

W. Danwell

PLAN

OF THE

WESTERN

Theological Seminary

OF THE

Presbyterian Church,

IN THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

FOUNDED 1825.

ALLEGHENY, PA.

Printed by J. H. McFarland, 67 Federal Street, Allegheny, Pa.

1884.

PLAN

OF THE

Western Theological Seminary.*

INTRODUCTION.

THE DESIGN OF THE SEMINARY.

Inasmuch as the obtaining of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, to the glory of the eternal God, is the chief object which claims the attention of man; and considering, that in the attainment of this object the dispensation of the Gospel is principally instrumental; it is manifestly of the highest importance, that the best means be used to ensure the faithful preaching of the Gospel, and pure administration of all its ordinances. With this view, therefore, institutions for the education of youth intended for the holy ministry, have been established in all Christian countries, and have been found, by long experience, most eminently conducive to the prosperity of the Church. Hence the founders of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, did, from its very origin, exert themselves with peculiar zeal to establish and endow colleges, academies and

This Plan was adopted in 1811, and amended by future Assemblies. It is given here with a very slight modification. See Digest of 1820, pp. 239--243.

schools, for the education of youth for the Gospel ministry. So rapid, however, was the extension of the Church, and so disproportionate the number of ministers educated, that some additional and vigorous efforts to increase the supply were loudly and affectingly demanded. Circumstances also imperiously dictated not only that the laborers in the vineyard of the Lord should be multiplied, but that they should be more thoroughly furnished than they had ordinarily been for the arduous work to which they must be called. Influenced by these views and considerations, the General Assembly, after mature deliberation resolved, in reliance on the patronage and blessing of the Great Head of the Church, to establish Institutions consecrated solely to the education of men for the Gospel ministry, and to be denominated *Theological Seminaries of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America*. And to the intent that the true design of the founders of these institutions may be known to the public, and especially that this design may, at all times, be distinctly viewed, and sacredly regarded, both by the teachers and the pupils, it is judged proper to make a summary and explicit statement of it:

It is to form men for the Gospel ministry, who shall truly believe, and cordially love, and therefore endeavor to propagate and defend, in its genuineness, simplicity, and fullness, that system of religious belief and practice which is set forth in the Confession of Faith, Catechisms and Plan of Government and Discipline of the Presbyterian Church; and thus to perpetuate and extend the influence of true evangelical piety, and Gospel order.

It is to provide for the Church an adequate supply and succession of able and faithful ministers of the New Testament; workmen that *need not be ashamed*, being qualified *rightly to divide the word of truth*.

It is to unite, in those who shall sustain the ministerial office, religion and literature; that piety of the heart which is

the fruit only of the renewing and sanctifying grace of God, with solid learning: believing that religion without learning, or learning without religion, in the ministers of the Gospel, must ultimately prove injurious to the Church.

It is to afford more advantages than have hitherto been usually possessed by the ministers of religion in our country, to cultivate both piety and literature in their preparatory course: piety, by placing it in circumstances favorable to its growth, and by cherishing and regulating its ardor; literature, by affording favorable opportunities for its attainment, and by making its possession indispensable.

It is to provide for the Church, men who shall be able to defend her faith against infidels, and her doctrines against heretics.

It is to furnish our congregations with enlightened, humble, zealous, laborious pastors, who shall truly watch for the good of souls, and consider it as their highest honor and happiness to win them to the Saviour, and to build up their several charges in holiness and peace.

It is to promote harmony and unity of sentiment among the ministers of our Church, by educating large bodies of them under the same teachers, and in the same course of study.

It is to lay the foundation of early and lasting friendships, productive of confidence and mutual assistance in after life among the ministers of religion; which experience shows to be conducive not only to personal happiness, but to the perfecting of inquiries, researches, and publications advantageous to religion.

It is to preserve the unity of our Church, by educating her ministers in an enlightened attachment, not only to the same doctrines, but to the same plan of government.

It is to bring to the service of the Church genius and talent, when united with piety, however poor or obscure may be their possessor, by furnishing, as far as possible, the means of education and support, without expense to the student.

It is to found nurseries for missionaries to the heathen, and to such as are destitute of the stated preaching of the

gospel; in which youth may receive that appropriate training which may lay a foundation for their ultimately becoming eminently qualified for missionary work.

It is, finally, to endeavor to raise up a succession of men, at once *qualified for* and *thoroughly devoted to* the work of the Gospel ministry; who, with various endowments, suiting them to different stations in the Church of Christ, may all possess a portion of the spirit of the primitive propagators of the Gospel; prepared to make every sacrifice, to endure every hardship, and to render every service which the promotion of pure and undefiled religion may require.

THE PLAN.

ARTICLE I.

OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

1. As this institution derives its origin from the General Assembly, that body is to be considered its patron and the fountain of its powers.

2. The Board of Directors shall have the immediate control of the Seminary.

3. The General Assembly shall, at all times have the power of adding to the Constitutional Articles of the Seminary, and of abrogating, altering, or amending them; but, in the exercise of this power, the contemplated additions, abrogations, alterations, or amendments, shall, in every case, be proposed at one Assembly, and not adopted till the Assembly of the subsequent year, except by unanimous vote.

ARTICLE II.

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of forty members: twenty-eight Ministers, and twelve Ruling Elders; one-fourth to be chosen annually, and shall have power to fill any vacancies which may hereafter occur in the body subject always, however, to the veto of the General Assembly, the election to be (by ballot) at the regular Spring meeting.

2. The Board of Directors shall have power to elect the Professors, and to remove them from office, such election

and removal to be subject to the veto of the General Assembly. The said Board shall also have power to suspend temporarily a Professor preliminary to, and pending an investigation of charges against his life or doctrine.

3. The Board of Directors shall meet statedly, twice in each year; once in the Spring, and once in the Fall, and oftener on their own adjournments, if they shall judge it expedient. Eleven members of the Board shall be a quorum; *provided, always*, that of this number five, at least, be ministers of the Gospel.

4. The Board shall choose out of their own number, a President, Vice-President and Secretary. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the senior member present shall preside.

5. The President of the Board, or in the event of his death, absence, or inability to act, the Vice-President shall, at the request of any three members, expressed to him in writing, call a special meeting of the Board of Directors by a circular letter addressed to each; in which letter notice shall be given, not only of the place and time of meeting, but of the business intended to be transacted at the meeting notified; and this letter shall be sent at least ten days before the time of said meeting.

6. The Secretary of the Board shall keep accurate records of all the proceedings of the Directors; and it shall be his duty to lay these records, or a faithful transcript of the same, before the General Assembly, when required, for the unrestrained inspection of all the members.

7. The Board shall direct the professors of the Seminary, in regard to the subjects and topics on which they are severally to give instructions to the pupils, so far as the same shall not be prescribed by this plan.

8. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to

inaugurate the Professors of the Seminary, and to direct what forms shall be used, and what services performed, on such occasions.

9. Every Director, previously to his taking his seat as a member of the Board, shall solemnly subscribe the following formula, viz:—"Approving the plan of the Western Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, I solemnly declare and promise, in the presence of God and of this Board that I will faithfully endeavor to carry into effect all the articles and provisions of said plan, and to promote the great design of the Seminary."

10. The Board of Directors shall inspect the fidelity of the Professors, especially in regard to the doctrines actually taught; and if, after due inquiry and examination, they shall judge that any Professor is either unsound in the faith, opposed to the fundamental principles of Presbyterian Church Government, immoral in his conduct, unfaithful to his trust, or incompetent to the discharge of his duties, they shall forthwith remove him, and appoint another in his place.

11. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to watch over the conduct of the students; to redress grievances; to examine into the whole course of instruction and study in the Seminary; and generally to superintend and endeavor to promote all its interests.

ARTICLE III.

OF THE PROFESSORS.

1. The number of the Professors in the Seminary shall be increased or diminished as the Board of Directors shall, from time to time, direct.

2. No person shall be inducted into the office of Professor of Divinity, but an ordained Minister of the Gospel.

3. Every person elected to a Professorship in the Seminary, shall, upon being inaugurated, solemnly subscribe the Confession of Faith, Catechisms, and Form of Government of the Presbyterian Church, agreeably to the following formula, viz: "In the presence of God and of the Directors of this Seminary, I do solemnly and *ex animo* adopt, receive and subscribe the Confession of Faith, and Catechisms of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, as the confession of my faith, or, as a summary and just exhibition of that system of doctrine and religious belief which is contained in holy Scripture, and therein revealed by God to man for his salvation; and I do solemnly *ex animo* profess to receive the Form of Government of said Church, as agreeable to the inspired oracles. And I do solemnly promise and engage, not to inculcate, teach, or insinuate anything which shall appear to me to contradict or contravene, either directly or impliedly, anything taught in the said Confession of Faith or Catechisms; nor to oppose any of the fundamental principles of Presbyterian Church Government while I shall continue a Professor in this Seminary."

4. The salaries of the Professors shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

5. Each Professor shall lay before the Board of Directors, as soon as practicable after his appointment, a detailed exhibition of the system and method which he proposes to pursue, and the subjects which he proposes to discuss in conducting the studies of the youth that shall come under his care; and in this system he shall make such alterations or additions as the Board shall direct; so that, eventually, the whole course through which the pupils shall be carried, shall be no other than that which the Board of Directors shall have approved and sanctioned, conformably to Article II, Sec. 7. And as often as any Professor shall think that variations and

additions of importance may be advantageously introduced into his course of teaching, he shall submit the same to the Board of Directors. for approbation or rejection.

6. Any Professor intending to resign his office, shall give six months notice of such intention to the Board of Directors.

7. The Professors of the Institution shall be considered as a faculty. They shall meet at such seasons as they may judge proper. In every meeting the senior Professor present shall preside. The faculty shall choose a clerk, and keep accurate records of all their proceedings; which records shall be laid before the Directors at every meeting of the Board. The President of the Faculty, i. e. the senior Professor, shall call a meeting whenever he shall judge it expedient, and whenever requested by any other member. By the faculty, regularly convened, shall be determined the hours and seasons at which the classes shall attend the Professors severally, so as to prevent interference and confusion, and to afford to the pupils the best opportunities of improvement. The faculty shall attend to, and decide on all cases of discipline, and all questions of order, as they shall arise. They shall agree on the rules of order, decorum, and duty, (not inconsistent with any provision in the plan of the Seminary, nor with any order of the Board of Directors,) to which the students shall be subjected; and these they shall reduce to writing, and cause to be publicly and frequently read. They shall determine the hours at which the whole of the pupils shall, morning and evening, attend for social worship; and the manner in which, and the person or persons of their own number, by whom, the exercises of devotion shall be conducted.

8. The faculty is empowered to dismiss from the Seminary any student who shall prove unsound in his religious sentiments; immoral or disorderly in his conduct; or who

may be, in their opinion, on any account whatsoever, a dangerous, or unprofitable member of the Institution

9. It shall be the duty of the Professors, under the direction of the Board of Directors, to supply the pupils of the Institution with the preaching of the Gospel, and the administration of the Sacraments of the Christian Church; if this supply shall not, in the judgment of the Directors, be satisfactorily furnished by a Church or Churches in the place where the Institution is established.

ARTICLE IV.

OF STUDY AND ATTAINMENTS.

As the particular course of study pursued in any Institution will, and perhaps ought to, be modified in a considerable degree, by the views and habits of the teachers; and ought, moreover, to be varied, altered, or extended, as experience may suggest improvements; it is judged proper to specify, not so precisely the course of study as the attainments which must be made. Therefore,

1. Every student, at the close of his course, must have made the following attainments, viz: He must be well skilled in the original languages of the Holy Scriptures. He must be able to explain the principal difficulties which arise in the perusal of the Scriptures, either from erroneous translations, apparent inconsistencies, real obscurities or objections arising from history, reason, or argument. He must be versed in Jewish and Christian antiquities, which serve to explain and illustrate Scripture. He must have an acquaintance with ancient geography, and with oriental customs, which throw light on the sacred records. Thus he will have laid the foundation for becoming a sound biblical critic.

He must have read and digested the principal arguments and writings relative to what has been called the deistical

controversy. Thus will he be qualified to become a defender of the Christian faith.

He must be able to support the doctrines of the Confession of Faith and Catechisms, by a ready, pertinent, and abundant quotation of Scripture texts for that purpose. He must have studied carefully and correctly, Natural, Didactic, Polemic, and Casuistic Theology. He must have a considerable acquaintance with General History and Chronology, and a particular acquaintance with the history of the Christian Church. Thus he will be preparing to become an able and sound divine and casuist.

He must have read a considerable number of the best practical writers on the subject of religion. He must have learned to compose with correctness and readiness in his own language, and to deliver what he has composed to others in a natural and acceptable manner. He must be well acquainted with the several parts, and the proper structure of popular lectures and sermons. He must have composed at least two lectures and four popular sermons, that shall have been approved by the Professors. He must have carefully studied the duties of the pastoral care. Thus he will be prepared to become a useful preacher, and a faithful pastor.

He must have studied attentively the form of Church Government authorized by the Scriptures, and the administration of it as it has taken place in Protestant Churches. Thus he will be qualified to exercise discipline, and to take part in the government of the Church in all its judicatories.

2. The period of continuance in the Theological Seminary shall, in no case, be less than three years, previously to an examination for a certificate of approbation. But students may enter the Seminary, and enjoy the course of instruction for a shorter time than three years, provided, they in all other respects submit to the laws of the Seminary,

of which facts they may receive a written declaration from the Professors.

3. There shall be an examination of all the pupils in the Seminary at every stated Spring meeting of the Board of Directors. Those pupils who shall have regularly and diligently studied for three years, shall be admitted to an examination on the subjects specified in this Article. All examinations shall be conducted by the Professors, in the presence of the Directors, or a committee of them. Every Director present shall be at liberty, during the progress of any examination, or after the same shall have been closed by the Professors, to put to any pupil such questions as he shall deem proper. Every pupil who shall have passed his final examination, and at least one previous annual examination, to the satisfaction of the Directors present, shall receive a certificate of the same, signed by the Professors, with which he shall be remitted to the Presbytery under whose care he is placed, to be disposed of as such Presbytery shall direct. Those who do not pass a satisfactory examination shall remain a longer space in the Seminary.

4. It shall be the object of the Professors to make such arrangements in the instruction of their pupils, as shall be best adapted to enable them, in the space of three years, to be examined with advantage on the subjects specified in this Article.

ARTICLE V.

OF DEVOTION, AND IMPROVEMENT IN PRACTICAL PIETY.

It ought to be considered as an object of primary importance by every student in the Seminary, to be careful and vigilant not to lose that inward sense of the power of godliness which he may have attained; but, on the contrary, to grow continually in a spirit of enlightened devotion and fer-

vent piety; deeply impressed with the recollection that without this, all his other acquisitions will be comparatively of little worth, either to himself, or to the Church of which he is to be a minister.

He must remember, too, that this is a species of improvement which must of necessity, be left, in a great measure, with himself, as a concern between God and his own soul.

It is proper, however, to delineate the path of duty; to express the wishes and expectations of the founders of the Seminary, and to make such requirements as the nature of the subject will permit: Hence:

1. It is expected that every student in the Theological Seminary will spend a portion of time every morning and evening in devout meditation, and self-recollection and examination; in reading the holy Scriptures, solely with a view to a personal and practical application of the passage read, to his own heart, character, and circumstances; and in humble fervent prayer and praise to God in secret.

The whole of every Lord's day is to be devoted to devotional exercises, either of a social or secret kind. Intellectual pursuits, not immediately connected with devotion or the religion of the heart, are on that day to be foreborne. The books to be read are to be of a practical nature. The conversations had with each other are to be chiefly on religious subjects. Associations for prayer and praise, and for religious conference, calculated to promote a growth in grace, are also proper for this day; subject to such regulations as the Professors and Directors may see proper to prescribe. It is wished and recommended, that each student should ordinarily set apart one day in each month for special prayer and self-examination in secret, and also that he should, on suitable occasions, attend to the duty of fasting.

2. If any student shall exhibit in his general deportment,

a levity or indifference in regard to practical religion, though it do not amount to any overt-act of irreligion or immorality, it shall be the duty of the Professor who may observe it, to admonish him tenderly and faithfully in private, and endeavor to engage him to a more holy temper, and a more exemplary deportment.

3. If a student, after due admonition, persist in a system of conduct not exemplary in regard to religion, he shall be dismissed from the Seminary.

4. The professors are particularly charged, by all the proper means in their power, to encourage, cherish and promote devotion and personal piety among their pupils, by warning and guarding them, on the one hand, against formality and indifference, and on the other, against ostentation and enthusiasm; by inculcating practical religion in their lectures and recitations; by taking suitable occasions to converse with their pupils privately on this interesting subject; and by all other means, incapable of being minutely specified by which they may foster true experimental religion, and unreserved devotedness to God.

ARTICLE VI.

OF THE STUDENTS.

1. Every student, applying for admission to the Theological Seminary, shall produce satisfactory testimonials that he possesses good natural talents, and is of a prudent and discreet deportment; that he is in full communion with some regular Church; that he has passed through a regular course of academical study, or, wanting this, he shall submit himself to an examination in regard to the branches of literature taught in such a course.

2. The first six months of every student in the Seminary shall be considered as probationary; and if, at the end of

this period, any student shall appear to the Professors not qualified to proceed in his studies, they shall so report him to the Board of Directors, who, if they are of the same opinion with the Professors, shall dismiss him from the Seminary.

3. The hours of study and of recreation for the students shall be fixed by the Professors, with the concurrence of the Directors; and every student shall pay a strict regard to the rules established relative to this subject.

4. Every student shall be obliged to write on such theological and other subjects, as may be prescribed to him by the Professors. In the first year, every student shall be obliged to produce a written composition on such subjects, at least once in every month; in the second year, once in three weeks; in the third year, once in two weeks. Once a month each student shall also commit to memory a piece of his own composition, and pronounce it in public, before the Professors and students.

5. Every student shall not only preserve an exemplary moral character, but shall be expected to treat his teachers with the greatest deference and respect, and all other persons with civility.

6. Every student shall yield a prompt and ready obedience to all the lawful requisitions of the Professors and Directors.

7. Diligence and industry in study shall be considered as indispensable in every student, unless the want of health shall prevent, of which the Professors shall take cognizance, and make the suitable allowance.

8. Strict temperance in meat and drink is expected of every student, with cleanliness and neatness in his dress and habits; while all excessive expense in clothing is strictly prohibited.

9. Every student, before he takes his standing in the

Seminary, shall subscribe the following declaration, viz: "Deeply impressed with a sense of the importance of improving in knowledge, prudence and piety, in my preparation for the Gospel Ministry, I solemnly promise, in a reliance on divine grace, that I will faithfully and dilligently attend to all the instructions of this Seminary, and that I will conscientiously and vigilantly observe all the rules and regulations specified in the plan for its instruction and government, so far as the same relate to the students; and that I will obey all the lawful requisitions, and readily yield to all the wholesome admonitions of the Professors and Directors of the Seminary, while I shall continue a member of it."

10. The term of study in the Seminary shall commence on the second Monday in September, annually, and continue till Wednesday before the fourth Tuesday in April of the following year.

ARTICLE VII.

OF THE FUNDS.

1. The Board of Directors are authorized to exercise all the control of the funds belonging to this Institution, hitherto exercised by the General Assembly, as far as this can be done consistently with the will of the testators and donors; such as, fixing the salary of the Professors, regulating the amount required for endowment of scholarships or professorships, and keeping sacred and distinct the different funds already created, or to be hereafter created, for the specific objects for which they are given.

2. All matters relating to the finances except fixing the salaries of Professors, the extent of endowment, and the aid of students, shall be, by the Board of Directors, submitted to the Trustees of the Seminary for their approval.

3. Fair and full statements shall be annually presented to the Assembly, by the Board of Directors or by the Trustees,

of the amount of funds belonging to the Seminary, of the items which constitute that amount, and of the receipts and expenditures in detail for the preceding year.

4. The intention and directions of testators or donors, in regard to moneys or other property left, or given to the Seminary, shall, at all times, be sacredly regarded. And if any individual, or any number of individuals, not greater than three, shall by will, or during his or their lives, found or endow a professorship or professorships, a scholarship or scholarships, or a fund or funds, destined to special purposes, said professorships, scholarships, or funds, shall forever afterwards be called and known by the name or names of those who founded or endowed them, unless otherwise directed. And if any congregation, Presbytery, Synod, or Association, shall found a professorship or professorships, scholarship or scholarships, or a fund or funds, said professorship or professorships, or scholarship or scholarships, fund or funds, shall forever afterwards be called or known by such name as the body founding them shall give.*

5. After supporting the Professors, and defraying the other necessary charges of the Seminary, the funds shall be applied, as far as circumstances will admit, to defray or diminish the expenses of those students who may need pecuniary aid, as well as to lessen, generally, the expense of a residence at the Seminary.

ARTICLE VIII.

OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

1. The Board of Trustees of the Western Theological Seminary, as incorporated by the Legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, consists of thirty members, to be elected by

*The sum necessary to endow a Professorship is not less than \$25,000; and to endow a Scholarship not less than \$3,000. These sums, however, taking things at their present value, are quite too small. New action is hence called for on this subject.—Publishing Committee.

the General Assembly when meeting in the State of Pennsylvania, and no more than one-third to be changed in any one year.

2. To the Trustees is committed the custody and disbursement of the funds of the Institution for the purposes for which they were appropriated by the donors; or according to the plan of the Seminary.

3. The Board of Trustees shall meet twice in each year, (in April and in November) at such time and place as may be designated; and oftener on their own adjournment, or on the call of the President.

4. The officers of the Board shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, to be chosen annually, at the Spring meeting of the Board, and to continue in office until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE VIII

OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

1. The Board of Trustees of the Western Theological Seminary, as incorporated by the legislature of the State of Pennsylvania, consists of thirty members, to be elected by

the sum necessary to endow a Professorship is not less than \$25,000; and to endow a Scholarship not less than \$1,000. These sums, however, taking things at their present value, are quite too small. New action is hence called for on this subject.—Publishing Committee.

CHARTER

OF THE SESSION OF 1844.

No. 116.

AN ACT,

Incorporating the Trustees of the Western Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, at the City of Allegheny in the State of Pennsylvania.

SECTION 1ST. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same.* That David McConaughy, A. O. Patterson, Robert Dunlap, A. D. Campbell, N. Gillett, James Culbertson, Absalom McCready, Robert Johnson, William Jeffrey, C. C. Beatty, Samuel McFarren, Loyal Young, Geo. Marshall, Algernon McMaster, Alexander Laughlin, Francis G. Bailey, Thos. Kiddoo, Harmar Denny, Alexander Semple, Malcom Leech, Francis Herron, E. P. Swift, Matthew Brown, W. B. McIlvaine, John Stockton, Ebenezer Graham, Jas. Alexander, Robert Wray, Benjamin Williams and Frederick Lorenz, and their successors duly elected and appointed in the manner as is hereinafter directed, be and they are hereby made, declared and constituted a corporation, and body politic and corporate in law and in fact, to have continuance forever, by the name, style and title of "*The Trustees of the Western Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America,*" and by the name, style and title aforesaid shall forever hereafter be persons able and capable in law, as well to take, receive and hold all and all manner of lands, tenements, rents, annuities, reversions, franchises, and other heredita-

ments whatsoever, which at any time or times heretofore have been granted, bargained, sold, enfeoffed, released, devised or otherwise conveyed or vested for the use of the Western Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, located at the City of Allegheny, State of Pennsylvania, in or to any other person or persons, to the use of said Seminary, or in trust for the same, by this Commonwealth, or by any person or persons whomsoever; and the same lands, tenements, rents, annuities, reversions, liberties, franchises, and other hereditaments, are hereby vested and established in said corporation forever, according to the original use and intent for which such devises, gifts, grants, releases, or other conveyances were respectively made; and the said corporation and their successors are hereby declared to be seized and possessed of such estate and estates therein, as in and by their respective grants, bargains, sales, enfeoffments, gifts, devises, releases, and other conveyances thereof, is or are declared, limited or expressed; also, that the said corporation and their successors at all times hereafter shall be capable and able to purchase, have and receive, take, hold and enjoy in fee simple, or of lesser estate or estates, all and all manner of lands, tenements, rents, annuities, franchises and hereditaments, by the gift, grant, bargain, sale, alienation, enfeoffment, release, confirmation or devise, to any person or persons, bodies politic and corporate, capable and able to make the same; and further, that the said corporation and their successors may take and receive any sum or sums of money and any portion of goods and chattels that have been given or bequeathed to, and for the use of, the Western Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, at the City of Allegheny, or to the Directors thereof, or to any other person or persons, body politic or corporate in trust or for the use of said Seminary; or that shall hereafter be given, sold, leased or bequeathed to the said corporation, by any person or persons, body politic or corporate, that is able or capable to make sale, lease, bequeath, or other disposal of the same, such money, goods or chattels, to be laid out and disposed of for the use and benefit of the aforesaid corporation agreeably to the will and intention of the donors, and according to the objects and articles, and conditions of this Act, or according to the Articles and By-Laws of said corporation;

Provided, That this Act shall not be so construed as to impair or affect the right of other persons or corporations, or to vest in said corporation any other estate, right or title in the lands and tenements heretofore held by any person or persons for the use of said Western Theological Seminary, by grant from the Commonwealth or conveyance from any person or persons than were held and enjoyed by such person or persons at, or before the passage of this act; and that in all suits now pending, or hereafter brought, concerning the real estate held or claimed by any person or persons, for the use of said Seminary, prior to the passage of this Act, the right and title to the same shall be tried and determined as if this act had not been passed.

SECTION 2D. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no misnomer of the said corporation and their successors shall defeat or annul any gift, grant, devise, or bequest, to or for the said corporation: *Provided*, the intent of the party or parties shall sufficiently appear upon the face of the gift, grant, will or other writing whereby any estate or interest was intended to pass to or for the said corporation.

SECTION 3D. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation and their successors shall have full power to make, have and use one common seal, with such device and inscription as they shall deem proper, and the same to break, alter and renew at their pleasure.

SECTION 4TH. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation and their successors by the name, style and title aforesaid, shall be able and capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any court or courts, before any judge or judges, justice or justices, in all and in all manner of suits, complaints, pleas, causes, matters and demands, of whatsoever nature, kind or form they may be; and all and every matter and thing to do, in as full and effectual a manner as any other person or persons, body politic and corporate, within this Commonwealth may or can do.

SECTION 5TH. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation and their successors shall be, and hereby are, authorized and empowered to make, ordain and establish rules, by-laws, and ordinances, and do everything needful and incident for the due and good government and support of the affairs of

the said corporation, and managing the funds and revenues thereof: *Provided* that the said rules and by-laws and ordinances be not repugnant to the Constitution and laws of the United States, to the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth, or to this Act.

SECTION 6TH. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall not consist at any time of more than thirty persons, nine of whom shall at all times be laymen, and citizens of the State of Pennsylvania, whereof the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America may at their annual meeting change one-third in such manner as to the said General Assembly shall seem proper; and the corporation aforesaid shall have power and authority to manage and dispose of all moneys, goods, chattels, lands, tenements and hereditaments, and all other estates whatsoever, committed to their care and trust, by the said General Assembly; but in cases where special instructions for the management and disposal thereof shall be given by the said General Assembly in writing under the hand of their clerk, it shall be the duty of the said corporation to act according to such instructions: *Provided*, That the instructions shall not be repugnant to the Constitution and laws of the United States, or to the Constitution and laws of this State, or to this act.

SECTION 7TH. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That seven members of this corporation, whereof the President, or in his absence, the Vice-President, to be one, shall be a sufficient number to transact the business thereof, and to make by-laws, rules, and regulations; *Provided*, That previous to any meeting of the Board or corporation for such purposes, not appointed by adjournment, ten days notice shall be previously given thereof by the Secretary or Clerk of the said corporation to each of the members of the same; and the said corporation shall, as often as they shall see proper, and according to the rules by them to be prescribed, choose out of their number a President, a Vice-President and Secretary; and shall have authority to appoint a Treasurer and such other officers and servants, as shall by them, the said corporation, be deemed necessary; to which officers the said corporation may assign such a compensation for their services, and such duties to be performed by them, to continue in office for such a time, and to be succeeded by others, in such a way and manner, as the said corporation may direct.

SECTION 8TH. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all questions before the said corporation, shall be decided by a plurality of votes, whereof each member present shall have one, except the President, or Vice-President when acting as President, who shall have only the casting voice or vote in case of an equality in the votes of the other members.

SECTION 9TH. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation shall keep fair and regular entries of their proceedings, and a just account of their receipts and disbursements, in a book provided for that purpose; and shall, once in a year, exhibit to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, an exact state of the accounts and funds of the said corporation.

SECTION 10TH. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said corporation may take, receive, purchase, possess and enjoy messuages, houses, lands, tenements, rents, annuities and other hereditaments, real and personal estate of any amount; *Provided*, That the clear yearly value and income shall not exceed the sum of fifteen thousand dollars.

SECTION 11TH. That the legislature expressly reserves the right at any time hereafter, to construe, alter, amend or repeal all, or any of the provisions of this act.

Signed,

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WILLIAM BIGLER,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED the twenty-ninth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-four.

DAVID R. PORTER.

A SUPPLEMENT to an "Act incorporating the Trustees of the Western Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, at the City of Allegheny, in the State of Pennsylvania."

"WHEREAS, By the eleventh section of the Act to which this is a supplement, the Legislature of this State has reserved the right at any time thereafter to construe, alter, amend or repeal all or any of the provisions of the act to which this is a supplement;

AND WHEREAS, The exercise of that right may leave the property which may be vested in the said corporation, without proper Trustees to manage and dispose of the same; Therefore,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That in case the Legislature of this State shall at any time hereafter construe, alter, amend or repeal all or any of the provisions of said act to which this is a supplement, the Trustees of said Seminary for the time being shall be and they are hereby authorized and empowered at any time within one year after any such construction, alteration or amendment, or repeal, to convey all the property belonging to them as Trustees as aforesaid, to any number of citizens of this State, not less than three nor more than five, whom they may select, their heirs and assigns, who shall hold the said property thus conveyed to them, their heirs and assigns, for the sole use of the said Seminary, anything in the said Act to the contrary notwithstanding."

CERTIFICATE.

"I do hereby certify that the above is a copy of a bill which passed both branches of the Legislature and was signed by the Governor.

E. S. GOODWELL,
Clerk of the Senate.

HARRISBURG, April 12th, 1845.