



MIAMI UNIVERSITY . OXFORD . BUTLER CO. O.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY is a seat of learning located at Oxford, Butler County, Ohio, thirty-three miles northwest from Cincinnati. In 1788 J. C. Symmes purchased from the United States one million acres of land, bounded south by the Ohio River, east by the Little Miami, and west by the Great Miami. One condition of this purchase was that a full township, six miles square, should be set apart for the "endowment of an academy and other seminaries of learning." This condition was not complied with: but as the prospect of the establishment of a university within the bounds of Symmes's purchase had induced many to settle there, in 1803 Congress ceded to the State of Ohio the Township of Oxford, to be held in trust for educational purposes. The university was incorporated in 1809. The lands are leased for ninety-nine years (renewable forever without revaluation), the purchase-money producing an income of nearly six thousand dollars. The government of the institution is vested in a board of twenty-seven trustees, appointed by the Governor of the State, with the consent of the Senate, for the term of nine years, nine of whom retire every third year. The faculty consisted of a president and seven instructors. There are three college buildings,—one eighty-six by sixty feet, and three stories high, containing rooms for societies, library, and recitations, with a wing sixty feet

long, containing chapel and offices; the other two are each one hundred by forty feet, and three stories high. The buildings are plain old-fashioned structures, situated in a field of sixty acres, shaded by the native forest. A grammar school was commenced in 1818, and in November, 1824, the college was opened, under the presidency of the Rev. R. H. Bishop, D.D., a graduate of Edinburgh University. Dr. Bishop resigned in 1840, and served as Professor of History till 1845. He was succeeded in the presidency by the Rev. Geo. Junkin, D.D., previously President of Lafayette College, Pennsylvania. He resigned in 1844, and was succeeded by the Rev. E. D. McMaster, D.D., on whose resignation, in 1849, the Rev. W. C. Anderson, D.D., was appointed, who was succeeded in 1854, by the Rev. J. W. Hall, D.D., who resigned in 1866, and was succeeded by the Rev. R. L. Stanton, D.D. The first class, consisting of twelve members, was graduated in 1826. The library contains about eight thousand volumes. The university was suspended in July, 1878, owing to financial and other difficulties, but will probably be resuscitated by action of its alumni, who number nine hundred and sixty-six, among whom are some of the most brilliant lawyers, statesmen, physicians, and scientists in the whole Union.