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OBLIGATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE CHURCHES at **THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI.**

If we go back a few years in the history of education in our country, we shall reach a time when the majority of our youth attended church colleges in some of which religious training was given considerable emphasis. Less than ten years ago six private institutions of the East—Harvard, Columbia, Yale, Princeton, Pennsylvania and Brown—enrolled more students than the six largest state universities in the Mississippi Valley. But the remarkable growth of state universities, especially in the Middle West, has caused a very noteworthy change to take place in the comparative enrollment.

Last session according to a table compiled by Dr. Henry S. Prichett, President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and published in the *Atlantic Monthly* for September, the enrollment of the six largest private institutions of the East—Harvard, Columbia, Yale, Pennsylvania, Princeton and Brown—was eighteen thousand four hundred and ninety-eight (18,498). The six largest state universities—Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, California, Wisconsin and Nebraska—enrolled in the same session twenty thousand eight hundred and eighty (20,880), an excess in enrollment of two thousand three hundred and eighty-two (2,382) over that of the above mentioned private institutions. Many of the state universities have just begun to grow, and they are increasing in enrollment by the hundreds from year to

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year. In 1895, Illinois had an enrollment of eight hundred and seven (807) and Missouri of seven hundred and fifty-three (753). Last session the enrollment at Illinois was more than thirty-five hundred (3,500) and the enrollment at Missouri will be over twenty-one hundred (2,100) in the current session. But for an outbreak of typhoid fever at the opening in September, the enrollment of the latter would be much larger.

A census of the students enrolled in state universities shows that they come from families that are church adherents. In the current session eighteen hundred and ninety-four students (1,894) have matriculated in the University of Missouri. Of this number, sixteen hundred and ninety-four are enrolled at Columbia. The church affiliations of these are as follows:

DENOMINATION	MEMBERS	CHURCH PREFERRED	TOTAL
Methodist	264	130	394
Christian	225	108	333
Presbyterian	186	81	267
Baptist	171	70	241
Episcopal	64	22	86
Catholic	49	5	54
Congregational	33	14	47
Lutheran	12	3	15
Jewish	9	4	13
Evangelical	9	1	10
Latter Day Saints	3	1	4
Universalist	3	2	5
Christian Science	1	1	2
United Presbyterian	1	—	1
Reformed	1	—	1
Zion	—	1	1
Unitarian	—	6	6
Salvation Army	—	1	1
Quaker	—	1	1
Reformed	1	—	1
Peoples	1	—	1
Those expressing themselves as having no preference			211

It appears from the above table that one thousand and thirty-two students (1,032) are church members and four hundred and fifty-one (451) prefer certain churches. Only two hundred and eleven (211) of the entire number are wholly indifferent in regard to the matter of church affiliation. To state the same fact in somewhat more graphic

fashion, the percentage of church members is 60.9, of those having church preference 26.6, while the percentage of those without any church affiliation is only 12.5. Combining the first two classes under the head of church adherents, we have 87.5 per cent of the total enrollment with church affiliation. That is, of the sixteen hundred and ninety-four students, fourteen hundred and eighty-three are church adherents. These young men and young women may without any exaggeration be called the flower of our state. They come from all ranks of society and are the children of persons following nearly all the pursuits to which men devote themselves. They are preparing themselves to be teachers, farmers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, preachers, merchants, editors, mechanics, nurses, etc. From their ranks will unquestionably come many of the future leaders in our state and nation, men and women who will mould public opinion and direct its movements. Statistics show that the man of culture has always been an important factor in society. There never was a time when he was such an important factor as he is in these early days of the twentieth century.

While the University of Missouri cannot provide formal religious instruction for its students, it is using every agency available for religious training in a state university. In choosing men to fill the various professorships, there is no religious test, but the first requisite is such a high moral character as to make them suitable teachers for our youth. The Young Men's Christian Association and the Young Women's Christian Association have the hearty support of the University authorities and they are doing a splendid work in systematic Bible study and in other lines of religious work. Noted ministers are invited from time to time to preach to the students. In the current session, sermons have been given by Dr. J. W. Lee, pastor of St. John's Church, St. Louis; Rt. Reverend John J. Glennon, Archbishop of St. Louis, and Dr. E. R. Hendrix, Bishop of the M. E. Church South. A number of other well-known ministers will preach to the students during the session.

The source of aid that is most important of all is the enthusiastic co-operation of the various churches. This source of help in the religious training of its students the University does not have in full measure. The result is that large numbers of young men and young women who are to be the future leaders in our state are left almost en-

tirely to the care of the local churches in the matter of formal religious instruction. These local churches are not able to give them the attention that they deserve, for they are overcrowded with their own duties. Does not a weighty obligation rest upon the various denominations to make special provision for the formal religious training of their adherents in the University, and also for those who are not church adherents, as far as they can be reached? However this question may be answered no one will deny that the churches have here a great opportunity which they are either only partially using or wholly neglecting. No such opportunity has been offered in modern times to win the future leaders in politics, in education, in business and in society. By establishing Bible colleges, church houses, Bible chairs, and college pastorates the churches could promote the moral and religious life of large numbers of young men and young women who will in the future be enrolled as students in the University. No one can measure the tremendous influence for good that may be exerted upon young people through constant contact and association with a resident pastor or head of a dormitory whose character and ideals would inspire them to the highest type of life, quite apart from the formal religious instruction that might be given. Such work is being done in neighboring states. The church of the Disciples maintains Bible chairs at Michigan and Kansas. The Presbyterian church has recently established a church house and placed a college pastor at Kansas and decided to put a college pastor at Illinois. The Episcopal church has established a guild house for boys and a church house for girls at Illinois. Some of the denominations are beginning to feel the obligations and appreciate the opportunity offered at Missouri. One denomination has already established a Bible College adjacent to our campus. Another has within the last month appointed a committee to investigate the advisability of making some special provision for the care of its adherents enrolled here. Others are seriously considering the whole matter. A mighty uplift to the religious life of the University community will come when all the denominations extend to the University authorities their enthusiastic co-operation.

J. C. JONES,
Acting President.

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