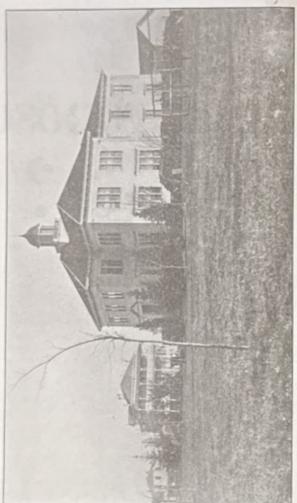
# The Proposed Merger?

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PRESENT BUILDINGS, ALBANY COLLEGE

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No. 2

# THE PROPOSED MERGER OF PACIFIC UNIVERSITY AND ALBANY COLLEGE.

An annoymous brochure appeared, about a year ago, setting forth the advantages of merging Pacific University and Albany College at Forest Grove, which has created a good deal of interest and aroused considerable adverse as

well as favorable opinion.

This brochure was distributed east and west. The position taken has been considered by some unassailable, and its logic irrefutable. As a result, some have decided absolutely in favor of the merger, apparently AT ALL COSTS. The constituents of Albany College, favorable to the continuation of the College at Albany have kept still, but the time seems to have come when that side of the question ought to be presented fairly and fully, so that all parties concerned may be guided to the best conclusion. Surely no one would want to do so important a thing as move a college, without considering carefully all reasons and arguments for and against.

The arguments in favor of Forest Grove seem to be largely two. One, the buildings and campus at Forest Grove; and the other, its nearness to Portland, the claim being that half of the attendance of the average college comes from within a radius of fifty miles, and that within that radius, with Forest Grove as a center, Portland, with its large population, would fall. It is claimed that such a circle would enclose 57% of the population of Oregon, most of which would be Portland. These arguments are neither of them conclusive, as will

readily appear from the considerations herein offered.

### BUILDINGS AND CAMPUS.

It surely would be short-sighted to determine the location of a college, for the next hundred or more years, because of four or five buildings, and a fifty acre campus. Buildings soon grow old and decay, and the campus offered by Albany is quite the equal of the campus to be found at Forest Grove. How much better would it be to build a great institution at Albany, and begin this new institution with absolutely new buildings, of modern construction, substantially built, and up-to-date.

### THE FIFTY MILE RADIUS.

It is wonderfully easy to get together a few statistics, and arrive at the most dazzling and convincing conclusion, and apply the conclusion of the aver-

age to every individual case. The fifty-mile-radius argument is a case in point. But it may well be questioned, if it applies to the State of Oregon. In the first place, fifty miles is not considered as great a distance in Oregon as in New England. The percentage of the population of Oregon that does not travel fifty miles and more, every year, is exceedingly small. To people in New England, and the states adjoining, fifty miles is a long distance. An Oregonian couldn't go fifty miles, and get any where. "Oregon is a state of magnificent distances," and its population is used to travel. To confirm this, look at the catalogs of the State University at Eugene, and the Oregon Agricultural College at Corvallis. A careful survey of last year's catalog of these two institutions, shows that Corvallis had 1095 students from outside a radius of fifty miles, and 530 within such radius, and the State University, at Eugene, shows 479 students from without a radius of fifty miles to 237 within. During the same year the attendance at McMinnville College, a Baptist institution, was 163 from outside the fifty mile radius, to 59 inside. The fact is it does not seem to be a case of distance in Oregon, so much as a matter of EQUIPMENT and LOYALTY. The fifty-mile radius may be a fact in Eastern communities, where people are not accustomed to travel as they are on the Pacific Coast. An examination of the catalogs of the State University and the Agricultural College, will show more Portland students in each, than in all the independent colleges in the State put together, and these two institutions are the farthest away, being 125 and 94 miles from Portland, respectively. All the independent colleges, but one, are nearer Portland. An examination of the three Christian colleges nearest Portland, will also reveal the fact that they do not have more Portland students than other Christian colleges further removed.

### ALBANY AS A LOCATION.

There are some very cogent reasons why Albany is a peculiarly strategic location as the home of a strong Christian college. It is in the center of a large valley, 125 miles long by 60 miles wide. This valley has unlimited agricultural and dairy prospects. It is filling up rapidly with a class of people that are destined to be an important factor in the civilization of this entire State. Forest Grove is in the extreme northwest corner of this valley, close to the foothills, in a portion of the State which does not begin to have the prospects of a rural population equal to Albany. We call special attention to the rural population at this time, and expect to develop that point a little later.

### A RAILROAD CENTER AND TRANSFER POINT.

Albany, as a matter of fact, is a railroad center. Albany has forty-four daily passenger trains, twelve daily freight trains and six tri-weekly freight trains, with the important adjuncts of the Willamette river and the Pacific Highway. Boats ply the Willamette river most of the year, and do a very large freight business. The Pacific Highway is the main artery of travel between Portland and San Francisco, and goes thru the heart of Albany, and on this highway travel a countless multitude of people in automobiles each year. Nothing like this can be said of Forest Grove. It is not on a main

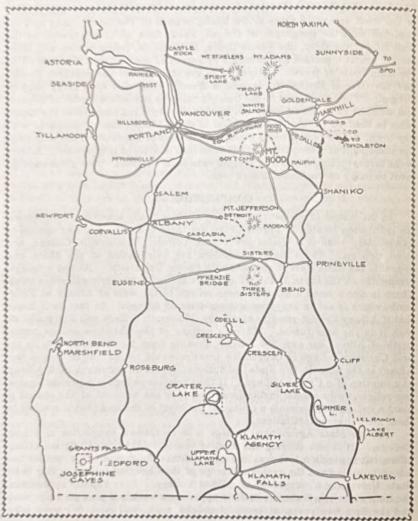
line, nor has it the advantages of river traffic. It is off to one side, and most of its travel has to go thru Portland-an hour and a quarter away-to get anywhere. If access to Portland is any advantage, Albany has two competing lines operating trains to Portland in 21/2 hours. These facts show that Albany is the most reachable place in the State, outside of Portland. Any one acquainted with the geography of Oregon, knows that all of the towns, on the west side of the river, like Forest Grove, McMinnville, Independence, and Monmouth, are at a decided disadvantage by reason of the fact that they are off of the main route of travel. Albany is on the main line of the Southern Pacific, and the Oregon Electric roads, and is directly connected with every part of Oregon. The lowest pass in the Cascade range is immediately east of Albany, and within a short time Albany will be connected by a railroad across the mountains to Eastern Oregon. Its location is easily insuperable as compared with any town. This fact of being a railroad center is of importance, not only from the standpoint of transportation, but from that of student employment. Albany is the largest transfer point in Oregon, outside of Portland. This gives employment to many of the students each year.

### COMPETITION.

In the matter of competition, Albany again is easily ahead of Forest Grove. An institution located in Forest Grove has three colleges, of a like character, immediately near it These are Pacific College, McMinnville College, and Reed College. These three institutions are independent of the State, and appeal to the same class of students with Pacific University. Albany's nearest competitor on the north, is the Willamette University, twenty-eight miles away. There is also a small United Brethren college to the west of Albany at Philomath, which is not in any sense a competitor of Albany. In fact, it is hoped that if Albany College remains at Albany, Philomath College will likely affiliate with it in the near future. There is nothing of the Christian college nature south of Albany for over 700 miles. Coming from the south, Albany is the first Christian college in Oregon the traveler would reach. It is argued that Albany is too near the two State institutions. This is an argument FOR Albany. as a location of a Church College. If the Christian college is a protest against non-religious educational institutions, then it is the business of the church to plant a college and maintain a college in the heart of the field that is reached by these non-religious institutions.

But the State Agricultural College is in no sense a competitor of Albany College. It is not offering the kind of education that the Christian college offers, but is purely a technical and agricultural college, and offers courses that are quite aside from the genius and scope of the Christian college. Nor is the State University a competitor of Albany College. It is rapidly approaching the time where it will confine itself to upper-class work and post graduate work, and the first two years, at least, of college work, will soon fall upon other shoulders.

If the Christian college can have the handling of students thru even no more than Freshman and Sophomore year, it will accomplish much of its missWe herewith submit a cut, recently published in a Portland paper, showing the public highways of the State. Forest Grove would appear near Hillsboro, off any main line of travel. This cut is eloquent with facts.



MAP OF OREGON HIGHWAYS.

-Courtesy Oregon Journal

ion, for if any students do elect to take their last two years in the State Institution, they will never forget the atmosphere nor pass beyond the influence of those first two years in Christian surroundings. President Campbell, of the State University, has indicated in correspondence and public utterances, an agreement with much of this paragraph, referring to the State University.

### STATISTICS.

Using the same authority, Polk's Directory, the proposition is to move the college from Albany, a town of 7,000 population, to Forest Grove, a town of twenty-five hundred population; from Albany, with its three Presbyterian churches, to Forest Grove with none. Both colleges involved in the proposed merger have excellent Conservatories of Music. Albany has five pipe organs, Forest Grove has none. This branch of the music department of Albany is very prominent.

Linn county, of which Albany is the county seat, is larger than the state of Delaware. Its outgoing freight, the last year, was 100 car loads of prunes, \$150,000 worth of clover seed, and an immense amount of lumber, mohair, wool, hops, peppermint oil, butter, eggs, furniture, fruit, walnuts, berries, and a long list. In the last six months three new industries have appeared in Albany, a cheese factory, a logan-berry-juice factory, and a furniture factory. The outlook of Albany as an industrial center is very great, and this is important from the standpoint of student employment. There does not begin to be the opportunity for student employment in Forest Grove that there is in Albany, and there never will be, for Albany and Linn county have the possibilities of development and growth, which can never come to Forest Grove because of its cramped location. Forest Grove is away from the main line of travel.

### RURAL POPULATION.

It is a matter of statistics that colleges like Pacific University, and Albany College, do not get their students from cities like Portland. This has been carefully worked out by Professor Fisk, of Oberlin College, in his book entitled "The Challenge of the Country," and it is a fact discovered and confirmed by the experience of the Christian colleges of Oregon, that the students of the Christian colleges come very largely from the country. The leaders of America, from the beginning, to the present moment, have come in a very large measure from the country districts, and the result of Professor Fisk's investigation shows that seven, out of every ten students, on the average, come from the farm; that six, out of every seven Christian college professors, sprung from the farm; that seven, out of every ten, men school teachers come from the country; that three out of every four business men, were brought up on the farm; that two, out of every three, church members came from the country, and that seven, out of every eight ministers were country born. These classes mentioned are THE PEOPLE FOR WHOM THE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE exists, and who become the leaders in their respective communities.

If America is to be furnished with Christian leaders, her Christian colleges must be located, not in the densely populated cities, but in the center of a large and growing rural population. Large cities have some natural advantages that go with a large population, but most of these are not conducive to studious habits, and Christian character, the aim of the Christian college. It is manifest wisdom and policy on the part of the church to see that the Christian college is located where it can reach those people, who have in them the capabilities to become leaders in the world's civilization. Money invested in Christian college work is invested in national leadership, and that money, and that Christian college will bring the largest returns, if located where its constituency lives, away from the contaminating life and disturbing attractions of the city, and in the cleaner, freer, quieter atmosphere of the country.

It is an interesting fact that Professor Fisk's book shows from statistics which he gathered personally from Pacific University, that ninety-five per cent of the students of Pacific University came from the farm. These are evidently their own figures, and demonstrate quite conclusively that nearness to Portland does not insure the attendance of students from Portland.

### WHO IS BEHIND THE MERGER?

This is a question not easily answered. No one seems willing to father the movement. The College Board has declared itself in favor of it, for reasons best known to itself. The majority of the Presbyterians in Oregon are not behind the movement. The Congregationalists in Oregon are not interested, unless the result be wholly non-denominational. The two Foundations in the East are reported favorable to the enterprise, which is perfectly natural. But are they interested in a Presbyterian college as such? Of course not. Their one thought is to reduce the number of colleges in the Willamette valley. They care nothing for Presbyterian traditions, and history, and they have a right to their position. But so have the Presbyterians a right to Presbyterian loyalty, and Presbyterian tradition, and it is quite manifest that so far as Oregon is concerned, a very small minority of Presbyterians only is interested in moving Albany College to Forest Grove. If this is accomplished, it simply means one less college in the Willamette valley, and no Presbyterian college in Oregon. Albany's lamp will be simply snuffed out.

### A PRESBYTERIAN INSTITUTION.

Albany College has floated the banner of Presbyterianism to the breezes for fifty years. It is, and has been, without cessation, and against great temptations, a Presbyterian college. Pacific University, at Forest Grove, was started in early days by the Congregationalists, but it yielded to the temptation, which came to many colleges a few years ago, and cast off its denominational allegiance. It is now a Christian college, without church affiliation, and with no church sponsor, except so far as the Congregationalists have a sentimental attachment for it. The Congregationalists of Oregon form, in a way, a small constituency that have an interest in Pacific University. The proposition now before us is to move Albany College, a Presbyterian college, in a

Presbyterian center, to Forest Grove, to become a non-denominational college, in a community in which there is no Presbyterian church, and whose most prosperous organization is Christian Science. The Albany Presbyterians have erected a large, beautiful stone church at a cost of \$40,000, so as to minister adequately to the College constituency, and this is to be cast aside as not worth considering. The faculty and students of Albany College, so far as they are Presbyterians, are asked to leave their Presbyterian privileges and connections, and go to a town where there are no such connections, and as long as they remain in that town, to be disconnected, ecclesiastically, from the Mother church, and be obliged to worship with some other Christian communion. How much better would it be if we are going to have a Presbyterian college, to have that Presbyterian college in a place where there are Presbyterian equipment, traditions, and associations. To go to Forest Grove means a non-denominational college, quite separated from Presbyterian communion. For Pacific University to come to Albany and merge with Albany College, does not involve the severance of such ties. They are already officially separated from the Congregational church. If there is to be any merging, let that be at Albany.

### FEWER COLLEGES.

The cry is that there are too many colleges in the Willamette valley, and that there ought to be fewer colleges. This is a statement which seems to have some justification, but when examined closely, is without foundation. People living at a distance from Oregon are apt to be unacquainted with its geography Oregon is divided into Eastern and Western Oregon. Eastern Oregon is twothirds of the State, and is naturally a stock raising country. It will always produce, in an increasing degree, the wealth which it has produced in the past, but it can never have the population that Western Oregon has, and the State recognizes this fact by placing all but one of its public institutions in the Willamette valley. This is a wonderfully significant fact. If the best judgment of the public officials of the state locates the public institutions for the whole State in the Willamette valley, there must be a reason. That reason naturally is that the climate and soil of Eastern Oregon can never have the population now found, or to be found, in Western Oregon, and that, therefore, the public institutions of the State ought to be west of the Cascade mountains. The trend of travel is much greater from Eastern Oregon to Western Oregon than the opposite. What has been said of the State institutions is true of the Christian colleges in Oregon. They are all west of the Cascade Range, but they each have a state constituency. The people of Eastern Oregon recognize that the advantages of Western Oregon are in many instances superior. The distances in Eastern Oregon are great, and the centers are few. The distances in Western Oregon are not so great, and the centers are many. There is a good reason for the location of the Christian colleges of Oregon in the Willamette valley. They each represent the whole state in their respective denominations, and their location in the Willamette valley is manifestly a wise

### STUDENT EMPLOYMENT.

A college like Albany College ought to be located with a view to student help. It is absolutely imperative in locating a Christian college, to have in mind the opportunities for students helping themselves thru college. Here is the record of men students for one year in Albany College: Five students working in stores, at about \$12 a month; five for the Wells Fargo Express Company, at about \$15 a month; four janitors, at \$15 a month; one collecting, \$25 a month: two secured employment in the local Y. M. C. A., at \$20 a month; two in a law office, \$15 a month; two hotel assistants for board, room, and some money: five employed in connection with the fire department for room and \$10 a month; five office janitors at \$5 a month; seven paper routes at \$8 a month; one electrical supply company, 30c an hour; one helper iron foundry, 35c an hour; one library janitor, \$20 a month; one restaurant helper, board and \$10 a month; one helper at depot \$25 a month; four regular lawns to care for, 25c per hour; two on a ranch near town for board and room; several secured work mowing lawns, putting in wood, spading gardens, washing windows, beating carpets, etc., at 25c an hour, for all of which there is manifestly more opportunity in a town of 7,000 population than in a town of 2,500. Albany has twenty-seven paper routes, and there are always opportunities for the students to secure some of these routes. A student that took his entire four years at Albany College, and worked his way all those four years, without help, says: "The four years I have been here, I have found it the rule that the fellows that really wanted to work could find more than they could do, and fully enough to pay all expenses, or nearly all." There is absolutely no doubt that the opportunities for student help in Albany are considerably greater than in Forest Grove, and always will be.

The statistics just given have to do only with the young men attending college. There were a number of young ladies who managed most or all of their expenses the same year in the following way: One assistant in the public library; three assistants in the College library; two did substitute teaching; two worked by the hour in law offices; seven did housekeeping, and one played piano for the gymnasium classes in the city Y. M. C. A., at \$10 a month. A town of 7,000 necessarily offers more advantages to girls in above lines, than a town one-third the size. In addition to all the above, a new furniture factory has been started in Albany, within the last six months, that supports thirty-five families. The output of this factory for the next two years has already been sold. The manager of the factory expects to be able to give employment to students for piece work by another year, that will take care of many more students, in the matter of their expenses.

### WHAT WILL THEY MOVE?

The writer remembers, when a boy, reading a story of adventure, perhaps by Jules Verne, in which the people landed on some unexplored island, and found a cave in which they entered. After searching far within, they came to the form of a man lying in a remote, undisturbed nook. The body lay in

nerfect form and shape, as it had been in life, but when they came close to it. and touched it, it instantly crumbled into dust. The effort to remove Albany College would be equally abortive and futile. The forty-eight acre campus would be irrevocably lost, and there would be nothing left but the endowment and the equipment of the College. It is problematical how much endowment could be moved from Albany, but one thing is absolutely certain, that a large part of it and probably all of it, cannot be moved, and that the debt will have to be. If Albany College moves to Forest Grove, it will take little or no endowment and all the debt. It is uncertain how many of the students would go. The sentiment, tradition and affection of the present constituency, would largely be lost. The College could not even take its name, for Albany College could naturally be located only at Albany. The outworking of the plan would simply mean the ending of Albany College, with its fifty years of Presbyterian history, and the beginning of a non-denominational college at Forest Grove. with such histories and traditions as now exist, at Forest Grove. Is it possible that true loyal Presbyterians can countenance such a move ? If Albany be retained as the home of the College, this will be avoided, and the present Presbyterian history, traditions and assets will be preserved.

### COMPARISON OF BANKS.

| There are two banks in Forest Grove and four in .<br>Grove, the capital, surplus and undivided profits are: | Albany.  | In Forest  |
|---|----------|--|
| First National Bank Forest Grove National   | \$       | 59,000.00<br>66,000.00                               |
| Making a total of   | \$       | 125,000.00   |
| In Albany the capital, surplus and undivided profits  | are:     |  |
| First National Bank First Savings Bank J. W. Cusick and Company, Bankers Albany State Bank                  | S        | 53,497,00  |
| Making a total of   | \$       | 415,371.00   |
| Statistics recently gathered also show the following c<br>Grove, the First National Bank Deposits are       | \$       | 160,000.00   |
| Making a total of   | \$       | 590,000.00   |
| The deposits at the same time in Albany were,   |          |  |
| First National Bank. First Savings Bank. J. W. Cusick and Company, Bankers. Albany State Bank.              | \$<br>\$ | 616,612.00<br>497,592.00<br>394,953.00<br>128,915.00 |
| Making a total of   | \$       | 1,638,072.00   |

In each case Albany has three times the advantage of Forest Grove, and this means more advantages every way at Albany.

### THE ETHICS OF IT.

The deed of gift of the land upon which the College stands provided for the maintenance of a college under Presbyterian auspices AT ALBANY. The church accepted the trust, and the Articles of Incorporation have always provided for the maintenance of a college AT ALBANY. Some five or six years ago a campaign for an endowment fund of \$250,000.00 was begun, with the co-operation and encouragement of the College Board. At that time we were assured, and this assurance was passed along to the citizens of Albany, that the completion of this fund would insure the establishment of the College upon a permanent basis, and thus continue it at Albany forever. With this assurance a vigorous campaign was conducted in Albany and its vicinity, to which the commercial organizations of the city gave active assistance, and \$25,000 or \$30,000 were added to the endowment funds from this source.

What helped to make this possible was the faith and confidence aroused by the backing of the College Board. It was at the suggestion of the College Board representative that the College ever thought of a new campus. It was represented to the College Trustees, that only by such a move could an endowment fund ultimately be raised. We were told that givers would not aid at all, with only a seven acre campus, and two old buildings, and no room for further growth, and definite plans ahead, requiring years of accomplishment. And so, with this urging and incentive, from outside sources, Albany College proceeded to acquire a new campus, and outline a large plan for building, looking forward fifty years for its fulfillment. We are in the midst of this great move, when suddenly we are halted, and ordered to merge with Pacific University at Forest Grove.

The citizens of Albany have always taken an active interest in the institution, and, for many years, contributed considerable sums annually for its maintenance, improvements and equipment. They have made the College a feature in the advertisement of the city, and many families have been attracted to the city by this means. It would be interesting to know how much money Albany has put into the College in its fifty years of history. The original building in 1866 cost \$8,000, and was built with Albany money. Up to the time of the creation of the College Board in 1883, the citizens of Albany went down in their pockets, year after year, and met the deficits of the College to an amount that must have run into the thousands. In 1893, when the College was enlarged, at a cost of \$17,000, about three-fourths of this was raised in Albany. In 1898, on one memorable day, between sunrise and sunset, thirty-five people visited every house, store, shop and factory in town, and raised, in twelve hours, \$4,600.00, which was more than enough to pay off the debt then existing on the College. In the years 1886 to 1895 the citizens of Albany put up a guarantee varying from \$300 to \$1,000 a year, to meet any possible deficit in current expenses. In 1896, seven men, six from Albany assumed the interest on the debt for three years, that every dollar paid toward it from other sources might be applied to the principal. This amount totaled \$1,365 in three years. In 1901 Albany citizens gave the second building, Tremont Hall, to the College.



ARCHITEOT'S SKETCH

This building is estimated at \$4,000. These are some facts known to the writer, but it undoubtedly does not tell all the story.

Naturally, the citizens of Albany view with alarm any move to deprive them of the College. They cannot feel toward the college in any other locality the same as they feel toward it at Albany. The ardent Presbyterian supporters of the College can never feel the same toward the College Board. And what is worse, the confidence in the other Boards will be affected. All this has been intimated by word and letter from every part of the State. It is difficult to overestimate the seriousness of this move, in its effect on all the Boards of the Church. The advantages coming from removal must be great to offset the local harm done to the Church and Presbyterian cause.

If the Board acquiesces in the recommendation of the College Board, and closes the doors of the College, and undertakes to remove its funds and property to Forest Grove, it will, in the judgment of many of the Board, not only commit an unpardonable breach of trust, but will forever stultify itself and the Church in the eyes of many.

Moreover, our attorneys advise us that every donor to the endowment funds of the College has the right to insist that the whole fund be administered, without diminution, in accordance with the terms of the trust, and that the courts will restrain any attempted breach of trust by the diversion of any part of this fund. Several Portland lawyers and judges, who have had experience in similar efforts, have been consulted, and they all agree that the gifts of land and money to Albany, are so worded, as to make removal a legal impossibility.

### THE THING TO DO.

What then is the right step to take? Manifestly to drop all thought and all talk of moving Albany College any where, and proceed to build up a greater Albany on the new campus. This can easily be done with the continued cooperation of the College Board, and the solid support of all the Oregon Presbyterians. We can thus soon solve our present troubles, and launch out into such a future as the founders of the College dreamed of, and which we, who are now responsible for the College's welfare, should strain every effort to attain. We owe it to our history, to the early founders, to those who have made sacrifices these many years, to the church, and to the young people coming up to college years, to establish Albany more firmly than ever, bring our present plans to a speedy and grand fulfillment, and rally all forces to the erection of new buildings on Monteith Campus.

### RESUME.

We respectfully call attention to the points which are herewith presented as being worthy of a careful and prayerful consideration.

First, Albany is the geographical center of a great and growing rural population.

Second, Albany is the greatest railroad center in the State outside of Portland, and, therefore, offers the best facilities of transportation.

Third, Albany is the greatest transfer point in the State outside of Portland, and therefore, offers the greatest opportunity for student help.

Fourth, Albany is three times the size of Forest Grove.

Fifth, Albany has less competition than Forest Grove.

Sixth, Albany is a greater industrial center than Forest Grove.

Seventh, Albany is a Presbyterian city. Forest Grove is not.

Eighth, Albany is the choice of the majority of the Presbyterians of Oregon.

Ninth, Albany's assets will largely melt away, if an attempt is made to remove them.

Tenth, The removal of Albany College from Albany involves a serious breach of morals.

### NOTA BENE.

The arguments herein offered are not given in any controversial spirit, nor with any intention of showing opposition to the wishes of the College Board. Such a serious and lasting step as moving an established college should be considered from all sides, and the side here presented is given that all concerned may be enabled to reach a final conclusion pleasing to the Lord, in conformity to His Will. We are feeling out to discover God's plan.

### A FINAL WORD.

All the Oregon Presbyterians, the College Board, and our friends who help us with individual gifts, should remember that this year's expenses are going right on, and that whatever the future has in store, Albany College is the Presbyterian College of Oregon this year, and it is a matter of common honesty, that all gifts, church collections, and aid for current expenses should be faithfully sent to the College so that we can close the year without a deficit. In that case, if we go, we go with honor, and without an increased burden, and if we stay, we stay with an honorable record for the year. Do not fail to send us your church collections, and gifts for this year's current expenses. We are morally bound to operate till June.

