

A

STATEMENT

CONCERNING

Lindenwood Female College:

BY THE

PRESBYTERY OF SAINT LOUIS.



ST. LOUIS:

T. W. USTICK, PRINTER AND STEREOTYPED 78 PINE STREET.  
1859.

## LINDENWOOD FEMALE COLLEGE.

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THE Presbytery of St. Louis, in presenting an appeal for aid in their effort to endow LINDENWOOD FEMALE COLLEGE, feel it incumbent on them to give a brief history of the Institution ; the objects of its founders, and our own purposes in regard to it.

### I. THE HISTORY OF LINDENWOOD FEMALE COLLEGE.

The College is located on the height of land between the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. It is about twenty miles from St. Louis, and a half mile West from St. Charles.

The land rises with a gentle ascent from the river till it reaches the College, which crowns the summit. The main entrance of the building is about one hundred and fifty feet above the Missouri River, and from the observatory upon the College one of the most extended and delightful views in the West, is enjoyed. It is called LINDENWOOD from its beautiful grove of large Linden trees. The situation is so beautiful, that for many years it has been marked out as the site for a Female College. And when it is properly improved and adorned by art, few places on earth will be more beautiful.

Its ample grounds, groves and gardens afford abundant space for exercise and recreation, and the experience of more than thirty years fully attests its healthfulness. It is of easy access by boats on the Missouri River and by the North Missouri Railroad, and is at the same time secluded from intrusion, noise and dust ; and if we can only succeed in carrying out the noble plans of its founders, we shall make it one of the most desirable places for the education of our daughters in the great West.

The College owes its existence to the exertions of a few individuals. Maj. GEO. C. SIBLEY and Mrs. MARY E. SIBLEY, not satisfied with what they had already attempted to do for Female Education, desired to establish here an Institution which should be for the great and lasting benefit of the church and the world. In this generous purpose they were nobly seconded by Mr. and Mrs. S. S. WATSON. God left both of these beloved brethren without children, in order that they might adopt the children of the Church, of

Ministers, of Widows, and of poor men, and provide for their education. And let it be known as long as the world stands, for a memorial of them.

After much thought and consultation, the first movement tending toward the establishment of the College, was the generous offer of Messrs. SIBLEY and WATSON, in a letter to Rev. Dr. ANDERSON, of St. Louis, dated Jan. 5th, 1853. The first-named gentleman offered to give to the Presbytery the whole of his Lindenwood estate, comprising one hundred and twenty acres; a part of it to go into their possession immediately, and the remainder to become available after the death of himself and wife. This estate is now estimated to be worth thirty thousand dollars. The second offered to give one hundred and sixty acres of land and one thousand dollars, equal to five thousand dollars, provided the Presbytery of St. Louis would in six months raise twenty thousand dollars, for the erection of suitable buildings. To these generous offers was annexed an extract from the will of Maj. SIBLEY, devising the land to the Presbytery for the purposes therein mentioned. To this offer is also subjoined the following explanatory note by Maj. SIBLEY: "The bequest made in my will is made upon full reflection, and is intended to be irrevokable. The property that will be available when it shall come fully into the possession of the College, will not be less than one hundred and twenty acres; the quantity of land may not improbably extend to one hundred and fifty acres."

To these proposals Dr. ANDERSON kindly replied in a letter, of which the following is an extract: "I read these communications to a gathering of our City Clergy, and *we all* concur in the opinion, that your scheme must result in incalculable good to the church and the promotion of the glory of God our Saviour." I am convinced it is striking at precisely the right point, the education of the future mothers of our country. Set them right intellectually and religiously, and society will be essentially sound. There is no doubt of the ready and grateful acceptance of the trust, by the brethren of the Presbytery. A considerable portion of the amount for the Female College will, I suppose, be expected from St. Louis." He remarks that in consequence of some efforts which were then being made, a proper amount of funds could not at that time be secured, and adds, "but after a little time we could come up to the work earnestly."

In consequence of these liberal offers and the generous encouragement of the Ministerial brethren in St. Louis, a charter for the Lindenwood Female College was obtained from the Legislature, that

But it was revoked, in consequence of my having given a deed to the College for 120 acres dated July 11, 1856. Intended to supersede the Charter. All which is fully explained in the next page.

winter. The charter placed the College under the control of fifteen Directors. These Directors are appointed by the Presbytery, so that the College belongs to the Presbytery and is virtually under its control. But little progress was made in the collection of funds—if we consider the importance of the undertaking, as the Board had no Agent. However, by the individual exertions of Rev. S. B. SMITH, and Mrs. MARY E. SIBLEY, subscriptions to the amount of about four thousand dollars were raised. In this emergency, Mr. S. S. WATSON, in place of his former offer, proposed giving five thousand dollars for the erection of a building, provided three thousand dollars more could be raised, so as to secure an available fund of twelve thousand dollars. Again, for want of a proper agency, this proposition met with a very discouraging response, and only a small amount was secured. The Board received a plan for a building from Mr. J. O. SAWYER of St. Louis, which was approved and adopted. But as the estimated cost of the building was about fourteen thousand dollars, and they had secured only some ten thousand dollars, the building committee declined to act. In this emergency, it is probable the plan would have been abandoned, but for the energy and decision of Mr. and Mrs. SIBLEY. These generous friends were not overcome by discouragement. They were anxious to devote their property to the good of generations to come and they resolved that the enterprise must advance. Accordingly, on the 22d day of May, 1856, a contract was made for the building; on the third of June, the excavations were begun, and on the succeeding 4th of July the corner-stone was laid with imposing ceremonies.

The Building was completed in July, 1857, and is three stories in height, above the basement. It is seventy-three by forty-eight feet, and beside other rooms, can accommodate about forty boarders. It is lighted with gas and warmed by furnaces, and is very comfortable.

The Rev. A. V. C. SCHENCK was secured as President, and the College was opened on Sept. 6th, 1857. It now has an adequate corps of Teachers and about eighty Students, and considering the small amount of available funds at our disposal, has attained a high degree of prosperity.

To the present time, the Board have received about eleven thousand dollars in money, of which about eight thousand dollars have been secured in the immediate vicinity of the College.

## II. OBJECTS CONTEMPLATED BY MESSRS. SIBLEY AND WATSON.

Let it be remembered, that these brethren, the original donors to the College, are members of the Presbyterian Church and are actua-

*Note to the Presbytery of the same date  
of the deed.*

G. C. B.

ted by that largeness of heart and expansion of views so characteristic of the denomination to which they belong. They desired,

1. To lay the foundation of an Institution which would be *permanent*, and continue to diffuse its blessings so long as the sun and moon endure.

2. To make it an Institution of great importance and of wide influence—a school for our daughters, not only in name, but equal to the best in the land, containing its hundreds of students within its walls.

3. To make it an Institution in which the daughters of the Church, and all others who may choose to enjoy its privileges, may be qualified and prepared to fulfil the important duties of their future positions with honor and usefulness. In a word, to make it a lasting fountain of learning, intelligence, practical wisdom and piety, from which streams shall proceed in all future time to bless the church and the world.

In order to accomplish these important objects, they believe that both the intellect and the heart should be thoroughly cultivated. With all enlightened Protestants, they believe that the Holy Bible is the only fountain of moral and religious light; that its truths alone can cultivate the heart, and mould and elevate the character, while the study of it is a valuable mental exercise, and calculated to expand and ennoble the intellect.

In these bequests, therefore, the above named brethren expressed their design,

1. That the Holy Bible should be introduced into the Institution as a school-book, and should be studied daily, and an unwearied effort be made by pious teachers to bring their pupils under its hallowed influence.

2. In order to secure the thorough and efficient management of the College, they designed that it should be under the control of their own denomination, but at the same time free from sectarianism and based upon such large and evangelical views, that all who love the Bible may share its benefits. They did not intend to make it merely a school of religion, but,

3. An Institution in which the highest intellectual culture shall be attained. They designed that the branches taught in our best Female Colleges should here be taught and thoroughly prosecuted. They expressly state, that the Institution is to consist of Primary, Collegiate and Normal Departments, in which the young ladies should not only be thoroughly instructed, but could also be taught the great art of teaching, so as to qualify them for the office of teachers. They say the school is to supply ample facilities for female education in the best sense and meaning of the term; the

proper cultivation and development of the intellectual, moral and physical faculties.

4. As they were properly desirous that many of the teachers of this great State should be trained and educated here, they expressly stipulate, that there is to be a Domestic and Boarding Department connected with the College, commensurate with its necessities, and that all the expenses shall be reduced as low as practicable; so that the daughters of ministers and those of moderate means may share its benefits with the daughters of the wealthy.

5. When these brethren made their large and liberal donations, they considered that they had only laid the foundation. They felt a strong confidence that God would add his blessing. They had faith that their brethren in the church would supply the large amount of means requisite to carry out their important object. They believed that the enlightened community in which they dwelt would aid in a work of great public utility, and one calculated to bless the whole land.

These were the ends and objects aimed at by the original donors, and these are the means by which those objects are to be attained.

### III. THE PRESBYTERY HAVING GIVEN THE FOREGOING STATEMENTS, TAKE PLEASURE IN ANNOUNCING OUR OWN PLANS AND PURPOSES.

We propose, then, to carry out to the letter the generous purpose of the Founders of our College. We propose, with the blessing of God, and the aid of our enlightened community, to make a first-class Female College, equal to the very best in the land, in which our daughters shall receive the highest intellectual culture, and also be placed under the refining and purifying influences of the Truth of God. We intend to make our Institution so thorough and efficient in every thing that can enlighten, ennoble and elevate our daughters, as to secure the approbation and patronage of an enlightened public; not a frivolous boarding-school, which will unfit its pupils for the trials and duties of life, but one in which solid attainments shall be acquired, and which shall prepare our daughters to occupy with eminent honor the spheres in which they may be placed. We intend to make it truly a school for the daughters of Missouri, and of the Mississippi Valley. Any thing short of this would be unworthy of us and of the cause we advocate, and would not subserve the best interests of the community. In the large and liberal gifts already noticed, we recognize the hand of God's providence directing us into a great work; and if we could have been so derelict in duty as to decline the donations of our brethren, we should have exposed ourselves justly to the reproach of the public and of posterity. The very moment we consented to receive these donations, we placed ourselves under sacred obligations to carry out the plans of the donors. We cannot now fail to carry out those views, without unfaithfulness to them, to the whole community, and to the cause of God our Saviour, to the promotion of whose glory this Institution is especially devoted. We therefore have confidence that our enlightened people will

justify us in consenting to lay the foundation of an Institution of such great promise, and will manifest their concurrence by giving us the pecuniary ability to carry out our important scheme. We are aware that it will require a large amount of funds; but ours is an intelligent and liberal people, and only an institution of the best character will command their hearty support. It will therefore be easier to raise large sums for a great and good school, than small sums for a poor one. The zeal, thoroughness and efficiency which our denomination have ever manifested in the cause of education will induce men to repose confidence in our pledges. We say, therefore, give us the means and we will not disappoint your confidence.

The Western Female Seminary, on the first day of its sessions, had 150 pupils, and declined as many more for want of accommodations.

The Terre Haute Female College, a few weeks after its opening, had 160 pupils. And this great prosperity arose simply from the fact that the community reposed confidence in the efforts made, and gave an amount sufficiently large to make institutions worthy of patronage; and shall not our people do still more for our educational establishments! We already need buildings for the accommodation of a much larger number of students, and these must have the accommodations and conveniences required by modern progress. We desire to secure as soon as practicable a Library, Cabinet and Apparatus of various kinds, suitable for a first-class Institution. We desire to beautify and adorn the grounds so as to assist in producing that refinement of taste and elevation of sentiment so desirable in female character. And we need invested funds in order to reduce the expenses of worthy young ladies, who would otherwise be deprived of these privileges. We are doing a great work and will need a large amount of funds to carry it out. Will not our wealthy and liberal friends come up to our help?

How much good has been accomplished by the large donations of the wealthy to institutions of learning in other ages and places! Will not some of our wealthy friends aid the cause of education as long as the world stands, and cause their names to be held in grateful remembrance, by erecting some of our large buildings, and will not others do the same by endowing professorships or scholarships, or furnishing us with requisite apparatus, or laying the foundation of our library! But we do not depend upon the donations of the rich alone! We especially desire the offerings of those in more moderate circumstances, that all may feel an interest in us and pray for us.

To our Agent, (the Rev. S. K. SNEED) is committed the important duty of collecting the requisite funds. He will pursue such measures, aided by the enlightened counsels of the friends of the College, as may be requisite. We bespeak for him the confidence and kindness and consideration of all the friends of our enterprise and of education.

A. V. C. SCHENCK,  
*Moderator.*