

Richland Towne City Mo Sept. 25 1837

Dear Sir,

I have an intimate friend who intends at the close of his earthly career, if he continues to prosper, to make a donation of some 20 thousand dollars to the interests of education, confining the bequest to the education of those who are wholly destitute of the means to educate themselves. He wishes too, by this donation, to awaken the public mind in the country where he resides to raise an equal sum for like purposes. Having but a limited knowledge of the various schemes which have been devised to advance the moral and intellectual improvement of the poor, and of giving the greatest influence to the any given amount of means, he now asks of you the outline of a plan which your enlarged experience will enable you to recommend for a purpose he is not in its nature and full of hope for many an humble and immortal being in this distant western land. He intends incorporating in his will as many of the details and unalterably fixing all the leading features of the institution which may grow up from this donation and any funds which may be given to it either by the citizens of the immediate vicinity or the benevolent or other sections of the union. The sum is small and unless he is able to excite the public mind to make liberal additions it would be insufficient to sustain a distinct institution. A question therefore rises whether

it would not be rendered more extensively useful by throwing it into some institution already in operation: but this plan would in a great measure defeat one object of the bequest viz that the poor of the country where it is made shall have the preference. There is another question whether it shall be confined to the elements of an english education or be extended to classical learning. Which course would produce the greatest good to the largest number of human beings? Whether the fund should be cutted in productive stock until it accumulates to a given sum before there is any part of the interest appropriated. These with many other considerations that will naturally present themselves to your own mind will of course be thoroughly recognized.

The details of a plan by which other benevolent individuals may be excited to make donations - the class of beings to whom its benefits are to be extended - the kind of institution with the outlines of a plan ^{upon} which ^{it} ought to be organized and the best means of securing forever the fund for the specific objects of the bequest are all respectfully submitted to your judgment and very extensive experience —

Should you find leisure to enter upon this interesting subject you will confer on me a particular favour by giving me, as early as in your power, the results of your deliberation. I am not unapprised that your whole time is occupied and that I am perhaps taxing too severely an individual whose whole ~~life~~ is devoted to the public good in

thus throwing upon him additional labors - But you
must allow me to plead an apology in the nature of the
subject and your pre-eminent qualifications for its
illustration. Your young friends Allick & Rollins are
doing well in Columbia. Charles Randall - now of
New Orleans spent a night with me a few evenings since.
He is prospering at the Law. Permit me to take this
occasion of returning to you my grateful acknow-
ledgments for the very kind attentions you were pleased
to give my son and the deep influence of your
action upon his present standing & character
in society. It would give me great pleasure
to see ^{you} & I trust should any incident ever throw
you into the distant west I will have the
~~pleasure~~ satisfaction of seeing you.

my roof - Direct to Doctor A. M. Rollins Rich-
land ^{Boonton Post Office} Mo. but not to Columbia

I am with great esteem your friend

A. M. Rollins

David D.

Andrew Wiley D.D.

Rockport, Mo.

Oct 3rd

Glouceston. State
of Indiana