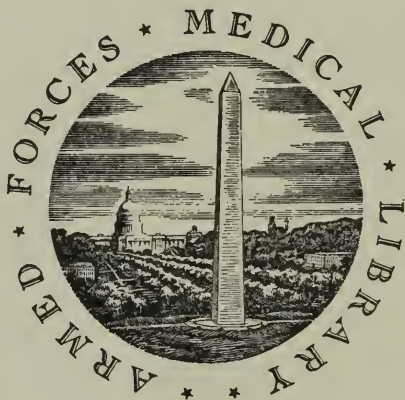




UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



FOUNDED 1836

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WASHINGTON, D.C.





AN

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS,**

ON THE ADVANTAGES AND FACILITIES

*Doctor Charles Northington*

OF ESTABLISHING A

*From his friend*

**MEDICAL SCHOOL**

*G. W. Pickens*

IN THE

**WESTERN STATES,**

DELIVERED IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN LEXINGTON;

*On the 18th day of November, 1819.*



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**BY CHARLES CALDWELL, M.D.**

Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, and Teacher of Materia Medica, in  
Transylvania University.

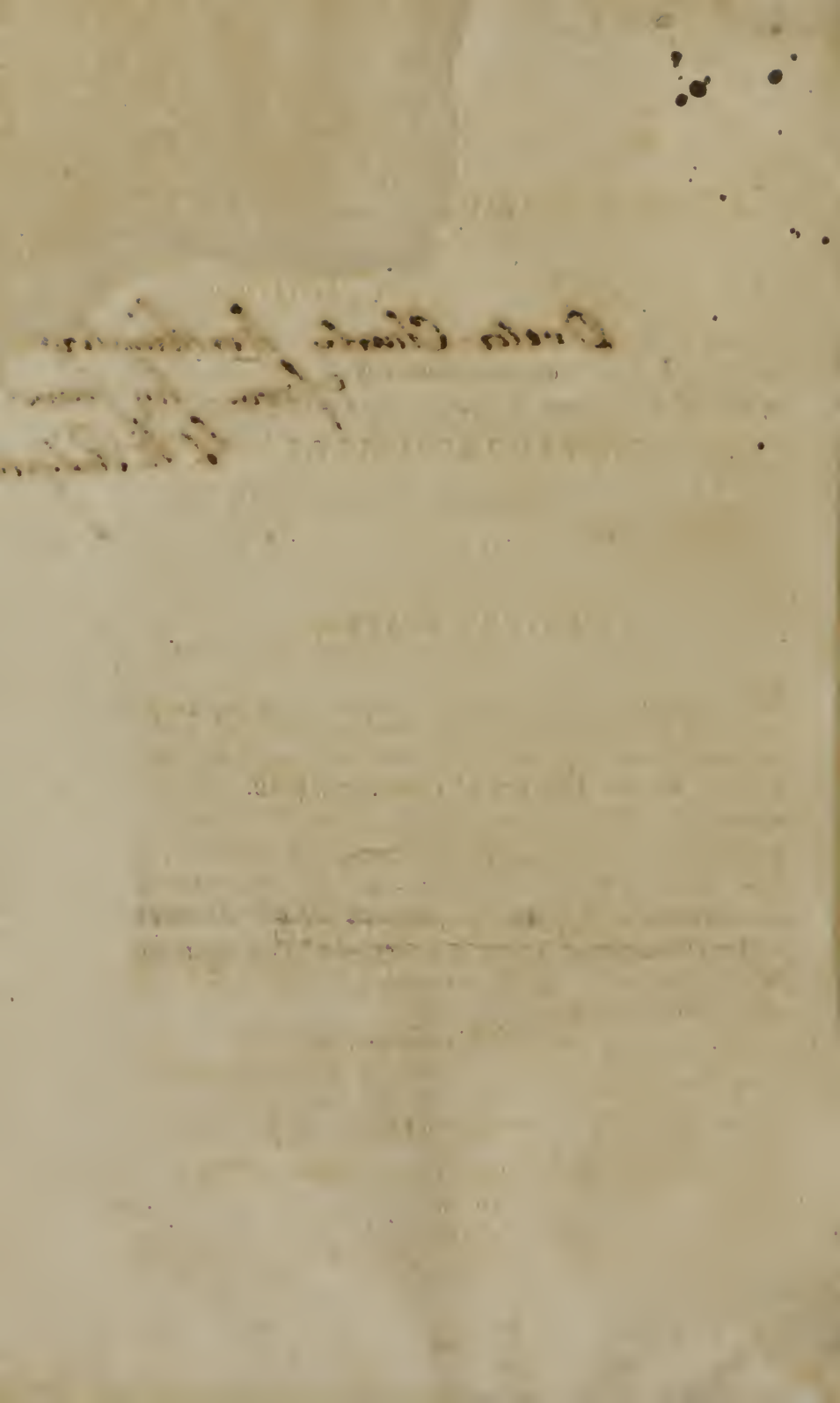
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LEXINGTON, K.

PRINTED BY THOMAS SMITH, AT THE REPORTER OFFICE

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1819.



AT A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY, HELD NOV. 18TH, 1819, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED :

RESOLVED, *That Thomas Bodley, John W. Hunt, and Charles Humphreys, be a Committee to request of Dr Caldwell a copy of his Inaugural Address for publication ; and, in case of his consent. to procure two hundred printed copies, and make such distribution of them as they may deem proper.*

**CHARLES HUMPHREYS, Clk.**

Nov. 19th, 1819.

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LEXINGTON, NOV. 19TH, 1819.

SIR,

*The Professors in the Medical Department of Transylvania University, tender their grateful acknowledgments to you, for the very interesting and appropriate Address, which you, as Dean of their Faculty, delivered at their Inauguration. Conceiving that the enlightened inhabitants of these western states will duly appreciate the importance of the sentiments and opinions, so feelingly and ably expressed in that Discourse, they deem it a duty which they owe to the Medical Institution and to themselves, to request that you will consent to its publication.*

**SAM. BROWN,  
W. H. RICHARDSON,  
B. W. DUDLEY,  
JAMES BLYTHE.**

DOCT. CALDWELL.

400147





## INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

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FELLOW-CITIZENS,

**IN** the unprecedented march of these western states, from wildness and destitution, towards maturity, opulence, and glory, we have reached a new and memorable epoch.

Already, far and wide, have the forests of the country bowed to the husbandman, and an exuberant soil and bounteous climate rewarded his industry with varied abundance. Already have arts and commerce flourished under the direction of enterprise and perseverance, accompanied by their never-failing concomitants, elegance and wealth. Already have numerous seats of learning been founded by the wisdom and amply endowed by the liberality of the public, while, guided by genius and fostered by a spirit of enlightened patriotism, some of them have risen to distinction with unlooked for rapidity. Springing from the combined influence of these effects, operating in their turn as powerful causes, already have the monuments of taste and fashion and refinement begun to adorn and exalt society.

But vast and diversified as are the advances in cultivation that have been already effected, the entire work of civil improvement is not yet complete. Sundry establishments, of primary importance to the welfare of the community, remain to be added to the long list that has been already erected. Of these, permit me to notice, as among the foremost and most indispensable, an institution, well organized, and built on a suitable foundation, for teaching the knowledge of the healing art.

Hitherto the youth of the western country, who devoted themselves to the study of medicine, have been compelled

to choose between the alternatives, of resting content with a very limited knowledge of their profession, or, under many and great privations and disadvantages, submitting to a painful absence from home, and consuming, at a very heavy expense, a large portion of time in the atlantic states.

An evil, already of such recognized magnitude, augmenting in a direct ratio to the progress of population, and conflicting with so many powerful interests, both public and private, could neither pass unnoticed, nor continue unfelt. It has, accordingly, for many years, been sincerely lamented by the people of the west, in whispers first, in murmurs afterwards, and ultimately in complaints emphatical and loud. In active and strong collision with their sentiments and sympathies, no less than their interests, it has awakened in them a general and increasing desire, that measures should be adopted to bring it to a close.

It is with a view to the attainment of this end, so interesting to the present and future generations, and so congenial, as I persuade myself, to the pride of a generous and high-minded people, that we are this day assembled within these sacred and venerable walls. An effort is now to be made—and I trust it will be vigorous, persevering, and wise—to plant science by the side of letters, that under a skilful and efficient cultivation, they may flourish together, intermingling their fair and wide-spreading branches, until their blossoms be admired, and their fruit enjoyed, in the remotest corner of this favoured region—until, in every thing that can meliorate the condition of man, or expand, adorn, and elevate his intellect, the western may vie with eastern states, and both combine, to present to the world, the last, the most perfect, and the sublimest monument, of human grandeur, and human excellence.

Inspired by a prospect so august and imposing, and actuated by an ardent wish to contribute, however feebly, to the great scheme of operations by which it is to be realized, I feel emboldened, although a stranger among you, to attempt

to unfold to you your interest and your duty, touching the subject of our present contemplation.

In pursuance of this, permit me to occupy a few moments of your time, by a brief exposition of the advantages and facilities of establishing a Medical School in this University.

By such an establishment, you will gratify, in part, a predominant and noble propensity, implanted in your natures for the most exalted and valuable purposes, the love of independence. As yet, however unwelcome the declaration may prove, you are not independent,\* because you are not master of your own resources and your own means. From not duly estimating your own capabilities, and calling into action the energies you possess, you suffer yourselves to be too much under the influence of others. Humanly speaking, your destinies are not yet your own. They remain with those guardians, to whose keeping you wisely confided them, when in a state of infancy, and at whose hands, as if the trammels of minority were still around you, you have not yet had the courage to demand them.

On the atlantic states, or on Europe, you are dependant for the higher and more important part of the education of those, who are to be your chief depositories of natural science, whose province it ought to be to disclose to you many of the native resources of your country, and who are entrusted with the care of the health and lives of yourselves and your families. These considerations, if not mortifying, can much less be flattering to your self-estimation. They manifest a want of the higher prerogatives of cultivated life—prerogatives perfectly within your grasp, if you be true to yourselves: and the want of which, although heretofore your misfortune, must, should it continue, be hereafter your fault. By the removal of it, you will not only rise in your own es-

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\* It is to be distinctly understood, that no allusion is here made or meant, to *political* independence; but exclusively to that of a literary, scientific and professional character. From his present views and feelings on the subject, the writer sincerely wishes perpetuity to the federative ties between the western and the atlantic states.

teem, but in the esteem of those who now regard themselves as your rightful instructors, and, with an air of superiority scarcely less than supercilious and offensive, affect to look down on you as in a state of pupilage. That sentiments of this description *are* entertained in relation to you, thousands of witnesses, and I myself in the number, can abundantly testify. If you can any longer tolerate the condition which gives rise to them, then shall I confess myself most painfully mistaken in your spirit and your character.

The medical education of your young men, in the atlantic states, draws from you annually no inconsiderable portion of your wealth. The amount thus expended, and lost to you as a people, must always bear a direct ratio to the number of your youth who shall be educated abroad. This is an injury to Western America at large, which, if not arrested, must necessarily increase with the growth of your population.

But to the interest of individuals it is trebly injurious. It incumbers learning, and limits the number of your men of science. The sum requisite for the education of one young man in the eastern states, will be nearly sufficient to educate three among yourselves. This statement is the result, not of conjecture, but correct calculation. The very expenses of a journey to and from one of the schools of medicine in the atlantic states, will be sufficient for the entire expenditures of a whole winter session in a Medical School of your own. Thus is money, by being circulated among yourselves, once saved to the western country, and, by the limitedness of the amount, thrice saved to the individuals who furnish it. It is thrice saved, because the same sum will effectuate thrice as much, by trebling in number your men of letters. This increase would prove a vast accession to your strength and distinction, it being an established maxim, that knowledge is power.

But the evil here complained of, sufficiently grievous at all times, is materially augmented, by the peculiar condition of the present period. For medical pupils, repairing from

here to the eastern schools, to procure and carry with them, for their subsistence, either specie, or bank paper equal in value, must be difficult and inconvenient, if not impracticable. But so much against you is the rate of exchange, that, if their funds consist of the paper of your state banks, they must lose fifteen, twenty, or even forty dollars in every hundred. Where four hundred dollars would be sufficient, in prosperous times, from five to seven hundred are requisite at this conjuncture of embarrassment and distress. Every consideration, then, of a pecuniary nature, furnishes an argument, which nothing can resist, in favor of the establishment of a Medical School in this western, or more properly, this *central*, section of the United States.

But, by resorting, in pursuit of education, to the large and populous cities of the atlantic states, your young gentlemen hazard losses much more disastrous to them than those of wealth. I allude to the loss of morals, industry, correct habits, and that simplicity of manners and moderation of desires, which alone can qualify them to sustain the character of valuable and exemplary members of your community.

I do not say that this is the fate which necessarily awaits every one who may pass the mountains in quest of knowledge. I know there are many honourable exceptions. But I also know, that such a fate has overtaken some, in a degree that was ruinous; that it has affected others less destructively; and that, more or less seriously, it menaces all. In large cities, where every thing is liable to run into extremes, the examples of idleness, the attractions of amusement, the allurements of pleasure, and the seductions of vice, are numerous and powerful. To reside in the midst of them, and to become familiar with them, is dangerous even to those, whose years and knowledge of the world would seem sufficient to guaranty their security. What, then, must be the perils with which they are pregnant to ductile and unsuspecting youth, who want experience, and are removed from the guidance of their guardians and

friends! If it be your wish to preserve, with certainty, such characters from falling victims to their deadly influence, keep them at a distance from their devouring vortex. I have long witnessed the evils of which I am warning you, and pledge my veracity I do not exaggerate them.

Independently of other advantages, your young men can be much more profitably instructed in a western than in an eastern school. The truth of this position must be obvious to every one acquainted with medicine.

The chief end of a physician's education is the cure of disease. But diseases are greatly modified in their character, by soil, climate, topographical influences, and the mode of life of the people they affect. In many parts of the world, different complaints, requiring different modes of treatment, are known to prevail on the opposite sides of a chain of mountains, and, in some places, on the opposite sides of a large river, or an arm of the sea.

This is true of the Alps, the Pyrenees, and the Appennines, in Europe, the Gaults, in Asia, and other mountains, as well known in medical, as in natural history. It is also true of the Nile, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Venice, and the Straits of Gibraltar. The opposite sides of each of these mountains and bodies of water are marked by the prevalence of different diseases.

From the strong and peculiar character of the country they inhabit, then, as well as from the modes of life they pursue, the people of these western states, if not subject to diseases peculiarly their own, must at least be affected with complaints distinguished by some peculiarities in their symptoms. This, from sources of authentic information, I know to be the case. But these peculiarities can be learnt only from actual observation, and a knowledge of the most successful method of treating them must be the result of experience.

In a school, then, erected on your own soil, beneath the influence of your own heavens and your own climate, fairly within view of your own manners and modes of life—in such a school, where the teachers can unite observation

and experience to reading and other forms of research, the specialties of your diseases, and the proper treatment of them can be better taught, than in a distant school, where none of these advantages of locality are enjoyed.

In the schools of London and Edinburgh, the knowledge of the diseases of Scotland and England, is much more correctly and efficiently inculcated, than it can possibly be in the schools of Dublin or Montpellier, Paris or Gottingen.

Physicians educated in any of the seminaries of Europe, are incompetent to the successful practice of medicine in the United States, until they have become disciplined into their business, by observation and experience. This is a truth familiar to every practitioner of our country. The reason is, that they have derived the knowledge of their profession from institutions, where the character of our diseases is not understood.

In like manner will young men formed in a school within the valley of the Mississippi, be much better qualified for the successful treatment of the diseases of that valley, than those who are educated in any other quarter. A consideration so important should never be overlooked by an enlightened people.

It is by physicians, if not exclusively, at least for the most part, that the general properties and effects, as well as the peculiarities, of climates are studied and developed. But this pursuit belongs more particularly to the province of the public teacher of medicine—to that teacher specifically, whose business it is to inculcate the principles of pathological science. To study climate, and disclose its character, and its operations, constitute a part of his official duty. From the labours of a western school of medicine, therefore, you will derive a knowledge of your climate much more speedily and characterized, probably, by more correctness, than from any other source.

Further. By the establishment and support of such an institution, you will bring the force, and all the best resources of the profession more immediately to your own doors.

You will create a new *punctum saliens*—a fresh spring of medical action, the influence of which will be more sensibly felt.

It is well known, that, not only in the immediate vicinity of medical schools, but for a great distance around them, the profession is better understood, and more vigorously and successfully practised, than in more remote places. Each school is like a new seat of civil government, the administration of which is perfectly efficient in the centre of the territory over which it extends, but becomes languid and feeble, as it spreads towards the extremities. Were I addressing myself exclusively to physicians, I might say, that it is like an additional ganglion, which, by its local action, sustains and reinvigorates the languishing influence of the system to which it belongs.

Medicine, in all its branches, is better understood and more skilfully practised, in and around the city of Philadelphia, than in any other part of the United States. The same thing is true of Edinburgh and London, in relation to Great Britain, and of Paris, Montpellier, Halle, Gottingen, and Pisa, with regard to the countries in which they are situated. The reason is, that in all these places medical schools are established, which diffuse a kindred atmosphere around them, giving freshness to the doctrines, and vigour and efficiency to the operations of the profession.

Such will be the effect of erecting a school in the valley of the Mississippi. The lamp of science will burn with greater intensity and brightness, throughout the whole of these central states, but more especially around the spot from which it shall be fed.

Nor will the salutary operation of such an establishment be limited to the strengthening and elevation of the profession of medicine. By the force of example, and the awakening of a high toned spirit of emulation, it will extend its influence to the other learned and liberal pursuits, until its effects shall be recognized in the melioration of every walk of public and professional life.



Another advantage to be derived from the establishment of a medical school in this University, is too important to be kept out of view, on the present occasion. †

I have learnt from sources, on the authenticity of which I am bound to rely, that, from other sections of the union, the western states are becoming inundated with uneducated and unskilful pretenders to medicine—mere adventurers, who, without any stock of preparatory attainment, enter on the practice, as if it were the simplest and humblest trade.

I feel persuaded, that, for this evil, which is both heavy and disgraceful, the only speedy and effectual remedy will be found, in the competent education, among yourselves, of a sufficient number of your own youth. I say, *among yourselves*; for if they be not educated *there*, they will not—in times like the present, they *cannot*, be educated at all.

Were this measure carried into effect, you would then have a perfect knowledge of the talents, the attainments, and the general reputation of those, to whom the care of your health might be entrusted. The youth of your own states would then become your physicians—the able and faithful depositories of your confidence. In the existing state of things, you place yourselves too much in the power of strangers.

As if their intellectual capabilities were formed on a humbler and more limited scale, the western young men continue the laborious cultivators of the soil—comparatively, mere hewers of wood and drawers of water, resigning too much to their fellows in age, of the atlantic states, the high places in society. If, contrary to my hope and belief, they and their parents can rest content with this unnatural posture of affairs, then must we sigh in bitterness and despondency over the present lowly condition of these states, and wait the rising of a nobler spirit, before we attempt its melioration.

Medicine, when properly studied and taught, has a literary no less than a scientific tendency. It enlightens, expands, and elevates the intellect, improves the heart, purifies the morals, and refines the taste.

Besides enriching the place, then, by the streams of wealth which it shall annually pour into it, for the subsistence, clothing and education of the pupils, and benefitting it by encouraging the various arts, manufactures, and lines of business subservient to such an institution, a flourishing school of medicine aids in a high degree, in giving a literary character, and a general refinement, to the society where it is established. Such is the effect of a school of this description on the city of Edinburgh; such is its effect on the city of Philadelphia; and such, if established and vigorously supported, will be its necessary effect on the town of Lexington, rendering it the Edinburgh—the Athens, of the West.

Having hastily enumerated a few of the benefits you cannot fail to experience, from the erection and maintenance of a medical school in this University, permit me to advert to the facilities of the enterprize.

In relation to this topic, nature, in her bounty, has done for you all you can desire or conceive.

She has given to you a climate peculiarly propitious to every thing connected with the contemplated establishment; a soil, capable of furnishing the means of subsistence to the densest population, and by the assiduous cultivation of which, connected with other collateral pursuits, your resources in wealth have grown to a sufficiency for all your purposes; a situation signalized by its salubrity even in a healthy country; placed you at an immense distance from the atlantic states, where schools of medicine already exist; and thrown across your route a mountain barrier, as if forbidding you to pass it.

While decreeing that you shall be a great, she has formed you, in some measure, an insulated people, thereby proclaiming, that, in relation to many points, you are to rely on your own resources, and live for yourselves.

In these respects, she has placed innumerable and distinguished advantages within your grasp, and commanded you to embrace them, by rendering it difficult to procure them at a distance. She has constituted you, in a word, a most

favoured community, and should you neglect to avail yourselves of the advantages you enjoy, you would manifest, at once, a want of wisdom and a want of gratitude.

By numerous navigable streams, of great extent, ramifying throughout an immeasurable territory, but uniting in one common reservoir, and a level country, through which excellent roads may be readily constructed, she has given to you as a people, with regard to travelling generally, or to assembling at any selected point, unusual facilities. It may be confidently asserted, that there is scarcely on earth a tract of country of equal dimensions, so easily traversed as the valley of the Mississippi.

To the town of Lexington, situated, as it is, in a central position, access is easy from every state and territory of the west. In point of preparation and general aptitude to become the site of a medical school, it greatly surpasses, at present, all other places on this side of the mountains. Nor, for many years, will any town on the waters of the west be in a condition to rival it. Admit that, as emporiums of commerce, other places promise to be the Tyres, I repeat, that to Lexington belongs the more splendid destiny, to become the Athens of Western America.

Shall I be told, that between the maritime district of this great central region, and the atlantic schools, the intercourse is as easy as between the same district and Transylvania University? I can scarcely condescend to waste my time and yours in invalidating the assertion. Who does not know that a voyage, by sea, from New-Orleans to New-York, Philadelphia, or Baltimore, in which the navigation, in the autumn and spring, is peculiarly difficult as well as hazardous, is much more arduous, expensive, and forbidding, than a passage from the same port to Louisville, in a well prepared steam-boat? while the descent of the Mississippi, in return, is but an excursion of pleasure, the return coastwise from the atlantic schools being equally arduous with the voyage to them.

Will it be objected, by any foe to your prosperity and greatness, that the population of these states is too limited to furnish the materials for a school of medicine? That it cannot supply a succession of pupils sufficient to insure durability to the establishment? Let it be remembered, that it is nearly double the population of all the British colonies, at the period when the schools of Philadelphia and New-York were instituted. Nor is this all. The number of your inhabitants, which is daily increasing with unprecedented rapidity, bears even now, a much greater proportion to one school, than that of the atlantic states does to the several schools it is known to maintain. And, notwithstanding certain supposed appearances to the contrary, I have too exalted an opinion of the good sense and correct feeling of the people of the west, to permit myself to believe, that they will consent, at present, to patronize a plurality of such institutions.

The entire population of the United States may be estimated at about ten millions. Of this amount nearly one third is flourishing already in the valley of the Mississippi. But a few years longer, and the half will be there.

Out of the other two thirds are supported, at present, seven schools of medicine: viz. one at Philadelphia, one at Baltimore, one at New-York, one at Boston, one at New-Haven, one at Providence, in the state of Rhode Island, and one at Hanover, in the state of New-Hampshire.

Are the people of the east, then, so far your superiors in all that is liberal and enterprising, energetic and enlightened, that, with less than seven millions of inhabitants, they can sustain seven medical schools, while you, with more than three millions, cannot sustain one? Can they, with the same means, more than treble you, in their exertions and achievements, to attain the palm in an art, which, from its elevation and importance, has been denominated *divine*? Or is there, in the noble science of medicine, any thing peculiarly uncongenial to your capacities and tastes? Have you sent forth from among you legislators, and diploma-

vists, and commanders of armies equal to the ablest your country can boast? And will you consent still servilely to rely on the atlantic states, for those who are to be constituted the guardians of your health, and who ought to be the ornaments of your literary circles?

I know your spirit and your character too well, to admit, for a moment, that these questions can be answered in the affirmative. In no one quality of a great, a vigorous, and a high minded people, are you inferior to your eastern brethren. I do not say you are superior to them; because I am not willing either to be deemed a flatterer, or, by a comparison that may be exceptionable, to offend those, among whom it has been my lot to be born and educated. But I will say, and truth and justice demand of me the avowal, that for sagacity, judgment, and wisdom to plan, and resolution, perseverance, and energy to execute, you have excited, beyond any other section of our country, the admiration and astonishment of enlightened strangers. Before the celerity and the vigour of your progress, obstacles have ceased to have an existence or a name. Your approach has annihilated difficulties and dangers. From the fruitless wilds and the rudenesses of nature, you have passed, as by magic, to the competencies and refinements of cultivated life. Your career from poverty to wealth, and from nothing to greatness, is the wonder of your time. Even your own countrymen view with amazement, the rapidity of your march from a wilderness to settlements, from settlements to territories, and from territories to populous and powerful states.

Can you, then, exhibit such numerous, high, and varied capabilities, and yet prove inefficient, in a point that presents you with nothing but facilities? Can you acquire, as by enchantment, all the elements of a medical school, and can you not afterwards establish and support it? To admit the negative of these propositions, would be to reason posterously, and embrace an absurdity.

By those who are unfriendly to the establishment of your school, I know it is said, that, on this side of the mountains,

comparatively few young men devote themselves to the study of medicine.

Admitting the truth of this assertion, of which, however, I am not convinced, the reason is obvious. It is to be found in the difficulties and expenses that have hitherto attended the acquisition of a medical education, in this section of the United States. But these have arisen exclusively from the remoteness of the eastern schools of medicine, and of the valuable libraries which are usually attached to them. I say nothing of the hospitals and infirmaries which are there established; for, from the mode in which they are, at present, administered, the most extensive and distinguished of them are utterly useless, as clinical schools, to the pupils who visit them during the winter season. Under suitable arrangements the case *might* be otherwise; and such arrangements, I feel persuaded, will be adopted and maintained in the hospital of Lexington.

Remove the cause of your alleged deficiency of medical pupils, and the effect will cease. Bring the source of instruction within a convenient distance, by erecting and faithfully maintaining a school of medicine in this place, and your youth will devote themselves to that profession, in numbers proportioned to the extent of your population, the honors and dignities attached to the pursuit, and the reward which may await the educated physician.

There exists another circumstance favorable, in no inconsiderable degree, to the founding and maintaining of a school of medicine in this University. While the medical, by its immediate contiguity to the academical department, will induce a greater number of well instructed youth to engage in the studies which it inculcates, the latter will impart to the former that intellectual richness, polish, and love of letters, without which it can never be either respectable or efficient. Unlike too many of the pupils of the atlantic schools, yours, I trust, will not rest satisfied with a mere English education, and the study of a very limited number of text books in medicine, but will learn, in a short time, to strength-

en, exalt, and adorn their profession, with classical literature and general science.

A further objection urged against the attempt to erect a medical school in this place, is, that no institution of the kind has ever risen to distinction, except in a large and populous city.

In reply to this, it is sufficient to observe, that the allegation is unfounded, and must be either dishonest in its object, or the result of a culpable ignorance of facts. The history of medical schools, in different countries, demonstrates its fallacy. The school of Gottingen is one of the most renowned on the continent of Europe. Its pupils, resorting to it from all parts of Germany, and the contiguous states, amount to three hundred; while the city, in which it is situated, contains somewhat less than nine thousand inhabitants.

In the extent of its population, Halle, in Saxony, is but an inconsiderable town, and derives its importance only from the university, especially the distinguished school of medicine, for which it has long been celebrated.

The same thing is true of Pisa, in Italy. That city did not create the school of medicine which at present adorns it. On the contrary, the school had much more influence in creating it—at least in conferring on it its consequence and celebrity.

In our own country, Hanover, in New-Hampshire, an obscure village, of five hundred inhabitants, is the seat of a medical school consisting of about *eighty* or *ninety* pupils; while the school of Boston, a town containing a population of forty thousand, and about a hundred miles distant from it, does not consist of more than *sixty*. It is neither theory nor conjecture, then, it is history, that the size of a medical school does not depend on that of the town in which it may be situated. It depends much more on its proximity and accessibility to an extensive and dense population, and the facilities it offers for acquiring a competent knowledge of the profession. Of these facilities, an exceedingly important one is the cheapness of subsistence. Other things being

alike, or even nearly so, if at one school the means of subsistence cost less than half what they do at another, and, at the same time, the cheap institution be at only one fifth or sixth the distance, it results from the nature of man, that it will be preferred. It is well known, that the medical school in Hanover surpasses, in numbers, that in Boston, chiefly because, in the latter place, the price of subsistence is much higher than it is in the former. Added to this, Boston presents allurements to pleasure, dissipation and vice, which Hanover does not.

But it has been already stated, that nearly three young men can be educated in this University for what the education of one will cost, in either of the large atlantic cities. And here, comparatively speaking, temptations to idleness and vicious practices have scarcely an existence, or even a name. As far as my observation has extended, order, regularity, and correct habits, honourably characterize the youth of the place. If I am not deceived by appearances, a taste for sound and elegant attainment greatly predominates among them, over that for empty amusement or frivolous pursuits. By the youth of the west, therefore, a Lexington education will receive a preference.

If the preceding statements and expositions be true—and on my belief of their verity I have fearlessly hazarded my reputation and my fortune—your interests and duties, in relation to the object of them, need scarcely be detailed to you. Your own reflections must have already presented them to you, in characters as glowing, as if they were traced by a pencil of sun-beams—so bright, so bold, and so distinct, that he who runs, or even flies, may read them.

I speak to you, not alone as inhabitants of Lexington, nor yet as citizens of the state of Kentucky: I fancy myself addressing the assembled sons and daughters of the West. And would that my voice, inefficient as it is, could resound in every patriotic ear throughout this vast and rising section



of our country—from the Gulf of Mexico\* to the region of the lakes, and from the eastern border of these states, to the western extreme of our civilized population! Should my topics of argument prove defective, the strength of my cause would enforce conviction.

If then, the establishment and support of a medical school, in this place, be calculated to minister to your independence, to promote your health, and to secure and amplify your pecuniary resources; if it tend to elevate you, as a people, in science, in letters, in refinement, and in arts, and to preserve many of your youth from the vortex of dissipation, and the contagion of vice: if it do this, and be, at the same time, a project not only practicable, but perfectly easy, it can be no longer a question, whether you will vigorously and conscientiously patronize it. You cannot, you dare not refuse, unless you renounce the feelings of the patriot, and virtually avow your disregard of your country, yourselves, and the fate of your posterity.

If, to any of you, this declaration appear unnecessarily bold or authoritative, permit me, notwithstanding, to maintain that it is true; and to plead, as my apology for addressing it to you, the sincerity of heart, the purity of my motives, and the ardour of my zeal for the greatness and glory of this section of our country, to which I have freely transplanted my fortunes, and to the interests of which, as far as my capabilities may be competent to promote them, I purpose to devote the remainder of my life.

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\* Louisiana is a maritime as well as a western region. Notwithstanding this, it cannot be denied, that her relationships, both in peace and war, to the states and territories on the head waters of the Mississippi, are much more natural, stronger, and more interesting, than those which she holds with the atlantic states. In a scientific, literary, and professional point of view, this is peculiarly the case.

It belongs, then, to the state of Kentucky, as a matter of wisdom and sound policy, to cherish and strengthen the ties and sympathies between her and the generous inhabitants of the lower country, by erecting and maintaining a distinguished seat of learning and science, to which they may send their youth for instruction.

Let me call on you, then, as legislators, clothed in authority, and commauded to watch over the well-being of the state; as magistrates and counsellors, entrusted with the high and sacred functions, of sustaining right, confounding error, and dispensing justice; as divines and theologians, commissioned from above, to propagate truth, confirm virtue, and cultivate piety; as political economists, charged with the superintendance of the public resources; as prudent fathers, and virtuous and affectionate matrons, who love your sons, and are anxious to preserve the soundness of their morals, and the purity of their hearts; and as high-minded patriots, whose love of country is paramount to every other earthly attachment!—By these numerous, strong, and sacred ties, and whatever other considerations, if any such there be, may more powerfully move you, let me implore you to call forth your own resources, to instruct and excite your legislative body, and animate the citizens of your neighbouring states, to aid in the support and aggrandizement of your medical institution.

Should the topics already adduced be insufficient to awaken you, let me not fail to urge you by another motive, *your state and individual pride.*

In the valley of the Mississippi a great medical school *must* be erected. Nature herself has pronounced the fiat, and her decree *will* be fulfilled through every obstacle.

Of the constellation of states in this valley, Kentucky is the elder and the wealthier sister. She is, moreover, the daughter of the most ancient and influential member of the Union—of that state, which has given birth to the commander in chief of our revolutionary armies, to four presidents of the United States, and to no inconsiderable number of statesmen and orators, equal, in lustre, to any of the age. And, in all that is energetic, spirited and efficient, she has already exhibited strong and flattering marks of parental likeness. She has already demonstrated, that, in physical energies, she is not surpassed, and that to render her, in all

respects, proudly pre-eminent, nothing is requisite but the vigorous and unrelaxing employment of her moral means.

To her, then, it belongs, as an object of duty, of pride, and of laudable ambition, to become the parent of that school of medicine, which is destined to irradiate and elevate the West. Should she suffer the honour to be snatched from her, by the enterprize of a younger sister, regret, chagrin, and a deep sentiment of self-degradation, will be her bitter and immutable lot.

All history attests, that there is a tide in the affairs of nations and communities, as well as of individuals. At the present conjuncture, that tide, potent in its current, is obviously in favour of the state of Kentucky. With her ample means, and an enlightened, steady, and persevering industry, let her press towards her object, and she will certainly attain it.

But if, untrue to herself, and regardless of the exalted destinies that await her, she prove supine and indifferent, and neglect to avail herself of the present tone and direction of public sentiment, she will soon behold the palm of glory wrested from her brow; and that institution which ought to have been *her* offspring and *her* boast, cherished and flourishing in an adjacent state.

But to a humiliation like this, she will not, she cannot submit. She has a soul—an elevated soul, with a lofty sense of moral duty, and of these she will take counsel, and profit by their admonition. Conspicuous, in the West, in all the other attributes of cultivated life, she will not fail to assert and maintain a proud pre-eminence in science and letters.

Did any threatening cloud overshadow the issue of our present enterprize, Scotland affords us a most encouraging example of what talents, industry, and perseverance can effect.

When, in the year 1720, she established the Medical School of Edinburgh, she contained less than a million and a half of inhabitants, while, within her limited territory, three other rival universities divided her interests. Add to

this, that, under the auspices of the illustrious Boerhaave, Leyden, was then in the meridian of her fame.

Notwithstanding these impediments, strengthened in their operation by the pressure of poverty, the school of Edinburgh rose and flourished, until it became, in time, the most distinguished medical institution the world has produced.

Under a wise and unshaken policy, then, what may not be achieved by the wealth and population of Western America, when no rivalships exist to distract her views, or divide her interests!

For the medical institution of this university, much has been done by the citizens of Lexington. But unaided private munificence cannot avail. Much yet remains to be done, and that must be effected by legislative bounty.

A mere medical school, where only lectures are delivered, but which is destitute of certain requisite appendages, can scarcely flourish in a high degree. It resembles too much a soldier in battle without his equipments.

Of these appendages, the most important are a public hospital, an anatomical museum, and a public library. But, that three establishments, so extensive and costly, should be the result of private donation, and individual exertion, is not to be expected, in times like the present. The latter, in particular, *must* spring from public resources, and be the work of time.

Under a fair and well conducted representation of the immense importance of these improvements to the general welfare, I cannot but persuade myself, that, to lay a suitable foundation for them, your enlightened legislature will liberally appropriate a reasonable portion of the funds of the state.

If it should, the great work may be considered as done. Wisdom, industry, perseverance and talents, on the part of those entrusted with its direction, will then be alone necessary to rear, in this university, a professional monument, which shall be an honour to the western country, shall bestow on the people invaluable blessings, and bid defiance to

the ravages of time. In all respects, Kentucky will then be emphatically the garden of the west, in which the flowers of literature and the fruits of science, will blow and ripen where lately the desert frowned, attracting universal admiration, and delighting by their fragrance, and regaling with their richness and their sweets, the great association of the contiguous states. She will, then, appear in the character, which she is not only authorized, but urged to assume, setting to her younger sisters a brilliant example, and kindly dispensing to them, during their minority, the products of a matured and cultivated intellect.

## TO THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE.

COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS,

THE station which we occupy, in Transylvania University, is calculated to excite in us mingled emotions. Although in no small degree honourable, it is associated with danger; and the duties which it imposes, however delightful, are signally arduous.

Placed on an elevation as perilous as it is flattering, we attract the notice, and invite the scrutiny, of awakened millions. Without arrogating to *ourselves* the slightest excess of *personal* consideration, we may safely assert, that, at this moment, a broader and stronger current of public attention sets towards the medical school of Transylvania, than towards any other in the United States.

Full in view of our expecting country, we are engaged in a new and magnificent effort—an effort, on which the highest hopes of the West repose, and which the atlantic states must not be expected to regard with indifference. Our object is, to erect an institution, which shall not only become the pride of Western America, and prove a source of incalculable blessings to our cotemporaries and posterity, but incorporate our own names with its exalted destinies, waft them in honour to distant regions, and bear them buoyant and imperishable down the stream of time. as

cal science shall be cultivated, or man continue the subject of disease.

To be mere members of a distinguished school of medicine reared to maturity by the labours of a line of illustrious predecessors, is an object of high and laudable ambition. The ablest of our profession eagerly aspire to it, and exhaust their interest and their energies to attain it. But its elevation is limited, and its honour has bounds. To become the *fathers and founders* of such a school, towers above it to an immeasurable height, and is worthy the loftiest ambition of man.

In the former case, professors are usually the creatures of accident; or, what is less creditable, of management and intrigue; and are often supported by the reputation, and irradiated by the lustre, of those they succeed.

But, in the latter, they neither rely on foreign aid, nor shine with borrowed rays. Humanly speaking, they are the sole architects of their own fortunes, the real authors of their own fame, and, like an *electron per se*, dispense a light from their inherent radiance. And this exalted lot will be ours, if fortune smile on our glorious enterprize. To us will then belong some portion of the refulgent renown of a Boerhaave, a Haller, and the Monros of Edinburgh; and we may even claim, as our own, the proud motto of the house of Stuart, *Non nos regibus, sed reges nobis editi*—Kings are our *descendants*, not our progenitors.

But every picture has its reverse, and the fairest prospects are marked by deformities. The sun himself is not without his spots.

Such, in relation to us, is the station we occupy. If success attend our confederated labours, it presents us, indeed, with all that is attractive and flattering, bright and glorious: But should we fail, from inattention, inability, or any other cause derogatory of ourselves, the issue will be ruinous to our reputation and our interest. The height on which we stand is not neutral ground. It rears us to honour, or exposes us

to shame. It is the lofty alone, whose fall portends inevitable destruction.

Our situation, then, is critical, our stake is weighty. The eyes of our friends are fixed on our achievements, and their bosoms panting with anxiety for the issue. Like the army of the Caledonian chief, our retreat is cut off. By this day's ceremonial we are wedded to our undertaking, and we must remove obstacles and vanquish difficulties, or sink in the struggle.

Under this view of things, which my feelings and my judgment assure me is correct, our duties and our interests are alike obvious. They consist in industry, firmness, stability, and enterprize.

To flinch, to falter, or to move with hesitation, will be fatal to our hopes. It will be faithlessness to the public, treason against ourselves, and will inevitably expose us to the finger of scorn.

But the very idea of such delinquency is unnatural and offensive, and, therefore, inadmissible. I reject the supposition of it, as implying an impossibility.

When glory and public utility invite, and deep disgrace and insignificance threaten, who, that has a soul, can fail to be aroused, excited, inspired! or who, that is a man, can be wanting in exertion! As well may the sun be expected to change his course and travel to the east, or the mountain torrent return to its source, as the high minded to hesitate on such an occasion.

I must no further wrong you, therefore, by admitting possibility, that you can loiter, fail, or be supine in your duty. In your behalf, I dare pledge myself to the public, for your faithful and honourable acquittance in your functions. Before this enlightened and most respectable audience; within these walls consecrated to the purposes of our holy religion; on this sacred spot, between the chancel and the altar, you have already sworn, that you *will* do your duty, and question the issue would be to suspect you of perjury. With the *consent* of philosophers, the harmony of brethren

the resolution of men, you will persevere in your labours, until your tasks be completed, to the satisfaction of your country, and your own interest and imperishable renown.

As to myself, I here solemnly promise to you, all the aid, in the accomplishment of our enterprize, that unwearied assiduity, ardent zeal, and unshaken perseverance are calculated to effect. If, while health and hope remain, I prove defective in energy, or slumber on my post, be disappointment, shame, and degradation my reward! In the language of the poet,

“ For me, when I neglect our darling scheme,  
 Whether the blossom blows, the summer ray  
 Russets the plain, inspiring autumn gleams,  
 Or winter rises in the blackening east,  
 Be my tongue mute, my withered fortunes fade,  
 And, dead to fame, forget my heart to beat.”

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