

(James M. Brown + J. E. Edwards)

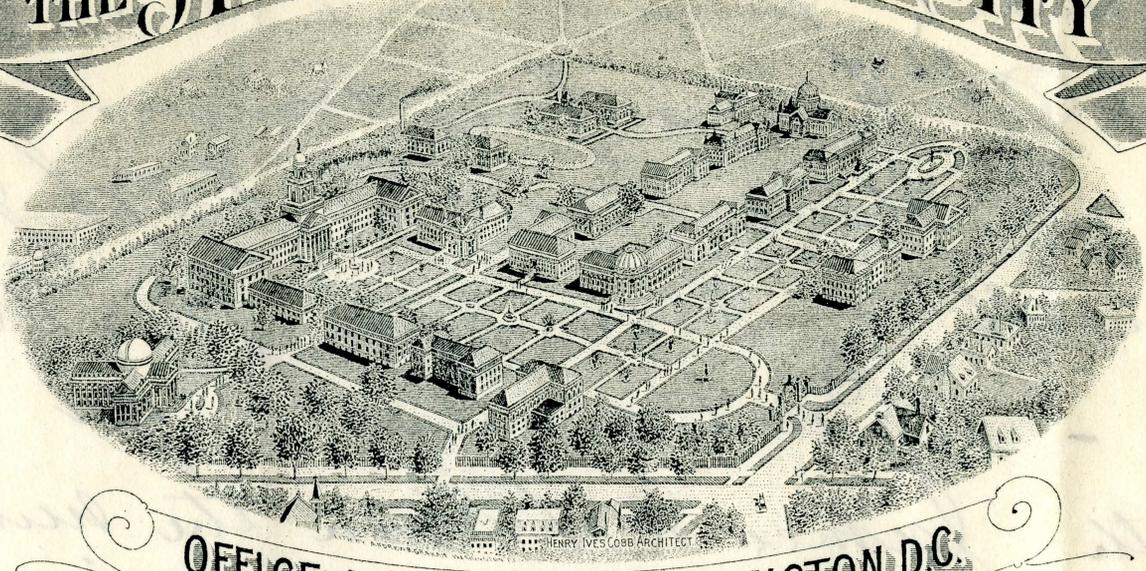
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My Dear Dr Davidson

49 Broadway
New York N.Y.
July 16/05

First of all let me congratulate you most heartily on the ~~results~~ of your trip to Indiana - That was a master stroke - I did pray for you most heartily & you must have worked most skillfully. I have always said, our efforts are rewarded in surprise so we can never tell what a day will bring forth, that fact alone often tides me over many discouraging days - This past week or two the weather has been about the worst I ever knew & even now it was 4 below zero this morning & the streets are one solid coating of ice - I spent two days in New York this week amid storms & icy pavements under most trying conditions & the discouraging feature of it is that almost everybody that has money has run away from the conditions prevailing & are not to be found around here - I guess you have most of them

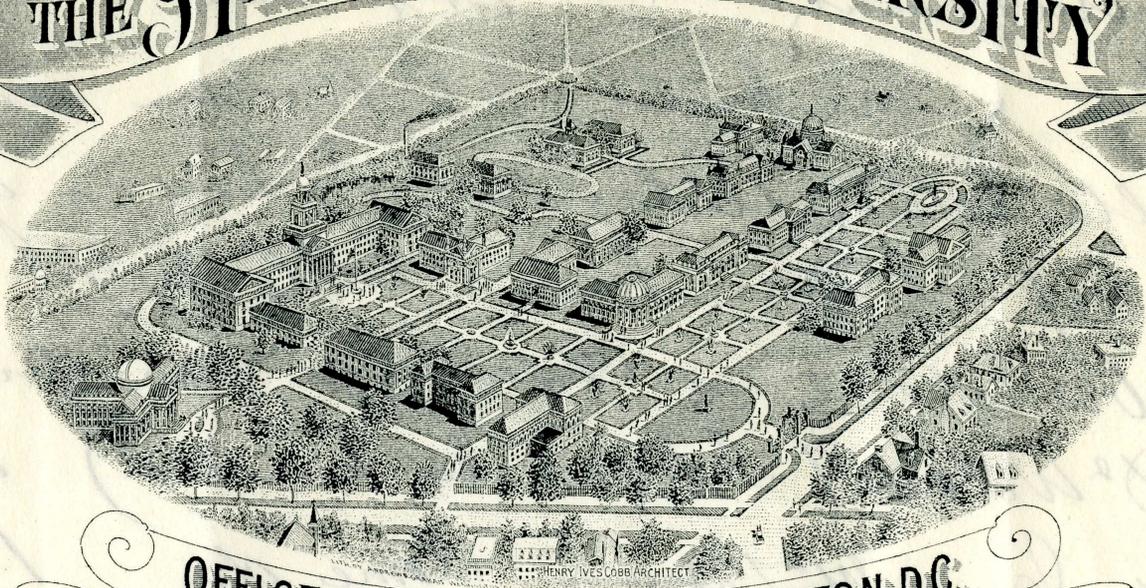
down in Florida & you may thank your stars that
you are so highly favored as to be in Florida
just now - I have a few promises of small
amounts for 1st March such as \$200 from Mr
James Pearsall & \$50 or \$100 from Mrs Simpson
of Scranton - I did manage to get a nice
interview with James H. Brown the millman
Methodist Banker of Brooklyn this ^{last} week - He
had been prejudiced against us by some Wesleyan
influences & was at first disposed to question the wisdom
of starting new Colleges with others struggling for life.
I explained the scope of ours & pointed out the unique
features which differentiated it from the ones he referred
to. He then admitted there should be a representation
Methodist Movement in Washington & he saw the
advantages of it he said. It was only a question of the
means within our reach to carry it out. He said he
would like to see it accomplished but feared the result
because he said "Methodists had such small ideas." He
then related a most interesting talk he had had with
John C. Andrews & how he had been trying to prevail upon
him to do some big thing with his money, while he had
the chance & not leave it behind for others to fool away.
He said to him "Andrews you are not getting your money
out of your wealth" "Why don't you make use of it in
such a way as to see the good of it & lead out in something
big." He said now if Andrews would lead off with a

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Million or so, we fellows would back him up & you
have in your board men wealthy enough to put the
American University - on a sure foundation & that would
inspire the rest of us with confidence - I said "you
talk like a man after my own heart & if we could
have you in our board to talk like that it would be
worth a million to us - I said it surprises me a little
to hear you express these broad ideas especially after
saying what you did about our efforts to build a new
College I said it seems to me that our founders here had
the big ideas that you seem to possess & are way ahead
of the Church that ought to encourage them. (He had expressed
regret that we had lost to Methodism such men as Cadman
because though able we need allowing other denominations to
get them because they possessed broader ideas) And now that
we have gone ahead with this big enterprise, we had shown our
spirit & all we needed was such men as him to back us
up. He said, I am giving some consideration to what
I shall do for education in the near future & I am

