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TO THE
MEMBERS

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SCOTCH-IRISH SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

THE PRESIDENTS OF THE WASHINGTON COLLEGE IN VIRGINIA.

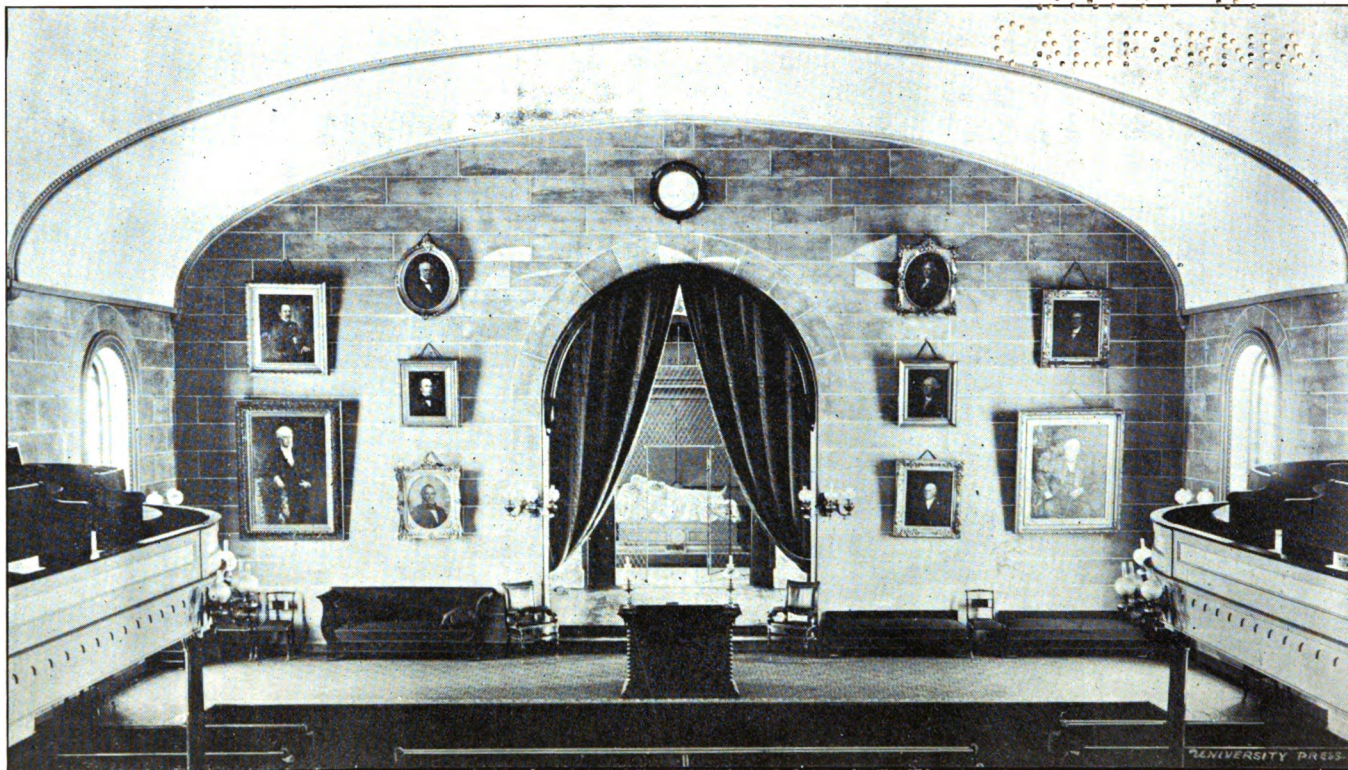
BY REV. HENRY ALEXANDER WHITE, PH.D., D.D., PROFESSOR OF HISTORY IN THE
WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY.

As the Washington College in Virginia, during a period of nearly six decades, from 1813 to 1871, stood the institution under whose shadow has assembled this Congress of the Ulstermen. Six Presidents make up the short list of those who shaped the policy of this literary nursling of the first President of our republic. Three of these Presidents were granted long reigns in the seat of authority, and these three were ministers of the gospel in the Presbyterian Church: George A. Baxter, D.D., 1813-1829; Henry Ruffner, D.D., LL.D., 1836-1848; George Junkin, D.D., 1848-1861. Between the first and the second of these ministerial Presidents intervened the brief *régime* of two scholarly laymen: Louis Marshall, M.D., 1830-1834; Henry Vethake, LL.D., 1835-1836. Last of all among those who have held the scepter over the College of Washington came the beloved Southern leader, Gen. Robert Edward Lee, 1865-1870.

In honor of Gen. Lee was the name of the school changed, in 1871, to the Washington and Lee University, and placed under the charge of his eldest son, that spotless man, that typical Southern gentleman and scholar, Gen. G. W. Custis Lee.

Before receiving the title of college, this school of the prophets had lived as an academy during the period of four and sixty years, from 1749 to 1813. Three distinct names were called over the academy during that era of growth, and each name was the symbol of a baptism of fire: the Augusta Academy, the Liberty Hall Academy, and the Washington Academy. During thirty-one of those sixty-four years, from 1782 to 1813, the academy did its work under the earliest charter granted to a school of learning by the Commonwealth of Virginia. This charter bestowed exactly the same powers that were afterwards granted to the college. Therefore it is just and fitting to add a *seventh* to the list of Presidents of the Washington College: William Graham, A.M., 1776-1796.

Augusta Academy was the title applied to the log school of the colonial era by the founder, Robert Alexander, in 1749. An Ulsterman of the Ulstermen was this canny Scot, who had received a



INTERIOR OF LEE MEMORIAL CHAPEL, WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY.

classical and mathematical training in Edinburg. His was the first temple of learning erected in the Empire of Augusta, that vast realm within the dominion of Virginia, extending from the Blue Ridge peaks to the waters of the Mississippi. This empire was to become the final home on earth of the race of Ulstermen, and Alexander's log schoolhouse dedicated all of these Western and South-western lands to the cause of education. Around this rude frontier academy, in 1755, was made fast one end of the ecclesiastical chain, known as the Hanover Presbytery, which was afterwards on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge made fast to the Prince Edward Academy. The pupils of Robert Alexander and of his successor, Rev. John Brown, pastor of the Providence and Timber Ridge churches, as they stood up in barefoot line to recite texts of scripture and verbs from the Latin tongue, could hear from without the echoes of the struggle for religious toleration fought by their fathers against the Established Church; they could watch through the open door the passing riflemen on their march against the French and Indians. On the playground they could pause to listen to the story of the courier from Williamsburg, who was scattering the news that in the House of Burgesses, in 1765, it was the vote of the Ulstermen from the upper counties that carried Patrick Henry's resolutions in opposition to the Stamp act. With reverent touch did these same students handle the Highland sword which the young William Campbell proudly bore to the schoolroom from the wall of his father's house as soon as the Ulstermen began to make the hills of Virginia resound with the earliest war cry of the Revolution; with rifles on their shoulders some of those early playmates and fellow-students were to follow Col. William Campbell and his grandfather's sword to the field of victory and of lasting glory on King's Mountain in 1780.

RECTOR WILLIAM GRAHAM, 1776-1796.

During the period when Virginia was attaining her majority as a Commonwealth, from 1776 to 1798, the Revolutionary name of Liberty Hall was bestowed upon the academy. The guiding spirit of her career during these days when the Old Dominion was sending her Ulstermen to build up a nation in the West and Southwest was Rev. William Graham, of the class of 1773, Nassau Hall. In Mr. Graham were fused together the triple graces of scholarship, piety, and patriotism. It was the Hanover Presbytery that named the Liberty Hall Academy and furnished it with teachers, students,

and financial and moral support. The hero of Point Pleasant, Gen. Andrew Lewis, was among the Trustees appointed by the Presbytery. But the man who gave life to the school and made her the center of intellectual training for the trans-Alleghany regions was the Rector, William Graham. He was the ideal President of the log college era, when the chief instruments of material progress were the ax and rifle; when the young minds whose discipline had been inaugurated by the study of the Bible and the catechism at the fireside must have their powers developed by a strong master for the stern work of building churches and commonwealths. In Nassau Hall Mr. Graham was the classmate and personal friend of Henry Lee; in the war of the Revolution he continued to stir up his countrymen to armed resistance, and at one time became captain of a company of militia to enter that arena of strife wherein his old friend won great renown as "Light Horse Harry" Lee. The fire that descended to him from his ancestry of the Scottish borders flamed out once and again in the midst of his measured elaborations of the law and the gospel, and his congregation would be roused to arm themselves upon the instant, as when Tarleton threatened to invade the Valley of Virginia; or they would be melted to penitence and to tears, as at old Briery Church in Prince Edward County on the occasion of the celebration of the Lord's Supper. This "clear and cogent reasoner" made use of the Greek language as an instrument for drawing out the powers of his pupils, and then did he use his own system of mental and moral philosophy to train these young men in habits of accurate thinking. By accurate thinking on his own part Mr. Graham had devised this system of philosophy upon the basis given him in the lectures of President Witherspoon.

At the time when the Presbyterian Church was girding her loins for the great work of the century that has now already passed away, Mr. Graham was the Gamaliel at whose feet sat many who afterwards became mighty men and princes in Israel. A high standard in education was held aloft before all candidates for the ministry.

Rev. William Wilson was one among many of his pupils who could repeat from memory line after line from Homer; and Priestly, who became Graham's assistant, declaimed in the original tongue the orations of Demosthenes. From Graham's schoolroom went forth scholars like Samuel Carrick, who founded the East Tennessee University; Samuel Doak, D.D., President of Washington Col-

lege, Tenn.; James Priestly, President of Cumberland University at Nashville. To the Church he gave the trio of scholars and theologians: Moses Hoge, D.D.; George A. Baxter, D.D.; and Archibald Alexander, D.D. Along with these may we place another trio of his pupils: William McPheeters, D.D., John Holt Rice, D.D., and Conrad Speece, D.D.

The first theological seminary of the Presbyterian Church was established in 1793 through the agency of a "coalition" between the Liberty Hall Academy and the Synod of Virginia. Mr. Graham was authorized by the Synod to sit as a teacher in the chair of Divinity, and from this throne he sent out some of the strongest evangelists who mark the early history of our Church.

The teacher and theologian was also a master in the art of building States. He wrote one of the strongest of the memorials addressed by the Hanover Presbytery to the General Assembly of Virginia—memorials which eventually secured the passage of the bill for religious freedom. He gave assistance in framing the Constitution of the State of Franklin, that sought to carve itself from North Carolina in 1784. Beyond the Cumberland Mountains he sent ministers, lawmakers, judges, and advocates to shape the destinies of the community of Ulstermen that became the State of Kentucky in 1792. Prominent among these were the founders of the houses of Allen, Breckinridge, Brown, Todd, and Trimble. Through the agency of Roane, Priestly, Doak, Carrick, and Campbell, he assisted in the development of the settlements which became the State of Tennessee in 1796. To the Virginia bench he gave Judge John Coalter. Even across the Ohio River into the future States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois went the pupils of Graham along with the tide of Ulstermen that first organized these commonwealths. Along with them these pupils carried the mental discipline and the sound ethical training imparted by the master of Liberty Hall Academy.

A man of affairs was this teacher of Homer and the Bible. Full of energy and of tact was this philosopher of the forest. His zeal aroused the people of the Church to great liberality; when he resigned his charge, in 1796, he left the Liberty Hall Academy with an endowment of \$10,000, in addition to the beautiful site, the tract of land upon which stood the stone temple of education. It was Mr. Graham who presented to President Washington the cause of the patriots of the "West Augusta" country. The crown of all his labors, therefore, was that transfer of the Commonwealth's gift, which Washington would not accept for himself, but which Gra-

ham's zeal and tact secured to the children of the men whose rifles had turned the tide of battle in the darkest hours of the Revolution.

When this appropriation from the State had been received, in gratitude to Washington his name was given to the school, and it now became known as the Washington Academy. In 1802 the Virginia branch of the society of the Cincinnatiati donated their funds to the Washington Academy as a mark of deference to their "late illustrious leader and hero." Three years earlier, in 1799, President Graham had passed to his final reward. His works do follow him. The score of years which he spent in behalf of the education of the Ulstermen of Virginia and of the commonwealths of the West and Southwest fully justified the inscription on the marble slab that rests above his tomb in the old St. John's churchyard in Richmond:

"He was distinguished for the strength and
Originality of his Genius:
and the successful tenor of his exertions
in behalf of solid literature and
evangelical Piety."

PRESIDENT GEORGE A. BAXTER, D.D., 1813-1829.

A pair of spectacles are tilted above the massive brow; a pair of eyes are full of the glow of brotherly kindness; over all the face is shed the light of a great charity; in the curve of the well-closed lips terminate the lines of strength that furnish a frame for the countenance which beams upon us from the old portrait of Dr. George A. Baxter, first President of the Washington College. Concerning the personality of this man among men, Dr. W. H. Ruffner thus records the impressions of his own youth: "My earliest recollections are associated with Dr. Baxter. He was pastor of the Presbyterian Church [in Lexington] until I was seven years of age, and he impressed me much more than did the House mountain. Remembering him as I do, I can understand the feeling of the child who stood before Dr. Plumer and asked him solemnly: 'Are you God?' My mother's counsels as to reverencing Dr. Baxter were not needed. By his ponderous frame, his massive head, his dignity, his rich tender voice, the majestic march of his pulpit discourse, his swelling emotions, his unconscious tears—he impressed my boyish mind as the very embodiment of all that was great and good and loving."

From Rockingham County, Va., came young Baxter to sit at the feet of Rector Graham in the study of the classics and of theology.

A thirst for knowledge had been stirred up in the mind of the youth by an indentured servant of his father's household, the son of a wealthy gentleman of Cork, Ireland, who fled his country for some political offense and bound himself to service in payment of his passage across the sea. After his entrance into the ranks of the Presbyterian ministry, Mr. Baxter laid aside the robes of the principalship of the New London Academy to receive upon his shoulders the cloak of the dying Graham. In 1799 he became Rector of the Washington Academy, and throughout the period of the succeeding thirty years retained the position of Head Master of the school. In 1803 Mr. Baxter secured from friends east of the Blue Ridge more than two thousand dollars toward the erection of new buildings on the present site in place of the stone temple on Mulberry Hill, that was left a ruin by the flames. From fifty to seventy pupils clustered about the master who held them entranced by his lucid expositions of problems in philosophy and his Socratic questionings on the text of the ancient classics. Each Sunday found him in one of his two pulpits at Monmouth and Lexington, and there did the fire and the love of the ancient Hebrew prophets seem to live once more on his inspired lips. In 1813 he laid aside the title of Rector to receive that of President; but the change from academy to college was merely in the title, since the powers conferred upon the Board and Faculty remained exactly the same as in the old academic days.

Dr. Baxter left the management of his private finances to his wife, daughter of Col. William Fleming, of Revolutionary fame. His own labors in the effort to advance the material growth of the college were crowned with success. His personal influence had been of much value in securing the final transfer of the Cincinnati fund. He enlisted the interest of John Robinson, a soldier of the Revolution, a friend to learning, and a man of wealth. In 1824 Dr. Baxter led his flock of pupils and assistant teachers into the present main central building. One hundred feet by fifty feet, and three stories in height it stood, adorned in front with six tall pillars, and all composed of brick. Largely to the generosity of John Robinson was this building due. Two years later Mr. Robinson's will bestowed his entire estate upon the college.

It was through the agency of a very meager curriculum that Dr. Baxter impressed his own mind and heart upon his pupils. Two literary societies continued the work which they began in the days of the Washington Academy. The Graham Literary Society

was organized in 1809 by a band of Baxter's boys, among whom were William C. Preston, of South Carolina, Edward C. Carrington, and Powhatan Ellis. In 1812 was established the Washington Literary Society, but the names of the founders have not been preserved. In the class room during the first, or freshman, year, the pupil spent his entire time in the study of Latin and Greek. Horace and Cicero, Lucian, Xenophon, and Homer (with translation printed to face the text) formed the circle of his masters, but the light of the Head Master's mind was their greatest source of instruction. Mathematics was the sole subject of study during the second year. Within the limited circle of arithmetic, algebra, and geometry was the pupil confined, with only a brief glimpse of trigonometry. Geography and natural philosophy and astronomy were the intellectual bill of fare for the third year, and the course was finished in the fourth year by a consideration of Blair's "Lectures and Logic," Burlemaque's "Natural Law," and Locke, Reid, and Stewart on the mind. So inadequate was the course that quick-witted students often completed it in two years. This course was the same with that offered by all the best colleges of the country in the opening years of the century. Through the agency of Henry Ruffner, afterwards President of the college, who was assigned to the chair of Languages in 1819, was this curriculum widened to almost double its previous limits. Before this change the studies offered were not to be compared in extent with those of our modern preparatory schools. But the brief curriculum did a great work because it was in the hands of a giant. Dr. Baxter's own personality was the touchstone of education for his pupils. His strong soul brought into play the powers that were hidden in such men as John Hendren, D.D.; Richard E. Parker, judge and Senator from Virginia; Samuel B. Wilson, D.D., of the Union Theological Seminary; Robert H. Adams, United States Senator from Mississippi; James Kerr Burch, of Center College, Ky.; John J. Crittenden, Governor and Senator from Kentucky; John McElhenny, D.D.; Col. Joseph S. Watkins; Powhatan Ellis, judge and Senator from Mississippi; Gen. Edward C. Carrington; William C. Preston, LL.D., Senator from South Carolina; Robert Strange, judge and Senator from North Carolina; Samuel L. Graham, D.D., of Union Theological Seminary; Gen. Jackson Morton, Senator from Florida; Henry Ruffner, D.D., LL.D., President of Washington College; John James Allen, President of the Virginia Court of Appeals; James McDowell, LL.D., Governor of Virginia; James H.

Piper, President of East Tennessee University; Henry S. Foote, Governor and Senator from Mississippi; Drury Lacy, D.D., President of Davidson College; Alexander G. McNutt, Governor of Mississippi; Judge George W. Summers; William S. Plumer, D.D., LL.D., of Alleghany and Columbia Seminaries; Francis T. Anderson, Judge of the Virginia Court of Appeals; and Socrates Maupin, LL.D., of the University of Virginia. These are epistles, known and read of all men, that speak of the great mind and heart of Dr. Baxter. A host of other such epistles might be cited, names that adorn the annals of the bench and bar and pulpit and science, through whom Dr. Baxter laid his finger upon the keys of life in the growing Southwest. His teaching formed the basis of the political and ethical philosophy of many of the leaders who founded the States of the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys. His great soul lived again and doth still live in the educational and religious creeds of a large part of the population of the empire of the Ulstermen, which rests on both banks of the Mississippi, and which sends delegates even from the Pacific Coast to our conventions in the Alleghanies.

As an expounder of the Calvinistic theology at the Union Seminary in Virginia, Dr. Baxter sent forth a great company of Presbyterian prophets, many of whom have since arisen to call him blessed. Dr. Stuart Robinson cried out when he heard of Dr. Baxter's death in 1841 at the ripe age of three-score and ten: "But yesterday, and I was sitting at his feet. His bland and noble countenance shone upon me to cheer the hours of laborious investigation, and his pure and peaceful wisdom directed my footsteps in the way of knowledge. But now he belongs to a departed race, and to the mighty men of old. His sun was eclipsed when it shone with the greatest brightness. In the full maturity of his transcendent talents, and while exercising an incalculable influence for good, his mantle fell from him and his spirit returned to Him who gave it. . . . Alas for our Southern Zion! alas for the Church of God!" Upon Dr. Robinson he impressed himself as "preëminently unambitious;" as possessed of "quick penetration and comprehensive grasp of mind," and as holding all the vast treasures of his reading and thinking completely at ready command. With kindness and rare good humor he met all opposing arguments as they presented themselves in the class room or elsewhere; skepticism and the whole train of theological fallacies were exposed to the light "with a simplicity and clearness that convinced even the objector."

Dr. John H. Boccock, another pupil of Dr. Baxter, thus spoke of

him: "There arises the vision of another form, a brow in whose many proportions nature had carved nobility, a countenance in which with the native beamings of a giant intellect divine grace had blended a sacred tenderness, which adored and trembled, and loved and wept, like some holy and sweet-spirited infant. We remember him in the pulpit—how the blood flushed his face, and the tears suffused his eyes when his own or another's tongue depicted the awful retributions which await unbelieving sinners. As some one passing Dr. Payson's church after his decease, pointed over to it and said, 'There Payson prayed;' so as we pass the neighboring church the words paraphrase themselves to our thoughts, and we feel, 'There Baxter wept.' Dr. Boccock has also left testimony concerning the wondrous light that flashed from the many-sided mind of Baxter as he walked through the realms of reason and logic; and concerning the wondrous visions of the solemnities of eternity, and the glory of the exalted Saviour that were the creations of the might of Baxter's mind, 'as mighty a mind as I can well conceive of, in the possession of a mere mortal.'"

As the central figure of a striking scene in 1822 has Dr. William Brown left us a portrait of Dr. Baxter. It was on a glorious Sunday in September of that year that Dr. Baxter stood up before a great throng who sat among the scattered trees on the green plain at the foot of the mountain, just at the point where the road now enters the gateway of the Goshen Pass. "The wicked are like the troubled sea" was Dr. Baxter's theme. Like the sound of a deep-toned trumpet rang out his voice as he showed that peace doth never belong to any wicked man even while he dwells upon the earth. A searching appeal did he then make to those among his hearers who were unreconciled to God, and as he made this appeal "his benignant face was bathed with tears." Then with great solemnity he pointed them to the hour of death and the day of judgment, "when such a sense of avenging justice shall seize upon you as will completely reverse the very instincts of nature itself." "Suppose, as you are seated here this moment," he added in conclusion, "you should see the heavens above suddenly gathering blackness, and feel the earth, under some mysterious power, trembling beneath your feet; and you who are seated upon the mountain should feel it shaking to its foundation; and looking up to its top we should see it nodding to its fall. What would nature dictate? We should all flee in horror from the fated spot. But how completely will all this feeling be reversed to the impenitent at the last day! O you will then say to

the mountains and to the rocks, '*Fall on us!*' and hide us from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of his wrath has come, and who shall be able to stand?"

Amazing and indescribable was the scene that followed. The climax of emotion was attained in the assemblage, and they swayed and moved as if impelled by the wind. Dr. Brown thus records his impressions of the scene: "Many sitting below and on the mountain side at once rose up, and I can testify that I saw a number of persons turn to see if the mountain was not really about to fall. Indeed, so wrapped was my whole soul in the subject that I also for a moment looked up in apprehension of such a catastrophe. The concluding hymn I had often heard before, but never with such an awful view of the last judgment:

That awful day will surely come,
Th' appointed hour makes haste,
When I must stand before my Judge,
And pass the solemn test.

Thus stood and spoke Dr. Baxter in the central year of his reign as President of Washington College. The chief part of the curriculum of his school was not the text-book in the Latin or the Greek tongue, but the words and visions of prophets and apostles as they lived again on his own lips. He was a teacher of the Bible. A band of his own pupils had come out to this forest rostrum to sit at his feet. William S. Plumer sat in a group of students on the edge of the platform. Forty-five years later (in 1867) Dr. Plumer described this scene as solemn, even to the inspiration of awe. By the side of Plumer sat the eleven-year-old William Brown. Near them were probably others who became ministers through the influence of this teacher who was always the strong man of God. Thus labored with success the ideal college President of the first quarter of the century when the race of Ulstermen were girding themselves to carve lasting habitations from the wilderness and to uprear a great nation and to maintain the Federal Constitution. Not with text-books, but with the Word of God and his own luminous mind did Baxter equip that band of men whose labors have not yet perished, nor will they ever perish, from the earth.

PRESIDENT LOUIS MARSHALL, M.D., 1830-34.

The short period immediately succeeding the resignation of Dr. Baxter was occupied by the regency of Dr. Henry Ruffner. In 1830 the scepter of the presidency was given into the hands of Dr. Louis Marshall, of Kentucky. Dr. Marshall was a brother of the

celebrated Chief Justice John Marshall, of Virginia. Down the Ohio River on a flatboat, in 1785, journeyed the Marshall family in search of a home in Kentucky. The literary and scientific studies of the young Louis Marshall were completed in Edinburg. In Paris he received the best instruction at that time given in medicine and surgery. As a student in Paris, he became interested in the events of the French Revolution. It is reported that he became an ardent Republican, and that he participated in some of the stirring movements that convulsed Paris during that period.

In his adopted State, Kentucky, Dr. Marshall began the practice of medicine. His fame as a physician soon became widespread. His great attainments in every department of liberal knowledge drew around him some of the choicest young men of Kentucky, whom he taught in a private school on his estate, "Buckpond," in Woodford County. "He was a fine linguist, and well read in science, history, and philosophy. His scholars admired and feared him. He was a strict disciplinarian—severe and dogmatic in his style." Among his pupils at "Buckpond" were representatives of the Kentucky families of Blackburn, Breckinridge, Buford, Crittenden, Duke, Forman, Green, Hardin, Marshall, and McClung. To Washington College came Dr. Marshall in 1830. Until 1834 he shaped the policy of the school and as a teacher imparted instruction in the Department of Ancient Languages.

Among the young men to whom he gave the seal of scholarship the most celebrated was the youthful Ulsterman, afterwards known to fame as "Honest" John Letcher, the War Governor of Virginia. In addition there were John Leyburn, D.D.; John C. Blackwell, D.D.; John Woods Harris; Col. James F. Preston; Samuel Wallace, the Texan hero; Edward Carrington Cabell; Judge James K. Caskie; John R. C. Garland; and Maj. William M. Tate.

President Marshall retired to his estate in Kentucky, and afterwards became President of the Transylvania University.

PRESIDENT HENRY VETHAKE, LL.D., 1835–36.

During the brief space of eighteen months was the chair of the Presidency of the Washington College occupied by the eminent scholar, Henry Vethake, LL.D. From the University of New York he came to the Valley of Virginia. In earlier days he had given instruction in the Rutgers, Princeton, and Dickinson Colleges. Dr. Vethake was of German origin. In person he was six feet in height and exceedingly dignified in manner. His men-

tal powers were characterized by "solid thought and originality." In the Washington College he took charge of the department of mathematics, in which he was an able teacher. In 1836 he returned to Philadelphia, where he spent the remainder of his days in connection with the University of Pennsylvania and the Polytechnic College. He gave to the world in 1838 a volume on "The Principles of Political Economy," which has been pronounced an "able, original, and learned" work.

Foremost among the graduates of President Vethake stands the name of John Holt Rice, D.D.

PRESIDENT HENRY RUFFNER, D.D., LL.D., 1836-48.

"Six feet in height, erect, broad-shouldered, with a deep chest, a coal-black eye, and hair as dark; a face always serious, calm, and thoughtful," and yet all aglow with good will toward men,—such was the outward form of that man of massive mold and massive mind, Henry Ruffner, D.D., LL.D., fifth in order among the Presidents of Washington College. He was of German lineage and a native of Page County, Va. When he took his seat in the President's chair, in 1836, Dr. Ruffner could look back over the labors of seventeen years spent in the service of the college as Head Master of the School of Languages, and as teacher *ad interim* in all the other branches of instruction. As an instructor he had given assistance even during his student days. After the seal of graduation was bestowed upon him, at the close of the session of 1813-14, the young student continued to sit at the feet of President Baxter to receive instruction in theology.

By the Presbytery of Lexington he was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1818, and the following year saw him transferred from the teacher's class room in Kanawha County to the chair of Languages offered by his *Alma Mater*.

Incessant were the labors of Mr. Ruffner while he held the chair of Languages. The pastoral care of the old Timber Ridge Church was assigned him. Able, clear, and practical was his exposition of the Scriptures; tender and solemn were his warnings and admonitions. Day and night did he prosecute his studies until he became "one of the ripest scholars in Virginia." Toward the work of extending the courses of study in the college did he set his face with fixed determination. He sought to establish a more thorough discipline, a definite system of collegiate government, and great success crowned his efforts. Well done were all the labors of the past as he

looked back upon them from the President's throne in 1836. In the central year of the fourth decade of the present century, the log college era in education was altogether of the past. The curriculum that provided few text-books and afforded much leisure for meditation had done its wonderful work in sending out a small band of intellectual giants. Now had come the era of a general advancement toward the West. From the Mississippi Valley there came back toward Virginia great companies of the sons of the Ulstermen. Learning and knowledge did they need to aid them in the work of cutting down the forests, of cultivating the plains, and of extending the system of local government given them by the old Mother State. This learning they found at the feet of the scholar who was also the man of sound judgment in the management of affairs, President Ruffner. He it was who raised the standard for entrance into the college classes. A more extensive course of study in Greek and Latin was prescribed, and each student was rigidly held to a standard of high attainment. He introduced into the course for the first time the study of political economy. In the class room he now taught the course in moral philosophy, and early on each Sunday morning he gathered all the students together for the study of the Bible.

Unyielding firmness marked his administration of discipline, and yet the kindness of a father was manifested toward all who violated the laws of the college. "The students who lodge in the college shall rise at five o'clock in the morning, or as soon thereafter as the signal shall be given, and assemble for prayers; after which they shall immediately apply themselves to their business." This was a statute incorporated into the code of laws which Dr. Ruffner prepared in 1829 and which he carried forward into his administration as President. His own labors were continued, early and late, throughout the day. During the collegiate year from five o'clock in the morning, and even earlier, until the tenth or eleventh hour at night he was at his post of toil. Dr. William Brown thus spoke of him: "He was a prodigious student. It would have been hard to find one of his brethren in a German university who could surpass him in patient, long-continued application. . . . He was a man of uncommon attainments. In the department of ancient languages he was a profound scholar. In a word, his attainments entitled him to rank among the first scholars of the day. He was an accomplished theologian and a superior preacher. He possessed a mind mighty in the Scriptures. In manner he was calm and al-

ways solemn. His voice was clear and mellow in its tones, and would often fall with thrilling power."

Upon broad principles did President Ruffner conduct the Washington College. He held it as his duty there to teach the Christian religion in its simplicity, as based upon regularly conducted prayers and a study of the Bible. No peculiar dogmas would he impart as belonging to this Christian instruction. In his Inaugural in 1836 he said: "The college is designed for the education of the youth of all Christian denominations who may choose to resort to us for instruction. We offer to all youth of good moral character the same benefits and privileges. We inquire not into the articles of their creed; we teach them nothing that is peculiar to our own."

The patronage of the school was extended under President Ruffner. The decade of 1830-1840 began with about thirty-five students, and it closed with nearly one hundred in attendance. The hearts of these young men were filled with devotion toward this great scholar and fatherly disciplinarian, who urged them onward in regular habits of study, from early morning until the candles of the night had been long aflame. When President Ruffner resigned his position in 1841 the unanimous voice of the students was added to that of the Trustees to recall him. The former presented a memorial to him, pledging the President their respect, their esteem, and their kindest feelings, and expressed their "earnest desire" that he would reconsider. This memorial was prepared by three young men, since known to fame as Judge E. C. Burks, Rev. Beverly T. Lacy, D.D., and J. Q. James, Esq. When the Trustees further declared that his resignation would "check the brightening prospects of the college," he resumed at once his arduous toil in her behalf.

The last half of Dr. Ruffner's presidency was filled with labors that reached beyond the instruction of the class room. "The Fathers of the Desert" was a work of "vast erudition," that took its place beside other products of his pen. "An able and satisfactory 'Exposition of Miracles'" was his contribution to certain discourses on the "Evidences of Christianity," delivered at the University of Virginia. In 1847 he published a pamphlet advocating the emancipation of the slaves of the country on the *post nati* principle. This publication stirred up a fierce discussion, which Dr. Ruffner faced with perfect calmness and equanimity. Nor did he act contrary to the practice of most of the people of his native State, for he remained a holder of slaves until his death, in 1861.

During these years he watched the erection of new buildings,

and continued to send forth well-equipped men into the arena of Southern development. Patient to the utmost degree was President Ruffner in the wearying work of the class room. He pursued the analytic method of teaching. He sought out the vital principles of a difficult problem until they stood revealed in all simplicity. In full armor went forth all the students who received from him the seal of graduation. He furnished to his country a great tribe of scholars during that momentous era, 1830-48. During his Regency in 1829-30, he set the seal of the college upon the three brothers, Joseph, Samuel, and William Brown, whose names are revered in all the Churches. Dr. Joseph P. Logan, Gen. John Echols, Judge Robert Johnston, Judge Edward C. Burks, Abram B. Brown, D.D., LL.D., John S. Grasty, D.D., Gov. James L. Kemper, William H. Ruffner, LL.D., John L. Campbell, LL.D., Patrick Henry Aylette, editor of the *Richmond Examiner*; Beverly Tucker Lacy, D.D., Jacob Henry Smith, D.D., Alexander L. Hamilton, D.D., were among the men who were molded by the training of President Ruffner. In 1848 Dr. Ruffner resigned the presidency, and spent the evening of his life as a minister of the gospel in Kanawha County, Va. There he passed into rest in 1861. Into his retirement he carried this testimonial from the Board of Trustees: "He will leave us, possessing our entire confidence in his piety, integrity, and great moral worth."

Dr. William Brown has left on record this estimate of him: "Dr. Ruffner was a good and a great man, one whose chief aim was to have always a conscience void of offense toward God and toward man—one who lived and died in great peace with God and man. Loyal to his country and his people was this man of peace. When a disparaging remark concerning his father was made in the Synod of Virginia Dr. Ruffner leaped to his feet and exclaimed: "He who strikes my father touches the apple of mine eye." The pen of Dr. John Leyburn thus bears him tribute: "His manner was kind and gentle, though somewhat reserved. He was a friend through good and evil report. He did not fear the face of man. Had duty called him, he would have marched in a forlorn hope for the benefit of Church or country with as much deliberation as he walked to his class room. His modesty was proverbial. His charity was like the flowing streams of his mountain home, widening and deepening as they advance. Scandal stood abashed in his honest presence. In his stainless name, his domestic, social, college, and pastoral life, he was an Israelite indeed, in whom there was no guile."

PRESIDENT GEORGE JUNKIN, D.D., 1848-61.

Mrs. Margaret J. Preston, the sweet singer of the race of the Ulstermen in the Valley of Virginia, the beloved poetess of the South, who began to chant her lays beneath the shadow of the Washington College, has furnished me the following sketch of her distinguished father, Dr. Junkin:

"George Junkin himself was born in Pennsylvania, but he was of pure Scotch-Irish descent, and by his whole career illustrated the peculiar traits of his ancestry.

"About 1687 his great-great-grandparents, a young married pair, fled from the dragonnade in Scotland, and took refuge in the city of Londonderry, where they remained during the siege. William III. was during all his life one of Dr. Junkin's great historic heroes, and the name, Londonderry, he could hardly hear or speak without his eyes filming with tears. His own father emigrated to this country in 1756. He was an officer in the Revolutionary army, and was wounded in the same battle (Brandywine) with Lafayette.

"When quite a young man, after his academic course at Jefferson College, Dr. Junkin entered Dr. John M. Mason's theological school in New York City, who was one of the greatest pulpit orators this country ever produced. Dr. Junkin became a teacher in the first Sunday school ever established in that city.

"When he became a pastor, and settled in Central Pennsylvania, with his aggressive and progressive proclivities, and intense devotion to the subject of education, he at once inaugurated a work in all that region which causes his name to be held in high veneration to this day.

"He established there the first temperance societies and first Sunday schools that were ever heard of, and he at once set himself to the work of organizing a classical academy which was one of the most celebrated of his time, in which were educated many of the most famous men of his State. Its first Principal was a distinguished graduate from Ireland, and unnumbered were the scholars, lawyers, governors, and divines who here received their earliest training.

"When the public school system began to be agitated, he took a firm grasp of it, and had everything to do with helping to mold it. He spent many weeks in Harrisburg, the capital of the State, in formulating and advising; for then the public schools were a novelty. He established the first normal school which Pennsylvania ever had. These were the tentative works of his youth.

"In 1830 he was invited to take charge of an academy in Germantown, a suburb of Philadelphia. This school was later removed to Easton, Pa., and became the nucleus of Lafayette College. This college was founded by him and is now one of the largest and best-endowed in the country. Into its establishment, progress, and up-building he plunged with all his native ardor, and sacrificed mainly to it his own and his wife's fortune, which was not inconsiderable for those days.

"His ruling motive was to help educate young men for the gospel ministry, and so steadily did he pursue this aim that before he went to another field of labor he had helped to educate, largely out of his own means, and put into the ministry, sixty young men. And so intense was his interest in Missions that one of the first Presbyterian missionaries to Africa was supported and educated by him from his boyhood. And some of the earliest missionaries to India were his pupils. The father of Gen. Armstrong, of the Hampton Institute, so long the helper and adviser of the King of the Sandwich Islands, was a missionary *protégé* of his.

"Having spent his means in founding Lafayette College, Dr. Junkin accepted the presidency of Miami University, at that time one of the main colleges of the West. There he was thrown into the whirl of the abolition storm. Manfully and bravely did he bear its brunt, as only a Scotch-Irishman could. So fearless and complete was his defense of the Southern institution before the Synod of Cincinnati, that when a published copy fell into the hands of John C. Calhoun he pronounced it the best defense of slavery he had ever heard. But finally the persecution became so sharp that he was forced to resign his position, when he was called back to Lafayette College. There he remained some years, but its lack of endowment at that time became so embarrassing that he was induced, at the instigation of Dr. Archibald Alexander, to accept the presidency of Washington College, at Lexington, Va., now Washington and Lee University. There he remained till the Civil War broke out, but he could not forget that his father had been a Revolutionary officer and had shed his blood for that Union which had always been his pride, and for that State for which he had done so much. At the beginning, then, of the Civil War he resigned the presidency of the college, and returned to Philadelphia, which had been one of the haunts of his youth, and there in 1867 he laid down his active, useful, and devoted life.

"Who shall say that this man by his tireless activity, his stern,

unflinching devotion to duty, and his many toils and sacrifices, was not a typical Scotch-Irishman?"

From 1848 to 1861 Dr. Junkin gave direction to the Washington College. These were her palmiest days. In the centenary year, 1849, she could number twelve colleges of our land among her children. Large classes continued to go forth each year. The bench, pulpit, and bar were given many ornaments by this scholar and orator. Eleven ministers were given to the Presbyterian Church in his first class of 1848-49. Among these were David W. Shanks, D.D., Robert M. Wallace, D.D., and Robert Watts, D.D. In this class also was the lamented Professor of Latin, Junius M. Fishburn. Of the class of 1849-50 we note John Armstrong, D.D., Samuel Blair Campbell, D.D., Brig. Gen. W. S. H. Baylor, Judge William McLaughlin, and Alexander W. Sproull, D.D. After these in order came William F. Junkin, D.D., A. W. Pitzer, D.D., J. N. Craig, D.D., Judge James K. Edmondson, C. D. Fishburne, Esq., Prof. Robert Massie, Thomas L. Preston, D.D., Prof. Rodes Massie, Henry M. White, D.D., Col. Alex S. Pendleton, Col. William T. Poague, George W. Finley, D.D., M. H. Houston, D.D., and many others in every field of influence. At length the students were called forth to stand in line of battle with the Army of Northern Virginia. The ancient *régime*, that had lasted since the days of the Liberty Hall Academy, had run its course. But many had been here made ready to maintain the principles of their fathers in the stern debate of battle. As the curtain falls upon the era of those earlier days, their story finds appropriate voice in the words of President Junkin's daughter, Mrs. Preston:

Shades of the past! we see you file
With pensive step and serious face,
Each to his own appointed place
Within the academic aisle.

Wise Alexander's look of peace
Turned heavenward; Crittenden, whose name
Lights up Kentucky's roll of fame;
Majestic Baxter; witty Speece;

Calm Ruffner, with his wondrous lore;
McDowell, robed in courtly grace;
Floyd, with his marble-featured face;
The Southern Preston, who could sway
Senates that thrilled before a Clay;
Grave Plumer, with his golden store

Of Saint Chrysostom eloquence;
Judicious Brown, in word and deed
The Hooker of the Church's need;
And many a sage and statesman more,
Went from these haunted precincts hence,
Whose names the bead-roll bore.

PRESIDENT ROBERT EDWARD LEE, 1865-70.

The period of storm and stress from 1861 to 1865 saw the banner of Washington College in the field of war. "*Pro Aris et Focis*" was the sentiment inscribed on the flag of the Liberty Hall volunteers, which the class of 1861 bore with valorous pride from Manassas to Appomattox. The captains of that band of youthful heroes were Ulstermen all: Capt. James J. White, of the chair of Greek, who held his line of boys in steady column on the Henry Hill at Manassas; Capt. H. R. Morrison; Capt. Hugh A. White; and Capt. Givens B. Strickler. The *alumni* of former years, almost to a man, were also in the midst of those scenes of strife. The pupils of Baxter, Ruffner, and Junkin had not forgotten their lessons of duty and patriotism, and at the call of their native States knew how to step forth gladly unto death in defense of home and fireside. The "Liberty Hall Volunteers," composed of young students, belonged to the Fourth Virginia Regiment of the Army of Northern Virginia. This regiment stood up in line of battle with four other regiments, July 21, 1861, under the command of Gen. Thomas J. Jackson, to receive in fire baptism the immortal name of the "Stonewall Brigade." No band of soldiers superior to this brigade ever trod the earth. Nearly all were of the race of Ulstermen; nearly all were the sons and foster children of Washington College. If at any time that effulgence which we call glory belonged of right to the old College of Washington, that glory crowned her in the days of battle when the "Liberty Hall Volunteers" and the brigade of Ulstermen from the Valley of Virginia assisted in giving name and fame to the immortal chieftain, "Stonewall" Jackson.

The peerless leader of the heroes of the South was called to the presidency of the College of Washington when all the land from the Potomac to the Gulf lay desolate. The sum of \$70,000 was the patrimony of the college, with lands and buildings valued at \$63,000. This inheritance was locked up in securities of the State of Virginia, and the treasury of Virginia was empty. The library and apparatus had been scattered amid the storm of war. But a band of Ulstermen were the Board of Trustees. The private credit of

the Trustees was pledged, and money was secured in quantity sufficient to justify the opening of the old halls immediately. "To teach the young men of the South to do their duty in life" was the motive that brought Gen. Lee to the presidency of this college of the Ulstermen. He turned away from more tempting financial offers to the performance of this labor of love. As the hero of a united people, he drew the young men of the land around him; his old soldiers came to the halls where he now wielded the scepter of peace. Just as Washington in 1796 turned in grateful remembrance to bestow great favor on the heroes of the "West Augusta" country, so turned Lee in 1861 to give the evening of his life to the Ulstermen who had stood in the forefront of battle beneath his banner. All lines of creed were blotted out in the great work of the five years when he halted beneath these classic shades to teach his countrymen how to suffer and be strong.

At Appomattox Gen. Lee gave lasting evidence of his devotion to the interests of his people. By reason of the love which he bore to the men who had followed him, he faced with unflinching courage the most trying hour of his life.

Earl Cornwallis at Yorktown tarried in his tent and refused to bear in public the chagrin of defeat. Gen. Lee in person sought the Federal commander at Appomattox, to negotiate for the private property of his soldiers and to ask food for his starving army. The period of Reconstruction in the South saw him at Washington College. No murmur escaped his lips in all those days of trial. His principle of action was that "All should unite in honest efforts to obliterate the effects of war, and to restore the blessings of peace." His own example of quiet toil and heroic submission did more than all else to reconcile his countrymen to the acceptance of the decision of the tribunal of war. In September, 1865, he thus wrote: "It appears to me that the allayment of passion, the dissipation of prejudice, and the restoration of reason will alone enable the people of the country to acquire a true knowledge and form a correct judgment of the events of the past four years."

The victories of those five years from 1865 to 1870, if it were possible, have overtopped in majesty and glory the renown of 1861 to 1865.

The personal influence of this man was the great educating power in the Washington College of those *post bellum* days. His charity toward all, his malice toward none, begot similar sentiment in the hearts of the veterans who came to be his pupils. His "general orders" published on the bulletin board, were the agents of a mild

but strongly effective discipline. Moral force was the instrument now used by one of the greatest of soldiers in the government of young men. System was stamped on all the workings of the college. The President's kindly heart and watchful eye followed the work and life of each student in all its details. These words, written to a young friend, show the character of his own personal advice to his students: "I shall watch your future career with great interest and pray that it may be one of great usefulness to your friends and country. That it may be so, listen to the teachings of your parents; obey their precepts; and from childhood to the grave pursue unswervingly the path of honor and of truth. Above all things, learn at once to worship your Creator and to do His will, as revealed in His Book."

His broad mind at the same time was ever grappling with the question of extending the courses of instruction. Wide plans were formulated, and many of them carried into successful operation.

To the five chairs of instruction which he found in the college he added five others, and also established the "Department of Law and Equity." The elective system was adopted in place of the ancient curriculum, and thus were laid the foundations of the present university. Complete classical and literary culture, combined with Christian manliness, was the educational ideal which he sought to attain. "I shall be disappointed," he said, "I shall fail in the leading object that brought me here, unless these young men all become consistent Christians." Under his patronage in 1868 was organized the earliest of the Young Men's Christian Associations in the colleges of our land.

Concerning the lofty principles stamped upon the students by the beloved Head Master, Dr. Joynes, a member of his Faculty declares: "We doubt, indeed, whether at any other college in the world so many young men could have been found as free from misconduct, or marked by as high a tone of feeling and opinion, as were the students of Washington College during those latter years of Gen. Lee's life." Dr. Joynes also gives this further testimony: "Gen. Lee was not only earnest and laborious, he was also *able*, as a college President. He was perfectly master of the situation, and thoroughly wise and skillful in all its duties of organization and of policy, as well as of detail. To this let the results of his administration bear testimony. He found the college practically bankrupt, disorganized, deserted; he left it rich, strong, and crowded with students. It was not merely numbers that he brought to it, for

these his great fame alone would have attracted; he gave it organization, unity, energy, and practical success. . . . He had from the beginning a distinct *policy*, which he had fully conceived and to which he steadily adhered; so that all his particular measures of progress were but consistent steps in its development. . . . Now, after having won in other fields a world-wide fame, he has in this last labor of his life displayed an ability and developed a power for the highest achievements, such as form no small part of the fame even of his distinguished career." Into the wasted fields of the South Gen. Lee sent great companies of young men, with hearts full of hope, and with minds and hands trained to do all manly duties. The schoolrooms were filled up with teachers who had learned from him their lessons of devotion to duty. The lawyers and preachers and physicians received among their ranks many strong young souls who had been sealed unto the works of honor and self-sacrifice by this greatest among the men of our land. Heroes like Dr. James M. M. Ambler, who perished with Capt. De Long's party of the arctic steamer, "Jeannette," in 1881; scholars like Milton W. Humphreys, Ph.D., LL.D., of the University of Virginia; public officials like Clifton R. Breckinridge, the present Minister to Russia; lawyers like Richard M. Venable, of Baltimore; and preachers like John P. Strider, D.D., Thomas T. Eaton, D.D., and Givens B. Strickler, D.D., did this masterly mold of noble men send out to do their work.

Through the name and personal influence of President Lee the productive endowment of the Washington and Lee University has been increased more than sixfold beyond the financial strength of the Washington College of 1865. The gifts to our institution have come from men of different geographical sections and of varying religious creeds. Some of the most generous donors are Ulstermen. Mr. Warren Newcomb, of New York City, bestowed a large "Library Fund." The "McCormick Professorship of Natural Philosophy" bears evidence of the generosity of an Ulsterman, Cyrus H. McCormick, who was reared almost beneath the shadow of the Washington College. Mr. Rathmell Wilson, of Philadelphia, has made valuable contributions to the library. George Peabody has his name written high among the benefactors of the college. The "Peabody Professorship of Latin" commemorates his princely gift. The "Corcoran Professorship of the Greek Language and Literature" is due to the generosity of W. W. Corcoran, Esq., of Washington City, and the "Bayly Professorship of General and Applied

Chemistry" to the generosity of Robert H. Bayly, Esq., of New Orleans. Col. Thomas A. Scott, of Philadelphia, has given the ample fund upon which is founded the "Thomas A. Scott Professorship of Applied Mathematics." Vincent L. Bradford, LL.D., D.C.L., of Philadelphia, gave his law library, and by his will made provision for the ultimate establishment of the "Bradford Chair of Civil Law and Equity Jurisprudence."

Prominent among the other benefactors of this institution are Mr. H. H. Houston, of Philadelphia; Mr. F. O. French, of New York City; Henry Young, Esq., Col. J. H. Mapleson, of New York; Mrs. Caroline Donovan, Mrs. Evelina Birely, Mrs. Fanny B. Taylor, of Baltimore; Mr. Lewis Brooks, of Rochester, N. Y.; Dr. William M. Mercer, of New Orleans; Mrs. M. J. Young, of Texas; Mrs. Virginia C. Hamilton, and Mrs. Mary B. Ross, of Virginia.

In addition we have the "Newcomb Hall," erected by Mrs. Josephine L. Newcomb, of New York City, in honor of the memory of her husband, Warren Newcomb, Esq. The modest chapel in which this Congress convenes was reared under the personal supervision of President Lee, and has since been called the "Lee Memorial Chapel," because it holds Valentine's recumbent marble figure of our immortal hero.

A larger usefulness and a wider constituency have come to this school through the greatest of the seven Presidents of Washington College. To the present University come students from the entire block of Southern and Southwestern States, and likewise from New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Oregon, California, and the District of Columbia.

"O ye who tread these classic halls,
 Baptized once more in patriot blood,
 Think what exalted memories flood
 These doubly consecrated walls!
 The hoary lore of Oxford's towers,
 Made sacred by her Alfred's name,
 Can never boast a prouder fame
 Than shrines these simple aisles of ours.
 Ye will not walk ignoble ways;
 Ye dare not seek unworthy aims;
 Ye cannot do a deed that shames
 These heroes of our holiest days!
 Your oath a Roman oath must be,
 Sworn with a faith that will not yield;
 Sworn on the doubly sacred shield
 Of Washington and Lee."