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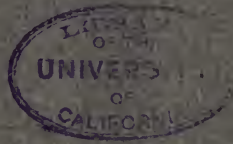
of the

Early History *of*
Amherst College

prepared by

President Heman Humphrey, D. D.

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SKETCHES OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF AMHERST COLLEGE

[*An undated manuscript in the handwriting of President Heman Humphrey, D. D. It has never before been printed but was frequently quoted from by Professor W. S. Tyler in his "History of Amherst College." The original text appears here without change. The manuscript is the property of Amherst College Library. It is published and distributed by the kindness of Mr. Frank W. Stearns, of the class of 1878.*]

The law of growth and expansion is necessarily progressive, whether in the vegetable and animal kingdoms or in human institutions. Nothing springs up to full perfection at once. Everything requires more or less time to grow and ripen.

Thus in the vegetable kingdom there is "first the blade, then the ear, and after that the full corn in the ear." First the acorn, then the leaf, and by the slow process of annual accretions the giant oak, rooted and braced by the mountain storms of a hundred winters.

Thus the lion, king of the forest, was once a little cub, incapable of self defence, much less of sustaining the dynastic rule.

Thus all the world-wide conquerors who have shaken the earth under the iron tread of their mighty legions were once helpless babes in their mother's arms.

So with tribes, states and nations. They spring from small beginnings and pass through all the stages of growth, strength and renown, till at the end of many centuries it may be, "the little one becomes a thousand and the small one a strong nation."

Thus it is with all the institutions which in process of time take root, expand and become the strength and glory of the most enlightened states and kingdoms. They grow like the

Seigs -

cedars of Lebanon. This great nation, clasping the continent from the rising to the setting sun, was born in the May Flower and rocked in its infancy upon the rocky shore of Massachusetts Bay.

And what is true of nations is true of the institutions which constitute their highest advancement, glory, security and strength. This proposition admits of great enlargement by pertinent examples selected from the history of all our most flourishing humane and benevolent institutions for the destitute, for the insane, for the deaf, for the blind, for the Christian enlightenment of our own people, and for sending the bread of life to famishing millions in other lands.

But this is not the time nor the place. We have no more striking examples of infancy, growth, prosperity and public usefulness than the New England colleges, though now the observatories and light house of our northern skies, they all sprung from small beginnings.

Thus Harvard, the oldest, and now the richest of them all, was founded and partly sustained for several years by voluntary rations in corn and wheat and other commodities out of the common granary in Boston, near where Park street church now stands.

Yale College, now so large and prosperous, sprung from the gift of a few books presented at a meeting of ministers in the town of Saybrook from their own scanty libraries. This was all they had to begin with, and lo, "what hath God wrought!"

But I hasten to the planting and early history of Amherst College. In no case, I believe, has the guiding hand of God been more visible than in the several steps which led to it, nurtured it in its feeble infancy, and in due time brought it into the sisterhood of the New England colleges. When the set time had come He raised up just the men that were wanted to undertake the all but hopeless enterprise. But there were several years of preparatory work for them to do before the vision of establishing a college with full powers and franchises gladdened their hearts and encouraged them to go forward.

They felt the want of an Academy in Amherst for the education of their own children and others who might wish to come

and enjoy its privileges. Accordingly in the month of July, 1812, a subscription was opened to erect a suitable edifice for such a school. With the avails of this and other free-will offerings the building soon went up, and in due time was opened with highly encouraging prospects, with a corps of competent teachers. In the winter of 1816 an act of incorporation was obtained. The trustees named in the act were David Parsons, Nathan Perkins, Samuel F. Dickinson, Hezekiah W. Strong, Rufus Cows, Calvin Merrill, Noah Webster, John Woodbridge, James Taylor, Nathaniel Smith, Josiah Dwight, Rufus Graves, Winthrop Burley, Experience Porter and Elijah Gridley. A notable corporation of the friends of education in Hampshire County. Their aims were high. They determined to have an Academy of the very first class in the State. To this end on the 8th of Nov., 1817, they took a step in advance of all their competitors. In view of the demand for educated ministers beyond the ordinary supply without aid, a project was presented by Rufus Graves, Esq., and adopted, for encouraging the usefulness of the Academy by raising a fund for the gratuitous education of pious young men. In the preamble and resolves which follow we have the nucleus and outline of the charitable foundation which ultimately resulted in the establishment of Amherst College. (See Webster's manuscript book, pages 3d, 4th and 5th) in which they say, "encouraged by the past and animated by the prospects of the future, humbly and devoutly relying on the Divine assistance in all our endeavors to promote the cause of truth and train up the rising generation in science and virtue, we do hereby resolve as an important object of this board to establish in this institution a professorship of languages with a permanent salary equal to the importance and dignity of such an office."

To this end a Committee was raised to draw up a constitution and system of by-laws for raising and managing a permanent fund as the basis of a classical institution for the education of indigent young men of piety and talents for the Christian ministry. This was done and adopted by the Board of Trustees at their meeting on the 18th day of August, 1818. This plan

failed. The committee found that the establishment of a single professorship for the purposes mentioned in the project was too limited an object to induce men to subscribe. To engage public patronage it was found necessary to form a plan on a much broader basis to accomplish the end in view. Accordingly Rufus Graves, Esq., drew up the constitution of the charity fund of \$50,000 and the Trustees commissioned him to circulate it for subscriptions, in which laborious service he spent the greater part of two years. (See Webster from page 7 to page 25.) Before the meeting of the Trustees of the Academy August 1818, as above cited had been apprised of the contemplated design of the Trustees of Williams College to remove that Institution to some town in one of the counties which formerly constituted the old county of Hampshire, a committee of the Trustees of that college had visited Amherst for the purpose of inquiring into the situation and advantages of the town for being the seat of that college should it be removed. Subsequently, in the month of September, two gentlemen, delegated for the purpose, waited upon the trustees of Williams College and presented them with a copy of the Constitution for a Charity Fund. The papers were returned without any answer.

This was considered by the Trustees of Amherst Academy as a declining to accede to any proposal for uniting that college with the proposed Institution in Amherst. Whereupon it was resolved at a meeting on the 10th day of September that in the opinion of this Board it is expedient to invite a convention of clergy and laity to approve and patronize a Charitable literary Institution contemplated by this Board for the education of pious indigent young men for the gospel ministry, and that the convention be composed of the Congregational and Presbyterian clergy of the several parishes in the counties of Hampshire, Franklin and Hamden, and the western section of the county of Worcester, with their delegates, together with one delegate from each vacant parish, and the subscribers to the Fund. An invitation was accordingly drawn up and circulated with that intent. (Here follows the circular. Webster, page 27, 28, 29.)

On the 29th of Sep. 1818 the convention assembled and

was formed in the church in the west parish of Amherst. (Here follow the names of the ministers and delegates to the number of 71, among whom were Dr. Lyman of Hatfield, President of the convention, Dr. David Parsons, Rev. Dan. Huntington, Rev. Theophilus Packard, Rev. Dr. Cooley, Rev. J. Smith, (Fiske?) Rev. T. Snell, Col. Henry Dwight, Col. Joseph Billings, Dr. William Hooker, George Grennell, Esq., and Rodger Leavitt, Esq.) The proposed constitution and by-laws for the proposed Institution were read by Noah Webster, Esq. A committee of twelve was then raised to take the subject into consideration and make reports. (Here follow the names of the committee.) The Committee reported at length in favor of the establishment of such an Institution, leaving open a door for a union with Williams college upon fair and honorable principles, should the guardians of that institution deem it expedient to remove and form the connection. They say in their report that an Institution of this description, designed to diffuse its blessings with increasing influence to the end of time, should be judiciously located cannot be reasonably questioned, nor that Hampshire county presents one of the most eligible places for the purpose in the United States.

Having compared a number of pleasant towns in this vicinity in relation to advantages and disadvantages they are of opinion

First—That an Institution might flourish as located in the Constitution, and at the same time are convinced that it might flourish to a greater extent were it to have the advantage of that union which would result from its location by a disinterested Committee appointed by a Convention.

Second—In this general view of the subject the Committee cordially approve of the object of a religious and classical Institution on a charitable foundation in the town of Amherst, and recommend to the Convention to give it their united and individual patronage.

Third—They also recommended that suitable measures be adopted by the Trustees of Amherst Academy for the establishment of a college in connection with the charitable Institution possessing all the advantages of other colleges in the Commonwealth.

They also recommended that such preparations and arrangements be made as will accommodate students at the Institution as soon as possible. "With these resolutions and recommendations your Committee express their fervent wish that the great object may be kept in distinct view in this body, that there may be union and harmony of feelings and deliberation and that it will please our God and Saviour to succeed the endeavor of His servants and under the contemplated Institution a rich blessing to the church of this generation and to the most distant posterity."—Joseph Billings, Secretary.

After a full discussion the report was approved and accepted, with the following amendments. The first article was rejected. The second was amended by inserting "*in the town of Amherst*" after the word foundation. The third by inserting "The Trustees of Amherst Academy" after the word adopted. And the fourth was amended as above recited, and then the whole report was adopted by a large majority of the votes, after which the convention adjourned. (See Webster 35, 36, 37.)

At a special meeting of the Board October 26th, 1818, a committee of three was appointed to confer with the Board of Trustees of Williams College and communicate to them the result of the late convention in Amherst and make suitable statements and explanations respecting the same. They went to Williamstown and presented to the Board of Trustees of that college a copy of the proceedings and resolutions of the convention, with such verbal representations as they supposed necessary.

To these communications no answer was given. But at this meeting the Board of Trustees resolved that it was expedient to remove the College on certain conditions, and as a preliminary measure they appointed the Hon. James Kent, Chancellor of the State of New York, the Hon. Nathaniel Smith, one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Connecticut, and the Rev. Dr. Payson, of Rindge, New Hampshire, to determine the place to which the college should be removed. In consequence of this action the Trustees of Amherst Academy at their annual meeting, Nov. 17, 1818, appointed Noah Webster, Esq., the Rev. John Fisk, the Rev. Edwards Whipple, the Rev. Joshua Crosby

and Nathaniel Smith, Esq., to attend upon the Committee just named and represent to them the claims of the town of Amherst to be the seat of the College, including the funds procured by the Trustees for a Charitable Institution, the recommendation of the Convention in Sep. last, and all the facts and circumstances that might affect the decision of the question. On account of the lateness of the season the meeting of the locating committee was deferred till the next spring. To prepare for that meeting the Committee of the Academy drew up a long and labored paper setting forth the claims of Amherst as the most suitable location for the college, such as conveniences of situation, salubrity of the climate, the cheapness of living, and the advantages for literary and moral improvement in this and future ages. These advantages were presented at great length and with marked ability before the committee of location. (See Webster's manuscript, pages 40 to 50, signed by the Committee.) The locating committee, however, were unanimous in naming Northampton as the most suitable place for the Institution.

Under this decision, cutting off the hope and expectation which had been indulged that if removed at all Williams College might come to Amherst, the Trustees at a meeting on the 18th of Nov. 1818 appointed a large committee to solicit subscriptions to make up the Charity Fund which had been already commenced, and also funds for the foundation and support of a college to be connected with the same. But in consequence of the proceedings of the corporation of Williams College in resolving to remove that Institution and in appointing a Committee to locate it the trustees of Amherst Academy suspended further measures until the event of an application of Williams College to the Legislature for authority to remove should be known. It is added, "They made no opposition to that application and took no measures to defeat it." So far as appears no other action was taken till July, 1819, when a committee appointed to examine the subscription to the Charity Fund reported that the money and other property subscribed amounted at a fair estimate to Fifty-one thousand, four hundred and four dollars. Previous to this, on the 23d day of the same month, the Trus-

tees of Williams College published an address to the public assigning reasons for proposing to remove that Institution and soliciting donations to increase the funds and promote its prosperity in its proposed location at Northampton. A paragraph from that address is in the following words :

“The Trustees, highly approving the object of a charitable Institution at Amherst and the benevolence which has influenced so many to unite in contributing to the very important object of educating poor and pious young men for the ministry, are particularly desirous that that should be so united with the college at Northampton and this college with that, that contributions to either should be conducive to the good of both, and so form an Institution which would receive the united patronage of all the friends of literature, science and religion. A copy of this address was sent to the Trustees of Amherst Academy dated Aug. 18, 1819. An answer was returned of which the following is the substance : “The Trustees of Amherst Academy have received your letter and have given the subject of it their deliberate consideration. In our opinion a union between the college and the charitable Institution in Amherst would be conducive to the interests specified in the western section of Massachusetts. The constitution of the Charity Fund opened the door for that union, and nothing on our part, we believe, has been wanting to accomplish the object. We entertain the most friendly disposition toward Williams College and shall rejoice in its prosperity, although we see not at present how a union between the college and a charitable Institution can be effected. Yet if a plan could be devised for that purpose it would meet our most cordial approbation.

In the next winter, 1819-20, the Trustees of Williams College made their application to the Legislature for an act authorizing them to remove the college to Northampton, but it failed, whereupon the Trustees of Amherst Academy judged that the way was open for them to proceed and put in operation the Charity Fund entrusted to their care. So on the 15th of March 1820 they resolved that this Board consider it their duty to proceed directly to carry into effect the provisions of the Constitu-

tion for the classical education of indigent pious young men, and the financier was directed to proceed with as little delay as possible to effect a settlement with subscribers to procure notes and obligations for the whole amount of the subscriptions from benevolent individuals and also to solicit further subscriptions in aid of this great charity, and for erecting the necessary buildings.

At the next meeting, May 10, 1820, it was resolved, That great and combined exertions of the Christian public are necessary to give due effect to the charitable Institution. The Rev. Joshua Crosby with others were appointed agents to make applications for additional funds and for contributions to aid in erecting suitable buildings.

The Committee proceeded to execute the trust committed to them, secured a title to the land, marked out the ground for the site of the building of a hundred feet in length, and invited the inhabitants of Amherst, friendly to the design, to contribute labor and materials, with provisions for the workmen. With this request the inhabitants of Amherst friendly to the undertaking, and a few from Pelham and Leverett, most cheerfully complied. The stones for the foundation were brought chiefly from Pelham by gratuitous labor, and provisions for the workmen were furnished by voluntary contributions. At two o'clock P. M. on the 9th of August, 1820, the Board met after an adjournment and voted, That the Board will proceed immediately to lay the corner stone of the edifice, which was done.

LAYING THE CORNER STONE

The corner stone of the first college edifice, 100 feet long and 4 stories high, was laid by Dr. Parsons, President of the Board, in presence of a numerous audience on the 9th day of August, 1820, after which Mr. Webster delivered the following address. See p. 58, Manuscript Book.

This was followed by an exceedingly eloquent and impressive discourse in the church by Rev. Daniel A. Clark, entitled *A plea for a dying world*, which was published along with the address and widely circulated.

Another step in advance was the appointment of a commit-

tee Sept. 7th, 1820, to correspond with the American Education Society on the terms upon which the Board might co-operate with that society in the education of their beneficiaries.

At the next meeting, Nov. 8th, it was resolved to establish three Professorships in Mathematics and Natural Philosophy—in Rhetoric and in the Learned Languages.

The next step was to erect the College building. *The labor!* How was it to be done? Says the record from which I quote, "Notwithstanding the building committee had no funds, not *even a cent*, except what were to be derived from gratuities in labor materials and provisions, they prosecuted the work with untiring diligence. Repeatedly during the progress of the work their means were exhausted and they were obliged to notify the President of the Board that without aid they could proceed no further! Those were dark days. It required the clear eye of faith to look through the cloud. It sometimes seemed as if the enterprise must be given up; but help gratuitously came. The work went on and so rapidly that on the *ninetieth* day from laying the corner stone the roof was on! It seemed more like magic than the work of the craftsmen. But only a few weeks ago the timber was in the forest, the brick in the clay, and the stone in the quarry, and how came they here, fashioned into a solid and lofty edifice on the hill, seen from 15 (?) towns, hailed with delight by some and scowled upon as we shall see by others, as boding evil rather than good to the educational cause in Western Massachusetts.

The building was completed with almost equal dispatch for receiving students, and on the 8th day of May, 1821, Dr. Moore was unanimously elected President of the "Charity Institution," as it was then called. At the same day, "the Trustees passed a vote prohibiting the students from drinking ardent spirits or wine, or any liquor of which ardent spirits or wine should be the principal ingredient, at any inn, tavern or shop, or to keep ardent spirits or wine in their rooms or at any time to indulge in them, under penalty of admonition for the first offense, and for the second admonition or expulsion according to the nature and aggravation of the offence."

This was a remarkable step, quite in advance of the times. It was several years before the formation of the American Temperance society and no such prohibition I believe had been thought of in any college or other public seminary. I am sure it was wisdom from above which dictated it, and the enforcement of the law from the beginning has been, I do not say *one* of the main safeguards to the morals of the students, but the greatest of them all. To make this protection doubly serve a college temperance society embracing the faculty as well as the students, was early formed under a pledge, not only of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks, but of the use of tobacco. This pledge has been presented to each freshman class as they have entered college, and I am happy to say that in some cases nearly all the members have signed it, and I believe a majority in every class. It can never be known in this world how many promising young men have by these means been saved from falling into dissipated habits which would have blighted their scholarship, blasted their prospects of usefulness and happiness in life, brought down gray hair with sorrow to the grave and doomed them to a drunkard's eternity. I do not say that none have fallen or indulged in habits of inebriation which they brought with them, secretly to their final undoing; but I am confident the number must have been very small. In running over the catalogue of more than twenty years while I was connected with the college I have not been able to ascertain that more than three or four out of some eight hundred of our graduates have turned out miserably dissipated and pestilential hangers on to the skirts of society. This has been a perpetual source of thanksgiving to me and will be while I live—and the more so as I contrast it with the state of things when I was in college. If there were any precautionary restrictions to prevent the undergraduates from drinking ardent spirits and wine they were little regarded. In my own class of forty two there were at least who drank badly and early died drunkards, besides others who barely escaped, and this, I think, was about the proportion in other classes. Woe to the college that does not vigilantly watch over the habits of the students in this regard.

Woe to the families to which they belong and to the places where they cumber the ground till the undertaker shovels their putrid carcasses out of sight.

Here quote Dr. Moore's answer accepting the Presidency of the Institution, p. 70. So also Dr. Moore's letter to Mr. Webster, p. 72.

At a meeting on the 13th of June the Trustees "voted that the preparatory studies of admission to the Institution and the course of studies pursued during the four years should be the same as in Yale College."

This was a very wise endorsement of Dr. Moore's views in his letter of acceptance. To have aimed at anything below a college and short of a charter for conferring degrees would not only have insured a negative from Dr. Moore or any other man qualified to fill the place, but would have forfeited the patronage of all the friends of a thorough classical education for the ministry, no less than for the other learned professions. An institution of a lower grade anywhere between our academies and colleges was not wanted and could not have been sustained.

The inauguration of the President and Professors with appropriate exercises took place in the village church on the 18th of Sept. 1821, and on the next day, Sept. 19th, the College was opened and organized by the examination and admission of the four regular classes, viz: Seniors 3, Juniors 6, Sophomores 19, and Freshmen 31—total 59—a larger number, I believe, than ever was matriculated on the first day of opening any new college. It was a day of great rejoicing. What had God wrought?

The ship was now fairly launched. An experienced pilot was at the helm. The skies were propitious; the cheering was loud. With all sails set she was going to sea, but without sufficient rations for even a short voyage. The crew were liable soon to be put upon short allowance. The craft had no insurance other than the prayers and faith of the builders; but they did not allow themselves to doubt that He who had so remarkably smiled upon the enterprise would in his own time and way supply all deficiencies.

To drop the figure—here was a college regularly organized

and officered ; and here were four classes entering upon the regular course of studies for graduation in the usual form. To the astonishment of all outsiders it had sprung up as it were suddenly out of the ground ; aiming at nothing less than an honorable competition with older public seminaries of the first class in giving a thorough classical education. But propitious as was its opening two essential aids were still wanting : an endowment and a charter. The trustees could not even have paid their debts had they been pressed to a settlement, and where was the money coming from to pay the faculty, furnish more ample accommodations as they should be wanted, buy tools to work with in the departments of philosophy and chemistry, and meet other unavoidable expenses ? The term bills and the interest on the charity fund, to be sure, would help to defray the regular expenses of instruction ; but they must and did, at first, fall far short, even of that. This was sufficiently discouraging to paralyze the hearts of common men in so great an undertaking, but it was not the most essential want of the institution.

Though the classes would be carried through the four years' course of studies under the Trustees of Amherst Academy, a college Charter with the power to confer degrees in the usual form was absolutely essential to the prosperity and even the existence of the new institution. Young men who aspire to the advantages of a classical (public) education, will not go to a seminary, however thorough the course of studies may be, when they cannot graduate with college diplomas. Not a class could have been induced to enter the Amherst Collegiate Institute without the implied assurance that if they sustained the final examinations they should be graduated and carry away with them the honors of a chartered college. As no charter came many became extremely uneasy at the end of the first year. A certificate with a contingent promise of a veritable parchment just as soon as we could get leave to confer it was all that the class could receive. And before the end of the second year some of the leading men in the classes had nearly made up their minds to leave, and so dark were our prospects of success in petitioning for a charter, as will be seen presently, that in looking back

I wonder they did not go. It was with great difficulty that we persuaded them to wait a little longer. If the charter had not within the next year come to our relief it is almost certain that they would have taken their dismissions and finished their course where they could receive diplomas. Had the leading men left us others would soon have followed for the same reason. New classes would not have entered, and then where would have been Amherst College? Young men may think more of the parchment than it is worth, but it is worth something. They will have it at the end of the regular course, and it would be impossible to sustain any college without it. Nor could the standard of a thorough public education be kept up, without some such authorized testimonial of scholarship.

But could a charter be obtained? That was the great question; it was the *sine qua non*, and the prospect was far from encouraging. It was known that the trustees and friends of Williams College were decidedly opposed to it, and it was expected they would do everything in their power to prevent it, as we shall see they did. It was foreseen, too, that they would carry all the representatives from Berkshire and probably from Hampshire with them to the General Court in opposition. Nor could it be expected that Harvard would look with much favor upon the establishment of another orthodox college, and that almost in the heart of the state.

But the case was urgent; the necessity was imperative; a Charter must be had or all would be lost. Accordingly a petition was presented to the Legislature at their June session in 1823 by Dr. Moore, Hon. John Hooker and others, together with a memorial from subscribers to the Charity fund, praying for such corporate powers as are usually given to the Trustees of colleges. The Petition and Memorial went in due form to the Senate.

They were referred, whether with or without does not appear, to a joint Committee of seven who reported in favor of the petitioners having leave to bring in a bill. See pamphlet A. No further action was taken at that session, save a reference to the next Gen. Court.

At the next session, Jan. 17th, 1824, the Report came up

in the Senate and was debated at length by some of the ablest members. It was earnestly supported on one side and as strenuously opposed on the other. The question on the acceptance of the Report was taken and 22 out of 37 votes in the affirmative. It went down to the House and was referred to the June session. (An interlinear pencilling in the handwriting of Pres. Humphrey says: "rejected by a vote of 91 yeas to 108 nays." —Ed.)

This was encouraging to the Petitioners. They had got the upper branch of the Legislature in their favor and had sanguine hopes of carrying the Bill through the lower house when it should come up for discussion. In this they were disappointed.

To prevent all occasion of delay and bring the question before the House, the Committee of the Trustees drew up the following statement, which was published in more than 30 newspapers. It was dated March 12th, 1814. See the last leaf of the pamphlet C.

The following petition of the founders and proprietors was also presented June 5th, 1823. This petition was signed by about four-fifths of the subscribers to the \$50,000 Charity fund, and similar petitions were presented by more than 500 subscribers to other funds, to which was appended a schedule,

1. Of the course of studies pursued in the Institution.
2. The permanent charity fund.
3. Disposable property; what in and how secured.
4. Another college demanded to accommodate the 227 students that go out of the state for their education.
5. Expenditures and means of support.
6. Public sentiment in favor of the petition. See pamphlet marked D.

Under these several heads the petitioners presented their claims for a charter and the means on which they relied for the support of a college.

To enforce these claims, in behalf of the Trustees I came before the joint committee early in the session and the cause as well as I could in a speech of an hour and a half. I was followed by Solicitor Davis in a strong and eloquent ap-

peal. An agent from Williams appeared against us in reply which was patiently listened to by the committee. They sustained the Senate report in our favor at the preceding session, and the whole subject was fairly before the House. An earnest debate sprung up on the question of concurrence and it was strenuously argued in opposition chiefly by members from Berkshire and our own neighborhood, that a third college was not wanted in Massachusetts; that according to our own showing we had not funds to sustain a college; that nothing like the amount presented on paper would ever be realized and that there was reason to believe that many of the subscriptions had been obtained by false representations. These were formidable objections against giving us a charter, and though fairly answered by our friends as we thought, if the vote had been taken it would probably have gone against us.

It was finally resolved that more fully to test the validity of our claims for a charter and the objections urged against it, a commission should be sent to Amherst under instructions to inquire what reliable funds we had; what means had been resorted to by the petitioners or by persons acting in behalf of their institution, and what method had been adopted to procure students, and report to the next meeting of the Gen. Court. A committee of five was accordingly appointed. They were all of them intelligent, fair-minded men, but not one of them sympathized with us in our well known orthodox religious opinions. This we thought might unconsciously operate against us. But in the end it proved to be for our advantage.

Thus our hopes were again deferred and the next thing was to prepare for the visitorial investigation. This was no easy task; for although the committee in making up their report exonerates the trustees and their agents from any intentional misrepresentations in circulating subscriptions or otherwise obtaining funds, our finances were far from being in a favorable state to meet the prying scrutiny which awaited them before the Committee. While all that had not been paid in were bona fide subscriptions and obligations, they were not in the right shape for presentation. This was especially the case with the charity



fund of \$50,000, on which we had so earnestly based our claim for a Charter. The conditions of that subscription were that no part of it should be binding under that full amount. By great and persevering efforts they were brought up to \$45,000, (in pencil \$35,000 is written,—Ed.) leaving a deficit of \$15,000. To meet this, several individuals gave their bond to the Trustees. While this guarantee of \$15,000 was a legal obligation and nobody doubted their ability to pay it, it was understood that they must be exonerated by additional subscriptions. They had subscribed very liberally to bring the fund up to \$45,000, (again in pencil, \$35,000,—Ed.) and they did not expect to be called upon to pay the balance. It was not reasonable they should. Something must be done to put this, our main reliance, in a better shape. It would not do to lay it before the investigating committee as it then stood. The *bond* must be immediately enforced, or subscriptions must be obtained to cancel it. The Trustees decided without hesitation to make a new appeal to the friends of the seminary for help. They sent me to Boston, where I laid the case before a number of gentlemen, at a meeting called for the purpose, and succeeded in raising about half the needed amount of \$15,000. Still, as much more was wanted, and it was no easy matter to get it. To this end some of the old subscribers, together with the Faculty, were pretty heavily assessed, and with other help, the full amount was made up.

Nothing could be done with our other subscriptions and obligations, but to let them take their chances before the Committee, just as they were.

Two or three weeks before the time appointed for the investigation, an agent from Williams College brought me a letter from the chairman of the Committee, virtually requiring us to put into his hands all our subscriptions and other to aid him in preparing for the trial!

I was directed to answer this remarkable demand, which I did, and put it into the hand of the agent, saying that we had been notified of the appointment of the legislative Committee to come to Amherst and look into our condition and make report

at the next session ; that we believed the Committee had not authorized their chairman to demand any of our papers in advance of their meeting ; and that then all should be put into their hands. Baffled in this application for the means of looking up our subscribers for testimony against us, the agent was left to find them as best he could ; and to do him justice, he was very successful, as appeared when he brought them personally and by their affidavits before the Committee.

The investigation commenced on the 4th day of Oct., (1821 appears in pencil,—Ed.) and continued in session until the 19th. This was no child's play. We were to be put down, or encouraged to go on. In their Report the Committee say "The Trustees appeared before them by council ; (Mr. now Judge Elsworth of Hartford) afforded every facility to the Committee in investigating the affairs of the Institution, and discovered the utmost readiness to lay before them all the transactions of the Board and its agents. That three distinguished gentlemen appeared as council for the remonstrants against a petition for a charter, and *gave great aid to the Committee in conducting the investigation.*" One of them has long been on the bench of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth.

Rarely has there been a more thorough and searching investigation. All our books and papers were brought out and laid on the table. Nothing was withheld. Every subscription note and obligation was carefully examined, and hardly anything passed without being protested by the able counsel against us. The trial lasted a fortnight, the room was crowded from day to day by anxious listeners. Were we to live or die ? Were we to have a charter or to be forever shut out from the sisterhood of Colleges ? That was the question, and it caused many sleepless nights in Amherst. Whatever might be the result we cheerfully acknowledged that the Committee had conducted the investigation with exemplary patience and perfect fairness. When the papers were all disposed of the case was ably summed up by the counsel and the Committee adjourned.

Many incidents occurred in the progress of the investigation which kept up the interest, and some of which were very amusing ; but I have only room for two.

Among our subscriptions of one dollar and under there was a very long list amounting to several hundred dollars, mostly by females, and children under age, which did not escape the notice of the lawyers from Williamstown and on which it was plain we could place very little reliance. It was no trifling task to arrange and figure them up so as to present them in due form before the Committee. This they undertook to do after the evening adjournment, so as to have their report ready in the morning. They sat up nearly all night, as was afterwards reported, and anticipated the pleasure of seeing all those subscriptions thrown out at once. Learning in some way what they were about three of the Trustees drew up and signed an obligation to pay them to the full amount. The morning came; the session was opened; the parties were present, the gentlemen who had taken so much pains to astound the Committee by their discovery were just about laying it upon the table, when the obligation assuming the whole was handed in by one of the subscribers. I leave the reader to imagine the scene of disappointment on one side, and of suppressed cheering on the other. It turned out to be a fair money operation in our favor.

The other incident was still more amusing. When the notes came up to pass the ordeal of inquiry and protest, one of a hundred dollars was produced from a gentleman in Danvers. "Who is this Mr. P.?" demanded one of the astute lawyers. "Who knows anything about his responsibility?" "Sir, will you let me look at that note," said Mr. S. V. S. Wilder, one of our trustees, and taking a package of bank bills from his pocket, "Mr. Chairman, I will cash that note, sir," and laid down the money. It was not long before another note was protested in the same way. "Let me look at it. I will cash it, sir," and laid another bank bill upon the table. By and by a third note was objected to. "I will cash it, sir," said Mr. Wilder, and was handing over the money when the chairman interposed. "Sir, we didn't come here to raise money for Amherst College," and declined receiving it. How long Mr. Wilder's package would have held out I don't know, but the scene produced a profound sensation all around the board, but very few protests were offered afterward.

In the progress of the investigation the Committee at the request of the counsel from Williams College summoned a number of subscribers who refused to pay to appear and give their reasons. Their excuse was that when they subscribed they were assured by the agents that there was no doubt Williams College would be removed to Amherst. As it was not they didn't consider themselves bound to pay. Affidavits to the same effect were also presented. The object of all this array of testimony and affidavits was to prove the subscriptions in question were obtained by false pretenses, and I have very little doubt that our opposers very confidently expected that the report of the Committee would be against our receiving a Charter. But to make assurance doubly sure a pamphlet of 36 pages was immediately prepared and brought out for circulation, containing the testimony and affidavits before the Committee, together with a number of letters from other subscribers who declined paying on the ground that they were induced to subscribe by the expectation and assurance that Williams College would come to Amherst and be united with our Collegiate Institute.

It was never denied, I believe, that this pamphlet came from the same source as the opposition before the Committee did, and when the General Court met in January the representatives found it in all their seats, as it were forestalling the Report of the investigating Committee if it should happen to be in our favor. How it came there, from what source, every man was left to guess for himself in view of all the circumstances.

See the letter E. in the bound volume.

When on the 3d of Jan. 1825, the question was called up in the House the Report (see pamphlet F.) of the Committee was presented and read in which they first exhibit the available funds of the institution, and with regard to the manner in which the subscriptions had been obtained, which was one of the main charges brought against us, they say: The persons who obtained the subscriptions without doubt spoke confidently of the removal of Williams College. The Committee entertain no doubt that many of the subscribers calculated that they would not be holden to pay unless Williams College should be removed

to Amherst. But at the same time in justice to the persons who obtained the subscriptions, we are bound to report that no satisfactory evidence was presented to us that in any case the removal of the College (Williams) was made a condition of the payment of the subscription.

In relation to other charges the Committee have examined all such as were brought to their knowledge by the counsel for the remonstrants, or any other source, and they do not find any of them which implicate the Trustees or gentlemen in the institution supported. There appears to have been nothing so far as the Committee can judge (and they examined many witnesses on the point) to show that the Trustees or persons employed in the institution have resorted to any improper or unusual means in obtaining subscriptions. There can be no question but that some of the many agents were animated with an indiscreet zeal and they did as is always done in similar cases, overstepped the bounds of prudence and of the instructions given them.

The third inquiry of the Committee was directed to "what methods have been adopted to procure students" and they do not find that any unusual or improper measures have been taken. The whole number of the students in the institution is 136.

It would be difficult to select in any part of the State a place better calculated for a College than that on which Amherst Institution have located their buildings, whether regard be had to the site, the surrounding country or in its local situation as it regards the whole Commonwealth.

The refusal of the Legislature to grant a Charter to Amherst will not, it is believed, prevent its progress. A large and respectable body of citizens in every part of the Commonwealth are of opinion that the public good requires the incorporation of this institution and that the refusal of a charter to the petitioners by a state which grants charters with readiness to almost every description of applicants is a species of persecution. Your Committee are therefore of opinion that any further delay to the incorporation of Amherst institution would very much increase the excitement which exists in the community on the subject, and have a tendency to interrupt those harmonious

feelings which now prevail. They therefore would respectfully suggest that a College should now be incorporated, to be located at Amherst, conformable to the prayer of the petitioners." Signed, Joseph E. Sprague. These short extracts were all the essential points presented in the Report of fifteen pages. See pamphlet F.

This was a step in advance and an important advantage gained through the examining committee. But when the question of adoption came before the House it was soon manifest that it would meet with very strong opposition. There was to be a very hard struggle and so influential were some of our opposers near home that it seemed very doubtful how the case would turn. Should we get a charter or should we be again disappointed and sent empty away? As the discussion progressed the probabilities preponderated sometimes for and sometimes against; but after a long and earnest debate which brought out the best talent in the House, the question was taken and decided in the affirmative. When the announcement was made we breathed freer. The object of our long importunity was gained. We went home with light hearts; the students illuminated the college buildings; we had got the Charter with a Board of Trustees and should soon be organized by the choice of a President and professors. This was done without delay and at the ensuing Commencement the three first classes received their diplomas. From 126 students in 1823 the number increased the next year to 136, in 1825 it rose to 152, 1826 to 170, 1827 to 200, 1828 to 211, 1829 to 207, 1830, 188, 1831, 197, 1832, 227, 1833, 239, and the next year, 1834, the number of undergraduates rose, I think, to more than 260, and for two years stood next to Yale, even above Harvard.

I cannot be expected to say much of the twenty two years of my connection with the College, nor is it necessary that I should, as the materials for a full history are at hand in the College archives. I may just add, however, that when I entered upon my office in 1823, the students worshipped on the Sabbath in the old parish meeting house on the spot where the Lyceum and Observatory now stand. How it was before I

came I can't say, but I soon found that the young men of the society felt themselves crowded by the students and that there were increasing symptoms from Sabbath to Sabbath of collision and disturbance. I accordingly told the Trustees that I thought it would be safest and best for us to withdraw and worship by ourselves in one of the College buildings till a chapel could be built for permanent occupancy. They authorized us to do so, and I have never doubted the expediency of the change on this and even more important grounds.

Though there is but one gospel for all persons, wherever they may worship, the most profitable preaching for a promiscuous congregation is not exactly adapted to meet the case of young men in the course of a public education. They need more frequent and direct appeals from the pulpit, suited to their age and circumstances, than they can have where so many other classes; young and old, parents and children, rich and poor, men of business and men of public influence, are to receive their portion of the bread of life in due season. While there is but one Lord, one faith, one baptism, so much must be said to others that college classes in the promiscuous assembly are apt to feel that most of the preaching is not meant for them, and so they go to sleep or let their thoughts wander with the fool's eyes in the ends of the earth. There is nothing like "*Thou art the man*" to arrest attention and carry conviction to the conscience and the heart of the sinner. This is what all need.

In the Chapel the preacher has the students in a body right before him. They are his congregation. He preaches to them. They know he means them and nobody else, and they can't shift off the truth and the responsibility of hearing and obeying it to anybody and everybody else as in a mingled congregation. They are constrained to feel that religion, that salvation, is personal concern which they may not ignore, and if the preaching during the four years that they sit under it (is personal,—Ed.) they are more likely to be awakened and savingly converted than if they were where they could dodge the sword of the Spirit. The arrangement has from the beginning worked well in Amherst College, and nothing would induce the Trustees to alter it.

And here let me just say that in my judgment requiring the professors who are preachers to occupy the pulpit by turns, as is and always has been the case in Amherst College, has some advantages over that of devolving the whole of the preaching upon a theological professor. It is less likely to be scholastic and formal. It brings the professors before the students as religious men and gives them a religious influence in College which they would not otherwise have. A church was early organized in Amherst College. The President is the pastor. He preaches every other Sabbath in the chapel and the professors in succession take the alternate Sabbath. For some two or three years I did most of the preaching as best I could, besides hearing the Senior class daily in all their studies save the natural sciences. The work was a great deal better done by professors afterwards, but it was the best we could do then.

I have not spoken of the many glorious revivals which have been enjoyed in College so that no class has ever graduated without witnessing at least one of them. Among all the rich blessings bestowed upon the institution these times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord stand at the head. I am quite sure they will be so regarded when they come to be arranged and woven into an extended history of the college.

Having now rapidly glanced at the rise and struggles and progress of the Institution up to the time of its establishment under a College Charter, the vote of the Trustees under which I have been collecting and arranging materials for future use would excuse me from further enlargement. But in looking back upon all the way in which God led the projectors and early friends and patrons of the College, I cannot while I lift up my heart in fervent thanksgiving, refrain from giving utterance to some of the reflections which crowd upon my mind, in view of the remarkable success of the enterprise from its inception to its accomplishment. And,

First, let me say what I think of the character and instrumentality of the men who planned and laid the foundations of Amherst College. When God has any important end to accomplish He raises up and qualifies to carry on His pur-

poses. This has always been the economy of His administration. Thus when He would deliver the tribes from Egyptian bondage He raised up Moses to be their leader and law-giver. When Moses was dead Joshua was commissioned to go before them to take possession of the promised land and prosecute the wars of the Lord against the Canaanites whom He had doomed to extermination for their enormous wickedness. So he raised up Samuel and David and Ezra and Nehemiah to reform and govern the nation and lead the remnant back from their seventy years' captivity. In like manner he raised up Luther and Calvin and their compeers of like precious faith to take the lead in the glorious Protestant Reformation. And in later ages the history of the church gives us the names of Whitfield and the Wesleys and Edwards, whom God raised up as leaders and reformers in their time.

The same holds true in the execution of all God's benevolent purposes. Whenever he wants a new institution to advance the interests of His kingdom in the world He raises up just such men as are needed to do the work. They may or may not be great or honorable in the sight of men. They will be more or less so as more or less planning and executive qualifications are needed. A great military leader is not wanted to put down a city riot, but when a nation is to be emancipated God raises up a Washington to command their armies.

Before a stroke was struck which led to the founding and establishment of Amherst College, God had been raising up and qualifying agents altogether unconsciously to themselves to take the lead in the enterprise when the set time should come. I cannot name all the men who were concerned in projecting it and doing the first work, but some of them were so prominent that there can be no mistake in placing them at the head of the list.

And in looking over the whole ground I have no hesitation in putting the name of Rufus Graves first. I do not say he was the greatest man among them all. It was not necessary he should be for the part which Providence assigned him in the work. But for that essential service in the early stages of the

enterprise he stood at the head. No other man could or would have taken the time and done what he did. Col. Graves was an educated man of a remarkably sanguine temperament. He poured his whole soul into whatever he undertook and made light of obstacles which in the very beginning would have discouraged any other man.

Revivals had brought into the churches many pious young men of promising talents who were wanted in the ministry at home and abroad, who could not obtain a suitable education without pecuniary assistance, and could anything be done at less expense outside of the Colleges to help them? When to this end it was proposed to endow a theological professorship in connection with Amherst Academy he promptly took the agency to collect the funds and devoted a year or more to the service with all his constitutional and religious ardor, but without success. When it was given up and the Trustees of the Academy voted to circulate a subscription to raise \$50,000 as a permanent fund to aid pious indigent young men of promising talents to a public education for the ministry, he enlisted in the service with all his heart and soul. As he proceeded in circulating the subscription it absorbed his whole mind. It became a perfect passion with him. It may almost be said that he thought and talked of nothing else. He drew up a Constitution for the security and disbursement of the annual interest of the fund and went everywhere soliciting subscriptions of all classes of people from the highest he could obtain down to a dollar and under. So entirely was he devoted to this one object that for weeks when he was abroad he forgot that he had a family at home to care for. In this arduous service he spent ————— and succeeded at last in raising the subscription with a responsible guarantee, to \$50,000. This it was believed no other man could have done. And without this fund Amherst College could never have been built and got a charter. In this view of the case the church and the world are more indebted to Rufus Graves for all the good that has been done through the establishment of the Institution than to any other man. His name certainly stands with the first three as one of the founders. But he never could have originated and success-

fully prosecuted the enterprise without the aid, checks and balances of cooler heads than his own. He was too ardent, too impulsive, to be a safe leader out of his own line. But just such men are wanted in the complicated relations and enterprises of human society. If they are inclined to go too fast; if they are too sanguine to be safe; if they sometimes fail in their favorite venturesome speculations; if now and then they build castles in the air and their most sanguine expectations come to nothing, the world could not well do without them. To just such men it is indebted for a great many of the most important inventions and discoveries in very age. As there are many members in one human body and all are necessary to harmonious and efficient action, so the body politic would be incomplete without such men as I am here describing. Col. Graves had wise associates and advisers, or all his zeal and perseverance would have been but little better than lost labor. Such men God had raised up to carry forward the undertaking. They were men of faith and prayer. They were such men as Noah Webster, Samuel F. Dickinson, Nathaniel Smith, Rev. John Fiske, Rev. Thomas Snell, Rev. Joshua Crosby, Rev. Theophilus Packard, John Leland, all good and true men, with others of like precious faith. I have with common consent, I believe, and for the reasons which I have given, placed Col. Graves at the head of the list, and from all the information I can get, Mr. Dickinson is entitled to stand next, as his intimate adviser and helper. Although ardent and enterprising and hopeful himself in an eminent degree, he was such a cool and reliable adviser as Col. Graves needed, and was untiring in his personal services as well as liberal in his contributions.

The founders of great and good institutions may be likened to the stalwart masons who work out of sight below the surface in laying up the cellar wall of a costly edifice with great stones. It is the hardest to be done and it is the most essential that it should be thoroughly done for it is the foundation on which the whole building rests. But it is not seen and but small credit is likely to be given to the sturdy workmen who laid the founda-

tion deep and solid, compared with what is given to those who do the lighter work of rearing, adorning and finishing the edifice.

So the founders of a college, while they have the hardest and roughest of the work to do, it is mostly out of sight, toiling in the cellar as it were, and but little thought of, while those who come after them, when everything is settled and the work is comparatively light, are counted as benefactors. The men whom I have named and their efficient helpers were the founders of Amherst College in the midst of great opposition, in the face of discouragements which seemed to men of little faith insuperable—and they ought to be had in everlasting remembrance. Most of them lived to see their most sanguine hopes more than realized in the growth and prosperity of the College. And this is only one case in a thousand where good men inaugurate great and good public enterprises. They know not what they are doing. With all their zeal and glowing anticipations they seldom dare to expect the half of what in due time is realized.

I have already said that the \$50,000 Fund was the nucleus without which the College could never have been established. The founders expected that it would greatly bless the church through the instrumentality of the pious Timothys whom it would help to educate. But it has bestowed one incalculable blessing upon the Institution which most likely but few if any of them anticipated. By bringing large numbers of pious young men to the College it has given it a religious character, which it could not otherwise have had. From the beginning one-half, often two-thirds, and sometimes three-fourths of the students have been professors of religion. What an influence they must have had upon their unconverted classmates, and who can tell, or how many of them in answer to their prayer have been converted in the many glorious revivals with which the college has been blessed.

Wherever two or three hundred young men are brought and kept together four years in the most excitable period of their lives it would be strange indeed if there were no outbreaks in some of the classes. There always have been in our American as well as other colleges. Young men everywhere are apt

to be restive under tutors and governors. In this respect Amherst College has been highly favored. Very few disturbances of any sort have given the faculty trouble. The only rebellion there has ever been was professedly for conscience sake. Some of the members of a class were dissatisfied with the appointments for the junior exhibition, and asked to be excused upon the plea that they considered these college distinctions wrong, and that they could not conscientiously perform the parts assigned them. One of them refused in such a style of insubordination that the faculty were constrained to require a suitable acknowledgment, which he insolently refused to make, and appealed to the sympathies of the class, which unhappily prevailed, and arrayed them against us and the laws of the Institution. They carried it so far and were so fast spreading the excitement among the other classes, that we were compelled either to surrender our authority into their hands or require every one engaged in the rebellion to make a suitable confession under the penalty of being cut off from College. We chose the latter, and though it went hard against their consciences, or something else in that region, they submitted and returned to their studies; the next year in due course the whole class was graduated, and no class has ventured upon a rebellion in Amherst College since.

Another reflection. The founders of the College were orthodox religious men in the strict New England sense of the term. And though no religious test was required for admission to its privileges, they intended it should be an Evangelical college in the Calvinistic and Edwardean sense, and there has been no departure from it in its religious administration till now. There has been no concealment to curry favor with men in any denomination calling themselves more liberal in their doctrinal opinions. The pulpit in the chapel of Amherst College has always spoken the same language. Though there have been diversities of gifts, it has been the same spirit in all. The trumpet has given no uncertain or jarring sound. Its creed is known and read of all men. The preachers have seen eye to eye and taught the same things. There has been no shunning of what are called hard doctrines, when they came in the way.

This open avowal and adherence to it through good and evil report has, I am satisfied, been one of the main sources of its prosperity. It has given it confidence in all the orthodox churches, and earned the respect of those who differ from us. They may regard us as righteous over much, but they cannot help thinking the better of us for honestly avowing and teaching what we believe. Again,

Want of funds in the earlier years of its history has been another source of the growth and success of Amherst College. This will probably seem a very strange remark to many. They cannot understand how the pecuniary necessities which compelled the Trustees again and again to appeal to the public for large subscriptions could have been better than to have had ample funds from other sources. And certainly it is no desirable agency to go here and there begging money, even for the most worthy public objects; but it is often worth more in dollars and cents than a full treasury to begin with. It enlists the sympathies of hundreds or thousands who would have remained ignorant of the benevolent objects of the institution or enterprise had not its wants and claims been carried to their doors.

I am quite sure it has been so in the early history of Amherst College. Much as those who opposed us before the investigating committee made themselves merry over our long list of small subscriptions for the Charity Fund, down to twenty-five cents and under, they enlisted a thousand prayers for its success, which for want of information would not have been offered and which I nothing doubt have brought down blessings worth more than thousands of gold and silver.

And just so on a larger scale the several subscriptions without which the College could not have been sustained, brought it to the notice and enlisted the good will and prayers of the friends of education and religion both in and out of the state beyond what a few large donations from a few could have done. It was the most effectual way to make its objects and character known to the greatest number who have power with God and to make them feel that by their contributions they have a pecuniary

interest in the college. That through this very agency a great many students have been and will be induced to come and enjoy its privileges I feel sure. Once more,

Though it was hard and discouraging again and again to be denied a Charter in which we stood in such pressing need, it was overruled for our advantage. It was a new institution. Something was necessary to make it known to the public, on whom it must depend for students and support. The petitions, discussions and newspaper articles growing out of the delay were just what was wanted. If the Charter had been granted and without opposition as soon as asked for, poor and unknown as the Collegiate Institution was it would have been hard if not impossible to get the means of turning it into a College and building it up. So God often helps those hearts he makes sick by delay. Again,

When we were almost ready to despair under grave charges of misrepresentation and dishonesty by a powerful opposition in the lower House of the General Court, to stave off the question the Committee was appointed to come to Amherst, call the Trustees before them, demand all their papers, make a full investigation of our affairs, and report at the next session, it was a new source of anxiety and alarm. Many were ready to say, All these things are against us. And in truth we were but poorly prepared for such an ordeal. The \$15,000 bond to secure the \$50,000 charity fund must be cancelled by new subscriptions, as we have already seen, and many of the other unpaid subscriptions were in no condition to be relied on and presented to the Committee as everything would depend upon their report. The time was short. The \$15,000 were raised to cancel the bond which could not have done under any other pressure. The searching inquisition lasted twelve days with the aid of able counsel by a powerful opposition. In their Report, as we have seen, the Committee entirely absolved the petitioners from all culpable misrepresentations and charges, recommended that the Charter prayed for be granted, which was done, and returned home and we returned home with it rejoicing.

Now, unkind as we thought the sending of that Committee

was, and unmistakably intended by our opposers to oppose us, it turned out to be just what was wanted to set the character of the Institution right before the public, and to better its pecuniary condition. I have no doubt it was a clear gain of fifteen or twenty thousand dollars on the bond and subscriptions. The appointment of the Committee compelled us to bring up all arrearages, which otherwise would never so successfully have been done. Thus God brought light out of darkness and set us in a large place.

And if I may volunteer a word for our friends of the Berkshire College, though they did not succeed in defeating us, it compelled them to follow our example in raising funds, and instead of being crippled by our success it gave a new start to Williams, and it soon grew and prospered more than ever.

[*Note:— In the early pages of these "Sketches" reference is made to "Webster's Manuscript Book." It is very much to be regretted that this can not be found. No reference to it is made either in Professor Tyler's History or in Dr. Field's "Brief History of Amherst College."—Ed.*]

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