Central University of Iowa - Pella

Reminiscences

by

E.H. Scarff D.D.

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INTRODUCTION

The following is a journal written by Prof. Emmanuel H. Scarff, the first principal of the school established by the Baptists in Pella, Iowa in 1853. It is a record of his memories of the early years beginning when he left Dayton, Ohio and began classes in the brick building at 1109 Washington. It documents the building of Old Central (it burned in 1922), the hardships, the Panic of 1858-61, the war years and the wrangling among the Iowa Baptists—east and west—regarding the location of an educational institution.

Due to his infirmity (he suffered from ataxia which affected his locomotion) his writing was somewhat illegible and we found it beginning to fade with age. We have transcribed it so that it can be preserved for future generations.

I want to thank Evelyn Bandstra who, with patience and great expertise, put it on a computer disk. With Sara Caldwell, we have managed to decipher it almost entirely. Where we have failed—generally only a word or two, we have substituted an ellipsis (...). We have attempted to transcribe it faithfully with his spelling, his grammar, and punctuation. It must be remembered by the reader that it was written well over a hundred years ago and he was a professor of mathematics—not English.

Central College and Pella must feel for Prof. Scarff, Amos N. Currier, Drusilla Allen Stoddard, and others like them, a deep sense of gratitude. Without their determination, sacrifices, and dedication, there would probably be no Central College today.

Madeline G. Vanderzyl
Archivist, Central College
1991
Preface

I enter upon the work of giving facts, incidents, and experiences connected with the earlier history of the Central University of Iowa with much hesitancy and many misgivings. First on account of my infirmity it being very difficult for me to write with pen and ink.

But secondly because of the difficulty of relating facts and incidents with which we are personally connected without giving them a tinge of self.

And thirdly some of my experiences are so evidently examples of requiring brick without straw that they may seem to many of the present day too wonderful to be true.

Introduction

The friends and patrons of the Central University of Iowa.

The following pages will contain
1st. matters of fact which may be of interest to those who may in after years be connected with the enterprise as teachers.
2nd. They will contain also incidents of special interest to the student both of former years and of the present or after years.
3rd. They will also contain some experiences that are known only to the pioneers of great enterprises in a new country, and, as the writer is the principle part of some of these
experiences, I shall hope to be scrupulously exact in their relation.
4th. The following will contain only a very brief and unvarnished relation of facts as I now recall them.

Origin of the enterprises

A record of reminiscences would seem very imperfect without some mention of the origin of the enterprise. My notice however shall be only a brief synopsis of the work of locating a college in Iowa.

Those who would learn more in detail I refer to the printed and bound minutes of the Iowa State convention from 1850 to 1872 in the college library.

The matter of denominational education very early claimed the attention of the Baptist of Iowa.

A committee was appointed as early as 1849 to correspond with the brethren in States of Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota with a view of forming a union with them in educational work, but the plan was found to be impracticable and given up.

Some measures had also been taken to establish a college at Agency City which was found impracticable and soon abandoned.

The first direct work on action of the denomination that resulted in any permanently organized educational work in the state of Iowa bears date of Sept. 26, 1851.
At a meeting of the State convention held at Burlington Sept 26, 1851, the following resolution was adopted.

Resolved that a committee of five be appointed, whose duty it shall be to make investigations solicit proposals with reference to the immediate establishment of a denominational University in this state, and that this committee be authorized to call an educational convention at such a time and place as they may deem expedient when the whole subject can be considered in detail. The committee was appointed and an educational convention was held at Iowa City April 13 and 14, 1852.

As the roads were very bad, (the only conveyance then being horseback or buggy) the attendance was very small.

The convention however proceeded to consider propositions and finally with a show of almost entire unanimity did locate the denominational school at Burlington.

This action was taken late at night. By the next morning many of the brethren present saw their mistake and were anxious to reassemble the convention and reconsider the whole matter. But, it was claimed by the friends of the location selected that action was final and the matter of location was agitated in the churches till the meeting of the State convention at Marion in Sept 24-26, 1852 at which time the committee of five who had been appointed at the previous meeting to receive proposals and made their report.

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to the convention. The report of the committee was referred to a special committee which reported as follows, "After due consideration of the proceedings of the committee of five appointed at the last session of the Baptist State Convention of the State of Iowa and of the educational meeting held in Iowa City April last your committee would recommend that passage of the following resolution:

Resolved, that this convention cannot sanction the proceedings of the educational convention held in Iowa City, in April last, in locating an institution of learning.

The report was by a large majority adopted. It was claimed that the committee had transcended the limits of its instructions in locating an institution and also had been unwise in locating at the extreme border of the State.

At the same meeting of the state convention held at Marion, the proceedings of the convention held in Iowa City failing of approval by the convention. A special educational meeting was held and eighteen (18) brethren in attendance issue the following call (There were thirty five delegates involved in the convention) and send a copy to every church in the State.

Dear Brethren,

You are requested at least three delegates and not more than five with your pastor, to meet delegates of all other Baptist churches of the State of Iowa in a convention to be
held at Oskaloosa Mahaska county Iowa on Wednesday the tenth
day of November 1852. To take into consideration the
propriety and expediency of locating a college to be owned
by and controlled by the Baptist denomination of this state.
Proposals of great value and importance will be made to the
convention and it is expected that a location will be
selected before the meeting adjourns.

The next meeting of the State convention was held at
Keokuk Oct, 21-23, 1852. On the minutes of the convention
forty seven names are enrolled as delegates or life members.
Of this number fourteen were from Burlington (It was claimed
that a large number of life members were made for the
occasion) At this meeting the following was passed by a
small majority.

Resolved: That the resolution in the last years
minutes as follows. Resolved that this convention cannot
sanction the proceedings of the educational meeting at Iowa
City locating an institution of learning be rescinded.

At each State convention and each association in the
State the matter location was sharply discussed and sometimes
not to the entire good fellowship or edification of the
interested parties. These discussions at length took much
time and detracted much from the special work of these
annual gatherings. Delegates from the churches were chosen
in reference to the vote expected at these denominational
gatherings thus creating frequent surmising and often
harshness between brethren in the same church. The leading spirits in this controversy were the Rev. B. J. Johnston of Burlington, and Rev. I. C. Curtis of Pella.

This controversy doubtless growing out of honest differences of opinion as to the right of the first educational convention to locate etc. etc. continued to bother until the fall of 1856 when the state convention met at Fremont. This was by far the largest convention ever held in the state. At this meeting the matter of the location of the state Baptist college was referred to as judicious committee. (at least supposed to be judicious because not actively partisan) The committee made the following report which was regarded as final so far as the state convention was concerned. To never come up again in the convention. Report of the committee is as follows.

Resolved; that the action of a large number of associations in the state has been such as to indicate sufficiently that a large majority of the Baptists of Iowa were disposed to support the institution of learning at Pella, yet in view of the paramount importance of our domestic mission work we do not think on the whole best to take any further action in this body on the subject. There were seventy four delegates recorded at this meeting of the convention. We have seen that a call for an educational convention was called to meet at Oskaloosa on the 10th Nov. 1852. The convention met and was organized and proceeded to business but did not deem it
advisable to locate their college. There were about twenty five delegates present and I find the following Resolution. Resolved, that in view of the inclemency of the weather which has caused us sparse attendance of delegates from the churches it is deemed inexpedient to make a location of our college at present.

The convention adjourned to meet at Pella the first Thursday of June 1853. Pursuant to adjournment the convention met at Pella and organized and after carefully considering the propositions for location from various points the convention proceeded to vote by ballot on the following which was adopted. Resolved, that this convention accept the proposed donation of the citizens of Pella and vicinity and hereby locate our institution of learning at said place. The vote was taken and resulted in the selection of Pella as the seat of our denominational school for the State of Iowa.

Articles of incorporation were presented and adopted and a board of trustees and an executive branch was appointed etc.

The meeting then adjourned to meet on the June 1854. For further particulars see the bound volume of convention minutes in the college library and the minutes of these meetings as recorded in books of the secretary of the Central University of Iowa.
Engagement

Thus the location being made the Trustees proceeded at once to select a site for the college edifice—procure plans for building etc. etc. with a view of opening the academic department of the college as soon as practicable.

At the meeting of the general board in June 1854 it was thought best to open a school the following fall.

Through the favor of my friend Rev. E. O. Towne my name was presented to the executive board as a suitable person for the principal of said school.

A correspondence was accordingly opened with myself through the secretary of the board, which resulted in a call to the principalship of the School to be opened. At a board meeting (executive) July 8th 1854 the secretary E. O. Towne was directed to make out a call to Prof. E. H. Scarff of Dayton Ohio to the presidency of the preparatory of the Central University of Iowa.

At the executive meeting August 5th the secretary announced the acceptance of position by said Scarff. At the same meeting the secretary is directed to publish the opening of the preparatory department of the school about the middle of the following September (Sept. 17) The preliminaries having been all thus arranged I awaited the time of my departure for my western home with some interest. But to my wife who was in rather feeble health the event of our departure and of our future home and work was of
peculiar interest. She as yet had had no experience of frontier life and labors.

According to agreement to be in time for the opening of the school as published we arrived in Pella Sept. 15th 1854.

Our Journey

Our journey was safe throughout and as pleasant as the circumstances could well admit. We came by rail from Dayton, Ohio through Lafayette and Chicago to Rock Island Ill. Thence to Muscatine by steamer, thence through Iowa City, Washington, Fairfield, Oskaloosa to Pella by stage.

Of all methods of travel the stage coach is perhaps the most romantic. In those days the stage was usually literally packed inside and out. Frequently there were three on a seat on the inside, two also on the seat with the driver and perhaps four or five sitting on the top of the coach. Thus it was in part of our trip from Muscatine to Pella. Being very weary we stopped over night at Iowa City. The morning very early (before light) we were accommodated to an extra coach bound for the West. This was our chance. Besides ourselves there were four others all gentlemen bound for Oskaloosa, Winterset etc. We thought it jolly to have a coach with only six in it. It was jolly as these men were all perfect gentlemen and full of jokes and innocent fun.

As we had all started without our breakfast we were to be accommodated at Prairie Hotel eight miles out of the city. Some of the passengers had seen the magnificent
structure before and the imaginary Landlord cook and breakfast was the butt of all jokes from the city to that point. Several of the passengers declared their intention fasting till time for the next meal. We however were so weary and hungry, not having eaten much the evening before that we said we would at last take a cup of coffee and so directed the driver to halt and wait for us. After a while the driver cracked his whip and announced Prairie Hotel in sight, and that we should have twenty minutes for breakfast. After all the joking we were anxious for a sight of the Hotel and its surroundings. Presently the driver called a halt in front of a double log cabin one story high with a kind of hall between the two main rooms of the ancient structure and with the eves so low that you would have to stoop or smash your beaver on entering.

The driver had announced to us before coming in sight that they had the best table accommodations at Prairie Hotel of any house on the route. To our surprise on entering the dining room we found, for breakfast, mashed fried Irish potatoes, roasted sweet potatoes large and of the finest flavor, excellent biscuits, Young fried chickens with excellent gravy, and good sweet butter and superior coffee and different kinds of sauce, etc. and the land lady was as neat as a pin taken all together it was the best thing for poor weary, hungry mortals that we had found thus far on our journey.
After partaking most freely of our sumptuous repast we were soon again on our way. We lost no time in telling our two hungry companions who could not venture in, of our good fortune and grand breakfast. The joke and laugh soon turned upon the two over cautious fellow travelers and Prairie Hotel roast sweet potatoes and fried chicken became the watchword for the rest of our journey.

Nothing more of special interest occurred till we arrived at Oskaloosa where we put up for the night.

An Incident

On the way as we journeyed towards our future western home our fellow passengers learning the place of our destination did not fail to give Mrs. Scarff a most glowing description of Pella and its surroundings. They told of the regular broad streets, the large blocks of three story brick buildings, the splendid hotels etc. until Mrs. Scarff began to feel that though we were going far west we should, after all, have the Paradise of Iowa for our future home.

Thus after a night's rest, on the morning of the 15th of Sept, 1854 we again entered the stage with our faces toward Pella and found nothing of special interest to claim our attention until we came near the city. One mile east of Pella on the main thoroughfare we saw what to us then was a novelty. It was a rough frame for a house with studdings probably four feet apart and filled in between with sod and covered with thatch (a kind of long grass) The building had
been used for a dwelling. A half mile west of this was (and is to this day) a frame building covered with thatch with eaves probably six feet high and used as a dwelling horse and cow stable, pig pen, and hen house all in the same enclosure. This latter arrangement as I very readily perceived was not only very novel but also very economical. We now very soon entered the town on the South East. The first building that attracted our attention was a one story log building about ten feet square and one story high. (It yet stands just opposite the present residence of Van de Pols) and was then used as a grocery, with the sign "Wholesale and retail grocery." We were soon in the midst of the city in front of the Foster and Putnam Hotel. We were escorted into the parlor and for the first time saw a native passing by shod with wooden shoes. Here too we for the first time in the West met the secretary of the board, Rev. E. O. Towne, fresh from the hay field. Covered with sweat and dust, and garments tattered to mere rents but as easy and affable as a prince in his palace. Mrs. Scarff, however, was not taken much either with the secretary or the town and though we took rooms to remain over the Sabbath, she would not consent to unpack her trunks or go to church on the sabbath. On Monday we took a survey of the city and made several acquaintances and among them was I. C. Curtis the financial agent of the to be University.
The School Opening

Among the first questions asked the secretary were "What are the prospects of the opening school? Has a suitable building been secured? Has the board secured furniture for the school rooms? etc. etc." To all these questions the answer was either doubtful or a flat negative. The school had been widely advertised and it was hoped that there would be a respectable number of students from abroad and the opening of the school would be fair etc.

But as for a room none had been secured and it was not know that a suitable room could at all be secured in town. [Large rooms in Pella were scarce in those days] However on the 19th of Sept,--four days after my arrival and two days after the date of the published opening of the school we secured a new building near the West end of Washington Street, four blocks West of the public square. This was a substantial, two story brick building about 32 by 20 on the ground with two shed rooms back and a wall between these. These rooms were about 10 by 12 feet and served well for recitation rooms. We had thus secured a very respectable general school room and two very respectable recitation rooms. These rooms were all just newly plastered and we felt that we were in luck in securing so good quarters for the infant school about to come forth.

But as to the furniture we were not in so happy a case. The furniture was yet growing in the native forests on the
Des Moines bottoms. The board had no funds on hand to send and get seats, desks etc—and there was no dry lumber to be had to make them. But even this was not, in those primitive days, a matter of stumbling. In four days we had the logs at the mill and in lumber; and in six days more we had first clap seats and desks from the green native lumber. We thus had the best room and it was the best furnished for school and church purposes. (It was used for both) that there was in town.

With these preliminaries all thus satisfactorily arranged the school was formally opened on the eighth day of October 1854.

There were associated with me in school during the first year (Caleb Caldwell A, B, and Miss Julia Tollman a graduate of the Monticello Female School.

The school opened with 32 but this number was almost daily increased until at the close of the first term, we had enrolled about 70 students.

College building

The present college building was, at the opening of the school, up as far as to the water table which was put on the same fall. There was besides on the ground a large amount of heavy stone, probably half enough for the first story and about the half of this was already cut and ready for the wall. And when I first visited the grounds there was yet
THE TOWN OF PELLA IN 1836

OLD CENTRAL PRIOR TO THE FIRE OF 1922
our lone Irishman picking away at the stone. [The board subsequently changed their plan to a brick building.]

A good foundation having been laid it was securely covered and the work ceased till spring. Not much however, owing to the difficulty of obtaining brick was done on the walls of the building till late in the fall of 1855. But it was still hoped that the walls could be laid and the building be enclosed before the winter should finally close in. But the very night that the walls were completed there came a terrible rain storm filling the cellar two feet in water. [The drain has been closed by the loose, falling material in the building] This rain storm was immediately followed by a severe freeze and heavy winds so that not only the work of enclosing was stopped but the water in the cellar freezing raised and cracked the walls in several places causing an opening in the walls near the top of from two to four inches.

It was feared during the winter that the walls were entirely spoiled and that the building would become an irreparable wreck and that all would be lost, but as the frost came out of the ground the walls settled back nearly closing the cracks and appearing firm and strong. Thus the walls being adjudged strong and safe the work of enclosing was resumed early in the spring of 1856 but was much hindered from want of means to get material and pay the workmen. The times were good and the enterprise had many
friends who were disposed to aid in the work but the board was very unfortunate in the selection of their financial agent, Rev. I. C. Curtis, a good man, with superior native talent but a very poor agent, a good efficient agent could then have easily gathered the means to prosecute and push the work forward to completion.

The above is a good illustration of the fact that, no man can do everything. Rev. Curtis was a fair preacher a good lawyer but a miserably poor agent.

"Every man to his calling and in his place."

Second year of School

I may here state that during the fall of 1854 there was a very large emigration to Iowa and especially to Pella and its vicinity. This was very favorable to the opening school. From the 20 or more families that settled in Pella during that fall there came quite a goodly number of students. The number from a distance increased and the year was a success. The school was increasing in numbers and in grade of scholarship and favor with the people.

The second year opened under very flattering prospect. The enrollments the first term were about 100, and the second term it was still larger. This increase in numbers as well as in grade of scholarship made the demand for more room imperative as we then supposed.

But in this we were greatly mistaken!
An Experience

In order to meet the demand for more room we furnished the second story of the same building. In this I was to have the daily charge of the academic department of the school. The only way of entrance was through an opening made for the purpose in the middle of the room. It was two and a half feet by six, and it was made accessible by means of a small step ladder inclined at an angle of two thirds or what a carpenter would call a two third pitch. (That is almost perpendicular) This was without banister... below or fender above. Up and down this unique contrivance my scholars, ladies and gentlemen, had to pass as they entered and left their department in the school.

Thus every time they entered or left their room they must hop into the midst of the primary room as they ascended or descended this pioneer stairway. We had side curtains, to this second story machine, that the person might not be unnecessarily exposed. But the arrangement being the occasion of great confusion in both departments of the school.

Besides this each department though hid from the view of the other was by means of this inevitable scuttle hole in such immediate proximity that every movement or word in either was heard by the other.

There were also by this arrangement many questions of privilege on the part of individuals in each department that
required the presence of a teacher to restrain the fury if not the blows of the parties. The whole thing was greatly unwise and wholly impracticable. But it was seen as such, too late, to wholly avoid evil consequences to the school and detriment to the teachers. As I contemplate the matter now, it looks like living up stairs, with a friend in the same house, whose parlor you have to enter in order to ascend to your own kitchen.

The wonder now is that I was ever such a fool, as to try so doubtful an experiment or I might rather say an experiment in which a failure is a moral certainty.

Better by far to have piled the students in the lower room three or four deep on a seat or to have turned half the students away from school. There were associated with me in the school the first and second terms of the second year C. C. Cory and Julia Tollman and the third term Miss Tollman and a gentleman by the name of Waterman (now in Ill.).

The finances

From June 1855 to June 1856 was a very important and eventful period in the history of the new enterprise. The times were good and money was easy and plenty and the school has friends everywhere ready to help forward the work had they been properly approached. During this period the walls were going up and the building was being enclosed. In this process both material and labor required money but the money was yet in the pockets of the friends of the enterprise. It
was confidently expected that a financial agent would gather the means as they were needed to pay the liabilities of the board as per contract in building. But in this both the board and the friends of the enterprise, at large, were disappointed. Some small pledges to the current fund and some pledges to the proposed endowment fund were secured but no moneys. Scarcely enough to pay the agent. Thus through the inefficiency and the "Dog in Manger" processes of the financial agent the board at the annual meeting in June 1856 found itself in debt to the amount of about five thousand dollars. (The treasurer's report of this year fails to present a full statement of the finances, as a large number of bills, for contracts, the executive board had made had not yet been presented or allowed.)

With state of finances the board was greatly embarrassed and the work on the building necessarily stopped for want of means to prosecute it.

The policy of the agent was to remain much at home awaiting the meetings of the associations, state conventions and other larger denominational gathers. At these he would fire off his large "guns" and make a grand impression" but secure no moneys.

Others also have failed at just this point, indeed it is a very common mistake. Collecting moneys at so long a range, for great public or denominational enterprises, rarely succeed. Our agent could not sit down beside a man
and talk the matter up and secure a pledge and the moneys, from a conviction of duty to a great enterprise. He went upon the high pressure system and was, as an agent, a grand failure. In all this our agent was little to blame. He was not born an agent and could not do the work. But the matter in which he was greatly in fault was that when he saw he could not do the work expected of him, that he did not get out of the way and thus make room for some man that could do it.

"Oh could we but see ourselves as others see us."

P.S. The last chapter, on finance, was written from convictions of duty, in giving what I conceive to be a true history of the time. From this time the board was greatly embarrassed, for ten years, with debt, and the progress of the school was also much hindered thereby. And as the true causes of the long and perplexing embarrassment of the board do not appear in the minutes of the board's doings, it becomes the duty of the living historian to bring them to view.

But I wrote the last chapter with the more hesitancy and misgivings from the consideration that the agent, Rev. I. C. Curtis, was a personal friend and an esteemed Christian minister and gentleman.
Third year of School

We have seen that the building was enclosed early in the spring of 1856 at the Board meeting in June of the same year the executive committee were instructed to finish so much of the building as might be needed for the accommodation of the school through ensuing year. This order was very difficult of accomplishment. The board at that time had no moneys and not much credit, and the debt it had already created was becoming very perplexing. The contractors each wanted his moneys, but there was nothing to pay with.

By some means however the board did obtain control of enough moneys to finish one room in the building. This was the East room, forty four by twenty eight, in the third story of the college building. Why the board chose to finish a room in the third story for school purposes I cannot now imagine. Though I doubtful did know at the time. But the room being finished, in due time the school was formally opened in this newly finished room in the college building. That is the academic department of the college; the primary school for reasons hereafter stated was for the present dispensed with.

The school during this first term in the new college building enrolled about thirty seven. A great falling off in numbers from the corresponding term of the proceeding
year. And I was the lone teacher in the college at this time and "monarch of all I survey".

The second term, on account of a small pox scare in town was omitted. In the mean time, Prof A. N. Currier was added to the teaching force and as we were not both needed in school he taught the third term myself for the time retiring.

Experience 1856

When the school opened in the college building in September 1856 the building was only enclosed, very roughly. In the West end the windows were merely closed by rough sheeting board being nailed over them and the rooms otherwise were as the brick layer left them. There were no obstructions to the view, from the belfry to the bottom of the cellar except the joists and cross timbers.

In the East end the condition of things was somewhat better. The floors were all laid. (The Baptist Church were finishing the East room in the first story for a place for worship.) The floor was also laid in the hall on the first floor but the hall in the second and third stories were laid by loose, rough sheeting boards being loosely thrown over the joists. The stairway was in perfect keeping with the rest of the building. The frame for the steps were put in place and rough boards were nailed on the step part but the risers (or vertical part of the step) was wholly wanting. The North end of the hall was boarded up with rough sheeting
except a door-way but the south end of the hall was wholly closed with sheeting. I should add however that sheeting laid in hall did not extend to wall on the North end by about eight fee so that should you walked too far North in ascending or descending the steps there was nothing but joists to prevent a vertical passage from the third to the first floor.

In the hall above the third story there was nothing but the frame timbers so that the student could look from the hall to the top of the belfry or through the timbers to the roof in either end of the building.

At this late day in Iowa, surrounded as we now are with all the improved conveniences of modern civilization it is very difficult to conceive the trials of such a position, but the din and clatter of the student passing in the hall over these rough, loose boards. The shrill shrieks of the whistling winds as they passed around and through the building. The cooing of the doves (pigeons) that had congregated and taken up their abode in the belfry and the dismal hoot of the great owl # or the unearthy screeches of the leper owl are all yet tingling in my ear. How a school thus suspended in the heavens with such surroundings and nothing but a few loose boards and timbers between it and terra firma could be kept together at all is a problem not easy to solve ... how any board of trustees should expect a school to thrive and prosper under such circumstance is
difficult to conceive. And yet they were students that would risk a job for the undertaker and climb the rickety stairway to their lofty classic aerie.

That I was somewhat disheartened at the prospect of a success I freely confess and did, for a time, quietly step aside and give place to one of larger hopefulness.

The only possible apology for such a state of things was the poverty of the board. They did not have means to do more; and to create more debt would be moral suicide.

And I account for the fact that we had any students at all on the ground that the country was so new and educational privileges so rare and limited in other neighboring towns as well as country.

An Incident

The following incident should have been recorded on page 22. After arriving at the hotel we took the best suit of rooms in the house. They were in the second story and south end of the building. The main room was about ten feet square and on the East side the ceiling was about seven and one half feet high inclined or tapered back to the west where the ceiling was only three and one half feet high with a four light window with ten by twelve lights. On the south there was however a pretty respectable window. On the whole the room was regarded as both spacious and pleasant. At any
rate our accommodations were princely compared with most the other boarders and guests.

We very soon made the acquaintances of John Roziers who roomed just across the hall from us and sat opposite at the table. After we had been at the hotel some days the old man came across to our door and asked Mrs. Scarff if she supposed the man that built that house would ever get to heaven?" She replied that she could not tell surely as she did not know the man at all or anything about him.

He then remarked that he had just been thinking that the man who would put such windows in a public house could not have aspirations high enough to take him very far above the earth. And as the evening was very warm and we were almost suffocated for want of fresh air we were about ready to concur in his judgement.

The New Departure
December 1856

The board at its annual meeting in June 1857 devised more liberal things for the Central University of Iowa. Six months previous to the board meeting, the Executive board had secured the services of the Rev. Obed Sperry as financial agent. He was the best agent that the board had for the first ten years. He was indeed a good agent except that by his persistent complaining and envious criticisms of his brethren in the ministry he rarely failed to make his sojourn, in any place, very unpleasant for the family with
whom he put up. He traveled extensively in his own conveyance, collected some moneys. Secured a great many pledges and awakened a new interest in the school everywhere. This was especially true of Keokuk. Among the good things for the University he secured from the Hon. J. K. Hornish the fine bell that yet ornaments the college belfry. Keokuk was well represented both as regarded the talent and the wealth of the church. They were deeply interested in the college. Their pastor was among the early and fast friends of the enterprise. But the church was specially interested in the enterprise at this time. The time had come where their beloved pastor, Rev. Elihu Gunn, who by a few happy strokes, had made himself independently rich, as was supposed, was about to be transferred from the humble pastorate, to the presidency of a college to be munificently endowed and destined to exert a controlling influence in all this western land.

The board at this meeting voted to open the collegiate department of the school, fixed a course of study for the college course and through the beneficence of the Hon. J. K. Hornish settle an endowment upon the newly elected and honored President. At this meeting the bell was also raised to its present proudly lofty position, to announce far and wide, the victories already achieved and the splendid triumph already visibly shadowed forth in the near future.
Hon. J. K. Hornish

Dr. Louis A. Dunn

Dr. Dunn was the third President of Central College. He was a man of great intellectual power and of fine physical strength, and combined with these elements of leadership a gentleness and sweetness of character that won for him the respect and love of all who knew him. He accepted the position of President in 1871 and through the following ten years he put his life and strength into the school. Because of failing health, he resigned in 1881, but was again prevailed upon to take the presidency in 1886. For two short years he again lead where others were glad to follow. Then Death called him home.
The Central University of Iowa being thus suddenly raised from its humble beginnings to this proud ... position among the institutions of learning in young Iowa, may well be called a new departure.

In the midst of such facts and with such prospects did the college, term open in the fall of 1857.

The results of these liberal divisings upon the future of the Central University will be seen in the following chapters.

**The great financial crisis**

Scarcely had the fall term of 1857 opened till there were seen unmistakable evidences of financial disaster in the near future. As early as January 1858 the panic was upon the land and in this monetary scourge no state perhaps suffered more than Iowa. Iowa at that time had properly no circulating medium of her own. She was at least chiefly dependent upon the other states for her money.

The first disastrous result of the panic was to drive the money from Iowa to the states east of the Mississippi river.

Thus Iowa in a very few months was literally bankrupt so far as a medium of exchange was concerned. They had produce but had no rail road yet except two short lines, each about twenty-five miles long extending from the Mississippi river to Iowa City and to Mt. Pleasant.
Iowa had produce in abundance, and some stock but at that time not enough to consume the product of the soil and no moneye to buy more. From the interior to the nearest rail road or navigable river was 100 to 150 miles. Stock might be driven but produce cannot not be conveyed by wagon so far. Transportation costs more than you get for the product.

As a result the bartering price of wheat in the Central portions of the state was thirty-five cents for a bushel, from 1858 to 1861. The bartering price of corn was 15 cents per bushel, and the best pork in the country could be bought for one dollar and 25 cents per one hundred pound on foot and light pork for $1.00 per 100 lbs.

Good wheat for cash could be bought for 25 cents per bu. and good white corn for 10 cents per bu. I have seen wheat and corn on the streets of Pella begging for a sale at these figures but there were no cash buyers. The effect of such a state of things on the general prosperity of a country can easily be imagined. But especially were the effects manifest in our institutions of learning.

Among the first to be disastrously effected was the worthy president of the college. His finances were in such a condition that in a very few months after he entered upon his duties in the college he sees his supposed fortune passing forever away from his grasp and in less than a year his whole estate was hopelessly gone, and he is left
hopelessly a bankrupt. Hundreds of men all over Iowa were left in the same condition. Not half the inhabitants of this great state during these years could command moneys enough to pay their taxes. Internal improvements were brought to a complete stand, mechanics were largely thrown out of employment.... Even the farmer could dispose of his products by a system of dicker,—that is an exchange of products kind for kind. The financial crisis of 1877-79 in its effects upon the state of Iowa was not to be compared with the state of things in 1858-61. In the latter case we had rail road communication with the rest of the world; we had a good home market for every product; we had good moneye as the world ever saw for product or labor; and we had also a fair demand for labor. These indeed were living times compared with the former years.

I refer to this subject because of its bearing upon the future of the college.

The Endowment

The endowment settled upon the new president before the close of the first term of his administration began to show the effects of the already approaching financial disaster. It was supposed to be well secured. (see contract in the secretaries book) But so disastrous was the panic upon the donor and the securities that nothing could be made available for the support of the president. His support being cut off, some other arrangement had to be made, and as
the board had no money and no prospect of any except from tuitions. Thus the support of the other teachers, already far too meager to be shared with the president and by his means reducing the support of each of the teachers to the very lowest possible resources for a living. Besides all this the tuitions, even the first year of the panic, were largely paid in trade (produce) which reduce the tuitions about one third of their cash value. But why continue to teach when the support is thus substantially cut off. To reduce the teaching force must be disastrous to the school and there was the abiding expectation that the times must very soon change for the better etc.

The president thus suddenly reduced to extreme poverty. (for he gave out everything except his household furniture to his creditors.) The endowment forever gone; and the donor, Hon. J. K. Hornish bankrupt with the financial panic upon the country, the school must feel the effects very heavily.

The land securing the endowment depreciated about four fifths in value, is afterwards, by the kindness of J. K. Hornish, secured to the University but not as endowment. The endowment fails, I may here add that the change of circumstance from supposed affluence to extreme poverty, coming so suddenly bore very heavily upon the president and his family and especially upon his wife. (Her hair in one week changed from a pure black to a bright iron gray.)
But these were not the only ones that endured privations during these years from 1858 to 1861. We all had enough to eat and to wear. But as for money it was almost out of the question. The writer during these years was frequently so destitute of money that a letter to a friend would have to be in my own house for week for want of money to buy a stamp to send it.

I refer to the above facts with great misgivings, but my sketch would be very imperfect without them.

The School

Notwithstanding the great financial pressure that was hanging as an incubus on the land, the school was growing in favor and in numbers and during these years attained a good degree of prosperity.

The Faculty for the year commencing in June 1857 was E. Gunn, A. N. Currier and Miss Ellen Mitchel. During this year the School increased in numbers and in grade of Scholarship.

In June 1858 Mrs. D. A. Stoddard, was added to the faculty as principal of the female department of the school. The selection was eminently befitting as she is a woman highly intellectual; of a commanding presence; and a superior teacher and a wise and safe counselor. So commanding was her presence that no young lady or gentleman ever dared to take undue privileges when she was present.
During twenty-four history-making years, Dr. Scarff's life and work was vitally important in building Central College and in sustaining for it an unbroken record of activity during the testing years between 1854 and 1878. Dr. Scarff came to Pella to teach in the new school when its home was in rented rooms on Washington street, and when the great beams that were so recently burnt to ashes were still in the native forest trees growing along the Des Moines river. Dr. Scarff was the second President of Central College, holding that position from 1861 to 1871 when he resigned because of failing health, but remained with the school as teacher seven years longer. He received scant pay during those years, but his was a service of love and was paid in kind by all who knew him.
During this year the school grew to an unusual degree of prosperity. There were enrolled 292 students, with an average per term of 121. Of this number 64 were in the primary department, that is 64 of the entire enrollment. In January 1859 the teaching force being inadequate the writer again resumed his place in the faculty. From this to the Spring term of 1861 the School enjoyed great prosperity in so far as students were concerned. Each term witnessed an advance in grade of scholarship until in 1861 at the breaking out of the war, we had fair classes in each year of the regular classical course as high as the junior year. That class had five members four of whom were killed in the army, (See the memorial slab in the college library) Ruchman, Ritner, Hobs and .... Howel returned and subsequently graduated at the State University.

The aggregate enrollment for 1861 was 369.

An Experience

Though the School was internally very prosperous, the tuitions which were very low were to be divided among so many that the individual share of the chips and blocks was by no means large, and money was out of the question. (The teachers of 1860 and 1861 were Gunn, Scarff, Currier, Mrs. Stoddard, Miss Wilson and Miss Noble.)

The writer during these years spent at least six hours in a day, in the recitation room; preached nearly every Sabbath, either in Pella or at some other point, and
besides, to make up the deficiency in a very meager living farmed from one to two acres of land each season. And I am sure that some of the other teachers had a very similar experience.

Our principal reward was or rather is in the large class of noble young men and women we have thus aided in fitting them for their life's work.

The War

As early as January 1861, the president pressed by the necessities of his family practically withdrew from the school.

His income was so meagre that he was compelled to seek some other means of support. Then early in the spring (in April) when the first call is made for volunteers the students became wild with excitement and in a very short time our ranks are badly broken by the enlistment of about 20 of our best young men.

Later in the spring others enlist and still, later, probably in July Prof. A. N. Currier also enlists as a private soldier. Thus one after another deserts school for army life until early in 1862 there was only Mrs. Stoddard and myself left as teachers, and among the students there was not one left that was able to bear arms. Thus in a very few months our school is reduced from 160 to less than 75 students, and only two teachers in the academic department of the school.
But the war not only drew very heavily upon the college by demanding our best students for the service but by making the labor of others necessary at home and thus depriving us of very many students that we otherwise would have had.

Though our numbers were greatly reduced we had still some noble girls in school. We graduated a class in 1863 from the ladies course. (This is a mistake. The first was the class of 1860. Bousquet, Hampson and Keables.) This was the first class that ever graduated from the Central University of Iowa. We graduated a class each succeeding year during the war. Thus though our members were not large, the school may be said to have prospered even in the years during the war.

An Experience

During the years of the war the effect of the great financial crisis of 1858 was still felt which with the results necessarily flowing from a domestic war tended greatly to oppress our institutions of learning. The attendance was small and of these few were able to pay their tuitions promptly. Some must wait till their fathers or brothers sent home something from the army and when it came it was perhaps needed at home for bread or clothing, etc. Others could not pay till they should teach and earn it, if they ever should be qualified for this work. Thus not more than one half in attendance upon the school during these years from 1861 to 1865 were able promptly pay their tuition
when it was due. But neither Mrs. Stoddard nor myself ever said to a student you cannot go to school for want of present ability to pay tuition if we found a disposition to pay at some future time when the means could be obtained. It thus sometimes happened during a whole term the amount collected did more than pay the incidental expenses of the school. And the tuitions was our salaries in those days. At sometime usually at the close of each term we would divide the tuitions between us. We were thus paid off every term. My recollection now is that Mrs. Stoddard took more of the tuitions, that were to run a long time before payment, than myself.

Of the large amounts of tuition that we thus trusted to the honor of the student to pay at some future time I only lost a very few small sums. And I think that Mrs. Stoddard though she waited on some of the students for several years, she lost but very little.

During the years of the war it was my lot again to teach six or more hours daily, preach to the church on the Sabbath and farm four or five acres of ground to make up the deficiency of a very meager living.

It was this continued strain upon the nervous system that laid the deep foundations of my present infirmity and affliction. Early in 1866 the insidious, (subtle beginnings of the treacherous disease) began to manifest itself.
In reviewing the past however, I have no regret except that I was not more faithful. The work was laid to my hand and I felt "Woe is me if I do not do it." The Lord will assuredly take care of me and mine (If I continue to trust him).

The College Building

During all these years of anxious labor the building was yet in a very unfinished state and the furniture was very crude and unsatisfactory. The rooms on the first floor and on the third floor were plastered in the East end of the building and on the West end one room on the second and one room on the third floor were plastered but on opposite sides of the building. On the whole the building was as cold as a barn. And it is probably that Mrs. Stoddard's exposure sure laid foundations of her present infirmity and afflictions. (...). The building was wholly unfit for school purposes but it was the best we had. The building and grounds by not at that time enclosed and there was not a bush or shrub on the college campus. The building stood all alone on the vast broad prairie.

An Incident

As we have seen the college grounds were not yet enclosed and the beautiful college campus was then a fine herding plain for the cattle and sheep of the neighborhood. And not unfrequently during the warm summer days large herds
would congregate about the building and in the shade of the college edifice and very frequently enter the building. Thus it was no uncommon thing for the sheep or calves to hop out of one end of the hall as the students entered the other. This state of things was as a matter of course very annoying to both the teacher and the students. At length one day as we were at dinner quite a drove of sheep entered college as the students termed it. A company of students coming from the city very soon took in the situation and divided their ranks. Some going to the south end of the hall and some to north. The enemy was thus surrounded and the result was a regular quick battle in which the students came off victors. They however secured but one prisoner, whom they conveyed by some means to the third story of the building. But instead of confining they merely took him to the north end of the hall, having previously taken the precaution to raise high the south window in the hall. But when near the north end of the hall by some means the prisoner got free from his captors and started back in quick step and his captors pursuing cause him to move still faster till he came near the open window in the south end of the hall. To make certain his escape he gave a desperate leap through the open window to the ground a vertical distance of about twenty-five feet, and his former captors not daring to follow he made good his escape and to the surprise of even
his enemies he was so well coated that he received no permanent injury.

Every student in school very soon knew all about the transaction but no one saw it or knew any one that had seen it. Therefore all that the teachers could do in the case was to give a little sheep lecture on cruelty to domestic animals.

And although the sheep very often repeated the daring venture of entering college, I never heard of any other being captured, or at least of any captive, afterward escaping through the windows.

The war closes

With the close of the war comes what was termed general prosperity to the whole country. Moneye becomes plenty and easy and everyone had employment and money. Instead of the exchange or barter system of former years, moneye was paid for every thing. But moneye was so plenty and cheap and other products so dear, that a day's wages would buy no more of real necessities of life than formerly.

Prof. Currier returned to his former position in the faculty and many of the old students that four years before had enlisted in the army again return to the school, so that the college received large additions to her numbers, and enters again upon her career of former prosperity. But to the apparent prosperity of the college there was one thing that hindered and threatened destruction.

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The Debt

As we have seen the board incurred a heavy debt in building in 1854-56. The great monetary crises of 1857 to 61 and the war, forbid any extended effort on the part of the board to remove the debt. The debt had increased in these ten years till the institution at this date 1865 was regarded as hopelessly in debt. The liabilities of the board now aggregated more than twelve thousand dollars ($12,000). This was a source of great grief to every true friend of the college. In the meantime, the principal creditor of the board had already taken steps to close his mortgage on the college grounds and buildings. But finding some defects in the title of the board to said grounds, and that the building stood in the street, which had not been legally vacated the suit for the time was stayed. But, without going into the minute detail of the title, suffice it to say that the probabilities were that the property in case of litigation would revert to the original owner and donor and the title to the building itself was probably vested in the city as it stood in the street. Thus, the matter of title was in a very complicated state both to the board and for the creditors. The probabilities were very strong that the board would lose all their property and the creditors would also lose all their claims, except the donor of the land who had a claim of $2000 or $3000. To raise the whole amount was out of the question, especially as there
were some defects in the title that could not be satisfactorily arranged, inasmuch as any possible arrangements would be providential to the claims either of the creditors as a whole or to the claims of the original donor.

(For particulars I refer to the Records of the board)

At this junction of affairs when the board, hemmed in on every side was walking in darkness that could be felt it occurred to me that the only possible way out of the dilemma was by the spirit of compromise. In this way each creditor might save something of his just due and the board save the property for the school, otherwise all was lost except to H. P. Scholte, the donor of the lands. (The board were ignorant of any defect in titles until suit was commenced.)

I accordingly wrote to our principal creditor and laid the matter before him in detail exculpating the board in regard to the title to the property, showing how disastrously the board was effected as well as the creditor and at the same time laying before him the fact (as I conceived) that each creditor as well as the board would be largely the gainer by a spirit of compromise. The reply to my letter which was a frank of our creditors to be ready to acquiese in any measure that might be for the general good of the parties concerned. This was the first dawning of the light that afterward broke upon our vision. I immediately

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made the matter known to Rev. I. J. Stoddard, and Prof. A. N. Currier who concurred heartily in the matter.

These brethren subsequently conferred with all the creditors who were in reach and corresponded with those who were more distant and I think Stoddard in the interests of the compromise visited our principal creditor to arrange the matter. When the preliminaries were all arranged both in regard to the terms of the compromise and to perfecting the title to the grounds, we three proposed to the board to take the matter in hand and free the college of debt, on the condition that the board deliver to us certain assets in their possession amounting to a very few hundred dollars. This was agreed to on the part of the board.

(See contract with the board in the secretaries book, 1865).

Rev. Stoddard was our agent to go around and work the matter up and obtain subscriptions and monies to liquidate the debt.

The matter met with general approval everywhere and in less than two years the means were all secured for freeing the board of a very large and troublesome debt. And I should here add that this was all done without a dollars expense to the board, directly or indirectly. Rev. Stoddard and Prof. Currier each labored without salary.

The necessary expenses of the ... were paid, from the current fund, and no more. My impression now is that Prof.
Currier paid from his own funds about $150, of the assumed liabilities.

Thus at the general Board meeting in June 1866 the building and the grounds with a complete title were presented to the board, by the three special trustees Currier, Stoddard, and Scárff unencumbered. The debt of more than $12,000 is all honorably wiped out and the college for the first time since the building was commenced is free of debt. This was a happy day for the Central University of Iowa.

Fencing the Campus

The railroad passing through the college grounds the right of way was given to the company upon the condition that the company would put a good, painted, picket fence on each side of the track. The estimated cost of said fence was about $400. But the board prevailed on the company to pay the money and let the board use it, as they preferred. The money was paid and with this money, material was purchased for fencing the entire grounds.

The fence was made in April 1866, and so substantial was the material and the work that now after fifteen years the fence is yet pretty, good and in this time has received comparatively small repairs.

Rev. Stoddard superintended the work.
Tree planting

Very soon after the grounds were enclosed we commenced the work of tree planting. The same spring there were planted about one hundred and fifty soft maple trees around the building and around the border of the college campus. These were donated by a Mr. John Smith living six miles south east of Pella on the Oskaloosa road. Besides these other friends donated and planted quite a lot of small shrubbery, evergreen, etc. These however were soon destroyed by cattle breaking in through the gates and by unthinking and naughty boys and girls breaking off sprigs, etc.

To secure the planting of the trees we made what we termed a bee for the students. They all volunteered. At the appointed times each with spade or shovel or pick repaired to the grounds and the work of digging holes for the coming trees began. Rev. Stoddard and Prof. Currier laying off the grounds and directing the labor themselves using the spade as each case might demand. It is at least safe to say that the preacher and the prof worked as hard as any of the boys (students). I should have said, however, that six or eight of the most stalwart of the students with myself and three or four teams each well armed with spade or shovel at an early hour had started for the maple grove six miles distant. Each also taking his own lunch. Thus the
a. First Central University of Iowa building.
b. Old Central built in 1856, destroyed by fire in 1922.
work of digging up the young trees, hauling and planting was all briskly going on at the same time.

The work of digging the trees up was probably effected by about two o'clock in the day. This was to those not accustomed to this kind of labor was very hard work. The average size of the trees was about three inches in diameter six inches from the ground. Arriving at the college with the last load about four o'clock we found the first load already standing on the college grounds ready to grow and the holes already dug for the second load. (Each team handled two loads). The work of planting was soon dispatched and at night we had about 150 trees planted on the college campus and so well was the planting done that not more than ten probably out of the 150 failed to grow. I ought to say here that each student and teacher planted himself a tree. My tree and my wife's stand north of the college and west of the wall next to the building. This day's work is now the chief ornament of the college grounds.

An Incident

After the matter of tree digging was through we all repaired to the barn for our wrappings, lunch pails etc. And being very weary (for we all had worked splendidly that morning) we tarried some time in the barn possibly a half hour. It was observed that some of the party instead of resting were moving round freely in the barn. All things being ready we started for Pella. In this the post of honor...
was awarded the writer, which was a seat in front with the driver. The whole company of students in the rear was arranged to order. We had advanced probably a mile when one of the students asked me if I knew that Mr. Smith was very angry at the conduct of some of the party. Col. David Ryan was chief speaker.

I of course knew nothing of the matter and accordingly proceeded to inquire into the cause of Smith's displeasure. It appeared that Smith had some of the company robbing his hens' nests, sucking some of the eggs and putting others in their pockets to take home. Of course we all pronounced the matter supremely mean especially as Mr. Smith had been so kind as to donate the trees.

It was, accordingly, agreed on all hands that the guilty one should be found out and exposed. It was proposed that we stop in the road and search each one for the eggs. It was further proposed to search Col. Ryan first and then proceed to search the others in turn. The preliminaries having been all arranged we proceeded to make thorough work of the matter but no eggs were found till they came to the professor. He of course insisted on being searched with the rest of the company. When to the astonishment of his avowed innocence the eggs were found in his pocket. As there was no escaping the verdict, the only way of honor was to confess guilt and throw yourself upon the mercy of the jury.—
We had scarcely arrived on the college grounds till the students all knew of the matter and of course enjoyed the joke most myself. And to this day some of the older students laugh most heartily over the matter of Prof. Scarff and the eggs. The principal actors were D. Ryan, R. Ryan, J. Deverse etc. the very prominent lawyer in the state. The matter illustrates the stuff of which the school was composed then and the intimate relations of teacher and students.

**Great Prosperity**

For two years after the closing of the war the school enjoyed great prosperity. The debt was all cancelled during these two years. The grounds were enclosed and ornamented with trees and shrubbery. The building was finished and the number of students was as large and perhaps larger than any of the proceeding years. The teachers during these years were the writer as principal and A. N. Currier, S. S. Howell, or C. C. Cory. Mrs. D. A. Stoddard, and a primary and music teacher.

During 1865 and 66, the school aggregated about 400 students. As moneys were now easy and flush the policy of the board would seem to have been to at once secure the endowment of one or more professorships in the school.
Disaster

Whether from some necessity or from some other cause the board let the opportunity of endowing a chair or two pass. And though the school from 1860 to 1867 had each year (almost) graduated a class from some one of the departments of the school (Ladies course scientific, etc.) The sure result of neglected opportunity soon began to follow. (which is disaster) The first serious detriment to the school was the withdrawing of Mrs. D. C. A. Stoddard from the principalship of the female department of the school. This however might have been soon counteracted had the board immediately filled her place with a competent lady. But failing to do this the school was left to suffer in this department. (Not because Mrs. Stoddard left, for it is always safe to follow the leadings of duty).

Misfortunes are said not to come single handed; and so it seemed in this case. Mrs. Stoddard had withdrawn; and her department is left weakened; and the teachers are still obliged to look alone to tuitions for support. Very soon Prof. Currier accepts a position in the state university. The board again failed to fill his place with a competent man. (The result to the school is the same whether this failure be the result of necessity or of some other cause). Thus the withdrawing of two of the most popular teachers the school had ever had and their places being left vacant necessitated a letting down in the grade of the school. We
were compelled for want of teaching force to do only academic work. The students that we prepared for college we had to send to some institution to graduate. For an academy to do thus gives it influence and strength, but for a professed college thus to retrograde into academic work cannot but prove greatly disastrous to it in all its interests. (We sent our students mostly to Iowa City).

Neither the board nor the people at large seemed to realize the situation or rather the causes of the situation things assumed. They seemed to think that the grade of the school should be maintained as formerly and to wonder why we did not continue to graduate a class each year as we had formerly done etc. etc. They seemed to demand the "Tale of Brick," though they furnished no straw.

This letting down process on the part of the board tended to weaken and injure the school in two sure ways. First it tended to keep students away from the Central University or drive them into other schools. And Secondly it tended to the disappointment of those that did come here. They supposed they were coming to a college.

Notwithstanding, these reverses the school from 1867 to 1870 was by no means a failure as we shall see in the following chapters.

We should remark here that the salary of the principal teachers in the times of the college's great prosperity was a mere pittance. The incidental expenses and the salary of
the subordinate teachers must be paid and if there was anything left to the principal teachers it was well and if nothing remained the principals had to put up with it.

The Craven Pledge

My sketches would be greatly imperfect should I omit the notice of the matter suggested by the heading of the present chapter. The teachers in the school (Prof. Currier, Mrs. Stoddard and myself) felt that the tuitions were so inadequate to support the school at the grade of scholarship that this school was sustaining that we would be compelled to abandon our position as teachers unless help came from some other source. The matter was suggested to Calvin Craven who had always been a warm friend of the school. He felt that the school must be sustained at its then present grade of scholarship and in order to this gave the teachers in the school the following written pledge. I give it in full. (next page)

I, the undersigned Calvin Craven of Washington County Iowa, do hereby make a declaration of my purposes and intentions with reference to the Baptist educational interest of Iowa in connection with the Central University of Iowa at Pella, Providence permitting.

I fully propose on or before the first of September one thousand eight hundred and sixty seven (1867) to endow in some permanent and available form, to be held owned and
controlled by the Trustees of said university, the chair of Ancient Languages and Literature.

Provided: First that said University shall have been relieved of its present debts, the edifice finished and the college grounds enclosed and an undisputed title secured thereto.

Second, that said University shall continue as at present to open its doors to students of all classes conditions and denominations.

Third. That said University shall be recognized, in some way or other by the Baptists of Iowa as their school as worthy of aid and patronage by them; until the population, wealth and interests of the Baptist denomination shall seem to demand another similar institution in the state.

And lastly, I further propose and hereby agree to aid said University in the support of its Faculty to the amount of three hundred dollars ($300) annually.

This agreement to take effect and be in full force immediately after the fulfillment of conditions as expressed above in provision "First and this agreement is to continue until the above endowment is arranged and amicably adjusted in accordance with the conditions herein expressed.

Washington Iowa

Sept. 17th in 1864

(signed) Calvin Craven
The above contract was supposed to have been made voluntarily and in good faith. But as time passed and no money was realized and fearing there might be something in the conditions that were not met the writer at the time of the state convention in Pella, in the year 1868 (I think) had a conversation with said, Calvin Craven in reference to said above agreement and he reaffirmed his intention of doing as he had agreed and that in this matter he regarded his word as good as his note. And in a short time he would be able to make his promise good. But to this date not a dime has been received either by the board or any of the teachers as a result of this transaction. Though other teachers should have shared the benefactions of this friend perhaps the writer was by far the greatest sufferer. But for this promise of aid he would doubtless have withdrawn from his position in the school, but supposing said ... word was good as his note continued in the school from 1866 to 1870 laboring and sacrificing and assuming liabilities until my liabilities were over one thousand dollars ($1000) this as principle and the interest accruing (this was sometime very exorbitant) at the time and I become so disabled as to withdraw from teaching in 1878 amounted to more than two thousand dollars ($2,000). In a word this failure on the part of said Craven cost me the loss of all my property except my homestead. Thus leaving me infirm and helpless and dependent upon my children or others for a mere support.
I pen this chapter with great misgivings, not as complaining against our friend Craven or at the providence of God. But I state the above simply as an important matter of fact in the history of Central University of Iowa.

I may here express the hope that those that may come after may not be required to labor, and sacrifice as the earlier teachers had to do in order to keep the school alive—my own income from the school and from preaching to the church in Pella from 1854 to 1870 did not exceed three hundred and fifty dollars per year on an average as of now gather the facts from my books and papers. Not very fat living.

The building finished

Up to the spring of 1866 the building was in a very unfinished condition. The second story in the East end of the building was yet just as the brick left it ten years before. The second story and East end was indeed the most desirable part of the building for recitation purposes, and the wonder is why it should be left to the last to be finished. The rooms already finished were either too large or too small for convenience as recitation rooms.

Accordingly Prof. Currier proposed to take the North side of the building and finish himself a private room and also a recitation room, if I would take the south side and finish it for my recitation room etc.

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We soon arranged the preliminaries and went to work and finished the second story in the East end of the building, substantially as it now is. This we did at our own expense. It cost Prof. Currier about $130. To finish this room and it cost me about $120 to finish mine. We furnished our own putting in seats, black boards and etc., etc.

Thus the building after ten years was finished. That is the rooms and halls and etc. had been properly enclosed and plastered, but some of them had become sadly out of repair.

I may add, that I continued to occupy this room as long as I taught in the college. Indeed these rooms were called by our own names in those days.

**May Day**

In those olden times it was our custom to keep our May day. This occurred on the first Saturday in May if the weather was fair, but if not fair, on the second Saturday, etc. The day was observed as follows. The young men armed with spade, rake, hoe, or wheelbarrow would assemble early in the day and appoint their captain and at once proceed to clean up the grounds, repair the paths, etc. This usually kept all hands very busy till about noon. (We rarely had a scalawag among us that was too lazy to join heartily in the work) About noon the ladies would appear, laden with all the good things the town could afford. We usually detailed
a few of the young gentlemen to assist the ladies in providing and arranging the tables, etc.

The work being all finished the young ladies and gentlemen sit down to a most scrumptious meal. After which usually an hour was spent at the table in replying to toasts, little speech making, etc. These toasts were always well chosen and chaste as the all ... of a judicious committee specimen toasts "Pulling greek roots," "Rubbing the dust off," "...," "The boy for the times," etc. After the repast the students were allowed to promenade on the grounds or play in some suitable room in the building till about sundown when all adjourned to their respective places. These were very enjoyable occasions to both students and teachers. The teachers were always expected to take part both in the labor and the feast, etc.

_UNDER THE CLOUD_

The teachers in the academic or preparatory department of the school from 1867 to 1870 were Prof C. C. Cory, Miss Morse and myself. These were as earnest, laborious, and efficient teachers in their several departments in the school as I could wish to be associated with. During all the years that Prof. Cory and myself ran the school, taking the tuitions for our pay, there was the most complete harmony and good feeling between us in so far as I know.
The school though degraded to an academy was by no means a failure as such.

I wish I could now command the records entire from 1867 to 1870. They would doubtless show an average attendance that would compare well with the attendance in the former of the latter days of the school that have been widely proclaimed as days of prosperity to the school. By the politeness of Prof. Cory, I have been enabled to furnish the enrollments of a few terms. These do not embrace the exclusive music students. I give the enrollment in the academic department of the school.

We then had but two terms in the year, that is the two were run into each other making a fall and winter session and a spring and summer session.

For the fall and winter session of 1867 we enrolled—154

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall and winter of 1867</td>
<td>154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall and winter of 1868</td>
<td>84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring and summer 1868</td>
<td>87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall and winter of 1869</td>
<td>114</td>
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I regret this cannot be now made more complete. But this may suffice to show that though we were under the cloud we were not drowned out and washed away.

The Sunny Side

During all these years of shadow as some would term them, there were, however, a few bright spots, oases in the desert. First it was to the remaining teachers a matter of
encouragement that there was such a respectable number of students in attendance upon their instruction each term.

Secondly, that although the tuitions were rated so low that the salaries of the principal teacher were a mere pittance (Some terms almost nothing) the subordinate teachers were paid promptly each term, and the incidental expenses of the school were punctually paid at the time due.

Thirdly, That the school was run without a dime's expense to the board. So that at the annual meeting of the board 1870 we had the pleasure of surrendering the school which had now been run four years without charge to the board. The teacher furnished everything, black boards, school furniture, stoves, etc., etc. The board was emphatically out of debt.

The overwhelming debt of $12000 through the labors of the special committee had all been cancelled in a satisfactory manner in 1866 and now in 1870, the school had been maintained but the board had as yet incurred no debt. Indeed the board had known but little practically of the detail in running the school.

I suppose that most of the board both in Pella and out of Pella supposed that the teachers, and especially the principals were luxuriating in tall clover and that they were making their money very easily.
An Incident

About the year 1863, the following incident occurred that well illustrates the kind of stuff of which some of students were made in war times. Though they were both confessed, butter nuts. In those olden times it was not expected that a young gentlemen and lady should leave town in company without special permission. These, however, stole away and expected to return and keep the matter wholly from the teachers. Their journey was to a neighborhood spelling school. The college campus was at that time unfenced and the building was yet quite unfinished and the well on the grounds was protected only by loose boards thrown over it, and these were covered with snow. The sleighing was fine and our young couples were driving along, heading for the college, and thence for home. But, as they drew near the college a sudden their horse disappeared and the sleigh comes to a dead halt. The astonished, loving, twain on alighting found their faithful old stead suspended in the college well. Fortunately his head was uppermost and his forefeet and hooves as well as harness, etc. held him in position near the surface till help could be procured. The bell was tolled lustily by the young damsel while her beau guarded their faithful stead. Help soon came and by means of ropes and poles the horse was held in position. Finally about 3 o'clock in the morning, by means of levers he was taken from the great deep, comparatively unhurt. These
young adventurers were not further molested. Their punishment was judged sufficient.

The Des Moines Enterprise

My work would appear very incomplete were I not to mention the origin and early progress of the Des Moines enterprise. Especially is this true of the history of the year 1870, as Des Moines is seen in history of the Central University.

We present the origin as given by "Early comers" the strongest defender that Des Moines ever had.

In 1863, a number of prominent Baptists living far from each other and from Des Moines, but who had visited the city and had seen the unfinished Lutheran College building wondered why this property could not be purchased and at the capital the denomination united in building up a college. Letters were addressed to the Baptist pastor at Des Moines to ascertain for what price the property could be secured. The answer was $8000. A consultation was held in connection with the quarterly meeting of the convention board Jan. 1864 and the subject was deemed of such importance that a reference of it was made for general consideration at a subsequent meeting of the board. A refusal of the property was obtained until the meeting of the state convention 1864. The convention met at Cedar Rapids. During this convention several educational meetings were called at intervals and the subject discussed in all its bearing. When it was
resolved that we deem it very important to the Baptist cause in Iowa that the whole state be thoroughly united in our educational interests. And believing that the Providence of God indicated such a result possible through an offer coming to us from the state capitol we therefore recommend that a mass meeting of the Baptists of the state be called to assemble at Des Moines on Wednesday, November 16th at 2 o'clock p.m. to consider and decide the whole question.

This convention met in Des Moines November 16th, 1864. As the attendance was small it was deemed wise to defer the act of incorporation, etc.

At a quarterly meeting of the Convention Board held at Oskaloosa a few individuals living far apart did proceed to incorporate the Des Moines University. The animus of the entire was found in three men, Revs. Childs, Westover, and Wilson. J. L. Westover was President and J. H. Childs was ... agent of the Convention. Together they manipulated the convention pretty thoroughly and I am sorry to state the conviction that Rev. J. H. Childs under the pretense of convention work very thoroughly canvassed the state in the interests of the Des Moines University. The Rev I. J. Stoddard, Prof A. N. Currier and the writer were at the mass convention held in Des Moines November 16th, 1864 and comprised about one half of the delegation outside of Des Moines.
During the subsequent controversies the writer had occasion to address a note of inquiry to Prof Currier as to the fact connected with the origin of the Des Moines enterprise, etc., which reads as follows,

"In relation to the convention held in Des Moines in the fall of 1864, my recollections of the matter are

1st That the convention was called by an informal conference held at some time during the session of the state convention held at Cedar Rapids in October 1864.

2nd That the object of the convention was to consider the propriety of purchasing and holding the building and grounds known as the Des Moines University for educational purposes.

3rd That a majority of the convention living outside of Des Moines did not favor the enterprise.

4th That a majority of the letters read including the letter from Iowa City signed by D. P. Smith, Dr. J. Roberts, and the pastor of the church discouraged entering upon the enterprise.

5th That the property was purchased and held by a Mr. Stone of Chicago as private property.

6th That the property was subsequently purchased by a corporation self constituted at the time of a quarterly Board meeting held at Oskaloosa shortly after the convention meeting in Des Moines. I have given my recollections of the matter, if they correspond with yours I should be pleased to
have your name with mine to this paper, but, if you prefer I shall be equally pleased to have a separate statement from you of the items above named.

(Signed)
E. H. Scarff

My recollections are in exact accord with the statement above made.

(Signed)
A. N. Currier

Having been present at the state convention at Cedar Rapids and the convention at Des Moines and also at the quarterly Board meeting at Oskaloosa, I may add my recollections are in perfect accordance with the statements of Prof Scarff and Prof Currier.

(Signed)
I. J. Stoddard

Thus the Des Moines University came into being, but after nine (9) years of hard struggle for life and failing to obtain that recognition with its friends desired in 1874 the Des Moines Board invite the Great Educational commission to visit the state and decide the vexed question that had so long perplexed some of the Baptist of Iowa.

The Commission came on the invitation and at the expense of only one of the interested parties, and they as a matter course gave a recommendation favorable to Des Moines in the following most peculiar language. "The committee are
clear and unanimous in their judgement there is only one place in Iowa where the several conditions are fulfilled in such a degree as to warrant the belief that an institution of a thoroughly creditable character and of the grade proposed, can be there built up. They believe these conditions are in an eminent degree fulfilled in Des Moines."

Perhaps some other committee might have found at least one other place in all the state of Iowa.

May I say of Pella a few pleasant things. "Pella is a pleasant prairie town offering the advantages of quiet and comparative seclusion."

Again, "Pella alone has an organized college course and classes in all the departments of the entire course, and "that they are in honor bound to college work."

"If it were a questions now to evade the complications of the present we should decide for Pella, but as it is a question how to anticipate and provide for the certain claims of the future we could not so decide; (see report of the committee).

The above admissions were all that the friends of Pella ever claimed except the privilege of being let alone in her work.

I also find the remarkable language the report of the committee "that Des Moines is the capitol of the state ought not to be regarded as a serious objection."
The animus of the whole report is "a large city and if possible a capital for great colleges and universities. "Des Moines the only place in Iowa" and Chicago the only place in Illinois for a great University.

Perhaps it is because Chicago is not the state capital that it is at present floundering under the enormous $200,000 debt and virtually repudiating $125,00 of its indebtedness.

But it is not my purpose to discuss locations for colleges in the present article. It is sufficient to say here that the committee came, they saw, they recommended but the Baptists of Iowa would not follow their instructions "worth a cent."

A Sentiment

I must be here permitted to express a sentiment in regard to the Commission and it recommendations to the Baptists of Iowa.

First, I cannot conceive how the great Dr. Cutting (I speak of him especially because he was the originator and soul of the stupendous plan) and his associates in counsel, should ever have consented to be made a Board of Dictation to the Baptists (especially of the West) as to when and how and where, they should operate in their own great educational work.)

For Catholics, Methodists or even Presbyterians, the thought might be tolerated but for Baptists, how
preposterous. Who ever heard of Baptists being whipped into line by a few lordly hierarchs dictating to them what their policy should be in education or church--etc. And yet this commission was composed of representative Baptists East and West. They were a band of noble high minded, Christian gentlemen. But, as they soon found out, they had greatly misjudged the influence of their acts upon a community of Baptists. They seem to have forgotten that Baptists are a thoroughly Republican set of people, But, Secondly, when the committee consented to come to Iowa upon their expartie invitation their recommendation was a foregone matter. They might have made their report as well before coming to Iowa as afterwards, except as for a show of fairness. Not that I suppose, for a moment, that they were or could be bribed in any way or influenced by unworthy motives. I suppose each of these Christian gentlemen to be far above suspicion and entirely incapable of acting from other than the purest and noblest motives. The case, however, is similar to that of a legislator receiving the compliments of a given corporation "a ticket on given road, for example, having accepted the favor he is bound in honor to favor the corporation in his legislation. This Hon, Sr, would indignantly spurn the ... imposition of being bribed by this paltry sum. He is not bribed but by his acceptance of this little favor from the road, he is put into a false position.
Thus these noble brethren, in accepting their mission to Iowa put themselves in a false position in regard to the Educational interests of Baptists in this great state. The great mistake was, in consenting, to come, under the circumstances, (I guess they would not do it again.)

Men are thus, unwittingly, put into a position in which it is impossible to act with an unbiased judgement. They are honest, noble men. They do the best that they can under the circumstances. The one sided judgements that they form are from no fault in the men, but the circumstantial surroundings.

The point of responsibility lies in their permitting themselves to be put into a position in which they cannot do justly.

**Educational Convention**

The year 1870 was in many respects a year of more than ordinary interest as regards to the great question of Baptist education in Iowa. The several schools had arrived at a point in their history in which those most interested in their prosperity (history) and work felt that something must be done or much that had been done would, measurably, be lost. Early in the year 1870 fully believing that nothing ought to be, longer expected from the Craven pledge, I decided in my own mind that to remain longer and assume new liabilities would be worrying my creditors and my family. I had found by years of sad experiences that a
school of college grade could not be sustained by ordinary tuitions alone.

And as I was casting about as to the future of my course in connection with the Central University I received a letter from my friend, Dr. Roberts, then of Burlington, Iowa which led to what is termed the Educational Convention of 1871.

And as I have an abstract of history made out at the time, and presented to the convention assembled at Iowa City, I shall here insert it as giving a concise account of the circumstances that led to this educational gathering of Baptist at Iowa City.

"Early in the spring (March 10th) I received a kindly, fraternal letter from the Rev. ... T. Roberts of Burlington, in which he deeply deplored the conditions of our Educational Interests and the consequent inability of the existing institutions in their present condition to meet the demands of the denomination in this State. He very gravely but justly puts the question. "Cannot something be done to harmonize the discordant elements and thereby secure greater efficiency in our Educational work?"

To this I replied on the 16th of March "That I had been long thinking of the matter, and that my abiding conviction was that something must be done or our Educational would greatly suffer—I also suggested, as to my mind, what seemed the most likely method of reaching the desired results.
Thus, "By agreeing to submit the matter to the arbitration of the Baptist brotherhood of Iowa, on the week March 19th, having settled upon the purpose to make an effort in the direction of harmony, and if possible "union."

In a conference of three minutes at the Pella depot, I gave the Rev. J. F. Childs an intimation of my purpose to make an effort to harmonize the existing institutions, and the denomination and at some common point build up an institution of learning that shall be an honor to the Baptists of Iowa. I also desired him to think of the matter and to let me know the results of his reflections.

March 27th I received the following reply from the Rev. Childs.

"Dear Bro. Scarff,

I have thought much of the matter you referred to at the train, the other morning—Now for myself I pledge you, this if you can get the Burlington interest to agree upon a united effort, I will pledge my personal consent, and to use whatever influence I may possess, to carry the Des Moines interest to the same."

On receiving the above from Rev. Childs, I addressed a note to Dr. Roberts and also to Rev. Childs requesting an informal conference of a few of the special friends of each of our denominational schools, and received a reply from Dr. Roberts, March 30th of the following import, ---

Dear Bro. Scarff:
Yours of the 29th inst. is received and after consultation with Bro. Hawley and Newman, would reply that we will cheerfully meet our brethren in the conference you propose in reference to union or cooperative action in our denominational work. The conference was held in Rev. S. H. Worcester's parlors in Ottumwa on the 8th of April and there were present Dr. J. T. Roberts, Dr. Hawley and Jude Newman of Burlington, Rev. J. T. Westover, Rev. J. F. Childs and Dr. Hubbert of Des Moines and Hon. B. G. Bowen and E. H. Scarff of Pella.

The conference organized at 2 o'clock p.m. and remained in session till 5 o'clock the next morning, but failed to arrive at any satisfactory solution of our perplexing problem.

The above conference, which was peculiarly free and fraternal, to my mind evolved the following facts. First an earnest desire with most of those present, for "union", or at least, cooperative action in our educational work.

2nd, the inability of the special friends of our existing institutions to fix the basis or the point of our desired "union" 3rd, a disposition to acquiesce in the decision of the denomination when properly expressed.

With the facts, as I supposed them, before me, I thought it desirable to learn as far as practicable whether the brethren generally were interested in our educational work. And 2nd their views of the propriety of calling an
educational convention, etc. Accordingly I issued the following circular April 18, 1870.

"In as much as there seems to be a very general desire for "union," in our educational interests in the state will you please write me at once giving your mind upon the following points.

1st, are you in favor of calling a convention at an early day to consider our Educational interest in Iowa, and if possible determine some basis of "union."

2nd will you confer with your brethren so far as you can without delay and get their views on the same?

3rd will you allow your name to ... to a call for said convention in the Standard. These circulars were sent to the ministry throughout the state (Rev. J. F. Childs assisted the writer in sending circulars). And they elicited a very general and decided expression. The brethren with great unanimity said have a convention and use my name in the call.

In the mean time the Board of the state convention held a quarterly meeting at Ottumwa, May 4th, at which time we held an informal conference with the brethren in attendance which resulted in fixing the basis of representation and also the time and place of holding the conventions.

In the mean time, the friends of Burlington and Des Moines, we kept informed of the progress of the movement. The above points in the preliminary work being all fixed I
gave form to the call and on the 18th of May sent a copy for the approval of the Executive Boards of the Burlington and Des Moines schools.

The Des Moines Board gave their hearty approval.

The Board at Burlington chose to withhold their approval but resolved to be represented in the convention. The call as it appeared in the Standard was mailed on the 26th of May and appeared the following week.

The object of this convention we set forth in the circular, that was sent out, and repeated in the call itself was to "consider our educational interests in Iowa and if possible, determine some basis of cooperative action and if it is thought practicable designate the point at which the Baptists of Iowa may unite and build a monument, to education, that in the ages to come may be to the praise of the Baptists and to the honor of sound learning in this great state.

The convention met at Iowa City July 12th, 1870 as per call.

The convention was well represented from the different sections of the state and would doubtless have resulted in permanent good to the denomination and to sound learning in Iowa but for the treachery of some that directly and actively favored the movement.

Rev. J. F. Childs had promised to use his influence to induce the Des Moines friends to concur in the decision of
the convention, etc. etc. At this time the Parsons College was said to be certain to go to Des Moines. In which case it would swallow up the Des Moines University. But the Parsons project for some reason failed. When Childs learned these facts he addressed a letter in which he uses the following language "Do you know that the Parson's College is again on wheels?" "Ho for Des Moines!" This was but a few days before the meeting of the convention. "Ho for Des Moines" was the ... ever after this.

Before the meeting of the convention, the organization was securely effected till it was manifest to all that there had been double dealing on the part of the Des Moines friends.

The plot was so manifest that every body saw it and many were much offended at the double dealing of Childs and company. This was especially true of Rev. H. L. Hayhurst who then and there exposed the whole affair and gave the Rev. Childs the most unmerciful tongue lashing that I ever heard any where. I take the following from a history of education in Iowa prepared by Dr. Dunn. "On entering upon business a resolution was introduced expressing a preference for Des Moines as a location for a college.

The springing of this question upon the convention in this manner and at this time was so unexpected and so uncalled for, the suspicion was at once aroused that some one had been manipulating to secure from this convention an
endorsement of the Des Moines scheme—rather than mutual consultation for the promotion of the general interests of education in Iowa.

The introduction of this resolution not only awakened a profound sensation but met a most decided opposition. It was soon withdrawn by its friends. After a great deal of sharp shooting between the friends of Burlington and Des Moines and a pretty thorough discussion of the whole subject, the following resolution was passed.

Resolved, that the sum of $50,000 by the Baptist of Iowa, towards the endowment of a college, whenever any suitable locality for the purposes of the college shall furnish proper grounds and buildings and in addition at least a fund of $50,000 as a further endowment.

After the passage of this resolution, the convention adjourned to meet at the close of the state convention to be in Des Moines the following Oct. 21st, 1870. At the close of the state convention the house was called to order and without roll call or committee on credentials all the members of the state convention were invited to seats, thus making it a MOB instead of a delegated convention. Here again the same sharp practice of the friends of Des Moines was manifest. "Dr. Hawley offered a resolution looking to the support of an institution of learning at the capital of the state." After a very spirited discussion the resolution was laid on the table.
After various expedients were tried and failed the following sentiment was expressed in the form of resolution.

Resolved, that the convention unit in making Des Moines the seat of the one Baptist College and pledge to raise $50,000 as an additional endowment in addition to the present buildings and grounds by the 1st of July 1871. If the city of Des Moines failed to raise in good and reliable subscription we make the same provision to Marshalltown etc. etc.

July 1st, 1871 came and the sum above named was not secured. Thus the friends of Des Moines having failed to secure any recognition from the Baptists of the State. Then in 1874, they applied to the Educational Commission for the weight of their influence in their favor as we have already said.

Though the educational convention failed to effect the ends for which it was called did however work great good to the cause of general education in Iowa. It awakened a general interest in the cause of education and aroused the friends of Pella and Burlington to a more lively interest and more vigorous action than they had felt for years previously. They each during this year 1870 secured the numbers of an endowment for their respective schools.

This convention also greatly tended to settle the discordant elements in the different sections of the state.
Though they failed in harmonizing the discordant elements it pretty effectually put an end to the perpetual wrangling in our denominational public gatherings so I trust some good came of the matter.

**The School of 1870-71**

Having been thoroughly convinced that nothing would be realized from the Craven Pledge to the college my line of duty became very plain. Accordingly I notified the board early in the year 1870 that I could not longer labor in the school and take tuitions for my salary. Having already assumed liabilities to the amount of more than one thousand dollars ($1,000) in principal besides the accumulating interest to remain under the circumstances would be morally wrong both to my creditors and to my family. But at the Board meeting in June 1870, the board assumed the responsibility of running the school and paid a salary to the teachers C. C. Cory; Miss M. C. Manning and myself. The salaries with the incidental expenses of the school amounted to about twenty six hundred dollars ($2600). The school this year was pretty well attended though not as full as it had been in some of the past years. It aggregated about 270 students, this was an average of about 90 per term. The average tuition and incidental charge was about seven dollars per term. This would give in tuitions and
facts, incidents and experiences as seemed to the writer needful to give a connected and true history of the period in which it is found.

2nd We have omitted to note all that class of matter that seems to be or rather that seemed to the writer merely as lumber, adding nothing to the strength or beauty of the fabric.

3rd I may here say that many things that I have said has been said with misgivings and pain.

(a) Because they present some of my brethren in a light not the most favorable to integrity of purpose on their part.

(b) Because the facts present the writer as the principal actor in matters that greatly effected the school and the cause of education in the state.

I am fully aware of the difficulty of relating such facts, as they are, that is, in relating the facts without giving them a tinge of self—but—

4th To have said less than I have must have given an imperfect view of this formative period of the school. In a new country as Iowa was when the Central University opened its doors to students, there are incidents and experiences that are never repeated in after years.

The future teachers in the Central will never have the labors to perform, the privations to endure or the
experiences of those who have preceeded them. The history of these sixteen years is never to be repeated in Iowa.

The New President

The action of the Board at its annual meeting in June 1871 was regarded as important to the school in all its bearings. The school had, by even its warmest friends been regarded as passing through a shadow. Though the number of students in attendance was still respectable the school had not, for the last four years, been advancing in either numbers or grade of scholarship. Indeed it had been (for want of teaching force) degraded from a college, with the classes in the course, complete to an academy. That is, we were compelled to do only academic or preparatory work. The action of the Board in electing Rev. L. A. Dunn president, with the assurance of his acceptance was regarded as an advance step and awakened great expectations and hopes for the future of the Central University of Iowa.

Though the President spent but little time in the school during this first year the fact that the Board had taken an advance step seemed to have infused new life into the school in all its departments.

The president very soon after his election matured and presented his plan of endowing the university, which was by a system of scholarships running four, ten and an indefinite number of years (or perpetual) (see the secretaries book for the detail of plan).
In the working out of this plan the president expected cooperation and very material aid from the Eastern states.

This called him east much of the time the first year of his presidency and very frequently to go East during the six years following. At one time it was thought that the school would realize from the East a dollar for every dollar raised in the West.

Indeed some moneys were raised in the East in small sums but this was attended by a good deal of expense, so that it is at least questionable whether the Board or the school was at all benefited by our Eastern contribution.

The meagerness of these contributions was supposed to be attributable chiefly to the unavoidable untoward circumstances that confronted the President in all his efforts to bring the matter favorably before the friends of education in the East.

Thus the efforts to obtain monies from the East, in so far as permanent endowment is concerned has thus far been, practically, a failure—the working of the plan in the West seemed to be more favorable. In about two and one half years the fifty thousand dollars was proclaimed raised, that is in subscriptions was then to be converted into notes bearing ten per cent interest and payable in ten years. The interest on these endowment notes together with the principle of the fifty dollar notes were to go to sustaining the school. It was claimed that these would meet the
expenses of sustaining the school till the other notes (endowment notes proper) should mature so that at the end of ten years the school would be endowed by a cash investment of fifty thousand dollars. This also has proved practically a failure.

There are several reasons why this desirable end has not been realized.

The first of these reasons may be attributable to the fact that too many agencies, or agents, were employed in securing these pledges and notes. With all the varied adaptations to such a work there were great diversities of arguments used to induce men to give to the enterprise. It would be a very strange coincidence indeed if these all presented the matter in the same light or rather that these all presented the matter in such a way as always to give a just and honest impression as to the privileges and limitations of these scholarships etc.

A second difficulty was that these agents when they had obtained these notes and obligation in the form of scholarships delivered them over to the treasurer of the university to manage as best he could. But the treasurer not knowing anything of the private conversations and verbal limitations to the contract not appearing in any writing whatever, was bound to have trouble both in the collection of the annual interests and in adjusting the privileges of those having scholarships. As for example, a man having one
scholarship would want to send two students on it at the same time etc. etc. These complications were found both very numerous and of great difficulty in satisfactorily adjusting. Some parties were found that could not be brought amicably to comply with the written conditions of the scholarship plan. Thus friends were sometimes alienated and not infrequently scholars were lost to the school. To insure a successful issue the same individual should have been agent and treasurer.

A third difficulty was found in the fact that these notes and obligations were not properly secured. Indeed they were not secured at all. Many of these notes were not worth at any time, the paper on which they were written.

It should, in the outset, have been taken as granted that an individual that will pledge to any public enterprise who was not willing in some way to secure his pledges cannot as a general, thing, be relied upon to redeem it. If he does there is so much clear gain.

A fourth difficulty was found in the fact that these notes had too long to run, especially if not well secured. The circumstances of men (most men) greatly change in ten years. In any system of scholarships where the obligations are not well secured from two to five years could be a long time. No Board should assume to run a school longer on no better basis.
A fifth difficulty was found in the unprecedented financial crisis that settled down upon the country from 1876-79. This pressed so heavily upon many that had formerly been in easy circumstances that they were not able to pay the interest on their notes. Others were entirely broken up and their notes became entirely worthless. Thus large sums were lost to the enterprise. Others moved away and are thus lost to the endowment fund, etc.

A sixth hinderance to a final success was found in the fact that the Board did not (I may say could not) find and put in charge of the whole financial affairs of the college, a wide awake thorough business man who should vigorously prosecute the work of collecting interests, investing funds and etc. etc. and in a word, a man who should make a business of tending to the finances of the school receiving a living salary for his services.

We had some of the very best of men in charge of the finances, but they either lacked health and strength for the task, or lacked in time to devote to this work, not being salaried, or some had no experience in such a system of finances.

At least the college never had a professional financier at the head of this department. Each however, did the best that he could under the circumstances, and hence no blame is attached to any one, but much praise to some of these men.
That a system of endowment (by scholarships) with all these untoward circumstances against it should fail, or at least should not fully meet the expectation of its friends is no more than should be expected.

I am disposed to think, that no blame attaches to any party. All parties were honest and earnest men and acted from the purest and highest and most disinterested motive for the prosperity of the college.

School Prosperity

Though the influence of these scholarships was not all that its special advocates had anticipated in the lines of filling the school with students, yet the college from the election of the presidents assumed an air of prosperity, but never, perhaps, equaled the general prosperity of the school in 1859-61 and 1865-67.

During these years from 1870 to 1881 there was a very material advance in the common schools of the state they each year did better work and of a higher grade, especially in our larger villages and towns, till now most of these furnish pretty good facilities for a fair common school education so that fewer have to seek our academies and colleges to obtain a common education, and with the increased home facilities there should have been a corresponding increase in the number of those who would desire to go beyond the common branches and hence our higher academies and colleges should have been kept full.
expresses my sentiment or judgement on the subject that I cannot refrain from giving a more permanent record. It comes from city men in the shadow of the great city of the West. It is a part of the report of the examining committee of the Theological Seminary at Morgan Park and signed by the following gentlemen, Samuel Brook (chairman) Robert Teske, secretary, Z. Bremmell, W. C. P. Rhodes, Edward Elson, Geo. E. Leonard, L.C. Barnes, H.S. Rogers, C.C. Smith. It is found in the Standard of May 26th, 1881, and is as follows.

The number of students in attendance (79) has been larger than ever before and in the retirement and quietness of Morgan Park they have pursued their studies with less interruption and with more diligence than could have been expected if the seminary had remained within the limits of the city (Chicago).

This paragraph expresses the sentiments of nine-tenths of the Baptists of the whole country when there is no collateral circumstances to bias the judgement or no axe to grind. And if true of the Theological students who have passed through their course of discipline and are supposed to be prepared to come in contact with men and things as they are. How much more abundantly is it true of youth from sixteen to twenty one; the average age of the collegian of the present day. This incidental expression speaks volumes in regard to city life and habits and influences upon the health of college work and the morals of the youth.
The Opposition

There were two very unfortunate circumstances connected with the early history of our educational work in Iowa. The first was an honest misunderstanding as to the powers and limitations of a committee appointed by the state convention in 185... to consider propositions to locate an institution of learning to call an educational convention etc., etc.

The one party regarding the committee empowered to call a convention, consider propositions and locate and the other party considering the committee as limited to the calling of a convention and the consideration of propositions to locate a school and then in honor bound to report their deliberations to the state convention whose right it was alone to locate a school for the Baptist of the state. Which was right? Let others judge.

The second unfortunate thing was locating the school in the extreme border of the state (Burlington). Such men as Rev. G. J. Johnston and Judge Newman did not then seem to realize that there is a kind of fate ... public enterprises towards the center of the people they represent. Better have located a school on the open, unbroken prairie in some central position in the state without a dollar than on the extreme border with $10,000 as a fund for endowment and suitable buildings found.

The opposition to the Central University was for the first ten years from the friends of the Burlington school
and headed by such men as Judge Newman, Rev. G. J. Johnston and the Noble, hipminded, conscientious Christian gentlemen. Their opposition therefore open, manly, and persistent, but in a Christian, fraternal spirit.

From 1863 to 1879 the opposition was from the friends of the Des Moines Enterprise. In 1863, while the school was greatly weakened and indeed almost broken up a few men conceived the idea of founding an institution of rearing that would absorb the others and unite the Baptist of the state in the capitol.

The principal movers in this were the Rev. J. T. Westover (now deceased) Rev. J. F. Childs, Rev. J. O. Wilson, and S. H. Mitchel. These brethren were at the time of the head of the state convention. The president and secretaries, etc., at the meeting of the state convention at Cedar Rapids. Several meetings were called in interest of the Des Moines Enterprises. The friends of the enterprise and such other friends as they desired were sure to be present at these informed meetings. From these meetings resulted a call by those informal meetings for a mass convention to be held at Des Moines on the 16th of November, 1864. On account of the inclement weather the attendance was very small. (There were no railroads to the capitol then.) But those present and those writing advised not enter upon any steps at that time looking to the purchase of the property. (See page 101-102, etc.)
Subsequently at a quarterly board meeting held in Oskaloosa a few brethren proceed to form a corporation to formerly take hold of the Des Moines enterprise. The peculiar feature in this board meeting was that with one exception the brethren present were all favorable to the movement. The two agents of the state convention traveling in all parts of the state it was very easy to get at these meetings a full attendance of those wished to be present.

As the president of the convention appointed the committees, it a very easy matter to secure both a succession in an office in the convention and a majority on the board that were favorable to this new enterprise.

The result of all this was that for several years quarterly consultations were held at these quarterly board meetings.

These consultations were sure to be published by someone present over a fictitious signature and copublished as to seem to a stranger as a part of the board proceedings.

In the articles that appeared in print, and there were very many, that were written in the interest of the Des Moines enterprise. The writers whoever they may have been choose almost invariable to write over a fictitious signature. Some of these articles were low, mean, vulgar, and some even libelous. They abounded in expressions such as in speaking of Pella as "The Dutch Iowa," "The wooden shoe nation," and of the inhabitants as "Not being able to
see after four o'clock." "Foreigners" and as "...", "hayseeds" of the building as "unsafe," "Ready to fall," and as a "barn" and of the beautiful campus as "a pasture lot," "a cow range," etc., etc. Now, however, much of the above may have been true. It was thrown in as slang for the purpose of ridiculing the school and the whole enterprise. I venture the assertion that no respectable Baptist in Iowa (and would that all Baptist be respectable) would be willing to have his name attached to one half the articles that have appeared in defense of the Des Moines enterprise.

I may here add that whatever may be thought or said of the published artists in defense of the Central University, they uniformly appeared over the writer's own proper signature or initials. But failing in every attempt to secure the sympathy that was desired, for the Des Moines enterprise in 1873, the friends of the project invited the "Educational Commission" to visit the state and settle for them this very, to them, perplexing problem. This strife in the end only injured their cause.

On the election Rev. Dunn to the presidency of the school, in pursuance of his plan of endowing the college he was, during his first few years frequently called East but scarcely could he get to his point of operation in behalf of the school, till he would find his way ... up by some anonymous, correspondent to one or more of our Baptist, eastern papers under the pretense of passing through the
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state or of one in the state coming incidentally to the knowledge of certain very important facts relative to the status of the two schools at Pella and Des Moines. This course was pursued through a series of years and these letters bear unmistakable evidence of being dictated or at least under the control of one master spirit, who was in a position to feel great responsibility in the success of the enterprise.

Thus the opposition to the college continued through a series of fifteen (15) years at least. The opposition was not only direct and vigorous and persistent but it was of the basest sort. There was nothing noble, or manly, or Christian in it. It has been characterized by a species of the lowest, and vilest, scheming and political trickery. Such a course is sure to work its own defeat, and win.

The men who have figured most largely in this matter though once held a controlling influence in the Baptist denomination of this great state are today without influence even among the friends of the enterprise on whose shrine they sacrificed everything. This is surely a sorry reward but the sure destiny of those that take such a course, in civil affairs or politics or religion.

The same course of procedure was attempted on the election of Rev. George W. Gardner to the presidency of the Central University of Iowa. A few weeks after his election there appeared in the Examiner a most damaging article to
the Central University if it had been true. The effort was made to have it also published in the Watchman, but the effort was worse than a failure. The Editor happened to be intimately acquainted with both Dr. Gardner and Jim Balch the chancellor of the college and his refusal and comments relating to these men the one as an Educator and the other as financier not only silenced but completely spiked their guns.

But through all this persistent opposition, this detestably mean trickery and this contemptable wire pulling and log rolling, Pella yet lives and is prospered beyond the largest hopes of its most sanguine friends. The endowment is being secured and the enterprise bids ... to very soon be placed upon sound and permanent financial basis.
Adenda

It is fitting to state the Prof. E. H. Scarff D. D. that thirty years ago organized the first class in what is now the Central University of Iowa is still connected with the College as Emeritus Professor of Mathematics to which honor the Board of Trustees promoted him at their annual meeting in June 1881. The Doctor is a confirmed invalid unable to walk alone or talk (His affliction is "Locomotor Ataxia or progressive paralysis) but other wise is enjoying good health.