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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
HON. PHILO. WHITE.

THOS. H. WHITE.



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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

BY E. A. CALKINS,

SENIOR EDITOR OF THE MILWAUKEE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, AND HONORARY MEMBER OF THE
WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The following biographical sketch of Hon. PHILO WHITE, a prominent early settler in Wisconsin, conspicuous also in the general politics and public service of the country, was prepared for the columns of the Milwaukee SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, by one of its editors, from facts and data which he procured relating to the subject, and was published in that paper of April 18, 1880. The writer of the sketch, regarding it as a collection of matters of pioneer history, and of events of general interest worth being placed in a form more convenient for preservation than the files of a newspaper, has caused the present re-print to be made, with some facts and references of interest not contained in the previous publication.

A marked character in early Wisconsin history was Gen. PHILO WHITE, a pioneer, legislator, journalist and diplomatist, a useful and eminent citizen, an honest man in every fiber of his composition, with some peculiarities of mind and will, which render his character an interesting study. He is still living at a ripe age, active in his daily pursuits, a resident of Whites-town, N. Y., his native place, in the full enjoyment of all his various faculties, and taking a lively interest, as is shown by recent correspondence, in Wisconsin affairs. A sketch of his life, we are sure, will be of interest to every reader of THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, in the columns of which has appeared so many entertaining chapters of the personal pioneer history of Wisconsin.

PHILO WHITE was born at Whitestown, N. Y., and educated partly at Whitesboro, and partly at the preparatory department of Montreal College, Canada, and in the then Utica Seminary, where he was prepared for college. He did not graduate, how-

ever, but entered instead the office of the *Columbian Gazette*, at Utica, of which his former preceptor was one of the publishers, in which he remained as learner and contributor three or four years. A newspaper venture at Manlius, N. Y., afterwards engaged his attention, but he held his interest in the establishment but a short time, as the ultimate success of a newspaper establishment at that point was not sufficiently inviting to tempt him permanently to settle there. He then went to Washington, and from thence to Salisbury, N. C., where he and another enterprising young gentleman established the *Western Carolinian* newspaper. He subsequently purchased his partner's interest, and continued this publication, until 1830. In 1822, he married a daughter of Wm. Hampton, of Salisbury, and during his residence there held many important local offices, including that of Justice of the peace, chairman of the "Justices of the Quorum" constituting the county court of pleas and quarter sessions, and mayor of the municipality. He also held various positions in the militia, and was at one time nominated for the legislature, but declined.

In 1830, Mr. White's health became impaired, and a sea voyage being recommended, influential friends procured for him an appointment as United States navy agent, on the Pacific coast. The office included the duties of naval storekeeper and purchasing agent for the government vessels on the Pacific ocean, which had previously been discharged by agents at two stations, Valparaiso, in Chili, and Lima, in Peru. The new appointee proceeded to this distant field of official labor, *via* Cape Horn, in the fall of 1830. He remained on that coast four years, fulfilling his various and important duties with intelligence, zeal and integrity. He resigned in 1834, and returned to his then home in Salisbury.

In the same year Mr. White removed to Raleigh, N. C., and established a newspaper called the *North Carolina Standard*, and was elected state printer by the legislature at its next session. As a journalist and state official, he was a busy man, indeed, for the few following years, writing numerous able and trenchant articles for the columns of his paper, which acquired a wide circulation and a commanding influence, and preparing and publishing vast quantities of political campaign literature, which he scattered throughout the state.

The business demands of his position as public printer, were also exacting, and entailed incessant labor, care and anxiety, which lasted until the spirited and turbulent presidential campaign of 1836. It was doubtless greatly due to the political industry and effective management of Mr. White that the state of North Carolina, which had before been whig in politics, was revolutionized, and gave a democratic majority in that year; and he was appointed by the college of electors to carry its elec-

toral vote to Washington. The constant toil and mental excitement involved in this career, had again impaired Mr. White's health, and he determined during this year to dispose of his newspaper and other interests in North Carolina, and to remove to the Northwest. In accordance with this determination, he sold the journal which he had established, and launched on a new and pioneer enterprise, and, in May, 1836, visited Milwaukee, and purchased real estate both at this place and Racine. Wisconsin was then a part of Michigan, and a separate territorial government was not formed until the 4th of July following. Mr. White remained here during the season, taking an active part in public affairs, and in the labors of those who were founding the new territorial government, and placing in operation the business, educational and moral systems upon which a future great state was to rest. He was an occasional writer for the Milwaukee *Advertiser*, published by D. H. Richards, (our "uncle Daniel," whose death a few years since was so sincerely lamented,) on the West side, or "Kilbourntown," as it was then called.

Mr. White was, in a certain sense, the founder of the Milwaukee *Sentinel*. During the time he spent here in the summer of 1836, he saw, as a newspaper man naturally would, the advantages which the West side was gaining by having a publication in which its attractions were advertised. At that period, a controlling interest in West side property was held by Byron Kilbourn, called in frontier slang, "Lord Byron." The largest property owner on the East side was Solomon Juneau, known as "King Solomon." Mr. White suggested to Mr. Juneau the importance of a newspaper which should advocate the superiority of the East side over the other sections of the city, and Mr. Juneau adopted his views on the subject. Mr. White then returned to North Carolina to close his business affairs there, and the following spring, (1837,) he came again to Milwaukee. While in New York, on his way to the West, he purchased, by Mr. Juneau's authority, the materials and outfit of the *Sentinel*, and employed John O'Rourke to come West with them. He was also induced by Juneau, on his return to Milwaukee, to assume the management of the new paper, with O'Rourke and J. W. Chubbuck as printers. Mr. White continued to edit the paper until the fall of that year, when he was appointed naval disbursing agent for the New York station. He was then succeeded by Harrison Reed in the editorship of the newspaper in question.

Among Mr. White's purchases of property in Milwaukee, was a tract 120 feet front, on East Water street, at the corner of Huron. On this site he subsequently erected the United States hotel block, the most imposing building at the time in the city, and making that a busy locality. In fact, that was,

at the time, and for many years afterwards, so long as the lake steamers landed at the old pier at the foot of Huron Street, substantially the center of travel and business, and real estate in the neighborhood was held at a higher valuation than in any other location. The late J. H. Rogers was associated with Mr. White in the erection of this building, and it was afterwards sold to Ira Couch, and was destroyed by fire in 1854. Mr. White's official duties called him away from his home in Milwaukee, a large portion of the time from the period when he first made it his residence till 1844, when he removed with his family to Racine, where he owned property interests, and he remained a permanent resident of that place as long as he continued to be a citizen of the State. He there purchased of the late Marshall M. Strong the materials of the *Racine Advocate*, and resumed his original profession of journalism. He also owned three or four farms in the vicinity of Racine, the culture and care of which occupied a large portion of his time and attention. Though not a practical farmer, Mr. White acquired a valuable experience in farm management, which he embodied in a profound and able dissertation on agricultural subjects, at the request of the State Agricultural Society, for its volume of publications in 1851.

In 1846, Mr. White was elected a member of the territorial council, (the upper house of the territorial legislature,) and he served in that body at the sessions of 1847 and 1848. His colleague in the council was the late Fred. S. Lovell, and that county (Racine) then included the territory of the present county of Kenosha, and it was the largest, most important and populous county in the state, having two lake ports, and the most thickly settled agricultural neighborhoods in the state. This is apparent from the fact that Racine was the only county in the state having two representatives in the council.

Mr. White was also elected, in 1848, after the admission of the State, a member of the State Senate, and served two sessions, a special and regular session, in that body.

While in the territorial legislature, Mr. White procured an act of incorporation for Racine as a *village*. The powers of the proposed municipality were as ample as those usually conferred upon cities, but the ambition of the people was far from satisfied. Racine was then a rival of Milwaukee, and had a rival in Kenosha, and to accept any municipal designation short of that of *city*, was regarded as humiliating; and on its being submitted to a vote of the people, the *village* charter was rejected, although a committee of the same people had prepared the document, and sent it to Mr. White at Madison, with the unpopular word "village" in it. Subsequently, Mr. White being then a member of the senate, he drew up and passed through the legislature a city charter for Racine, which was accepted; and

under which, variously amended, that delightful place now exists as a municipal corporation.

In the State Senate Mr. White was chairman of the committee on education, schools and school lands, and the laws for the management of the school lands, and establishing the educational system of the state as they stand on the present statute book, to-day, are largely the fruit of his labors. He produced an elaborate report on the subject of popular education, in which the future policy of the state as to the maintenance of schools was outlined. The school laws which were enacted in pursuance of his recommendations, regulated the endowment of the state university, and provided for the local institutions of learning, as they now exist in all parts of the state.

A generation which regards railroads as a necessity of civilization, and which can hardly imagine how mankind lived without them, can hardly appreciate the advantages which *plank roads* then possessed over the common roads of the new country in which they were laid. But the early settlers knew their value, as they made impassable ways passable, opened feasible routes to the lake shore ports and business points, enabled teams with but little effort to draw the heaviest loads at all seasons of the year, and added to the price of every product of the soil, by cheapening and facilitating its transportation to market. During Mr. White's term in the senate, as chairman of a special committee appointed on the matter of plank roads, he made an exhaustive report on the subject in all its aspects, theoretical and practical, displaying an amount of study and knowledge in that direction in the highest degree admirable. It was a remarkable legislative paper, of as much importance relating to plank roads as any report or scientific work in relation to railroads in our day. He explained the whole system, its cost, its adaptation to new countries, its management and advantages. Plank roads were immediately projected in all directions, and many were built which fully realized as a fact all the benefits to the public at large which he had described as a theory. But for the revolution in the modes of travel and transportation, which railroads caused immediately afterward, connecting the interior with the lake shore cities, and superseding the use of plank roads, his thoughtful and masterly discussion of the subject would have been regarded of as much importance as any practical authority on the subject of highway engineering.

In the legislature Mr. White's course was marked by advocacy of the strictest economy in public expenditure, and of careful and thorough plans of legislation, as well as by the utmost purity, fidelity and zeal in the discharge of legislative duty. In the territorial legislature he opposed with uncommon energy the divorce acts which were passed nullifying nuptial

contracts, as he deemed them vicious, immoral, and violative of the divine sacrament of marriage.

Mr. White was one of the founders of Racine College, having been one of the first to agitate the establishment of an institution of learning under the care of the Episcopal Church, and he was one of the committee of three by whom its plan was proposed and its present location adopted. He was also among the many liberal contributors to the fund necessary to erect college buildings, and for the early support of the institution. He has ever since been one of the most devoted, zealous and generous friends that Racine College has possessed in the long list of its patrons, supporters and donors.

Mr. White was closely identified with the Wisconsin militia system, in which he gained his military title, by appointment and by real service, not in the field, but in its organization as an active available force under the militia laws. The militia law of the state was passed in 1850. Gov. Dodge, in the early history of the territory had organized an efficient militia system, which had fallen into disuse, however, under his unmilitary successors. Gov. Dewey desired to secure a similar degree of efficiency in the militia under the newly enacted state law, and with that view, desired to select a class of zealous and energetic citizens as militia officers. Among these appointments was Mr. White, who made a thorough enrollment of the persons within the limits of his command liable to do military duty, appointed a staff on which Jas. R. Doolittle was judge advocate and Dr. P. R. Hoy was surgeon, and all his regiments and companies were fully organized and officered, forming a militia force of 7,616 rank and file, in the counties of Racine, Kenosha and Walworth, which constituted the second brigade of the first division of the state militia. This is undoubtedly the closest and most faithful enrollment of militia ever made in the state.

Gen. White was appointed and served as Consul General of the United States at the "Free Hanseatic" Cities of Hamburg, Lubeck, and Altona, in the years 1849 and 1850, during the troublous times of the first Schleswick-Holstein war. He was clothed with diplomatic powers, (those Free Cities not being then within the jurisdiction of any full grade "Minister" of the United States in Europe.) Very responsible duties devolved upon Gen. White in protecting American citizens and American commerce in those commercially "Free Ports" pending that anomalous "war," the illy concealed purpose of which was the governmental absorption by Prussia of Holstein, and portions of Schleswick. His correspondence consequently involved complex questions of international law, requiring laborious research and firmness of purpose. As an illustration: On the 4th of July, 1849, Consul White invited some fifteen or twenty young Americans temporarily there, together with the supercargoes

and captains of vessels in port, to join him at the consulate in celebrating the anniversary of the natal day of American independence. On the pretense of rebellious indications by Germans in Hamburg, 10,000 Prussian troops had been suddenly sent down there by rail from Berlin, who proclaimed martial law in Hamburg! All extraneous display of flags, including the American, was prohibited! This arbitrary measure drew from Consul White a peremptory protest, and an energetic and effective correspondence; which eventuated in placing the three national flags, (American, Hamburg, and Prussian,) side by side on the lofty flagstaff of the magnificent "Hotel de l'Europe," in which edifice the American consulate was located, the "Star Spangled Banner" in the *center*, where it continued to wave, in the faces of the belligerent Prussian troops, during the entire length of that consecrated day so dear to American patriotism.

In 1852 Gen. White was chosen on the democratic ticket one of the presidential electors for Wisconsin, and at the meeting of the state electoral college at Madison, to cast the presidential vote of the state, he was made president of that body, and delivered an instructive and eloquent address suitable for the occasion.

In 1853, Gen. White was appointed by President Pierce, United States Minister to Ecuador, in South America, and in the autumn of that year he went with his family to Quito, the scene of his diplomatic duties. It was in regard to this appointment that the late Isaac Woodle remarked, that "the president had conferred on Gen. White the *highest* office in his gift," the literal truth of which is indicated in the geographical fact that Quito is situated in the Andes, some two miles up, in a magnificent valley of those peerless mountains. In a recent pleasant, gossiping letter, in reply to an inquiry on this subject, Gen. White writes: "The first time I saw in print the *bon mot* you cite, as applicable to my case, was in a New York daily, after my arrival in Quito, the central plaza of which city really is some 10,000 feet above the level of the sea, an altitude said to exceed that of any other seat of a national government on earth; so that, based on the science of mensuration, my appointment was in fact the *highest* in the gift of the government! But, anterior to my being commissioned, Governor Marey, (the secretary of state at the time) inquired of me which city in the Andes I thought would be the most desirable to reside in, Chuquisaca, (the capital of Bolivia) or Quito, (the capital of Ecuador?) I unhesitatingly gave Quito the preference; whereupon he rejoined, with a twinkle in his eyes, 'I see you go in for the *highest* place!' And as I eventually got my choice, I felt flattered at the governor's jocular humor!"

Gen. White applied himself to the duties of his diplomatic office with characteristic assiduity and earnestness. He receiv-

ed immediately on reaching Quito, rigid instruction from Secretary Marcy, to close up the numerous pending claims of American citizens against the government of Ecuador, some of which had been in dispute for as much as thirty years. He immediately applied himself to mastering the details of the voluminous transactions in which the claims had arisen, in procuring evidence as to their validity, in the study of international law applicable to the respective cases, as well as to almost interminable discussions, written and oral, with the officers of the Ecuadorian government, and to the thwarting of their attempts to baffle and defeat the allowance of those claims, so characteristic of the proverbial procrastination of Spanish authorities in dealing with troublesome or unpleasant national questions. During the five years which he served in this mission, he rendered more service to American citizens than the whole sum of labor performed by his predecessors during a generation; and he left every claim, founded in justice, fairly docketed and proved, some settled, and others in process of settlement. He returned from his prolonged residence abroad in 1858; being recalled at his own request, leaving behind a record of laborious usefulness in office and the respect and affection of the people, officers and diplomatic representatives of other nations with whom he had been associated. Unusual formalities were awarded him by the Quito government, to express the national regret at the termination of his mission.

Upon Gen. White's return to the United States in 1858, he did not resume his residence in Wisconsin, but settled with his family at his native place, Whitestown, where he still resides.

Gen. White was last in Wisconsin in 1862, when, at the request of the authorities of Racine College, he delivered an address at the College commencement of that year. He was cordially and feelingly greeted by his old acquaintances and friends, and his address, which related largely to his travels and observations in South America, was interesting and instructive in the highest degree.

In one direction of cotemporary thought, Gen. White has recently presented to the public a valuable contribution. In the interest of the church organization of which he is an active and honored member, and as chairman of one of its committees, he prepared a report, forming a bulky pamphlet on the subject of the taxation of the property of charitable and religious institutions. It is a full compilation of American laws and usages on this subject, and a compendium of the arguments relating to it more complete than can be elsewhere found, and it furnishes to those interested a convenient manual for reference as to facts and opinions, which will be found to be extremely valuable.

A striking instance of Gen. White's generosity and public spirit is of somewhat recent occurrence. The original plat of ground donated by the pioneer patriarch of that region, Hugh White, Sr., to Oneida county, as a site for a court-house and a public green, reverted, with the old court-house upon it, to his heirs, on the removal of the county seat to Utica. Gen. Philo White, as one of those heirs, bought the interest of his co-heirs in the reverted estate, and donated the whole, court-house and all, to the town of Whitestown, for a town hall and village park. The citizens have appropriately commemorated the event, by placing a superb life-size oil portrait of Gen. White in the main Hall of the edifice.

Gen. White, among his different experiences, has seen active military service. In 1814, when quite a lad, he was with the force called out for the defense of Sacketts Harbor, and served through the brief campaign in that locality, for which he receives a pension from government, of significance to him far beyond its amount, as a recognition of the youthful valor and devotion which he displayed in a time of public peril, and as a souvenir of the varied service he has rendered to the country.

In 1877 Gen. White took an active part in the celebration of the one hundredth-anniversary of the battle of Oriskany, and, as one of the officers of the occasion, delivered an appropriate and patriotic address, in the course of which he reminded his neighbors and fellow-citizens of Whitestown, that it was *their* natal soil which had been honored and enriched by the blood of those who fell in that memorable battle. The proceedings of this celebration were embodied in an attractive volume printed by the legislature, containing the proceedings of the three centennial celebrations of Oriskany, (in the town of Whitestown,) Saratoga, and Bemis' Heights, in Saratoga county.

It will be gratifying to the very many friends of Gen. White to know, that in the evening of his long and well-spent life he retains his constant habits of industry, study, and zeal in public affairs; that neither his mental nor bodily vigor is materially impaired, that he walks without a cane, and with something of the elastic step and sprightliness of his early years. His cheerfulness and equanimity of disposition constitute, as they did when he was a citizen of Wisconsin, an excellent trait of his character. His later life has been clouded by but one shadow, the loss of his dearly beloved and most highly honored wife, which occurred about two years ago. They had lived together in domestic felicity for over fifty years, and she had been his companion and walked by his side through all his varied and distinguished career, modest, irreproachable, and supremely womanly, and the rupture of such ties was, to human apprehension, well nigh insupportable. But a cultured Christian philosophy, and a delightful trust in the graciousness of Providence, have softened

the grief and mitigated the desolation created by the calamitous event; and amid his books, in active charities, in arduous labor for others, and in reasonable devotion, he is rounding out the measure of his life, and completing his days in usefulness and honor.

The interests of his town, his neighborhood, his church, he is constantly seeking to promote. One of his latest labors was a study into the title of a burial place in his native town, which had become somewhat complicated, and his exposition of which is a remarkable work, to which an instructive feature is added in a historical sketch of ancient and modern cemeteries in general. He has a competence, and his generous benefactions are his monuments in every clime to which his official duties have called him. In recent correspondence, he has made frequent mention of his friends and acquaintances in this state, and he cherishes a tenacious regard for Wisconsin and its institutions.

Gen. White is of medium height (5 feet 7 inches,) and slight build; is remarkably active in his habits: his conversation is somewhat rapid, but gracefully intoned, clear in the current of thought, lively in style, and enriched by an infinite fund of illustration, personal recollection, varied and accurate observation, and almost universal reading. His familiarity with public men and events during the last sixty years, renders him a most entertaining and instructive companion; while the goodness of his heart and the benevolence of his nature, are the gentle attributes which beautify his life-long career. His zeal and integrity in the public service, his respectable attainments in literature, and the tireless industry with which the labors of his hands and his brain have fostered and aided the varied industries of life, are crowning virtues of his lengthened years of toil and study.

APPENDIX.

DIocese of WISCONSIN.

At the annual session of the Diocesan Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Wisconsin, in 1855, the following letter from Gen. Philo White, Minister Resident of the United States at Quito, Ecuador, was read by the Secretary:

QUITO, (Ecuador,) 18th April, 1855.

To the Diocesan Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Wisconsin:

Cherishing a deep reverence for the character and services of our venerable and beloved Diocesan, the Right Reverend Bishop KEMPER, and knowing that he has been subjected to an amount of labor in the holy office to which his life has been dedicated, more extended and more arduous, perhaps, than has been performed by any of his compeers in the Church, which, coupled with increasing years, and a consequent decrease of his powers of endurance, demand of those who have profited by his devoted ministrations, an effort to relieve him of a portion at least of those labors, I feel it incumbent on me, as an humble communicant of the Church within his Episcopate, to contribute my mite toward replenishing the Diocesan Fund. Accordingly, I send herewith an order on my agent in Racine for *One Hundred Dollars*. And I trust that the Fund will receive such accessions from other sources as will speedily swell it to an amount adequate to meet the temporal wants of our Bishop, without resort to a Missionary stipend, and thus enable our Church to avail itself of his entire Episcopal services within the Diocese.

With sentiments of sincere esteem,

I am your Brother in Christian fellowship,

PHILO WHITE.

On motion it was *Resolved*. That the thanks of this Convention be presented to Gen. White, for his welcome donation to the Episcopal Fund.

On motion, Gen. Philo White, Benj. McVickar, M. D., Isaac J. Ullmann, Esq., Marshall M. Strong, Esq., and Joseph S. Colt, Esq., were elected Trustees of the Episcopal Fund, under the act of incorporation.

[From the *(New York) Church Journal*.]

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

Messrs. Editors: I have just received a kind and interesting letter from Bishop Kemper, from which I make the following extract, with the hope that others will be incited to follow the example of the absent donor. The Bishop writes thus: "I have a letter from the Hon. Philo White, Minister resident of the United States for the Republic of Ecuador, dated at Quito, 23d April, 1856, from which I copy the following:

"As an earnest of my approval of the beneficent purposes of the Western Church Extension Society, I must ask your acceptance, in behalf of that Society, of a Bounty Land Warrant for forty acres, awarded to me for juvenile militia services in defense of my country, rendered at a period of great peril, while the armies of a powerful enemy were menacing all our frontiers."

This Christian gentleman, while away from his home and country, does not forget his Church. Mr. White has also sent home, from time to time,

\$100 for the Episcopal Fund of the Diocese of Wisconsin, \$100 for the Theological Institution at Nashotah. \$100 for enlarging St. Luke's Church at Racine. \$300 towards purchasing a parsonage for the Rector of St. Luke's Church, Racine, and \$600 for endowing "Racine College," in the vicinity of the city of Racine.

Alas! how many of our citizens, while abroad, if they do not forget their country, neglect the claims of the Gospel and the church, spending large sums on follies, while the cause of Christ languishes in all our borders at home.—*New York, May, 1856.*

[*From the Racine (Wisconsin) Journal.*]

At a meeting of the Vestry of St. Luke's Church, held on Saturday evening, on the 19th ult., the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, the Hon. Philo White, formely a member of St. Luke's Parish, Racine, Wisconsin, but now a resident of Whitestown, New York, has generously presented the sum of \$300 on behalf of himself and wife, for the purchase of a Rectory for St. Luke's Parish: Now, therefore,

Resolved, That we, as officers of said Parish, hereby tender to the Hon. Philo White and his wife, our grateful thanks for the disinterested munificence, and our kindest wishes for their future welfare.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Board be directed to communicate to Hon. Philo White a copy of these resolutions.

The above is a merited expression of gratitude to Mr. White, who is distinguished for his liberality in behalf of every good object.

"NASHOTAH."

[*From the Racine (Wisconsin) Journal.*]

We are permitted to publish the following correspondence, which evinces a warm and pervading interest in the continued prosperity of that noble "enterprise of faith," the "Nashotah Mission."

NASHOTAH MISSION, Wis., April 15.

HON. PHILO WHITE—*Dear Sir*: In my next acknowledgment in the *Gospel Messenger*, I intend to acknowledge seventy-five dollars from you. It may surprise you, and therefore I send the enclosed letter to explain the matter.

Please accept my best thanks for your warm interest in Nashotah, and for the many substantial benefits it has brought to this enterprise of faith.

Allow me to hand you, through the mail, two catalogues. * * * * *

Your ever grateful and ob't serv't,

A. D. COLE.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., April 6th.

To the Superintendent of the Nashotah Theological Seminary, Wisconsin:

DEAR SIR: A few years ago, while the Hon. Philo White was Minister Resident at Quito, Ecuador, I received the hospitalities of his house, and other kindnesses from him. I have been wishing to show my appreciation of this by some testimony, and cannot think of a better way than by the enclosed sum (seventy-five dollars) to your Institution, in which I know he has always taken an interest. Please, therefore, accept this money as if it were a contribution from him; while at the same time it may show my gratitude to him and Mrs. White for the many acts of kindness from them while under their roof. I wish the sum were larger, for this does not approximate

the amount of my obligations to them: but it is all in my power to send, consistently with other demands.

Very respectfully your friend,

GEORGE JONES *

RACINE COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT,

[*From the Racine, (Wis.) Journal, July, 1862,*]

Hon Philo White delivered a discourse on miscellaneous topics in the Chapel of the College, on Wednesday afternoon, before the Faculty and Corporation of the Institution, the students, distinguished strangers and an appreciative audience. The discourse was replete with valuable information culled from a life-time of investigation and observation.

The most interesting and novel portion of the address was drawn from the speaker's own experience and research while a U. S. Minister to Ecuador, in South America.

[*From the Milwaukee Sentinel, 1862.*]

We are in the receipt of a pamphlet, very neatly printed at the Racine Journal Office, entitled "PICHINCHA," being extracts from a discourse delivered in the Chapel of Racine College, during the week of commencement in July, by Philo White, Esq. Col. White, of Racine, is well known to the early settlers, as a man of prominence at home, and as having served the Government in many capacities, his latest position being that of Minister to Quito. "Pichincha" is the name of a volcano, near Quito, and the extracts in question refer to the phenomena to be met with in the crater of the volcano. There are also passages referring to pioneer incidents in Wisconsin; and altogether it makes an exceedingly readable pamphlet. The Colonel has our thanks for the copy forwarded, as well for its intrinsic merits, as for its "auld lang syne" reminiscences.

[*From the North Carolina Standard.*]

HON. PHILO WHITE. — We are glad to see in the city, on a visit to his old friends, this distinguished and worthy gentleman, late U. S. Minister to Ecuador. Mr. White appears to be in excellent health. Time touches him but lightly. The country contains no truer man than Philo White. The founder of this journal, the *North Carolina Standard*, it gives us peculiar satisfaction to know that it still breathes the spirit and expounds the principles which he infused into its first numbers.

**Note* — The Rev. George Jones is a clergyman of the Episcopal Church, and a Chaplain of the U. S. Navy, of many years standing. He was Chaplain and Astronomer to Commodore Perry's Naval Expedition and Diplomatic Embassy to Japan, the result of his Astronomical labors in that remote country filling the entire of one of the several large volumes published by the Government of the official account of that celebrated Expedition and Embassy. And he was engaged some five months in the "heart of the Andes" of Ecuador, at the time he speaks of above as being a guest of the United States Minister at the American Legation there, in making Astronomical observations in that elevated region, principally with regard to the *Zodiacal Light*. His elaborate researches into the phenomena of that department of Astronomy, have been approved and commended by the most eminent astronomers of both Europe and America, there having been an unqualified acquiescence in, and admiration of his theory and demonstrations, by the World's Scientific Congress which assembled at Montreal a few years since.

[From the *Raleigh (N. C.) Sentinel.*]

HON. PHILO WHITE.

We have read an interesting letter from this true friend of North Carolina, addressed to John C. Palmer, Esq., of this city. It was not intended for publication, nor did his friend mean that we should make public mention of the letter. After mentioning family and Church matters, the letter breathes a kindly feeling for the State and her people. We need say here, there are thousands in North Carolina who reciprocate the kindly feeling of Philo White, and are glad to know of his continued good health and prosperity. It is such men that make this world fit to live in.

[From the "Artesano," of Quito, Sept. 23, 1858.] *Translated for the Utica Evening Telegraph.*

Mr. Philo White, a true representative of liberty, of civilization, and the progressive principles which pervade the North American Union, has been relieved from the duties which devolved upon him as Minister Resident of the United States in Ecuador, by another gentleman of equal grade. And on his retirement, he leaves behind no element of discord nor cause of diplomatic scandal, as has unfortunately been the case with some of the other foreign diplomats accredited at this Capital; on the contrary, sentiments of profound regret pervade our community on his departure from among us—a regret proportioned alike to the probity of his character and the conservative principles he inculcated, as well as to the conciliatory course of policy he ever pursued, which was eminently pacific, republican, popular and social.

[From the *Carolina Watchman.*]

The Hon. Philo White and lady are stopping at Mr. Michael Brown's, in this place, at present. They have been in the vicinity, and here, visiting and receiving visits from old friends and acquaintances, for several weeks. We are pleased to see they are in excellent health and preservation.

The Salisbury band did them the honor of a serenade, a few evenings ago—selecting for the occasion that sweetest of pieces—"Home Sweet Home." We can well imagine the effect of this simple offering upon those who have just returned to their native land, after an absence of five years, spent in a far distant country. Doubtless it found its way to the heart, and awakened many a tender thought. Mr. White appeared in the portico, and in a few appropriate remarks thanked the band for the compliment they had paid himself and lady.

[From the *Salisbury (N. C.) Watchman.*]

A suitable and highly finished marble monument has been erected by the Honorable Philo White over the grave of his son-in-law, the late Governor Ellis, in Oak Grove Cemetery, of this city. With the exception of the pedestal, which is of granite, the monument is of fine white marble, very nicely polished. It is about eleven feet high, surmounted with a cross; and stands side by side with a simple shaft eight or nine feet high, erected by the late Governor, years ago, to the memory of his wife, Mary White, daughter of the Hon. Philo and Nancy R. White. Beautiful and lovely in their youth, these monuments, handsome and tasteful though they be, but poorly commemorate the persons and the lives of those whom they represent.

INSCRIPTION ON GOV. ELLIS' MONUMENT.

On the front panel of the "die:" In commemoration of the life and public services of John W. Ellis, who was born in Rowan county, N. C., Nov. 23, 1820, and died July 7th, 1861.

On the right side panel: Erected as an affectionate memento of the many virtues and noble attributes, of the late Governor John W. Ellis: By Mr. and Mrs. Philo White, and other relatives, 1874.

On the left side panel: Governor Ellis was educated at the University of North Carolina, and adopted the profession of law at his graduation. He was two years a member of the Legislature; nine years a Judge of the Supreme Courts; twice elected Governor, and died at the age of 41 years, while yet in office as Executive of the State.

On the reverse panel: "The memory of the just is blessed."

In these varied and responsible positions, as in all the relations of private life, he displayed a high order of talent, of moral worth, and of patriotic devotion to the best interests of his native State.

[From the *Utica (N. Y.) Observer.*]

The Hon. Philo White has just returned from North Carolina, greatly improved in health. It was a labor of love causing him to visit that State. There in his youth he found favor in the Lord in wedding a woman of rare virtues. More than half a century they enjoyed each other's wise counsels, and thus theirs was an attractive home. At the ripe age of 75 she was called to her eternal mansion; and wishing to sleep with her kindred, her honored husband fulfilled her request. At Salisbury her precious dust now reposes till the resurrection morn. Anew we tender to him our warmest sympathies in his loneliness.

WHITESBORO, 23d March, 1860.

Hon. Philo White, Dear Sir:

The undersigned beg leave to present to you a copy of the resolutions unanimously adopted at the annual town meeting of Whitestown, held in this village on the 6th day of March inst.

Allow us, dear sir, to take this occasion to express our deep and earnest appreciation of your noble donation to our Town and Village; and to assure you of our sincerest respect and best wishes for your health, prosperity and happiness. We are, sir, sincerely and faithfully,

Your obliged fellow citizens,

C. M. SCHOLEFIELD, *Supervisor of Whitestown.*

WHITING SMITH, *President of the Village of Whitesboro.*

At the annual Town Meeting of Whitestown, held this day, (6th of March, 1860,) at Whitesboro, the following resolutions were adopted with entire unanimity:

Resolved, that the proposition made by the Hon. Philo White, to donate the Court House, in this Village, to the Town of Whitestown, with the view of its being prepared and used as a Town Hall, be accepted. And further, that a tax of six hundred dollars be assessed and collected in this town, during the present year, for the purpose of making such repairs upon the edifice as will adapt it to the purposes desired by the donor.

Resolved, That we, the citizens of Whitestown, in annual Town Meeting assembled, do hereby express to Hon. Philo White, our sincere gratitude for his munificent gift to our town; and in the use of this gift, we pledge ourselves to second the efforts so creditable to the head and heart of the generous donor, in advancing the interests, honor and prosperity of this town.

WHITESBORO, May 19th, 1860.

Hon. Philo White, Sir:

Your note of 21st April, offering to give to the Village of Whitesboro the remainder of the "public green" in this Village, not embraced in your recent donation to the town of Whitestown and village of Whitesboro conjointly, was duly received, and has been submitted to the Board of Trustees, who have been pleased to authorize me to inform you of their acceptance of your valuable donation, on the conditions named. And I now have the pleasure of tendering you, for myself, and in behalf of the Trustees, our thanks and most respectful consideration, for this renewed expression of your liberality.

Your opinion of the intention of your ancestor, the Hon. Hugh White, Sen., is undoubtedly correct. It is evident that his purpose was to make the donation of this plot of ground to the public irrevocable; but the technicalities of the law having, under existing circumstances, rendered that conveyance equivocal, it remained for you, a beneficent descendant of that honored patriarch, to consummate his generous purpose.

Permit me, sir, to avail myself of this opportunity, in behalf of the Trustees and citizens of Whitesboro, to welcome you from long public service abroad, back to your native town; where, I hope, you will find your future residence pleasant and agreeable to yourself and family, and which your repeated benefactions for the public good have rendered you so worthy to enjoy.

I am, sir, most respectfully,

Your Very Obedient Servant.

WHITING SMITH,

President of the Village of Whitesboro.

WHITESBORO, Sept. 24, 1876.

To Hon. Philo White:

SIR: Your communication, under date of June 24th, to the Town Board of the town of Whitestown, proffering to the town the gift of a SAFE, for the safe-keeping of records in Whitestown Hall, was this day laid before the Board in session. The Board unanimously voted to receive the gift, and adopted the following expression of thanks:

Whereas, Our distinguished townsman, Hon. Philo White, in continuance of the great liberality which has ever characterized his course toward his fellow citizens, as manifested in the gift of a Town Hall and site, and otherwise, has now tendered to the town the gift of a Safe for the use of the Town Hall—

Resolved, That in accepting the gift on behalf of the Town, we, on the same behalf, return to the donor our most hearty and sincere thanks for his very useful and generous gift, in the hope that the remembrance of his liberality may remain in the memory of his fellow citizens as enduring as are the gifts he has bestowed.

By direction, I hereby tender to you this copy of the resolution of the Board.

S. B. WATERS, *Clerk.*

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