

THE PRESBYTERY  
OF  
THE LOG COLLEGE;

OR,  
The Cradle of the Presbyterian Church  
IN AMERICA.

BY  
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THE ORIGINAL LOG COLLEGE BUILDING.

## APPENDIX.

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### CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING OF THE LOG COLLEGE, SEPT. 5, 1889.

FOLLOWING the preparation of this volume, and growing out of it, there was held on September 5, 1889, the year which is the centennial anniversary of the organization of the General Assembly, a celebration which was so extraordinary in every respect that the author was persuaded to delay the issuing of the book until a description of that noteworthy event could be prepared as an appendix. The commemorative occasion was marked by so many favoring providences; it drew together such a vast assembly; it was so cordially advocated by the public press; it was honored by the presence of so many distinguished people; it had with it such hearty good-will from all classes, all parties and all denominations,—that it cannot but be regarded as a most remarkable and significant event. It was the more noteworthy in that such results were entirely unanticipated. In the beginning its friends had no higher purpose than an ordinarily important reunion, and all its vast proportions were developed as the work of preparation progressed.

The celebration grew out of the continued study of its history which had been undertaken by direction of the Presbytery. As that study progressed and led to the minute investigation of points in the history which had not come in the way of previous explorers, certain new and striking facts were discovered. How should these important facts be rescued from oblivion and brought to the attention of those who are interested in the cause of religion? Evidently some extraordinary thing must be done for that purpose. This was the first impulse that prompted to our wonderful celebration. What else would be so well adapted to awaken the attention of the Christian public to our strangely interesting history?

It became more and more manifest to us at every step that we were following the leadings of Providence. Plans of preparation

damental law. He laid particular stress on the number of institutions founded by men who were the product of the Log College. He referred principally to Washington College, now Washington and Lee University, and Hampden-Sidney College, the Alma Mater of President William Henry Harrison, and traced the history of these institutions, showing the progress they have made under the principles of Presbyterianism." Concluding, he said: "And thus does the influence of the Log College survive in the institutions it originated and in the hearts and lives of the men it has helped."\*

Dr. Murphy, introducing President Harrison, said:

We cannot utter the weight of obligation we are under to the President for being with us to-day. He is here at a great sacrifice of time, and had we known the burden that presses upon him we would scarcely have had the heart to ask him to be here.

He suggested that the audience manifest its gratitude to the President for his presence, which suggestion was promptly taken up by the entire audience rising and cheering.

The President rose and bowed his acknowledgments, and Dr. Murphy further remarked that as the President was suffering from fatigue he would call upon him to speak at once, so as not to detain him into the afternoon. He introduced him by saying:

"One of the sublimest sights this earth ever can afford is that of the Chief Magistrate of sixty millions of people taking part in a religious gathering such as this."

President Harrison came forward amid prolonged applause. The audience, responding to the impulse of the moment, gave three hearty cheers.

MY FRIENDS: I have had illustrated here to-day one of the conspicuous traits of the Presbyterian Church. Nothing, I assure you, short of a robust embodiment of the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints, in the person of our distinguished brother who presides over these exercises, could have overcome the difficulties which seemed to be in the way of my meeting with you to-day. I have had also illustrated, I regret to say, another trait, which I have observed in the non-ecclesiastical world more than once, and very much to my discomfort, and which I thought would be absent here. And I must trace it, I suppose, to the same responsible source. I never, at any time, promised to make an address on this occasion. (Laughter.) I have authorized no one to say so. (Laughter.) Indeed, among those direful incidents which accompany the Presidency of the United States, and which have been so graphically described by Dr. Murphy, there is none more embarrassing than this of being constantly associated upon the platform or at the banquet-table with gentlemen who have manuscripts in their pockets. (Laughter.) It is altogether unfair, and I expected in this great meeting of my Presbyterian brethren more hospitable treatment. (Applause.) And yet I have pleasure in being here, for every impulse of honorable pride

\* It is to be regretted that through absence from home Dr. McIlwaine was prevented from furnishing a fuller synopsis of his admirable paper.

which stirs your heart moves mine. I am glad to stand at the source of a great movement. I have seen the Mississippi River pouring out its great torrent into the Gulf and opening a way inland for an enormous commerce, and I was glad to stand a few years ago where the Gallatin, Jefferson and Madison combine to form the Missouri and send it on its great course to the sea. On this spot, about which there are gathered so many historical associations, we celebrate one of those great impulses born of God and that will do God's work until the world shall cease to move. (Applause.)

I stand awed before the thought of what the great day will reveal as the fruit of this modest but pious and courageous effort, the institution of the Log College—the wholesome fruit of faith. Only the eye of God can follow those tender and imperceptible filaments of mental and moral influence that touch our lives. If it could be revealed to us to-day, how many in this great audience, gathered from remote sections of our country, would see the silver thread by which they had been drawn into the Church of God reaching back to efforts that were started here! It is pleasant to believe that that which is now hidden to our eyes will some day be known, and that we will be able better to realize what these men wrought for God and for mankind.

I do not want unduly to exalt the Presbyterian Church, and yet I think the historians who have been untouched by the partiality of membership will say that it has been, as a body, magnificently characterized by faithfulness to God and human liberty. (Applause.) If some have supposed that it was not a progressive Church, that its creed was hard, let us not forget that there are times in the development of affairs, both secular and spiritual, when the rock must be opposed to the sword of error. We have been progressive toward the truth, and not from it. Steadfastness our enemies have called obstinacy. Well, even that characteristic has its occasions and its services. We are to-day, as a Church, in the most affectionate fellowship with all who revere the great doctrines of the Christian faith and practice them. (Applause.)

The great period of polemical and acrimonious ecclesiastical discussion has its day and its use. If we are now come into a day when essentials have been magnified and non-essentials have been set in their subordinate place, let us rejoice that we may unite our efforts with those who would lift up mankind, and, while still loving the Church, the banner that designates the regiment to which we belong, let us rejoice that we are one army.

Let me kindly thank you for this most cordial and brotherly greeting. Let me wish that this day may close under auspices as pleasant as it has opened. I hope all will carry away from this occasion the instructive lessons which you have heard from the manuscripts.

The exercises of the morning were concluded with the singing of the Memorial Hymn, composed and also read by Charles Collins, D. D. :

Father divine, to Thee  
Humbly we bow  
With reverence, godly fear;  
Help us just now.  
Subdued each worldly thought,  
Our minds with praises fraught,  
Thy gracious Spirit sought,  
Bless us, we pray.