

A R T I C L E.

Written for Munsey's Magazine,
December 1901.

No.10, Vol.9.

S U B J E C T

Lincoln and the Mountain Youth,
A Memorial Institution.

ARTICLE.

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SUBJECT

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(Weber
copy)

Lincoln & the Mountain Youth
A Memorial Institution

The 26th of September 1863 almost the last words that Abraham Lincoln spoke to me, just as I was about to leave Washington with my command, which was destined for Chattanooga, were concerning Cumberland-Gap and the people of East Tennessee. As that interview was the last I had with him before his death, I have endeavored to recall and treasure up what he had especially in his mind. In manner and words he manifested a peculiar tenderness toward the people of that mountainous region. His largeness of heart took in all. He wanted me to understand and appreciate their worth.

A few months later, about the first of December, after our victory at Chattanooga, Gen. Sherman with the 15th Corps, and I (Gen. Howard) with the 11th, marched a few miles apart into East Tennessee in order to save Burnside, then direfully threatened by Longstreet at Knoxville.

Many of my men were quite short of clothing, some were without overcoats and blankets, and some were barefooted. The kindness of the people was marked, exceeding what we had met in Ohio and Indiana. They supplied us as far as they could; women and children brought food and water, and men would sit down and take

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out overcoats and blankets, and some were barefooted. The kind-
ness of the people was marked, exceeding what we had met in Ohio
and Indiana. They supplied us as far as they could; women and
children brought food and water, and men would sit down and talk

off their shoes and give them to the soldiers who had none. Those mountaineers, as a rule, had a passion for the Union.

As we moved along from valley to valley in our march, I came to understand Mr. Lincoln's confidence in them.

In the ensuing winter, during our bivouac in Lookout Valley, Gen. Von Steinwehr, one of my Division Commanders, kindly rebuilt the log church which had ^{on the eve of} ~~previous~~ to our arrival ruthlessly gone to firewood. Very soon we had schools for the children in the new structure, as well as in ^{which was pitched for the soldiers} the young men's canvas pavillion. The young folks ^{of the mountains} came gladly to these schools from the ~~mountain~~ ^{+ valleys} slopes for miles around. They were eager for knowledge. Simple-hearted, honest, quick to see and to learn, they began to feel that hitherto they had been destitute ^{had} of the privileges which our northern country-people everywhere possess, and so diligently embraced those we offered.

^{in missionary planning} Again and again my friends and associates have made efforts publicly and privately to start institutions which would reach these mountain people; some of them have been abundantly successful and wonderfully fruitful of good.

Five years ago last spring Hon. Darwin R. James of Brooklyn and Rev. Fred B. Avery of Painsville, Ohio, and two experienced missionaries, our host and hostess, sat with me on the broad

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missionaries, our best and best, set with me on the road

veranda of what is now the " Harrow-Hall ", then the Harrow-School building, situated on a high plateau east of the little village named Cumberland-Gap. The Gap itself, famous in the war, a dip in the lofty range lay beyond the village westward. Fringed with trees and clad with a curtain of clouds it made us wonder what was beyond, till our host told us that it separated us from a Kentucky settlement and village, and that the crest of that rugged mountain range divided Tennessee from Kentucky. Not far from where we sat was the old log church, in front of which Henry Clay used to stand and speak to the people, five thousand and sometimes more.

The remarkable " Four Seasons' Hotel ", which had cost over half a million, and which the wreckers had torn down, was only about a mile to the eastward, - its Sanitarium had been spared. It was a large building which might hold 200 students, and the beautiful 600 acres were there with good barn and stable-room, and also the fine macadamized roads that the great New York engineer, the much loved Waring, had surveyed and completed.

Boys and girls were coming and going across the veranda, student girls were doing the work of the Hall under a matron's supervision. We saw industrious lads at work about the grounds; and

of our university

At first we had glimpses southward, westward & northward of hills of mountains about our birds' nest of a valley.

rich & fine

good

before us

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these were the mountain youths. *How docile & industrious they were!*

at best
This Harrow School was but a beginning; the village was small, then almost without business; the friends that came to the great "Four Seasons' Hotel" would come no more, and whence would be the future support of the teachers?

As we glanced around and our host and hostess explained where the steep paths and the rugged roads came from, I thought that if five thousand people could come down to that center on their horses from the hills ~~and~~ forests ~~and~~ mountains and valleys, all upon short notice, to hear the voice of Henry Clay, the young people could and would come by the scores and hundreds if they could have a reasonable opening for education. *a practical* At that time there were fourteen counties, round about that beautiful valley without any school whatever. *X* In answer to the question put by our host: How can we go on? I answered, and my companions endorsed my proposition: "Let us make this a larger enterprise! There could not be a better center." Out of that small beginning has grown the "Lincoln Memorial University".

A capital charter was obtained, so as to organize under it a Board of Directors and different Departments. *a primary & grammar* Already it has *and a Preparatory department* a good Normal, a well-started Industrial ~~and~~ such Academic provi- *with*

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a Board of Directors and different Departments. Already it has

a Good Normal, a well-stocked Industrial and some Academic provi-

sions as may be needed. Its primary and grammar grades must be kept up for some time to meet the needs of bright and able scholars who have ~~never before~~ ^{with little but small} had any opportunities to begin the study of books. I have been long used to College and University work and I am sure that I never labored with a better Board of Directors - and this Board has had strong Advisory Boards in New York and Boston to endorse them in their great enterprise, especially in ~~their~~ ^{the} efforts ^{which they are making} for a proper endowment.

As ~~I had~~ ^{was} suggested in our first interview, as soon as the Board of Directors was in practical working shape, they, through special trustees, purchased the entire Four Seasons' ^{property,} which included fertile land for crops and woodland. ^{at first} True, heavy mortgages rested upon this estate. Some of us for three years went from one business-man to another; we sent out innumerable letters to Sunday Schools and Churches. We prayed, we planned and we worked; we tried the representative missionary bodies; they had too much to do already and could not help; but the running expenses ^{then} varying from \$5,000 to \$8,000 per year, were diligently raised and always paid; and ~~at last~~ ^{finally} by the kindness of Mr. Carnegie, the last money, \$2300 was given and every mortgage on our property discharged. One of the trustees had kindly advanced a thousand dollars, a sum he ~~is~~ ^{was} not able to give. This we owe him ^{still} ~~is~~ ^{and it is that} all that remains to be paid on the purchase account; ~~and that~~ ^{had mistakenly} for a time we thought he was able and willing to give. ^{a sum which} The Sanitarium, much out of repair from some

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disuse,
 years of ~~misuse~~^{put}, we partially repaired and ~~moved~~ into it as
 many students and teachers as it would hold. We named this struc-
 ture "Grant-Lee Hall". I was asked to call it "Grant Hall" or "Lee
 Hall". I answered, "Oh, no! we want them joining hands. Thier
 friends have indeed joined hands in this enterprise. The confeder-
 ate and the union men are in the same Board, working actively ^{& harmoniously together} to
 build up the institution. ^{older} The Harrow School Board of Trustees which
 preceded us, merged all their buildings and grounds into the one
 enterprise that ^{have now} we named the Lincoln Memorial University."

We have had ^{some} opposition. The opposers say: "Tennessee,
 Kentucky and Virginia, that touch each other at the doors of your
~~school~~^{of schools}-assembly, have enough high grade institutions already. There
 would be no harm in an academy but a university is a ~~misnomer~~^{mistake}."
 I reply that ^{in its best sense} a university is a group of schools and departments,-
 that the word is a proper honor to Lincoln who was born and bred in
 these mountains; that the university may be down reaching as well as
 up reaching. We ^{are putting} ~~put~~ the plan beneath the necessities of the people.
 Some students, aided by their work, are able now to enter high de-
 partments, while others, educated only in wood-craft, rough farming
 or mountain ways, need to begin at the threshold of ~~book~~ learning.
 So we keep ^{for the present} all the grades necessary to meet their needs. Our
 students are mostly working part of the time for their support.
^{mountain hardships} They could not go to Knoxville, sixty-five miles away, nor to Berea,
 one hundred and ten miles to the north in Kentucky. As Moody's
 schools or seminaries were needed at Northfield, Mass., so are ours
^{needed for the white boys & girls of the mountains,}
 at Cumberland-Gap.

^{shall} Again, in time, after the districts round about Cumberland-Gap
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we abolish the lower grades, preserving the Normal, the Industrial, the Academic, and such other departments as the region and the people may require. What Booker Washington is pleading for in the interest of his race, ^{we are} ~~I am~~ now pleading for and providing for largely in the interest of the white youth of the mountains.

"But, General," says one, "the population is too sparse!"

Indeed it is not. After careful inquiry, a member of our Board and a Director reports: "Within a radius of fifty miles are over 230,000 people with no well equipped college." The region chosen for a "Four Seasons' Hotel" is the healthful center for a university.

"But will the students come?" ^{"They do come" admitted} Our highest number in one year is 368.

They are eager to come and apply in larger numbers than we can yet take care of.

^{A doubter of Southern youth}
asks: "Will they work?" A little study of our industries and illustrations will answer that question. They who have no money ~~and~~ entreat for work. In type-setting, carpentering, gardening, and general farming ^{the young men} they have already astonished their friends.

We have before this date sent forth ^{over} twenty teachers into the neighboring districts. After their short schools they have returned to us to pursue their studies still further.

"Have the girls any industries?" Oh, yes! They are taught what an industrious housekeeper ought always to know. In the new girls' dormitory now being built by student labor from the brick making ^{and} stone-laying to the final finish, we have a special portion constructed with a view to teach, as they do at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, all the details which pertain to ^{Domestic Science} ~~the art of domesticity~~. Meanwhile, waiting for these new facilities, the sewing, the care of a room, the making of good bread, and the cooking and proper serving

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of meats and such like work, have been well and successfully taught by most accomplished and self-sacrificing lady teachers. As a rule how able are these mountain youth? We answer that the progress in three years' time is extraordinary. In listening to their school debates, for example, I found that they handled public questions understandingly like experienced men and showed that they had been reading diligently and thinking with care and quick intelligence. In supervising their prize essays and declamations at the last commencement, members of our Board were satisfied with the results. These mountain students are ambitious to excell. They are ^{now} entering upon a new experience and a strenuous life.

How about the conduct of the young people? It will compare favorably with that in other colleges, in all with which I am acquainted. Quick tempered they are, and sensitive to any fancied encroachment upon their mountain freedom; they want all the liberty that they can have consistent with good order; but they do see the reasonableness of a good, wholesome discipline.

One of our nicest young women said to two of the Directors as they were riding with her in the cars while en route to her mountain home; "I am so proud! because I have been to every recitation and exercise the whole of this term. I'm going to tell my folks and shall bring back with me for next term my two sisters. I tell you it makes me proud." She said that her hard-working father had put up a frame house of one story, but that there were only two rooms and a kitchen in it; that young woman was beautiful in her health, strength, hope and joyful courage.

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" Is the institution intended as a charity? Far from it. ^{our} ~~The~~ Board determined in the outset that it would be better that every student should pay. The students who work in the industrial connection are credited so much for their labor and arrangements are made at Grant-Lee Hall for the board and lodging of most of those students who come from places outside of Cumberland-Gap and its neighborhood. This board has averaged ^{about \$2 per week} ~~so much~~ for each scholar, and ^{\$3} ~~so much~~ for each teacher. ^{in club table board is about \$1.50} The Grant-Lee Hall Club for messing purposes keeps a direct account with the Treasurer. It is charged with all which it receives from the farm at reasonable rates. We now have ^{six} horses, ^{two} mules, for work on the farm; also ^{ten} cows for milk, and xxx hogs, calves and fowls of different kinds are a part of the products of the farm. The farm thus becomes a feeder to the institution. Provisions from it of grain, potatoes, onions, squash and other vegetables help largely to support not only the students of Grant-Lee Hall but the teachers and boarders at Harrow Hall, which is nearer the village. A large number of pupils, of course, board at home or in private houses when they so prefer, particularly the day pupils ^{who} which recite in the Church Room and in the Harrow Hall recitation rooms. Our primary department has thus far been accommodated in one of the churches of the village, situated near and convenient to the Harrow Hall.

To state the case, then, more concisely, the student at the University pays his way entirely, ~~either~~ in money, in work or partly in money and partly in work. A scholarship of one hundred dollars, I am assured, will carry a student through one year. With fifty dollars he can, by his credits in the industrial division, easily go through the year and keep up his studies.

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We now have in all the departments ^{Eleven} teachers. The Acting Superintendent lives at Harrow Hall. His wife has assisted him effectively in the care of the girls dormitory and industries. He is so connected ~~with~~ by telephones with the stable, the Harrow Hall, the Treasurer's Office and other buildings, that he is able to keep in close relationship with all the machinery of the institution. ^{daily & hourly}

As years were increasing upon me I found it necessary to diminish some of my activities. Last Commencement, the latter part of May, meeting the Board of Directors at Cumberland-Gap, I begged them to put in my place a new Managing Director. They did so and thus greatly relieved me ^{as I desired} ~~from care and anxiety~~. The new Managing Director, whose name appears in the circular published herewith, has been quite successful in raising the funds for running expenses. He and the financial agent, going out together, have well canvassed our field of help. ^{At the earnest desire of the members} I ~~have~~ remained President of the Board of Directors. We are greatly hoping that some men of ~~means~~ large means may be induced to turn their attention for a while away from ^{How E. S. Converse has promised \$10,000 toward \$200,000. endowment.} the cities and the old institutions to this new field. ^{and we have promised that aggregate about \$10,000 more.}

~~My~~ Dr. D. K. Piersons wrote me in the outset of our enterprise, the following inspiring words, "There is no spot in our country at this time where a school can be established that will do as much good for the whole people as the one you contemplate at Cumberland-Gap, Tennessee."

^{Cony Sim} The New York Tribune remarked, "Our readers often do us the honor to accept our estimate of a philanthropic endeavor and take advantage of the opportunity that we point out. We urge them to do so in this instance (referring to our Lincoln Memorial) with a full assurance that they will be rewarded for their faith and generosity."

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allow The editor of the Christian Herald touched a warm place in ~~my~~ hearts when he wrote: "We believe that there are multitudes in this broad land to whom the possibility of rearing a monument to the memory of Lincoln, which shall at the same time in educating these people (the mountain youth) fulfil a desire dear to Lincoln's heart, will come as a welcome opportunity for patriotic and Christian service."

My desire is so strong to present the case of these mountain people who have our best blood in them, and yet who have been somehow overlooked and left behind in all our educational privileges, that I am ~~conscious~~ *fearful* of an inability properly to picture the situation so as to interest my countrymen, that is, sufficiently interest them to induce them to make the endowment of this University liberal and assured. One capitalist, I was told, said why does not General Howard endow it himself? *I mean that knew* ~~Anybody that knows me and something of my work~~ *sacrifices* ~~would answer at once:~~ *He has not the means to endow* "General Howard has given all he can. He has worked for the institution for many years without pay and has subscribed sufficiently toward it to cover his own expenses, but he needs *more* help from those who are able and willing to give." *this grand institution on the world.*

As I see the matter, a half a million of dollars of endowment for this institution, with all the expansion that would come from that sum, would be of larger service than two million ~~used~~ *or exaggeration* in any city of the land. This may seem like boasting, but let our friends remember that ~~the~~ strong men like Webster, Clay, Lincoln, Garfield, Grant and Blaine ~~came from the country~~ *a* and ~~in~~ a host of others like them, ~~come~~ from the country. True, young men can go to the cities for education, but it is better that they should be well established in principles, ~~and in morals~~ in morals, and in habits of study before they go there;

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My desire is so strong to present the case of these mountain people who have our best blood in them, and yet who have been somehow overlooked and left behind in all our educational privileges, that I am conscious of an inability properly to picture the situation so as to interest my countrymen, that is, sufficiently interest them to induce them to make the endowment of this University liberal and assured. One capitalist, I was told, said why does not General Howard endow it himself? "Anybody that knows me and something of my work would answer at once: 'General Howard has given all he can. He has worked for the institution for many years without pay and has subscribed sufficiently toward it to cover his own expenses, but he needs help from those who are able and willing to give.'"

As I see the matter, a half a million of dollars of endowment for this institution, with all the expansion that would come from that sum, would be of larger service than two million in any other land. This may seem like boasting, but let our friends remember that strong men like Webster, Clay, Lincoln, Garfield, Grant and Blaine ~~are not the only ones~~ and a host of others like them, come from the country. True, young men can go to the cities for education, but it is better that they should be well established in principles and in habits of study before they go there.

again, the cost in any of the great cities is four ^{or} ~~and~~ five times ^{in my judgment} ~~as much~~ ^{larger} for each student. We can bring up our Anglo Saxon ~~people~~ ^{youth} to a higher plain of living and thinking and doing for the world's progress more by ~~country~~ ^{established} schools, academies, colleges and universities ^{in country places, than in large cities} ~~that in any other way~~. The tendency to run to the city for every sort of enterprise and for every privilege of education is not a wholesome one. At any rate, ^{near our low-land} My Countrymen, let us try this experiment as a nucleus for abundant schools, as an example for educators, as a helping hand extended to those who have ability but lack the means to develop it, as a veritable monument to the mountain manhood of Abraham Lincoln, as a contribution to ~~his~~ extend his loving-kindness and tender mercy to ~~the~~ people he loved most. Indeed my ^{own} desire to see this institution well endowed is stronger than my life. ^{may we not hope} ~~I am~~ ^{before long} ~~confident~~ ^{Christian} that some patron or patrons will rise up to make this work ~~glorious~~ successful and glorious.

(Sg e)

Olin Olin Howard
Maj-gen ^{US Army} Retired
President of the Board
of Directors,
Lincoln University
the university.

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Handwritten in red ink:
 Organized by the Board
 of Directors
 of the University
 of Wisconsin
 at Madison
 Wisconsin
 1892

Handwritten in red ink:
 (20)