

OAKLAND college is located in Claiborne county, thirty-five miles north of Natchez and five miles east of the Mississippi river. Rodney is the nearest landing place; Bruinsburg, three miles north, is the spot where Grant crossed the river and gained possession of the rear of the city of Vicksburg, and soon that city fell. Oakland college is situated in a region of country rendered interesting from many reminiscences of early times. Here was the scene of some characteristic incidents in the life of Gen. Andrew Jackson. A few miles from the college was the residence of Blennerhessett; here was the place of the capture of Aaron Burr; in this vicinity was the plantation of the amiable, patriotic and lamented Gen. Zachary Taylor. This region also possesses much interest, for it is the scene of the visits and labors of some of the earliest pioneers of Presbyterianism in the South-west, Rickhow, Smylie and Montgomery, who came here when the dew of their youth was upon them, and laid the foundation of our churches. Here visited and preached Schermerhorn, S. J. Mills, Larned, Bullen and many others. The eccentric Lorenzo Dow here rode his mule and blew his horn and attracted crowds of the first settlers, preaching on housetops and haystacks, resembling Peter the Hermit, who once marshaled all Europe under the Crusaders' banner. The origin of Oakland college may be traced to a meeting of Presbyterian ministers held in the town of Baton Rouge, La., in April, 1829. * * * A committee was accordingly appointed, who, after an extensive correspondence, continued through several months, called a meeting of the friends of education at Bethel church, two miles from the present location of the college, on January 14, 1830. This meeting was composed of gentlemen from adjoining parishes in Louisiana, and from the counties of Claiborne, Attala, Wilkinson, Adams, Jefferson, Warren, Hinds and Madison, in Mississippi, and continued six days. The following resolution was presented: