), 1828, ten of the fifteen trustees met at the College in pursuance of the requirement of the law appointing them. Of these ten, eight were from Monroe county; another was George H. Dunn, from Dearborn, and the other was Seth M. Leavenworth, from Crawford. The first thing done was to organize by electing Dr. Maxwell president of the board, and Rev. P. M. Dorsey, secretary; afterwards the board proceeded at once to the election of a president of Indiana College. One name and one only was presented for the office of president, that of Rev. Andrew Wylie, D.D., then the president of Washington College in western Pennsylvania, who, receiving the vote of every member present, was declared duly elected.

Dr. Wylie was a native of the county wherein was the college of which he was president—Washington county—where he was born on April 12, 1789. He was just turned into his thirty-ninth year at the time of his election. He was of Irish descent and up to his fifteenth year had lived the life of a farmer lad. He had then entered school in his county town of Washington, and on being prepared for the freshman class went to Jefferson College at the town of Canonsburg, seven miles from Washington, where at the age of twenty-one he graduated with the honors of his class. His scholarship and superior intellectual endowments engaging the attention of the Jefferson board of trustees, they at once gave him employment as a tutor, but in less than two years he was advanced at one bound from his tutorship to the presidency, a mark of confidence seldom paralleled in the history of American colleges. After serving as the head of his Alma Mater, he became president of the neighboring institution, Washington College, in 1837.

Washington and Jefferson were rivals and always had been, but an effort was now made looking to a consolidation; and Andrew Wylie, it was hoped, would be the agent through whose influence this desirable end was to be brought about. The effort failing, he continued to occupy the Washington presidential chair, and was there in May, 1828, when Dr. Maxwell’s letter reached him announcing his election to the presidency of the Indiana College.

It is evident that Dr. Wylie was not a candidate for the presidency of the new college of the new state of Indiana. In truth, there is no evidence tending to show that he had any knowledge that his name would be up for consideration in connection with that office. But there is evidence tending to show that the Washington presidency was growing irksome to him. Dr. Brown, whom he had succeeded as president of Washington, still lived in the town, and his presence was a standing menace to the Canonsburg Doctor. Letters written at the time show that Dr. Brown and his friends would have taken great pleasure in seeing Wylie go to another field.

How did the Indiana trustees know of him and of his fitness for the presidential office? There was no educational bureau in that day to serve the purpose of the middleman, to bring the electors and the candidate into communication. Let the presidential office of this University become vacant today and in less than a month there would be found from fifteen to fifty willing to take the place, and it would be a very hard day’s work to read and digest all the testimonials that would be sent in.

In a letter written to Dr. Wylie, immediately after his election, by Professor Hall, that gentleman says (May 7, 1828):

Mr. John H. Harney, Professor of Mathematicks, and myself, who both have long proposed and desired your election to the Presidency of the College of Indiana, cannot but be extremely solicitous that you should accede to the wishes of the board of trustees, which by this time must have reached you. In the hope therefore, that it may aid your determination, be assured that the call of the Board is entirely unanimous and cordial, that it meets the entire approbation of the townsfolk and of all the principal men of the whole state both in publick and private life.

So it seems Hall and Harney both recommended his election to the board of trustees. But there is a tradition that William Hendricks, formerly governor of the state and at the time a United States senator, had done the same thing, and the tradition is a reasonable one. The rival colleges sent their sons all over the West. Two of them, Jonathan...
Jennings and William Hendricks, were governors of Indiana, and one, Andrew Davidson, was long one of the judges of our supreme court. The year that saw Andrew Wylie a senior at Jefferson saw William Hendricks a sophomore at the same place, and when Hendricks' commencement day came, Andrew Wylie as president gave him his diploma. Hendricks never forgot his former fellow-student and college president, and it is quite reasonable to suppose that he gave his voice in favor of Wylie's election.

Two days after the election, Dr. Maxwell wrote to Dr. Wylie announcing the action of the board. The letter, which has escaped the ravages of time, was prepared with a care befitting the occasion. Its excellence of chirography and elegance of diction must have engaged the attention of the orderly and scholarly man to whom it was sent. It is quite evident the writer exercised much greater care in its composition than he usually did in his trustees' reports to the General Assembly. General assemblies met in Indiana yearly, but where would the trustees go for a president if Wylie failed? And so the doctor of medicine wrote to the doctor of divinity the very best letter possible.

How very slow they were in those far-off days! Although the writer of the letter asked for as "speedy an answer as possible," it was ten months before the final answer came. Not that there were no letters passing between Bloomington and Washington in the meantime. These came and went with a frequency that must have been sensibly depleting to the pocket of a man on a thousand-dollar salary when each one cost him twenty-five cents for postage.

"Come and look the field over anyhow," wrote the Bloomington doctor to the Washington one; and sometime during the fall of 1828 the visit was made. The little that is known of that reconnoitering tour do we get from the memory of a man still living [in 1890].

Late on a Saturday evening, Dr. Wylie, wearied and travel-stained, rides into the town of Greensburg in Decatur county, and stops at the tavern for the night. The word at once goes to the Presbyterians of the Sand Creek Church, six miles east of the town, that a doctor

From Columbus to Greensburg the road led through a settled
country all the way. The pioneers' round-log cabins with clapboard roofs held in place by weight-poles were still standing. By the side of many of them stood a newer house built of logs scotched to a face, with the corners neatly notched down. Here and there a double or "saddle-bags" cabin had been built, according to the pioneer's increase of wealth and of family had warranted; and once in a while, but not often, the traveler passed a still more pretentious structure, made of hewn logs with a clapboard roof nailed on, and with a brick or stone chimney in lieu of the almost universal "mud and stick" affair.

At intervals of several miles his eyes rested upon a cleared but unfenced space by the roadside, in the center of which stood the neighborhood meeting-house, built of hewed logs, or mayhap a framed structure un-weatherboarded but with the spaces between the upright timbers filled in with clay. Schoolhouses too were to be seen and for that matter more often than meeting-houses. These were rude structures made of logs and surrounded by unenclosed playgrounds. The great mud and stick chimney at one end of each told of the huge fireplace within, while the entire log cut out at the other end was suggestive of the flood of light pouring through "oilpaper glass" upon the juvenile makers of "pot-hooks and hangers" seated at the long tables within.

New the country must indeed have seemed on that day, but new as it was, the traveler would have seen much the same in almost any road in the state, a fact we who would estimate at its true value the founding of a college in Indiana in 1828 must ever keep in mind. From Judge Hopkins' house Dr. Wylie took the road that led by Oxford, the seat of the Miami University, where he visited friends and made a note of the ill consequences of putting unseasoned lumber into college buildings; and thence by the way of Cincinnati he went on to his home.

Not till March 20 after his election, a period of more than ten months, does he make up his mind to accept the Indiana call. From the few letters wholly or partially saved from destruction, it is evident that call was kept sounding in his ears. Both Maxwell and Hall wrote often and earnestly urging acceptance, and doubtless other citizens of the state were equally importunate.

At home there was a pressure the other way. The friends of Wash-
Fourth, we have one or two in the junior year who talk of leaving here unless someone instruct them in the same studies, as they wish not to have a defective education. Fifth, our trustees at their last meeting, acting from some foolish legal quibble as to the extent of the charter, cut off our English department and came near destroying the grammar school. A word from you will restore all, and not till restored will our numbers be very greatly augmented. . . . Eighth, enemies you know from Hazney's case the College has. These are sorely plagued at your acceptance. They will be utterly defeated by your immediate removal. If you delay I dread more plots. If once defeated they can never try again. . . . Tenth, the spring is by common consent the best season for a removal. The middle of summer is dangerous; the autumn may be highly so.

But it was in vain that they urged him. There was a babe in his house "not yet five weeks old"; he had in his hands the "business of two estates in which widows and orphans were concerned"; and his relations to the Western Theological Seminary made it necessary for him to attend the meeting of the General Assembly of his church to be held in Philadelphia in the following May.

Out of this General Assembly trip came the nucleus of the first Indiana College library. The Doctor proposed to the trustees that after his assembly work was done, he would, if they approved, visit divers eastern colleges with the particular purpose of examining their buildings and studying their architecture; and he proposed also to visit the moneyled centers and solicit donations of books and funds with which to buy books, and "an apparatus" for the College. The trustees gave him the roving commission he asked for, and in May he went to Philadelphia.

No stronger evidence of the prevailing poverty of the times, not to say of western servility to the East, can be found than this commissioning of the newly elected college president to go on a begging tour for a state institution. To the president, as a churchman, it doubtless seemed well enough, for the church is divinely commissioned to ask the aid of the faithful everywhere to carry on the church's work; but for a board of trustees, nominated by state authority and working in behalf of a state institution from which sectarianism was rigidly excluded both by law and public sentiment, it was quite another thing. But a library and chemical and philosophical apparatus were so much needed, and there was such a dearth of funds, that in their extremity the College authorities humbled themselves and their state, by asking the full purses of the East to contribute to their wants. Who can know the straits to which the Fathers were reduced in the upbuilding of our beloved institution!

In Philadelphia Dr. Wylie was the guest of Rev. Dr. Samuel B. Wylie, his uncle, who was the father of our Dr. T. A. Wylie, then a student in the University of Pennsylvania. In that city he made little effort for books or funds. "The frequency of such applications recently in Philadelphia," he wrote, "prevented my attempting anything there." Nevertheless he must have solicited books from his uncle, and that not without avail, for when the boy Theophilus had grown to manhood and had come to Bloomington as the professor of natural philosophy he found in the College library books that he recognized as old and familiar friends, books that once belonged to his father's library.

From Philadelphia Andrew Wylie went to New York, where he pressed his mission, and not without success. First, he "prepared the way," as he himself says, by preaching on the Sabbath "in two of the churches" and the next two days he employed in "making acquaintances." "The rest of the week," he continues in a letter written to the president of the board, "I design to spend soliciting donations and hope to succeed in some degree. . . . I shall try hard to raise funds enough in this region to procure an apparatus for our College."

This was in June. How long a time he spent in New York is not now known, nor what other towns and cities he visited, if any. No money was procured to buy the much-talked-of "apparatus," whatever that was, but the solicitor did meet with no mean success in his pursuit of books. "Two hundred and thirty-five volumes 11 so assorted as to embrace history, geography, belles lettres, and treatises on chemistry, and mental and moral philosophy" was the number brought in. "These books," wrote the president of the board in his report to the General Assembly of the state in December, 1830, were "all new, and of the most approved authors and estimated at being very low at $600." And as if it were not enough to report to the legislature that the

11 A report read in the Senate on January 3, 1831, says 175 volumes in the library. What became of the others?
On September 27 the movers were in Wheeling. The river was low, so low that the steamboats had ceased running even that far up, and in spite of the journey overland it was necessary to wait for a rise. Friends and relatives lived in Wheeling, and were visited; and, a Sunday intervening, Dr. Wylie preached in one of the city churches. In “three or four days” the river began to rise, and with the first appearance of the rise the steamboat captains, ordering the fires to be kindled in the furnaces, began ringing their bells, and all was soon bustle and confusion on the Wheeling wharf. The movers with all their stuff were soon aboard, and their boat cast off, steaming down the river by day and tying up by night for the lagging flood to overtake them. They reached Louisville in time for the Doctor to repeat his Wheeling sermon to a Louisville congregation on the ensuing Sunday.

The wagons sent to Dr. Wylie from Bloomington were there on his arrival, or came soon after, and the overland journey of ninety-five miles to Bloomington was soon begun. The Doctor, his wife, and his younger children rode in the “barouche,” while others went in the wagons. Young Bollman walked part of the way in company with a wagon. At some point on the journey he encountered a kinsman on horseback, and the two journeyed on to Bloomington after the fashion in which Samuel Johnson and his friend David Garrick went down to London—they “rode and tied.” The first night the movers stayed at New Providence with Mrs. Borden, and here they saw evidences of the much-dreaded fever and ague, to guard against which they at once adopted the custom of the country and drank whiskey with their water. The next day at noon they reached Salem and stopped till the next morning. Here was the Salem Academy, that steamboats could ascend the Ohio no higher than Wheeling. As the time passed he became impatient to be off. September was drawing to a close and he could delay no longer. Four two-horse wagons were accordingly laden with his household goods and hauled overland to the head of steamboat navigation. Fourteen persons, including nine children, constituted President Wylie’s family. Lewis C. Bollman, a lad of eighteen, accompanied him, in order to finish his education in the new Indiana College.

The president had written to Dr. Maxwell that “it would be important that the manner of his entrance upon the sphere of his future operations should attract some attention”; and the trustee and the two professors, and perhaps some others, resolved that nothing should be lacking to make this entrance into town as impressive as possible.

It was late in the afternoon of October 9 when the immigrants arrived. The town was in its Sunday best. No such spectacular display...
had ever been witnessed before in Bloomington as was to be witnessed that afternoon and evening. A deputation of College trustees, county officials, professional men, private citizens, and students, under the command of Gordon Robinson, a military man, having been a soldier in the War of 1812, was to meet the president at a designated place and escort him into town. Bollman had told the townspeople at about what time to expect the advent of the movers, and so at the appointed time a courier rode down the highway till he met them, when he rode back to give notice of their coming. A sentinel was posted in a beech tree in the campus close by the spring to give notice of the coming of the courier. In due time the warning was given, and professors and students, trustees and citizens, all marched forth in double file to meet the coming man. At the proper place the column divided and the cavalcade passed between the two rows, who gave vent to their joy in loud and long continued huzzas! To the eyes of the Indiana lads present, some of whom at least had never seen a vehicle finer than a "Dearborn wagon," the president's "barouche" was an imposing affair.

On their arrival at the president's house, the tired movers found it "swept and garnished." The Bloomington matrons and maids, vying with their husbands and brothers, gave doubtless the more appreciative welcome. The fire played cheerfully upon the hearthstone that October evening, and after a season of handshaking, the tired and hungry travelers were led out to a bountiful supper. A young college student, McKee Dunn, saw that table and was wonderfully impressed with its tempting viands and its artistic setting. He never forgot that the "butter was ornamented with a spray of cedar."

An illumination followed the supper. It must have been a unique affair. A pole was raised above the roof of the new College.

The upper end... passed through the center of radiating pieces bounded by a circumference, and continued to rise yet a few feet. Near its top crossed a bar at right angles; and at each end of the bar a candle represented a Professor—a very large candle on the extremity of the pole itself personated the President. The Students stood in other candles around the circle below.14

The president candle was the largest candle, according to the recollec-