

(Copy of reply to Dr. D. K. Pearsons)

May 9, 1908.

Dr. D. K. Pearsons,
Hinsdale, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I thank you for your kind ~~an~~ consideration of my appeal in behalf of Middlebury College, and I gladly reply to your questions.

Our productive endowment is \$420,000.00. We spent last year \$28,153.37, and this is about our yearly budget.

We have eleven (11) teachers, i.e., the President, eight (8) full Professors, and two (2) instructors.

Two additional instructors are engaged for next year.

I am certain that the College is needed, and absolutely sure that it will live. Otherwise I should not have given up flattering prospects in the ministry to cast in my lot with its fortunes. It is as fixed in the green hills as Camel's Hump and Killington, being anchored by \$233,000.00 worth of stone and marble buildings, and by the enthusiastic loyalty and love of hundreds of friends, mostly poor, but all rich in courage.

No Church controls the College, but it is Congregational in sympathy, its Presidents for over 100 years having been Congregational clergymen. The students are obliged to attend prayers daily, and the Church of their choice on Sunday.

We have had co-education for 25 years, since 1883. The admission of women is a fixed policy, and will not be retracted.

I expect to raise much more than \$100,000 in the next few years. I think I am a good beggar. I started a Church with nothing, and in fifteen years left it with a property of \$35,000, free of debt, having raised also \$6000 a year for current expenses and over \$23,000 for missions. I suggested \$50,000, not as our total need, but as what I hope you will see your way to give for education in your native State. We should have at least \$250,000.00 for a

Woman's College, and if you will give me a start, I will set out to get it. But I plead with you for \$50,000.00 now, to meet the pressing need of a building for our girls to live in, some central place to gather for their social life, and to allow us to employ a Dean or Matron to look after them. They are now scattered in the homes of the village, and we have no one to supervise them, except the teachers who have already all they should do in their work for the men.

Marble is cheap in Vermont, and for the sum named we will erect a building that will do you lasting honor, and will be a blessing to hundreds of girls who otherwise would be without opportunity of higher education.

Such a gift now would make you the virtual founder of our work for women, as hitherto we have had no gifts especially for a woman's college.

It is true that the University of Vermont is near us, but it is also true that we can get all the girls we can take care of. They come to us not only from Vermont, but also from Mass., New York, and Conn., being shut out of colleges nearer them by prohibitory expenses. Besides the emphasis at Burlington is on the courses in Medicine, Engineering, and Agriculture: in strictly college work we have more students to-day than they have. The two institutions are working in harmony, pursuing different lines, and there is abundant room for both. Middlebury is not inaccessible to the largest centers of population in the United States, and these centers, not Vermont alone, are her field.

I am 38 years old, have good health, and am full of ambition for my Vermont college. I am going into it as my life-work. The wisest men I can find approve my course and say I have a great opportunity. I have much to do for the men also, but for the immediate needs of the girls I am looking to you with earnest hope.

Faithfully Yours,

John M. Thomas (signed)

(Please return.)

D. K. PEARSONS,
Room 601,
Merchants Loan and Trust Building,
135 ADAMS STREET.

CHICAGO,

Hinsdale May 12th
1908

Dr Thomas

You need \$100,000 to do the
work right - you must have a
heating plant.

I will give you \$25,000
when you raise \$75,000. If you
can get along with less, I will give
you \$1, for every \$3 you raise.

I have only one style of doing
business,

Wing B K Pearson,

This is Co Educator I understand you

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1908

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Truly D.K. Pearsons

This is co-education I understand you.

MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
LIBRARY.

Office

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MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE BULLETIN

VOL. III.

No. 1.

THE D. K. PEARSONS

Pearson's Hall

BUILDING AND ENDOWMENT FUND.

MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT

SEPTEMBER, 1908

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and July. Entered as second Class Matter at the Post Office, Middlebury,
Vermont, under act of Congress of July 16, 1894.

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started in to give, as shrewdly and as much like a Yankee as all his earlier life he had acquired, and on as large a scale. He selected the small Colleges for his field, the scattered institutions that bring higher education within the reach of the thousands in remote and humble homes, who have not the initiative nor the resources to attend the large Universities. To date he has given away over four and a half millions, and he has encouraged others to give three times as much. "I have but one style of doing business", he writes me: by which he means that he always attaches a condition making every College raise about \$3 for every \$1 of his gift.

It is a fact that the good Samaritan did not stand and proclaim that he would give \$5 to help the poor fellow out if other people would make it \$20, but Dr. Pearsons does not claim to be a good Samaritan. He is investing money in the heads and hearts of young men and women, and he invests it in such a manner as to make it attract the largest amount of capital to accompany it, in order that it may do the most good. The General Education Board, a body of men distinguished for educational and philanthropic wisdom, has endorsed the method of Dr. Pearsons by imposing similar conditions in their benefactions.

DR. PEARSONS AND MIDDLEBURY.

When I was making my plans for Middlebury, I wrote Dr. Pearsons a letter. I told him I wanted to build up a larger and better College for boys and girls of the humbler homes of the northern mountains. I reminded him that he was born in Vermont, and with all his benefactions he had done nothing for the College of his native State. I pledged him the best effort that is in me in behalf of those who have a hard time to get a start, if he would come to my help. He wanted to know all about Middlebury, just where the College stood, and after investigation of the facts he wrote me: "You need about \$100,000 to do the work right. I will give you \$25,000 when you raise \$75,000." This offer was announced at my inauguration, June 24, 1908, and at the issue of this Bulletin the fund amounts to \$81,793.

"WHAT TO DO WITH MONEY"

The friends of Middlebury College naturally wish to know about one who wishes to help them, and as Dr. Pearsons was the first man to bring large hope to my heart, I am glad for the chance to let him speak for himself as to the fun he has had in giving to small Colleges, and why he believes in them. The remarkable story of some of his earlier gifts is set forth graphically in a speech he made at Battle Creek, Mich., ten years ago. I have his permission to reproduce this address. It is interesting to notice that when Dr. Pearsons makes a proposition to a College, and they meet his terms, he sometimes promptly makes them another offer. In some instances, when they can show good cause, he has come to their help with a gift outright. Perhaps Dr. Pearsons has noticed something like this himself.



1908.

Degrees.

Resolved to confer the Degree of A. M. in course upon the following:

A.M.

Duane, Lewis Robinson '03
Archibald James Withers '05.

A.B.

Resolved to confer also the following Degrees:
A. B. out of course upon Edwin Lyon Allen '88, non grad.

LL.D.

L. L. D. upon George Edward Thibodeau '61

Reports

Noted that the letters from the Faculty be received and referred to the Committee on Instruction.

Pres. elect, Thibodeau, made report of his work so far & set forth his plans.

Pearsons' offer - cf. Sept 6 meet.

Noted that the Board engage in an active effort to meet the conditions of the offer of W. H. Pearsons, to give \$25,000⁺. It is decided that \$5,000⁺ additional be raised, and that the matter be referred to the President-elect with power.

Asst. Professors.

Resolved that, Instructors Robinson and Withers be promoted to Assistant Professors.

Instructors.

Resolved that the Board approve the appointment of Instructors in Modern Languages and Philosophy as proposed by the President-elect.

Adjournment to meet at the Chapel at 9 o'clock Tuesday evening.

1909.

Voted that the policy as to Scholarships, outlined by the President, meets with the approval of the Corporation.

Scholarship policy.

Voted that President Brainerd be appointed Professor Emeritus, and be so designated in future issues of the catalog.

Brainerd Prof. emeritus

Voted to accept the following resolution: Also voted that the Corporation accept, with deep gratitude, the gift of \$30,000 A. Barton Hephburn of thirty thousand dollars to provide a woman professor, and that a Professorship be established, - the incumbent to be a woman, - to be known as the "A. T. Barton Hephburn Professorship".

Hephburn gift.

Attest
John A. Fletcher,
Secretary.

in learning of his ail, improvement
in health and the confident expec-
tion of his physicians that his recov-
ery will be complete at the opening
of the next college year.

Resolution
M. G. Hilton

The Board of Trustees de-
sire to express to Professor Morgan
their high appreciation not only
of the faithful and efficient
services that for so many years he
has given to the College in his
special department of work, but
also for his hearty influence
on the whole student body, especially
in athletic affairs. They trust
that these valuable services may
be long continued to the College.

Resolved to recommend to the stu-
dents their petition, asking that an
athletic fee of five dollars be col-
lected annually to the benefit of each stu-
dent (where?), to be collected by
the College Treasurer.

Position of
Students.
Athletic fee.

Resolved to build the Gymnasium
of gray stone or marble.

Gymnasium
of
Marble.

Resolved to lay on the table, the pro-
posal of H. H. Hagg to grant the degree
of D. D. to President Hild, Consul
of Ripon College, Wisconsin.

Suggestion
ast. a degree

Meeting adjourned

(Attest

John A. Fletcher
Secretary.

April 8, 1909.

Dr. D. K. Pearsons,
Pasadena, Calif.

My dear Dr. Pearsons:

We are very sorry indeed to learn of your illness. Perhaps it will bring you a bit of cheer to know that there has now been promised to us the \$75,000 necessary to complete the conditions of your gift. I expect to have the cash all in within a few weeks, and to be able to send you a list and statement to that effect.

With most earnest gratitude and sincere good wishes for your early recovery, I am

Faithfully yours,

E. F.

February 9, 1910.

Mr. D. K. Pearsons,

Hinsdale, Ill.

My dear Mr. Pearsons:

Every room and every space in our two dormitories for boys is occupied. We can not possibly crowd another boy in. Next fall we shall receive at least forty more boys than we graduate in June. That is conservative: I really believe we shall have 55 more. If we could provide room for them, in two years we could have 100 more boys than can be taken care of in our present accommodations. Our last dormitory for boys was built in 1861, and for seven years we have gained 20 students a year, and the last two years we have gained 55.

We are as badly off for recitation rooms. We have now 19 Professors and only 13 recitation rooms. Next year we shall have 21 teachers, and only 13 rooms. It is hard to know where to put the classes, and we have to keep recitations going until five o'clock, and also Saturdays, when the boys need that time for earning money.

Will you give me \$50,000 if I will raise \$150,000 additional? I want it to build a dormitory for boys, and to provide more recitation rooms. If you will give me until July 1, 1911, I know I can get the money, and I can

have the dormitory ready for that fall. I am in better shape to get \$150,000 now than I was to get the \$75,000 when you made the offer of \$25,000. I would rather you would make me work for it, since it enables me to get other friends, and helps greatly in stirring interest.

60 per cent of our students are from Vermont, and the rest are from plain homes of northern New England and New York. It is out of the question for these boys and girls to go to the expensive colleges all around us. We still give table board at \$3 a week, and propose to keep it so. Our rooms are less than \$1 a week, with heat and light. I am going to put in my life to build and preserve a plain, simple, but good college, for the old Vermont stock. I have no other ambition, and I will not be turned aside. Within a year I have put away suggestions of two \$6000 a year pulpits. My life is in this college: you gave me my first lift, and I turn to you with courage for my second great effort.

We shall have the new building for girls ready, on its magnificent new site - 35 acres - for next fall. We want to call it Pearsons Hall, if you will let us. We shall have 100 girls on that hill, and the building will be full.

The past year I have made myself a missionary to the people of Vermont. I have spoken in 70 towns since July, and have tried to lift up with all my might. This work turns the thought of the Vermont people to our college as never before. We have over 400 applications for catalogues for next year. I appeal to you to help me provide a place for them. With the endowment we had and our new appropriation from the State we are fairly well off for Professors, but we are mighty weak in buildings. With all my strength I appeal to you for help, and I do not want anything better than your old proportion, \$1 to \$3.

Faithfully yours,