

COPY

Fort Wayne
April 20, 1866

Very Rev. dear Sir,

I think Sinsinua Mound College would be a bad bargain for you even when offered as a gift. If the Dominicans cannot keep it up, who have twice the number of members that you have, how will you succeed? Take away Father Patrick and yourself what have you left? What you may have in the young scholastics of yours is still very uncertain. Instead of taking more and involving yourself deeper, you should do all you can to put Notre Dame on a good secure footing; and try as much as possible that you can do all with your own force. As it stands, one half at least, if not two thirds, of the teaching, and that of the higher branches, is done by laymen or priests not belonging to your community.

Sinsinua is too far north to flourish; the country is too new and too recently settled to support a Catholic College. Notre Dame is certainly far enough west already, and with it you have your hands full. It matters nothing what the land is worth, since you cannot sell it except in breaking up the establishment, which I would rather let some one else do, because it would not only give you a bad name, but put you at variance with Bishop Henni. In my opinion you should undertake nothing which you cannot fully carry out, otherwise you will destroy your reputation and credit, which I should be sorry to see.

Pray for me.

(Original of this letter addressed to Father Sorin is in the Provincial Archives at Notre Dame.)

Yours in Xto,
J.H.Luers,

Bishop of Fort Wayne