

# Indiana not a state university, writer said

"The taxpayers of Indiana pay no taxes more cheerfully than their taxes in support of the schools which are provided for in the constitution."

Thus wrote the Rev. T.A. Goodwin of Indianapolis in a curious 1899 pamphlet entitled, "How the Indiana University Became A State School After Having Been Abolished by the Constitutional Convention of 1851; What Has Already Come of It; What Is Sure to Come of It If Let Alone, and What Ought to be Done About It at Once."

**THE WRITER'S** contention was that when Congress donated a township of land to support a seminary, that body did not intend for the proceeds to be used for a

state university. Look, wrote the Rev. Goodwin, what happened in Michigan, which also used its seminary township to create a state

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## Looking back

*By Rose H. McIlveen*

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university and started "to make liberal appropriations to it to supplement the income from the congressional donation, which it has kept to this day, and the present extensive and expensive Michigan University is the result."

The original constitution of the state had a provision which read: "It shall be the duty of the General Assembly, as soon as circumstances will permit, to provide by law for a general system of education ascending in a regular gradation from township schools to a state university . . ."

**BUT, CONTINUED** the Rev. Goodwin in his pamphlet, when the state constitution was re-written in 1851, the term "state university" was left out. That made IU in effect a private corporation according to the minister. " . . . the very first legislature under the new constitution proceeded to 'abolish the county seminary system' by selling every seminary and going out of the seminary business forever. They did not abolish any state university, for they had none to abolish."

Beyond that point in his logic, the Rev. Goodwin was on somewhat shaky ground, but he persevered, nevertheless. He wrote that after the fire of 1854, IU sold scholarships like any other private corporation, but that after the 1883 fire, it had only to ask the state legislature for \$30,000 and get it.

It should be noted that the Rev. Goodwin had a whole handful of axes to grind. His background included being a reputed descendant of one of the "First Families of Virginia," a degree from Asbury College (later DePauw University), and the owner-

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