

Men of Mark in Virginia

Ideals of American Life

A Collection of Biographies of the
Leading Men in the State

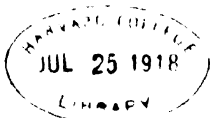
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GEORGE HUTCHESON DENNY

DENNY, GEORGE HUTCHESON, professor and college president, was born at Hanover court-house, Virginia, December 3, 1870. His father, the Reverend George H. Denny, was a minister of the Southern Presbyterian church, his mother was Charlotte M. Wright. President Denny's grandparents came from England and Scotland about 1835, and settled in Virginia. President Denny was married June 1, 1899, to Janie Junkin Strickler, daughter of Rev. Givens B. Strickler, D. D., professor in the Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia. They have had three children, all of whom are now (1906) living.

Mr. Denny received his elementary education in the public schools of Amelia county, Virginia, where his father had charge of a church. He entered Hampden-Sidney college at seventeen years of age, and took the A. B. degree in 1891. In 1892, the college conferred the M. A. degree upon him after a year's post-graduate work. Thus prepared for teaching, he became assistant in Pantops academy, Albemarle county, Virginia, where he taught four sessions. In 1896, he was elected professor of Latin in Hampden-Sidney college, and remained in that position till 1899. The chair of Latin in Washington and Lee university, falling vacant in the last-named year, Professor Denny was elected to that position. After the death of William L. Wilson, the honored president of Washington and Lee university, Professor Denny was offered the presidency, thus becoming a successor of General Robert E. Lee. As professor of Latin, Doctor Denny was very successful, his classes being large and appreciative. As a college president, he is active and wide-awake, and, with the coöperation of an earnest and able corps of professors, is putting Washington and Lee university among the potential educational forces of the country.

Few men of President Denny's age have had such honors "thrust upon them." In 1897, he received the Ph. D. degree from the University of Virginia; in 1902, Furman university,

South Carolina, made him an LL. D. At the time of his election to the presidency he now holds, he was said to be the youngest college or university president in the country.

Besides being a very successful and stimulating lecturer, Professor Denny found time to do some private study and research in his chosen specialty. In 1896, he published a monograph entitled, "The Subjunctive Sequence after Adjective and Substantive Predicates and Phrases." In 1901, he edited "Cicero's Letters" for college classes.

Mr Denny grew up in the country, amid the refining influences of a quiet Christian home. As said already, his father was a minister; we may add that Mr. Denny's mother was a noble Christian woman, of intellectual tastes, and that she influenced her son greatly both on his intellectual and on his moral side. From such a home, he entered a good Virginia college, where the old ideals of integrity and purity are still maintained by the faculty and the community. The efforts that had to be put forth by a country preacher in the South to send a boy to college may well be imagined; and young Mr. Denny rose to the situation, and took advantage of the opportunities offered by his self-denying parents. Bravely, persistently, did he meet the difficulties of the struggle. Faithful attention to duty became his motto; and onward and upward he climbed, until he secured an honored place among the teachers and professors of his state.

In the making of President Denny's success, there are several potent factors. First, the home influence already spoken of. Second, contact with men in active life. Third, early companionship. Fourth, study at school and in private. He has let no grass grow under his feet. From his very boyhood, he has led a life "strenuous" enough to please Mr. Roosevelt himself. Patient industry, high ideals, unselfish service, plain living—these are the principal methods and habits which this very successful Virginian recommends to young men just starting out on the journey of life. Virginia needs men with these principles. Though the whole world elsewhere run after gold, let the choicest manhood of Virginia take the motto "Plain living and high thinking," and the old state will ere long resume her place as "mother of statesmen." The sons of mammon will

some day need honest men to handle the vast hoards which they are accumulating for others to steal or to squander.

For such lofty ideals Washington and Lee university has ever stood; and there is no likelihood of their collapse under the presidency of George H. Denny.

His address is Lexington, Virginia.