

educational institutions after the war was over and the orgy of the reconstruction ^{era} was going on. Desolation and poverty were everywhere, but these Presbyterians did not despair. They determined to rebuild their schools along with their homes, their churches, and their private fortunes.

In view of the vast amount of money which would be needed to reestablish all the educational institutions owned by the Presbyterian Church before the war, and in view of the poverty of the South, prominent leaders of the Church felt that it would be wise to change the ante bellum program. Their proposition was that all the Synods should unite and build one university for the whole territory. It soon became evident that it was not feasible for the entire Church to cooperate in this plan, but the Presbyterian Church in the Southwest determined to undertake the enterprise. The project was agitated and discussed for several years, and finally, in answer to an overture from the Synod of Nashville, of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, to the Synods of Memphis, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama, commissioners were appointed at their fall meetings in 1872, to consider their mutual needs in the matter of education, and a conference was held in Memphis, May 8, 9, and 10, 1873, at which time there was adopted "The Plan of Union," which has been recognized as of the nature of fundamental law, as far as it goes, for the Board of Directors, for the appointment of which it makes provision.

"PLAN OF UNION"

Extract from Minutes of Synodical Conference, held at Memphis, May 8th, 9th and 10th, 1873:

Saturday, 4 p.m., Conference met, and the final Report on the proposed Plan of Action was submitted by the Committee.

On motion, the report was received, and the Conference proceeded to consider each item *seriatim*. After several amendments had been made, the vote was had upon each item separately, and then upon the paper as a whole; the vote being entirely unanimous in favor of the Plan, which is as follows:

The Commissioners of the Synods of Nashville, Memphis, Arkansas, Mississippi and Alabama, (all of them being represented) appointed to confer with reference to their mutual wants in the matter of Education, and to mature, if possible, a plan for their

co-operation, met in Memphis, on the 8th of May, and after a harmonious conference, unanimously resolved to present to their respective Synods the following plan for their consideration and adoption:

Resolved 1. That the proposed union of Synods for the furtherance of our educational interests is in every way desirable, and that it is practicable to unite in the founding, endowment, support and government, of an institution common to them all.

Resolved 2. The object and scope of the institution shall be not only to train our youth to enter upon one of the learned professions, but also to fit them for the ordinary vocations of life.

To this end it shall be a University in two senses. 1st. It shall offer the largest facilities for thorough culture and for a high standard of graduation; and 2nd. The organization shall be made on the plan of separate and co-ordinate schools, and elective courses.

In connection with every course there shall be a faithful and comprehensive Biblical training, so as to make an intelligent, Scriptural faith the controlling principle in the Institution.

Resolved 3. In realizing the proposed object and scope of the Institution, the order of development shall be: *First*, the various liberal studies usually embraced in a college curriculum, and *then* the special scientific and polytechnic schools necessary.

Resolved 4. The sole government of the Institution shall be in the hands of a Directory, consisting of two members from each Synod, one elected each year after the first, of whom one-half shall constitute a quorum.

With a view to securing the necessary confidential relations between the Directory and the Faculty, the presiding officer of the Institution shall be ex-officio, the presiding officer of the Board of Directors.

Resolved 5. This Directory shall, with other duties, have power to elect all members of the Faculty or remove for cause, and shall have in charge the raising, preservation and administration of all monies, either directly or by such executive agency as may seem to them best, and shall be incorporated in the State in which the school may be located.

Resolved 6. The Board shall proceed at once to secure subscriptions to the amount of \$500,000, payable one-fifth down when subscribed, and the remainder in four annual installments; and shall

locate, organize and develop the Institution as soon as in their judgment it can be done with safety, and to such extent as the means in hand will justify without incurring debt.

Resolved 7. The Synods agreeing to this plan shall at once elect Directors as herein provided, who shall hold their first meeting in the city of Memphis, on the second Tuesday of January, 1874, at 7 o'clock p.m., and take in hand the matters committed to their charge.

(Signed)

C. A. STILLMAN,
Chairman.

B. M. PALMER,
T. R. WELCH,
J. L. WITHERSPOON,
J. B. SHEARER,
D. N. KENNEDY,
D. H. CUMMINS,
B. M. ESTES,

Commissioners.

Rev. A. P. Smith, D.D., and Rev. E. McNair, from the Synods of Mississippi and Arkansas, not being present, have since desired to append their names as approving the above plan.

W. E. BOOGS, *Clerk.*

This "Plan of Union" was adopted by all the Synods named in it and also by the Synod of Texas.

The Synods of Nashville, Memphis, Arkansas, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas thus decided to pool their educational interests, and to concentrate upon a single university which should serve the needs of all. The Plan of Union was adopted by these six Synods, and each elected two Directors, who held their first meeting in Memphis on the second Tuesday in January, 1874. At this meeting the general scheme of the proposed university was determined upon, a number of By-Laws were adopted, and the Directors adjourned to meet again in Memphis, May 14, 1874, to consider the question of the location of the proposed university, preliminary to securing a charter.

At this second meeting Clarksville, Tennessee, was chosen as the location, and Stewart College as the nucleus of the proposed institution. Steps taken at this meeting to secure a charter were futile because of a recent decision of the Supreme Court of the State

of Tennessee invalidating the prevailing method of securing charters in the State. During the following winter the Legislature of Tennessee enacted a "General Law for Corporations," found in "Acts of Tennessee, 1875," Chapter 142, page 132, entitled, "An act to provide for the organization of corporations."

Under this act and in pursuance of its provisions the Board of Directors, in session at St. Louis, Missouri, May 18, 1875, took steps to secure a proper charter of incorporation. The form and application were prepared and adopted, were subsequently perfected and presented to the Board at an adjourned meeting in Clarksville, June 1, 1875.

CHARTER OF SOUTHWESTERN PRESBYTERIAN UNIVERSITY

State of Tennessee—Charter of Incorporation

Be it known, that Thomas R. Welch, B. M. Palmer, John N. Waddel, Donald MacGregor, Evander McNair, John B. Shearer, D. N. Kennedy, W. K. Marshall, C. A. Stillman, Thomas A. Hamilton, James A. Lyon, and B. M. Estes are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of the Southwestern Presbyterian University, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining in the city of Clarksville, County of Montgomery, State of Tennessee, a University with power to confer degrees. The object and scope of the institution proposed shall be to found a school of instruction in the various liberal and professional studies, and in such special and polytechnic arts and studies as may be deemed necessary, and to be under the patronage of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

This corporation is organized under and pursuant to an act of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, enacted March 23, 1875, Chapter 142; and in compliance with the terms of said act, which is as follows: "The support of any literary or scientific institution, as a College or University with power to confer degrees, an academy, debating society, lyceum, the establishment of a library, the support of a historical society, the promotion of painting, music or the fine arts, the support of Boards of Trade, or Chambers of Commerce, or other objects of like nature."

We, the undersigned, apply to the State of Tennessee, by virtue