

THE PRINCETON BOOK.

A SERIES OF SKETCHES

PERTAINING TO THE

HISTORY, ORGANIZATION AND PRESENT CONDITION

OF THE

COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY.

BY

OFFICERS AND GRADUATES OF THE COLLEGE.

Illustrated with Views and Portraits.



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I.

HISTORICAL.



HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY.

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[N. B. All quotations of any length in the following pages, where book or author is not cited, should be credited to the "History of the College of New Jersey, from its origin in 1746 to the Commencement of 1854. By John Maclean, Tenth President of the College."]

IN the New York Gazette and Weekly Post-Boy of February 2, 1746 - 7, — O. S., corresponding to February 13, 1747, N. S., — appeared the following advertisement : —

"Whereas a charter with full and ample privileges has been granted by his Majesty under the seal of the Province of New Jersey, bearing date, the 22d of October, 1746, for erecting a college within the said Province, to Jonathan Dickinson, John Pierson, Ebenezer Pemberton, and Aaron Burr, ministers of the Gospel, and some other gentlemen, as Trustees of the said College ; by which Charter, equal liberties and privileges are secured to every denomination of Christians, any different religious sentiments notwithstanding,

"The said Trustees have therefore thought proper to inform the public, that they design to open the said College the next Spring, and to notify to any person or persons who are qualified by preparatory learning for admission, that some time in May next, at latest, they may be thus admitted to an Academic education."

Thus was the world informed of the advent of a fourth member in the sisterhood of American colleges. HARVARD, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, may date its origin from 1636, was opened in 1638, graduated its first class in 1642, and received its charter from the General Court of Massachusetts, with the consent of the governor, in 1650. The College of WILLIAM AND MARY, located at Williamsburg, Virginia, may date its origin from an act of the colonial assembly passed in 1660 - 1, received a royal charter from the joint sovereigns, William and Mary, in 1693, and held its first Com-

mencement exercises in 1700. YALE COLLEGE, at New Haven, Connecticut, was chartered by the General Assembly of Connecticut in 1701, and held its first Commencement in 1702. The COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY received from John Hamilton, acting Governor of New Jersey, its first charter, "bearing date, 22d October, 1746," was opened in 1747, and held its first Commencement in 1748.

The New York Weekly Post-Boy, in its issue of April 20, 1747, contained the following advertisement :—

"This is to inform the public that the Trustees of the College of New Jersey have appointed the Rev. Mr. Jonathan Dickinson, President of the said College, which will be opened the fourth week in May next, at Elizabethtown ; at which time and place all persons suitably qualified, may be admitted to an academic education."

Thus announced, the new College modestly began its career under the roof of the President's private residence in Elizabethtown. How many young men accepted the invitation of the New York Weekly Post-Boy, and were present at the opening of the first session of the College of New Jersey, we have no means of ascertaining ; but among them, doubtless, were the six whose names constitute and adorn the first class of graduates ; five of whom became clergymen, and the sixth, Richard Stockton, of Princeton, New Jersey, eminent as lawyer and statesman, and illustrious as one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, reflected all his honors on the College with which he was intimately connected, as pupil, patron, or trustee, from the hour of its birth to the instant of his own death.

Jonathan Dickinson, when elected first President of the College of New Jersey, was pre-eminent among his contemporaries for piety, scholarship, and profound thought, a philosopher and theologian.

Mr. Caleb Smith, a young man of superior abilities, who was at the time of the opening of the College pursuing theological studies under the direction of its first President, assisted him in giving instruction to the first class, and is justly entitled to be enrolled as the first Tutor of the College of New Jersey, of which he was afterwards a trustee, and, at the Commencement of 1758, the officiating President.

With "such a distinguished and competent President," assisted by a tutor who was to attain eminence, and "with such a class of prominent young men to head the roll of the Alumni," the future glory of the infant College was splendidly forecast. But these bright anticipations were too speedily overclouded. President Dickinson died of pleurisy, October 7, 1747, in the sixtieth year of his age.

"Upon the decease of President Dickinson, the Rev. Aaron Burr took charge of the College, and the students were removed from Elizabethtown to Newark, the place of Mr. Burr's residence. Whether Mr. Burr was *formally* invested with the office of President at this time is uncertain, there being no college records of that date, or other contemporary authority to determine this question. But *it is certain* that he discharged *the duties* of the President while the College was yet under the *first* charter."

The "first charter" of the College of New Jersey was granted by John Hamilton, acting Governor of New Jersey, in 1746. Governor Hamilton granted this charter "without first obtaining the consent of the Provincial Legislature, and without having leave from his Majesty's government to do so. The legality of this exercise of power was questioned, as being unprecedented at least, but it seems to have been acquiesced in, and was followed by Governor Belcher, Governor Franklin, and Governor Bernard." This charter, it would seem, was never recorded. There is hardly a doubt that it was substantially the same as the one granted by Governor Belcher, and which is the present one in force.

The second charter "was approved and signed with the great seal of the Province by Governor Belcher, September 14, 1748." This charter constituted the governor of the Province *ex-officio* President of the Board of Trustees. THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY, as the name of the institution, was retained in this second charter.

Governor Belcher was deeply interested in the College, cheerfully used his official power in its behalf, and proudly called it his "adopted daughter." He "was not," says Dr. John Maclean, "properly speaking, *the founder* of the College, in the sense of being its originator, for the College was in existence and in active operation before his arrival. He was not, therefore, to use a phrase of Lord Coke's, its *Fundator Incipiens*, although, in view of what he did towards the building up of the institution, he may be regarded as its *Fundator Perficiens*."

The trustees appointed by the second charter were worthy to be the guardians of an institution of learning and religion. The clerical members of the Board were all Presbyterians, and men of prominence in their own church. The lay members were the most solid and influential men of the country; not all Presbyterians, but all men of mark and of high character.

The charter given by Governor Belcher was accepted by the trustees therein named on the 13th of October, 1748, O. S., and on the 9th of November following, at a meeting of the trustees at Newark, Mr. Burr was unanimously chosen President of the College as reorganized under this second charter. On the same day the first class graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the College of New Jersey. This first Commencement "was celebrated with circumstances of great pomp and ceremony, equally novel and interesting." A very full and quaint report of these Commencement exercises, written by Hon. William Smith, and published in Parker's Gazette and Post-Boy, is preserved in Dr. Maclean's History of the College.

Among the By-laws adopted at this time is the following:—

"None may expect to be admitted into College but such as being examined by the President and Tutors shall be found able to render Virgil and Tully's Orations into English; and to turn English into true and grammatical Latin; and to be so well acquainted with the Greek as to render any part of the four Evangelists in that language into Latin or English; and to give the grammatical connexion of the words."

September 27, 1752, the trustees "*Voted*, That the College be fixed at Princetown, on condition that the inhabitants of said Place fulfil" certain promises already agreed upon. In January, 1753, these promises were performed, and the trustees proceeded to take the preliminary steps for the erection of college buildings. In these days of railroads and telegraphs no more delectable spot could be chosen for a college than beautiful Princeton. But it is difficult to imagine the reasons that prevailed with the wise men who placed the young College almost out of the sight of the world, a full day's journey from either of the great cities of New York and Pennsylvania, and far removed from the educating and refining influences of large communities. Should not the College of New Jersey have occupied a site where all New Jersey might see it, and be compelled to recognize it? Is it a great wonder that Jersey-men did not regard the College, isolated in a rustic village, as in any sense a State institution? There was a strong inclination among its friends to place it in New Brunswick. But Governor Belcher and other patrons preferred Princeton; and New Brunswick, not appreciating its opportunity, failed to respond liberally to the proposals of the trustees, while Princeton generously offered both money and lands. "Ten acres of cleared land, two hundred acres of woodland, and one thousand pounds proclamation money," given by John Stockton, Thomas Leonard, John Hornor, and Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, were the handsome terms offered by the "inhabitants of Princeton" and accepted by the College of New Jersey.* Topographically, there can be no objection to Princeton. It is situated on an elevation of two hundred and twenty-one feet above the ocean. "It stands on the first high land which separates the alluvial plain of South Jersey from the mountainous and hilly country of the north. There is a gentle depression between it and the mountain, and a gradual descent on every other side of it towards the streams that nearly encircle it."† Its climate is "salubrious." Because of its healthfulness, Princeton was called by Dr. Witherspoon the "Montpellier of America."‡

January 25, 1753, the trustees appointed committees to build a college and president's house. It was at first intended to build the college of brick and the president's house of wood; but, fortunately, better counsels prevailed, and the college was built of Princeton stone and the president's house of brick. Nathaniel Fitz Randolph, one of the active patrons of the College and a resident of Princeton, kept a journal which has preserved to this day the knowledge of many facts that otherwise might have lapsed from the memory of man. Three brief items from this journal are here of interest.

"July 29, 1754, Jos. Morrow set a man first to begin to dig the college cellar."

"September, 1754, the first corner-stone of the New Jersey College was laid in the northwesterly

* History of Princeton, by J. F. Hageman, Esq., Vol. I. p. 32.

† Ibid., Vol. I. p. 9.

‡ Ibid., Vol. I. p. 13.

corner of cellar by Thomas Leonard, Esq., John Stockton, Esq., John Hornor, Esq., Mr. William Worth, the mason that built the stone and brick work of the college, myself and many others."

"November, 1755, the roof of the college was raised by Robert Smith, the carpenter that built the timber work of the college."

"The college building was originally one hundred and seventy-six feet in length, fifty-four feet in width, with a projection of about twelve feet in the middle rear and a few feet in the middle front. A cupola surmounted the centre of the roof. There were three stories, with a basement. There were forty-nine rooms, designed for one hundred and forty-seven students. Other rooms were for the library, recitations, refectory, dining-rooms, etc., and the whole number of rooms, exclusive of the chapel, was sixty. The chapel was nearly forty feet square, with a gallery. Here was an organ; opposite this a rostrum for speakers at public exhibitions and for the preacher on Sabbaths. On the walls hung a full-length portrait of the King, and opposite to it one of Governor Belcher surmounted by a coat of arms, carved and gilded, both having been presented by Governor Belcher."* "At the time of its erection," says Dr. Maclean, "this college building was the largest edifice of its kind in the British Provinces of North America, and in view of the very important services rendered to the College by Governor Belcher, the Trustees, in a very flattering letter addressed to the Governor, requested his permission to call this building BELCHER HALL. With a rare modesty he declined the honor, and at the same time expressed an earnest desire that the building should be called NASSAU HALL, in honor of King William *the third*, 'who was a branch of the illustrious House of Nassau.' It was therefore ordered by a vote of the Trustees, 'That the said edifice be, in all time to come, called and known by the name of Nassau Hall.'" From the name given to this first college edifice, the College itself is frequently called "Nassau Hall." Nassau Hall and the President's House are still standing, and in use by the College, venerable in age and rich in associations with the great and good men of a century and a quarter.

Whence came the money to build these edifices on a scale, for those times, so grand and generous? Not from the Province of New Jersey. Dr. Ashbel Green says, "Petitions of the most urgent kind were addressed to the Legislature of the Province of New Jersey in behalf of the College. But even a petition for a lottery was 'absolutely rejected.' Whatever was the influence of Governor Belcher or the popularity of President Burr, their united exertions could never prevail upon the Legislature of the Province in which the College was founded, whose name it bore, and of which it was the greatest ornament, to show it patronage or favor of any kind." The only *pecuniary* favors ever conferred, by either the Province or the State of New Jersey on the College of New Jersey, were, the privilege of drawing a lottery for the benefit of the College, granted by the General Assembly of the

* History of Princeton, by J. F. Hageman, Esq., Vol. II. p. 246.

Province in 1761, and a grant by the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, in 1796, of the sum of six hundred pounds, proclamation money, per annum for three years, payable quarterly, appropriated especially by the law, "to the repair of the College, the purchasing of a philosophical apparatus, and replenishing the Library." This grant was made in response to a petition of the trustees in which the benefits conferred by the College on the State were very strongly exhibited, and the fact urged that the losses sustained by the College in the Revolutionary War had not been adequately compensated by the General Government. "It is said upon good authority that such was the dissatisfaction throughout the State with this grant to the College, that no one who voted for it was returned to the Legislature at the ensuing election." * The last application made by the College to the State for a lottery, in 1813 or 1814, was denied; "but not from any scruple of conscience on the part of the members of the Legislature, for while they refused permission to the College of New Jersey, they allowed the Trustees of Queen's College, now Rutgers, to raise by lottery, for the resuscitation of that institution, some twenty or thirty thousand dollars." † Dr. John Maclean, always noble, generous, and chivalric, has attempted to defend the State of New Jersey against the charge of illiberality towards the College of New Jersey.‡ In spite of his arguments, it must be confessed that the people of New Jersey evinced a lack of appreciation of the value of the College to the State; while at the same time the friends of the College may feel some slight humiliation at the persistent importunity of the trustees in asking the aid of the State when it was so constantly refused. Yet we may rejoice, in view of ultimate results, that the College never became a beneficiary of the State. "Had the aid sought been granted, this might have led to more or less interference by the Legislature in the management of the institution, under the plea of seeing that the funds given by the State were wisely expended, or employed in accordance with the design and the terms of the different grants. From any and all such interference the College, happily, has ever been free." It is true that, "after the American Revolution, the Legislature confirmed the charter of the College, with only such changes as the altered condition of the civil affairs of the country required, enlarged its powers, and never refused to pass any measure desired by its friends for the protection of its interests." But we cannot be as "*grateful*" for this as Dr. Maclean would have us be, for we do not see how the Legislature could decently have done less; and cannot forget, as Dr. Maclean does, that in 1787 the Legislature refused to exempt the property of the suffering College from taxation; § and in 1813 or 1814 refused permission to the College of New Jersey, which was granted to another college, to draw a lottery.||

* History of the College, by Dr. Maclean, Vol. II. p. 18.

† Ibid., Vol. I. pp. 67-69, 138.

‡ Ibid., Vol. I. p. 327.

† Ibid., Vol. I. p. 327.

§ Ibid., Vol. I. p. 347.

The money that built Nassau Hall and the President's House came chiefly from England, Scotland, and Ireland. The moneys collected for the support of the College hitherto had probably come from students' fees, private subscriptions, and the profits of two lotteries, one drawn in Philadelphia in 1749 or 1750,* the other in the Colony of Connecticut, by grant of the General Court of that Colony, in 1753-4.† "Before Governor Belcher entered upon his administration of the Province, the Trustees had gotten subscriptions to the amount of eight hundred pounds, . . . and before the selection of the permanent seat of the institution they had received some valuable gifts, which, in the low state of the College treasury, were of great service to their undertaking." To the money realized from these sources must be added the 1,000 pounds proclamation money, paid by Princetonians. "Still, the Trustees found that they needed larger funds than could be had in this country; and they therefore turned their thoughts to the securing of aid from abroad,"—and requested Rev. Messrs. Gilbert Tennent and Samuel Davies to visit Great Britain for this purpose. "The appointment of these two gentlemen was a most happy one for the College. Going with an earnest recommendation from the Synod of New York, and with letters from Governor Belcher, they were cordially received by the Presbyterians of Scotland and Ireland, and the Baptists and Independents of England, and kindly treated by some of the prominent statesmen of that day. Their mission was successful beyond all expectation. . . . What was the precise sum collected in Great Britain and Ireland cannot now be stated, as the books of the Treasurer of the College have been lost; but the minutes of the Board for the 24th of September, 1755, set forth the fact that the funds were amply sufficient to defray the expenses incurred in the erection of the buildings above mentioned; and that three hundred and fifty pounds sterling, or more, were also obtained, from divers friends in Great Britain, for the education of pious and indigent youth for the gospel ministry. . . . For the liberality and kindness of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Trustees, by a formal vote, expressed their grateful acknowledgments."

The last Commencement held in Newark occurred in September, 1756; and some time previous to November 23, 1756, the College, "that is, the President, officers, and the students, about seventy in number, and the library," was removed to Princeton. Henceforth the College of New Jersey was to be better known to the world as PRINCETON COLLEGE. Everything appeared bright and promising. "The College was in good repute at home and abroad, with a prospect of increase in the number of the pupils and in the resources of the institution. At the meetings of the Synods of New York and of Philadelphia, in May, 1757, effectual measures were taken for the union of these two synods, thus bringing together in one harmonious body all

* History of the College, by Dr. Maclean, Vol. I. p. 136.

† Ibid, Vol. I. p. 137.

the Presbyterian ministers and churches, in the several Provinces, and giving hope to the friends of the College of increased patronage from a united Church." But if these hopes were to be realized, Governor Belcher and President Burr were not to participate in their fruition. These "two principal supports of the College were removed from their earthly labors; and neither of them lived to see a class graduated at Princeton." Governor Belcher died August 31, 1757. President Burr died September 24, 1757, four days before the *first* Commencement of the College at Princeton took place.

The next day, September 29, 1757, the Board of Trustees elected the Rev. Jonathan Edwards, of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, President, and the Rev. William Tennent President *pro tem*. Mr. Edwards hesitatingly accepted the appointment. He came to Princeton in January, and was inducted into office February 16, 1758. His preaching in the Chapel to the students and citizens, for a few Sabbaths, "was powerful." But he had hardly entered on his work of teaching in the College before he was suddenly removed by death. When he arrived at Princeton, the small-pox was prevalent in the community, and a week after he had been inducted into office he was, by the advice of his friends and physician, inoculated. The result of this treatment was in his case fatal; he died March 22, 1758.

"It is doubtful whether the name of any other of its Presidents, before or since that time, irrespective of services actually rendered, has done and will do more to honor and commend the College than his great name. . . . His tombstone, in the Princeton cemetery, is, more than any of the others, the object of the relic-seekers, who by stealth break and carry away little nuggets of the sacred marble."*

April 19, 1758, "the Rev. Mr. James Lockwood of Wethersfield, in the Colony of Connecticut," was elected President of the College. He declined the appointment.

August 16, 1758, the trustees elected Rev. Samuel Davies of Virginia the President of the College; and "desired and empowered" the Rev. Caleb Smith "to preside until the next Commencement, and then to give the degrees to the Candidates." Mr. Davies, by the advice of his Presbytery, declined the Presidency of the College, and the Trustees, at their meeting on Commencement Day, September 27, 1758, elected the Rev. Jacob Green Vice-President of the College, to serve until a President should be chosen. May 9, 1759, the Rev. Samuel Davies was again elected President of the College; and the Rev. Jacob Green, "having fulfilled the term of his former election of Vice-President of the College," was "appointed to continue in his said office, until a fixed President can attend for the service of that Office." Mr. Davies accepted, arrived at Princeton and entered upon the duties of his office July 26, 1759, and was formally inducted, by the taking of the oaths required by the charter, September 26, 1759.

President Davies was spared to the College only a little more than eighteen months. But in that short time he impressed upon the institution his own indelible

* History of Princeton, by J. F. Hageman, Esq., Vol. II. p. 253.

character. "He was a popular president, bringing the number of the students up to about one hundred."* He evinced a desire and purpose to elevate the standard of scholarship. Several practical reforms in the management of the institution were introduced by him. Psalmody was substituted, at evening prayer, in the place of reading a portion of Scripture. "The President and Tutors were authorized to appoint any of the students to read a portion of the sacred Scriptures out of the original language at morning prayer. This indicates that the study of the Scriptures in the original languages was an object of careful attention at this time."† Mr. Davies, "a poet and an orator himself . . . turned the attention of his pupils to the cultivation of English composition and eloquence with great effect. He introduced the practice, ever since continued, of delivering monthly orations by members of the Senior Class." Nor was his attention to music restricted to the introduction of psalmody at College prayers. In the account of the Commencement Exercises, October 9, 1760, we are informed, "The Singing of an Ode on Science, composed by the President of the College, concluded the Forenoon Exercises," and "the Singing of an Ode on Peace, composed by the President, concluded" the afternoon exercises, "to the Universal Pleasure and Satisfaction of a numerous Auditory."

It is a matter of at least curious interest, that Jonathan Edwards and Samuel Davies met at the house of President Burr at Newark, New Jersey, in the autumn of 1752, when neither could have imagined that they would be successively the successors of Aaron Burr in the Presidency of the College. They seem to have been mutually impressed. "When I was lately in New Jersey," wrote Mr. Edwards to a gentleman in Scotland, "I then had the comfort of a short interview with Mr. Davies of Virginia, and was much pleased with him and his conversation. He appears to be a man of very solid understanding, discreet in his behavior, and polished and gentlemanly in his manners, as well as fervent and zealous in religion." Mr. Davies speaks of President Edwards, in his farewell sermon to his people in Hanover, "as the profoundest reasoner and the greatest divine that America has ever produced."

The success of Mr. Davies in his mission to Great Britain and Ireland has already been alluded to. It may be worth remembering that among other and very generous donations Mr. Davies received three guineas for the College from a Mr. Cromwell, a great grandson of the Protector; and that the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland passed "an act and a recommendation for a *national collection*. . . . Mr. Tennent and Mr. Davies waited also upon the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge, of which the Marquis of Lothian was the

* History of Princeton, by J. F. Hageman, Vol. I. p. 78.

† Of Charles Chauncy, second President of Harvard, 1654-72, we read: "At college prayers he caused a chapter of the Hebrew Bible to be read in the morning, and of the Greek Testament in the evening, and upon these he always gave an extemporaneous comment in Latin." *Magnalia* I. 148. Tyler's History of American Literature, Vol. I. p. 223.

president, and at the request of the Society gave them their advice as to the best method of conducting the mission among the Indians. The members of the Society also drew up a letter in favor of the College of New Jersey, to be annexed to the Act of the General Assembly." The services of Mr. Davies to the College are not, therefore, to be limited to the brief period of his presidentship; but began in his successful agency in procuring the funds that were required for its permanent endowment.

"His career, though short, was brilliant." He died February 4, 1761, in the thirty-eighth year of his age.

At the time Mr. Davies was first chosen President, some of the trustees were in favor of electing the Rev. Samuel Finley, "and on the death of Mr. Davies no other person appears to have been thought of to supply his place." Rev. Mr. Finley was elected June 1, 1761, and September 30, 1761, the day of the annual Commencement, he was formally inducted into his office.

The Commencement exercises the following year, September 30, 1762, were conducted "with more than ordinary preparation and enthusiasm. . . . The whole concluded with a Poetical Entertainment given by the candidates for the Bachelor's Degree, interspersed with choruses of Music, which, with the whole performance of the day, afforded universal satisfaction to a polite and crowded auditory. . . . The entertainment here referred to was entitled 'The Military Glory of Great Britain,'—a poetic dialogue, the subject of which was the glorious achievements of the British arms both by sea and land." A copy of this dramatic exercise, printed in a quarto pamphlet, is in the College Library.

September 25, 1765, "the first order touching the planting of shade trees on the College grounds" was passed by the Board of Trustees. Dr. Maclean says: "It may interest the students and graduates of the College to know that the two very large sycamore-trees standing near the front gate of the President's yard at this date, December 6, 1872, and in their full vigor, are the remnants of trees planted in the autumn of 1765."

The last Commencement attended by Dr. Finley was held Wednesday, September 25, 1765. The College was in a very flourishing condition, the number of students larger than at any previous date, the attention to study and orderly behavior of the students highly commendable. But the pressing cares of his responsible office were beginning to break down the health of the President. At the meeting of the Board, June 25, 1766, on account of Mr. Finley's illness, the Rev. Mr. Spencer was appointed to preside at the next Commencement, and the Rev. William Tennent was appointed "to act in the room and stead of President Finley during his absence," and invested "with full power and authority to execute the said office . . . during Mr. Finley's absence and disability; and Mr. Tennent was qualified accordingly." Dr. Finley died July 17, 1766, in the city

of Philadelphia, whither he had gone for medical advice, aged fifty-one years, and he was buried there by the side of his intimate friend, the Rev. Gilbert Tennent, the heat of the weather not permitting the removal of the remains to Princeton. The Trustees of the College erected a cenotaph to his memory next to the grave of President Davies in the Princeton cemetery.

When the Rev. Samuel Davies was in Scotland, in 1754, he wrote the following item in his journal: —

“There is a Piece published under the title of ‘The Ecclesiastical Characteristics,’ ascribed to one Mr. Weatherspoon [sic], a young minister. It is a burlesque upon the high-flyers, under the name of *moderate men*, and I think the humor is nothing inferior to Dean Swift.”

It never occurred to Mr. Davies while penning the above sentence that this “one Mr. Weatherspoon” would ever have any connection with the College of New Jersey, much less that they would both be Presidents of it; and yet within fifteen years from this time they both were, — Mr. Davies from 1759 to 1761, and Mr. Witherspoon from 1768 to 1794.

November 19, 1766, the Board of Trustees elected, *nemine contradicente*, the Rev. Dr. John Witherspoon, of Paisley, Scotland, the President of the College; and Rev. William Tennent was requested to continue to act as President *pro tem.* till the services of a permanent President were secured. Dr. Witherspoon having declined this first invitation, the Rev. Samuel Blair “of Boston, in New England,” was, October 2, 1767, elected President of the College, and also Professor of Rhetoric and Metaphysics, *nemine contradicente*. On the same day the Rev. John Blair, of Fagg’s Manor, Pennsylvania, one of the trustees of the College, was elected Professor of Divinity and Moral Philosophy, and accepted the appointment. As it was understood that Mr. Samuel Blair, if he accepted the office of President, would not enter upon the discharge of its duties before the next annual Commencement, Mr. John Blair, the newly appointed professor, was chosen Vice-President until the next Commencement. Mr. John Blair, as Vice-President, discharged the duties of President until the inauguration of Dr. Witherspoon in August, 1768.

Hitherto the College Faculty had consisted of a President, assisted by tutors. But it was now determined that there should be a regular Faculty composed of professors as well as tutors. At the same meeting, October 2, 1767, at which Rev. John Blair was appointed Professor of Divinity and Moral Philosophy, and the Rev. Samuel Blair was invited to become President of the College and *Professor* of Rhetoric and Metaphysics; Dr. Hugh Williamson, of Philadelphia, was elected Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy; and Mr. Jonathan Edwards, then a tutor in the College, the distinguished son of the great President Jonathan Edwards, was chosen Professor of Languages and Logic, with the understanding that they should not enter upon their professorships before the next Commencement. They never did enter upon them; probably on account of deficiency of college funds.

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees, held December 9, 1767, a letter was received from the Rev. Samuel Blair declining the Presidency of the College. At the same meeting "Mr. Stockton communicated to the Board sundry letters he had recently received from Scotland, informing him that the difficulties which had prevented Dr. Witherspoon's acceptance of the presidentship to which he had been chosen were now removed, and that upon a re-election he would esteem it a duty to enter into this public service. The Board receiving the intelligence with peculiar satisfaction, proceeded immediately to a re-election, when the said Dr. Witherspoon was again unanimously chosen to the said office."

Dr. Witherspoon and his family arrived in Philadelphia from Glasgow, August 6, 1768. They were received at Princeton with every demonstration of respect and kindness, and became for a time the guests of Richard Stockton, Esq. On the evening of their arrival the College edifice was illuminated; "and not only the village, but the adjacent country, and even the Province at large, shared in the joy of the occasion."

Dr. Witherspoon was inaugurated at a special meeting of the Board, called for the purpose, August 17, 1768. He delivered a Latin inaugural address on the Union of Piety and Science.

At this meeting of the Board a rule was adopted that gives us the "Old Country" flavor of the new President's notions in regard to academical dress.

"That from and after this next Commencement vacation in this present year, 1768, all the officers and students of Nassau Hall shall appear uniformly habited, in a proper collegiate black gown and square cap, to be made in the manner and form of those now used in some of our neighboring colleges, and perfectly uniform, excepting proper distinctions that may be devised by the officers of the College to distinguish the habits of the President, Professors and Tutors from those of the students. And it is hereby strictly ordained, That no resident student or undergraduate, subject to the rules and orders of the College, shall at any time, after the next Commencement vacation, appear either at Church, in the College Hall at prayer, or at any other collegiate exercises, or at any time abroad, or out of the Hall (excepting the back yard of the College only, and that on necessary occasions), without being clothed in their proper College habits, on penalty of five shillings, proc. money, to be levied upon every student who shall offend against this law."

As early as 1751, under the administration of President Burr, a law was passed requiring "College habits."* In 1753, under the same administration, Mr. William Peartree Smith "procured two habits, one for the use of the President, and the other as a pattern for the habits to be worn by the students, *who were to be left at liberty to wear them or not as they pleased.*"† September 4, 1755, still under the same presidency, the wearing of such habits was made *obligatory*.‡ February 16, 1758, the only meeting of the trustees at which President Jonathan Edwards was

* History of the College, by Dr. Maclean, Vol. I. p. 302.

† Ibid., Vol. I. p. 303.

‡ Ibid., Vol. I. p. 174.

present, it was "*Voted*, That the Law obliging the students to wear peculiar Habits be repealed."* Dr. Witherspoon, as we have seen, immediately on his accession to the presidency, in 1768, renewed the rule that students should wear the academical gown and cap. That this rule was enforced, we may infer from the fact that at the meeting of the Board, April 19, 1786, after the War of the Revolution, it was "*Resolved*, That the practice of wearing college habits, agreeably to the order of the Board in the year 1768, be revived as soon as the Faculty shall judge it convenient, and at furthest after the next fall vacation."† In September, 1807, a report of a committee made by Hon. Elias Boudinot, LL. D., refers to this matter: "The committee observed with regret the inattention of a considerable number of the students to the Laws enjoining the use of gowns on public occasions. It is of importance that every member of the Faculty should set the example of obedience to the Law in question."‡ The tradition is, that the custom of wearing gowns and caps passed into desuetude by slow degrees. "For many years," says Dr. Maclean, "the students were required to wear black gowns at *all* services in the College Chapel and at all public declamations." As late as 1830, if the writer is not misinformed, when the gown had disappeared from the recitation-rooms, it was required to be worn in attendance on the regular meetings of the College societies. Up at least to 1838, when the writer graduated, no member of the Faculty ever appeared in the chapel, on Sunday, without his gown. It is still customary for the Faculty and the graduating class to wear the gown on Commencement Days. There are some who wish this time-honored custom may never disappear.

September 25, 1771, Mr. William Churchill Houston was chosen Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. He "accepted the appointment, and for twelve years discharged the duties of his office with great fidelity and success, and to the entire satisfaction of the trustees, at the end of which time he resigned, to enter upon the practice of the law."

In the minutes of the Board, September, 1772, we find the following entry: —

"Teaching Hebrew being considered by the Board of great importance, especially to those who intend to study Divinity, Mr. Devens, one of the present tutors in the College, is appointed to instruct those in Hebrew who offer themselves for that purpose. And although the Board do not enjoin it upon all as a part of College study necessary for a degree, yet they direct the President earnestly to recommend the knowledge of Hebrew, and to take such methods as he judges most convenient to engage the students to learn as far as necessary."

In the summer of 1774 John Adams, who was to be the second President of the United States, visited Princeton. Mr. Adams was escorted through the College

* History of the College, by Dr. Maclean, Vol. I. pp. 174, 302.

† *Ibid.*, Vol. I. p. 344.

‡ *Ibid.*, Vol. II. p. 82.

buildings by Professor Houston. Mr. Adams wrote an account of this visit which ends in a facetious strain:—

“By this time the bell rang for prayers: we went into the chapel; the President soon came in, and we attended. *The scholars sung as badly as the Presbyterians in New York.* After prayers the President attended us to the balcony of the College, where we had a prospect of an horizon of about eighty miles in diameter. We went into the President’s house and drank a glass of wine. *He is as high a son of liberty as any man in America.*”

Dr. Witherspoon was a man of repute for talents and learning when he became President of the College. He “adopted the policy” of teaching by lectures. “He lectured on four subjects, namely: Belles Lettres, Moral Philosophy; Chronology and History, and Divinity. His lectures were very popular, and soon added to the reputation of the College.” He introduced the study of the French language. He increased the library and philosophical apparatus. He rendered very important service to the College by efforts to increase its income. “He preached for the students and the people of the town in the church, acting as pastor of the congregation. His labors were blessed with revivals of religion, and his varied efforts were attended with marked success, when the troubles of the Revolution arrested the progress of things.”*

Throughout the War of the Revolution the patrons, Trustees, Faculty, and graduates of Princeton College were second to none in their devotion to the cause of American Independence. “Dr. Witherspoon openly and boldly took the part of his adopted country.” May 17, 1776, a day selected by the National Congress to be observed as a day of fasting and prayer, he preached a sermon in which he went fully into a consideration of the state of affairs in the American Colonies, in which he said:—

“You are my witnesses that this is the first time of my introducing any political subject into the pulpit. At this season, however, it is not only lawful, but necessary; and I am willing to embrace the opportunity of declaring my opinion without any hesitation, that the cause in which America is in arms is the cause of justice, of liberty, and of human nature. . . . There is not a single instance in history in which civil liberty was lost and religious liberty preserved entire. If therefore we yield up our temporal property, we at the same time deliver the conscience into bondage.”

In May, 1776, Dr. Witherspoon was chosen a member of the convention which gave to New Jersey her republican constitution.

June 22, 1776, Dr. Witherspoon was chosen by the Convention, or Provincial Congress, a representative of New Jersey in the Continental or General Congress. He advocated “with impressive earnestness” the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, voted for it, and on the 4th of July, 1776, signed that immortal document. On the 9th of July, 1776, “the same evening in which the Declaration was

* History of Princeton, by J. F. Hageman, Esq.

received by General Washington and read to the American troops at New York, . . . Nassau Hall was grandly illuminated, and independency proclaimed under a triple volley of musketry, and universal acclamation for the prosperity of the United States, with the greatest decorum.* July 30, 1776, the effigy of Dr. Witherspoon, together with the effigies of Generals Washington, Lee, and Putnam, were burned by the soldiers of Howe's army on Staten Island.

At the Commencement, September 25, 1776, a quorum of the trustees was not present. A meeting was appointed for the third Wednesday of November, but the minutes of the College contain the following significant note: —

“The incursions of the Enemy into the State and the depredations of the armies prevented this meeting: and indeed all regular business in the College for two or three years.”

On Sunday night, December 1, 1776, Washington, with his “dismayed and shattered army now reduced to about three thousand men,” fleeing before the victorious British troops, arrived at Princeton. He remained here a week, and on the 7th of December pressed on to Trenton, leaving at Princeton twelve hundred men, under Lord Stirling, to check the British advance. “Washington had scarcely left Princeton, before the tramp of Cornwallis's large army was heard to approach it. General Stirling made no resistance, but soon followed the American commander-in-chief. Cornwallis took possession of Princeton, and left a large force to hold it, occupying *the college and the Presbyterian Church for barracks*, while he with a portion of his troops moved on to Trenton, reaching there just as Washington had effected a crossing of the Delaware, and secured all the boats on the river to prevent the enemy from crossing after him.” †

“From this time till the 3d of January, a large force of the British army was quartered upon Princeton, destroying property, preying upon the farms in the neighborhood, and giving but little heed to the ordinary rules of war. . . . ‘Tusculum,’ the country-seat of Dr. Witherspoon, was pillaged. ‘Morven,’ the renowned home of Richard Stockton, left in the care of servants and his son Richard, a little boy, was also pillaged and stripped of its furniture and library; and then made the headquarters of the officer in command. . . . The College was suspended; the officers and students were dispersed. Some enlisted in the American army, and most of those who were capable entered into some department of the public service of their country, quickened by the patriotic example of Dr. Witherspoon, the President of the institution.” ‡

The only description of the precise time and circumstances of the disbanding of the College is derived from a “campaign journal,” kept by one of the students from November 29, 1776, to May 6, 1777: —

“On the 29th of November, 1776, New Jersey College, long the peaceful seat of science and haunt of the Muses, was visited with the melancholy tidings of the approach of the enemy. This alarmed our

* History of Princeton, by J. F. Hageman, Esq.

† Ibid.

‡ Ibid.

fears and gave us reason to believe we must soon bid adieu to our peaceful departments and break off in the midst of our delightful studies; our President, deeply affected at this solemn scene, entered the Hall where the students were collected, and in a very affecting manner informed us of the improbability of continuing there longer in peace; and after giving us several suitable instructions and much good advice, very affectionately bade us farewell. Solemnity and distress appeared on almost every countenance.”*

January 3, 1777, was fought the famous battle of Princeton. Twice were the Americans victorious, driving the enemy before them, who at last retreated to the sheltering walls of the College. Here, at the College, was the third fight of that memorable day. The Americans directed their artillery against the walls of old Nassau Hall, that still bear the scars made by the balls that struck them. “The first ball is said to have entered the Prayer hall, a room used as a chapel in the College, and to have passed through the head of the portrait of George II. suspended on the wall. . . . Most of the enemy fled in disorder across the fields into a back road towards New Brunswick. . . . Captain James Moore, of the militia, a citizen of Princeton, a daring officer, aided by a few men, burst open the door of the College building, and demanded their surrender; which they instantly complied with.” So ended the battle of Princeton. The big old cannon, now planted in the south campus of the College, was left in Princeton by the British, when they were routed by Washington, and is regarded as a precious relic of the sharpest and, considering the time occupied and the number engaged, the bloodiest battle of the Revolution.

“After the battle of Princeton the village was left for a few days to itself. No guard was retained over it by either of the armies. But in the latter part of January, 1777, General Putnam with a considerable force of American troops came and occupied it; and in May following, General Sullivan with fifteen hundred men, to which additions were made by troops from the south, were stationed here for some time. It continued to be, during the war, a military post—having present a large body of soldiers and a military hospital—and often prisoners were detained here. The College and the Presbyterian Church were occupied, after the British troops had been routed from the place, as barracks, and used for hospital and other army purposes, by the American army.”†

“There were no Commencement exercises in 1777, but the members of the Senior Class, seven in number, were subsequently admitted to the first degree in the Arts and were accounted graduates for this year.” The next year, however, September 30, 1778, Commencement exercises took place at Princeton, where “the first degree in the Arts was conferred upon *five* members of the Senior Class, three of whom took part in the exercises. Orations were also pronounced by two of the candidates for the degree of Master of Arts.” From this time forward there was no interruption in the observance of the annual Commencement, though the number of graduates, in those troublous days, was small. As late as May, 1781, the Trustees peti-

* History of Princeton, by J. F. Hageman, Esq.

† Ibid.

tioned the Legislature "to prevent the quartering of troops in the College, which is frequently practised." Dr. Ashbel Green says:—

"I entered this College on the 9th of May, 1782. . . . The lower and upper stories of this edifice [Nassau Hall] still remained in the ruined state in which they had been left by the British and American armies, entirely uninhabited and uninhabitable, except that on the lowest story, at the East end, Dr. Witherspoon had fitted up a room for his grammar school, and opposite to it, on the south side, another room was so far repaired as to be used for a dining-room, and in the fourth story the Clisosophic Society had repaired one of the half-rooms in the north projection of the College, in which their meetings were held. The Whig Society was not reorganized till the summer of my first session in the College, and in its reorganization I had a leading part. In the two middle entries rooms enough had been repaired to accommodate all the students, whose whole number was, I believe, little and but a little turned of forty. Some of the rooms in these entries still lay waste, and the whole building still exhibited the effects of General Washington's artillery, who, in the battle of Princeton, caused it to be fired upon to drive out British troops who had taken refuge in it."

The Commencement of 1783 was rendered memorable "by the presence of General Washington, of the National Congress, and of two foreign Ministers. Driven from Philadelphia by a turbulent corps of soldiers, Congress had assembled at Princeton, and they held their sessions in the library-room of the College." Congress adjourned to attend the Commencement. "There had never been such an audience at a Commencement before and perhaps there never will be again." The exercises were held in the church. There were fourteen graduates. Ashbel Green, afterwards President of the College, was the Valedictory orator. "At the close of his Valedictory, Mr. Green made an address of some length to General Washington." Mr. Green, in his account of Dr. Witherspoon's administration, says: "General Washington, the next day, met me in the entry of the College as he was going to a committee-room of Congress, took me by the hand, walked with me a short time, flattered me a little, and desired me to present his best respects to my classmates and his best wishes for their success in life." On the same day the General presented fifty guineas "as a testimony of his respect for the College." This sum was appropriated to a full-length portrait of General Washington, painted by the elder Peale. "In the background of the painting there is a representation of the battle of Princeton, and a portrait of General Mercer, who fell mortally wounded at this battle." This portrait was placed in the frame which had contained the full-length portrait of King George II., already referred to, in which it still continues to adorn the College walls. The Board also adopted the following minute:—

"The Trustees, being extremely sorry that the picture of his Excellency Governor Belcher, which hung in the College Hall, has been destroyed during the late war, appointed William P. Smith to endeavor to procure an original painting from some of the remaining friends or relations of the family in New England, or if that should be impracticable, then to procure the best copy that shall be in his power, that it may be placed where his picture formerly hung, as a testimony of the gratitude of the Board for the eminent services formerly rendered by his Excellency to this institution."

Mr. Smith's efforts were not successful. The portrait of Governor Belcher, now in possession of the College, is a copy of one in the picture-gallery of the Athenæum in Boston, procured and presented to the College by the late Professor George M. Giger.

October 31, 1783, Congress received at Princeton authentic information "that the definitive treaty between Great Britain and the United States was concluded."

In September, 1787, Walter Minto, LL. D., a distinguished mathematical scholar and astronomer, was appointed Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, and held his office until his decease in 1796. He was a native of Scotland, educated in Edinburgh, and before his coming to America had made himself known to the scientific world by his mathematical and astronomical publications.

The last Commencement attended by President Witherspoon was in September, 1794. He died November 15, 1794, in the seventy-third year of his age.

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Stanhope Smith, who had been appointed Professor of Moral Philosophy in 1779, and Vice-President of the College in 1786, was, May 6, 1795, elected unanimously to the Presidency and took the oaths of office. At the next Commencement, September 30, 1795, he delivered his inaugural address in Latin.

October 1, 1795, Dr. John Maclean was elected Professor of Chemistry. After the death of Professor Minto he became Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, including Chemistry and Natural History. He added greatly to the favor of the College. He resigned his chair in 1812. In the diary of the late Benjamin Silliman, M. D., LL. D., Professor of Chemistry in Yale College, there is a reference to the writer's "brief residence in Princeton," in which he says:—

"Dr. Maclean was a man of brilliant mind, with all the acumen of his native Scotland, and a sparkling of wit gave variety to his conversation. I regard him as my earliest master in Chemistry, and Princeton as my first starting point in that pursuit, although I had not an opportunity to attend any lectures there."

In 1799 a house was built on the east side of the front campus, corresponding in situation to the President's house on the west, for the Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. This house was long known, during its occupation by the Rev. Dr. John Maclean, as "the Vice-President's House." This house was swept away, before the march of improvement, in 1871.

March 6, 1802, Nassau Hall was set on fire and was, with the exception of the walls, utterly consumed. The destruction of the library was almost complete, about a hundred volumes only being saved. The philosophical and chemical apparatus was saved, with little loss. "No prosecutions were instituted against those suspected of being concerned in this flagrant act of wickedness and folly; yet some five or six students were required to leave the institution, on the ground that they had been unwholesome members of it."

The contributions of the friends of the College were so generous, that, besides reconstructing old Nassau Hall, the trustees erected three other edifices in the College campus: at the southwest end of Nassau Hall, a dwelling-house for the Professor of Languages; a little west of this and north of Nassau Hall, on a line with the President's house, a building sixty feet in length and forty in breadth, and three stories high, containing three recitation or lecture rooms, a fine library-room, and two halls for the Literary Societies of the College; and directly opposite, on the east side of the campus, a building of similar size, containing kitchens, a very large dining-room, and rooms for the philosophical apparatus, and recitations of the philosophical and mathematical classes. It was intended to erect an astronomical observatory in connection with the building last described; but this was never accomplished.

During the absence of President Smith in the South, soliciting funds for the College, Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green, then of Philadelphia, a trustee of the College, acted as President. During his temporary administration, in the minutes of the Faculty, November 30, 1802, is the following record: —

“The laws of the College requiring that certain religious exercises be performed by the students on the Sabbath, Dr. Green, as President, recommended the study of Paley's Evidences of the Christian Religion, as an exercise for the Senior Class, Campbell on Miracles for the Junior, and the Catechism connected with the reading of the Bible as an exercise for the Sophomore and Freshman Classes, each student being allowed to make choice of the Catechism of that denomination to which he belongs. But to the Episcopal Catechism must be added such of the Articles of that Church as relate to doctrine.”

At the next meeting of the trustees it was “*Resolved*, That the Faculty be authorized to have printed, at the expense of the Board, copies of the Westminster Shorter Catechism and that of the Episcopal Church, in Latin.”

December 8, 1803, Rev. Henry Kollock was unanimously elected Professor of Theology. Mr. Kollock accepted the appointment, and discharged the duties of the professorship, “with great ability and acceptance,” for three years, “and also those of Pastor to the Presbyterian Church in the town.” He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from both Harvard and Union Colleges.

In September, 1804, a house belonging to the College “was fitted up for the accommodation of the theological students of the College, and was for many years known as Divinity Hall, and it was *Resolved*, That all students of Divinity be allowed to study under the direction of the Professor of Theology, and have their boarding at the Refectory at the rate of one dollar per week.”

In 1805 the College became the possessor of a very valuable “Cabinet of Natural History” that cost \$ 3,000, through the generosity of the Hon. Elias Boudinot, LL. D., a trustee of the College. This was the first cabinet of Natural History ever acquired by an American College.

At the Commencement, September 23, 1806, fifty-four members of the Senior Class were admitted to their first degree in the Arts.

“Not since the organization of the College had so large a class graduated; and at no previous time in its history had the College attained an equal degree of prosperity and reputation. There had been a large increase in the number of teachers and in the number of pupils. The Faculty consisted of a President and four Professors and from two to three Tutors, beside an Instructor in French. The number of students for the last three or four years was about two hundred. But this very increase prepared the way for certain irregularities, the efforts to suppress which led, at the close of the next College term, to an open resistance to College authority, that terminated in the dismissal of one hundred and twenty-five students, a blow from the effects of which the College did not recover for many years. The College authority was indeed well maintained by the proper and necessary exercise of discipline on the part of the Faculty and the Trustees, and had there been no other untoward events the College might soon have rallied and regained its ascending career. But in rapid succession the Professors appointed within the last few years resigned their places, and the health of the President began to give way under his increasing cares and labors. The places of the retiring Professors were not filled by the appointment of others, and the duties performed by them were assigned to the other members of the Faculty.”

August 14, 1812, the Rev. Dr. Samuel S. Smith resigned the Presidency, on account of impaired health; and the Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green was unanimously chosen President. Dr. Smith presided at the next Commencement, September 30, 1812, and this was his last public service to the College.

The spirit of disorder and revolt against wholesome restraint, which occasionally disturbed the College under Dr. Smith's administration, were due, chiefly, “not to a want of foresight and promptness on the part of the Faculty, or to neglect in enforcing faithfully the rules of the College, but to false notions of liberty and to a spirit of lawlessness then prevalent throughout the country, and which, extending themselves to the youth in our Colleges, made not a few of them restive under the discipline and requirements of college life. . . . That Dr. Smith commanded the thorough respect of the students generally, and the sincere esteem and love of many, and those among the best, cannot be questioned.” After his resignation of the Presidency, Dr. Smith, relieved from the heavy pressure on his nervous system, recovered to a limited extent his wonted health. His last days were passed in great peace and quietness, and in cheerful expectation of the summons for his departure. He died August 21, 1819. A marble monument was erected by the trustees over his grave.

Rev. Dr. Ashbel Green was chosen President, with the understanding that he was not to enter upon the duties of his office until the expiration of the current College year. He took the oaths of office May 4, 1813.

October 1, 1812, Mr. Elijah Slack was chosen Vice-President and Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.

“The next term of the College began the 10th of November, 1814; and it was in some respects the most remarkable one during President Green's administration. The number of students was a little above a hundred. About a month after the term began there was apparent among the students an unusual interest in the subject of religion, and this . . . gradually increased, until serious thought and feeling seemed to pervade almost the entire body of students. . . . A number, large in proportion to the whole

became hopefully pious and adorned a profession of faith in Christ by a godly walk and conversation through life; and not a few became ministers of the gospel, and some of them quite eminent in their respective churches."

The administration of Dr. Green was not a smooth one, notwithstanding the revival of 1814-15. The most turbulent session was the winter of 1816-17, when the students proceeded to open rebellion, "ending in an entire interruption of the College exercises for two or three days, and in the dismissal and expulsion of a considerable number of those engaged in the disorders."

In September, 1817, the Rev. Philip Lindsley was appointed Vice-President.

In April, 1818, Dr. David Hosack, of New York, proposed to arrange, at his own expense, the minerals in the cabinet of the College, and to add to their number. The offer was accepted. Dr. John Torrey, then a young man, was employed by Dr. Hosack to arrange the specimens in the cases provided for them. "This collection consisted of upwards of a thousand specimens. The expenses for the cases, as well as for arranging the minerals, were defrayed by Dr. Hosack. Some years after, at the request of the Faculty, a portrait of Dr. Hosack was painted for the College by the well-known artist, Rembrandt Peale, which was presented to the institution by President Carnahan and Professor Maclean."

September 25, 1822, President Green resigned his office, chiefly on account of his "age and infirmities."

After the resignation of Dr. Green, Professor Lindsley, as Vice-President, administered the affairs of the College till a new President was secured. September 26, 1822, the Rev. Dr. John H. Rice, of Richmond, Virginia, was unanimously elected President. On that very day Dr. Rice was taken ill with a severe fever; his illness was protracted and his convalescence slow. It was not till March 14, 1823, that he responded to the invitation of the trustees, declining their appointment.

April 8, 1823, Professor Philip Lindsley, the Vice-President, was chosen President by a large majority; and the Rev. Jared Fyler was elected, *provisionally*, in case Dr. Lindsley should accept the Presidency, Vice-President and Professor of Languages. May 12, 1823, Dr. Lindsley respectfully declined the office of President. On the same day the Rev. James Carnahan, D. D., was unanimously elected President of the College. Dr. Carnahan was inaugurated August 6, 1823.

September 25, 1823, the services of the Rev. Luther Halsey were secured to give instruction in Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and Natural History. April 14, 1824, Mr. Halsey was elected Professor of the above branches of science.

"For nearly six years Professor Halsey continued his connection with the College. Not only did he discharge with ability the duties of his particular department, but he contributed very much to the religious culture of the students. He was an able and eloquent preacher, and was ever earnest in his appeals to the students to seek their own spiritual good and also that of their companions in study."

In the summer of 1824 the Marquis de La Fayette made his well-known visit to

the United States at the request of Congress and the National Executive. On his way from New York to Washington he passed through Princeton, accompanied by a large escort under the command of Governor John Heard.

“At Princeton, the Marquis, his son George Washington La Fayette, and the gentlemen composing his escort, were entertained by the citizens of this place at a late breakfast. . . . The breakfast, which was a very bountiful one, was furnished in the College refectory, then the largest room in the town. After partaking of this repast, and visiting the College buildings, the Marquis was taken to a circular canopy erected in front of Nassau Hall, and near the middle gate, for his official reception by the authorities of the College and of the town; and here an address of welcome was made by the Hon. Richard Stockton, and a diploma, setting forth the fact that the degree of Bachelor of Laws was conferred upon him by this College in 1790, was presented to him by the Rev. President Carnahan with a few appropriate remarks. To these addresses the Marquis made becoming replies. The diploma bore the signature of the Rev. Dr. Witherspoon, who was President of the College when the degree was conferred.”

September 28, 1824, Mr. Philip Lindsley, Vice-President and Professor of Languages, resigned those offices to accept the Presidency of Cumberland College at Nashville, Tennessee, the corporate name of which was soon after changed into that of the “University of Nashville.”

“In 1826 a few of the students did the College great service by the organizing of an association known as the ‘Philadelphian Society,’ which has been instrumental in fostering among the pious youth of the College a spirit of brotherly love and of mutual watchfulness over one another’s spiritual interests. Prominent among the founders of this society were James Brainerd Taylor, of the Class of 1826, and his room-mate, Peter I. Gulick, of the previous class, the latter for fifty years a most faithful and useful missionary in the Pacific Isles. James B. Taylor was distinguished for his fervent piety and untiring zeal in the cause of Christ. He died in early life. The Rev. Peter I. Gulick is still living (1874), and he is permitted to see his children devoting themselves to missionary labors. It is said that at first the society consisted of only four persons, the two named and Martin Tupper and Tobias Epstein, worthy associates of the other two. Epstein died in 1828. Tupper became a minister of great respectability in his native State, — Massachusetts.

“Another Association, which has been of signal service to the College, was formed at this time, namely, ‘The Alumni Association of Nassau Hall.’ Of this Association the venerable Madison was the first President.”

October 1, 1829, Professor John Maclean was elected Vice-President of the College.

In September, 1830, a galaxy of names was added to the Faculty; Rev. Albert B. Dod, Professor of Mathematics; Dr. Henry Vethake, Professor of Natural Philosophy; Dr. John Torrey, Professor of Chemistry; Dr. Samuel L. Howell, Professor of Anatomy and Physiology; Mr. Lewis Hargous, Professor of Modern Languages; and Mr. Joseph Addison Alexander, Adjunct Professor of Ancient Languages and Literature.

“Professor Dod was the first to introduce into our College *written*, in connection with oral, examinations, taking the hint from the mathematical examination papers of Cambridge, England.”

In the autumn of 1832 Professor Vethake resigned his chair, and Mr. Joseph Henry was chosen Professor of Natural Philosophy. "*Who is Henry?*" was the anxious question of the trustees, when his name was first proposed. "He is the very man for you; he can fill my place too," was the answer of Dr. John Torrey. Letters from Professor Silliman of Yale College, Professor Renwick of Columbia College, New York, Professor Torrey of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, and Professor Green of the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, confirmed the testimony of Dr. John Torrey, and, in an auspicious day for Princeton, the lustre of the name of Joseph Henry was added to the constellation of genius and learning already shining in her professorial firmament. In September, 1833, the Rev. James W. Alexander was elected Professor of Belles Lettres, adding still another illustrious name to the Faculty of the College. In the course of this year and the next, 1833-34, East College was erected in the south campus; and in 1836 West College arose on the other side of the south campus. About the same time the building known as the Refectory and Philosophical Hall was enlarged, for the better accommodation of the classes instructed by the professors of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and Natural History. In 1837 a new house was built of brick, west of Nassau Hall, for Professor Henry. And in the same year Whig and Cliosophic Halls, for the accommodation of the two literary societies of the College, were erected on the south side of the south campus: "beautiful buildings of the Ionic order, sixty-two feet long, forty-one wide, and two stories high; the columns of the porticos are copied from those of the temple on the Ilissus; a temple on the island of Teos is a model of the buildings in other respects." These architectural achievements were regarded in those days as prodigious exhibitions of the rapid growth of the College in popular favor and substantial wealth. And indeed, considering the times and circumstances, they are hardly outrivalled by the structures of the last decade of years.

In 1837 the College received a donation of nearly six hundred specimens of minerals from the Hon. Samuel Fowler, of Sussex County, New Jersey.

In June, 1844, to the regret of all the friends of the College, Professor James W. Alexander resigned his chair to accept a call to the pastorate of the Duane Street Church, in the city of New York. "The next year, on the 29th of November, 1845, to the great grief of his colleagues and his pupils, and of the friends of the College generally, that brilliant and accomplished scholar and teacher, Professor Dod, departed this life after a short illness." In 1848 the College suffered still another shock by the resignation of Professor Joseph Henry, to accept the position of Secretary and Director of the Smithsonian Institution. For several years after his removal from Princeton "he was wont to spend a week or two every year at the College in giving a short course of lectures on some branch of Natural Philosophy." The College, too, enjoyed to the end of his great and useful life his wise counsels as a member of the Board of Trustees.

December 17, 1845, Professor Stephen Alexander was chosen Professor of Mathematics, in the room of Professor Dod; and the Rev. Matthew B. Hope was appointed Professor of Belles Lettres. "Professor Hope proved to be an admirable teacher, not only in the department of Rhetoric, but also in that of Political Economy; and he rendered most valuable service to the College in his efforts to interest the students in the matter of personal piety."

In June, 1846, the following gentlemen were chosen Professors of Law: namely, the Hon. Joseph C. Hornblower, LL. D., late Chief Justice of New Jersey; James S. Green, Esq., for several years United States District Attorney for New Jersey; and Richard Stockton Field, Esq., a Senator of the United States for a short time, and then United States District Judge for New Jersey.

"The Law department opened under very favorable auspices. . . . For two years the lectures were kept up with much spirit; and had the funds of the College warranted the outlay, it would have been wise to pay the professors a liberal compensation for their services, irrespective of their fees from the students of Law. These, of course, were at first so few in number that the labors of the Professors were in fact a gratuity to the College; and as they could not afford to devote the whole of their time to the building up of the Law department of the College without something like an adequate remuneration, . . . they were constrained, after a fair trial, to discontinue their school. In aid of this enterprise the College did all in its power. . . . Mr. Field erected at his own expense a very suitable and tasteful building, with a commodious room for the delivery of the lectures and for the safe-keeping of the works on Law set apart for the use of the students. These works were partly the property of the College, but chiefly of the professors."

In 1847 a new and beautiful chapel was erected, east of Nassau Hall. The old chapel was converted into a portrait-gallery.

The *one hundredth* Commencement of the College was celebrated on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 28 and 29, 1847. The Hon. James McDowell, of Virginia, had consented to take part in these exercises, but was prevented from doing so "by official and other engagements." On Tuesday, Chief Justice Green delivered the address that had been prepared by him for the inauguration of the Law Department of the College, and the Rev. Dr. James W. Alexander read "an exceedingly interesting paper, in which he gave a sketch of the College from its origin." On Wednesday, the regular Commencement exercises for that year were observed, after which the Alumni and invited guests formed in procession, and marched to the campus in the rear of Nassau Hall, where tables were spread beneath a spacious and commodious tent, for the accommodation of about seven hundred persons. After a dinner, "handsomely served," an ode was sung, "toasts" were announced, and speeches were made with great enthusiasm. "The Commencement of 1847 was *the one* of greatest note in the history of the College. . . . At none other, either before or since, has there been such a general gathering of the graduates and other friends of the College."

June 27, 1848, a letter was received from Professor Henry, resigning his professor-

ship. He was unanimously elected Professor *Emeritus* of Natural Philosophy. Professor Elias Loomis, of the University of the City of New York, was chosen to succeed Mr. Henry in the department of Natural Philosophy, and accepted the appointment. He resigned his chair October 29, 1849, having decided to resume his professorship in the University of the City of New York; and Mr. Richard S. McCulloh, a graduate of the College in 1836, was unanimously chosen Professor of Natural Philosophy. Professor McCulloh, at the time of his appointment, held the office of Assayer in the United States Mint of Philadelphia. Previously to this he was Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Jefferson College, Pennsylvania. In December, 1849, Professor Giger was appointed Librarian in place of Vice-President Maclean, who was allowed to resign. In this year (1849) Mr. A. Cardon de Sandrans, the Teacher of French, departed this life. "He was a very worthy gentleman, intelligent, and a good instructor."

In this year (1849) the College experienced a revival of religion of a marked and interesting character.

A vigorous effort to augment the funds of the College was begun in the last year of Dr. Carnahan's administration, and its success is chiefly due to Professor Hope. The design was to secure a permanent endowment of \$ 100,000; and to found, as a part of this endowment, a number of scholarships of \$ 1,000 each, the income to be appropriated to the payment of tuition and other college expenses of the incumbent. The subscriptions obtained, for professorships and scholarships, exceeded \$ 100,000. The way was prepared for the establishment of the chairs of Mental and Moral Philosophy, and of Geology and Physical Geography, securing for the College the valuable services of the distinguished incumbents of these chairs, the Rev. Dr. Lyman H. Atwater and Dr. Arnold Guyot.

At the close of the Commencement exercises, June 29, 1853, Dr. Carnahan, very unexpectedly to the Board, presented to the trustees the resignation of his office, which he had held for thirty years. At the urgent request of the Board he agreed to continue in office till his successor should be chosen. In December, 1853, the Rev. Dr. John Maclean was elected President.

Dr. Carnahan died in Newark, New Jersey, March 3, 1859, in the eighty-fourth year of his age. His remains were brought to Princeton for interment, and the trustees erected a handsome monument over his grave.

Dr. Maclean was inaugurated with imposing ceremonies June 28, 1854.

March 10, 1855, at half past eight o'clock P. M., a fire broke out in the second story of Nassau Hall, or North College. "The flames were furious, the wind was high; . . . by midnight the whole building was a mass of ruins, except its old naked stone walls. Many of the students lost their property. The valuable library of the Philadelphian Society was nearly destroyed." Again, phoenix-like, old Nassau Hall rose from its ashes, little changed in exterior appearance, but com-

pletely remodelled in its interior arrangement. The long halls that extended the whole length of the building, so often reverberating the boisterous fun of the students, afford no longer temptations or facilities to riotous or bacchanalian revelries. The graduates of the first half of this century regard with silent pity the undergraduates of the latter half, remembering too fondly "the good times" to which the commodious and noisy old halls so hugely contributed. But by way of compensation, we are told that Nassau Hall is now fire-proof. So said and thought those who rebuilt it after the fire of 1802. Shall we never again hear the cry, "Nassau Hall in flames! Nassau Hall in ruins!" *Nous verrons.*

The College was pursuing its onward career of increasing prosperity, when the Civil War of 1861-1866 stayed and for a time reversed the tide. The enthusiastic patriotism of loyal students was irrepressible. This, of course, gave offence to Southern students and open-mouthed sympathizers with the South. The national flag, hoisted over Nassau Hall in April, 1861, soon came down. "But the flag was again raised over Nassau Hall, a feat difficult and dangerous; it was performed by Captain John H. Margerum, amid the enthusiastic cheers of the students, who presented him with a pair of pistols for it. The wind at the time blew so hard that it bent the rod, so that the vane became immovably fixed, *pointing to the north* through the whole of the war."* To the end of the war Princeton College remained faithful to the old flag of the Union. But the Southern students withdrew to their homes, which reduced the aggregate number of students in attendance nearly one half.

During Dr. Maclean's Presidency (1854-1868) "after paying all the ordinary and contingent expenses of the College, and those incurred in the rebuilding of Nassau Hall, *the actual increase* in the *permanent funds* vested in *bonds, mortgages, and public securities*," was not less than \$ 240,000. Besides this increase in vested funds, the College received real estate and other special donations, adding at least \$ 200,000 to the value of its property. Very nearly half a million of dollars, contributed to the College while Dr. Maclean was its President, prove that in his administration there were foretokenings of that great tidal wave of liberality that has since so magnificently poured itself into the College treasury.†

In 1868 Dr. Maclean tendered his resignation. The trustees of the College provided him with an annual income, and personal friends affectionately secured for him a comfortable house in Princeton, where he welcomes all visitors with his accustomed hospitality. It is not time to write his memoirs; but we may tell all the world that does not know him, that all the world that does know him honors him greatly and loves him dearly.

April 13, 1868, Rev. William H. Green, D. D., Professor in the Princeton Theo-

* History of Princeton, by J. F. Hageman, Esq.

† See Dr. Maclean's History of the College, Preface, pp. 7-16.

logical Seminary, was chosen President. He declined the appointment. In the latter part of April, 1858, the Rev. James McCosh, D. D., LL. D., Professor of Moral Philosophy in Queen's College, Belfast, Ireland, was elected President, accepted the office, and was inaugurated October 27, 1868.

"President McCosh's inauguration was a great public demonstration. . . . Dignitaries of the Church and of the State were present. . . . The church was crowded to its utmost capacity. . . . A more learned and cultivated audience had never filled that house before. . . . The addresses were all of high order and enthusiastically received. . . . The inauguration marked a new era in the history of the College. It was just one hundred years since Dr. John Witherspoon came from Scotland and accepted the Presidency of this College."

Dr. McCosh has been President a little more than ten years. Great things have been accomplished in the College and for the College during this eventful decade. "The curriculum of the College has been extended; the standard of education greatly raised; new studies, and new professors and teachers to fill the new chairs, have been added almost yearly."*

Dr. McCosh came here "just as the influx of munificent gifts to the College had commenced; and he was just the man to enlist the co-operation of wealthy merchants and capitalists, especially those who were Presbyterians."† Nearly two millions of dollars have been given to the College during Dr. McCosh's administration, and the generosity of its alumni and patrons shows no signs of exhaustion. This increase of wealth is visible in the fine edifices that have risen within the classical precincts of the College campus. "Old buildings have been transformed or swept away. New ones of great cost and beauty have been multiplied yearly. . . . There are only three or four buildings in twenty which can be recognized as having escaped the wand of the magician. The Observatory had been projected before Dr. McCosh arrived, though its erection was not accomplished until after his advent. But the Gymnasium, Dickinson Hall, Reunion Hall, the Chancellor Green Library, the John C. Green School of Science, and Witherspoon Hall [and, we now add, Murray Hall] have all been planned and built since he was invested with the presidency. In addition to these, professors' houses have been erected, the College grounds have been enlarged and beautified with walks and lawns and roads and gaslights, old houses have been purchased and removed, and" as a grand climax in this direction, a new and superb President's House has been secured by the addition of "the Potter estate, known as 'Prospect,' consisting of thirty acres of choice land, with an elegant stone mansion thereon, adjoining the College property on the south," and expanding the College campus into the dimensions of a princely park. The College has also become the possessor of the Preparatory School property. And, though not the property of the College, yet for the sake of the

* History of Princeton, by J. F. Hageman, Esq.

† Ibid.

College and by the friends of the College, that elegant building known as the University Hotel has been erected in the vicinity of the College grounds.* The interests of science have not been pursued in costly structures only, but money has been spent in providing philosophical apparatus; in enlarging the Museum of Natural History and Mineralogy, and the E. M. Museum of Geology and Archæology, founded in 1874 by an unknown benefactor; in adding to the Art Department; and in multiplying the books in the College Library till they number 44,000 volumes.

As we close our History of the College of New Jersey, we ask with earnest solicitude three questions: Has the College of New Jersey fulfilled in the past, is it fulfilling now, and is it likely to fulfil in the future, "*its original design as an institution devoted to the interests of religion and learning*," † — of "*religion*," first of all, and of "*learning*" next, as the handmaid of religion, for so would its founders have put it?

Before we answer these questions, let us emphasize them by adducing clear proof of the intensely religious motives of the founders of our College. As early as May, 1739, seven years before the College of New Jersey was chartered, the Synod of Philadelphia, "desirous that the best possible provision should be made for the preparatory and professional education of all candidates for the ministry," adopted *unanimously* "an overture for erecting a school or seminary of learning." The ministers who were active in procuring this action of the Synod were the prominent men in securing the charter of the College of New Jersey, especially Dr. Dickinson, first President of the College, and Rev. Mr. Pemberton, pastor in New York City. In an address to Governor Belcher, in 1748, the Trustees express the hope that the College "may prove a flourishing seminary of *piety and good literature*." In his answer to this address, Governor Belcher says: —

"I shall esteem my being placed at the head of this government a still greater favor from God and the King, if it may at any time fall in my power, as it is in my inclination, to *promote the Kingdom of the great Redeemer*, by taking the College of New Jersey under my countenance and protection as a *seminary of true religion and good literature*."

President Green, in his Historical Sketch of the College, says: —

"It is apparent . . . that this institution was intended by all the parties concerned in founding it to be one in which *religion and learning* should be *unitedly cultivated* in all time to come. This ought never to be forgotten. . . . It is hoped that the guardians of Nassau Hall will forever keep in mind that the design of its foundation would be perverted if religion should ever be cultivated in it to the neglect of science, or science to the neglect of religion. . . . Whatever other institutions may exist or arise in our country, in which religion and science may be separated from each other, . . . this institution, *without a gross perversion of its original design*, can never be one.

* History of Princeton, by J. F. Hageman, Esq.

† Dr. John Maclean.

“It is worthy of note that Governor Belcher and the Trustees, in speaking of the College as an institution designed for the promotion of religion and learning, always mention religion first; and it is evident, from what they said and did with respect to the College, that the religious culture of the pupils was the thing uppermost in their minds, and that to which they attached the most importance.”

The Trustees, in an Address to the Inhabitants of the United States, in 1802, appealing for aid to rebuild the burnt College, used the following language:—

“The College of New Jersey was originally founded with a leading view to cherish the principles and extend the influence of evangelical piety. At the same time it was hoped and expected that, as the spirit of genuine religion is ever favorable to the interests of civil society, many warm and able advocates of these interests would be nurtured in the bosom of this institution. We trust it may be asserted without arrogance or vanity, that these views and hopes have not proved fallacious or extravagant. Whoever will look through the several departments of public life at present, or review the eventful scenes which our country has witnessed for half a century past, may be convinced that this College counts, among those who have been most distinguished in sacred and in secular office, a number of her sons which she need not blush to compare with those of any sister institution.”

The whole history of our College is in harmony with the sentiment of Dr. Maclean,—

“There is a far more important object to be attained by a College . . . than the acquisition of a great name, or the bringing together of a vast number of students from all parts of the land; and that is the faithful training of them in the fear and knowledge of God, in the hope . . . that our churches may through them be supplied with a pious and learned ministry and with an intelligent and godly laity.”

Or, as Bishop Doane, in his eloquent address at the centenary celebration, expressed it,—

“We all propose one end, the only worthy end of any college, to train up patriots and Christians; men that shall serve with a true heart their country and their God.”

We could multiply proofs that the founders of this institution devoted it to the interests of religion first, and of learning as the handmaid of religion, next. The evidence that it has fulfilled that design in the past is patent in its history. Let the following facts suffice:—

“The Triennial Catalogue shows that of the graduates of Princeton College there have been, in politics: one President of the United States; three Vice-Presidents; three signers of the Declaration of Independence; twenty-six members of the Continental Congress; eight members of the convention which formed the Constitution of the United States; twenty-two Governors of States, including Mr. Ross, Chief of the Cherokees; one hundred and twelve Judges of the Supreme Courts either of the United States or individual States; fifty Senators of the United States; one hundred and sixty members of the House of Representatives;—making nearly four hundred in the most important and distinguished positions in the government. . . . In the church, there have been nine hundred graduates of Princeton Ministers of the Gospel. In education, two hundred and twenty Presidents, Professors, and Tutors of Colleges. In medicine, four hundred and fifty Doctors and Professors. In law, nearly all those engaged

in politics, and hundreds more. . . . We must remember that only part of our public men are graduates of colleges, and hence the great influence of Princeton on political life is much greater than appears, even in the above statement.”*

We may affirm that no college in the country has contributed, in proportion to the number of its graduates, more largely to the ranks of illustrious American citizens; but what is a greater crown of glory to the College is, that the majority of her graduates have ever been the advocates of true religion, and many of them have exhibited in their pure and noble sentiments and useful lives the power of a living faith in Christianity.

To the second question proposed above, we answer, Princeton College must be fulfilling “its original design as an institution devoted to the interests of religion and learning,” if anything can be inferred with certainty from the reputed character of its Trustees, its Faculty, and its distinguished patrons.

To the third question, we answer, the College will fulfil that design in the future, if its friends not only love it, and give their money to it, and applaud and stimulate it in the pursuit of knowledge, but also *pray* for it. This is what its *founders* did. Governor Belcher himself, often styled *the Founder* of this College, founded it in prayer. “The death of the late excellent, now ascended, Dickinson,” he wrote, “is indeed a considerable loss to *my adopted daughter* [meaning the College]; but God lives, and is always better than we deserve, and with whom we must *wrestle* for his mercy and blessing to fall upon *our Infant College*; so shall it rise into youth, and in God’s best time become an Alma Mater for this and the neighboring colonies.”†

* Speech of Hon. E. D. Mansfield, before the Alumni Association of Cincinnati, Ohio.

† History of the College, by Dr. Maclean, Vol. I. pp. 63, 83.