

Meeting in Aid of Dickinson College

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

ON Monday evening, March 17th, 1834, a meeting was held in the court house in Lancaster city, pursuant to public notice from the several pulpits on the preceding Sunday, for the purpose of taking into consideration the present condition and future prospects of Dickinson college, Carlisle, Pa. Hon. James Buchanan was called to the chair, and Dr. Samuel Humes and Robert Moderwell were appointed secretaries.

The Rev. Mr. Janes, in an earnest and forceful address, explained the purpose of the meeting, and emphasized the importance of Dickinson college to the people of Pennsylvania. He stated that the institution had come under the control of the Philadelphia and Baltimore Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church and that these conferences were determined to use their best efforts to restore the usefulness of the college. While the Methodist Church would labor for this purpose, it would also seek to prevent its becoming a sectarian institution. Mr. Janes presented, in strong colors, the humiliation that would fall upon the people of Pennsylvania should they permit such an institution to fail and thus compel citizens to send their children to other states to obtain a liberal education.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

“Resolved, That, in the estimation of this meeting, such is the importance of education to the welfare and happiness of the people that it legitimately claims our most earnest attention, and demands our warmest support.

“Resolved, That it is desirable to have a college of an elevated character located in this section of the state, and that the resuscitation of Dickinson college in Carlisle, upon proper principles, is an object of interest and importance to the community.”

William Clark Frazer, Esq., John Reynolds, George Louis Mayer, Rev. John Lednum, Dr. Samuel Humes and Dr. John L. Atlee, were appointed a committee to accompany Mr. Janes for the purpose of introducing him and commending his college to citizens of Lancaster when he called upon them for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions.

How much money was secured is not known, as subsequent issues of local papers make no references to this worthy cause.

Dickinson college was chartered September 9th, 1783, and was organized April 6th, 1784.

In March, 1832, the trustees felt constrained to suspend the operations of the college because of financial and other difficulties.

It was generally regarded as being under the control of the Presbyterian Church, but the Board of Trustees was a joint one and the several denominations were asked to contribute to its support. Therefore when it passed from the friendly auspices of the Presbyterians to the no less friendly auspices of the Methodists in 1834, it cannot be regarded either as having been surrendered by the Presbyterians or as having been given to the Methodists, for, as a matter of fact, it never was controlled by either Church. The charter has never been changed, and the Board of Trustees is entirely a self-perpetuating body.

Fairs for Benefit of the Lutheran Sunday School

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

IN the Lancaster Journal of Friday, May 4th, 1832, appeared a communication over the signature of "Citizen," in which it was stated that a society of ladies intended holding a fair in a room over the public offices. "Citizen" has been given an opportunity to examine the articles to be sold, and stated that there was a great variety of material, both ornamental and useful. The fair was to be held on Wednesday and Thursday, May 9th and 10th, and would be open from 9 in the morning to 10 at night. Admission for adults was 12½ cents; children were admitted at half price. The proceeds were to be used to increase the library and to further the interests of the Sunday school attached to the Lutheran congregation. The number of scholars in the Sunday school was nearly six hundred, — many of whom, as well as some of the teachers, belonged to other congregations, the school being free and open to all.

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, May 11th, stated:

"The Sunday-school fair opened auspiciously. The number and variety of articles exhibited for sale were wonderful and the purchasers numerous. The room on Wednesday evening was crowded nearly to suffocation. We doubt not the most sanguine expectations of the fair vendors will be fully realized."

Almost a year and a half later, a similar fair was to be held in Masonic hall, according to an advertisement in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, September 20th, 1833, in which it was stated that the Ladies' Sunday-school society intended holding a fair on Thursday and Friday, September 26th and 27th, the proceeds to be appropriated towards the erection of a Sunday-school room.

Whether the fair was held as advertised is not known, as subsequent issues of local papers contain no references to it.