

Preston.—Oration before the Union Society

83rd. Anniversary. 1833.

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AN ORATION
DELIVERED BEFORE
THE UNION SOCIETY,
IN SAVANNAH,
APRIL TWENTY-THIRD, 1833,
ITS
EIGHTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY,
IN THE
INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
BY **WILLARD PRESTON,**
PASTOR OF SAID CHURCH.
WITH THE
REPORT
OF THE
PROGRESS AND CONDITION
OF THE
SOCIETY,
SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT.

—∞—
Savannah:
W. T. WILLIAMS.
1833.

Soc 2710.76

E. H. Mayo, to the ...
Jan 3 1845

EIGHTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY.

AT a meeting of the Union Society, held at the Society's Hall, on Tuesday the 23d April, 1893, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted :

On motion of GEO. JONES, Esq. seconded by Dr. MOSES SHEFTALL,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be presented to the Rev. WILLARD PRESTON, for his able and eloquent Oration, delivered before the Society this day, in which he has collected a history of the origin and progress of the Society, evincive of great industry, and which should be preserved.

Resolved, therefore, That the President request the oration, or a copy thereof for publication, and that the same be recorded, at length, on the Minutes of the Society.

On motion of ANTHONY BARCLAY, Esq. seconded by GEO. JONES, Esq.

Resolved, That the President be authorized to have the Anniversary Oration, delivered this day by the Rev. Mr. PRESTON, published in pamphlet form, to the extent of five hundred copies, with the Report of the President, made this day, upon the state of the Society, annexed.

True extract from the Minutes.

W. W. WASH, SECRETARY.

AN ORATION.

WITHIN the last fourteen months, we have been convened on two Centennial occasions: one to commemorate the nativity of him who, under God, was the Father of his country; the other to celebrate the landing of the Founder of this State—epochs in the history of both, of proud and inspiring recollection to the citizen and the soldier: and the events and incidents associated with each occasion, were recounted with an ability and celebrated with a splendour, which will long perpetuate a vivid recollection of them. Far different is the occasion which convenes us to-day; while even the hope is not entertained of awakening equal interest, much less of affording equal gratification.

The present anniversary occasion admits, indeed, of an extended retrospect. The next epoch, (for it merits that designation,) in fair and hopeful prospect, on the list of Centennial distinction in this place, is the origin of that Society which celebrates to-day its eighty-third Anniversary. But that retrospect embraces few or no incidents to gratify the fancy, to excite the curiosity, or command the applause of the world. It awak-

ens no thrilling recollections of daring deeds, or splendid achievements ; points to no battle fields, where, on the issue of contending armies was suspended the reign of despotism or the triumphs of freedom : such as were the attractions which the revolving years of a century had been gathering around the hallowed spot, where was presaged a nation's birth, in that of her Washington ; or the charms which, for a like period, had been clustering about the first foot-steps, on the banks of your Savannah, of the first warrior-patriot, the venerated Oglethorpe. We can summon no such attractions, no such charms, about us to-day.

This Society, too, has its monuments : but not those monuments which patriotism rears to the valor of the Hero, or the wisdom of the Statesman, which are seen and felt in the freest and happiest form of human governments ; nor yet such as are witnessed in the transforming power of civilization, turning the wilderness into a fruitful field ; erecting habitations of social order and happiness, where once stood the Indian wigwam ; and temples of worship, and justice, and science, on spots where burned the council-fires of savage warriors ; and the bustle and thrift of a commercial city, where lately roamed the wild beasts of the forest. These, truly, are noble monuments ; monuments of liberty, of patriotism, of enterprize, of civilization over barbarism, of freedom over oppression. But the institution in whose behalf I address you, has none of these ; yet it has *claims*—noiseless, but powerful, as that benevolence on which it is founded—unostentatious, but urgent as that charity which it administers. Its achievements consist in rescuing the *mind* from

the worst of despotisms—the cruel, degrading, withering grasp of *ignorance* ; in training it to effort and to useful enterprise ; in rescuing the child of misfortune from the deep and overwhelming, and but too often demoralising and ruinous depressions of poverty, and consequently, relieving the widow from those burdens which often sink her to an untimely grave. In a word, in training to habits of industry and virtue, and furnishing the means of useful and respectable employments, and even of eminent standing in society, to those, many of whom might otherwise become the inmates of your poor-house, your hospital, or your prison. Such are the efforts which this Society has put forth for more than three-quarters of a century. Such the monuments which have been rising and annually multiplying during three generations. Such the achievements which its munificence has, in unnumbered instances, effected. Monuments of *mind*, / the achievements of knowledge over ignorance, of industry over idleness, of liberal charity over squalid poverty, of active, systematic benevolence over the lowest depths of human misery. Let the marble and the brass record the deeds of others, be these trophies the mementos rather of my life ; these shall live when those shall have crumbled into dust ; shall be told, when the last historian shall have laid aside his pen, and the chisel shall have forever fallen from the grasp of the sculptor.

But the best commentary on those institutions which have their origin in an enlightened and liberal charity, is their *permanency* ; and the best eulogium which can be pronounced upon them is the good which they

have been the means of effecting: these are both the tests and the proofs of their excellence, and they furnish the best and strongest claims to public patronage.

Associations of a benevolent character have often suddenly risen into being, and almost as suddenly expired. The chief incident in their history was the simple record of their birth; having been left to expire without even an obituary notice. Much of the benevolence of the world is of that fantastic character, which can *pity* and *shed tears* and *recommend* relief: but adopts no measures to alleviate distress. This may be denominated the benevolence of *poetry*—*mere fancy*—*mere fiction*.

There is another department of it which confines its sensibilities, and of course, limits its charities, to present objects of wretchedness. Its views do not reach to coming generations; nor does it consult the permanent good of its objects: pursues no plan of systematic effort; bestows without wise and prudent discrimination, and is satisfied with administering momentary relief. This may be denominated a *secular* benevolence. This is characteristic of those who either have no leisure or inclination to seek out the objects of their charities, or devise measures for their permanent good.

But true benevolence does not consist in a mere paroxism of feeling however violent or tender, which expends itself in the heaving of a sigh, or the shedding of a few tears, or in sudden bursts of pity; nor in a single effort, however well applied or successful. It looks to future results. It contemplates its objects in relation to their future benefit and their eternal des-

tion, and aims at the greatest amount of attainable good: and to secure this, there must be systematic action, combined effort and untiring perseverance. And when an institution possesses these characteristics, believe me, there is a spirit of liberality which lies deep, but beats strong, in the bosom of an enlightened community, on which the claims of a generous patronage are never urged in vain. And in the confidence that these positions will be amply sustained by the history of the Union Society, I am myself sustained in addressing you on this occasion.

Unfortunately, the records of this Society have not been preserved entire. Large portions of them have been destroyed, particularly such as were made previously to the summer of 1782; when the British army evacuated this city, the records of this Society shared the fate of every thing else which possessed value, in the wanton destruction which that army caused; nor from that period till 1791, are there either printed or written documents, of which the speaker is aware, to show the operations or state of this Society. A chasm, therefore, of forty-one years, remained to be supplied from traditionary information, and occasional references to transactions during that period, found in the records of a subsequent date. This information, however, it is believed, is entitled to the credit of historical facts, from the consideration that it comes from some of the oldest and most active members of the Society, the immediate descendents of no less active members, whom a kind Providence has yet spared from the infirmities and ravages of numerous years: and to whom, for the information they have com-

municated, I take pleasure in thus publicly expressing my grateful acknowledgements. If these facts shall possess interest, the labor of no little research will be amply repaid.

The Society which celebrates to-day its eighty-third Anniversary, was, of course, founded in the year *one thousand seven hundred and fifty*; thus possessing a veneration for the antiquity of its origin, which no other institution in this State can boast, or of a similar character, which few, if any, in much older settled portions of our country can claim. This alone constitutes a bright feature in an institution of enlightened and liberal charity; the more worthy of admiration from the fact, that its origin was nearly contemporaneous with the existence of Georgia, as a colony, being but seventeen years subsequent to the first visit of Oglethorpe, and at a period of peculiar embarrassments. With most men thus circumstanced, the common maxim of the world, in its most restricted sense, would have possessed a sovereign and an omnipotent force, that *Charity begins at home*. Though in the very infancy of their settlement, when personal protection from savage foes, and the supply of present and pressing wants, might reasonably have been presumed to have excluded from their calculations and their thoughts, objects of charity, which future and far distant generations might furnish; yet, *with these men*, charity was not a mere *domestic*. It was too diffusive and too strong to be the fondly cherished nursling of their own bosoms. It could do more than pity the misfortunes and weep at the woes of others. While it had a voice to

speak and say to the naked and the hungry. *Be ye clothed and be ye warmed*, it had a hand to act and furnish the garments and spread the board. Theirs was a charity, which sought for its objects, and when found, took them in charge; a charity which, while it relieved the wants of the body, made provision for the cultivation of the mind; and which extended its views to future generations, and adopted a system of benevolence for the benefit of unborn orphans, doomed to indigence. But who were these men? These acts have reared monuments to their enlightened patriotism and their active benevolence. But on those monuments should be inscribed their *names*. They should be enrolled on the fairest page of the records of this Society—be deposited in its archives. Every beneficiary should be taught to pronounce them with respect and affection. They should find a place in every anniversary address. We have carefully searched those records, but found them not there. We have minutely surveyed those monuments, but found no inscription, save the deep, bright lines of their charity, without a signature to tell the hand which first engraved them. Tradition, however, has happily rescued some of them from oblivion: they were, originally, five in number. We deeply regret we can give the names of only three of them—*Benjamin Sheftall, Peter Tondee and Richard Milledge*.

With an institution bearing so high an origin, and without official records of its commencement and early operations, it might be expected that much of fiction would be connected. But so far as pretended tradition has associated with its origin incidents which

detract from its character as a charitable and most laudable institution, careful inquiry has produced a full conviction that they have no foundation in truth. The character of its early members as given in the history of this State, (and the character of many of them is given in terms of the highest commendation,) would, indeed, be sufficient to disprove their claim to credit. None have stood higher, in this, or any other community, than many who have been members and warm patrons of this Society. Many of them have received the highest honors of their State and country, and occupied places of no less distinction in the church.

But we do not rely wholly on the evidence which these facts afford : this evidence is confirmed by direct and positive assurances, in relation to the circumstances of its commencement.

In the year 1750, there was a society in this place, composed of Scotch emigrants, the particular objects of which are not known to the speaker ; but probably combining entertainment and charity. It was, however, too exclusive and national in its character, to admit, as members, those not of the same extraction. This circumstance first gave rise to what was termed a club; a term, by the way, which according to the popular vocabulary of our day, has somewhat depreciated in its meaning, from its ancient usage. This club was composed of the five gentlemen to whom allusion has been made. They proposed, for its leading object, the education of orphan children, in indigent circumstances. For the purpose of raising the means, each member was required to

contribute two pence, weekly. This was, indeed, a small beginning. But a very few years showed that they had no occasion to *despise the day of small things*. And it is here worthy of remark, that it is agreeable to the history of most charitable institutions, that those have grown to the greatest importance, and been the most permanent and useful, whose beginnings were small. It seems to be a general law, as applicable to societies as to the productions of nature herself, that what is rapid in its increase, soon reaches its growth, and of course is soon on the decline. Large subscriptions and donations, in the out-set, (unless to secure some specific object,) have generally proved injurious and often fatal, especially to those charitable institutions which were intended to benefit future generations: their permanence and success depend on the constant application of means, while rich endowments often serve only to relax and paralyze effort. Gradual success alone keeps up vigilance and exertion. Apprehension of failure and hope of success, when properly balanced, constitute the mainspring to benevolent enterprizes. Mankind require the stimulus of a constant and a pressing necessity. The terms of membership, however, were gradually increased, when in 1793, they were £5. 5s. and the following year the sum of \$3 was levied as an annual tax upon each member towards the funds of the Society. In 1795 the tuition of about thirty scholars was paid by this Society, which then consisted of sixty-six members.

It has been an object of careful examination to ascertain the full amount of the receipts and expendi-

tures of this Society, from its origin to the present anniversary. Accuracy could not be reached. But from annual reports since 1791, and other data, it cannot have fallen short of \$70,000; about \$40,000 of which have been expended for the education of orphan children. About \$10,000 is vested in real estate, in the condition of productive funds.

But it is proper here to remark, that the bounties of this Society have not been exclusively appropriated to educational purposes. Donations have been made to a large amount to other benevolent objects; the Poor House, the Hospital, and the Female Asylum have shared largely in its munificence, as well as individuals, particularly widows in necessitous circumstances. Many losses have been sustained, but in most instances they were in consequence of that benevolence which prompted this Society to make loans in aiding mechanics at the commencement of business, but who were unable to reimburse them. The full amount, therefore, of the receipts of this Society, has been expended for charitable purposes. Its riches have consisted, emphatically, of good deeds, liberal charities and bountiful alms. Little has been appropriated to defray incidental expenses; these have been paid by a contribution of its members. It has had no salaried officers. For the first forty-five years, its Secretary, notwithstanding the duties of that office were far from light, and attended with no inconsiderable expense, received no compensation; and from that time but \$60 per annum, till 1816, when it was increased to \$150, the present salary. We are thus minute to show that the internal operations of this

Society have been in perfect character with the noble objects for which it was instituted. It originated in charity, and it has been conducted on the same disinterested principle. It has also been an object of no less strict inquiry to ascertain the number of the beneficiaries of this Society: but exactness here could not be attained. There are, however, data from which an estimate may be formed of considerable accuracy, agreeably to which the number cannot fall short, it is believed, of nine hundred. In some years, committees appointed to ascertain proper objects for receiving the charities of this Society, reported that not an individual was found who was not then receiving them. Such a report was made as late as 1807, notwithstanding the increased population of this city. In 1811, the number of boys was twenty-five. It is proper also to remark, that formerly, no distinction was made between male and female orphans: both received assistance as necessity required. This continued till the institution of the Female Asylum in the year 1801; when, after making a liberal donation to that institution, its bounties were exclusively applied to the education and entire support of boys. These, as they completed their course of instruction, have, since the year 1795, been bound, to express it in the words of the ordinance which required it, to some "useful trade, occupation, profession or calling." The course of instruction has been unusually liberal under such circumstances. It has not been restricted to those branches which are indispensable to the ordinary pursuits of life; but in many instances it has embraced the classics, and laid the foundation for the

liberal professions, upon which several have entered. With the character of not a few of them, as they have risen to manhood and discharged the duties of citizens and of social life, many of you are acquainted.

At what time this club, as it was at first called, was regularly organized into a Society, it does not appear; but it was not long after its origin. Its first President has not been ascertained. Its first Secretary was *Peter Gandy*, a teacher of youth. The title it assumed, when organized, was the ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY. Hence its anniversaries have always been held on the twenty-third of April, the kalendar day of the canonization of the tutelar Saint of England. In 1786, it was incorporated by an act of the Legislature of this State, by the title of "The Union Society;" the President of which, at that time, was *Wm. Stephens*, Esq. The relinquishment of its old name, it is believed, was a matter of patriotic feeling; the assumption of its new one, was an expression and a proof of a liberality of sentiment and feeling most honorable to its early associates; the Society embracing gentlemen of *five distinct religious denominations*. Distinctions of faith were here laid aside, when so noble an object for combined effort was presented, which would at once test the sincerity, at least, of their respective abettors. Such differences, instead of preventing, should provoke to holy emulation, and invite to cordial co-operation in enterprizes of benevolence.

There is one provision in the Constitution of this Society which, as connected particularly with a portion of its history, deserves special notice, viz. that

the existence of this Society, with all its rights and privileges, should be continued, on condition that any three of its members should hold regular meetings and observe its anniversary occasion. Twenty-eight years after its formation, this provision saved the Society from extinction. On the defeat of the American army in this city, in December of 1778, and Sunbury, a town on the sea-board, forty miles south of this city, had fallen into the possession of the British troops, several members of this Society, with others, were put on board of a prison-ship. But those who were officers in the American army, were subsequently sent, on their parole, to Sunbury. Among these were four members of this Society, viz. *Mordecai Sheftall*, *John Martin*, *John Stirk* and *Josiah Powell*. They were there detained more than three years, during which time they observed the meetings and kept the anniversaries of this Society; at the first of which, *Mordecai Sheftall* was chosen President. On that occasion, several of the officers of the British army joined in the celebration and furnished the entertainment. The sentiments which were given on that occasion, equally express the noble and honorable feelings of both parties. The first, by a member of this Society was, "*The Union Society*:" the second, by a British officer, "*General George Washington*," which was responded to with equal magnanimity by an American officer, "*The King of Great Britain*." These gentlemen thus preserved its existence, in consequence of which it afterwards secured much of the property which had been leased or loaned to individuals. To these gentlemen, therefore, under the circumstances in which

they were placed, not less than to the original founders of the institution, many hundreds, and probably thousands, of destitute orphan children, have been and will be, indebted to an immense amount of gratitude. Had this Society at that time become extinct, in all probability under the increased embarrassments of that period, it had never been revived. The happy results of its continuance, both to individuals and to the community, on the one hand, and the sad consequences which would have followed its extinction, on the other, who can estimate or conceive? An institution, that, as it were, creates and multiplies and extends benefits and blessings, which but for its existence had never been known, is a noble institution. But when without such an institution, the necessary alternative had been positive detriment to a whole community, and personal wretchedness to hundreds of individuals, it possesses an importance beyond all estimation and all praise; and just such is "*The Union Society.*"

In the examination which it became necessary to make of the records of this Society, I may be permitted to express the very high satisfaction derived from a knowledge of many of its regulations. They attach to it a moral and religious character, which claims for it the unqualified approbation and cordial support, of the religious part of the community, as well as of society in general—regulations adopted at an early period of its existence, and probably at its commencement. Of this nature are such as require those who are under the care of this Society to attend public worship, as it is expressed; (both parts of the Sab-

bath, under the special charge of their teacher;) and when Sabbath-schools were established, to become members of those important institutions. The morals of those youths were guarded with parental and christian care: and books, specially designed and calculated to promote their moral and religious improvement, were recommended and procured by this Society. And all the rules adopted by the Society for the regulation of its own members, show a high regard to moral and religious obligations.

Such are some of the interesting facts connected with the history of the Union Society, and such the claims which it presents to the unqualified approbation and liberal patronage of an enlightened and religious community. The highest commendation which can be bestowed upon it, and the strongest motive to public patronage which can be urged, is the simple statement of its object and its operations. And this must be my apology for having indulged in so many minutiae in addressing you on this occasion.

But although you have already indulged me with your attention beyond the ordinary length of an address on such occasions, yet, at the hazard of a trespass on your patience, I shall venture to say more. This is no ordinary occasion; it is the anniversary of a Society of no ordinary character: an association for no ordinary purposes. It embodies principles and motives, and involves objects and results, of incalculable importance. What is there that is dear to the citizen, the neighbour, the friend, the patriot, the philanthropist, the christian, which forbids fellowship of feeling, which does not demand co-operation of effort,

in promoting the objects of this Society? Had one doubt existed in the mind of the speaker on this subject, another's voice had been heard to-day, or this anniversary had passed in silence. Or were the object of this Society merely secular in its character, he would have used his little influence against unfolding the doors of this sanctuary for this occasion. But it is one for which all the churches in this city have been repeatedly opened, and the charities of the respective worshippers in them, been solicited by the ministers at their altars. Religion herself, is not exclusively confined, either in her motives or principles of action, to the interests of another world. She draws, indeed, from thence, her highest sanctions; but those sanctions are designed and calculated to influence and promote the temporal welfare of mankind. She is fitted to preside over all their interests. In her obligations, the binding force of all other obligations is to be sought, and is alone to be found. One grand principle, supreme love to God, should prompt to every enterprise and every action. It overlooks no duty which results from all that variety of relations which men sustain to each other here; but the actions to which it prompts, are often limited in their immediate results to this life. All those objects, therefore, whose promotion conduces to the best temporal good of individuals, or society, fall within the legitimate province of the christian religion, and all the solemn weight of her holy sanctions bears directly upon them. What a field, then, is thrown open before us, from which to gather arguments in support of the objects of this Society. What a variety and an array of motives which

press the obligations of a warm and liberal patronage. Temporal and eternal interests are here combined ; not, indeed, inseparably, for men can form no such bond, but hopefully and intimately. Let us take a closer inspection.

This Society, in the prosecution of its benevolent purposes, promotes the respectability, the usefulness and the happiness of those who are the objects of its benefactions. On this point we could give you the united testimony of its nine hundred beneficiaries, with the corroborating declarations of the community in which they have lived, abating those only who, in despite of all that human benevolence could do for them, perverted its bounties and became moral suicides. A few such there may have been. It is true that the opposites of these traits of character, or conditions of life, are not the necessary results of poverty. On the contrary, some of the greatest benefactors of the human race, and the very salt of the earth, have had their origin, and spent their lives, in the lowest depths of poverty. But it is not on this broad ground we now place this subject. What is the testimony of the general community? what the voice of strong probability in relation to those children who are orphans in indigence? And such are the sons, by adoption, of this Society, without whose parental supervision and support, they must necessarily grow up in ignorance, and without an interposing miracle of grace, in vice. Why should they not? Even honest ignorance is unfavourable to virtue. It leads to idleness, idleness to vice, and vice abandons to ruin ; and this ruin finds its consummation, but too often, in the future destination of the lost soul. Against such a result,

this Society, to say the least, rears a strong barrier: It snatches the child of misfortune from the precincts of vice; rescues it from the overpowering influence of a thousand temptations; instructs it, places it within the direct influence of motives to virtue; trains it to habits of industry, of social order, and of enterprise; and entrusts it to the immediate guardianship of those who are bound, by the force of their own moral and religious principles, as well as the obligations imposed by this Society, to give it an education which an enlightened and a religious community shall approve. What is the hopeful, if not certain result of all this? You at least save the individual from the degradation of ignorance and almost inevitable vice, relieve a widowed mother from an insupportable burden, prevent a pest or a nuisance to Society, and hopefully save an immortal being from future and endless ruin. Were this negative good all that this Society achieved, who would not commend and patronise it? But this negative good is necessarily connected with positive benefits. If you rescue from ignorance, you enlighten; if you save from vice, you render virtuous; if you relieve the widow of a burden, you afford her a support; if you prevent a pest or a nuisance to society, you bless society with a useful and an active member: and if an immortal being be saved from endless ruin, that being secures immortal glory. Within this short compass, then, are embodied, all those motives which can be conceived to exert an influence on those who feel themselves responsible, as citizens, as neighbours, as friends, as patriots, as philanthropists and as christians. And which of them has not a direct bearing on the objects of this Society?

The feelings of true benevolence, are kindred and social in their nature: and the circle of their influence is limited only by the objects which can be promoted by the efforts of those who possess them. In their nature they grasp a world, while in their operation they are necessarily limited to objects within their reach. Here then is another principle on which this Society founds a claim to the patronage of those who are able to yield it. For it is the same feeling, so far as it is: a benevolent one, which prompts to the proper education of an orphan child, that would send the gospel to a distant heathen. The objects of this Society are benevolent, and we appeal to benevolence for their support; and the same benevolence, too, which, were it within its influence, would bless a world with moral and spiritual light, and restore its inhabitants to social order and to happiness.

But in whatever point of view we contemplate this Society, even though it were exclusive of that distinguishing benevolence which characterizes the christian, if we look at it as citizens, as philanthropists, or as patriots, it is one of the noblest monuments of an enlightened and liberal charity, which this or any other State can boast. You have, indeed, a proud monument, erected to deeds of valor and heroism, in the heart of your city. But the fruits of the munificence dispensed by this Society, constitute a far nobler one, set up in many a grateful human heart; a monument which, instead of being impaired by the revolutions of years, is constantly increasing in splendour, and to which every beneficiary who fulfils the just expectations of his benefactors and the public, will be an additional ornament. This should stimulate

those youths who are now enjoying the liberal bounties of this Society, and whom I have the pleasure to see before me, to prosecute their studies with the utmost diligence; to form and establish habits of industry; to imbibe and cherish the sacred principles of a rigid morality and pure religion. Do not forget it, my young friends; your prosperity, respectability, usefulness and happiness depend on your possession of these qualities: while your possession of them is all the remuneration which this Society asks, or can desire, for its care and solicitude and liberality in your behalf.

But, however rich an ornament this Society is to this city and county in which it is established, it is not as citizens within these limits merely, that its importance is to be estimated by you. It is intimately associated with the noblest institutions of the State. What legitimate object of patriotism is there, to which it does not contribute? It increases her wealth; the wealth of a virtuous population, of enterprising citizens, of industrious members of society, of firm supporters of her civil and her religious institutions: a wealth, compared with which, her mines of gold are tinsel and are dross. It may furnish, (why not?) ornaments in the learned professions, heroes in the field, and champions of her rights in her halls of legislation. Such things have been, such things now are, and why may they not be again? We could read to you a long catalogue of names, high on the list of distinction, in every State in the Union, and on both sides of the Atlantic, of men born in indigence and educated by charity. Talents are not confined to the rich. Distinction is not the necessary consequence of high

or noble birth. Rather, oft-times, to these different conditions of man, the God of nature seems to have assigned endowments and defects to equalise their states.

But to whom belongs the high honor of rescuing them from their obscurity? Of bringing them forth to light, to usefulness and distinction? Under God to their benefactors—to the patrons and members of the Union Society. These are deeds which claim for you, gentlemen of this Society, the affectionate regard of your adopted sons; which bespeak for you the gratitude of many an unborn orphan; which ensure to you and yours, the prayers and blessings of many a widowed mother—deeds which demand the grateful acknowledgments of your State, and the high commendation of your country; and which entitle you to distinction among patriots, philanthropists and the benefactors of mankind.

But while these are your honors, most solemn are your responsibilities. You have immortal as well as temporal interests confided to you. You are the guardians of orphans; to train up children for God. To render them good citizens is but half your work, and should be far less than half your aim. Let it be your high and holy purpose to secure the rewards of another life; to receive the approbation of your final Judge. And in that last of days, when these, and all your deeds shall be reviewed, and your eternal state shall be adjudged, may it be your unspeakable privilege to say, “Here Lord are we, and the children thou gavest us.” And receive for yourselves the richest of all gratuities, “*The gift of God, which is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

REPORT, &C.



GENTLEMEN OF THE UNION SOCIETY—

By the seventh article of the Rules and Regulations, it is made the duty of the President to lay before you, at each anniversary, the progress of the institution, and the condition of its funds. In compliance therewith, I have the honor respectfully to submit the following Report :

During the course of the year the number of our beneficiaries, which at the last anniversary was eight, has been increased to thirteen, by the admission of Charles Groves, Benjamin Franklin Pidge, Wm. Ladson, Joseph Ladson, and Michael Riley. The number has, however, been reduced to twelve, by the withdrawal of Robert L. Tillinghast, who was given up, upon the application of his brother in South Carolina, under the assurance that all necessary means would be afforded him to complete his education. From information which has come to my knowledge, these assurances are in a course of accomplishment, and I have reason to hope, that this promising youth, for so many years under the care of the Society, may soon be enabled to distinguish himself by those powers of mind of which he gave early indications. I have pleasure in informing you, that the Society has obtained an accession of thirty six new members since the last anniversary. Of resignation, there has been but one.

The experiment which was made two years since, in the removal of our boys from this city to the Springfield Academy, in Effingham county, having fully answered the expectations that

were formed at the time, they continue there. I am persuaded, that no act of the institution, has ever been productive of so much good to the objects of its benevolence, as that which removed them from the influence of ill examples, which are more or less common in every city, and placed them in a situation where their advantages of education are so much greater than those that were afforded them in our Free School. The Rev. Mr. Olcott, Principal of the Springfield Academy, has on several occasions, given the most flattering testimonies of their moral improvement and their general correctness of deportment. At present they board with Mrs. Haygood, who resides at about two miles from the Academy, where it is in contemplation to let them remain *only* until the first day of June next, after which, they are to be removed to the care of Mr. John Charlton, well known to most of us, who has consented to take charge of them. Mr. Charlton's residence is in sight of the Academy, and consequently offering a much more eligible location for them besides the advantage of their being placed under the *surveillance* of a gentleman better calculated to watch over their conduct, than could be expected from a female at a considerable distance from the College. The rate we now pay for their board and tuition is one hundred dollars each, per annum; but arrangements are being made with the Trustees of the Academy, which, I hope, will result in securing a reduction from the established rates of tuition, as regards the boys of the Society.

In compliance with a resolution, unanimously adopted at a quarterly meeting, held on the 14th January last, I have caused the boys to be brought down, to unite with us in the celebration of this our eighty-third anniversary. Mr. Olcott having kindly offered to accompany them, the offer was promptly accepted. Gentlemen, they are before you, and their teacher will, if requested to do so, carry them through a short exercise for your satisfaction. I beg leave here to bring to your immediate consideration, the case of Edward Wilson: his attainments are spoken of in the highest terms, and he has now come to an age which requires that the Society should either provide a suitable place for him, or determine on permitting him to prosecute his studies. An

application was made for him last fall, by a Mr. Lewis Myers, of Effingham county, farmer, but the Board of Managers, after mature consideration, rejected that application, as not offering sufficient advantages to the merits of the youth.

The Western end of the Academy Building, in which we are now assembled, has been leased for a term of five years, from the first November last, to Mr. Geo. White, at the rate of seven hundred dollars per annum, payable quarterly. The building required some repairs, which have been bestowed with economy, but, I believe, to the satisfaction of the occupant. The estate of the late Geo. W. Coe is indebted to the Society in the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, for six months' rent of the same building, the collection of which is doubtful. A bill for that amount, duly attested, has been presented to the administrators, who have promised to give it the attention it deserves.

Our late fellow-citizen, Thomas young, Esq. a regretted member of this Society, who died in August last, has, by his last will and testament, bequeathed to the President and Vice President of the Union Society, the sum of five thousand dollars in trust, to be invested in Bank Stocks, or other securities at interest, for the benefit of said Society. The interest accruing thereon, *only* to be used in promoting the benevolent designs of the institution: the principal to be kept for ever, entire and untouched. It is uncertain when this legacy shall be made available: I have been informed that it may not be before two or three years.

The four shares of Exchange Stock owned by the Society, having been called in by the City Council for redemption, they were accordingly surrendered, and the sum of seven hundred and two dollars received for principal and interest. To this amount, I have added one thousand and fifty-eight dollars, which were unemployed in our Treasury, making the sum of one thousand seven hundred and sixty dollars, which was invested in twenty-two shares of Planters' Bank Stock at the par value of eighty dollars per share. The Society now owns forty shares of said stock, yielding an interest of seven per cent. per annum.

The amount received from my predecessor in office, last anniversary, was	\$726 72
Deduct therefrom the amount due Mr. Olcott for board and tuition of 8 boys,	500 00
<hr/>	
Leaving as the actual balance on hand last anniversary, the sum of	\$226 72
Admission money received during the year,	408 00
Principal and interest four shares Exchange Stock,	702 00
Dividends on Planters' Bank Stock,	162 40
Annual contributions and arrears collected,	993 50
Rents,	1123 75
<hr/>	
Total amount of receipts and available funds,	\$3,616 37
The expenditures have been as follows:	
On account of board and tuition,	365 00
Clothing, shoes, &c &c.	140 94
Premium of insurance against fire,	107 75
Repairs to the Academy building,	63 57
Commission paid for collecting money and blank books,	40 64
Twenty-two shares Planters' Bank stock, at \$80,	1,760 00
<hr/>	
	2477 90
<hr/>	
Leaving a balance in the Treasury this day, as per account certified by Messrs. Robert Habeisham and Jas. Eppinger, of	\$1,138 47
Deduct therefrom the amount due to Mr. Olcott, in full for board and tuition of twelve boys to 1st June next, about	700 00
<hr/>	
And you will have a surplus, over and above our expenditures, to the 1st	

June next, of about - - - - \$438 47

The resources of the Society, for the current year, may therefore be thus estimated :—

Amount of surplus, as above, - - - -	438 47
Contributions, about - - - -	600 00
Dividends on 40 shares Planters' Bank stock, at 7 per ct.	224 00
Fifteen months rent of the Academy to 1st May, 1834,	875 00
Eighteen months rent of tenement occupied by Mr. Dens- low, to same date, - - - -	262 50
Fifteen months rent of tenement occupied by Mr. Gal- braith, to same date, - - - -	187 50
Twenty-four months rent of tenement occupied by Mrs. Leach, to same date, - - - -	168 00
Twelve months ground rent from Wm. Starr, -	50 00

Making the probable amount of our receipts by
the 1st day of May, 1834, to be - - \$2,805 47

If the number of boys, at present under the care of the Society, be not increased during the year, the disbursements may very correctly be estimated as follows :—

Board and tuition of twelve boys, for one year, to 1st June, 1834, - -	1200 00
Clothing, &c. - - - -	200 00
Insurance against fire, - - - -	137 00
Incidental expenses and Secretary's salary, about - - - -	250 00
	<u>1787 00</u>

Which will leave us a surplus on the 1st
day of May, 1834, of - - - - \$1018 47

From this view of the state and prospects of our finances, and the increased number of our beneficiaries, the Society may be considered to be in a prosperous condition. The doors of your charity are not closed against any object entitled to your beneficence. Your Board of Managers have not been compelled to turn a deaf ear to the supplications of any orphan. All who have applied during the past year have been admitted. With care and

attention, the usefulness of this institution may be greatly increased ; but we must bear in mind, that the present resources of the Society may not always be realized, and therefore, it would be extremely hazardous to employ them altogether in the maintenance of any large number of objects of charity, whose continuance under the care of the Society would mainly rest upon our precarious means for their support. I would therefore, most respectfully recommend to the Society, to authorise the President and the Board of Managers, whenever it can be done without losing sight of any just claims upon the benevolence of the institution, or denying themselves the performance of a certain, for a future and contingent good, to make a yearly investment from the surplus funds, if any there are, in such Bank Stocks or other securities, as they might think best for the interest of the Society. Such a course will enable us, within a few years, to create a permanent fund, yielding a sufficient amount of interest to guarantee us in greatly increasing the number of our beneficiaries, without the heart-rending apprehension of being compelled from want of means, to throw them back upon the world, before they should be capable of providing for themselves.

I avail myself of this opportunity to return my thanks to the gentlemen who have acted with me during the past year, for the diligence and interest they have always manifested in the discharge of the sacred duties confided to them ; and I only regret that it has not been in my power to devote more of my time in promoting the benevolent designs of this noble institution. I am conscious of my want of ability to a proper discharge of the duties imposed upon the President of the Society, and this feeling will be a sufficient reason to offer you, gentlemen, for desiring that your choice should fall upon another.

Respectfully,

FRANCIS SORREL,
President Union Society.

RECORDED, APRIL 26, 1833.

PRESIDENTS
OF THE
UNION SOCIETY,

SO FAR AS COULD BE ASCERTAINED SINCE THE YEAR 1778.

Mordecai Sheftall,	1779	William B. Bulloch,	1808
Josiah Powell,	1783	William Davies, Sen.	1810
William Stephens,	1786	J. Macpherson Berrien,	1812
Leonard Cecil,	1687	James Johnston,	1814
George Houstoun,	1789	Moses Sheftall.	1815
Noble W. Jones,	1790	John Hunter,	1818
Joseph Clay,	1792	Richard W. Habersham,	1821
Joseph Habersham,	1793	Steele White,	1822
George Jones,	1796	Thomas Polhill,	1823
James B. Young,	1799	William Davies,	1824
Matthew McAllister,	1800	John C. Nicoll,	1825
Charles Harris,	1804	Geo. W. Anderson,	1831
David B. Mitchell,	1806	Francis Sorrel,	1832

A LIST
OF THE
PRESENT MEMBERS
OF THE
UNION SOCIETY.

Anderson, Geo. W.	Bulloch, Wm. B.	Birch, Robert
Anderson, Jno. W.	Bulloch, James S.	Butts, E. P.
Auze, Joseph	Butler, Thomas	Barclay, A.
Arnold, Richard D.	Bliss, Elias	Bowen, W. P.
Anderson, James	Bulloch, N. W. J.	Bryan, Sam'l J.

Barnsley, Godfrey	Harris, S. L. W.	Padelford, Edward
Burroughs, Jos. H.	House, Sam'l C.	Read, Jas. B.
Bayard, N. J.	Hendrickson, G. R.	Rose, Hugh
Beaulard, Jno. A.	Houstoun, P.	Roe, Charles
Bell, David	Hutchison, Robert	Reid, Jno. H.
Clark, Thomas	Huntington, Geo.	Roser, Henry
Cope, Adam	Jones, Geo.	Ryerson, Jr. Thos.
Cohen, Isaac	Johnston, Geo. H.	Shaffer, Jacob
Cuyler W. H.	Johnston, James	Sheftall, Moses
Cumming, Geo. B.	Jackson, J. W.	Sheftall, S.
Carter, C. B.	Judah, W. D.	Scudder, Amos
Charlton, Rob't M.	Jaudon, J. B.	Sorrel, Francis
Corbitt, Sam'l D.	King, Ralph	Stiles, B. E.
Curwen, J.	King, William	Shapter, Jas. S.
Daniell, W. C.	Long, Jno. W.	Starr, Jno. C.
Davidson, Jno.	Law, Jno. S.	Shick, P. G.
DeVillers, F P.	Low, John	Smets, A. A.
D'Lyon, Abr.	Legriell, O.	Stevens, Jr. Jno.
DeLamotta, Jr. J.	Levistones, Charles	Stone, Jeremy
Dews, John I.	Morel, John H.	Stephens, Charles
Duncan, Wm.	Myers, M.	Taylor, Robert
Eppinger, James	McNeil, John	Taylor, R. L.
Fort, Elias	Mackay, Wm.	Thompson, J. R.
Gaston, Wm.	McKinnon, J. W. N.	Waters, John
Glen, Geo.	Millen, John	Wayne, Jas. M.
Gordon, W. W.	Morrell, Isaac W.	Wallace, Norman
Gaudry, John B.	Marshall, James	Williams, S. S.
Gardner, John	Merriman, C. P.	Williams, Wm T.
Gaston, Wm. K.	McAlpin, Henry	Waldburg, Geo. M.
Habersham, R. W.	Nicoll, Jno. C.	Waldburg, Jacob
Habersham, Robert	Oemler, A. G.	Wyer, H. O.
Habersham, Jos. C.	Parker, Wm.	Wash, W. W.
Hartridge, Charles	Palmes, Geo. F.	White, George
Herb, Frederick	Petty, L.	Willink, H. F.
Henry, J. P.	Parkman, S. B.	Wiltberger, Jr. P.
Heineman, F. W.	Potter, James	
Henry, Charles S.	Patterson, Wm.	

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