

To the Christian Churches of Kentucky

and the Donors of Kentucky University:

The petitions sent up by one hundred and eighty-one Churches, representing an estimated membership of 35,000 to 40,000; and of three hundred and thirty donors to Kentucky University, representing about \$150,000 of subscriptions, were duly presented to the Board of Curators at its extra Session on the 17th of September last. We regret to inform you that not a single one of the requests or demands contained in your petitions were acceded to by the Board. On the contrary, no sooner were they presented, than they were taken from before the Board by the adoption of a resolution, introduced by Curator John Aug. Williams, to refer them to a Committee to prepare an *address* by way of *answer* to them. Your petitions demanded *action* on the part of the Board, and the reference to a Committee to prepare an *answer* to them was evidence of the fixed determination of the Board to disregard your requests. The manner in which your petitions were treated by the Board, and the subsequent action taken, we think, will satisfy you that the majority of the Board are in direct antagonism to your will and wishes, and that you have nothing whatever to expect from them, in carrying out the reforms you demand in the control and management of the University.

The Board being a self-perpetuating body, and declining to pay attention to the wishes of the owners and founders of the University, leaves no alternative but to apply to the Legislature for such amendments of the Charter, as will enable you to control the University as was originally designed by the Charter.

We send herewith a form of petition to the Legislature, suggesting the amendments that in our opinion are required and trust that you will promptly present the petition to the respective congregations for adoption. Should any congregation deem it best not to take formal action by a vote, the same Petition can be used for the signature of the individual members, by filling the first blank with the words, "*Members of the*"; and it will then read: "Your Petitioners, members of the congregation, &c" We, however, suggest that the speediest and most effectual way, is to adopt the Petition by a formal vote of the congregation.

We trust that you will realize the importance of *immediate action* in the one form or the other, as the Legislature will soon assemble. When the Petition is adopted, the officers of the church can certify at the bottom that it was adopted by a formal vote of the church. The Petitions, as soon as adopted or signed, should be at once handed or sent to your immediate Representative with the request that he present it to the House of Representatives, and urge the adoption of the amendments suggested. If prompt and general action is taken by the Christian Churches in Kentucky, the amendments can doubtless be secured, and the University be saved. But no time is to be lost. Please advise us by mail as soon as action is taken by your congregation, informing us of the number of members in the congregation, and also the name of your Representative, who will be requested to present the Petition to the Legislature. We will thus be fully informed and know what course to pursue.

This matter has been delayed until now in the hope that the majority and minority addresses of the Committee would have been issued. They are now in the hands of the printer, but have been greatly delayed, and we cannot say with any certainty when they will be given to the public. As the Legislature is on the eve of assembling, further delay on the part of the churches would jeopardise the adoption of the amendments, which are indispensable to enable you to control and manage your own property. We trust, therefore, that you will act *promptly and decisively* in this matter, which is of such vast importance to the Christian Church of Kentucky and the cause of Education.

DR. J. G. CHINN, Main Street Church, Lexington, Ky.
DR. R. A. GIBNEY, Broadway Church, Lexington, Ky.
OLIVER FARRA, Providence Church, Fayette County, Ky.
SAMUEL COLEMAN, Macedonia Church, Fayette County, Ky.
COL. W. R. ESTILL, Macedonia Church, Fayette County, Ky.
DR. W. H. BARLOW, Georgetown, Scott County, Ky.
A. S. HIBLER, Midway Church, Woodford County, Ky.
J. M. STARKS, Midway Church, Woodford County, Ky.

Committee.

P. S. Please address all communications on the subject to D. W. Standeford Lexington, Ky. 1873