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J. T. Champlin

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A

HISTORICAL DISCOURSE

DELIVERED AT THE

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF

COLBY UNIVERSITY,

AUGUST 2d, 1870.

BY

J. T. CHAMPLIN, PRESIDENT.

WATERVILLE:
PUBLISHED BY VOTE OF TRUSTEES.
1870.

JOURNAL STEAM PRESS, LEWISTON.

DISCOURSE.

WHAT is now known as the Corporation of COLBY UNIVERSITY was first established under the title of "The President and Trustees of the Maine Literary and Theological Institution," by an act of the Legislature of Massachusetts, passed February 27th, 1813. Maine was then but a District of Massachusetts, sparsely inhabited, except at a few points on the coast and the principal rivers, and chiefly valued for its forests and fisheries. The corporation thus established was endowed by the Legislature with a township of land, to be selected from any of the unappropriated lands within the district, and was restricted in the location of its school to the said township—on the principle, it would seem, that trees were men, as, in the nature of the case, there could be no other inhabitants on unappropriated lands. The township selected lies on the west side of the Penobscot River, some fifteen miles above the city of Bangor, now constituting the towns of Alton and Argyle. It proved an excellent territory for timber, and the Institution in process of time realized a very handsome sum from it—sufficient—though barely sufficient—with the contributions of its friends, and some further aid subsequently granted by this State, to keep it from bankruptcy during its long and painful novitiate.

But the very excellence of the township for timber unfitted it, of course, for the location of a school. Even common schools have not long been established in that township, much less could a theological school have been established there. The restriction was indeed a singular one, and one cannot help suspecting that it was a cunning device to defeat the whole project, or at least, to secure in this case, as formerly, that if the voice of John the Baptist must be heard at all, it should be heard only "crying in the wilderness." The corporation, however, did not think so, and accordingly made haste to petition the Legislature to remove the restriction and allow them to locate their Institution in other parts. Accordingly, in 1816, three years after the act establishing the corporation, they obtained of the General Court of Massachusetts an additional act, allowing them to locate the school in any town within the counties of Somerset or Kennebec.

This liberty having been obtained, the next thing was to decide between the claims of the different towns, within these counties, desirous of obtaining the location of the Institution. Accordingly, at a meeting of the corporation in the year following the passage of the above-named act, they appointed a committee "to visit those towns which had used their efforts and given encouragement to have the Institution located with them, viz.: Farmington, Bloomfield and Waterville, and report at the next meeting." This committee reported in favor of Bloomfield as the site, but for some reason not fully explained in the records, the Trustees voted to fix the location at Waterville. Possibly this action may have been in consequence of larger sums having been pledged by Waterville, than by the other towns. These, however, we should not consider at the present day anything very alarming. The town, as a corporation, pledged, but on account of legal objections never paid, three thous-

and dollars, while the inhabitants of the town and vicinity subscribed two thousand dollars for the benefit of the Institution, in case it was established at Waterville.

This action was at the meeting of the Board in October, 1817. At the same meeting, a committee was appointed to purchase a plot of ground whereon to erect the buildings, and another committee, to report at the next meeting in February, candidates for professorships. As the result of this action, the so-called Vaughan lot, eighty-six rods wide, and extending from the Kennebec to the Emerson stream, containing one hundred and seventy-nine acres, was purchased the following year of R. H. Gardiner, for the sum of seventeen hundred and ninety-seven dollars and fifty cents. The south line of this lot was not far from where the Memorial Hall now stands. But afterwards the college purchased of Professor Chapin, for the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars, the Professor Briggs estate, lying immediately south of the original purchase, and extending southerly to the middle point of lot No. 106 of the Kennebec Purchase, and running on that line—which is coincident with the south line of the lot on which my house stands—from the Kennebec River nearly to the Emerson stream. And the other committee reported the names of the Rev. Jeremiah Chaplin, of Danvers, Mass., for Professor of Theology, and of the Rev. Iraha Chase, of Westford, Vt., for Professor of Languages. These gentlemen were accordingly elected to the above-named Professorships, and it was provided that instruction in the Institution should commence the first of May following, i. e., May, 1818.

Mr. Chase—afterwards for many years Professor in Newton Theological Institution—did not accept his Professorship, and consequently, the Literary Department in the Institution was not opened till October of the following year, on the acceptance of the Professorship of Languages by the

Rev. Avery Briggs. But Professor Chaplin, after considerable hesitancy,* accepted his appointment, and appeared at Waterville in the latter part of June, and took charge of the Theological Department. Indeed, he brought a large part of his school with him. At the time of his election he had charge of the theological students supported by the Massachusetts Baptist Education Society; and it was arranged that they should come with him to Waterville. As the Institution had as yet no buildings of its own, his school was opened in the so-called Wood House, which stood at the intersection of College and Main streets, and in 1850 was enlarged into the Elmwood Hotel, and destroyed by fire in 1864. Professor Chaplin and his school remained at the Wood House till the completion of the old President's House—which occupied the position now occupied by the Memorial Hall—at the close of the year 1819 or the beginning of 1820, and of the South College in 1821. When these buildings were put up the lot was wholly unimproved, and the forest was cut down to make room for them.

In the mean time, Maine had become an independent State, and at the first meeting of its Legislature, in 1820, had granted the Institution collegiate powers, and, by a subsequent act, allowed it to assume the name of WATERVILLE COLLEGE. It was now to be organized under this new character. And first, a President must be chosen. After suitable inquiry, therefore, at the meeting of the Board in August, 1821, they unanimously elected to that office the Rev. Daniel H. Barnes, of New York. Mr. Barnes did not accept the appointment, but had he, would undoubtedly have been a valuable acquisition to the college.†

Through the failure of this appointment, the office of President remained vacant till the meeting of the Board in

* See Note A. † See Note B.

May, 1822, and instruction was given, as it had been before, by Professors Chaplin and Briggs. But immediately on their meeting, a committee was appointed to report during their session the name of a suitable candidate for the Presidency. In due time, therefore, this committee brought in their report, as follows:—"That they had given to the subject "committed to them their best attention, and had unani-
"mously agreed to recommend Doctor Chaplin as the most
"suitable candidate for the Presidency; and that the sum
"for the President's salary be fixed at eight hundred dol-
"lars, and the use of the house where he now lives." This report was accepted, and Doctor Chaplin was unanimously elected to the office of President of the College. Professor Briggs was continued in his office as Professor of Languages; and at the annual meeting of the Board in August, following, the Rev. Stephen Chapin was elected Professor of Theology, with a salary of five hundred dollars. At this meeting, also, the Trustees conferred their first degrees—that of Bachelor of Arts on two students of the college, viz., George Dana Boardman and Ephraim Tripp; and the honorary degree of Master of Arts on Mr. Samuel Wait, of the District of Columbia. Mr. Boardman was also elected Tutor in the college, and a new college building—what is now the North College—which had been authorized at the May meeting, was in process of erection, under a contract with Mr. Peter Getchell, who was to receive three thousand dollars for putting up the walls and furnishing the material for the same. Mr. Lemuel Dunbar was engaged in doing the wood-work. And I may here add, that these two gentlemen seem to have done a large part of the work on the first college building; as indeed, later, in 1829, they built together for the college, the Academy—for which latter job (not including the finishing of the second story) they received the sum of seventeen hundred and fifty dollars.

The Academy was built as a feeder to the college, and when in good hands has always proved an important auxiliary—never more so than at present. Many a year it has furnished a large proportion of the incoming college class, and besides, by its better teaching, has helped us to keep up the standard of fitting for college. It were well if we had many more such feeders in other parts of the State. The Academy was originally intrusted to the care of the Faculty and Treasurer of the college, and remained under their direction till the annual meeting of the Trustees in 1841, when they voted to place it under the direction of a separate Board of Trustees, which was established by an act of the Legislature in February of the following year. But this Board having become disorganized, relinquished its trust, and the corporation of the college, at their annual meeting in 1866, resumed the control of the Institution, which has since been greatly enlarged and fitted up, at an expense of forty-four hundred and sixty-three dollars, and received the new name of THE WATERVILLE CLASSICAL INSTITUTE.

About the time of the building of the Academy, the college established another auxiliary institution of quite a different kind. Muscle was to be developed as well as brain. The hand was to be made useful while the mind was busy. Manual labor was to be joined to mental labor, and thus all the powers were to be exercised and strengthened. The object was a good one, if it could be carried out. Indeed, it was an idea which commended itself to the utilitarian Yankee mind, and quite popular at the time. As bodily exercise is confessedly essential to the clear and vigorous action of the intellect, why not turn such exercise to a useful result? Why not exercise the body by work instead of play? Why not, in the necessary intermissions of study, do something towards earning a living by wielding the saw or

the plane, and thus invigorate the muscles and clear the head for future efforts, instead of spending those hours of intermission in useless antics in a gymnasium, or in equally useless sports on the green? It would be all work, to be sure — either work of the hand or of the mind — and there was that old adage that “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy,” which seemed to stand in the way; to say nothing of the danger of the boy neglecting his book while he could live by his saw. Still, the idea of living by the hand while sharpening the wits, was a pleasing one, and though discredited by certain theoretical objections, must be tried in practice before it was abandoned.

Accordingly, at the annual meeting of the Trustees, in August, 1827, we find the following vote on their records: “That it is expedient to have a convenient Mechanic’s Shop erected on the college lot, at which such students as are disposed may employ themselves a small portion of the day in such work as may yield them some profit.” At the same time, the Prudential Committee of the college were charged with the duty of carrying this vote into effect as soon as practicable, and to this end were authorized to employ an agent to collect funds for the purpose. The agent employed by them was the Rev. Daniel Merrill, of Sedgwick, a prominent member of the Board of Trustees, who had already, on many occasions, proved himself a faithful and efficient agent in such matters. The proposed shop was put up, chiefly by the hands of students of the college, in 1830, and was put in operation at the beginning of the following year, under the superintendence of Mr. D. N. B. Coffin. Subsequently two other shops, and two storehouses for lumber, were erected, chiefly by the labor of students, and other superintendents succeeded Mr. Coffin, till, in the spring of 1842—twelve years after the opening of the first shop—the shops were abandoned and soon after sold and removed

from the premises. Students were allowed so much an hour for their work, and were employed—according to their turn and genius, as we may suppose—in the manufacture of different articles, such as doors, blinds, sashes, bedsteads, tables, chairs, carriages, boxes, and even in printing.

As a financial operation, one may readily guess the result. The shops steadily ran the college in debt, till they had absorbed not only the collections made by Mr. Merrill, but several thousands of dollars besides. So many young men, generally without experience in the use of tools, and by the action of a general principle of human nature, each disposed to appreciate his labor above its real value, and each pressing the superintendent for the highest possible allowance for it, could not, in the nature of the case, have been profitably employed. The judgment of the better portion of the Trustees had for many years been adverse to the longer continuance of the Manual Labor Department, and accordingly, at their annual meeting in 1841, the workshops were finally disposed of by the acceptance of the following report, presented by the Hon. Judah McClellan, of Skowhegan :

“That while the workshop system was a novelty, and the public opinion warmly in its favor, many young men were drawn from the industrial walks who attempted to work their way through college; and some succeeded, to their own advantage as well as that of the public. The workshops connected with this college were probably at first of some advantage to the college, in enticing students to come here; but not in any proportion to the heavy expense incurred by the college in building and maintaining them: and are now, and for some time past have been, a useless monument of misjudged expenditure. The committee deem it useless to think of again putting the shops in operation. They recommend the reference of the subject to the Prudential Committee, with power to sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the workshops, including stock and tools, as they shall think most for the advantage of the college—but in no case to involve the college in any more expense in or about the concern.”

Whether this experience throws any light upon some recent theories in regard to the union of theoretical and practical education in certain departments, I leave others to judge. Certain it is, that no considerable number, at least, of those who worked in the shops during those twelve years, have turned out mechanics. And it may be doubted whether men who receive a real education in an Agricultural or Mechanical College, will in many cases remain practical, working farmers or mechanics. I think experience shows, that men whose wits have been thoroughly sharpened, by whatever form of culture, generally contrive to live by their wits, and not by the hand.

But aside from the lessons which it taught, there was, at least one useful result which sprung from the operation of the manual labor department. Besides the erection of the workshops, and the work which they performed in them, the students in 1832, as a part of their regular labor, put up the "steward's house," or "commons house," which still remains on the college premises. This was, at the time, a valuable addition to the public buildings of the college. There being but scanty accommodations for board in town, a steward's department was much more needed then than now. Besides, all colleges had such a department at that time. Previously to the erection of this building, all the accommodations which the college possessed for this department were in the basement of the North College, which was divided between a Commons Hall and a Chapel. We are not surprised, therefore, to find the Trustees, at their annual meeting in 1831, approving the proposal to raise twenty thousand dollars, under the agency of the Rev. J. C. Morrill, for the purposes, among others, of procuring a steward's house and the erection of a chapel. The steward's house, as we have seen, was provided during the following year, previous to the resignation of the presidency by Dr. Chaplin, in 1833. Some

subscriptions, also, had been obtained for the chapel by Mr. Morrill, and by the Rev. Otis Briggs, who succeeded Mr. Morrill as agent for collecting funds, as he had long been agent of the college in regard to the Argyle lands. But a chapel was not destined to be provided till 1836, the last year of the administration of Dr. Babcock, who succeeded Dr. Chaplin in the presidency. At the annual meeting of the Board in 1835, the following vote was passed: "That the Trustees authorize the erection of a college edifice for a chapel and other purposes, when sufficient funds from permanent scholarships shall be provided and secured for that purpose." The central building, between the North and South Colleges, was accordingly begun during the following year, and completed in 1837, for the sum of eight thousand dollars, Dr. Babcock having secured about that amount in scholarship subscriptions.

Having now brought down the external history of the college to a time within the easy recollection of the present generation, let us return again to its beginnings, in order to bring out more fully certain points in its internal history.

And, first, as to the origin of the Institution. Here we may say at once, and without any hesitation, that Colby University, as the legitimate successor of the Maine Literary and Theological Institution, is the child of the Baptists of Maine. Next to the Presbyterians and Congregationalists, the Baptists were the earliest organized denomination of any note in the country. And discarding in their creed all traditional doctrines and usages, they everywhere came into conflict with the "Standing Order," and hence had to fight the battles of religious liberty. It was so in this State, as in other parts of New England and most of the older States. Indeed, Maine being at that time a district of Massachusetts—a State in the early times but little short of a theocracy

in her form of government, proud and persecuting of all who differed from her in religious views—was deeply imbued with the same intolerant spirit. Hence, when a small Baptist Church, in 1681, was organized at Kittery, under the care of the Rev. Wm. Screven, it was pounced upon by the civil and ecclesiastical authorities, very much as a tiger pounces upon his prey, and scattered to the four winds before it had fairly got in operation. But opinions cannot be voted or persecuted down by majorities. The little church was scattered, but their views survived, and gradually organized themselves again in churches, first in the western part of the State, and then all through the State, carrying with them a “new light” wherever they spread, and waking from their torpid lethargy the dominant ecclesiastical party of the district.

The first Baptist Association in the district was formed at Bowdoinham, in 1787, embracing three churches, having an aggregate membership of one hundred and eighty-three members, viz.: the Thomaston Church, with one hundred and three members, the Bowdoinham Church, with thirty members, and the Harpswell Church, with fifty members. This Association rapidly extended its borders, so that in 1800, thirteen years after its organization, it embraced thirty churches, with a membership but little short of seventeen hundred. This, then, was the mother Association of the Baptist denomination in the State. And it was in this Association that the Maine Literary and Theological Institution originated. At the meeting of the Association in Livermore, in 1810, we find the following record in their minutes:

“It being in contemplation to establish an institution in the District of Maine, for the purpose of promoting literary and theological knowledge, brethren Blood, Boardman, Merrill, Titecomb and Tripp were appointed a committee to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning the General Court for incorporation.”

And further on, in the proceedings of the same meeting, we find the following additional record:

"The Committee appointed to consider the propriety of petitioning the General Court, relative to the establishment of the Literary and Theological Institution, suggested to the Association the propriety of appointing a committee to digest the subject systematically, in connection with brethren from the Lincoln Association, and report thereon at the next annual meeting. Elders Blood, Low and Boardman were chosen for the above purpose."

Three years after this, the Institution was chartered by the very name given it in this last record.

We shall come to the same conclusion, if we consider the persons named as the first Board in the act of incorporation. These were, Daniel Merrill, Caleb Blood, Sylvanus Boardman, Thomas Green, Robert Low, Benjamin Titcomb, Thomas Francis, Ransom Norton, Daniel McMasters, Hon. James Campbell, Samuel Stinson, John Hovey, David Nelson, Alford Richardson, John Haynes, Samuel Baker, Joseph Bailey, Phineas Pillsbury, Hezekiah Prince, Moses Dennet, and John Neal. Daniel Merrill, formerly a Congregational minister, was at this time Pastor of the Baptist Church in Sedgwick, Caleb Blood was Pastor of the Federal Street Baptist Church in Portland, Sylvanus Boardman was Pastor of the Baptist Church at North Yarmouth, and Thomas Green had been a former Pastor of the same church, and was still residing there, Robert Low was Pastor of the Baptist Church in Readfield, Benjamin Titcomb, Pastor of the Baptist Church in Brunswick, Thomas Francis, Pastor of the Baptist Church in Leeds, Ransom Norton, Pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Livermore, Daniel McMasters, Pastor of the Baptist Church in Sullivan, Samuel Stinson, Pastor of the Baptist Church in Woolwich, John Haynes, Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Livermore, Samuel Baker, associate Pastor of the Baptist Church in Thomaston, Joseph Bailey, Pastor of

the Baptist Church of Balston, now Whitefield, Phineas Pillsbury, Pastor of the Baptist Church in Nobleboro'. Of the other incorporators, Alford Richardson was a prominent member of the Federal Street Baptist Church of Portland, John Neal a member of the Second Baptist Church of Litchfield, Moses Dennet a member of the Second Baptist Church in Bowdoin, John Hovey, a member of the Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon, David Nelson, a member of the Baptist Church in New Gloucester, the Hon. James Campbell, better known as Judge Campbell, a prominent member of the First Baptist Church in Cherryfield, and Hezekiah Prince, a member of the Baptist Church in Thomaston.

The incorporators, therefore, were all Baptists of the District of Maine—none of them were from what is now Massachusetts. Massachusetts proper was not represented in the Board till the election of the Rev. Dr. Thomas Baldwin, of Boston, in 1815, and the Rev. Lucius Bolles, of Salem, in 1817. These were both very active and highly useful members of the Board—the former holding and honoring his office till his death, which took place in Waterville at the annual Commencement of the college in 1825, at the house of Professor Briggs. And his portrait, which now hangs in the Library, was presented to the college by his widow in 1827. Dr. Bolles retained his place on the Board till 1842, entering heartily into all the plans of the college, and rendering important advice and pecuniary aid in furtherance of them all. The presence of Doctor Chaplin here, first as Professor of Theology, and then as President of the college, had from the beginning interested in the Institution some of the prominent men in Massachusetts, with whom he had formerly been associated, and this interest was greatly increased about the time the Institution became a college, by the defection of President Messer, of Brown University, from the Baptist faith. They were thus led to

cherish this institution with a warmer interest; and if this interest has at times waned since then, and she has sent us less of her young men to educate, we have lately received convincing evidence that it still exists, in the fact, that of our recent endowment about one-half came from Massachusetts.

The Institution, as we have seen, began as a Literary and Theological School. Those who established it were chiefly ministers of the Gospel, mostly without any regular theological training, and who therefore looked upon it chiefly as a school in which the future Pastors of the churches were to be prepared for their work. With them the literary department was preliminary to, but entirely subordinate to the theological department. What must have been their disappointment, then, when in less than three years after it had been set in operation, by its having become a college all this was reversed, and the literary department exalted above the theological, which was depressed more and more, till within a few years it was entirely crowded out of the Institution? I know not under whose counsels this was done, but it has always seemed to me a great mistake. Within those few years, a good many of the original Board had fallen out and new members been introduced, and quite likely the ambition of having an institution of a higher grade may have blinded the eyes of those who remained, to its consequences. The result was hastened also, undoubtedly, by the fear that Brown University would be lost to the denomination, through the defection of President Messer, already alluded to. But however brought about, when its effects became apparent, there was great dissatisfaction in a large portion of the denomination throughout the State, which some years later culminated in the establishment of an ephemeral Theological School at Thomaston, under the management of Professor Calvin Newton. One consequence

of this disaffection was, a general falling off of interest in the Institution among its natural friends, and a certain coldness and indifference towards it, from which it has not fully recovered to the present day. Had the Institution retained its original and more popular form, till the affections of the denomination had crystallized around it, and the denomination itself had withal grown up so as to demand a college, I can but think that its history would have been different. In that case, the numerous churches which had been established throughout the State would have been strengthened by the supply of pastors adapted to their wants, and would have been ready, when at length it became a college, to rally around it with their affections and aid.

In reading the Records of the Board, more especially during the first twenty-five years of the existence of the Institution, one cannot but be impressed with the arduousness of their task, nor fail to admire their patience and persistence, as well as the general harmony and unanimity of their counsels. These counsels were rarely disturbed by any serious divisions or misunderstandings. There was, however, one serious misunderstanding between two prominent members of the Board, which caused a good deal of feeling and discussion at the time, and which, perhaps, should not be wholly passed over even in a cursory historical view, like the present. Alford Richardson, of Portland, better known as General Richardson, as we have seen, was one of the original corporators of the Institution; and William King—also known as General King, and afterwards the first Governor of the State of Maine—being favorable to Baptist views, was chosen Trustee of the Institution at the second meeting of the Board, in September, 1813. The Institution being poor, and having received from the State but the meagerest endowment, had occasion to petition the

Legislature for aid. The petition of the Trustees was presented at the Spring session of the Legislature in 1818, and a Circular Petition—which by a vote of the Trustees at an earlier meeting in February of the same year, had been authorized and circulated among the Baptists of the State for their signature—was presented at the Winter session next ensuing. At the meeting of the Board of Trustees in May following, on recommendation of a committee appointed “to take into consideration the situation of the applications which have been made to the Legislature for aid,” the Hon. William King, and the Hon. Mark Harris were appointed “to take such measures as they should think proper to obtain the prayer of said petitions.” At the next meeting of the Legislature, accordingly, Mr. King brought the matter before that body, and had procured a bill from a committee, providing a very handsome endowment for the Institution, with apparently a very good prospect of getting it through. At this point he was met by a statement from Mr. Richardson, that the Circular Petitions had been presented without the authority and consent of the Trustees. The bill of course was defeated, and its defeat was ascribed to this adverse statement of Mr. Richardson. That the preparing and circulation of petitions in some form were authorized by the Trustees, is evident from their records, and I do not see how it could have been denied by either party. The presentation of these particular petitions, it is true, does not seem to have been expressly provided for, but why were such petitions to the Legislature authorized at all, if they were not to be presented? and why should a friend of the Institution, as Mr. Richardson undoubtedly was, throw any obstacle in the way of their success on this technical ground? These are questions difficult to answer. As the gentlemen, I believe, belonged to different political parties, possibly political

rivalry had something to do with it. At this distance from the time of the occurrence, however, I do not wish to express a very decided opinion in the case, but am willing to leave it as finally adjusted in the report of a committee of the Trustees in 1820, which I here transfer to my pages :

“In the meeting held in Brunswick, in 1818, after having agreed to petition the Legislature of Massachusetts for aid to the Maine Literary and Theological Institution, it was understood by members present, in case the application to the said Legislature should be unsuccessful at the Spring session, that, before the Winter session next ensuing, a Circular Petition should be got up and distributed among the Baptist Churches throughout the State, to obtain the signature of their members and others, in concurrence with the petition of the Board. That, in pursuance of this understanding, several copies of a Circular Petition were presented to the Board at their meeting at Waterville in August, 1818, at which time the said petition passed under discussion, and as but one gentleman manifested any objection to their acceptance and distribution, it was tacitly understood that they were accepted, and were in consequence distributed by members of the Board and others to whose charge they were committed. All this being the result of conference and what was supposed to be matter of mutual understanding, and not of formal resolve, was not *recorded*. This circumstance, in the opinion of your committee, has given rise to different and conflicting views between two distinguished members of the Board. On the one hand, Governor King, embracing what he conceived to be the understanding of the Board, affirmed that the said Circulars did originate and circulate by their consent and authority; while on the other part, General Richardson, governing himself, it is conceived, by what appeared on the Records of the Board, said the Circulars were gotten up and circulated without their knowledge or consent.”

Leaving now this point, I may pass by a natural transition to say a few words in regard to what the State has done towards the endowment of the Institution. Bowdoin College having been liberally aided by the State—having received eight townships of land and eighteen thousand dollars in money from Massachusetts, and in all some fifty-

four thousand dollars, besides considerable land, from this State—it was natural for this Institution to expect similar liberality. But in this it was destined to be disappointed. Our Institution, as we have seen, received a single township of land from Massachusetts, and a few years ago it received two half townships of land from this State. Besides this, for the first seven years after it was chartered as a college, the State granted it an annuity of one thousand dollars a year, and subsequently other annuities—making in all, fourteen thousand five hundred dollars. This is the sum of the benefactions of the State. But, in the mean time, private individuals have come to its rescue, and by the favor of a kind Providence, generous friends have of late been raised up who have supplied it with a fund which has every prospect of being permanent.

And, as pertinent to this question of endowment, I may here add, that the Institution has never courted popular favor by popular arts. Had it, it might, perhaps, have secured a larger patronage and larger contributions to its funds. From the beginning it has studiously eschewed all claptrap and frowned upon all shams. It has aimed to give a solid rather than a showy education. Its general tone upon this subject has always been high and conservative—favoring sound knowledge and sound morals, strenuously endeavoring to keep up the standard instead of depressing it. In this it has faithfully reflected the character of its Faculty of instruction, who, from the earliest times, have been men of high character and sound attainments, disdain- ing to stoop to any low arts. As a consequence, the influence of the Institution has always been wholesome and elevating. It has educated many able teachers and professional men, who have contributed largely to the elevation of the public intelligence, virtue and respectability, not only of our own, but of other States.

And now, looking back over the history of the Institution for these fifty years, while its public servants generally seem to have been faithful and efficient, there are a few who seem to me to deserve especial mention, on account of the importance of the service which they rendered the college. I shall speak only of the dead—let another generation speak of those still living.

And I name first in this list, as being not only first in order, but in importance, also, the Rev. Doctor Chaplin, the first President of the college. The work before him was great and arduous, for which, however, by his talents, his attainments, and above all, by his steadiness of purpose, he was admirably fitted. To start a college in a new State, such as Maine was then, and especially a college without an endowment, as this was, is no slight task. In such a community, there is neither the proper appreciation of a college education, nor the men to educate in any considerable numbers, nor the means to pay for such an education. These indispensable conditions of success have all to be created. And few are aware of the self-denial, the patience, and the persistence required in such a case, in order to sustain a college during its novitiate. These qualities seem to have been possessed in an eminent degree by Dr. Chaplin. With a singular indifference to everything like ease or worldly aggrandizement, he pursued his purpose with a calm persistence, which never faltered nor flagged amidst the most formidable difficulties. During all the thirteen years of his connection with the college, it was the subject of his labors and his prayers by night and by day, in term time and in vacation. How often do we find on the records of the Trustees votes like the following: "Voted that the President be an agent for procuring funds for the college during the ensuing vacation." And in obedience to such votes, he went forth into all parts of this and

the neighboring States, awakening an interest, and gathering up contributions and students for the college. By his disinterested and abounding labors for the college, Dr. Chaplin established a claim for the lasting remembrance and gratitude of all its friends. *

There are several Trustees, also, who deserve to be mentioned on account of their distinguished service to the college. Honorable mention has already been made of Doctors Baldwin and Bolles, and the Rev. Daniel Merrill. This latter gentleman, as we have seen, was one of the original corporators of the Institution, and he remained a Trustee through all its vicissitudes till the year 1833, the sixty-eighth year of his age. During all this period he was rarely absent from any meeting of the Board, and always active and efficient when present. Besides raising the funds for the Manual Labor Department, already referred to, he was frequently engaged in raising funds for the general purposes of the Institution, and generally with good success. On the whole, perhaps there was no more useful Trustee on the Board.

There is one other name which I cannot refrain from mentioning here, although not found in the list of the Trustees after the Institution became a college—that of the Rev. William Bachelder. Mr. Bachelder became a member of the Board in January, 1817, and entered at once, with his characteristic ardor, into all their counsels and labors. Though at this time Pastor of the Baptist Church in Haverhill, Mass., he had formerly been Pastor of the Church in Berwick, and had preached with wonderful effect in all the western part of this State and the borders of New Hampshire. He immediately entered this field, therefore, for the college, and in the Winter of 1818, while

* See Note C.

traversing it for this purpose, took a severe cold, from the effects of which he died the following Spring. Mr. Bachelder was a man of fine genius, and of a remarkably sanctified and winning Christian character. His loss was severely felt, and the Trustees showed their sense of it by an appreciative letter of condolence to his widow.

Of the lay members of the Board, among many excellent men, I may be allowed to name one as preëminent for his valuable services to the college—the Hon. Timothy Boutelle. Mr. Boutelle became a member of the Board in 1818, the very year that the Institution went into operation, and before it had become a college, and was immediately elected Treasurer, that office being vacant by the resignation of Ebenezer Delano the year before. Mr. Boutelle retained the office of Treasurer, performing its duties gratuitously, till the annual Commencement in 1830. On his resignation of the office, the Trustees showed their appreciation of his services by the following vote: “Voted, that “the Trustees of this college entertain a high sense of the “accurate, prompt, gratuitous, and very valuable services of “the Hon. Timothy Boutelle as Treasurer of this College, “and that the thanks of this Board be presented to him for “such services.” Mr. Boutelle retained his seat in the Board till his death, in 1855. During these many years, living as he did in Waterville, and being an able lawyer, and a rapid and accurate business man, he was constantly consulted by the Faculty and agents of the college, and performed a vast amount of labor for it. He showed himself a true friend of the Institution to the end, ever ready to aid it, not only by his counsels, but by his contributions, in all its times of need.

Thus much concerning the history of the college which has already transpired. Its future history I shall not presume to predict. We have reason, however, to hope, that

having struggled up to its present position through many difficulties, and having now become respectable on account of its age and means, its future course will be more assured and progressive than it has been in the past. This, however, will depend very much upon its management, both internal and external. Perhaps we may say now, at the end of fifty years, that the college is fairly founded. It has funds enough—which it never had before—to sustain it on its present scale of operations, without drawing upon the principal. And being self-sustaining, it has the appearance of permanence. We want, however, not only permanence, but progress. To stand still in such an age and country as this, is tantamount to going backwards. Everything else is moving, and unless we move we must fall behind. Just here has been our fault heretofore. Previously to our recent movement, no improvements whatever had been made upon the premises, no additional teachers had been employed, and no considerable additions had been made to the Library or apparatus of the Institution, for about thirty years. In the mean time, other Institutions were making improvements, and leaving us behind. Nay, this want of stir seemed to imply that we had gone to sleep, or were about giving up the ghost. Hence we lost something of our prestige and patronage, which we have not yet been able fully to recover. But I am confident that it will return in due time, if we continue to make improvements as we have for a few years past. Of all things, stagnation is the most to be dreaded in a college. Being buoyant and hopeful, the young like to see things moving around them.

If, then, gentlemen, Trustees, Alumni, and other friends, you would have the college prosper, give us the means of making improvements every year. Do not imagine that you have nothing more to do for it. While you see that those

who have the management of its internal affairs do their duty, ever be ready to do yours. Answer all its reasonable calls with a cheerful heart and a ready hand. Take pains to direct students hither. Rally around the college, and make it an honor to yourselves and the State. We bear the name of a University, and it is in your power to make the Institution such in reality. We need immediately an additional building for a Cabinet and Laboratory.* We ought, also, to have a foundation for a Scientific Department. There is a growing demand for instruction in the application of the sciences to the various arts of life. Who will lead off in establishing such a foundation? I know of no greater service which one could do the Institution, than to found two or three Professorships in the practical sciences. This would form a nucleus which would soon be developed into a highly useful and popular department.

Standing now, as we do, at the middle point of the first century of the existence of the Institution, whether we look backward or forward, have we not reason to thank God and take courage? The College has been useful, the University, I have no doubt, is destined to a still higher usefulness. The foundations are already laid, and well laid, and the superstructure, I am confident, will gradually rise in fitting beauty and proportions. It will have a history to be recounted, I have no doubt, at the close of another half century. And as the centuries roll on, chapter after chapter will have to be added to this history, till some future generation, looking back over its whole course, and estimating the influence which has gone forth from it to bless the world, will come to realize, if we do not now, how great a boon to a community is a Christian institution of learning, estab-

* See Note D.

lished and sustained and nurtured up to a high purpose, by the prayers, the labors and the contributions of the wise and the good.

NOTES.

(A.)

PROFESSOR CHAPLIN'S ACCEPTANCE OF HIS OFFICE.

On the first application of the committee appointed to inform Professor Chaplin of his election to the Chair of Theology, he declined quite decidedly. Among the reasons which he assigned for so doing was "ill health," one effect of which, as he states, was, that "it frequently occasioned a *lowness of spirits*, which rendered him unfit for such a position." This answer was given on the 30th of March. But the subject does not seem to have been wholly dismissed from his mind. Accordingly, on a further representation of the case to him by the committee, we find him, April 10th, inclined to recall his recent decision, and rehearsing to them some very remarkable exercises which he had had on the subject. "My mind," says he, "the last evening, was impressed in a manner unusually solemn. I retired to my chamber burdened with anxiety respecting the part I had acted in relation to Waterville. I tried to unbosom my soul to God. He was, I trust, graciously pleased to draw near to me, unworthy as I am, and commune with me at his mercy seat. My soul was melted in me. I became sensible that my feelings had, some of them, been wrong, very wrong, in regard to my removal from this place; that I had been distrustful of the Lord, and had exalted my own will in opposition to his. I seemed to feel a powerful, and I may add, irresistible influence upon my mind, humbling me in the dust before him, and making me willing to go whithersoever he should be pleased to send me. I now gave up myself, body and soul, to him, to be wholly at his disposal. And I was so far from being unwilling to comply with your request, that it appeared to me most desirable to do so. I felt my heart drawn towards your part of the country, and entreated the Lord to grant me that as a privilege, which, a little time since, I considered as a most painful trial."

And at his final acceptance of the office, he writes: "The undertaking I have before me looks great and difficult. I still feel myself very inadequate to it. But I am willing to make an experiment, and hope that, with the assistance of my brethren and the blessing of God, I shall be able to do something for the advancement of his cause and glory. Let it be your daily prayer, that his presence and favor may continually attend me."

The above extracts are from a file of letters furnished me by the Rev. Thomas B. Ripley, of Portland, who was a member of the committee that conducted the correspondence with Prof. Chaplin. They are so characteristic of the man, that they seemed to me worth preserving.

(B.)

MR. BARNES, FIRST PRESIDENT ELECT.

BORN in Canaan, Columbia County, New York, and educated at Union College, where he graduated with honor in 1809, Mr. Barnes was successively Principal of the Academy at Poughkeepsie, Master of the Classical School connected with Union College, and afterwards of an English and Classical School, of his own establishing, in the city of New York, and finally Associate Principal of the Boys' High School, of the same city. In all these positions he exhibited the same remarkable tact in the management of the young, and in drawing out and informing their minds. He was, indeed, one of the foremost teachers of his day, as well as a preacher of no inconsiderable note. While he was a fine classical scholar, the Natural Sciences were his favorite studies, in which he greatly excelled, being a frequent and highly-valued contributor to the earlier numbers of *Silliman's Journal*. But he was cut off in the midst of his days, at the age of forty-two, by violence received from the running away of the horses attached to the stage coach in which he was going to attend the examination of the Rensselaer Polytechnic School, at Troy.

(C.)

DEATH OF DR CHAPLIN.

AFTER leaving the college, Dr. Chaplin resumed for a time the labors of a Pastor, serving successively, in this capacity, churches in Rowley, Mass., and Willington, Conn. He finally retired to Hamilton,

N. Y., where he died May 7th, 1841. On the meeting of the Trustees of the college in August of the same year, they adopted the following preamble and resolutions :

“Whereas a becoming respect for departed worth is a dictate alike
“of common humanity and Christian piety; and whereas the Rev. Jer-
“emiah Chaplin, D. D., who was President of this Institution from its
“origin till the year 1833, departed this life in May last, at Hamilton,
“N. Y.; therefore,

“*Resolved*, That the Board of Trustees of Waterville College enter-
“tain a grateful remembrance of the able, untiring, and successful labor
“of the late President Chaplin, and cordially tender our sympathies to
“his afflicted family in their present bereavement.

“*Resolved*, That the Rev. Dr. Kendrick, President of the Theological
“Institution at Hamilton, N. Y., be requested to deliver a eulogy on
“the late President Chaplin, at Waterville, at the time of the next
“annual Commencement.

“*Resolved*, That the Rev. A. Drinkwater, Prof. Keely, and our late
“Prof. C. Newton, be a committee to devise some monumental memorial
“of Dr. Chaplin at Waterville.”

Dr. Kendrick not being able to deliver the eulogy provided for by the second of the above resolutions, it was delivered by the Rev. R. E. Pattison, D. D., at the annual Commencement in 1843, and published by vote of the Trustees.

In consequence of the third resolution, there was put up in the old chapel, in 1842, a Memorial Tablet, which has been transferred to the walls of the new chapel in the Memorial Hall. The slab is of dark marble, containing the following inscription, cut and gilded in the stone :

JEREMIAE CHAPLIN. S. T. D.
HVIJSCE ACAD. AVCTORI ET ANN. XI. PRÆSES
VIRO ACERR. INGENII PRISC. FIDEI ET SANCTIT.
VERECVNDIÆQ. CHRIST. IN PROFANIS ACCVRATE
IN SACRIS MIRIFICE VERSATO. P. SOC.
A. MDCCCXLIII.

(D.)

PROVISION FOR A CABINET AND LABORATORY BUILDING.

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees, the morning after the delivery of this Address, ample provision was made for the erection of

a Cabinet and Laboratory, as well as for other improvements, by the subscription of \$10,000 each by four members of the Board, viz.: Wm. E. Wording, Gardner Colby, J. Warren Merrill, and Abner Coburn. This subscription was carried to \$45,000 by other pledges made the same day, and is ultimately to be carried to \$50,000. Of this sum, \$25,000 is to be devoted to putting up the new building, which will probably be placed at the north end of the college campus, and be constructed of the same material as the Memorial Hall.