

ment of the college on a farm site, was everywhere proved, after brief experiment, to be chimerical. Its material prosperity was influential in securing the college for Granville, but the absence of material enterprises has come to constitute one of the chief advantages of the location, while the college itself has come to constitute a sufficient economic basis for the community life, and has given the town a prominence greater than material enterprise could have yielded.

The birth of the enterprise which founded Denison took place at Lebanon, Ohio, when, on the evening of May 25, 1830, seventeen prominent Baptists of the State met, at the close of the anniversary of the Ohio Baptist Convention, at the home of Ichabod Corwin, Sen., the first citizen of Lebanon, and organized the Ohio Baptist Education Society. During that and the following year the Education Society considered propositions from various communities for the location of the institution, the choice of Granville being largely through the activity of Mr. Charles Sawyer and Rev. Allen Darrow, of Granville, who raised a subscription for the farm site offered by the citizens of Granville for the institution. The college opened in December, 1831, in the unfinished Baptist Church building, the college building being wholly incomplete at the time. John Pratt, an alumnus of Brown University, from which institution came the first three presidents and several of the faculty of Denison, was at the beginning not only president, but embodied for a few months the entire faculty in his capable person. Within six months a disastrous fire had destroyed the new college building, but better buildings were promptly erected. By 1834 the thirty-seven students, with which number the institution had begun, had increased to 183, and almost every State in the Union was represented in the list. In spite of the fire, the finances had been so conducted as to show a balance of nearly \$1000 in the current expense report of the college for that year. But the disasters to which reference has been made in the career of Granville rendered the existence of the college a precarious one for many years. The high valuation placed upon a relatively small sum of money is shown in the fact that a standing offer was made by the trustees to name the college for any donor of \$10,000, a condition which was accepted by William S. Denison, of Adamsville, Ohio, in 1856. Just before this the college had been removed from its farm site, a mile southwest of Granville, to its present noble site on the hill overlooking the village, and a strong effort toward securing the removal of the institution was forever set at rest by the efforts of Jeremiah Hall, who went from the pastorate of the Baptist Church in Granville to the presidency of the institution, raising a sum sufficient to secure its retention in Granville.

The first substantial endowment of Denison, amounting to \$100,000, was secured during the presidency of Dr. Talbot, 1863-1873, and was made possible by the sagacity and generosity of such men as Ebenezer Thresher and E. E. Barney, of Dayton, who with their families have formed such constant benefactors and advisors of the institution. The next great advance in the institution came during the stimulating presidency of Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews, and the leadership of Dr. William R. Harper, in the Academy, from 1876 to 1880. These men were then in the beginning of their notable careers. Dr. Purinton's administration, from 1890 to 1901, saw a large increase in equipment and attendance, and witnessed