

A

MEMOIR

OF THE

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see what our prospect is. But there does not seem to be ground for much hope. I will let you hear again. Give my love to your family, and to brethren generally. The Lord bless you my brother.

Truly yours,

JOHN H. RICE.

TO THE REV. SAMUEL GRAHAM.

Union Seminary, Feb. 8th, 1828.

MY BROTHER GRAHAM,

I feel that I owe you an account of my late movements; and as Mr. Bigelow will pass through Granville, I take this opportunity of writing.

After the Board had adjourned in November, I received several letters which brought me into greater perplexity than I ever remember to have experienced. My own wishes coincided with the opinion of the Board, that I ought to go South. But letter after letter came from the North urging me to return. A mere opinion of any man on this subject would have weighed nothing with me. The case however was this. The very gentlemen who had pledged themselves to make good any deficiency which might occur in the New York Professorship, were the persons who urged my return. They made the pledge on condition that the best possible measures should be employed to make up the deficiency; and should there be any failure, then they would come forward and do their part. Now I did not see how I could ever go to them, and ask them to fulfil their engagements, when they might turn and say, "If you had taken our advice such deficiency would not have occurred; and it is unreasonable for you to expect us to redeem our pledge when you did not fulfil the conditions on which it was made." I really could not see how I could get over this difficulty. In the next place, it was apparent that this was the only time in which we could hope for any thing from Philadelphia. I learned that all the arrangements were made for the two most popu-

lar men in the West of Pennsylvania, Drs. Heron and Jennings, to come to Philadelphia and Baltimore early in the spring, and do their very best to scrape those two cities for the benefit of the Pittsburg Seminary. And if we had not made our application at the time it was made, we should have obtained nothing. But my brother and Mr. Kollock both declined this service until the spring. It would then have been too late. Besides, it was represented to me that I must go to Philadelphia, or nothing would be accomplished.

In the midst of all these embarrassments and perplexities, I wrote to such members of the Board as by any possibility I could hear from, and laid the case before them for advice. They who could for the time answer my letters, advised me to go to the North. Contrary, therefore, to my wishes and feelings; but in conformity to my conscience, and the advice of those with whom it was in my power to communicate, I went to the North. I hope that this will meet the approbation of the Board. If not, I shall regret it; but I shall feel that I acted conscientiously. The result of my journey was in filling up the New York Professorship; the starting of a subscription in Philadelphia, which amounted, when I left, to sixty-four or five hundred dollars; and the starting of a subscription in Baltimore, which amounted to nearly two thousand dollars. The result of the whole mission will be somewhere between thirty-five thousand and forty thousand dollars. I feel that it is God who has thus prospered this work, and I hope that he will receive all the praise. I do not know what would have been the result if I had gone to Charleston. My heart was there all the time; but I have some reason to believe that our Southern brethren have become so excited on this subject, that they will make their experiment before they can be convinced.

Mr. Roy was left by me in Philadelphia, endeavouring to fill up the subscription in that city to ten thousand dollars. He would then come on and try the liberality of Wilmington. Then see what farther could be done in Baltimore.

Perhaps make a little trial at Washington; and then enter Virginia. I hope he will be here in two or three weeks.

We are exceedingly pleased with the North Carolina students. One of them (* *) seems unable to keep up with his class. The rest are really very fine fellows. I think, too, there is a manifest growth of holiness in the Institution.

Remember us in your prayers. Let all pray that we may be very holy men. We unite here in fraternal regards to you.

Yours truly,

JOHN H. RICE.

TO THE REV. ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER, D. D.

Union Seminary, Feb. 9th, 1828.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am safe at home, in pretty good health, and found all well.

Had I passed through Princeton in returning from New York as I intended, there is one subject on which I could have wished to converse with you and Dr. Miller.

Some of my old Richmond friends have removed to Florida, among them J—— and R—— G——, and J—— P——. J—— G—— and P—— are members of the church; they are both intelligent, public-spirited men, concerned for the interests of education and religion. G——, who is the best acquainted with the country of any of them, says, that by proper management the direction of the literary and religious interests of that territory may be in the hands of Presbyterians. There is an appropriation of land for a University there, or for a literary fund, worth two millions of dollars. If some men of intelligence and piety do not get the management, it will be fooled away, or worse. He therefore earnestly entreats that some one or two young clergymen of high talents and attainments, of enlarged views, and active zeal, should at once be sent out to him. They