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HAMPDEN-SIDNEY COLLEGE AS AN
EDUCATIONAL FORCE FROM THE WAR OF
REVOLUTION TO THE WAR BETWEEN...

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Hampden-Sidney College as
an Educational Force from
the War of the Revolution
to the War between the States



AN ADDRESS BY

RICHARD McILWAINE, D. D., LL. D.,

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Hampden-Sidney College as an Educational Force from the War of the Revolution to the War between the States.

This institution is an outgrowth of Hampden-Sidney Academy, founded by Hanover Presbytery in 1775 and opened for students January 1, 1776. Its patrons designed it to be thoroughly christian, but non-sectarian in its government, privileges and instruction. Hampden-Sidney College was incorporated by the General Assembly of Virginia in 1783 under a broad and generous charter, which has never been altered or amended, and stands next to William and Mary among institutions, south of Mason and Dixon's line, in the period of its collegiate existence.

Rev. Samuel Stanhope Smith, afterwards President of Princeton College, was the first Rector of the Academy, and Rev. John Blair Smith, afterwards President of Union College, N. Y., was the first President of the College. They were brothers and both graduates of the college of New Jersey.

In the list of charter members of the college are found the names of such well known Virginians as Patrick Henry, James Madison, William Cabell, Sr., Paul Carrington, Everard Meade, John Nash, John Morton, Thomas Reade, Joel Watkins, William Booker, Thomas Scott, Sr., James Allen, Nathaniel Venable, Peter Johnston and others of like degree, all of whom were among the founders of the Commonwealth and the defenders of its liberties, and whose descendants now constitute an important portion of its inhabitants and of the people of many states of the American Union.

The land on which the College is located, a tract of ninety-seven acres, was donated to its Trustees by Peter Johnston, Esq., a patriotic Scotchman, a citizen of Prince Edward County and the father of Peter Johnston, Jr. (called little Peter) who entered the Academy in 1776 and while a student, at the age of sixteen, ran away from school and became A. D. C. to Light Horse Harry Lee during the Revolutionary War and afterwards a distinguished judge in Southwestern Virginia and the father of General Joseph E. Johnston and U. S. Senator J. M. Johnston. Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston was also grandson of Peter Johnston, Sr., who is the progenitor of many scores of the leading citizens of Virginia and other states.

In estimating the educational value of an institution, however distinguished its services may have been in the production of technical educators, it would be a narrow view to confine the scope of inquiry to the area occupied by those who have directed their lives wholly to this end. Every educated man is an educational force, and whatever may be his specialty, naturally and necessarily, diffuses influences of a cul-

turing and elevating character. "What is that," says Coledridge, "which first strikes us, and strikes us at once in a man of education? And which, among educated men, so instantly distinguishes the man of superior mind, that (as was observed with eminent propriety, of the late Edmund Burke) we cannot stand under the same archway during a shower of rain, without finding him out. Not the weight or novelty of his remarks; not any unusual interest of facts communicated by him. It is the unpremeditated and evidently habitual arrangement of his words, grounded on the habit of foreseeing in each integral part, or (more plainly) in every sentence, the whole that he intends to communicate. However irregular and desultory his talk, there is method in the fragments."*

On the other hand, every intelligent man, whether trustee or professor, or student, who is vitally connected with a literary institution, along with what he consciously seeks and attains, cannot fail to gain higher ideals, to imbibe something of culture and refinement and to obtain a nobler inspiration for life, from the environment in which he is placed.

It would be an epoch-making revelation, if the educative influences exerted on the original trustees of Hampden-Sidney College by their association with one another and their joint and individual efforts in its behalf could be fully depicted. How wide, important and far-reaching in its effects on their personal advancement, and on their families, their neighbors, the State of Virginia and the Country at large was their communion with one another in the great work which brought them together, no mortal can reveal or even faintly trace. For example: the name of William Cabell, Sr., of Nelson Co., is found among the corporators of the College, as it had been among the curators of the Academy from the first. He was a brother of Nicholas Cabell, Esq., of the same county. Several of the near relatives of these men are found among the early students of Hampden-Sidney; notably William H. Cabell, afterwards Governor of the State and Judge of its highest court for forty years, and Joseph C. Cabell, afterwards a graduate of William and Mary College and in later life a distinguished and influential member of the Senate of Virginia and the indefatigable and successful co-laborer of Thomas Jefferson in securing the founding of our great University and without whose persistent and intelligent efforts, it is probable that all Mr. Jefferson's endeavors would have been futile and gone for nought.† It cannot, indeed, be categorically asserted, but it may be rationally surmised that the influence of Hampden-Sidney on the elder Cabell and of Hampden-Sidney and William and Mary on the younger generation had something to do in smoothing the path for the establishment of our highest educational institution. Just as a spark of vital religion in the heart and life of a man is intended to be a light to the

*The Friend, Section 2, Ess. 4.

†Thos. Jefferson and the University of Va., by Herbert B. Adams, p. 54.

world and as it is like to leaven which is meant to diffuse itself throughout the whole social fabric, so education in its higher, nobler aspects must make itself felt, and wheresoever and in whomsoever found, show itself a potent factor in the upbuilding of institutions and the enlightenment of mankind.

If this be true, then what a mighty force must have been exerted by such institutions as Hampden-Sidney College during the period beginning with the Revolutionary War and ending with the War between the States. What an impression for good must have been produced throughout the State and far beyond by the lives and example of hundreds of educated lawyers, publicists, physicians, ministers of the gospel and others, who sat at the feet of the venerable men, who taught at this institution during those auspicious days, and who in association with one another in the class-room, in the literary societies and on the Campus, found inspiration for effort and for the high and noble career to which many of them attained.

It would be both wearisome and vain to encumber these pages with even a partial list of the names and deeds of the men who studied and got their inspiration, during this period at Hampden-Sidney and afterward honored their alma mater and themselves by serving their generation wisely and well in positions of high trust and responsibility. Such an effort would require more than a folio volume for its completion instead of a brief article of a few pages, but it may be well in entering on the special topic of this paper and as an integral part of it, to tell of a few of the sons of the old College whose illustrious deeds may serve as examples of many men, equally or scarcely less distinguished and all of whom must have exerted an important influence, direct and indirect, on the educational welfare of our beloved Commonwealth and scarcely less beloved Southland.

LAWYERS AND PUBLICISTS.

It is an interesting fact that in the list of the first class which graduated from the College (1786) two names, John W. Epps and Kemp Plummer, occur which are treasured as sweet memories by multitudes of relatives and admirers; both native Virginians, but the reputation of the one connected with his native state and the national government, and of the other with the state of North Carolina.

Hon. John W. Epps was a native of Prince George County; lived in Chesterfield County and later in Buckingham. He was a planter and a man of large means, a bold, aggressive speaker and had great influence among his fellow citizens. He was nephew and son-in-law of Thomas Jefferson, having married his cousin, "Polly." "His manners were frank and engaging, he was highly educated and particularly pleasing in conversation, while his character was in every way worthy of the high opinion that Jefferson frequently expressed concerning him."*

*The True Thomas Jefferson, p. 45.

He was a member of the National House of Representatives for many years and was chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means. Later he was a member of the U. S. Senate and resigned after 1819 on account of ill health. He is said to have been "the only man who beat John Randolph before the people for Congress."

Hon. Kemp Plummer was a native of Gloucester County, and after graduation at Hampden-Sidney, studied law under Chancellor Wythe. About 1790 he removed, with his widowed mother and family, to North Carolina and opened a law office at Warrenton, where he soon became a successful practitioner. "His manners were uncommonly agreeable, his speeches exceedingly interesting, clear and pointed, and his reputation for strict integrity gave him great weight with judge and jury. He was soon at the top of the local bar with a remunerative income, practicing, besides at home, in the counties of Halifax, Nash and Franklin." In 1794, he was elected to the Lower House of the Legislature, and in 1815 and 1816, was a member of the State Senate, and in both positions rendered important service. He was once offered the high office of Governor, but on the advice of his wife (a prudent woman) declined it because of the expense of living at the capital. When he died, the village newspaper, "*The Warrenton Republican*," said of him: "He was the glory of our little world, the pride of the village, the ornament of the county, an honor to the Bar, a friend of the poor, the bold advocate of the country." This is high praise, and well deserved, but the most prized tribute among his descendants is the name which, by a long course of honorable dealing he earned, "The Honest Lawyer."*

The career of these two honorable gentlemen, the first begotten of their alma mater, fitly, though in some respects inadequately, represent many scores of her sons who, as lawyers and publicists, have performed eminent service to their country and exerted a masterful and exalting influence over the generations to which they belonged. Consider then, the beneficent effects of the lives of such men (sons of Hampden-Sidney) as the following, and scores of others: William B. Giles, of Amelia, lawyer, orator, member of Congress and of the U. S. Senate, Governor of Virginia and member of the Constitutional Convention of Virginia of 1829-'30; William Henry Harrison of Charles City Co., a student of Hampden-Sidney in 1789 and one of the founders of the Union Literary Society, officer in U. S. Army from Ensign to General, Secretary of the North Western Territory, U. S. Minister to Columbia, member of Congress and U. S. Senate, President of the United States, but his usefulness cut short by his untimely death; George M. Bibb, of Prince Edward, a graduate in the class of 1791, studied law, emigrated to Kentucky soon after it was admitted into the Union, filled its highest offices including those of Chief Justice and Governor, served in the United States House of Representatives for several terms and in the U. S. Senate, where he distinguished himself greatly by a speech on "States Rights"

*Dr. Kemp Plummer Battle, in *The Kaleidoscope* of 1900.

in reply to Daniel Webster and occupied the position of Secretary of the Treasury under President Tyler's administration ; William S. Archer, of Amelia, member of Congress from 1819-1835 and afterwards of the U. S. Senate ; William C. Rives, of Albemarle, member of Congress and of U. S. Senate, twice U. S. Minister to the court of France, a writer and speaker of wonderful beauty and power, "Statesman, Diplomatist, Historian, the most eminent citizen of Virginia !" (Alexander Brown); Powhatan Ellis, of Amherst Co., a distinguished lawyer in Mississippi, member of Congress and U. S. Senate from that state and U. S. Minister to Mexico ; William H. McFarland, of Lunenburg, afterwards the cultured lawyer of the city of Richmond and for many years president of the Farmers' Bank of Virginia ; Richard K. Cralle, of Lunenburg, the distinguished biographer of John C. Calhoun ; Andrew Hunter, of Jefferson Co., one of the ablest lawyers of his day, the prosecutor of John Brown and member of the Confederate States Congress ; Hugh A. Garland, of Nelson, professor of ancient languages in Hampden-Sidney College, member and Clerk of the U. S. House of Representatives and biographer of John Randolph ; David May, of Chesterfield, one of the leading lawyers of Petersburg for more than forty years, whose irreproachable character and cheerful piety were an inspiration to all who knew him ; William Ballard Preston, of Montgomery, member of the Virginia Senate, of the House of Representatives, Secretary of the Navy and member of the Virginia Convention of 1861 ; William M. Tredway, of Prince Edward, Circuit Judge and member of U. S. Congress ; Alexander Rives, of Albemarle, member of Senate of Virginia and Judge of U. S. District Court ; William Daniel, of Cumberland, eminent lawyer and law writer and Judge of the Court of Appeals of Virginia ; John B. Floyd, of Montgomery, member of House of Representatives, Secretary of War, Governor of Virginia, General C. S. A. ; Thomas W. Ligon, of Prince Edward, lawyer, member of U. S. House of Representatives and Governor of Maryland ; Thomas Stanhope Flournoy, of Prince Edward, lawyer and member of Congress ; Charles S. Mosby, of Powhatan, the leading lawyer at the Lynchburg bar for many years, "The Addison of the Virginia Bar ;" Sterling Price, of Prince Edward, farmer in Charlton County, Mo., member of Missouri Legislature and U. S. House of Representatives, Brigadier General in Mexican War, Governor of Missouri, President of State Convention of 1861, Major-General C. S. A. ; John W. Stevenson, Loudoun Co., member of Legislature of Kentucky, leader in Constitutional Convention of 1849, member of House of Representatives and U. S. Senate and Governor of Kentucky ; Thomas S. Bocoek, of Buckingham, lawyer. and member of Va. House of Delegates, of U. S. Congress 1846-'47, Speaker of C. S. House of Representatives ; Stephen O. Southall, of Amelia, member of House of Delegates, learned lawyer and Professor of Law at the University of Virginia from 1866 to 1883 at his death ; William Cabell Carrington, of Charlotte, lawyer in city of Richmond and Editor of "The Times," elected to the Legislature but died before taking his seat ; A. M. Branch, of Bucking-

ham, lawyer in Texas, member of Senate of that State, member C. S. Congress and elected to U. S. Senate in 1868; John T. Thornton, of Cumberland, eminent lawyer and man of splendid forensic power, member of Virginia Convention of 1861, Colonel of Cavalry and killed at the head of his regiment; Roger A. Pryor, of Nottoway, lawyer, editor, member of Congress, Minister to Greece, General C. S. A., Judge of highest court of the State of New York; P. W. McKinney, of Buckingham, lawyer, member of House of Delegates of Virginia, Captain C. S. A., Governor of Virginia; B. J. Epps, of Nottoway, lawyer, Judge of Dinwiddie Co., member of the Constitutional Convention of Virginia of 1901-'02; R. M. Venable, of Prince Edward, lawyer, for more than thirty years professor in the law school of the University of Maryland, Trustee in Johns Hopkins University.

PHYSICIANS.

The services of Hampden-Sidney to the medical profession and through it to society at large has been scarcely less distinguished and influential than in behalf of the legal brotherhood and statesmanship. Probably as many physicians as lawyers have been turned out from the college but as their position in life is not so much before the public eye, they are less known. It happens that in the first graduating class (1786) we find the name of George Cabell, Sr., an older brother of Judge W. H. Cabell, whose professional life was spent in the city of Lynchburg, and received the highest encomiums. In the class of 1789, we find James Jones, of Nottoway, who received a thorough medical training in European schools and whose distinction as a physician and publicist is one of the traditions of his county. In the class of 1801, we find the name of William S. Morton, son of Maj. James Morton, of Prince Edward, who, for unflinching courage during the Revolutionary War, received the soubriquet of "Solid Column," which he carried throughout life. One who knew Dr. Morton well says, "He was a great man, physically, mentally, and morally." In the class of 1804, occurs the name of Addison Waddell, son of Rev. James Waddell, "The Blind Preacher," who for nearly fifty years practiced medicine in Staunton, "a learned and wise physician and a deeply read metaphysician and theologian." Next comes J. P. Mettauer in the class of 1807, born in Prince Edward and spent his whole life in his native county, one of the founders of the Philanthropic Literary Society, Surgeon in the U. S. Army during the War of 1812, founder of a medical school at his home from which went out scores of men well prepared for their professional career, the inventor of many valuable surgical instruments and appliances and a distinguished writer and practitioner. Passing over more than a score of men whose beneficent lives and services deserve mention, we come in 1828 to the name of Edward C. Fisher, of Augusta Co., who for a long series of years was superintendent of the Asylum for the insane at Raleigh, N. C., and a specialist of high repute. In 1831 we come to the name of Robert Southgate, of Norfolk, for many years a surgeon

in the U. S. Army and held the same position in the C. S. A. Again skipping several scores of men whose lives were a benediction to the communities in which they lived, we find the name of William D. Booker, of Prince Edward, (1860-'61) who has practiced his profession in the city of Baltimore for thirty years and whose eminence has been recognized by the Trustees of John Hopkins University in his elevation to a professorship in the Medical school of that institution.

MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL.

Were it not for restriction in space, it would not be difficult to give the names of some hundreds of ministers of the gospel, good and useful men, who received their preparation and inspiration at Hampden-Sidney College and who have done much in promoting education in Virginia and the South. There are few more potent educational forces to be found in any community than the lives and work of preachers of the Gospel. They are of inestimable value, too little prized by the thoughtless but duly recognized and appreciated by intelligent people everywhere.

In the first class sent out from the College, there are found two men who became ministers of the gospel, Theoderick McRoberts and Nash Legrand, and in most of the classes since, one or more of the graduates have devoted their lives to the ministry, and in some cases eight or ten are found in the same class. Furthermore, during the period under consideration, it was not uncommon for young men looking forward to the ministry, specially those who entered late in life, not to attempt a graduating course, but to content themselves with such elective studies as are necessary as the foundation of theological training and it is believed that the number of such will approximate the number of those who received their diplomas. Happily this state of things no longer exists to the same extent at Hampden-Sidney or elsewhere.

Little can be learned of Theoderick McRoberts beyond the fact that he became a useful minister, but of Nash Legrand, Rev. Dr. W. H. Foote in his "Sketches of Virginia" gives an interesting account, in which it is stated that two or three years of his earlier ministry were spent in evangelistic work in Virginia and North Carolina and that fifteen years of his life were given to fruitful and exhausting labours in Cedar Creek and Opequon Churches in Frederick County. Among the closing sentences of "the Sketch" occur the following: "Thus lived and thus died one of the best and most successful ministers of the gospel Virginia has ever produced." "No other preacher in the state held his people more closely to the gospel standard or extended his influence farther or left behind a sweeter remembrance."

Passing over the interval between 1786 to 1825, mentioning only the names of a few men of special prominence and connected, directly or indirectly, with education such as Clement Read, of Charlotte; William Hill, of Cumberland, afterwards of Winchester; Samuel Davies Hoge, professor in Hampden-Sidney College, pastor of churches in Virginia

and Ohio, and Professor of Mathematics and Physical Science in the University of Ohio; Jesse Turner, of Bedford; John Kirkpatrick, of Mecklenburg Co., N. C., afterwards the eloquent orator and consecrated minister of Cumberland Co., Va.; Drury Lacy, of Prince Edward, afterwards of N. C., and President of Davidson College; Wm. S. White, of Hanover, afterwards of Nottoway, Charlottesville, and Lexington and closely identified with the University of Virginia and Washington College and W. and L. University; we come to the name of Thomas Atkinson, a native of Dinwiddie Co., afterwards a student of law at Yale College and a practitioner for seven years, later studied for the ministry in the Episcopal Church, subsequently Rector in the cities of Lynchburg, Norfolk, and Baltimore and Bishop of the Diocese of N. C. from 1853 to 1881. The writer of this sketch remembers him as a gentleman of chaste and extensive culture, of courtly bearing, of fine common sense, of unaffected piety, whose influence for good was wide spread and pervading.

Among the graduates in the next class was Theoderick Pryor, of Dinwiddie, who afterwards graduated in law at the University of Virginia and practiced a short while, after which he pursued a course at Union Theological Seminary and became the pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Nottoway Co., where most of his ministerial life was spent and where he was identified with every important interest of the people, a man of the highest and purest character, a preacher of impressiveness and force and surpassed by few in effective power of presenting important truth, a diligent and beloved pastor and friend. Few men ever had more or warmer admirers or did more during about sixty years of active service in the advancement of truth and right.

The class of 1829 was remarkable in that of nine members, six became ministers of the gospel and one (Landon C. Garland) a distinguished educator. Of the ministers, two were Episcopalians and four Presbyterians, one of each set, besides a long and fruitful ministry, did much for the promotion of education. The first of these is Geo. W. Dame, a native of Manchester, N. H. and nephew of Jonathan P. Cushing, at that time President of Hampden-Sidney College. After his graduation Dr. Dame was Professor of Physical Science in the College. He then studied privately for the ministry and was Rector of the Episcopal Church in Danville for more than a half century, during most of which time he was at the head of an academy for young ladies from which many of the best women of Virginia were turned out. The other was Benjamin M. Smith, of Powhatan, afterwards pastor of the churches of Danville, Tinkling Springs and Staunton, and for nearly forty years Professor of Oriental Languages in Union Theological Seminary. Dr. Smith was author of a commentary on the Psalms and Proverbs and was a luminous and extensive writer on other subjects; a genial gentleman, an indefatigable worker, for many years trustee in Washington College and Washington and Lee University, and did more to promote

the solid prosperity and usefulness of Union Theological Seminary than any man who has yet lived, except Dr. John Holt Rice, its eminent founder and first professor.

In the class of 1832, appears the name of John L. Kirkpatrick, of Mecklenburg Co., N. C., pastor in Lynchburg, Va., Gainesville, Ala. and Charleston, S. C., President of Davidson College from 1860-'66 and Professor of Moral Philosophy in Washington and Lee University from 1866 till his death.

In the class of 1835, we find the name of J. M. P. Atkinson, of Dinwiddie County, brother of Bishop Thomas Atkinson, a Presbyterian minister, in early life a missionary in Texas, afterwards pastor at Warrenton, Va. and Georgetown, D. C., and for twenty-six years President of Hampden-Sidney College. He was a man whose character was clear as crystal, of undaunted courage, firm in his convictions and courteous in their expression. As captain of the "Hampden-Sidney boys" he took part in the fight at Rich Mountain in 1865 and after the capture of Pegram's command returned to college, brought it safely through the war and reconstruction times down to 1883, when he died, honored and beloved by all who knew him.

Passing by a number of distinguished and useful men, we come in 1839 to the name of Moses Drury Hoge, born at Hampden-Sidney in 1818, while his father was a professor and his grandfather was President of the College, the pastor for fifty-five years of the Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, of which he was the founder, conducting a school for young ladies (about 1850) several years that he might give his salary to the church building which now stands as a monument to his unselfish devotion; the humble man of God, the true patriot, the eloquent preacher, for more than forty-five years the trustee and untiring friend of his alma mater, ever ready to help in every good cause, for years before his death the foremost citizen of the commonwealth, and who on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his pastorate received tributes of honor, esteem and affection from all classes of citizens, including Jews, Catholics, and unbelievers, such as perhaps were never before accorded to any man in Virginia.

And so the list of such ministers might be extended indefinitely in telling of John B. Shearer, of Campbell Co., who, while minister in Halifax, founded Cluster Springs Academy, was afterwards the reviver and President of Stewart College, Tenn., out of which, chiefly by his exertions, The South Western Presbyterian University grew, and who next was President of Davidson College, N. C.; Thomas Wharey, of Prince Edward, who on account of his fervid and persuasive eloquence was called "the Spurgeon of Virginia;" of Peter Tinsley for thirty years Rector of the Episcopal Church at Walnut Hills, Cincinnati, O.; of Lindsay H. Blanton, of Cumberland Co., for many years a useful and beloved pastor in Kentucky and the reviver and chancellor of Central University at Richmond, Ky. and its cordinated schools; of William U. Murkland, of Baltimore, for twenty-five years among the leading

divines and pulpit orators of that city ; of Robert A. Gibson, of Petersburg, Rector in Parkersburg, W. Va. and Cincinnati, O. and Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Virginia ; of Edward H. Barnett, of Christiansburg, pastor in Abingdon, Va. and Atlanta, Ga. and many more.

EDUCATORS.

The names of many of those included under the preceding head might properly be brought under this section. All, indeed, there given have had much to do with the advancement of education by active and direct effort. Those that are to come were largely or exclusively engaged in this department of work as the business of their lives.

As far back as 1788, in the third class graduated from the College, the name of James Blythe, of Mecklenburg Co., N. C., is found. He afterwards studied medicine and theology and adopting the ministry as his profession found his field of labour in Kentucky. Ranke in his History of Lexington, (Ky.) says, "The first president of Transylvania University, Rev. James Moore, was succeeded by Rev. James Blythe, M. D., who was born in North Carolina in 1765 and was educated for the Presbyterian ministry. He came to Kentucky in 1791 and two years after was ordained pastor of Pisgah and Clear Creek churches. He continued to preach up to the time of his death. For six years before his accession to the Presidency of the University, he was professor of mathematics and natural philosophy and often supplied the pulpit of the 1st Presbyterian church. He was president for nearly fifteen years and after his resignation filled the chair of chemistry in the Medical College until 1831 when he accepted the Presidency of Hanover College, Ind., which prospered greatly under his charge."*

In the class of 1791, looms up the name of Moses Waddell, of Iredell Co., N. C., who was afterwards closely connected with the States of South Carolina and Georgia in the capacity of preacher, teacher, and president of Franklin College, out of which the University of Georgia grew. So rapid and solid was his progress as a boy at school that at the age of fourteen years his services as a teacher were sought, which profession he followed for six or seven years until he entered Hampden-Sidney as a student. After his ordination to the ministry, he gave his life chiefly to teaching and founded the famous Academy at Willington, S. C., at which such men of national reputation as John C. Calhoun, Legare, McDuffie, and Petigru of South Carolina and Cobb, Longstreet, Crawford, Gilmer, and Appling of Georgia received their youthful training. He was afterwards elected to the Presidency of the University of Georgia. "Of this institution, while not the founder, he was the reviver and first successful administrator. Franklin College, as it was also styled, opened its doors to its first students as late as 1804, and after fifteen years of what seems to have been a sheer struggle for existence, there was a virtual suspension of its existence until Dr. Waddell was

*The Kaleidoscope, 1900, p. 32.

invited, in its darkest hour, to undertake its restoration and improvement. The invitation to his earnest religious nature came like a summons to a heaven appointed duty, and in this temper, he began and prosecuted the work, so that in ten years he had started the institution upon a career of usefulness and honor.* The Hon. John C. Calhoun, who was both his pupil and brother-in-law, says of him, "He discharged punctually and faithfully the various duties attached to all his private relations. He was sociable and amiable, but not without a due mixture of sternness and firmness. As a minister of the gospel, he was pious, zealous, and well versed in theology generally. His style of preaching was plain, simple, earnest. He addressed himself much more to the understanding than to the imagination or passions. As a teacher he stands almost unrivaled.†

In the year 1813, we come across the name of Edward Baptist, a native of Mecklenburg Co., the son of a presbyterian mother and an episcopal father, not only a collegiate graduate but a student of theology at Hampden-Sidney under Dr. Moses Hoge, and a devout admirer and friend of his alma mater and his venerated preceptor, afterwards became a Baptist minister and settled in Powhatan county. It is said that early in his ministerial life he founded a school in the bounds of his congregation which grew into Baptist College, and was afterwards removed to Richmond and became the foundation on which Richmond College is built. Certain it is that he "held influence among the Baptists second to none in his day;" that he was "a prime mover in the organization of the Virginia Baptist Association in 1822 and drafted its constitution;" that "he was also originator of the Baptist Educational Society and the Baptist Seminary, and by appointment instructed a number of young men who were students for the ministry."‡ "He seems thus to have been one among the originators or suggestors of Richmond College; In a sense the forerunner or beginner of the work done by it, though he never had any connection with the college as such. In 1838 he moved to Alabama, where he did most valuable work and lived and labored till 1863.§

Among the graduates of 1823 we find the name of Robert Burwell, of Dinwiddie Co., who, with Jesse S. Armistead, of Cumberland county, and Thomas P. Hunt, of Charlotte county—all graduates of Hampden-Sidney College—constituted the first class in Union Theological Seminary, an institution which grew out of Hampden-Sidney College by natural evolution, and which for the first two or three years of its existence was maintained on the college premises and largely through the self-denial and assistance of its professors. Mr. Burwell was a laborious minister of the gospel and lived to the great age of ninety-three years.

*The Kaleidoscope, 1902, p. 17.

†Presbyterian Encyclopedia.

‡Baptist Encyclopedia.

§Prof. C. H. Winston, Richmond College, Va.

From the date of his licensure to 1884 he was untiring in his christian and ministerial efforts, giving about fifty of the later years of his life to the work of teaching young ladies, first at Hillsboro, N. C.; then as principal of the Female College, Charlotte, N. C., and last as principal of Peace Institute, Raleigh, N. C. During this time he had more than twelve hundred pupils under his care. The influence of his example and instruction on the women of the south and through them on society at large has been immense and always good.

In George E. Dabney, of Campbell Co., (class 1826) we have the example of a man who devoted his whole life to education as its chief end, first as principal of New London Academy; then as Professor of Ancient Languages at Washington College, and afterwards, from 1851-'61, when the college was closed at the beginning of the war, Professor of Latin and French in Richmond College. At the close of the war he was authorized to take charge of the college premises along with President Ryland and open a private school. He died in 1868. Rev. Dr. C. H. Ryland, treasurer of Richmond College, who was his pupil, speaks of him "as a man of high learning and fine christian character, reserved and quiet, but of recognized ability."

In the class of 1829 comes Landon Cabell Garland, of Nelson Co., one of the most distinguished educators that the South has produced, taking a professorial chair at Washington College immediately on graduation, afterwards professor and President of Randolph-Macon College, then President and Professor of the University of Alabama, afterwards Professor in the University of Mississippi, and his honored life was crowned as Chancellor of Vanderbilt University at Nashville, Tenn., where he died in 1895. "If Virginia ever gave birth to a man who did more real service to the manhood of the South, his name and place would be hard to find."*

Although Robert L. Dabney, of Hanover Co., was not a graduate of Hampden-Sidney, he was its student for two years in the Sophomore and Junior classes, after which he taught a year or two and then entered the University of Virginia, where he took the degree of M. A. He always recognized his indebtedness to Hampden-Sidney and was its steadfast and active friend throughout life. In the early days of his ministry at Tinkling Spring church, Augusta Co., he taught a school for boys, from which some men afterwards distinguished in life were turned out. From 1853 to 1883, he was successively professor of Church History and Theology in Union Theological Seminary, a man of extensive and accurate learning, a robust thinker and writer on a great variety of subjects, a born teacher, trained and developed under McGuffey at the University of Virginia and adopting the best features of his method and also of that of John B. Minor, diverse from each other but both admirable of their kind, and when brought together by Dabney attaining as great perfection as can perhaps be reached in the art of

*Irby's History of Randolph-Macon College, p. 43.

communicating knowledge, awakening thought and stimulating to effort. In 1883 Dr. Dabney accepted the position of Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Texas, which he filled until within a year or two of his death, when he resigned on account of impaired vision. He was a man of masterful ability and exerted a great influence in his day.

In the class of 1842 we find the name of Charles S. Venable of Prince Edward, which is closely identified with the Educational history of Virginia and to some extent with that of two other states and which will be borne in honored remembrance by his old boys for many years to come. After graduation he spent a year in post-graduate study at his alma mater, also studied at the University of Virginia and subsequently at Berlin and Bonn, Germany. He was Professor of Mathematics at Hampden-Sidney for ten years, of Physics and Chemistry in the University of Georgia, of Mathematics and Astronomy in South Carolina College. In 1861 he was Captain of the Engineer Corps in New Orleans and Vicksburg and from 1862-1865 was A. D. C. to Gen'l Robert E. Lee. From 1865-1891 he was Professor of Mathematics in the University of Virginia, during several years of which he was Chairman of its Faculty and rendered important service in enlarging the resources and appliances of the institution. He was also trustee for the Miller Manual Labor School in Albemarle County, and as such, was of incalculable value in developing it into the splendid sphere of usefulness it now fills. Indeed, he discharged the duties of every position he occupied with the highest credit to himself and thorough satisfaction to everyone connected with him. His work, both at Hampden-Sidney and the University of Virginia, was remarkable not only in the class room but in his intercourse with and influence over the students. In the words of the late Professor L. L. Holladay, who was both his pupil and colleague, "Venable excelled both as an instructor and in his knowledge and control of students." Wherever the writer meets his old boys, they speak of him with admiration and affection. "To have lived and worked with a man so true in word and deed, so pure in act and lofty in motive, so generous and so brave, is one of Heaven's best gifts. May his influence be everlasting; his memory kept green forever."*

We now skip to the class of 1851, where along with other names richly deserving of mention, we find that of Robert Dabney, of Powhatan Co., who possessed one of the brightest intellects and best stowed minds in the college, a beautiful speaker and strong debater, ranking with P. W. McKinney in forensic power and his chief opponent for the speaker's medal in the Philanthropic Society. After graduation, he studied at the University of Virginia, was a member of the House of Delegates 1861-'62, served in the 4th Regiment of Va. Cavalry. After the war he was elected Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of the

*Prof. W. M. Thornton in the Kaleidoscope of 1901.

South at Sewanee, which position he filled until his death in 1876. His old students showed their appreciation of his instruction and example by the erection of a monument to his memory.

In the class of 1852, we select the name of Joseph McMurran, of Jefferson Co., nearly the whole of whose life was devoted to the instruction of the young. In Green Academy, Huntsville, Ala., at Chatham, Va., as principal of the Montgomery Male Academy of Christiansburg, Va., he made himself felt. One of his pupils at the last named school, Dr. Robert W. Douthat, Professor of Latin in the University of West Virginia, pays the following tribute to his memory: "I was for three years during the formative period of my life under the very excellent instruction of Dr. Joseph McMurran, than whom I never had a better teacher, more patient, more polished, more impressive, more inspiring. Dr. McMurran always had a large school in Christiansburg and was very generally looked upon as another 'Arnold of Rugby,' the very embodiment of patience and love, who under the great Taskmaster's eye lived to serve humanity and in doing this to glorify God."* He served faithfully and courageously during the war between the States, after which his chief work was the upbuilding of Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, W. Va., at the head of which he was for ten years. "Besides the sixty-five teachers which he turned out in these ten years, others of his pupils have entered all the departments of life, as ministers, lawyers, legislators, physicians, merchants, farmers, queens of the home."† Dr. McMurran was President of the County Board of Education and for five years a member of the West Virginia State Board of Examiners and of teachers' Institutes.

In the class of 1853, there are two names that deserve to be kept fresh and green in the annals of Hampden-Sidney and in the history of education in Virginia, representing two men very unlike in physical appearance and in some personal characteristics, but both possessing fine ability, genial disposition, excellent scholarship, thorough conscientiousness and unsullied piety; bosom friends at college and throughout life, and not far separated in death, the one, Charles W. Crawley, of Charlotte, a Methodist; the other, Lewis L. Holladay, of Spottsylvania, a Presbyterian; the first spending the whole of his life, with the exception of two years as tutor in Randolph-Macon College, in the instruction of private and public schools; the second, with the exception of one year in post-graduate study at the University of Virginia, prominently connected with his alma mater as professor of Physical Science from the beginning to the end of his career, than whom no one ever enjoyed more of the respect, confidence and affection of his colleagues and pupils. Crawley filled his place as well as any man could, and was blessed by those who knew him. Holladay, in a more exalted position, and exerting a wider and more potent influence on a larger circle of educated men, accomplished

*Kaleidoscope, 1902, p. 21.

†Kaleidoscope, 1902, p. 22.

his life work as effectively and usefully—I had almost said, completely—and his name and influence are a benediction to multitudes. Both did much to advance the progress and history of education in Virginia and the South through the men who came under their instruction and guidance.

There still remain the names of three ante-bellum students of Hampden-Sidney whose influence in education has been so potent that their record must be given briefly; the first of whom is Joseph W. Southall, of Amelia, who subsequently attended William and Mary College, became a practitioner of medicine and a member of the Senate of Virginia, and is now serving his third term as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, in which position his intelligent and indefatigable labors have been of much value in enlarging and improving the public schools of the State and in stimulating to higher ideals of education. The second is Charles H. Winston, of Chesterfield (class 1854), Assistant Professor in Ancient Languages at Hampden-Sidney, Professor of Ancient Languages in Transylvania University, Ky., President of Richmond Female Institute, Professor of Physics and Astronomy in Richmond College since 1873, a constant worker in Summer Normal Schools in Virginia and North Carolina, a popular lecturer on religious and scientific subjects, a cultured gentleman, a man of the purest Christian character, whose influence for good is wide spread and effective. The third is Walter Blair, of Richmond, (class 1855) who, immediately after graduation, was made Assistant Professor of Ancient Languages at Hampden-Sidney, and after two years Professor of Latin and German; subsequently spent three years in German Universities, served in the Richmond Howitzers during the war from 1861-65, after which he resumed his chair, which he filled with marked ability till 1896, when he resigned on account of failing eyesight; a thorough scholar, a conscientious and faithful teacher, a noble gentleman, whose influence in behalf of refined culture will be felt for years to come. Many of the men, trained under his hand, now fill educational positions in leading Colleges and Universities in Virginia and the South, and carry on the work so nobly done by him.

CONCLUSION.

It is regretted that these sketches are necessarily so fragmentary and incomplete, not for want of material but because of restriction in space. It is even more regretted that the names of many richly entitled to mention have to be omitted. It is believed, however, that enough has been said to illustrate the position of Hampden-Sidney as an "educational force" of great value to Virginia and the South and to show that from the first day it opened its doors down to and through the period covered by the war between the States, has done much for the church and country. It may also be remarked that if the scope of our inquiry permitted a statement in regard to its work to the present time, it could easily be shown that during the past forty years its influence has not

been less potent. The old College, sitting on the hills of Prince Edward, in the same position and under the same charter that it has worked from the beginning, has at present as in the past, high ideals of scholarship and character and endeavors to send out into the world men well prepared for its duties and who with masterful energy address themselves to their performance.





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