

The Presidents of Hanover College.

By W. M. Blackburn, D.D.

The voyager along the coast of the Levant
wonders at the old towers on the headlands. The
tradition is that they were built by order of Constantine,
the first Christian emperor, when his mother was
searching for the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, and was
meant to convey ^{glad tidings} ~~knowledge~~ by signal fires to
Constantinople. The evening after the Cross was
unearthed a light was struck on Zion's tower. The
watcher at Balaiah saw it and kindled his flame.
The Eureka was flashed on to Lebanon where the
cedar wood blazed up in joy. It was shouted at An-
tiokh by the mother Church of us Gentiles. It leaped

you through the land of the Seven Churches. The Asian
Olympus flung the news-bearing light into the city of
Constantine, where rang the glad words, still ringing
in the city of Christ, "The Cross is found."

The story of the Towers may be a mere legend
growing out of that faith in the wooden Cross, which
were really believed had been found. That faith
was long a mighty force in human lives and in nation-
al histories. That faith enchanted the Christian world
for centuries, materialized Christianity, rose to fanatici-
sm in pilgrimages, attained heroism in the ene-
sades, moved empires, and baffled reformations
until the days of ^{revived truth,} Luther. Yet those towers may stand
as symbols of enlightening Colleges, which proclaim
nobler discoveries than that of Helena, and promote
a mightier faith than that which swayed the Middle
Ages.

After ancient art, literature and liberty seemed lost, there came the Renaissance - that wonderful time when genius and learning were reborn. Art and truth were found again. Sines of men from ^{Anselm &} Dante to Leuther and Holbein were finding lost elements of Culture. They found the poets pen, the painter's brush, the Sceptor's chisel. They brought from the dust the buried literatures of Greece & Italy, of Jewea and the ^{early} Christian Church, and invented the press to fling them as sun-light upon a dark age. They found the human intellect & larger mental freedom. They discovered the need, and the powers of a Reformation. They found, not the mere Cross of wood, but the real Christ crucified for the sins of men, and the true faith in His redemption. They found the best elements of our Modern Civilization. ^{They must send the knowledge of them down the ages.} Every discoverer kindled his light; the watchers lit the signal-flames, & the new Knowledge next flashing over a continent.

4/ Thus rose those towers of light, the Colleges and Universities of Europe, nearly one hundred of them, between the 13th and 16th centuries.

The time came when the discovered knowledge of Europe must be flying over the Western world. It struck on the tower of Harvard where light flamed out for New England. It shined into Virginia from the College of William and Mary. It radiated from Yale and Princeton. And now lines of Colleges, extending to the Pacific Ocean, throw their gladdening rays over all national domain. ~~our land~~. Here is one of them, and in its fiftieth year we come to thank God for the hand that first kindled the flame on this headland, and to resolve against that the law for ~~His~~ ~~no~~ver shall be ~~like~~ the very law given for the Hebrew altar, "The fire shall ever be burning; it shall never go out."

5/ Here have stood men with a Keen eye for all
the best Knowledge of the old Ages, and the valuable
discoveries of the passing Time. They were eager to
impart true Science, ^{and} to advance the Crusade against
ignorance, Sin, and the Realm of Unbelief. They were
as resolute as Constantine to make the Cross a power
in the world; even more determined to give it the
true meaning and secure for Christ a spiritual

6/ Empire. The founders and first presidents, now
walted to heavenly honor, had little secular fame. The
future Gibbon may ignore them. In general history
they may be as unnamed as the watchers on the old
Signal towers, Cyclopædias may still omit them. Yet
in each of them there must have been some element
of greatness, if his name deserve the tribute of this
occasion. The greatness ^{is to be estimated in its relation to this institution - It} may not have been merely
in one kind of talent, or force; nor in mere breadth of
reputation, nor in vast learning, nor in authorship,
nor in masterly Eloquence, nor in rigorous logic, nor in
the profoundness of original thought; but rather in a
combination of qualities needed for the time & place: in
good sense, in useful energies, in working powers, in
devotedness to one purpose, in self-sacrifice & endurance.
In their day it was a great thing to found here a College & render it permanent.
Their greatness may be tested by two questions: - 1st
Has this College been, and is it yet to be, a power for

7 good in the world? 2^d Did they contribute any force to make it Capable of a powerful influence?

We must remember that they were pioneers.

As the word president means one who presides over

an organized body of men, with dignity & Authority, and as they were hard workers in nearly every kind of service, they may seem ^{not} to have attained its high significance.

It is likely that they presided a good deal in the saddle and over the horse that bore them through bad roads to Miss-

ion Stations; or presided over the education of corn in

hope of cultivated ears, or over the green log which ^{they} were converting into sad fuel; or, sitting in a splint chair by the fire and meditating upon the adjustment of demand and supply in the home department, they leaned against wall of the chimney, often somewhat discouraged, yet never willing to say of their toils for the college jam-jam desino - "I stop at once".

Time came when they, or their successors,
 They might have desisted in the face of strong
 rivalry. It is often said that too many colleges were
 projected in the West. They grew out of an earnest mis-
 sionary spirit and denominational energy. Our wis-
 dom might have planned fewer of them, with better en-
 dowments, ^{But we do not live than to give our advice. They acted upon the} and wider patronage. ^{the ruling advice of their time.} The founders were not
 Damocles; yet they projected ^{Colleges} ~~these~~ in excessive
 numbers, and left them to "the survival of the fittest."
 In the long run of time the fittest in location, working
 forces & methods of culture, will survive.

But Hanover was founded before there was any
^{in the West.}
 such excess of college enterprise, or rivalry. It has the fit-
 ness of priority. It hath antiquity. The time seems long
 since the population of Indiana was but 200,000, and nearly
 the entire lay in the Presbytery of Salem, or since the
 frontier synod was a vast

of spiritual realm which covered Indiana, Illinois
and Missouri, and stretched westward ad libitum, hav-
ing seventeen ministers and about sixty churches.
The Synod felt the need of a school for the training of men to supply
the West with missionaries and pastors.
That was the time when John Finley Crowe and six
boys, on New Year's morning, 1827, met in a loom-house
where our Alma Mater —

Then a coy and homeless maiden,

Having skilful hands well laden

With the warp and woof of science,

And the heart for an affianced

To the wise —

Began to weave the endless web ^{of wisdom} from which

her sons have taken their outfit. Not only did ~~the~~
science ~~claim~~ ^{wisdom} these lads, but the Spirit of God came
upon them. A revival sanctified the effort, when these
foundations were laid.

That year the heart of Pestalozzi

¹⁰
ceased to beat for poor children whom he had taught self-help.

La Place closed his eye on the Stars and went beyond them.

Thomas Arnold was entering on his career as a prince of
Educators, ^{and} England was making such advances in pub-

lic schools & popular knowledge that Lord Brougham

^{some} let drop the phrase "the Schoolmaster is abroad." The

names of ^{Sir} Humphrey Davy, and Dugald Stewart, and Sir Walter

Scott, seem to us of later date than that of Dr. John Finley

Crowe, when he began labors at which Hercules might

have halted, for Hercules never attempted a Manual

Labor School, nor a College endowment.

11/ Dr. Crowe was there in his prime, vigorous, heroic, per-
severing, indomitable, trustful in God, faithful to his Church,
amiable, peace-loving, courteous, hopeful, a seer indeed gifted with foresight.
And he lived long to be endeared to this College as its
father and founder, active as its vice-president, giv-
ing half his fame and his whole heart to it; collecting
the funds for its first edifice, ^{which he saw burned down;} undaunted by fire and
flood, and listening for the still small voice after
the storm; never doubting the wisdom of its location
on this height, holding on to one its roots when the
tree was removed to Madison, and nurturing the germ
of its second establishment. His very persistence
rose to the sublime.

^{the child of a missionary spirit,}
This young College, had a little brother, almost a
twin, the Indiana Theological Seminary. "The boys
grew." Neither was Esau, ^{steadily -} but the Jacob was the one who,
in his tenth year, went down the river and sojourned
until he wandered "seeking a city" in the Lake Country,
where he now abides. He is a little lame now,

¹² for the sinews of his financial thigh have shrunk somewhat, and this ^{is} a good time for the two brothers to express their fiscal sympathies, recognize their ~~com-~~^{mutu-}al interests and renew their old affection. Fifty-five men, who studied theology at Hanover, are reckoned among the alumni of the Seminary at Chicago.

Every man of us in that Seminary delights in the fact that its first ten years of growth were here under the hand, the heart, the voice, the prayers, the solid learning, the classic elegance, the Socratic method, the ~~vigorous~~^{grand} theology and the saintly example of Dr. John Matthews— a man in whose life the honest, sincere, just phase of Christianity was peculiarly manifest. North Carolina never sent

out a ~~more~~^{more} righteous man. In the days of his self-help, as a carpenter he sawed every board square and never constructed a lie with lumber. When he made a carriage for Dr. Caldwell, to reward him for board

³ and tuition, he made it to last as long as that fine old gentleman should live & boast of his pupil's genius.

He completed his studies in the same square, thorough way, & gave himself a genuine finish. For eighteen years - here and at New Albany, he taught theology & kindred sciences, ever aiming to send out ministers of the word thoroughly furnished for every good work. His many services in the Collegiate Department helped greatly to elevate it and make ready a chair for a presiding officer.

The first President was James Blythe, D.D., one of the men who brought to the college an experience and reputation as an educator. Born in North Carolina, 1765, he was a free lad among the heroes of Mecklenberg County, who have the honor of making an early declaration of independence. He loved Latin only when he came to hate learning more intensely. Al-

¹⁴ though a member of the Church at Naupden and
Sydney College, where culture lacked the Christian
element & sceptical levity was the fashion, he almost
lost the faith of his Scottish ancestry. He was on the verge
of moral ruin. There he learned, as he could learn in no
other way, the fearful power of evil influences over young
men. One event was the turning-point in his life. He rap-
ped at the door of an associate in gayety and vice, but
heard no answer. A harder rap, but no response. The
inmate, ^{whose heart God had touched,} wished to be alone in penitence, alone in his pray-
er for victory over sin, and did not unbolt the door un-
til heavy blows threatened to shatter it. Young Blythe
^{entered and} saw traces of serious thought. Finding a Bible where he
had never seen one, he asked "Do you read such a book
as this?" His friend manfully told him of his convictions,
struggles, & resort to the Word of life. The visitor burst
into tears. I know that day he was a new man. This

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event was the beginning of an extended revival. Thence-
forth James Plythe was known for his earnest, intrepid,
high-toned character. When ^{he was} a young preacher & pastor
in Kentucky, the ^{skulking} Indians must have known that he rode
with his rifle and kept his powder dry. Like his Clerical
brethren, he could enter the pulpit, lay his pistols be-
side the Bible, and then proceed devoutly with psalm
and sermon. These timely weapons against the Indian
were symbols of his ready arguments for the infidel. ~~the~~
~~And as a young man often in a natural way.~~

He was one of the founders of Pennsylvania Un-
iversity, in which he was a professor of half a dozen
sciences, and its president for about fifteen years.
In 1816 he was Moderator of our General Assembly.
Being a trusted man in the Church, a leader in the
country then called "the West," and a teacher who had
proved his aptness & thoroughness, he was elected
to the presidency of this College from 1832 to

1836 he held the office as a position of trust, faithful to every duty laid upon him & every interest committed to him. He and his colleagues harmoniously rendered noble services to him. The success was very marked. These were those walls to which some of us often referred in our "original speeches," and which now form the village Church. The tempest which carried off their third story was hardly more amazing to those walls than some of the ^{stunning} oratory which they heard, or certain wild translations which good Prof. Sturges shook with laughter. But, ^{doubtless} those walls have kindly forgotten all boyish ambitions & blunders, and if they are our witnesses they can testify to hallowed hours of song & prayer, of pleadings that brought tears & counsels that rejoiced the heart, when professors made their ^{best} most eternal impression upon students, and when ^{that} ~~this~~ place was the gate of heaven to many a soul. Yes, sacred walls, in truth! Not only a ^{holy} monument to Drs Blythe & Crowe & their associates, but a memorial of vows by young men who have gone, ^{widely through the earth,} with an earnest

17 will & consecrated heart to preach Christ, to teach
Christian Knowledge, or serve the Redeemer in their
vocations.

The increase of patronage was very marked. The
roll of six names in 1827 had expanded into a Catalogue
of 236 students in 1835; ten of these studying theology.
Those who best knew Dr. Plythe loved him most. A stranger
thought him cold, perhaps self-conscious of his abilities and
official dignity; ^{to} every intimate friend he was frank, open-
hearted, communicative, sympathetic, courteous, cordial.
Far in the distance, even in summer, an Alp
looks cold and lifeless, wrapped in ice and sub-
lime in solitude. But come near and you find
the snows melting, the hills laughing and leaping
down the rocks, the trees flourishing on the
warm slopes and plants blooming by the gla-
cier's edge. It was not distance, but nearness
that "gave you charmment to the view" which men had of the first

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Matthews, he had other ^{virtues} ~~graces~~ needed in "a good soldier
of Jesus Christ". Often blunt and ^{always} outspoken, firm and
positive, he could listen to an opponent, weigh an ar-
gument & gracefully yield when convinced. If he
seemed ^{to grow} aged, he had fire for the war of theologies and
church politics, and, snuffing the battle from afar, he

put his hand to the "Act and Testimony," and bravely
bore it through the stripes that struck our Church in ^{transit}.
He honestly meant Reform, not Revolution; the true re-
form came long after in the Reunion of the branches.
When he resigned his Chair, at the age of 71, his heart
led him ^{again} to the work of preaching, pastoral care, and mis-
sions, for he loved it best. One of the highest honors was
paid him by the General Assembly of 1841, when it referred
to him & ~~another~~ ^{another} former Co-pastor, as "two venerable
fathers in Christ, who after more than half a century
already spent in obeying their Master's last injunction,
still feel impelled to devote the very twilight of life
to the arduous work of missions." Thus he was fulfilling
the most spiritual design of this college, the advance-
ment of Missionary trials & harvests. In 1842 he went to
his rest. ^{His grave is almost in sight of this building.} It was eminently fitting that Hanover should
possess the dust of the old pastor who was a slave.

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Dr. John Matthews filled the Chair pro tempore for more than a year. In 1838 Dr. Duncan M. Staley was inaugurated as the second President, but resigned after a few months.

✕

That year 1838 was a dismal one in every department of American history. One of those crises, which lays its grip on every human interest, was testing all enterprises, ^{personal,} social, benevolent, political and ecclesiastical. The public health was shattered, ^{in the West,} the people grew yellow with agues, perhaps the liveliest trade was in Peruvian bark, and the bitterest rivalry was in its compounds. Farms were shot in harvests, Currency was termed "wild-cat" and it screamed at the banks in vain for redemption. The question of Slavery was rising into long and loud debate. There were mut-

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tings of a war with Canada, The Division in our Church
was threatening every Presbytery and many a congregation
with schism. This Institution, Collegiate and Theological,
stood, like the first Eddystone light-house, in a sea of
distresses which might sweep it away. It needed finan-
cial anchorage. It wanted a president who could al-
lay Strifes, unite all hearts and minds in its support,
rally ^{liberal} friends, rouse enthusiasm. The name of Erasmus
Darwin McMaster was rising in the Clouded Sky, as one
of the first magnitude. We know not whether his prenomer
was given him in memory of Erasmus Darwin, the phys-
ician, poet and naturalist, whose grandson would have ^{us} look
Rudely and filially upon apes, but certainly young McMas-
ter infinitely preferred an honest Scotch ancestry to
a Simian lineage.

in 1838

He was, ⁱⁿ pastor at Ballstown, N. Y. when chosen to be
 the third president of this college. He had all the
 requisites for an eminent teacher, aptness, scholar-
 ship, ardor, & magnetism. It is said that "he could
 take the place of any absent professor and, without
 text-book, hear a recitation, whether in Comic Sec-
 tions or the Iliad." He had strong convictions of right,
 of duty, of justice, of humanity, and he never com-
 promised them. He thought that in many politi-
 cal questions there was a moral element which
 brought them within the proper range of the pulpit,
 the religious press, and the ecclesiastical rostrum.
 If politicians invaded the realm of Ethics, they ^{could} ~~not~~
 not silence him by shaking at him a flag on which
 was written "politics." On his banner were written
 patriotism, humanity, the moral law, the truths
 of Jehovah; and for these he would do battle

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as a Christian Cavalier. He could patiently and
magnanimously bear a wrong to himself, but
his righteous soul could not be repressed when
wrong was done to a class of his fellow-men.
Hence he cried aloud and shared not when it was
boldly proposed that Indiana should repudiate
her state-debt, and when oppression grew harder
and heavier on the increasing millions of slaves.
Thus he was led into high debate. He was often
upon the unpopular side. His motives and lofty aims
were often misunderstood. Even Hanover came to
have its conflict with him, ^{in the effort to retain the ark or Shiloh.} Courageous as he was, &
relying upon the public favor, he was certainly
rowing up stream when the college was removed
to Madison. In his mind the Madison University
was a grand scheme. But the Synod held fast to its
old idea, & the project failed. If the citizens of

(24)
Hanover felt that he had wrought ill ² have proved
and if the members of the Synod thought a committee to be
injured their cause, or was still injuring
while he was president of Miami Un.
all must have rejoiced to see him for
in the chair of Theology at New Albany.
he was the right man in the right place.

Today I have learned of
passing beyond a family circle, and
men concerned in it. About the time
went to New Albany, he attended a
with delight to himself and his former
ness with Dr. Crowe. These two men,
differed in educational policy, Dr.
library, and there they talked. No one
they said. Their voices were heard, in
prayer. They left it all with God,
themselves afresh with the spirit of brotherhood.
Clearly proves that they were, Christ-like
justly
His associates, regarded

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a princely theologian. They sorrowed for him when he
was turned into private life. They admired the modesty
of his true greatness when he served a little Church
in one of the remotest towns of this State. They exulted
when he was restored to his Chair at Chicago.

If the Madison people had any hard feelings
over the return of the ark to these hills, they have long
since forgotten them, and recently show their noble
spirit by contributing a house for the president. Thus
time and grace heal wounded hearts.

20-2
Saying at the last "I die in Christ", then the li-
tense knew that those strong men had this worthy
thought, "May my last end be like his."

After 1843 there were about three years of
restoration. Dr. Crowe had to "hold the fort". His Academy
was again growing into a College with a new Charter.
It needed a president who could give it a lift into
public favor, raise funds, win patrons, captivate
young men, and supply a corps of excellent professors
with good ones for the "mint". He must be a man of
fine address, and wise adaptation to the public sen-
timent, a recruiting officer and Commissary-gener-
al, who knew what St. Paul meant in saying that he
had "robbed Churches", and ^{who} would continue that ^{benevolent} pro-
cess ^{so} honestly, so gracefully, that the Churches
would like to see his genial face again.

26-8 I have seen the eyes of strong men grow moist
and their lips quiver as they fondly spoke of Dr. Mallas-
ter's unselfishness, his unambitious courage in bat-
tling for the right, his magnanimous spirit, his gen-
erosity, his loyalty to conscience and to God, his gen-
tle submission when he seemed defeated, his calm
resignation when disappointed, and his sublime
confidence at all times that the right would finally
prevail, for God was ~~was~~ the sovereign of the earth.

And when they told how he was warmly welcomed at
Chicago ^{in 1860;} how he was ~~at~~ ^{he was}

(27)
7 His Provisional name was Sylvester Scovb
D.D. - the ^{fourth} President - He was born in 1796 a-
mong the Berkshire hills of Massachusetts. He pur-
sued his Classical Studies at Williams College, and
his theological at Princeton - While a student he
was noted for his devout spirit and his active ju-
Christian work. After four years of service as
a ^{preacher} ~~minister~~ and a pastor in New Jersey he came
into Southern Indiana, where he passed seven
years in the like labors with remarkable suc-
cess. In 1836 he entered upon his ten years agency
for the Board of Domestic Missions, having a cir-
cuit which extended through five States. He not
only rendered ^{a most helpful} ~~valuable~~ service to the Church, but he
also was unconsciously qualifying himself to
meet the ^{special} needs of this College. His wide travels,
intimate acquaintance with the people, skills

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in raising funds, generosity and self-sacrifice,
courtesy and warm friendship, dignity and
Christian fervor, his conciliatory temper in
days of controversy, his ability to manage com-
plicated interests, filled him for the ^{office} ~~place~~ to
which the Directors of Hanover elected him in
1846, when they were lifting their ~~heads~~ ^{hands} above
disaster and ^{their hearts above} despair. He was called not so much
to the chair as to the field. He must meet the fact
that there was a general distrust of the institution.
He must remove prejudices, & establish confidence,
draw students and funds. The scholarships which
was needed was in the shape of a promissory note
from a good patron. Dr. Scovel brought to his work
tireless energy, tact, wise management of human
nature and a fine reputation for sagacity &
success. He left most of the instruction

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to the worthy corps of professors. He rapidly increased the endowment of their chairs, & the library.

The number of students was doubled. Some of us will never forget how genial he was toward us. Our idea of him was that he was able and apt to teach, but that he must do field work as a recruiting officer; that he had a marvellous skill in securing scholarships and fascinating the lords of the country. If we saw the hack returning with a strange boy in it we thought, "There comes another of Dr. Scovell's innocents." Paul's ~~remarked~~ that the hack was Dr. Scovell's scholarship. And we remember his deep interest in our spiritual welfare. There had never been more marked revivals of religion in Hanover than during his presidency. The breath of God ^{on whose wings the} prepared us for that East wind, ~~which was the~~

the destroyer came.
He remembered how the pestilence ~~had~~ ^{swept} down from
Cincinnati and the Cholera increased the death-
roll at Madison. The lessons were suspended.
Classmates were turning homewards.
He advised those who left to go calmly, and "not be
afraid ^{for} of the terror by night nor ^{for} the arrow that flie-
eth by day"; and those who remained to "abide
under the shadow of the Almighty," ^{trustful} ~~hope~~ under
the sheltering wing of His love. A solemn still-
ness came over the town. Here and there a child,
a villager, a student, were sinking. Little com-
panies went slowly to new made graves. The report
was ^{soon} in the air that our ^{loved} President was drooping -
that his life was draining away - that he was
bidding farewell to his endeared family - that
he left his last words for us - that he was gone!
July 4. 1849. Little sad hearts met here near to the
burial. Good words were said and tears fell. He

was worthy of them all. Today our thought was "he yet speaketh" as we heard the earnest voice of his honored son.

The worker had entered into his rest. The next

autumn brought to us the scholar, Thomas Ebenezer

Thomas, our fifth President. He once said to us, to impress upon us our political privileges by birth,

"Gentlemen, I can never be president of the United States. I was born in England." He surely

did not regret it; certainly not, if the President must

enforce fugitive slave laws. In 1812, when a child

of six years, he began to breathe the air of American

freedom, and his love for it increased while he

passed through Miami University, and preached

at Hamilton, Ohio, for eleven years. His voice, in harmony with the voices of all the presidents of this college, was for liberty to all men, and no earthly force c^d

oppress ^{oppress} it. He boldly preached redemption from every

sort of bondage, and Christ as the only redeemer

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from every kind of
Sinc. It was courageous in the Directors to elect so
radical a man. The honor then for it, ^{+ honor him for growing more conservative.} They knew
something of
his Capacities. Ever a student, with growing, expand-
ing powers, he developed a cyclopaedic mind. In
almost every science and art he acquired critical
knowledge. But he was distinguished as the Bibli-
cal Scholar and Teacher. His knowledge was not
merely about the Bible, but the Bible itself, in its
original languages. It was in harmony with his
heart & loftiest thoughts to make his inaugural
address upon the value of Biblical Study.
He brought that study more fully into the cur-
riculum. He had his classes in the Greek Testa-
ment. He introduced the study of Hebrew. Still
he charmed us with the wealth of many an old
Saxon word in our English version. He could

Every study, every science, fascinating by his wonderful art in teaching. He walked inquiring, prompted to research and turned doubt to faith.

At first some of his methods of reforming students wised human nature, and there was a reaction against his rules. Yet if any young men thought him too imperious and hasty, they soon learned that his good will and geniality were exhaustless towards all who were well disposed. Good conduct was a passport to his heart and home.

To us he was the model preacher, and clear expositor of Holy Scripture. On Sunday afternoons he unfolded to us the Epistle of Paul to the Romans. He brought out its logic, and theology, traced its deep stream of thought & enforced its practical lessons. He found in it a poeiny, a philosophy, and the outlines of the system of the ^{moral} universe. He

³⁴ rose to heights of Eloquence as he caught the
inspiration of those vast phrases which no
man can fully measure.

He had Elijah's dignity of tone,

And had the love of the beloved John.

It is no wonder that, in 1854, he was called to
teach the Bible in the theological seminary at
New Albany, and still later in that of Lane at
Cincinnati, where, in 1875, his studies and in-
structions on earth were ended. His rounded

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Life must ever be an incentive to manliness,
Courage, patriotism, Biblical Study, Scholar-
ship, readiness for duty, loyalty to Christ,
and Spiritual Culture.

During his administration the grounds
for the new College were secured and the build-
ing attained a roof. It was nearly finished
in the time of the sixth President, of whom
I must speak delicately, for he still lives;
Nor need I say much for the liveliest sketch
of him is here in the original edition — Dr
Jonathan Edwards. He was Hanover's first
one who rose to the presidency. The Chair had been
vacant nearly two years, and he found much hard
work to be done. He & his helpers brought the funds
up from about 40,000 to 103,000 dollars. His aims
~~was~~ ^{were} to secure for the College financial independ-

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ance, to institute discipline and good order, to
Elevate the course of study, ^{and} to promote religious
awakening and development, along with socia-
bility, self-respect, and literary taste. He was
here from the Spring of 1855 to the autumn of 1857. Sately he
wrote me thus: "The dear old Alma Mater has never
a son that loves her with a more appreciative af-
fection, or that will care and toil for her welfare
more heartily and persistently than I this day.
Hurrah for old Hanover."

While Dr. Thomson presided pro tempore the
very stars must have shined brighter in his eyes when
he led the professors and students into the new build-
ing and Science took possession. This was a happy
preparation for the Seventh President, James
Wood, D.D., the man of goodness, consecration and
diligence. He was born in 1799 near Saratoga N.Y.

37 a graduate of Union College and Princeton Sem-
inary, a successful pastor for seven years in
Albany Presbytery, and for six years the agent of
the Board of Education in the Southern States.
From 1839 to 1851 he was professor of Biblical
Literature in the Theological Seminary at New
Albany. For several years he was the associate
secretary of the Board of Education, highly res-
pected for his piety, patient industry, sound judg-
ment, and warm sympathy for ^{all} young men, ^{especially those} whom
his hand & heart were aiding into the gospel min-
istry. In 1859 he came to Hanover intent upon
elevating the College to the highest possible ⁽²⁾ position. One
of his ^{Colleague} ~~Co-workers~~ has written thus of him: "I think that
his work here was of great value, and I know that we
are now enjoying the fruits of his labors & his influ-
ence." In 1864 he was moderator of the General As-
sessment. ~~At long as the Holliday and Lapsley funds~~

38
Assembly at Newark. There the third Centenary
of John Calvin's death was recognized. Then and there
the movement for the reunion of the Old and the
New School branches of our Church, took form and
vigor, and its achievement made an epoch in Pres-
byterian history. Two years later he resigned and
went to Hightstown, N. J. to rear the Institute which
was intended to be a monument to his great-hearted
friend, Dr. Cortland Van Rensselaer, and a school
for educating candidates for the gospel ministry.

The leading idea of his life was to fill the ranks of
the ministry with duly qualified men. The new scheme
entitled his heart. Scarcely had he begun it, when he
ceased to breathe. And beside his coffin Dr. Charles
Hodge said, "Blessed is the man whom God hath
chosen to be what Dr. Wood was - useful, honored,
'a man of God'."

The interquino of nearly two years brought
 declension and discouragement. These were
 greatly remedied by the right president, G. D.
Archibald, D.D., whose presence with us today
 is better than a sketch of him. Administer-
 ing the affairs of the College from 1868 to 1870,
 his efforts were to advance the finances, pay
 debts, repair & complete the building, enclose and
~~ornament~~
 adorn the grounds, promote the educational
 efficiency of the College and multiply its
 friends. ~~The roll of students lengthened from 45~~
~~to 140 - and a fresh interest was created.~~ The
 air of Hanover must hold some peculiar element
 which gives a president a tendency to a
 Theological Chair. Dr. Archibald breathed it, and,
 like so many of his predecessors, he became a
 professor in the Theological Seminary at Danville

The purposes of every thoughtful educator are larger than his achievements. He cannot fully attain his ideal, for the ideal heightens and broadens by experience. ^{Thus has it been with the former presidents.} To say that their aims and efforts exceeded the results—valuable as those results have proven—is a compliment to them. It is a further compliment to say that their legacy of purposes and plans is of enduring worth, for it has fallen to the ninth president, Dr. George C. Heckman, who has already been longer than any other, except Dr. Wood, in the office which he so faithfully administers. He has filled up the perfect number of seven years. We should like to say to him in sacred words, "Thou shalt number seven times seven years." I shall not now take his life. Entering with enthusiasm into the noblest designs and labors of his predecessors, wisely maintaining what they had

41) secured, cherishing lofty aims and devising
plans of his own, intent upon making every foundation
of this ^{institution as solid} ~~college as~~ ~~solid~~ and enduring as the rocks be-
neath its walls, and laudably ambitious to give forth
an educational eminence as commanding as its nat-
ural position, he justly deserves a recognition of
his successes. He and his colleagues in the faculty
hope for the day when the external attractions ^{of Hanover} will
not be alone in the rocky hills and their wood-covered
slopes, the deep ravines and high cascades, but also
in its larger college buildings and their ornamented
grounds. They hope for the day when the increased
means and thoroughness of its culture ~~shall~~ shall
crown this hill ^{with} ~~with~~ a light that cannot be hid.

Words of tribute to the line of professors are
pressing upon me as the eye falls upon Dr. Thom-
son, one of the two presidents pro Tempore who yet

47 / line on cards. In retiring from his Chair he leaves
his representative of a past faculty in the present corps
of instructors. The last planet of a former system
is to shine here no longer by his official presence.
Grown familiar with the Stars, he will now follow the
Sun almost to the verge of the Western Ocean, there
to pronounce again, with the emphasis which we
remember, the word Eternity! I am sure that
the
Alumni now present will heartily join me in saying
that
his example and his instructions were ever pointing
us to immortality: Sic iter ad astra.

A Tourist, in the old Cemetery of Geneva,
was quite unwilling to think that the grave of her
most famous man could not be surely identified
and at last he said, "Well, John Calvin is dead,
that much is certain!"

"Dead!" exclaimed the Sexton with a
look of amazement, and gesturing in every
direction: "Dead? Yes, he is dead here, but, my
dear Sir, he lives everywhere". Thus we may

143/ Day of deceased professors, according to the degree of their influence. They live in the instructions given to their surviving students, and in their successors who continue their work. Professors die, but the faculty lives on in vigor and activity.

And now, fellow Alumni and younger students, do not the lives, labors and endurance of these presidents afford some commendation of the two institutions which here began their history. The names and influence of some of them are identified with two ^{other} theological seminaries happily represented here today, and by us honored; but most of them toiled for this college and for the theological school which is of the same lineage. These institutions were the outgrowth of the same purpose, and that was to ~~for~~ help furnish the West with educated men — men earnest to hold this great land for Jesus Christ — men who would try mightily to keep the Bible shining in every home and school, in every chapel and church, and maintain Christianity as the vital element in our civilization. Their common origin is a reason for their co-operation. Though separated now in space, the original purpose unites them.

214/ in spirit. One of them is here on the river whose waters
flow southward into the great gulf and thence
eastward into the Ocean.

The other is on Lake Michigan whose wa-
ters drift northward & thence eastward into the
same Ocean - and there ~~both~~ the pure waters
of both currents
unite to bear the commerce of all nations, and
mingle in waves that roll toward all continents
and strike upon all shores.

So these institutions send their graduates
in different directions, and into various professions
their sons may be found in all the nobler spheres of duty
& pursuits. Yet if they live for the grand objects
set before them they will unite in ~~the~~ promoting
the advance of true science, culture & Christianity -
Their lives shall pass into the same ocean of history. Their
words and deeds may reach all shores, and aid continents in
civilization; and finally, if true to their mission, they will
have their lasting reunion in the same land of eternal
day and endless rest.

Hanover College.

Blum, D.D.