

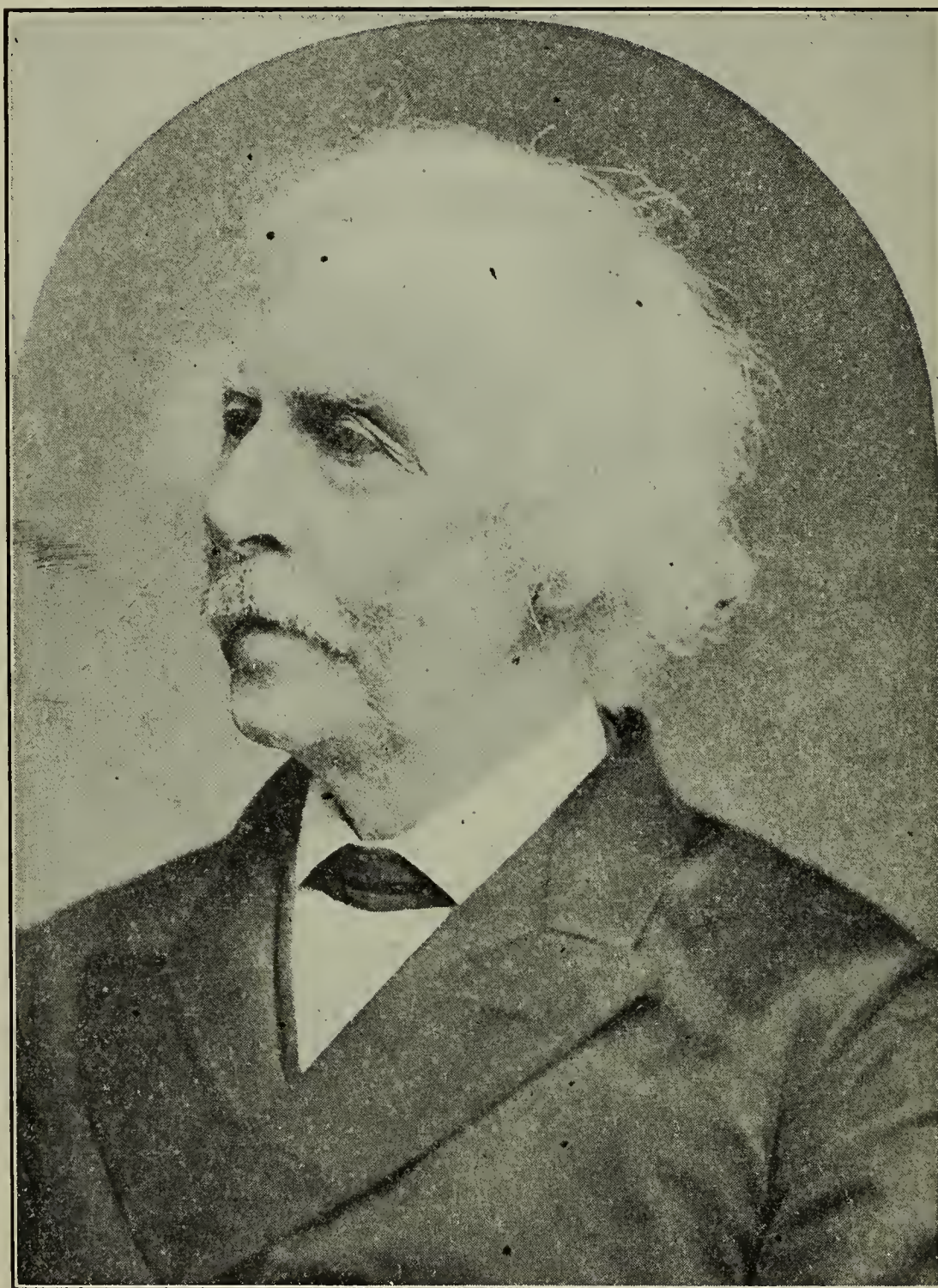
2101
61 G7
13a
by 1

Centennial Address

DELIVERED JUNE 14, 1876

BY

The Hon. Hugh Blair Grigsby



Hugh Blair Gregory
- Nov. 22, 1875 -

DISCOURSE
ON THE
LIVES AND CHARACTERS
OF THE
EARLY PRESIDENTS
AND TRUSTEES
OF
HAMPDEN-SIDNEY
COLLEGE

DELIVERED AT THE CENTENARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
COLLEGE, ON THE 14TH DAY OF JUNE, 1876

BY

HUGH BLAIR GRIGSBY, LL. D.

PRESIDENT OF THE VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND CHANCELLOR OF THE COLLEGE
OF WILLIAM AND MARY



RICHMOND:
THE HERMITAGE PRESS
1913

LD 12101
H6197
1913a

PATRONS OF THIS WORK

SAMUEL B. DABNEY, Houston, Texas

JAMES C. TAIT, Norfolk, Virginia

CHARLES B. ALEXANDER, New York

JOSEPH A. SMITH, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

CLEMENT C. GAINES, Poughkeepsie, New York

A. B. CARRINGTON, Danville, Virginia

FAIRFAX HARRISON, Chicago

HENRY C. RICE, Blackstone, Virginia

THORNTON R. SAMPSON, Austin, Texas

EUGENE C. CALDWELL, Austin, Texas

CLELAND B. WELTON, Moorefield, West Virginia

W. H. T. SQUIRES, Norfolk, Virginia

THOMAS C. JOHNSON, Richmond, Virginia

WILLIAM H. WHITING, JR., Hampden-Sidney

ALFRED J. MORRISON, Hampden-Sidney

J. H. C. BAGBY, Hampden-Sidney

HAMPDEN-SIDNEY COLLEGE

Gift
Carnegie Institution
of Washington
1913

III

*Si aut vos prioribus saeculis aut illi quos miramur his nati essent, ac deus aliquis vitas ac tempora vestra repente mutasset, nec vobis summa illa laus et gloria in eloquentia * * * defuisset. Tacitus: Dialogus de oratoribus. 41.*

CHARTER TRUSTEES

The Rev. John Blair Smith, Patrick Henry, William Cabell, senior, Paul Carrington, Robert Lawson, James Madison, John Nash, Nathaniel Venable, Everard Meade, Joel Watkins, James Venable, Francis Watkins, John Morton, William Morton, Thomas Reade, William Booker, Thomas Scott, senior, James Allen, Charles Allen, Samuel Woodson Venable, Joseph Parkes, Richard Foster, Peter Johnston, the Rev. Richard Sankey, the Rev. John Todd, the Rev. David Rice, and the Rev. Archibald McRobert.

IV

CALENDAR.

- 1772—First attempt by Presbytery of Hanover to establish the College.
1774. Oct. 13—Presbytery “gladly concurs to establish a Seminary in Prince Edward.”
1775. Feb. 1, 2, 3—£1,300 subscribed, chiefly in the counties of Charlotte, Prince Edward, and Cumberland: Presbytery considers how it would be most proper to lay out the money; Trustees nominated. Peter Johnston makes gift of 100 acres of land for a site: Samuel Stanhope Smith chosen Rector of the Academy.
1776. Sept. 26—First recorded meeting of the Board of Trustees.
1776. Dec. 18—“Mr. President and his assistant teachers have divided the money for the present year for schooling.”
1779. John Blair Smith chosen Rector of the Academy.
- 1783: May. Charter granted: An act for incorporating the Trustees of Hampden-Sydney, (Hening’s *Statutes at Large*, XI, 272-275), John Blair Smith, Patrick Henry, &c., &c., “hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of the president and trustees of Hampden-Sydney College, who shall have perpetual succession and a common seal.”
- 1789-1796—Drury Lacy, Vice-President, in charge.
- 1797-1806—Archibald Alexander, President.
- 1807-1820—Moses Hoge, President.
- 1821-1835—Jonathan P. Cushing, President.
- 1835-1838—Daniel L. Carroll, President.
- 1838-1844—William Maxwell, President.
- 1845-1847—Patrick J. Sparrow, President.
- 1849-1856—Lewis W. Green, President.
- 1857-1876—John M. P. Atkinson, President (continuing until 1883).

HUGH BLAIR GRIGSBY.

Hugh Blair Grigsby was born in the city of Norfolk, Virginia, November 22, 1806, and died at his place, "Edgehill," Charlotte county, Virginia, April 28, 1881. He was the son of Benjamin Grigsby, who was born in Orange county in 1770, and was a pupil of William Graham at Liberty Hall Academy, the germ of the present Washington and Lee University. Among Benjamin Grigsby's fellow-students was Archibald Alexander; and he and Alexander were companions when in early manhood they sought their life-work in Southside Virginia, riding horseback from the Valley. Leaving Alexander at Petersburg, Grigsby, "with his sole personal possessions in a pair of saddle-bags," continued his ride to Norfolk. Here he became the first pastor of the first Presbyterian Church in the Borough. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh and Lilius (Blair) McPherson, and faithfully labored until, as is recorded on the marble obelisk erected to his memory in Trinity Churchyard, Portsmouth, Virginia, "in the faithful discharge of his calling, he fell a martyr to yellow fever on the 6th of October, 1810." His widow married secondly, in 1817, Dr. Nathan Colgate Whitehead, for twenty-seven years president of the Farmers Bank of Virginia, in Norfolk.

As a boy, Hugh Blair Grigsby was delicate, and it was not supposed that he would live very long. He was early placed at school in Prince Edward county, where he learned to know several of the men of whom he has given an account in the following pages. For two years he was a student at Yale, taking work in law at the same time, with a view to making it his profession. He was obliged to give up the law because of a deafness that grew upon him. Going into journalism, he became the owner and editor of the *Norfolk Beacon*, upon which he was often wont to say he did the work of two or three persons much of the time during the six years that he con-

VI

ducted the newspaper. His severe application was rewarded with a competency of \$60,000, with which he retired from the paper, his health still being uncertain. To build himself up, he went in for boxing and walking. It is noteworthy that he accomplished a journey on foot to Massachusetts, thence through much of New England and the lower part of Canada, and back to Virginia.* In 1829-30 (during the period of his editorial labors) he was a member of the House of Delegates of Virginia, and served in the famous Convention. All this was very good discipline for a historian of Virginia.

In 1840 Mr. Grigsby married Mary Venable, daughter of Colonel Clement Carrington, of "Edgehill," Charlotte county. Clement Carrington, son of Judge Paul Carrington, the elder, was a student at Hampden-Sidney in 1776, quitting his books to join the army in the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Lee. Clement Carrington, who died in 1847, aged eighty-five, was for many years a Trustee of Hampden-Sidney, and its benefactor. From the time of his marriage until the death of Colonel Carrington, Mr. Grigsby made his home in Charlotte county; he then removed temporarily to Norfolk,

*Dr. James W. Alexander met Mr. Grigsby in 1842. See his letter dated "Ingleside, Charlotte Co." [Forty Years' Familiar Letters. New York, 1860. Vol. I, p. 352.] "——— is a Yale man, about as deaf as ——. Has an office built in the yard, lined with glazed cases, wherein 2,000 volumes. As much of a *littérateur* as I ever saw. Was a member of the Virginia Convention in 1830. Thorough scholar in Greek, Latin, and French. Perfect health and athletic vigour. A boxer, in all the forms. As to diet and bathing, almost a Cornaro. Has not eaten warm bread for ten years. Shaves in his shirt in a cold room in winter. A pedestrian; has walked all over Canada, and several times over New England. The last day of his return from Canada to Norfolk, he walked fifty-five miles, and was then at office business, on his feet, till ten at night. For this journey he *trained*, on Capt. Barclay's scheme; two meals a day, of rare beef and Madeira, and stale bread; this for three weeks. He has every sort of gymnastical contrivance. Always stands at study, with legs wide apart, and no support. He is an intimate friend of Upshur, Judge B. Tucker, and other ultra States Right men, to which party he belongs. I have met with nothing like him for knowledge of history, biography, heraldry, and the like. He is an eloquent talker. His father-in-law entered the army at 19 and was desperately wounded at the battle of Eutaw in 1781, being shot through the thigh, and bayoneted in the breast. Though he was years getting well, he is now, at 80, ruddy, erect on his horse, in good flesh, and has lost only one tooth. There are many such men here. This is owing to exercise and simple habits."

VII

but returned to "Edgehill," where he continued to reside until his death. Here he assembled a library of some six thousand volumes, and devoted himself to study and the affairs of his plantation. Of his farm operations, a friend and neighbor said: "In planning and executing improvements, constructing a dyke of some three miles in length, arranging the ditches of his extensive low grounds, so that a heavy rainfall could be easily disposed of, and bringing all into a high state of cultivation, he set an example of industry and energy which every farmer would do well to emulate. He had ample means, and we have sometimes heard his efforts characterized as fanciful or Utopian. But the result showed method and skill; the process was necessarily laborious, but the effect was grand."

Very few Virginia planters have used their leisure to such advantage, and (the records not being searched) the Master of "Edgewood" affords the only parallel in the country at large. There has been preserved a manuscript volume, put together by Grigsby in his eighteenth year—sketches of the character of certain public men of Virginia—showing how early was his bias for biography. His work was almost wholly biographical, the chief of it done during the last thirty years of his life:

Address on the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, delivered in the Athenæum, Richmond, Va., in 1848. [Incorporated in *Convention of 1776*. pp. 20-33.]

Discourse on the Virginia Convention of 1829-30, before the Virginia Historical Society, December 15, 1853. [Appearing in *Virginia Historical Reporter*, Vol. I, 1854; also as a separate, Richmond. 1854. pp. 104.]

Discourse on the Virginia Convention of 1776, delivered before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of the College of William and Mary, July 3, 1855. [Richmond. 1855. pp. 206.]

Discourse on the Virginia Convention of 1788, before the Virginia Historical Society, February 23, 1858. [*Virginia Historical Collections*, Vols. IX and X, 1890, 1891.]

Discourse on the Character of Jefferson, at the unveiling of his statue in the library of the University of Virginia, 1860.

Discourse on the Life and Character of Littleton Waller Tazewell, before the Bar of Norfolk, Virginia, and the citizens generally, June 29, 1860. [Norfolk. 1860. pp. 124.]

Address, "Some of Our Past Historic Periods Bearing on the

VIII

Present," delivered before the Virginia Historical Society, March 10, 1870.

Address on the Founders of Washington College, Virginia, delivered at Lexington, June 22, 1870. [*Washington and Lee Historical Papers*, No. 2, 1890. pp. 104.]

Centennial Address: Hampden-Sidney College, June 14, 1876.

It is matter of speculation how much Mr. Grigsby would have accomplished in the way of the written word if he had not been a speaker in demand. However, he left other work besides that listed here; his interests and attachments went far. The Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, speaking from the chair at a meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society, remarked: "Of the qualities and accomplishments of our deceased honorary member, Mr. Grigsby, of Virginia, I hardly dare to speak, with the little preparation which it has been in my power to make. I trust that our friend, Dr. Deane, who knew him as well and valued him as highly as I did, will now, or hereafter, supply all my deficiencies, and place him on our records as he deserves to be placed. Indeed, he has placed himself there with no mistakable impress. No one of our honorary members on either side of the Atlantic has ever exhibited so warm a personal interest in our proceedings, or has so often favored us with interesting letters, which have been gladly printed in our successive serials or volumes.

"A Virginian of the Virginians, President of their Historical Society, and Chancellor of their oldest College, bound to the Old Dominion by every tie of blood and of affection; proud of her history, with which he was so familiar; proud of her great men, with so many of whom he had been personally associated in public as well as in private life; sympathizing deeply in all of her political views and with all her recent trials and reverses, he was never blind to the great men and great deeds of New England, never indifferent to our own Massachusetts history in particular. For myself, I look back on more than twenty years of familiar and friendly correspondence with him—interrupted by the war, but renewed with the earliest return of peace—which was full of entertainment and instruction, and which I shall miss greatly as the years roll on, and as the habit and art of letter-writing is more and more lost in telegraphic and telephonic and postal card communication. There is hardly anything more interesting in all our seventeen volumes of Proceedings

than his letter to me of March 30, 1866, beginning: 'Five years and fourteen days have elapsed since I received a letter from you'—giving a vivid description of some of his personal experiences during the Civil War, and abounding in the kindest allusions to those from whom the war had so sadly separated him. I may not forget to mention that Horace Binney, of Philadelphia, though thirty years older than Mr. Grigsby, was a special correspondent of his, and that the last letter which Mr. Binney wrote before his death, at ninety-four, was to our lamented friend.

"Mr. Grigsby, from an early period of his life, suffered severely from imperfect hearing—an infirmity which grew upon him year by year, until knowledge at one entrance seemed quite shut out. But he bore it patiently and heroically, and his books and his pen were an unfailing source of consolation and satisfaction. As a very young man, however, he had a seat in the great Constitutional Convention of Virginia in 1829-30, and was associated with all the conspicuous men of that period. Meantime he was studying the characters and careers of the great Virginians of earlier periods, not a few of whom were still living. His 'Discourse on the Virginia Convention of 1776,' extended in print to a volume of more than two hundred pages, with its elaborate notes and appendix, is indeed as perfect a summary of the history of some of the great men of his native State—Jefferson and Madison and Patrick Henry and George Mason and others—as can easily be found. Many other publications, both in prose and verse, have manifested the fertility of his mind, and the extent of his culture and research, while his letters alone would have occupied more than the leisure of any common man.

"He was besides devoted to agricultural pursuits, planting and hoeing and ditching with his own hands, and prouder of his dyke, his 'Julius Caesar Bridge,' and his crops, than of any other of his productions. His very last letter to me, dated not long before his illness, concludes by saying: 'My employments for the past two weeks have been the reading of Justin, Suetonius, Tom Moore's Diary, and the building of a rail zigzag fence, nearly a mile long, to keep my neighbors' cattle off my premises.' In a previous paragraph, he said that he had just promised an invalid friend, who was anxious on the subject, to call soon and read to him 'the admirable sermon of

Paley on the Recognition of Friends in Another World.' That may perchance have been his last neighborly office."

There has lived no man of Mr. Grigsby's tastes more intimately familiar with the history of Hampden-Sidney College, and it should be gratifying to many people, in and out of Virginia, that by the generosity of certain friends of the College, this address at its Centennial celebration is now published.*

*The material above has been drawn mainly from Mr. R. A. Brock's biographical sketch, in Vol. I, *Virginia Convention of 1788*. [Virginia Historical Collections, Vol. IX.]

DISCOURSE

Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees, Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Faculty, Alumni of Hampden-Sidney, and Fellow Citizens:

We have come to dwell upon the Past. We have assembled on this bright, centennial morning of June in the bowers of Hampden-Sidney, to clothe afresh for an instant these hills and this beautiful village with the trees of the primæval forest, to mark the felling of each monarch of the wood and the letting in of the light of day on the virgin soil, to observe the progress of those humble tenements as they rose to receive their youthful guests, to follow the fortunes of the College from its beginnings to the present state, to dwell more especially upon the lives and services of the good and great men, whose names are inscribed on the roll of the charter, and who held before the young institution the ægis of their good will and authority; and of those other good and great men who filled the chair of the presidency—in order that those who shall henceforth meet here as we now meet shall know not only who your benefactors were, but what they were; reading as we pass along that mild and beneficent lesson, that those who aid in rearing and sustaining a literary institution for the diffusion of knowledge and religion among men long after their own ashes shall have mingled with the ancestral mould, found, unconsciously to themselves, a reputation as beloved, as honored, and as permanent as any that ever sprang from the field of battle or the councils of state; and we have met, above all, to bow humbly and gratefully before the Giver of all Good, in acknowledgment of his tender and constant guardian care through the century that is past, and to invoke his blessings on the century to come.

If I were to lean for a moment to that logic which rules in recent history, and which contemplates the immediate present as the direct and legitimate result of those primal causes which worked their way through the realms of a remote past to our own time, I might be justified in saying that the founder of your college was John Knox. That eminent man, who has lately been pronounced by one

of the greatest historians of the age to have been not a mere follower of Calvin, but in the battle of the Reformation and in the field of thought his equal, distinguished not only by those qualities which constitute a religious reformer, and by a valour that shrank from no human foe, but by the loftiest statesmanship; as witness, his memorable bill to establish the school system of Scotland which he bore single handed and successfully through the Parliament against the machinations of the nobles and of the crown itself, thus laying the foundation of the greatness of his country. By the impress of his hand Presbyterianism and intelligence in the course of a generation became convertible terms, and on whatever distant shore the humblest Scotchman cast his lot he brought with him a knowledge of reading and writing, an understanding of the doctrines of the Christian faith, and a fidelity in peace and war that won in successive ages the unlimited confidence of France, of Sweden, of Prussia, and of other nations. But while such was the case of the common wanderer, the instruction of those who were designed for the learned professions was of a far higher order. It was the doctrine of Knox that the pulpit should always be filled by a scholar, and the student of theology was thoroughly drilled in Latin, and was instructed in the elements of Greek and Hebrew. Familiar from childhood with his Bible, the scholar in theology soon learned to consult the originals of the sacred volume, and when he passed from the black hills of his native land by way of Ireland to Pennsylvania, or directly to Virginia, by the sea, he kindled a flame which was seen far and wide. As the tide of emigration from Pennsylvania to our own Valley poured in, it brought on its bosom not only the physical vigor to wrestle with the dangers and difficulties of the wilderness and the savage, but the force of a disciplined intellect, and a fervent devotion to knowledge and religion. Their first effort was to lay the foundation of the present Washington and Lee University on the other side of the mountain, and of Hampden-Sidney on this, both under the wing of the Presbytery of Hanover. William Graham, of old Scottish blood, was placed at the head of one, and Samuel Stanhope Smith, of the same race, at the head of the other. And it is due to departed worth and to the truth of history to declare that two more eminent men have rarely filled the chairs of a literary institution; and that of the presidents of Scottish blood who have presided in this College, and whose names will occur to all, five more eminent

men cannot be found in the lists of any American institution. Samuel Stanhope Smith, John Blair Smith, Archibald Alexander, Moses Hoge, and William Maxwell speak for themselves now, and will speak forever.*

THE MEN OF THE CHARTER.

But let us dwell for a few moments on the men whose names are recorded in your Charter, most of whom had watched at the cradle of the Academy under the Presbyterian regime, who, as sponsors of the College, lent the influence of their names and the persuasive force of their example in aid of the young institution, who lived to behold the success of their efforts in its behalf, and who, as we look back upon them through the light and the cloud of a whole century of years, merit a grateful and lasting remembrance. And as this imposing array of men was drawn mainly from within an easy range of the College, we have a signal illustration of the worth of the generation which felled the forests of this region, which peopled the banks of your streams, and which shed abroad a moral, intellectual, and religious influence that has been felt in our own times.

First in rank as in place on the roll of the Charter, as President of the College, stands John Blair Smith, (the son of a Scotch clergyman), whose name will ever hold a high place in your history; but as we shall presently speak of him as the second President of Hampden-Sidney, we pass to the second name. And that name spoke for itself then, speaks now, and will speak forever, and though the fame of Patrick Henry swells far beyond the limits of a local institution, and must be assigned to the history of the nation, yet it is proper to say that, like John Blair Smith, he was the son of a Scotch teacher, that at the date of the Charter he lived a few miles only from the site of the College, that he was a frequent attendant of the Board of Trustees, that he was a benefactor of the library, which still possesses a French History of Switzerland which Henry received from Albert Gallatin, and which he gave to the College; that

*At this point Mr. Grigsby gave a few paragraphs to the origin of the College, and its history from 1776 to 1783, a period which has since been more closely investigated. [Vid., *Calendar of Board Minutes: Hampden-Sidney College, 1776-1876*. Richmond. Hermitage Press. 1912.] The essential facts in the early history of the College appear in the course of Mr. Grigsby's remarks.

he placed his sons within your halls, that he remained a Trustee as long as he lived, and he still lives in your College, not indeed in his proper person, nor merely in his overshadowing fame, but in the person of a descendant, who not only bears his name and blood, and the moral and intellectual worth of his illustrious sire, but who occupies the place of his ancestor at your Board.

The next is one of those names which in the prelude contest of a great crisis as well as during the positive crisis itself, looms in modern eyes beyond the stature of ordinary life, and savours rather of the mythic than the historic æra. But Colonel William Cabell, of Union Hill, was essentially a practical man, and on his magnificent estate on the banks of the upper James was not only, in the wide sense of that word, a successful planter and the dispenser of a cordial and generous hospitality, but in the spirit of a wise statesmanship foresaw that the public liberty could only be maintained by a diffusion of knowledge and religion among the people. Educated under the auspices of his accomplished father, he appreciated the advantages of early education, and although a pupil of William and Mary College, and a member of the Church of England, as every member of the House of Burgesses must have been, he wisely judged at that early day that each of the grand geographical divisions of the State should possess the means of a high intellectual training, and he assented cheerfully to yield the influence of his name in behalf of Hampden-Sidney; and the influence of the blood of Cabell has been felt on your destinies throughout the whole of the past century, and throbs in the veins of more than one of your Board of Trustees at this moment. Though a member of the Church of England, as has been stated, Cabell was liberal in his religious views, and there is a record of Presbytery that the body was to hold a called meeting at his house to protest against a measure of religious policy that attracted attention at the time. In 1798 this worthy patriarch went down to his grave.

The next on the roll of Trustees is also one of those names which escape from the local historian into the wider realm of general history. As a youth he came over from Cumberland county to Lunenburg, studied law under Col. Clement Read, was admitted to the bar at one and twenty, rose at once to business in Lunenburg, Halifax, Campbell, Prince Edward, and Cumberland, was sent at the date of the erection of Charlotte county as a representative to

the House of Burgesses, voted with Patrick Henry and William Cabell on Henry's resolutions against the Stamp Act, was a member of all our early Conventions that transacted the business of legislation during the passage of the Colony to the Commonwealth, was with Henry and Cabell on the famous committee of the May Convention of 1776, which declared independence, and which reported to the House the first full Declaration of Rights and the first written constitution of a free Commonwealth known in human history, was with Henry and Cabell a member of the Virginia Federal Convention of 1788, was a judge of the General Court and of the Court of Appeals, and from January, 1776, when he appeared before your Board to ask the privilege of building a house for the use of his sons during their college course, to his death on the 22d of June, 1818, was a member of your Board and a warm, active and most efficient friend of the College. Even in his extreme old age he attended the meetings of the Board, and it sometimes happened that he might have been seen in your midst with his sons, Col. Clement Carrington and Judge Paul Carrington, on one hand, and his son-in-law, Samuel Woodson Venable, on the other. Nor did his influence cease with his life. For I think it may be affirmed that from the opening of the Academy in January, 1776, to the present moment there has hardly been an interval of time, however small, in the life of the College, during which either the honorable office of a Trustee, or of a Professor, or of a pupil, or of an active benefactor, has not been borne by some one bearing the name or the blood of Paul Carrington, the elder.

The next in succession is the name of a soldier, a scholar, and a statesman, which was honored by our fathers and deserves the respect of their sons. The position of the name of Gen. Robert Lawson between that of Paul Carrington and that of James Madison would shew of itself the estimation in which he was held by his contemporaries. Within a few weeks of the opening of the Academy, the progress of which he had watched closely, he was elected by the General Assembly Major of the 4th Virginia Regiment, and in 1777, on the death of Colonel Isaac Read in Philadelphia, where the Regiment then was, succeeded that officer as Colonel of the Regiment. Nor was the military career of General Lawson confined to the battlefields of the North. He was made a brigadier-general, and commanded a brigade under General Greene at the

battle of Guilford. He was a member of the Assembly for several years, and in the memorable convention of 1788, was the colleague of Patrick Henry from the County of Prince Edward. He amused his vacant hours with literature and science, and the three volumes of Newton's Principia, which have held a place on your shelves for ninety-two years, were presented by him. He was a zealous friend of the College until his death in Richmond in 1805.

James Madison, the successor of Lawson on the roll of the Charter, bears a name which unites in finer proportions than any other of the æra in which he lived the wealth of statesmanship and the grace of letters; and though, like the names of Henry and Cabell and Carrington and Lawson, it moves in a broader sky than the horizon of a literary institution, yet ere we allow it to pass beyond our reach, a few fitting words were not out of place. As early as November, 1775, James Madison was appointed, and his name remained on your rolls for more than three-score years, of which for more than half a century it held the first place. In one respect he differed from his three distinguished colleagues of whom we have spoken. Henry, Carrington and Lawson were among the working men of the Board. They not only aided the institution with their funds, and sent their sons to its humble halls, and sought the aid of legislation in its early struggles; but they attended not infrequently the exhibitions of the students, presided at the examinations, and shared the trials and responsibilities of its administration. But Madison never attended a meeting of the Board, and it is even probable that, unless he may have dined at the Falls Plantation, or spent a night at Brandon, had never crossed that historic stream, which, heading in the Valley and rushing impetuously to the sea, separates two great divisions of the State as effectually as a chain of mountains or a wall of trap. And as he was appointed under the Presbyterial regime as well as by the Charter, he had not then any one of those titles of regard that adorn his name. When in 1775 the humble buildings of the Academy were emerging from the primæval forest, Madison was only four and twenty, had not entered public life, and was only known to those who were familiar with the college life of Princeton, as one of the first scholars of the class of 1771, as a youth of pure morals, and, it was believed, of ardent piety, and enjoying the unlimited confidence of Witherspoon, of whom he was afterwards to become on the floor of the old Congress an active

coadjutor, and who predicted for the modest boy an enduring fame. It was not until the first session of the first term of the Academy was nearly spent that Madison made the first mark of a brilliant record. When George Mason, in the May Convention of 1776, reported the original Declaration of Rights, which we now know was proposed by Patrick Henry, the last article contained the doctrine of toleration in its amplest form, and not of absolute religious freedom. In a strict legislative view of the case the provision of Mason was wise and proper. He saw as a lawyer that the act establishing the Church was an ordinary act of Assembly, and could be repealed at any moment, and he no more reported a constitutional repeal of that act than of the acts establishing the right of primogeniture and the law of entails; but he foresaw that in the midst of a civil war, time might elapse before it would become practicable to revise the acts of Assembly, and he determined that until that revision was made, the rights of conscience should be protected by a constitutional provision. Madison, in the blush of youth, did not draw a distinction which was palpable to the clear head of Mason, and moved an amendment which placed the doctrine of religious freedom on a broader basis, which was accepted by the House, and which formed the present fourteenth section of the Declaration of Rights. If William Watts and William Booker, on their return from the Convention to Prince Edward, told this fact to the members of Presbytery, these might as dissenters well have felicitated themselves on the confidence which they had placed in advance in the wisdom of Madison. But it was undoubtedly the associations connected with Princeton that led to the selection of Madison as a member of the Board. Samuel Stanhope Smith, John Blair Smith, Doak, Todd, and Wallace, were familiar with his college history, and were eager to enlist such a man in the cause of education. But whatever may have led to the selection, the name of Madison was for half a century nearly at the head of the roll; for it was not until 1820 that he resigned his seat at the Board. Of his long and resplendent career in the public councils of the State and of the Union, of the unsullied purity of his life and character, of that profound scholarship which was eminent above that of all his contemporaries, with a single illustrious exception, and of those genial qualities of the head and of the heart which it was my fortune to observe in the patrimonial hall at Montpelier, hung with paintings and the trophies

of the past, in which he received his guests, or in the social circles of our metropolis, where in extreme old age but in the full possession of his great powers he performed his last service to his country, it is beyond our present province to speak; but we may recall the fact, as honorable alike to himself and to his native State, that from a period antecedent to his entrance on public life to that hour, forty years ago, when he was laid away in his final resting place beneath the oaks of Montpelier, his name was always connected either as a Trustee of Hampden-Sidney or as a Visitor of the University of Virginia, with the literary institutions of his beloved Commonwealth.

But the fleeting minutes of this anniversary remind me that I must glance but for a moment at the names of the men of the Charter; and I can only say of Nathaniel Venable that it was at his house was held on the first day of February, 1775, that meeting of Presbytery which fixed the present site of the College, that appointed Samuel Stanhope Smith Rector of the Academy, that granted permission to the united congregations of Prince Edward and Cumberland to present a call to Mr. Smith, and laid down that wholesome and catholic doctrine that the object of rearing the Academy was the diffusion of knowledge; and that, though they would use the ordinary forms of the Presbyterian worship in the discipline of the College, they would bias the judgment of none, but leave all to worship God according to the forms most agreeable to them. Nor should one instance of the energetic devotion of Nathaniel Venable to the interests of the infant institution be passed over in silence. In the second year of its existence the currency of the country became seriously disordered, and the regular Steward of the College, fearful of immediate bankruptcy, deserted his post without giving a notice to the Board of Trustees, and an immediate dissolution of the Academy was imminent. In this emergency Nathaniel Venable, aided by James Allen, sen., and John Morton, came to the rescue, and with considerable loss to himself, supplied the students with food until the close of the session. Nor should we forget that legacy of descendants which Venable bequeathed to the Academy, and which has cherished it from its birth to the present hour.—And of John Nash, of Templeton, one of whose race fell in the second year of the College on the field of Germantown (and another of whom died in New York while a member of the old Congress), and

whose name and blood have won distinction at the bar, in the pulpit, and on the bench of Virginia and North Carolina through the century that is gone, and are kindling fresh fires for the century to come.—And of General Everard Meade, of Amelia, whose name may be read in the books he presented to the Academy, enriched by him also with other benefactions.—And of Colonel Joel Watkins, the ancestor of the Watkinses of Charlotte, who was ever ready to press the claims of the Academy on the floor of the General Assembly, whose sons and grandsons were among your pupils, and whose death at a ripe old age was honored by a graceful eulogy from the pen of John Randolph.—And of his brother Francis Watkins, long the venerated Clerk of the courts of Prince Edward; from its origin, the wise, active and munificent friend of the institution, whose venerable presence, which may be recalled by some now living, inspired the purity and love which dwelt in his own bosom.—And of Colonel Thomas Read, of Charlotte, another Clerk of a court—a class of men who for the most part sprung from the most intellectual families of the Colony and reared in the Secretary's office at Williamsburg, from which they passed to the capital of each county at the date of its creation, were the most efficient authors of that civilization and refinement which were the characteristics of the ancient regime; Thomas Read, who rallied his fellow-citizens *en masse* to march against Cornwallis; who as a member of the House of Burgesses and of the Conventions of 1776 and 1788, performed his duty faithfully to his country, and whose remains now rest near those of an only child beneath the hollies of "Ingleside"—And of Colonel William Morton of Charlotte, the son of Little Joe Morton, one of the patriarchal names of Charlotte, who in the space of two days made up a company of his neighbors and rushed to the relief of Greene; and beneath whose unerring aim on the field of Guilford, the gallant Col. Webster, who was called the eye of the army of Cornwallis, fell to rise no more.—And of John Morton, the kinsman of William, whose ancestors with those of the Watkinses, arriving in the Colony at its first settlement, and moving westward from the sea in successive generations, surveyed the untrodden soil, felled the forests, built the school-houses, reared the churches, and laid the foundations of the social polity of the new region—a race which stood at the cradle of Hampden-Sidney, was present at her baptism, wiped the tears from her infant face, supplied her with wholesome

food, filled her halls with their offspring, guided her counsels through the dangers of the first century, and are ready to achieve for their patrimonial institution a still more glorious distinction for the century to come.—And of Thomas Scott, of a family of men who from the field of Braddock to our own time have been pre-eminent in war as well as in the walks of peace, and who believed that the only solid basis of a generous civilization was the large and liberal education of the people; whose names are recorded among your active and liberal Trustees (not less than three appearing at the same meeting of the Board and the name being still seen on the catalogues of the day).—And of William Booker, a member of the Convention of 1776 and of the Assembly; of James and Charles Allen; of Joseph Parks; of Richard Foster; of Peter Johnston; of the Rev. Richard Sankey, who was one of the earliest friends of the Academy, aided it by his counsel during the Revolution, and assisted in its organization under the Charter, was the presiding member of the Board whenever he was present, but in less than five years from the date of the Charter went down to his grave.—Of the Rev. John Todd, of Louisa, a graduate of Princeton, and the intimate friend of Madison; and of the Rev. David Rice, who, although a most vigorous and cordial supporter of the College, bringing the full force of his eloquence to its aid, removed two years after the date of the Charter to Kentucky, where he spent the remainder of a long and useful life.—And of the Rev. Archibald McRobert, who was educated at the University of Edinburgh, and coming over to the Colony as a clergyman of the Church of England, subsequently (after the end of the war) connected himself with the ministry of the Presbyterian church, and was settled as a pastor in this vicinity. Mr. McRobert usually presided in the Board of Trustees whenever present; from his lips, on a bright Sabbath morning of July, 1799, on the banks of the Staunton, in the presence of a vast concourse of people, fell the parting benediction to the dust of Patrick Henry. If the time permitted, I should delight to speak in detail of these good men and show the claims they possess to the gratitude of their country. I have traced their course from the record of the first meeting of the Board, day by day and year after year, until after the lapse of sixty years the last survivor disappeared, and I can affirm that they deserve well of those generations which have reaped the precious rewards of their unceasing toils and liberal contributions to the cause

of education. May their names ever live in the hearts of a grateful posterity, and the glory of another century shine on their honored graves!

As we contemplate the character of the men of the Charter, there presents itself a faithful and striking illustration of the worth of the early settlers of this part of Virginia. This was comparatively a new territory. Cumberland, the aid of which was indispensable to the existence of the College, which was also the residence of some of its most energetic Trustees, had been set apart from Goochland only twenty-seven years before; Prince Edward from Amelia only twenty-two years before; and Charlotte from Lunenburg eleven years only; and many thousand acres of these three counties were held by non-residents, who would neither sell nor settle.* When we reflect that a majority of the men of the Charter lived within a morning's drive of the College, the most favorable opinion must be formed of the intelligence and moral culture of the people whose representatives they were, a people whose assistance enabled them to accomplish their beneficent purpose. And it is worth a passing remark, as a token of the character of the men of the Charter, that, as according to that instrument seven members made a lawful quorum, the president might have summoned a Board of six members every one of whom had been a member of the May Convention of 1776; for Henry, of Venable's Ford—as yet the old patriarch had not moved to the classic abode of “Red Hill”—Cabell, of “Union Hill”; Carrington, of “Mulberry Hill”; Madison, of “Montpelier”; Thomas Read, of “Little Roanoke,” and William Booker, of Appomattox, were members of that body whose singular glory it was to have framed the first Declaration of Rights and the first written constitution of a free commonwealth known in human history; and if a single vacancy had occurred in this fraternity of honor, it might have been filled by calling in General Robert Lawson, who had been a member of the Convention of 1788, which ratified in behalf of Virginia the present federal constitution.

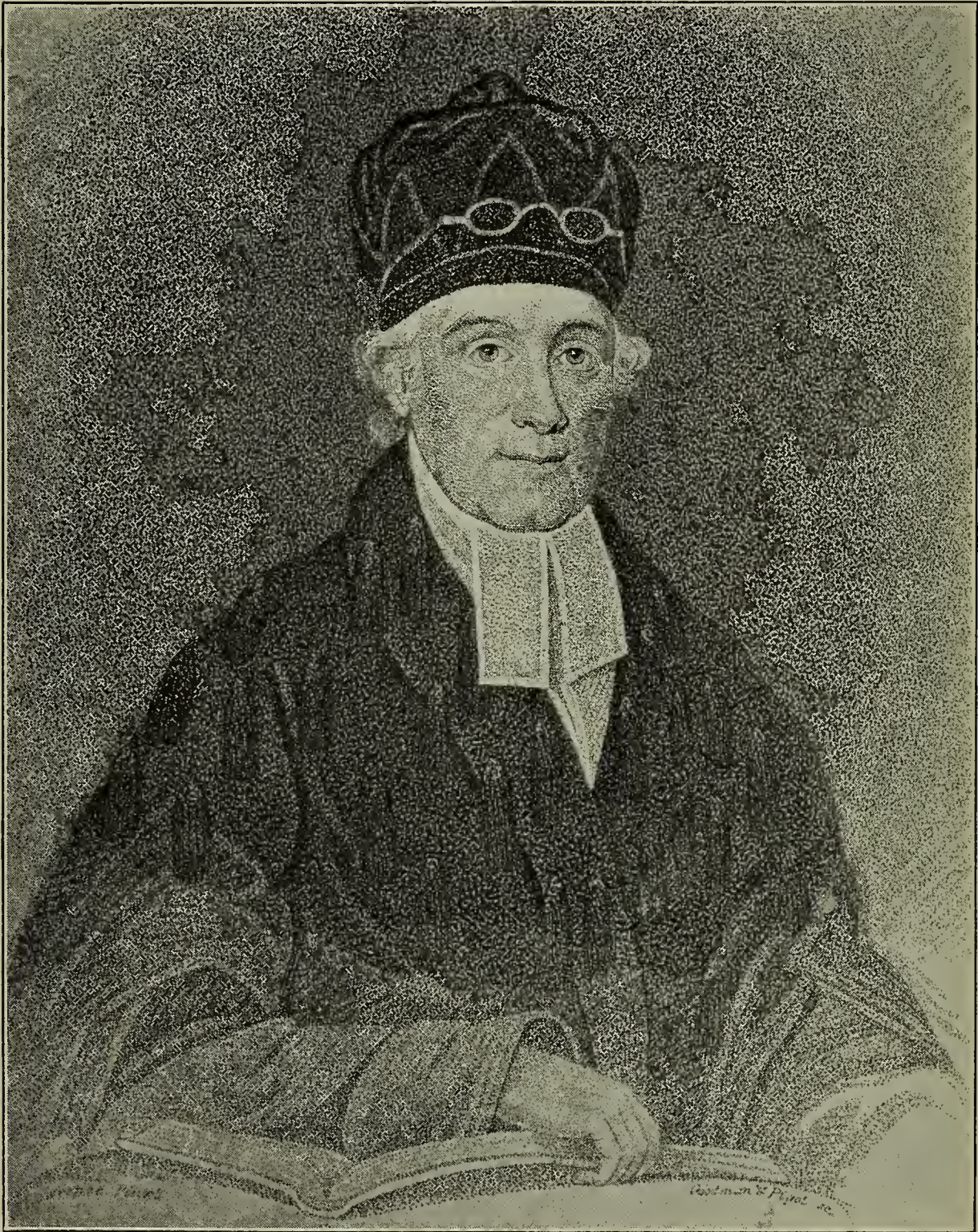
Who were the successors of the original Board? Who were those

*There is little evidence on the Deed Books of Prince Edward county of any considerable absentee landlordship. Most of the residents of the county in 1776 were freeholders, and the average estate was of about 200 acres. The county was a third larger in 1776 than it is now; the population has not greatly increased since then, certainly not since 1790.

who filled their places, as one by one, year after year, they passed away? Who were those legal guardians who befriended the institution, and bore it successfully upward and onward through the innumerable impediments that thronged its path during that century which we this day commemorate? Liberal, high-minded, and distinguished in every sphere of moral and intellectual accomplishment they assuredly were. But we must hurry onward, with the single remark that if every record of the people living within the range of your institution were by some extraordinary convulsion blotted from existence, and the names and virtues of the successive members of the Board of Trustees had by some singular fortune escaped the general wreck, the philosophical historian might reconstruct the past of the region, and demonstrate its claims to that generous civilization, that love of civil and religious liberty, which we know was so peculiarly its own.

THE PRESIDENTS OF HAMPDEN-SIDNEY.

But, however efficient in the administration of the secular affairs of the College a Board of Trustees may be, however dazzling the radiance which their united accomplishments and distinctive qualities cast upon it, composing in the public eye the *praesidium et dulce decus*, the guard and the gracious ornament of a literary institution; yet, as the chief office of a college is to teach, so its true and distinctive and permanent glory must consist in the skill and ability of its professors, and in the success which has crowned their work. And as I take up the roll of the Presidents and professors of the College through the century of its existence, the reflection forces itself upon me (which all of us may wisely heed) that, so intimately is the past bound to the present, so rapidly do successive generations entwine with each other, and even centuries embrace one another, that I, who am somewhat within the earliest limit assigned by the Psalmist as the bound of human life, either knew, or might have known personally, with a single exception, every president of the College, and have mingled freely with the men who were present on that memorable morning when the Academy opened its doors for the reception of students; and when I consider the then remote position of your institution, and the uncertain and slender and ever-varying remuneration which the highest talents could derive from the professorial chair, I am struck by the array of the genius and



SAMUEL STANHOPE SMITH

accomplishments of those who have filled the seat of the presidency and of those who have aided them in their office. And here I ought to say, what I should have said before, that I speak not as an alumnus of the College, or as a recipient of the slightest of its favors, nor as directly connected with that illustrious body of Christians who have inscribed on their Presbyterian banner not only the doctrines of a sound, religious faith and the obligations of the largest intellectual culture, but also the principles of civil and religious freedom in all their widest sense—I speak as the son of the common mother of us all, and as closely connected with that venerable college by the sea which educated some of the fathers and grandfathers and great-grandfathers of Hampden-Sidney, and whose highest office I hold, and who through me sends this day a centennial blessing to her younger sister; and I must add that my testimony must be regarded as free from the bias of sect or party, to be taken only for what it is worth.

SAMUEL STANHOPE SMITH.

First on the list of presidents stands the name of him who, if the singular honor may be awarded to any one man, was the Father of Hampden-Sidney—Samuel Stanhope Smith. He was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, on the 16th of March, 1750, and was the son of the Rev. Robert Smith, who, though born in Ireland, belonged to that Anglo-Celtic race which passed from Scotland to that country at a remarkable epoch, and which during the first half of the last century sent a delegation of its members to the New World; his mother, whose peculiar virtues he inherited, was Elizabeth Blair, of the blood of that venerable man who in 1693 received from King William and Queen Mary the charter of the college which bears their names, a college which has educated the youth of Virginia for nearly two centuries, and which on this centennial morning utters through me words of gratulation and cheer to her beauteous sister of Southside Virginia. Young Smith studied under his eminent father, was well instructed in the Latin language (which he spoke readily and wrote with some degree of elegance to his dying day), and less thoroughly in Greek, which at that day had hardly made much progress even in the University of Edinburgh; and entering the College of New Jersey graduated in 1769, and was immediately promoted to the office of tutor. Here as a student and tutor he formed with Caleb Wallace and James Madison an intimacy which had a material influence

in bringing about the event we have met to commemorate. Let me for a moment recall the memory of Caleb Wallace. He was one of the first Trustees of the Academy, and was one of the prominent men of the æra in which he lived. Born at Cub Creek, in the county of Charlotte, he entered the College of New Jersey, graduated in 1770, was the college mate and intimate friend of James Madison, studied theology, settled at Cub Creek, and was a member of Presbytery at Cub Creek on the 14th of October, 1774, when it was proposed for the first time to establish an academy in the region of the Southside. He saw and appreciated the merits of Stanhope Smith, whom he had known at Princeton, and exerted his influence in placing him at the head of the school. But in less than two years after the establishment of the institution, Wallace removed to Kentucky, where under the exigencies of a new country he studied law, became eminent at the bar, and when Kentucky was set off from Virginia was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of the new commonwealth. And here we may mention the fact that when Wallace, the two Smiths, and the Rev. Mr. Todd, of Louisa (who had taken his degree at Princeton eleven years before Madison took his, who resided within a short distance of Montpelier, and under whose advisement Madison had entered Nassau Hall), inscribed the name of Madison among the Presbyterial Trustees, they deemed it not improbable that he would not only accept the office, but might enter the ministry of the Presbyterian church. His long residence and pure life at Princeton, his devotion to Witherspoon, the pious strain of his early correspondence, and his abhorrence of religious persecution, lead us to believe that his intimate personal and literary friends were not wide of the mark in their estimate of his religious character. But in three months after the opening of the College, Madison was sent from Orange to the May Convention of 1776; and from that date forward his whole attention was devoted either in the Assembly or in the old Congress to public affairs.

When in 1773 Mr. Smith, as a missionary, visited Virginia, he appeared under flattering auspices. His imposing person, which even in extreme old age arrested the attention of the observer, his graceful address, his elegant scholarship, and above all his ready and brilliant eloquence, and the zeal which he displayed in the cause of letters, fascinated the people. Those who heard him only in his latter years, admirable as he was till stricken by an incurable dis-

ease, may have heard with some incredulity the reports which described the eloquence of the young preacher, when at the age of twenty-three he ministered to the churches of Cumberland and Prince Edward. Old men who had heard Samuel Davies during his flying trip to those counties, and to Charlotte, declared that since the days of Davies no such preaching had been heard in the Southside, and likened the youthful orator to Patrick Henry, whom they were wont to hear every court day in the old Courthouse not far from this spot. For as yet the splendid eloquence of James Innes, whose honored descendants are now within the sound of my voice, had not then been heard in the Capitol. It was owing to the magical influence of Smith, which was felt by all alike, that the Academy was not only called into being, but that the buildings on the first day of a midwinter session were filled with such a crowd of students that it was difficult to accommodate them.

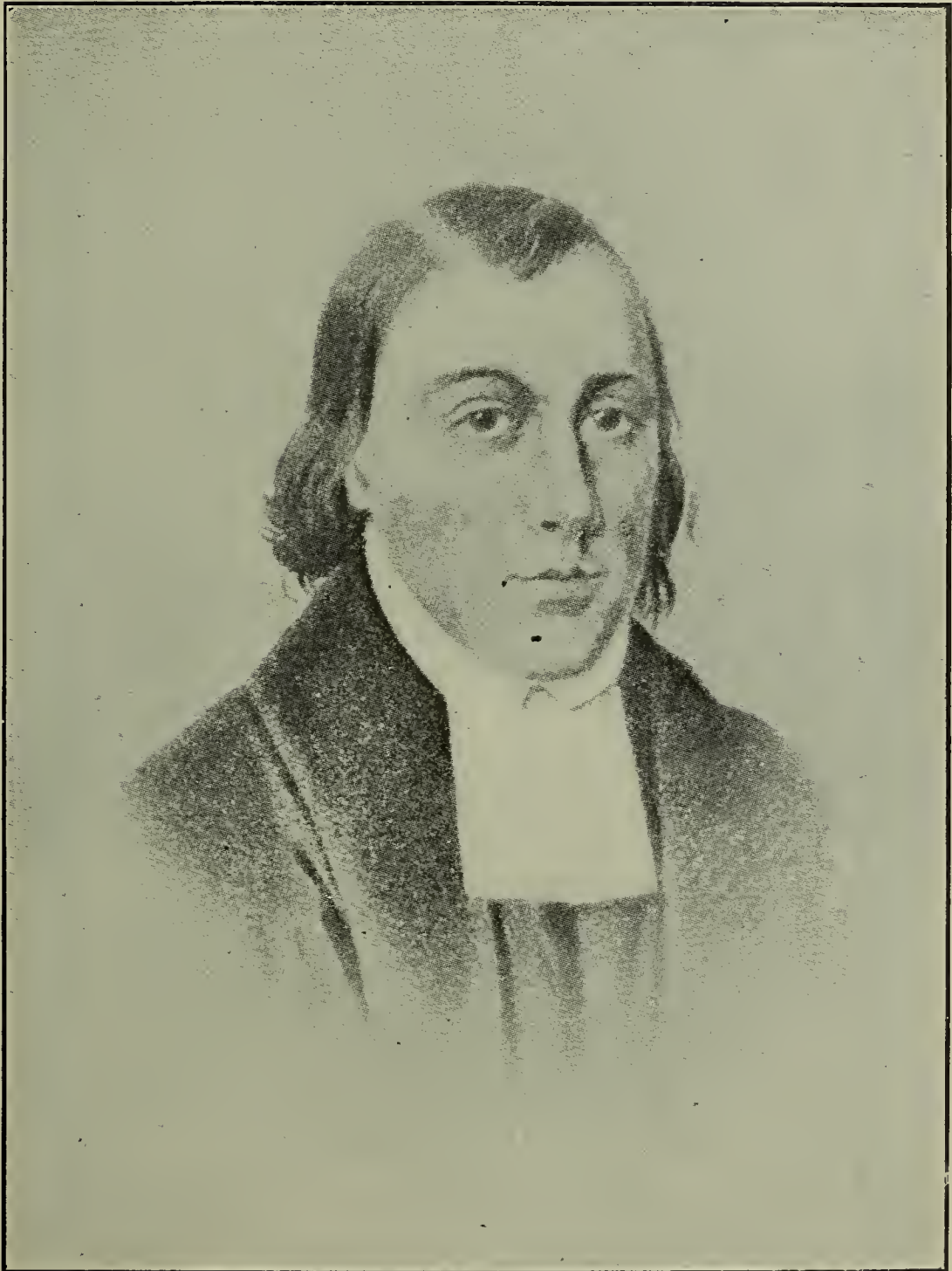
But within five months of the opening of the College came the Virginia Declaration of Independence on the 15th day of May, which was followed by the Declaration of the Fourth of the following July, and war with its disastrous force fell upon the College. The students were soon called into the field; the currency became such that it was dangerous alike to receive or to hold it; and the health of Mr. Smith, always delicate, had received a shock from a hemorrhage of the lungs; and in 1779 he resigned the office of Rector, as the presidency was sometimes called. He was then in his 29th year, and invalid as he was, he little dreamed of the long and honored career which he was yet to run. As he immediately accepted the chair of Moral Philosophy in the College of New Jersey, it is not improbable that one of the causes of his resignation was an inadequate support. Though on his retirement from the chair of the Rector in 1779 he passes from our proper sphere, it may not be inappropriate to say that he performed the duties of the chair of Moral Philosophy in the College of New Jersey with great ability, that he substantially rebuilt that institution, that he succeeded Dr. Wither- spoon as president and professor of Theology, that his discursive genius ranged through many provinces, religious, moral, and philosophical, as witness, especially a tract on the complexion of the human species which was received with respect abroad as well as at home,

and may be read with interest in our own day.* He retained to the last that venerable presence which made him a grand figure in the judicatories of the church, and those various and vigorous powers which were so effective in his prime. He died in Princeton in 1819 at the age of seventy, and was buried by the side of his predecessors in the presidency of the College of New Jersey.

JOHN BLAIR SMITH.

Samuel Stanhope Smith was succeeded by a brother, five years younger than himself, who had passed through the same domestic training, and who had graduated in the College of New Jersey, in the class of 1773—a famous class, numbering Bard, and Dunlap, and William Graham, and Henry Lee, of the Legion, and Morgan Lewis, and Aaron Ogden, one of the proudest names of the post-Revolutionary bar of the North. John Blair Smith came to Virginia in 1775, was a tutor in the Academy at its opening in 1776, studied theology under the supervision of his brother, was admitted to the ministry in 1779, and installed by Presbytery the same year in the churches of Cumberland and Briary, and was chosen Rector of the Academy as the successor of his brother. The weight of an official mantle is sometimes oppressive to the shoulders of a successor; but though John Blair Smith was only twenty-four years old, and was called to succeed the most eloquent preacher then living in the State, there was no pause in the public confidence. The scholar was reminded of the praise bestowed by the quaint Camden on the accession of a distinguished son of an illustrious father to the British throne: *Sol occubuit sed nulla nox secuta est*. Probably in a greater degree than his brother was he qualified to grapple with the difficulties of that early day. For some years to come war and peace were to alternate with each other. Belonging to a religious sect which, according to Gibbon, first taught the doctrine that arms might be used in defence of religious freedom, he was not averse from the dangers of the field. While yet a Tutor, he had marched from Prince Edward to Williamsburg at the head of a company of sixty students, with his college mate (and fellow tutor), David Witherspoon, as his lieutenant, and Samuel Woodson Venable as his ensign, and had

**An Essay on the Causes of the Variety of Complexion in the Human Species. To which are added Strictures on Lord Kames's Discourse on the Original Diversity of Mankind.* Philadelphia, 1787 and 1810. Edinburgh. 1788. [pp. 217.]



JOHN BLAIR SMITH.

received the thanks of the Governor for his promptness in hastening to the support of the Capitol. But he was to encounter difficulties quite as formidable to a literary institution as the force of arms—a disordered currency, uncertain resources of agricultural labor, and military drafts upon those who would otherwise have attended the Academy.

In May, 1783, on the passage of the Charter of the College, he drew, as the first president of the institution, an elaborate schedule of the regulations and studies adapted to the new state of things, which was accepted by the Board. One of his chief public efforts, beyond the range of the College, was his speech as a delegate of Hanover Presbytery, before a committee of the House of Delegates, in opposition to the bill laying an assessment for the support of religion. That he spoke with great force and eloquence we know from Alexander White, one of the prominent statesmen of that æra, and a member of the House, who affirmed that Smith performed his part with great ability; he is entitled to a liberal share of whatever credit is due for the defeat of the measure. It may be worth noting that in his view of the assessment bill Smith differed from his class mate, William Graham, who had been appointed by the Presbytery Rector of Liberty Hall Academy, who had also become a minister of the Presbyterian Church, and who, like Smith, as a captain of a company, had engaged in the war. Graham looked upon the assessment bill in a very different light from that in which Smith regarded it. Graham looked at the subject, not with the eye of a churchman or of a dissenter, but in the light of a wide and liberal statesmanship, and approved the policy which led Richard Henry Lee and Patrick Henry to bring forward the bill. Those true patriots foresaw what we now know, that “at the beginning of the Revolution the established church had ninety-one clergymen officiating in one hundred and sixty-four churches and chapels, and that at its close only twenty-eight ministers were found laboring in the less desolate parishes,” and that even if the Episcopal pulpits had been full, and the whole force of the other denominations been spent in preaching the gospel, there would be numerous neighborhoods and extensive regions of country in which the voice of the preacher would never be heard, nor the common offices of religion performed. The bill proposed to lay a small tax, which each payee might assign to what denomination he pleased; and it was hoped that by the aid of such a fund,

some form of Christian worship might be maintained throughout the Commonwealth. But the bill failed to obtain the assent of the Assembly, and the foresight of Lee and Henry was sadly verified. No new churches were reared, and those previously existing fell to ruins; and through vast ranges of the State no sermon was ever preached, and no baptism performed; and then came the tornado of infidelity which under the wings of the French Revolution swept the State almost without resistance. Graham anticipated the results of the rejection of the bill, and was ready, in a political view, to risk any theological loss when there was at stake the moral and religious culture of a whole people. Smith closed his eyes to all other considerations than those which might concern the particular sect to which he belonged. Graham was a man of genius and worked out in the shadow of the North Mountain a metaphysical system of his own which he expounded to his pupils. Smith was a man of talents, and explained with great skill the text books which he had studied under Witherspoon. And it may be mentioned, as another exemplification of the diverse characters of these two great teachers, who were born in the same colony, who were sprung from the same stock, who were classmates at the same institution, who were qualified to tread with honor every path of peace or war, and who were placed by the Presbytery of Hanover in similar literary positions, that, while almost the entire population of Southside Virginia opposed the ratification by Virginia of the present Federal constitution, Smith gave that instrument his countenance and active support; and that while almost the whole Scotch-Irish people of the Valley approved that paper, Graham put forth all his powers in opposing its ratification.

When John Blair Smith entered the pulpit he displayed in his earliest ministrations the qualities of a fair speaker and a close thinker; but his audience held in vivid recollection the glowing performances of his elder brother, whose eloquence enchanted whole assemblies, and had built up in the forests of Prince Edward the most flourishing literary institution of that day. A shade of disappointment fell on John Blair Smith's early efforts. But in the course of five or six years it was seen that notwithstanding his duties as a teacher, which he faithfully performed, he had become one of the most powerful preachers of his time.

If any one religious event in this part of the country deserves a

record in the secular history of the State, it was the revival during the years 1786-88 in the church at Briary and its associate congregations. A minute account of the accessions to the Presbyterian church at that time may yet be read in a small printed tract of a few pages which has fortunately come down to us; and it will be there seen that the men and women who then received their religious impressions were the ancestors of those who for near ninety years past have taken a leading part in the various religious denominations, and in the moral and literary efforts of this entire region of country. The distinctive character of the people of Cumberland, Prince Edward, Charlotte, and their adjoining counties, such as it was before the late Civil War, may be traced to that era. And that revival, humanly speaking, was the work of John Blair Smith. I have heard certain aged men and women, whom Providence has spared to our time, speak with tears of the labors of Smith at that eventful period, giving neither sleep to his eyes nor slumber to his eyelids; and they likened him to an apostle wrestling with the powers of Darkness, and coming out conqueror over them all.

One of the results of his preaching during his Briary campaign was that he was taught wherein his strength lay, and henceforward he sought the reputation rather of the great evangelist than of the great professor, and devoted most of his time to the large flock of which he was pastor. He finally determined to move from the College grounds, continuing to teach the Senior classes; a vice-president to have immediate charge of the College. Meantime he resided on a small estate of his own, which was not far from the institution. In 1791 he accepted a call to the Third Presbyterian (Pine Street) Church of Philadelphia, and left Prince Edward, after a collegiate and pastoral term of twelve years. It may be fitly added that he was a most able and most popular minister in his new abode; that after three years of arduous labors his health, which was always delicate, gave way; that he accepted the presidency of Union College, New York; that upon a recovery of his health, he again returned to his charge in Philadelphia, where in 1799 he fell a victim, in the forty-fourth year of his age, to the yellow fever which swept that city in the fall of that year.

Nor is it uninteresting to know, that while residing in Virginia, he married a daughter of Col. John Nash, of "Templeton," Prince Edward county, and left descendants, two of whom fell in the dis-

charge of their duty in the late Civil War.* In person John Blair Smith was tall and spare, and was rarely in robust health; yet in the school and in the pulpit he performed labors which would have tasked the capacity of the strongest men. In all his works appeared what Buchanan called the *perfervidum ingenium Scotorum*, which impelled him to reach the highest point in every pursuit. Although cut down in the vigor of manhood, he was one of the most celebrated preachers of his generation. His fame rests on no uncertain tradition. No one knew him more intimately than Dr. Hoge, or was more capable of estimating his distinguished worth; and Hoge, when in his old age he was recalling the eminent divines whom he had known, said of him "that a preacher possessing every ministerial qualification in a degree so eminent, he had never known." Such was the first president of Hampden-Sidney College under the Charter.

DRURY LACY.

Allusion has already been made to the appointment of a vice-president to reside on the College grounds, on the removal of President John Blair Smith to a separate establishment of his own. The choice fell upon a young Virginian who had entered his thirtieth year, and who had recently been appointed a Tutor in the English and Mathematical department of the institution. Drury Lacy was the first member of the faculty who had not passed through a regular college course. He was born in the county of Chesterfield in 1758, in his twelfth year lost his left hand by the bursting of a gun, and managed in spite of many obstacles to obtain an English education; had been a teacher in the family of Daniel Allen, of Cumberland, and Col. Nash, of Prince Edward, and although not a student of the College, had studied Latin under President Smith. His physical qualities tended no little to his success in life. Above six feet in height, his form a model of the human figure, a dark stern gray eye, and a skin whose olive tints told of his descent from a Norman ancestry, and may still be seen in his descendants; with a self-possession not readily ruffled, and withal, of a pleasing address, and ardently devoted to the duties of his station, he made a favorable impression upon all who approached

*General Charles Ferguson Smith, U. S. A. [1807-1862], was a grandson of President Smith.

him. As he walked along, you might suppose him to be a knight who had just descended from the saddle to take his seat in the council.

In 1787 he appeared before Hanover Presbytery, and on that occasion read an exegesis in Latin which showed his familiarity with that tongue, and at the succeeding session of the body was licensed to preach. He bore a part in the revival at Briary, and soon exhibited those peculiar traits which were characteristic of his oratory. His stately form, a voice whose silver tones could be heard not only in the humble churches of that day, but over fields and forests in which hundreds were gathered to listen to his sermons; this, with a bold, impetuous speech that burst unconsciously from his lips, explain the results of his eloquence that tradition delights to dwell upon. But it is as an officer of the College that he claims our attention; and it is said that he was not only an efficient teacher, but was remarkable in winning the affections of his pupils. In 1796 he resigned his charge, and spent the remainder of his life as the pastor of a neighboring congregation, or as a teacher.

It was in the capacity of the principal of a classical school which he conducted under his own roof until the day of his death in 1815, that he rendered most valuable service to his country. His pupils came from a distance, and lived in his family or at the house of some one of his neighbors. I was one of those pupils and bear my testimony to his thorough teaching of the Latin tongue. Though sixty-one years have passed since I was under his care, I feel the influence of his teaching on my mind and character at this moment, pointing the very thought which I am now pressing upon you. It is not unnatural at the present day, when the noble science of comparative philology has shed such a dazzling and instructive splendor upon the elements of language, that some of the young generation should be inclined to undervalue the knowledge and skill in the Latin and Greek tongues possessed by our fathers. But such a notion is equally at war with philosophy and justice. Xenophon and Cicero were not only the most eminent writers, but the most expert philologers of their respective æras. Both of them were fond of derivations, especially in their moral disquisitions, and Cicero, more particularly in his moral and philosophical tracts, was prompt to draw an illustration for the case in hand from the root of a word, whenever the occasion offered. Now as our own language

rests on an Anglo-Saxon base, so it has been shown in recent times that the Greek rests on a Pelasgian and the Latin on an Etruscan base. But it is evident that neither Xenophon nor Cicero was conscious of this discovery of the present century, that they never penetrated beneath the upper crusts of their respective languages, and that the meaning of those languages might have been learned as certainly at the beginning of this College in 1776 as at this moment. We are justified, then, in saying that the Smiths and Lacy and Alexander and Hoge, who thoroughly understood the structure of the learned tongues, taught their pupils to understand Xenophon and Cicero as well as Xenophon and Cicero understood themselves. From 1796 to 1815 Mr. Lacy taught a school in which were trained numerous students who have become prominent in every sphere of social action. It is to such private schools that Virginia owes a debt which she can never repay. They have given her the men whose valour decided the fields of battle and whose councils guided her legislation; and honored, forever honored, be the name of Drury Lacy among the noble teachers of the past, and of David Comfort among those of the present.

This great teacher regarded his pupils with the feelings of a father. During my residence under his roof, I was seized by a typhoid fever, and was for many days insensible. My mother, and only surviving parent, who lived two hundred miles away, had been sent for to be present, as I afterwards learned, at my burial or at least to look upon the grave of her eldest child and only son. My bed had been brought from the upper room which I occupied with my school mates, and was spread in the parlor. It was at the earliest dawn of a sweet September morning in 1815 that after a long interval of delirium, I opened my eyes for the first time in a conscious state. One of the daughters of Mr. Lacy had stolen from her room on tiptoe to see whether I was still living. As I looked up, the face of a lovely girl, her black eyes shaded by long dark lashes, her glowing skin reflecting rather an Italian than a Saxon hue, and her raven tresses falling in ringlets about her neck, was bending over me. Sixty-one years of mingled joys and sorrows have rolled over my head since I beheld that charming vision. Often has it come before me in the dead of night when nature was moving to the music of the spheres. I have thought of it as I climbed the dizzy height of the mountain, or as I strolled by the shores of the sea.

Its features sometimes flash upon me from the page of Homer. It is before me now, and I shall never forget it. Nor, sir, will *you* ever forget it—for it was the face of your long lost, long lamented, and ever lovely mother.*

In relating the events in the life of Lacy, it is curious to observe how unconsciously and intimately generations mingle together, and even centuries shake hands with each other. Lacy, who eighty years ago was chosen vice-president of the College, and who had been present at its early commemorations, died in 1815, and during that year I was one of his pupils. Hence the entire century of the existence of Hampden-Sidney may be measured by two lives, one of which is yet unexpired—by the life of Drury Lacy, and by the life of him who is paying a tribute to his memory.

WILLIAM GRAHAM.

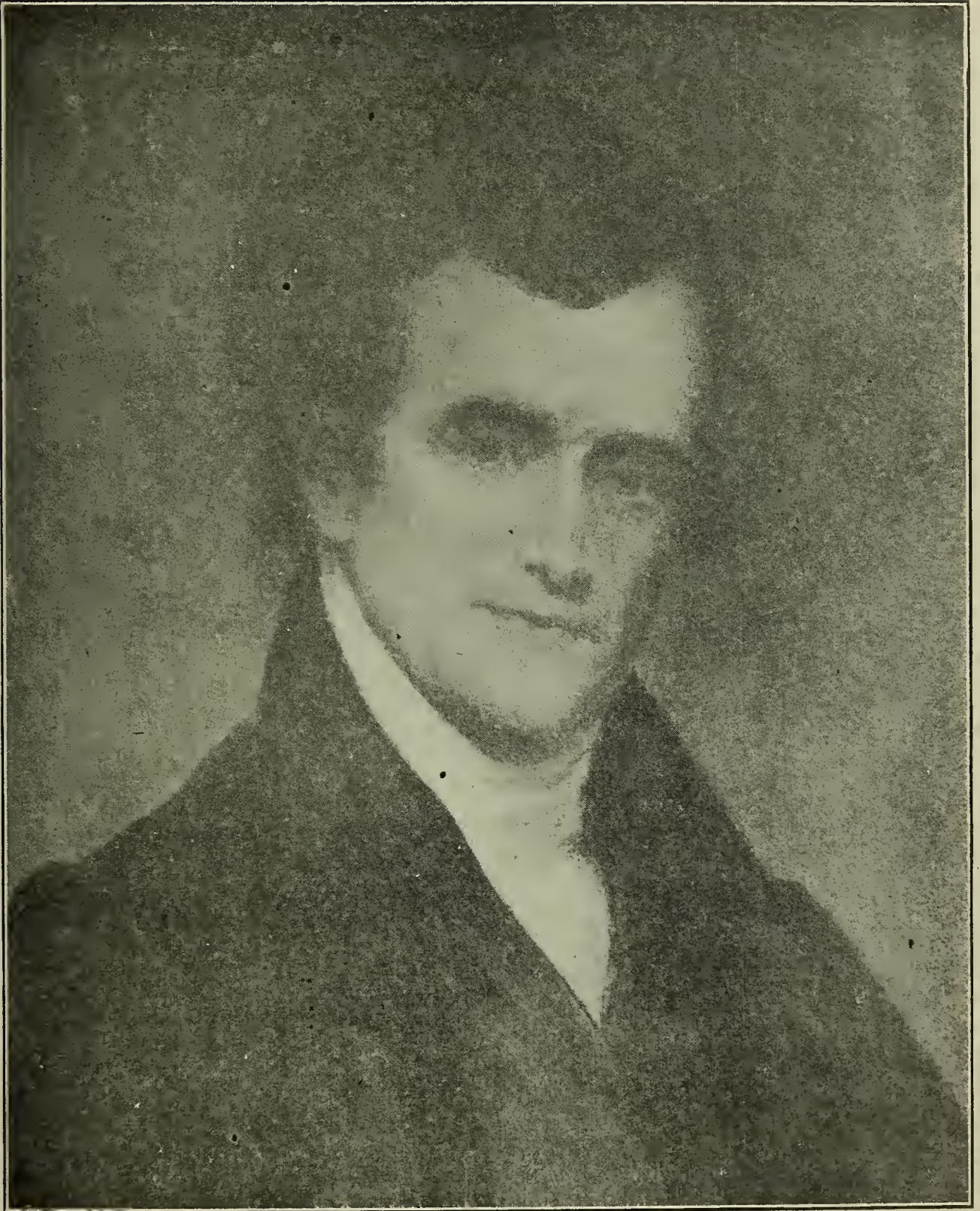
From the date of the resignation of John Blair Smith, the Trustees had been anxious to fill the vacancy in the chair of the presidency. But that was no easy matter. The fame of Smith had gone beyond our own Commonwealth, and he stood high abroad as well as at home. He had controlled the destinies of the institution to the date of his resignation—a period of thirteen troublous years—and had done all that could have been done by any one man during that calamitous interval. Moreover, he had acquired for himself a reputation as a debater, as a teacher, and as a divine, which was second to none in the ranks of the clergy of our own State or elsewhere. One man, and one man only, within the bounds of the Synod could fill his place, and that man was William Graham. His was one of those colossal names fit to lay the foundations of a temple upon, or to be inscribed on the flag of empire. But he was so intimately associated with the institution of which he was deemed the father, that it should seem it was impossible to obtain his services. At one time, a rumor reached the Board that, on account of his private affairs, he might be induced to accept the office, and he was accordingly chosen to succeed his friend and class mate Smith. The congregations of Briary and Cumberland also tendered him the pastorate of their respective churches; and commissioners were ap-

*Note by Mr. Grigsby—"These words were addressed to the Rev. Dr. M. D. Hoge, who was on the platform with the speaker."

pointed to arrange the matter with the Presbytery; but at the last moment the force of old associations prevailed, and Graham declined the appointment. Finally, after a vacancy of ten years in the chair, a choice was made; and on the 31st day of May, 1797, the journal records that the Rev. Archibald Alexander appeared before the Board, accepted the appointment, and entered on the duties of the office.

ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER.

Those now living who have only seen Archibald Alexander in the shades of Princeton, an object of veneration and love to all who approached him, would be apt to form a very erroneous opinion of his person and appearance when he made his first visit to Prince Edward eighty-four years ago, and five years before his election to the presidency. He was then a beautiful boy of twenty, and though he looked even younger than he was, had been licensed to preach during the previous year; and it seemed hard to believe that he had passed through the stern intellectual ordeal, which the Presbyterians at that early day, whether in war or peace, in the solitude of the forest or in the hum of the city, compelled their candidates to endure. His extreme youth, his exceeding personal beauty, and the melting tones of his voice, made an impression that has outlasted two generations. His popularity soon rose to the height, and young and old vied with each other in demonstrations of regard. Even grave divines listened to his prelections with interest and profit. Drury Lacy was a favorite pupil of John Blair Smith, wrought out his sermons with uncommon skill and care, usually presented new and striking views of the subject in hand, and was fourteen years older than Alexander; yet when he had pronounced one of the most eloquent of those discourses which still loom among the shadowy landmarks of his fame, he was asked how long it had taken him to prepare the discourse, and he answered: "Why, I took it all from little Archy," meaning that he had followed out a train of thought suggested by one of the sermons of young Alexander. Crowds hung upon his lips. Some of his elder hearers, who had listened to the most famous preachers of their time, confessed that they never heard some intricate doctrines, and the nature of the passions, so keenly analyzed as by that young man. The entire field of metaphysical inquiry appeared to be familiar ground to him;



ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER .

and a learned judge who had heard him on one occasion, expressed his wonder that so young a man should have shown such mastery over a science then little studied, and almost unknown in the State. But it was on the practical doctrines of Christianity he mainly dwelt, and some of his illustrations, after the lapse of eighty years, still live in human memory. It was seen, however, by close observers that admiration and applause did not turn his head; that in the height of his popularity he dwelt most earnestly on the peculiar tenets of the Calvinistic faith, which indeed were the tenets of the Reformation, but which served rather to make his hearers uneasy than to be pleased with themselves; and that, young as he was, and devoted to his studies, he was never more congenially employed than in binding up the broken spirit, and in ministering at the death bed of the humblest human being.

Archibald Alexander was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, on the 17th day of April, 1772, of Scotch-Irish ancestors, who had passed through Pennsylvania to the Colony of Virginia, and who had been active in forming the first Presbyterian churches of the Valley, and in rearing Liberty Hall Academy, the germ of the present Washington and Lee University. He had been educated by William Graham in letters and theology, and possessed, in common with all the pupils of that wonderful man, that faculty which Moore the poet pronounced the greatest of all the faculties—the faculty of thinking on one's feet; and in his old age Alexander gave it as his deliberate opinion that if he were required to put forth all his powers on any occasion, he would prefer, after a thorough meditation upon his theme, to trust to his extemporaneous words. He was five and twenty when he entered on the duties of the Presidency, and in the ministrations of his office laid the foundations of his subsequent fame. Fortunately for Mr. Alexander, he was associated, during a part of his term of service, with two young Virginians, whose reputation is connected with his own by kindred genius, by similar tastes, and by a common faith. The younger of these, who in the fulness of time was to devote his talents to the rearing of that theological institution whose buildings now adorn this village (which has for so many years sent forth its annual quota of pious students to fill the pulpits of the South and West, and to bear to distant peoples the blessings of the gospel), was then twenty years old, was the junior of Mr. Alexander by five years, and

was advancing with giant strides in the regions of learning. The other young man was a year older than John Holt Rice, was equally studious, and was to win an honorable reputation in the pulpit and in polite literature. But neither Rice nor Conrad Speece had those physical qualities of the orator which Alexander possessed in so eminent a degree; but all three were engaged in those metaphysical studies which quicken the faculties, and are invaluable in developing extemporaneous powers of debate. All three were fond of the pen, and if we should judge from their pseudonyms and quotations, their favorite bard was Young. Through their entire lives, their most powerful sermons, which raised the respect of learned audiences, as well as those which moved to and fro the wave of the multitude, were unwritten. These young men were bent on the full performance of their college duties; but then as theretofore, the income of the College rarely supplied a competent support to the teachers. Every effort was made by the Trustees to obtain money, but without pronounced success. Rice and Speece soon resigned; Alexander also sent in his resignation, but was prevailed upon to withdraw it. He remained until November, 1806, when he finally resigned the chair, and was succeeded by the Rev. William S. Reid, who was invited to take charge of the College *ad interim*. Here Mr. Alexander, at the age of thirty-four, passes from our canvas, and it is only within our province to say that as a pastor in Philadelphia and as the head of the Princeton Theological Seminary, the child of his thought and substantially the work of his hand, he rendered those services which gave him that high position in the theological literature of the age. In one respect he was more fortunate than his associates, Rice and Speece. They may be said to have died prematurely and left no offspring. Alexander survived Rice twenty years, and Speece fifteen; and on the 22d of October, 1851, at the age of seventy-nine, in the shadow of the venerable institution of which he was the main architect, and in the presence of descendants, who, even before his departure, had invested his name with new lustre, and made it the synonym of wide scholarship, of refined eloquence, and of unblemished worth, this good man was gathered to his fathers.

JOHN HOLT RICE AND CONRAD SPEECE.

I have alluded to John Holt Rice and Conrad Speece as the associates of Mr. Alexander in the faculty of the College, in the Church, and in general estimation, and their names call up so many pleasing images in our own times, that I must advert to them for a moment. I can almost feel the breath of their living presence in this house. The face of Rice is seen on the canvas of Hubbard, and is a faithful likeness of the original. At the first glance there is a sternness and a harshness which would lead the speculator to infer that the subject had taken his view of men and things after the type of Knox rather than of Calvin, that he was no friend to the muses, that he had never read an ode of Sappho or Anacreon, and that he would have driven the playful Horace from his study with a horsewhip; but on a closer inspection we mark an expression of concealed humor awaiting an explosion. The sombre, sad, uncertain eye, the straight nose ending abruptly (like Soracte pausing on the curl), and the pyramidal forehead uncovered with hair, and the broad, determined chin, represent him as he was. His height exceeded six feet, and his long limbs hung loosely about him. Even his voice lacked that rotundity and mellowness which render common thoughts grateful to the public ear; and his action, at times in a high degree impressive, lacked every attribute of grace. But within that ungracious casket was enshrined one of the greatest minds of the age in which he lived. His early opportunities had been few, but he grappled with the most formidable difficulties, and grew stronger from the wrestle. As a controvertist he has left us specimens of his skill which well deserve the study of modern theologians. In his strictly controversial tracts, his tract on baptism, his tracts on apostolical succession and the early priesthood, and others which I need not number, in which he has discussed his theme with an affluence of learning that bent all history to his purpose, with a skill in classical criticism that made every Latin and Greek and Hebrew authority speak on his side of the question, and with a temper that neither wanton insult nor false logic could chafe or cloud—if these tracts were collected and bound in a single volume, such a book would indeed be a monument of the genius of Rice, but it would more especially become an invaluable treasure to the general scholar as well as to the professor of theology.

While he was one of the most able dialecticians in the chair of divinity, he was also one of the most effective preachers of the Virginia pulpit. Sixty-two years ago in Norfolk, when he was at the age of five and thirty, I saw him for the first time, and I remember the crowds that filled the church and the private dwellings in which he preached. Like his preceptor, Graham, he possessed the talents of a statesman as well as those of a theologian. The negotiations which led to the establishment of Union Theological Seminary show this very plainly. With all his sterner worth, he had a loving heart, a most genial temper that escaped unruffled under great provocation, a ready wit, a large share of humor, and a passionate love of letters, beyond as well as within the immediate sphere of his profession. His intellectual powers kept pace with his years, and his last sermon was one of the grandest efforts of his career. He fell in the prime of his intellectual strength forty-five years ago, and breathed his last in his house at the Seminary whose creation was the work of his hand, and was buried at "Willington,"* a few yards from the dwelling in which he led his bride to the altar, and in which nearly all the men who were connected with the College during the first half century of its existence were frequent and welcome guests.

Of Conrad Speece I had not the same opportunities of personal observation. He was born in the town of New London, in Bedford county, Virginia, on the 7th of November, 1776, and was of German and Gallic descent, an admirable commixture of blood for a modern theologian. Like Lacy, and Rice, and Hoge, and Cushing, and a host of men who have attained eminence, he began his studies late, repaired to Liberty Hall at the age of nineteen, and finished his general and theological studies during the presidency of William Graham, acquiring under his supervision that critical skill in Latin, that taste for metaphysical disquisition, that keen relish for general literature, and that habit of extemporaneous speech which were seen in the pupils of Liberty Hall. From his tutorial charge at Hampden-Sidney, Speece passed to the ministry, and in 1813 was settled in the church of Augusta, where he spent his entire life thereafter. He, too, lacked those physical advantages which prepare the way for more important qualities; nor did he seek to repair his deficiencies by those conventional arrangements of deportment

*Dr. Rice's remains now rest at Hampden-Sidney.

and dress which so often conceal the imperfections of nature. He was a very large man, and abounded in blood and bone, and was seen to suffer much in spells of hot weather; his loose clothing made him appear larger still, looking as if it had been cut out of the main-sail of a man-of-war. Leading a life of the utmost seclusion, he was a utilitarian in all things, and in the cutting of his coat would not permit the tailor to make a seam in the middle of the back—a crotchet like that of Chancellor Wythe, who would not use capital letters at the beginning of a sentence or of a proper name, lest he should impinge upon the democracy of the alphabet. The officers of the College had generally been married men, and their dwellings were, as at the present day, the resort of a highly intellectual and polished society; but Speece remained a bachelor to the last, and was never in love except on paper with a pen in his hand or behind his ear.

The extraordinary characteristics of Speece were his ready speech, and the extraordinary ability with which he would discuss the most difficult themes in theology, and make the people understand him or think they understood him. I had long heard of his achievements in the field of reason, and I confess with some degree of incredulity; but when I heard him in Richmond some forty-odd years ago preach a sermon before the Synod of Virginia, I felt that there had been no overestimate of his worth. And when he preached one or two sermons in Norfolk in 1804, during the residence of William Wirt in that city, that distinguished orator and patriot spoke of his exhibitions in terms of the highest admiration, as I know from those who heard them. Speece was also remarkable for intellectual independence, in his manner of settling the problems of morals or of theology. He was a minister of the Presbyterian Church, and loved her ordinances; but having some scruples on the subject of infant baptism he withdrew from her communion, but when he had become a little more familiar with his Greek, he came back again.

He possessed a fertile imagination, wandered often and at times quite happily in the flowery regions of literature, and sent forth a number of essays* which were favorably received by those for whom

**The Mountaineer*. Harrisonburg, Va., 1818. (Ananias Davisson.) From 1805 through 1807 Dr. Speece issued the *Virginia Religious Magazine*, published at Lexington, three volumes. This contains much good material, verse and prose, a great part of it by the Editor.

they were designed. He had a deep vein of humor which was never impeded by the cankering cares of daily life, and which sometimes moved the mirth of an entire Synod. He loved his flock and was dearly beloved by them, dying in their midst the 17th of February, 1836, after a pastorate of nearly a quarter of a century. His was a great reputation, lost for the want of a little management; and some spice of anger, I had almost said, mingles with our regret for his failure. He might have married in early life a woman of sense and spirit, who would have lopped the growth of a wayward temperament, and insensibly have prepared him for that wide theatre of usefulness and distinction which was always within his reach, and which he was so well qualified to adorn.*

WILLIAM SHIELDS REID.

To provide for the state of things consequent upon the resignation of Mr. Alexander, the Trustees on the 15th day of January, 1807, "appointed," I quote the words of the resolution, "Mr. William S. Reid to superintend the business of the College as at present until October"; and it was further voted that "he should have the privilege of occupying the president's house and the lands pertaining thereto."

On the 6th of June following, the Board elected unanimously the Rev. Moses Hoge to the presidency of the College. Although Mr. Reid was the superintendent of the College for a few months only, without, however, the title of President or Vice-President, his faithful service as a Tutor for five or six years deserves a respectful recognition. He was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, of Scotch-Irish parents, on the 21st of April, 1778, graduated in the College of New Jersey in 1802, studied theology under Balch and Hoge, and was licensed to preach in the spring of 1806. He was in his 29th year at the date of the resignation of Mr. Alexander, and had gained the esteem of all who had been thrown into personal or official relations with him. Though he withdrew from the College a few months after the appointment of Dr. Hoge, he did not withdraw from the office of teaching, but choosing Lynchburg as

*The unusual lot fell to Dr. Speece of being chosen five times Moderator of the Synod of Virginia—in 1810, 1813, 1817, 1825, and 1835. See Van Devanter, *History of Augusta Church*. Staunton. 1900.

his residence, while he preached to a yet unorganized church, he opened a classical school, which ultimately consisted of girls only, and which was attended by a long array of pupils, who have been for two generations the pride and grace and ornament of the spheres in which they moved. The work of such an institution cannot be estimated at its full value. For more than forty years, at a time when female education was at a low ebb, he annually sent forth a large number of pupils, who had received a thorough classical and Christian training, and who exerted an influence on the mind and morals of the community that was felt in the past age, that is felt now, and that will be felt for years to come. He was one of those pure and genial men who never had an enemy. His gentle kindness, his dignified and cordial address, his devoted piety, won the general regard. Nor was the unbounded love which was cherished for him the result of a time-serving policy, or the growth of that wide circle of intellectual and wealthy relationship with which he became connected by marriage, nor of that religious denomination of which he became a member; but sprang from the heart of a whole community, and especially from the love and admiration of his pupils, and the descendants of those pupils who were scattered far and wide through Virginia and the adjoining States. His literary and moral worth was recognized at home and abroad; and his Alma Mater honored herself by bestowing upon him her highest theological honor. He was the model of a Christian gentleman. He died June 23, 1853. Virginia will ever value his good offices to her children, and the lovers of Hampden-Sidney may entertain a just pride that such a man has a place upon her rolls.

MOSES HOGE.

We have already said that on the 7th of June, 1807, the Rev. Moses Hoge was chosen to succeed Mr. Alexander in the chair of the Presidency, and having been chosen an assistant pastor in the churches of Briary and Cumberland, entered at once on the two responsible offices of president and pastor. In years, in person, in manners, which so often usurp a reputation for talents among observers, and in genius, no two men of that generation were wider apart from each other than Archibald Alexander and Moses Hoge. They were indeed both descended from a Scotch ancestry, but that

was the only point of connection between them. Alexander, who had been trained from childhood in polite letters, and had mingled freely with the world, was of a pleasing address, was a mere boy when he entered on the presidency, had during a term of nine years developed into vigorous manhood, had in that interval mastered the moral and philosophical literature of the day, had cultivated with uncommon care the graces of oratory, and once every Sunday had set before his audience a feast which was equally welcome to the scholar and to the humble Christian. At thirty-four he still retained much of his early beauty, and at all times appeared younger than he was; his voice was full and resonant, and had not lost those bewitching tones which before he was twenty had drawn tears from old and young. Hoge was in almost every respect the reverse of such a portrait. He had reached the advanced age of fifty-five, and was by many years the oldest man who had filled the chair of the presidency. He had no early training, had studied mathematics before he attempted the languages, and was twenty-six years old when he entered Liberty Hall. It rarely happens that a person who undertakes the study of Latin and Greek late in life derives those advantages from them which make the mastery of the English tongue a plaything and a pleasure. The experience of Hoge was no exception to the rule. Nor was he endowed with those physical qualities which are almost indispensable to a speaker in a mixed audience. He was about the common height, was remarkably plain in his person, and was so peculiar in his gestures both in the pulpit and out of it, that William Graham, after repeated efforts to reform his manners, gave up the task in despair. No man since the days of Samuel Johnson, and especially no popular speaker, ever retained so faithfully those early incongruities which are usually lost in an intimate association with polished society. Yet this man, who was born in Frederick county, Virginia, of Scottish parents, on the 15th day of February, 1752, who had completed his college course in 1780, and had been licensed to preach in 1781, who had, like Graham and John Blair Smith, borne his part in arms during the Revolution, and who through life was destitute of that tact which is necessary for the success of the highest talents, was one of the great lights of his generation. He had great powers of analysis, and a capacity of adapting his logic to the general mind rarely surpassed. When the flood of French infidelity was sweeping over the land, and



Charles Hoge

Godwin's *Enquirer* and his *Political Justice* and the works of Thomas Paine had a place on the book shelves of many of the most prominent men of the age; and when a popular French savant had predicted the year and the day when Christianity would expire, and pious men shrunk from the storm that was raging around them, Hoge rushed to the rescue, and in his thorough confutation of the blasphemies of Paine* (which were heard in the pulpit and were published far and wide) received the benediction of all moral and serious men. His caste of character was suited to such a crisis and he met it bravely. As a pastor he was beloved by his flock, who looked up to him, particularly in his declining years, with reverence and awe; for he brought to the pulpit a reputation approaching to sanctity, a capacity of illustrating the more abstruse topics, the investigation of which was demanded by the public opinion of the day, with a force of reasoning, which, while it afforded conviction to educated men, was understood by the weakest of his hearers. For, in common with all the pupils of Graham, he had the faculty of ready argument, and the habit of extemporaneous speech. Nor did he confine himself to strict argumentative discussion, for which he was so well qualified and which was indispensable in the earlier years of his ministry; but late in life, and on occasions of the holy communion, he indulged in a strain of eloquence, which, set off by his peculiar voice and irregular but impressive action, appealed irresistibly to every heart. Such was his popularity in the Valley, as well as in the country south of James, that he was spoken of as the successor of Graham, and the Trustees of Hampden-Sidney thought themselves fortunate in securing his services.

It was in 1815, the eighth year of his presidency, that I saw him for the first time, in the recitation room and in the pulpit. He was then sixty-three, and appeared to my young eyes to be in extreme old age. He had lost his teeth, and his utterances were so imperfect that I could not understand him; but he was understood by his people, who every Sunday filled the old Hall and heard him with rapt attention. In 1812 he was appointed professor of Theology

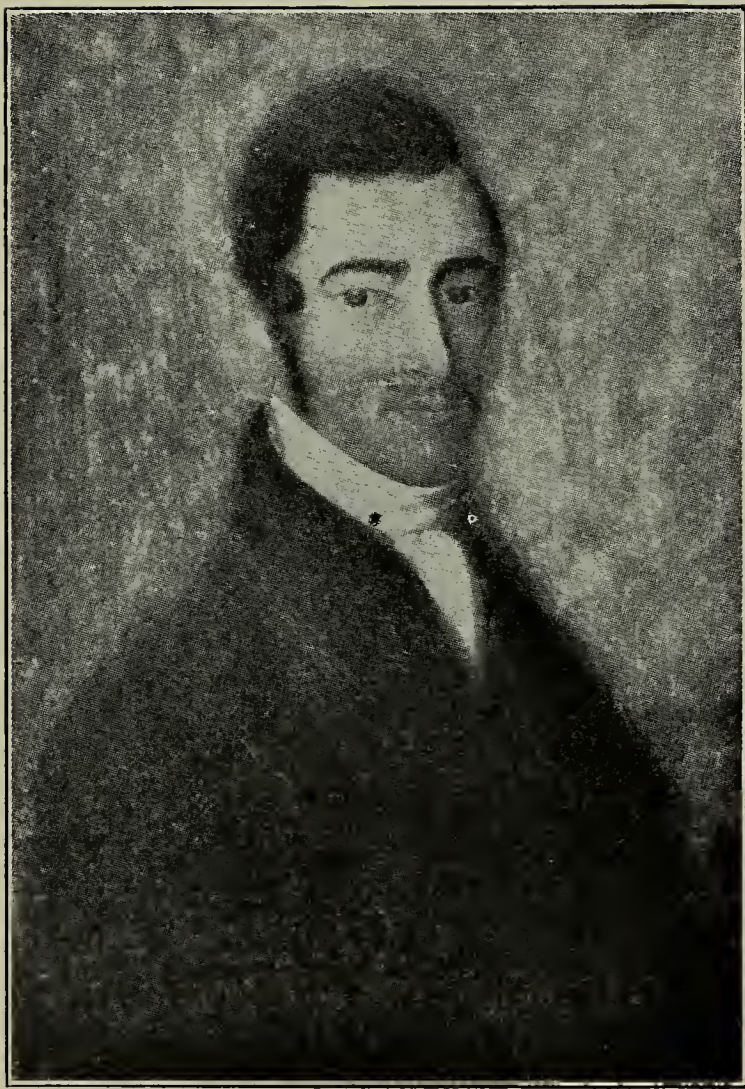
*This appeared (pp. 248-332) as an appendix to Dr. Hoge's reprint of certain pamphlets under the general title *Christian Panoply*. Shepherd's-Town: P. Rootes and C. Blagrove. 1797. Dr. Hoge's contribution was *The Sophist Unmasked, in a series of letters addressed to Thomas Paine, author of a book entitled The Age of Reason*. By Philobiblius.

by the Synod of Virginia, and discharged the duties of that office, in addition to those of the presidency and the pastorate of his churches until 1820. In that year this venerable man, while attending the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, died in Philadelphia at the age of sixty-eight, and was committed to that earth which already held the ashes of John Blair Smith and Drury Lacy, his predecessors in the chair of the College.

Partly from the peculiarities of his deportment, partly from the caste of his mind, and from his engrossing devotion to the laborious duties of his various offices, and, I may add, from a species of eloquence that appealed with equal force to the reason and the imagination, and which drew from John Randolph the expression, "that Dr. Hoge was the best of orators," he held a place in the public regard which few men of a generation succeed in reaching, and which may well fill the measure of a generous ambition. His hospitality was dispensed with equal freedom to the rich and the poor, to the eloquent statesman and to the wanderer by the wayside. Even the Indian from the waters of the Tombigby and the Alabama—regions then almost untrodden by the foot of the Saxon—on his route to Washington, knocked at his door, and received a hearty welcome. Like his predecessor, Alexander, he was blessed in his children. He saw three of his sons become ministers in the church of his affections; and it is gracious to the memory of such a man to add that neither they nor their descendants have allowed the good and unsullied name of their ancestor to be forgotten or to grow dim with years.

PRESIDENT CUSHING.

With Dr. Hoge ended the series of presidents who had taken a part in the Revolution, or who had been born before the Declaration of Independence. The death of this good man was in some degree unexpected by the guardians of the College. He had indeed reached his sixty-eighth year, and was in delicate health, but the vigorous labors of his early life, his regular habits of temperance and exercise, and his congenial pursuits, seemed to promise a protracted existence. His death made a blank that it appeared impossible to fill. He had not only been a most efficient teacher, and had by the laborious services of thirteen years reared a reputation



JONATHAN P. CUSHING

that had extended far and wide, but was regarded in his clerical capacity with a reverence and affection rarely surpassed. One man, and only one, could fill his place; and the distinguished theologian who had been the third president of the college, and who was then a professor in a great theological institution which had risen under his eye, was elected to succeed Dr. Hoge. The neighboring churches, which had ever been the two supporting columns of the College, also united in the call; but as might have been seen under all the circumstances of the case, Archibald Alexander declined the appointment.

About three years before the death of Hoge, a young man of four and twenty years had been chosen a tutor, and soon after the librarian of the College. His fine person, his dignified deportment, the skill and zeal with which he discharged the duties devolving upon him, and the interest and tact which he exhibited in promoting the welfare of the institution, conciliated the public regard; and in 1819 he was chosen the professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry. It was now resolved to place him in the chair of the presidency, and on the 21st of September, 1821, Jonathan Peter Cushing was chosen to that office. He was born at Rochester, New Hampshire, on the 12th of March, 1793, and was apprenticed to a mechanical trade, and by his industry accumulating money enough to purchase his time, he entered Phillip's Academy, paid his way by working at his trade and by teaching, entered Dartmouth College, and was graduated in that college in 1817; thus entering as a conqueror on the stage of life. In his generous efforts to obtain an education this noble young man had impaired his health, and to relieve the symptoms of a threatened consumption, he sought the genial atmosphere of a southern clime. Like most young men who undertake the acquisition of a learned education at a late age, he devoted more of his time to the mathematical and scientific departments of knowledge than to the classical, and it is on his excellence in the sphere of his choice that his reputation now rests. He also strictly kept abreast of the contested literary topics of his age; and I well remember the interest with which he read, forty-eight years ago, on the floor of the library of Virginia, the letters of Robertson to Gibbon, which were said to compromise the religious character of the great leader of the Scotch Presbyterian Kirk—the volume had then recently been published in the correspondence of Gibbon, and I placed it before Mr. Cushing. I was most impressed by the re-

finer dignity of his address, by his various and accurate knowledge, and by the sterling sense of his talk. He also delivered an address before the Historical Society of Virginia, which was an earnest of his desire to promote the literature of his adopted country in other spheres than those to which his own studies were directed. During his administration a fresh impulse was given to the College.

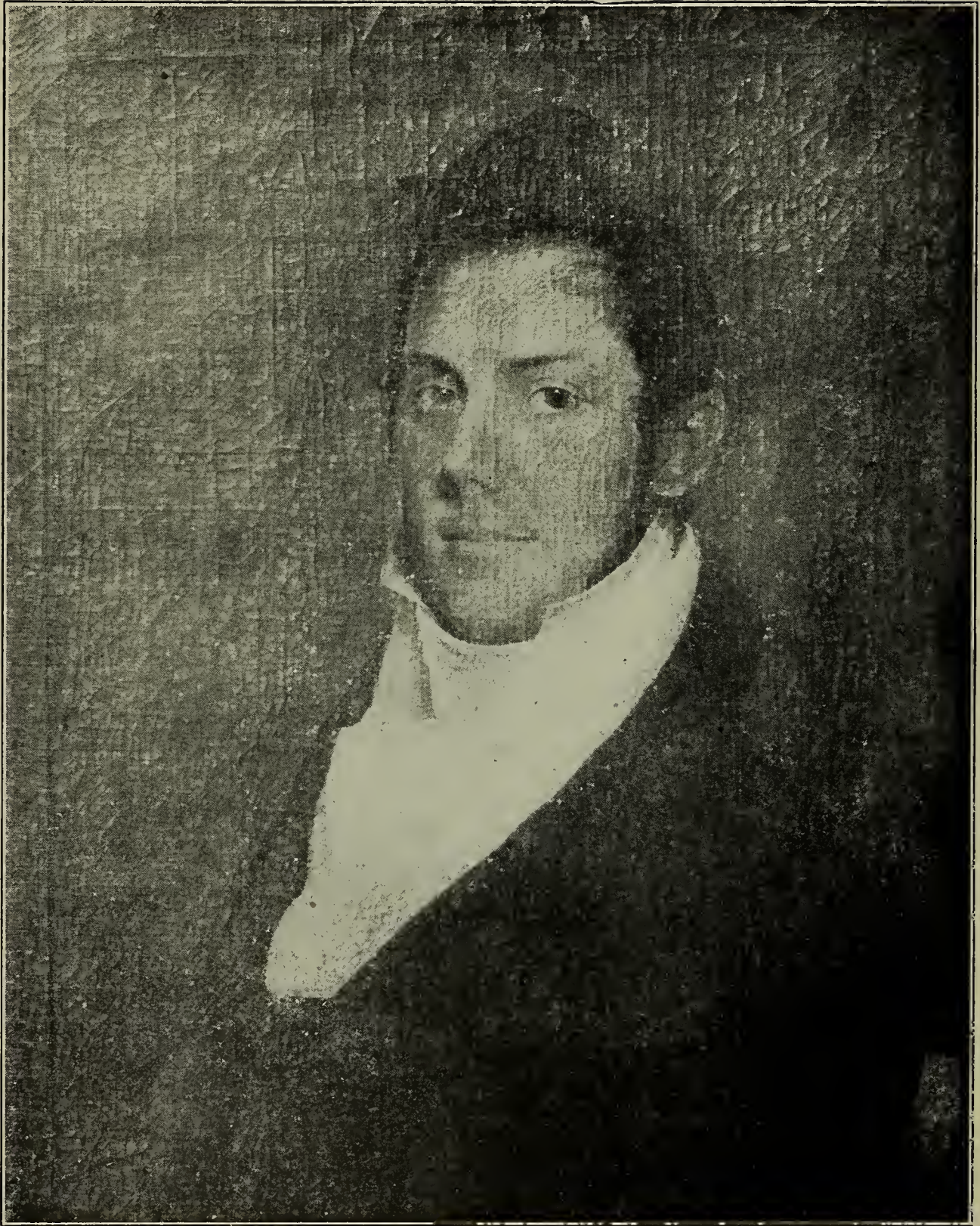
The handsome buildings which now adorn your grounds rose in all their fair proportions, and the number of students went far beyond the average of any preceding decennial period. Assiduous efforts were made by the Trustees as a body and as individuals, and especially by the President himself, to enlarge the funds of the College, and these efforts were attended with unexpected success.

In May, 1831, when he had filled the office of president for ten years, he sent in his resignation, which he withdrew at the request of the Board, but afterwards renewed it to take effect on the first of October, 1832. But he was again re-elected, and held the office until his death in the city of Raleigh on the 13th day of April, 1835, at the age of forty-two. Thus died this eminent man in the prime of life, when his faculties had scarcely attained to their full development. As the head of a College, he had those indispensable qualities, without which the highest literary attainments avail but little. His genius was essentially executive, and embraced not only the general outline of discipline, but its practical details; and he possessed a dignity of address and a steadiness of purpose invaluable to the government of a literary institution. Mr. Cushing was the only president of the College at the date of his appointment who was not a minister of the Presbyterian Church, nor was he a member of that denomination, but died in the communion of the Episcopal Church. It only remains to say that the Board of Trustees, sensible of his great worth, commemorated his death by a public oration.

WILLIAM MAXWELL.

The successor of Carroll* was one of the most eminent men in the State. He had gained a high reputation at the bar, where he had been engaged in cases in which the ablest men, who were also

*In the manuscript as it has been preserved there is no mention of President Carroll, 1835-1838, beyond this statement of fact. Those pages must have been lost.



WILLIAM MAXWELL

his seniors in the profession and in years, were opposed to him, and in the fiercest conflicts had never sustained a disastrous defeat. Whatever may have been the fate of their case, his clients were never disposed to complain. He was the second layman who had been elected president, but even with the most abstract topics of the Calvinistic system he was so intimately acquainted that no man who had once measured weapons with him would willingly encounter him a second time. From early manhood his attention had been turned to religious subjects; and having joined the Presbyterian Church in early life he remained one of its most zealous and consistent members to his dying day.

Maxwell was the son of a gallant Scotchman who during the war of the Revolution had held important position in the navy of Virginia, and had rendered some effectual service on the waters of the Chesapeake, and of the James, and of the Elizabeth when Virginia had first raised flag on the sea.

William Maxwell was born in Norfolk on the 27th of February, 1774, graduated at Yale College in 1802, where he was a favorite pupil of Dwight, studied law, and in 1809 made an argument in the case of Wilson and Cunningham vs. the Marine Insurance Company of Norfolk, which placed him in the front rank of his profession. From 1809 to 1826, when he withdrew for a short time from the bar, not a year passed in which he did not make a speech that was the talk of the time. In the criminal case of Garcia and Castellano his speech drew from a gentleman who died recently, the Father of the Norfolk Bar, the remark that he had heard some of the best speakers of the first lawyers of Virginia during the present century, and that Maxwell in the case in question had surpassed them all. From the bar he passed to the House of Delegates and to the Senate of Virginia. On one occasion Andrew Stevenson, who had just returned from the mission to England, heard him make a speech of half an hour in the House of Delegates, and when he ended, that gentleman congratulated him, saying that he had hit most happily the best manner of speech in the House of Commons. His speeches were wholly extemporaneous, for he never wrote a sentence of a speech before delivery in all his life. He possessed, far above his compeers, not only an extraordinary skill in the metaphysical part of speaking, but a pure and sweet imagination, and a perfect familiarity with our best literature, especially

the prose of Milton as well as his poetry, the wealth of Bacon, and the harmony of Sir Philip Sidney, whose *Arcadia* is now in my possession, and bears the mark of Maxwell's pencil. Nor was the effect of his eloquence felt only within the limits of this Commonwealth. He was the only eminent man that I ever knew who would ever venture, or who ever ventured, to appear before such a body as the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Yale on one of its formal anniversaries, without a single line of written preparation. Yet Maxwell made the attempt and succeeded. When the committee of the Society reported its thanks to the speaker and requested a copy of the speech for publication, they could hardly believe their ears when told that the speech was entirely extemporaneous. On that occasion he received the congratulations of the venerable Dr. Sprague, then in the zenith of his fame, (who, I regret to say, has just passed from us forever)—that gentleman, himself an orator, declared to him that although he would not say his speech was the ablest he ever heard, for the subject did not admit of the highest order of intellectual effort, that it was the most graceful and the most eloquent speech to which he had ever listened.

From my fifth year, when in his pew adjoining the one in which I sate, I watched for those peculiar intonations of a psalm that will recur to all who have ever heard him sing, to the day of his death, his course has run substantially under my observation. As in most lives, there were in his, years of sunshine undimmed even by a passing cloud—fame at the bar and that prestige which follows in the wake of legal fame; wealth that overflowed his shallow depositories and dispensed life and health and joy to the suffering poor within his reach, or reared the church or the College, or returned the African to his native clime, or sent the gospel to the isles of the sea. During this period he raised in his native city at his own expense a beautiful temple devoted to the general offices of piety and letters. From one of those sudden revolutions which attend property in towns, his patrimonial estate turned to dross in his possession; and the pressure of years made a retirement from the bar, the members of which belonged to another generation, a becoming if not a profitable act. But the keen exercise of his faculties was necessary to his happiness, and this was to be found in the course of studies pursued by the higher classes of the College at Hampden-Sidney. He entered on his duties there (in 1838) with

great zest. The very presence of such a man was to the candidate of intellectual distinction a lesson, and a vision to be seen with delight. In 1844 he resigned his office and removed to Richmond (where he edited the *Virginia Historical Register*, which is now deemed a treasure, and sells for twenty times its original cost), and there resided until his death in 1857.

The leading qualities of this excellent man were his piety and his eloquence. His wit was as keen as the scimitar of Saladin, and his humor, which he put forth at will, was irresistible. As an orator he stood in his day and generation without an equal. I have heard many of the most eloquent men who, from the date of the Virginia Convention of 1776 to the middle of the present century, were classed among our greatest speakers, and looking to the sphere which he chose, I do not hesitate to declare that in my opinion Maxwell surpassed them all. It is true that we cannot point to any speech of his which equals the demonstrative grandeur of Marshall in the case of Jonathan Bobbins, of Tazewell, in defence of Branch's resolutions, or of Wickham on the doctrine of treason, in Burr's trial; but it must be remembered that a great legal argument need not be, and very rarely has been, accompanied by glowing eloquence or by graceful action. Maxwell's readiness was uncommon; if knocked up at midnight and requested to speak, he would make a finer speech than any one else could have done after deliberate preparation. Nor was this the readiness of a common talker; it was the result of the severe training of the closet, which rendered all his powers available on the instant. If mere argument was needed, he brought to the work an intellect among the sharpest of his time, and skilled in the law of fence; where broad and comprehensive reasoning was required, or the more ingenious subtlety of disquisition, he was equally at home. But his peculiar merit, in which he was not approached by the ablest of his colleagues at the bar and in the Senate, was the beauty and variety of his rhetoric. Such a style of speech owed its perfection to two sources—a genius of a high order, susceptible of the most thorough culture, and the cultivation of all its faculties.

Maxwell published a small volume of poems* which in the esti-

**Poems*. By William Maxwell, Esq. Philadelphia. 1812 (two editions). One of these poems is an *Elegy to the memory of the Rev. Benjamin Grigsby*. Conrad Speece reviewed the book in John Holt Rice's

mation of certain readers rather lessened than increased his general reputation. There were in the volume a few odes after the fashion of Anacreon which struck the common reader as inconsistent with the author's fame as a speaker and the dignity of his character, but which, though undervalued by harsh and ignorant men among his own people, received the warm praise of the historian William Roscoe, himself equally at home in prose and poetry. Maxwell's odes on the naval victories of the war of 1812 formed perhaps his most brilliant poetical work.

CONCLUSION.

We now close the account of the men who presided in your institution during the century that is past; and it may be said that they would have conferred honor on the first colleges of the country. They did a great work in their day and generation; but they passed through many trials. It is painful to reflect that the resignations of every one of these able men were brought about by the low state of the finances of the College. Men who, if they had engaged in secular pursuits, would have achieved the highest rewards of wealth and distinction, could not afford to trust to the uncertain developments of a distant future for the payment of present debt, and they were reluctantly compelled to seek elsewhere for that maintenance for themselves and their families which was denied them here. Let us take warning from the past. Let us remember those words which were uttered by divine lips, and which have been recently illustrated by a son of Hampden-Sidney beneath a Southern sky, that "other men labored, and that we have entered into their labors," and that it is our duty not only to hallow the memory of our benefactors, but to aid in carrying successfully forward those schemes which they inaugurated so early and upheld so faithfully for the welfare of their fellow men. Let us learn from the sad experience of our fathers the great lesson that in a sparsely settled, tobacco planting region, the income of which is as variable as the seasons, no literary institution can rely for support on the receipts derived

Evangelical and Literary Magazine, I, 452-459 (1818). He ended his review, "With this book in my hand I will no more suffer the assertion to pass in silence that Virginia has not yet produced a poet worthy of the title."

from the tuition of the ever-varying number of pupils; and that unless it be sustained by a permanent fund to relieve the present and pressing emergency, we must lose, as we have heretofore lost, the services of the ablest teachers, and the ability to obtain others; and that the institution which has been reared by our ancestors will be a mere meteor casting now and then a sudden flash through the darkness that surrounds it, instead of becoming a permanent orb which shall diffuse in its constant and steady revolutions the healing light of science and literature throughout the land.

Let me remind you of the solemn truth that when the ceremonies of this centennial commencement shall have ended, we shall never behold another; that before the recurrence of a similar occasion, the young and the old, the good and the beautiful and the brave and the wise—every human being now within this hall, as well as all who are beyond it, will have been sleeping for years and perhaps for generations in the sepulchres that now hold the ashes of their sires; and that it now rests with them, whether they shall perish as the leaves stripped from the tree by the passing wind, or be remembered with gratitude and praise by those who shall succeed them. The immortality of honor can only be purchased with a price. The sluggard slays no giant, and wins no rule; and whoever fails to sow in due season reaps no harvest from the most fertile soil. Yet how precious the thought and desire that, though our very names and race shall have passed from the patrimonial land of our love, we shall be remembered as the benefactors of our fellow men; to know that when another centennial sun shall shine upon this scene, our own humble services will be held in memory; and that our own names will be honored with praise. If such an emotion stir your bosom, rally to the support of your noble institution. Write your names ere it is too late in that book which will be opened on that next centennial morning in the halls of Hampden-Sidney. O! spare the blush of your descendant who shall on that day seek in its votive pages the ancestral name, and seek in vain.

And as we began our review of the past century with a grateful recognition of the benignant care of an overruling Providence in the years that are gone, so let us end by invoking the Giver of every good and perfect gift to bless ourselves and our descendants, and to uphold and cherish us and the noble institution of our fathers in the years that are to come.

NOTES.*

THE CHARTER.

Of the Charter, which for the last ninety-two years has been published far and wide, there is one sentiment which in this centennial year of the College deserves a pointed recognition. It must be remembered that the war of the Revolution was not ended at the date of the Charter, and that some predatory excursions were still made on the shores of the upper Chesapeake by marauding parties of the British, and even that moment it could not be affirmed with certainty what the future might be. Even at that moment if Great Britain could have dissolved the alliance between France and the United States, she would have renewed the war with her Colonies, and she might have subdued them. As it was the want of a powerful fleet in our waters which produced the result of our recent Civil War, so it was the presence of the navy of France that enabled our fathers to succeed in the war of the Revolution. At such an epoch the Presbytery and the Board of Trustees determined that no doubt should exist about their opinions, and at the close of the third section of the Charter they enact:

That in order to preserve in the minds of the students that sacred love and attachment which they should ever bear to the principles of the present glorious Revolution, the greatest care and caution shall be used in electing such professors and masters, to the end that no person shall be so elected unless the uniform tenor of his conduct manifest to the world his sincere affection for the liberty and independence of the United States of America.

*It should be said that Mr. Grigsby had not revised this Address for publication. The very interesting material of these Notes is taken from certain parts of the MS. which would have been reworked. Throughout the text Mr. Grigsby's notes are indicated.—A. J. Morrison, Ed.

FIRST VISIT TO HAMPDEN-SIDNEY.

It was in 1815, during the thirty-ninth year of the College, and in the eighth of the presidency of Dr. Hoge that I visited Hampden-Sidney for the first time. As but few living, I am grieved to say, can now speak from personal observation of the College with its environs such as it was sixty-one years ago, I will endeavor to recall its appearance at that time. The site of the building in which we are now assembled, and of the present College proper, was in a forest that stretched from Morton's old store to the old Hall, a one-story wooden building probably forty by twenty-five feet, with seats raised one above another, which was situated between the present College building and the fence on the main road passing through the present village. In this building were held the exhibitions of the College, and it was also used as the Church of the Presbyterian congregation of the neighborhood. As you entered the eastern door, and I believe there was no other, you saw on the left hand a platform three feet high, extending across the building, on which was a pulpit, from which Dr. Hoge preached every Sunday, and a chair for the precentor, who was in my day, and had been long before, the venerable James Morton, who had served his country faithfully during the Revolution (especially in the battles near Philadelphia), had been for a short time the steward of the College, and was for half a century one of the most valuable members of the Board of Trustees. Hymn books were then rare, and were never brought into church, and it was the office of the precentor not only to raise the tune, but to give out the hymns in couplets to the people. When Dr. Hoge had ended one of those famous sermons which John Randolph used to ride up, booted and spurred, from Bizarre to hear, the voices of old and young would send forth a sound that shook the roof and was heard through the adjoining forest.

Another building of the Hampden-Sidney of that day was the house of the president, a one-story wooden building with a room on either side of the central passage, and a finished loft; and there may have been a shed room or two. The site of the house may yet be traced, and about one hundred yards westward from the house of the president, on ground now enclosed in the lot of Professor Holaday, was the main College building of brick, forty-one by thirty-odd feet perhaps, and two stories high. It was deemed the wonder

of the day. Travellers would turn aside to see it, and it was undoubtedly the largest brick structure reared by Protestant hands (*circa* 1783) in the cause of education between the falls of James River and the Pacific ocean. There was also a steward's house of moderate dimensions. Such was the Hampden-Sidney of sixty-one years ago.

STATE OF THE TOBACCO COUNTRY.

It was not until the close of the war of 1812 that the first burst of sunshine (from 1783 to 1814) fell upon this part of the country. Before that time when the traveller visited the gatherings at churches and on court days, and entered the dwellings of the people, he saw none of those signs of prosperity which ten years later were everywhere visible. The houses were mainly of wood, and rarely had more than two rooms on a floor. The furniture was always made at home, was plain and not abundant, and even in houses of men of wealth paint was used sparingly, and in many cases not at all. The dress of the inhabitants was mainly domestic, and when imported goods were used, a single suit of broadcloth or a dress of silk lasted for a number of years. Before eighteen hundred and fifteen four wheeled carriages were rare, and were destitute of ornaments; the family vehicle was a large and massive gig which could hold as great a weight as a single horse could pull. Before the close of eighteen hundred and fifteen a new era dawned.* The high prices of tobacco were soon seen in the dress of the people, in the elegance of their carriages, and in the beauty of their horses, in the rise of many large and handsome wood and brick houses, and in the improvement of the face of the country. Twelve years after

*"From 1783 to the declaration of war in 1812 there did not pass a single year in which a war with Great Britain was not a justifiable measure. The retention of the British posts by that powerful nation, the failure to pay for the property carried off in defiance of the positive provisions of the capitulation at York, Great Britain's orders in council in Washington's administration, and her subsequent orders, were to the last degree annoying. The products of our agriculture were for long periods shut out from the sea; and one of our most prominent Southside statesmen, who was also a practical farmer, wrote from Washington that our prospect was so dark that the planters should cease the cultivation of tobacco altogether and put their lands in grass." [MS. p. 67.]

1815, when I attended a commencement of the College,* the large collection of people of both sexes and of all ages who filled every place in the church, and who were clad in modern and costly apparel, and the number of gigs and carriages adorned with curtains and beautified with silver gilt, indicated the vast increase of the general wealth in that interval.

*From Minutes of the Literary and Philosophical Society (MS.): September 26, 1827.—“The Literary and Philosophical Society at Hampden-Sidney College held its fourth Anniversary meeting in the philosophical apparatus room * * * Messrs. Charles Campbell, of Petersburg [the historian], and Hugh B. Grigsby, of Norfolk, were elected members.”

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 029 908 859 5

