The negotiations with the Mahoning Presbytery seemed to have culminated in June 1871 when a direct proposition was made by the Trustees to the Presbytery to modify the articles of association to read that a majority of the trustees should always be Methodists and that this modification or change should be made by the trustees when $10,000 of a proposed $15,000 endowment had been raised. That is, the Presbytery was to have the ruling voice in the Seminary if they would raise $10,000. The Board had already employed Mr. Lee at a salary of $1200.00 a year not including expenses, he as a financial agent raising this money, he not to receive anything until $10,000 had been raised.

I find that on October 5, 1873 Mr. Lee as financial agent reported that he had raised $10,000 in good and reliable subscriptions, but owing to difficulties he had not made much progress in raising the remainder of the $15,000. It should be remembered that 1873 was the year of the panic.

On April 17, 1874, Article 5th of the Constitution of the P U S was changed - provided that a majority of the Trustees should belong to the Presbyterian Church, the other members should be distributed among other religious denominations, so provided that a portion of said trustees may consist of persons who are not members of any Church but were of good moral character.

On April 20, 1874 the Presbytery expresses itself as satisfied that the conditions on which it proposed to its patrons had all been satisfied. It thanked Mr. Lee for his good offices and the arrangement was consummated, that is, the Poland Union Seminary became a Presbyterian institution.

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The question of Miss Blakelee's salary is interesting and amusing in view of what I was to receive later. It seems that on June 15th, 1874 it was proposed to reduce her salary from $700.00 to $600.00 and the principal to receive $1000.00. On June 22, 1874 the minutes record that Miss Blakelee "felt much aggrieved by the action of the Board and declined to teach at the reduction. It was on motion resolved that Miss Blakelee be employed at a salary of $700.00 for the ensuing year." It seems that Professor Clark then principal declined like Miss Blakelee to accept the reduction in his salary. It was then offered to a Rev. Geo. S. Rice and he declined, so they offered Mr. Clark $1100.00 which he took.

It was on April 3, 1876 that the changes made in the principal and the man I was to know, the Reverend William Dixon, D.D. was elected. He was to be paid $1200.00 and Miss Blakelee $800.00. On September 3, 1877 Mr. Lee was finally voted $1825.00 in payment for his work as financial trustee. On further subscriptions he was to be allowed seven percent.

In July 1878 salaries were reduced, Dr. Dixon's to $1050.00 - Miss Blakelee's to $700.00. April 1879 it was voted that the salary of Dr. Dixon be reduced to a $1000.00, Miss Blakelees to $600.00, Miss Simpson to $350.00. This went into an agreement and after paying the contingent expenses of the institution the teachers were to receive all the income of the Seminary including tuition and endowment interest pro rata.

In April 1879 Miss Blakelee was reported as refusing to teach at a salary of $600.00. This refusal of hers led to the raising of the salary to $650.00 and was accepted by all the teachers. She taught that year but resigned in the spring of 1880

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and it was more/the question of salary as one would I gather from the minutes than the fact that she was not willing to go on/longer with the impossible Dr. Dixon/ to which I applaud her. Her resignation was accepted.

The minutes of June 9th, 1880 record the following:

"On motion the treasurer was instructed to pay B. F. Lee $4.88 bill paid A. Hubbard, also to A. Camphill. $30. to $31. After the above bills are paid the balance in the hands of the treasurer to be divided among the teachers pro rata.

"On motion the following resolution was adopted. Whereas Miss E. M. Blakelee has decided to sever her connection with the Poland Union Seminary we the trustees of the Seminary to tender the following - Resolved that as Miss Blakelee has for a long term of years been a most faithful and successful teacher in the Seminary and has by her intellectual culture combined with dignity and courtesy won the affection of her pupils and the respect and friendship of the entire community and possessing a religious character not ostentatious but ever shining brightly among those who knew her best her influence has always tended to promote the love of truth and uprightness with the students of the Seminary. Therefor we do hereby express our sincere regrets that she has made this decision and also our earnest desire that her life hereafter may be as bright and happy as it has been heretofore useful. Resolved that a copy of the above be tendered to Miss Blakelee and that it be published in the Register and Tribune and the and recorded in the minutes of the Seminary by order of the Board.

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"On motion B. F. Lee was appointed to go to Meadville and visit persons who the committee have been corresponding with as teachers to fill the place of Miss Blakelee and his expenses to be paid out of the funds of the Seminary.

"On motion R. L. Walker was appointed to act with the committee to procure a teacher."

---------- July 9, 1880

"On motion Miss Tarbell was elected Preceptress of the Seminary for the year beginning August 23, 1880 at a salary of five hundred dollars per year. On motion B. F. Lee was elected to inform Miss Tarbell of her election by the board."

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In the minutes of July 9, 1880 they do not record of course that Mr. Robert Walker always considered it a great joke and often repeated it to me that I was employed on my looks. It seems that Mr. Lee reported Harriett Carter and myself. Harriet was an experienced teacher; she was when she graduated I think perhaps forty five years old - an admirable woman. She would have made a fine Preceptress for Poland Union Seminary. Mr. Lee understood this. He also was impressed by my enthusiasm, my eagerness and when he made his report he said he weighed our qualities as submitted Mr. Walker said, "I do not see how we can decide on your report. I suppose we take the better looking one." Mr. Lee was shocked and said, "Why, Mr. Walker you wouldn't employ a teacher for Poland Union Seminary on her looks." "No, but we can't decide from your report which is the better of these two applicants. We might as well have looks thrown in." He said, "Of course Miss Tarbell is young."

And so Mr. Walker always reminded me, "You were elected as Preceptress on your looks." That of course does not go into the minutes.

Dr. Dixon resigned on March 1881. I cannot recall now what was back of it but there was a general dissatisfaction I am sure. I know I held him in high contempt.

There is a paragraph in the minutes of June 15th, 1881 that seems to explain the dissatisfaction.

"The following resolution was unanimously adopted. Resolved that in view of the fact that the principal of this Seminary has not done full work during the past year and having received a salary for services rendered elsewhere the Board of Trustees

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respectfully request the principal to deduct $100 from his salary."

William H. Tibballs who I remember with satisfaction and with a little amusement was elected in place of Dr. Dixon at a salary of $1000.00. I find no minutes of my re-election.

I find no report of my resignation. As I cannot recall the condition. Mr. Tibballs was much more modern in his methods than anybody they had had before was strongly criticised. There was a committee of the trustees appointed on teachers and discipline, this in March1882, and this committee was to have oversight and report to the Board at each regular meeting on the workings of the school. It was to act as an advisory committee for the faculty on all matters pretaining to the school. I have vague recollections that Dr. Tibballs and Miss Simpson and I resented the departure but at all events it had become an impossible position for me.

They had some trouble I recall in replacing us and finally got a good man - Professor A. J. Clark of Oberlin at a salary of $1400.00 much beyond what they had ever before offered. And so I passed out as a record.

The Seminary settled down in June 1886. The resolution which the Board of Trustees adopted shows how he was regarded.

"Meeting June 10, 1886

"Mr. Lee was evidently raised up by God as an earnest patron of Academical Education.

"As a young man fresh from Allegheny College he laid the foundation of an academy in Poland in 1848 and employed Teachers for the same in 1849.

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"At the end of six years the rival Presbyterian Academy having been burnt Mr. Lee led a movement for the erection of the present Seminary building to be used as a Female College."

(A historical sketch on 225 should be incorporated in its professional points of story and the whole document kept.)

The Board of Trustees are warm in their testimony as to his unqualified efficiency, self-denying expenditure of thought and time, and financial help.

It really was a body blow. There was no one to take Mr. Lee's place. Ten years later in 1895 the Board met on November 23 to receive the report of the "sad disaster to our College building, a part of the walls, floor and ceiling having fallen down this morning and thus the building is unfit for further use."

In spite of this/in spite of the fact that money for rebuilding was almost impossible to get one must remember that the depression of the '90's was still heavy on that part of Ohio, as well as the rest of the country. Salaries had slowly been reduced from the $1400 peak. Principals now receiving but $850.00, the ~~professors~~ assistants something like $450.00. The tenacity of the village and its representatives was almost unbelievable; they couldn't give up the Seminary so woven into their life. Finally the natural thing happened in (?) (Ask Mr. Bishop)

The Seminary was turned into a/Seminary High School for the town and a small endowment which remained of the $15,000/that Mr. Lee had worked so many years to obtain was turned over to the Board of Education for the use of the High School. There it stands now.

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