



ALLEN GARLAND HALL
LATE DEAN OF VANDERBILT LAW SCHOOL

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY QUARTERLY

A Record of University Life and Work

Vol. XV

OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1915

No. 4

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ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE first number of the VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY QUARTERLY was issued in March, 1901. The present number completes the fifteenth volume. The publication was inaugurated to serve as a record of University life and work and, in the second place, as a means of reaching the alumni of the University and bringing to their attention University interests and needs. The fifteen volumes already published will always remain a rich storehouse of University history. The first number of the QUARTERLY was filled with the account of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary. Since then many notable achievements in University life have been here recorded and many significant addresses printed. More and more the QUARTERLY has tended to become a magazine for the alumni. The paragraphs devoted to alumni news have constantly increased, and to alumni especially has the QUARTERLY appealed for support and subscribers.

Within the last two years the development of the alumni movement has been so great as to necessitate a more frequent publication than the QUARTERLY. The *Vanderbilt Alumnus* has grown out of this need. With the inauguration of this valuable publication the necessity for the QUARTERLY disappears. Such addresses, reports, etc., as need to be published in the future will doubtless be issued in pamphlet form. For these reasons the University QUARTERLY retires from the field with this number. This retirement, just as its beginning, marks an era in University history and is a sign of progress—an indication of advance, not of retreat. In this paragraph we record gratefully the services of many who have contributed to its pages, particularly of its editors, Dean F. W. Moore and later Dr. B. E. Young. To the *Vanderbilt Alumnus* and its efficient Managing Editor, Charles Cason, we extend best wishes for a long period of successful service in the interest of the Alumni Association and Vanderbilt University as a whole.

DR. ALLEN G. HALL.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY has suffered a severe loss in the death of Dr. Allen G. Hall, Dean of the School of Law, which occurred at his residence, on the Vanderbilt Campus, early in the morning of Sunday, November 28. Dr. Hall had been in ill health for a number of years, but his actual breakdown occurred only a few months ago. In spite of physical weakness, he did a great deal of hard work. His weakness did not affect his intellectual labors nor decrease in any particular his remarkable energy of mind and spirit. Dr. Hall's connection with the School of Law has been continuous for the past fourteen years, and it is not too much to say that the great improvements within that time have been the result of his own convictions and activity. As professor of law, as secretary of the school, as chairman of the faculty, and, finally, as dean, he has been the organizer of the new school and the guide of its destinies. Chief among the things accomplished by Dr. Hall may be mentioned the increase in entrance requirements, the lengthening of the course to three years, membership in the American Association of Law Schools, the introduction of law teachers not practitioners, and the development of the case system for class instruction. Dr. Hall's ambition was never to build up a large school at the sacrifice of good work. His demands on students and teachers alike were rigid, but he enforced the same demands upon himself.

As a teacher he ranked with the best. His reputation in this regard had extended beyond the limits of the State and resulted in a number of calls for him from other schools. These he declined, because he believed the work he had undertaken to be of greater importance, and he was desirous of bringing that work to a successful conclusion.

Within the last few years it was his hope to see the Law School moved back again to its old home on the West Campus. Plans for this were under way when he was taken sick and had finally to relinquish the work. It was a comfort to him in his last hours to know that arrangements had been completed for this step, to which he had long looked forward.

In building a great university the coöperation of many hands and hearts is needed. Each one does his part in his own field and meets his own peculiar responsibility. This truth was conspicuously manifested in the life of Dr. Hall. His labor, interest,

and constructive ability were all devoted to the upbuilding of the School of Law, and in this work it will be hard indeed to find his successor.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

Dr. Hall was born in Lafayette, Ky., July 12, 1862. He was a son of Claudius Buchanan Hall and Selina Jefferson Garland Hall. His early life was spent at Lafayette, Ky., and he received his elementary education in the schools of that community. His family were strong and vigorous of mind and marked by forceful traits of character.

When he was a youth he entered the school of Webb Brothers, at Culleoka, Tenn., where he remained for several years. It was at this time that the Webb School was beginning to obtain the character and reputation that made its future so brilliant and its influence so permanent. Here he was associated with many men who afterwards became influential and prominent in the life of the State. At this time he formed a friendship for the late Edward W. Carmack, which lasted until the death of Mr. Carmack.

After he completed his work at Culleoka, he entered Vanderbilt University, where he remained for several years. He spent several years in the Academic Department and then entered the Law Department, graduating in June, 1885. During his college career he gave evidence of the qualities that later made him an influential and useful citizen. He was regarded then as a brilliant speaker and a man of unusual intellectual attainments. He was prominent in the departments of school life as it was then constituted and was one of the leaders of the period. Here, too, he formed associations that lasted throughout life. He was a college mate of Judge Claude Waller, Walter Stokes, C. C. Slaughter, Justice McReynolds, and many other well-known and influential men.

He came to the bar in 1885 and practiced law with success until his health failed him, in 1898. Shortly after coming to the bar he married Miss Lillie Carter Gunn, of Cadiz, Ky., and by that marriage two sons were born, Glen Andrews Hall and Fitzgerald Hall, all of whom survive him. During his career at the bar he was particularly noted for his ability as an advocate and took part in a number of noted cases.

He was also greatly interested in politics and identified himself with the organized democracy of the county and State. He frequently took part on the stump in campaigns and early made the

reputation as a splendid campaign speaker, possessing not only vigorous eloquence, but a rare and trenchant wit. However, he held office but once. He was a member of the Forty-Seventh General Assembly of Tennessee, that met in 1891, and was speaker *pro tem.* of that body during the session.

It was, however, after the failure of his health and what appeared to be almost the close of his career that he rendered the most conspicuous service both to the community and to the State. After spending a year in Texas during the winter of 1898 and 1899, where he recuperated and became again comparatively well, he taught for several years in the Nashville high school, rapidly taking a foremost position in that institution.

In 1903 the Board of Trust of Vanderbilt University determined to have at least one man give his entire time to the Law Department of the University, and Dr. Hall was elected professor and secretary of the faculty. Of his work in this department of the University we have already spoken.

Dr. Hall was a man of versatile character and versatile mind. For the past nine years he had been Superintendent of Platform of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly. During that period he brought into this work the same capacity for construction that he exhibited as Dean of the Law Department of Vanderbilt University. He elevated the standard of the platform to a point where it was commonly agreed that the ablest representatives and most vigorous thought of many varieties or phases of life were brought to that place. Through his instrumentality opportunities were offered to the people of the entire South to keep abreast of modern investigation and modern ideas in literature, philosophy, science, and religion.

No man in recent years has contributed as much to the influence and permanency of the Monteagle Assembly. It will be difficult to fill his place, and he will be lamented by the thousands of people who have made the mountain their Mecca during the summer periods.

While he was devoting most of his time to the institutions just mentioned, he found time, regardless of the fact that he was a frail man and suffered all these years with physical infirmities, to devote to other phases of life.

For many years he was a successful teacher of the Bible class of the Moore Memorial Sunday School and was actively identified

with the work of the Presbyterian Church throughout the South. Few men were as accomplished in this regard as he was. He brought to bear upon the study of the Bible and the history of the Bible the same character of mind that he brought to bear upon the study of all other subjects. He was never satisfied until he found the bottom of the principles and, when he found it, was courageous and bold in his views.

So widespread was his influence in Church work that in 1906 he was chosen Moderator of the General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church, an honor that has come to few laymen in the past fifty years. It was about this time, by reason of his prominence as an educator and churchman and in scholarship in general lines, that the Central University of Kentucky honored him by conferring upon him the degree of doctor of laws.

During the last eighteen years he was also vitally interested in political questions and allied himself with those leaders who advocated legislation that made for righteous living regardless of the party platform. Always a teetotaler himself, he early espoused the cause of prohibition, and as long as his strength enabled him he took an active part in the organization known as the Anti-Saloon League. At one time he was vice-president of that organization. He was a member for many years of the Old Oak Club and read many brilliant papers at its meetings.

In addition to these different things that he labored for and achieved, he was noted socially for charm of manner, brilliancy in conversation, and eloquence and wit as a speaker. His humor and wit were not surpassed by the humor and wit of any man of his period in Tennessee. As an occasional speaker he enjoyed a position superior to any man of this section. He shone particularly on occasions when he was toastmaster or speaker at great dinners.

No more versatile man has lived in this community in the present generation. No man has touched so many different things as successfully as he has touched them. It may well be said of him, as was said of another, that there were few subjects that he did not touch and none that he did not adorn.

He counted among his friends people of all classes of society. He was a welcome guest at any gathering, large or small. While he was devoted to his friends, kindly of nature, he was courageous in taking positions, never hesitating to express his views when the occasion demanded, even though it meant antagonism and conflict.