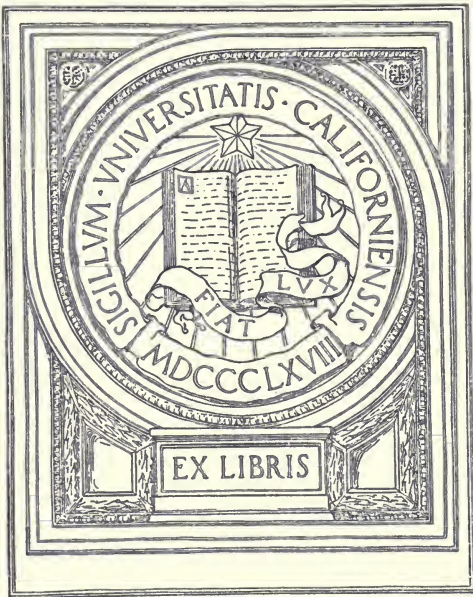


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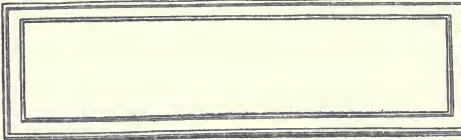
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Wells, D.A.

# SKETCHES

OF

# WILLIAMS COLLEGE.



WILLIAMSTOWN, MASS.

1847.

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TO VIEW

AT THE

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

H. S. TAYLOR, PRINTER.

receive a catalogue of your college  
you a day or two since and am  
much obliged to you for it. you say  
about coming north this winter. If  
you expect to come I shall be  
glad indeed to see you dear love

Do answer this soon.

Your love  
Mr A

I send you a copy of the Sketches  
college. Don't know that you will  
find them either amusing or instructive

TO THE

ALUMNI OF WILLIAMS COLLEGE,

WHO, THOUGH COMPARATIVELY SMALL IN NUMBER, ARE ADORNING  
EVERY PROFESSION,

AND WHO HAVE EVINCED BY SUBSTANTIAL MEMENTOS,  
THEIR LOVE FOR THEIR ALMA MATER,

THIS WORK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY THE AUTHORS.

Faint, illegible handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a header or introductory paragraph.

of your grace a copy of the  
written. The other part  
has been with commandment

The remainder of the page contains very faint, illegible handwritten text, likely the main body of a letter or document.



## P R E F A C E .

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KIND READER: you hold in your hand, a publication making no lofty pretensions for literary merit, or general interest; and which, therefore, cannot suffer a great fall in your estimation, when you come to read it. The authors of it are students in college — mere boys, yet in their ‘teens.’ Inspired by the spirit which possesses all Yankees, they have written this work, without the supervision of older and wiser heads. If then, its pages should show that Phæton-like, we have sometimes lost our way, and perhaps turned over, the blame rests with us alone. We trust, however, that none of our errors are of such a nature as to injure the college, in whose welfare, we feel a lively interest. If it were so, we should surely shed tears of repentance, though perhaps too late.

We claim not the merit of originality. The materials from which the following pages have been compiled, were gathered from various sources; and it is with the view of giving to these scattered materials a more popular and accessible form, that we present this work to the public. If the information conveyed shall serve to enlighten and interest any in regard to the origin, struggles, and present prosperity of the college; or if

it shall recall one pleasing remembrance of days gone by, to any of her sons, we shall feel that we have not labored in vain.

In preparing the history of the college, we are indebted for much of our information to addresses delivered at the dedication of the Chapel, in 1828, and at the Semi-Centennial Celebration, in 1843 ; also to biographical sketches of Presidents Fitch and Moore, in the Quarterly Register ; the life of Dr. Griffin, and certain valuable manuscripts, and much oral information, with which we have been kindly favored, and for which we are truly grateful. We have clothed the facts given us in the best garments to be found in our scanty wardrobe.

In the second part, we have endeavored to give such a sketch of the present state of the college, its regulations, its customs, and its attractions, as shall present a correct picture to those who are unacquainted with the subject, but wish to become so. This part in particular, we are aware, betrays a lack of the 'labor limæ.' And if asked why it has not been bestowed, our excuse might be the same which a New England lady would give for not imitating the Chinese woman who filed a crowbar down to a needle ; it would take too long, and not be in the fashion of this age of steam.

In committing the work to the public, we feel sure that whatever may be its reception, the attempt was prompted by a love for the college, and a heartfelt desire for its continued prosperity.

D. A. WELLS,  
S. H. DAVIS.

PART I.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE AS IT HAS BEEN.



# SKETCHES

OF

# WILLIAMS COLLEGE.

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## CHAPTER I.

### SKETCH OF COLONEL WILLIAMS.

SINCE WILLIAMS COLLEGE\* owes its origin and its name to Col. EPHRAIM WILLIAMS, we have thought it proper to introduce a short sketch of his life. Col. W. was born at Newton, near Boston, about the year 1713. During his early life he followed the seas, visiting most of the European countries. In this way he acquired a general knowledge of men and things, which compensated, to a great degree, for his want of a liberal education; and a gracefulness of manners for which he was always distinguished. At his father's desire he relinquished his ocean life, and turned his attention to military affairs, which in those days necessarily engaged the attention of every citizen more or less, and for which he had uncommon talent. In the war between England and France, 1740 — '48, he was called into action, and served with honor as Captain of a company raised in New England for the Canada service.

After the peace concluded at Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1748, the General Court granted to Col. Williams two hundred acres of land in the town

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\* The name is sometimes erroneously written with an apostrophe: *i. e.* 'William's' or 'Williams' College.' This is as improper as it would be to say Harvard's University, or Yale's College.

of Hoosack, (which included Williamstown and Adams,) and gave him command of the line of forts west of the Connecticut. During this command he resided principally at Forts Hoosack and Massachusetts, situated in the town of Hoosack, the former near the present locality of the colleges, and the latter three miles and a half to the east. These forts formed the bulwark of the frontier, and under their protection the settlements in this region began. The inhabitants became ardently attached to their patriotic defender, and at this time he first intimated to them his purpose of devoting his property to the establishment of a free school for the advantage of the frontier settlers.

On the commencement of hostilities in 1755, he was again called into active service. The regiment under his command was ordered to join the army of Gen. Johnson, who was then marching to repel the French invasion from the north. A presentiment of coming death seems at this time to have overshadowed the mind of Col. W.; for before he joined the army he made his will at Albany, on the 22d of July 1755, by which he devoted his property to the foundation of a Free School among the settlers, whose hardships and dangers he had shared, and in whose welfare he felt a lively interest.

On the morning of the 8th of September of the same year, a detachment consisting of one thousand soldiers and two hundred Mohawk Indians, under the command of Col. Williams, was sent forward by Gen. Johnson to intercept the advance guard of the French army, marching down under Baron Dieskau. Having discovered the approach of Col. Williams, by means of his Indian runners, Dieskau formed his regulars across the road, and ordered his Canadian and savage allies to station themselves in advance on the right and left, under cover of the woods. The detachment of Col. Williams had advanced some distance into this skilfully arranged ambuscade, when the terrific Indian yell pierced the woods in all directions, and a heavy firing was suddenly commenced by the regulars in front, and the concealed enemy on both sides, which did great execution and thinned off rank after rank of the sturdy New Englanders. Col. Williams fell among the first — being shot with a musket ball through the head.

His remains are still resting in obscurity in the place where he fell. A large rock bearing his name, on the road from Glens Falls to Caldwell, near Lake George, is pointed out by the inhabitants as marking the spot, but it is believed erroneously.

Col. Williams was a patriot and a hero: as such he deserves a monument over his grave.

' When on Europe's red plains heroes gallantly perish,  
Fame spreads her broad pinions their exploits to tell ;  
While the smooth chiseled busts their resemblances cherish,  
And well-sculptured urns mark the place where they fell.'

And the more does Col. Williams deserve some solid testimonial of respect over his resting-place, because in the darkest hour of the Colonies' existence, when the thoughts of most men were absorbed in the bloody struggles with the French and Indians, he remembered the interests of learning, and provided for the education of coming generations. For his countrymen, he lived ; for his countrymen, he died ; and his bones lie loose among the rocks, without even a slab of marble to tell the traveler that he is passing the grave of a patriot and philanthropist. Do not justice and gratitude demand of the Corporation of Williams College the erection of a handsome monument to its generous founder ?

## CHAPTER II.

### THE FREE SCHOOL.

THE property of Col. Williams, at the time of his death, was not very considerable. It consisted chiefly in notes and bonds, and in lands in Hampshire and Berkshire counties. After several small bequests to his relatives, he willed 'that the remainder of his lands should be sold, at the discretion of his executors, within five years after an established peace; and that the interest of the monies arising from the sale, and also the interest of his notes and bonds, should be applied to the support of a Free School, in a township west of Fort Massachusetts; provided the said township fall within Massachusetts, upon running the line between Massachusetts and New York, and provided the said township, when incorporated, be called Williamstown.' Both of these conditions took place.

John Worthington, Esq., of Springfield, and Israel Williams, Esq., of Hatfield, the executors of the will, sold the lands and loaned the monies arising from the sales. The yearly interest was again loaned, and thus the fund was annually growing under their faithful care from the death of Col. W. in 1755 till 1785. They then applied to the Legislature for an act enabling them to fulfil the benevolent intention of the testator. An act was accordingly passed, incorporating 'William Williams, Theodore Sedgwick, Woodbridge Little, John Bacon, Thompson J. Skinner, Israel Jones, and David Noble, Esquires, the Rev. Seth Swift, and the Rev. Daniel Collins, trustees of the donation of Ephraim Williams, for maintaining a Free School in Williamstown.'

The trustees held their first meeting at Pittsfield on the 24th day of April, 1785. William Williams, Esq. was elected President, and Rev. Seth Swift, Treasurer. Finding the funds which were now transferred to the treasurer by the executors, insufficient to erect a building for the school, a committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions. In 1788 a committee was appointed to erect a school house. This building (now called West College) was completed in 1790, and is of the following dimensions: 82 feet long, 42 broad, and 4 stories high. About this time the Corporation petitioned the Legislature for a



lottery to raise £1200, which was granted, and the avails of it amounted to £1037. 18s. 2d.

At a meeting of the Free School Corporation in October, 1790, a committee was appointed to procure a preceptor; to whom they offered a salary of £120. The instructions of this committee we insert as an excellent epitome of what constitutes a good teacher. He was to be 'a man of good moral character; of the Protestant religion; well acquainted with the English and learned languages, the liberal arts, and the sciences; apt to teach; with talents to command the respect of his pupils; of mild disposition; and of elegant and accomplished manners.' The committee, thus instructed, procured the services of Rev. EBENEZER FITCH,\* of whose moral and intellectual attainments we need only say that the trustees resolved that the committee had fulfilled their duty.

At the same meeting the Corporation adopted a seal which was used for some years after the school had become a college. Its device was a teacher surrounded by three pupils with books in their hands, and the motto, 'E LIBERALITATE E. WILLIAMS, ARMIGERI.'

The Free School (so called agreeably to the will) was opened Oct. 20, 1791, with Mr. Fitch as Preceptor and Mr. John Lester as assistant: an usher was afterwards added. There were two departments: a grammar school, or academy, and an English free school. In the former, all the branches which composed the course of education in the colleges were taught: a yearly tuition of 35 shillings was charged. The latter was chiefly composed of boys from the higher classes in the town schools, to whom gratuitous instruction was given in the common English branches.

The school soon became quite popular. Young men resorted to it from every part of the Union and from Canada. Its growing reputation and usefulness strengthened the desire of the trustees to convert the

\* MR. FITCH was born Sept. 26, 1756. He entered Yale College in 1773. He was highly esteemed in College as a diligent and virtuous student. After receiving his degree in '77 he passed two years at New Haven as a resident graduate. He then taught school a year in New Jersey, and in 1780 was appointed tutor in Yale College. This office he resigned in '83, and engaged in the mercantile business in company with Henry Daggett, Esq., of New Haven. In June, of the same year, he sailed for London, on business of the firm, and returned the following winter. Three years after he was again appointed tutor in Yale College, and officiated as senior tutor and librarian till 1791. During this time he united with the church, and was licensed to preach. He came to Williamstown, Oct. 1791, and from this time his life is incorporated with the history of the School and College.

school into a college, which indeed seems to have been their design from the beginning ; as we infer both from the acts of the corporation and from the willingness of Mr. Fitch to leave his high post at Yale, and become a preceptor. It seems to have been understood that the school was to be but temporary ; and that as soon as the way was prepared it was to assume the name of a college, the dignity of which it always bore.

Accordingly, at a meeting of the trustees in May, 1792, a petition was prepared to be sent to the General Court at its next session, asking for an act incorporating the school into a college. This petition set forth the prosperity of the school ; the eligibility of the situation for a college ; and the advantage of establishing another college, to the reputation of the state and the interests of learning. It concluded as follows : ‘ We hope it is a laudable wish that we indulge of seeing Massachusetts the Athens of the United States of America, to which young gentlemen from every part of the Union may resort for instruction in all the branches of useful and polite literature ; and we cannot entertain the least doubt but the object of our present memorial perfectly coincides with the object of such wish. Your memorialists therefore humbly pray your Honors that the Free School in Williamstown may be incorporated into a College by the name of WILLIAMS HALL, and that the nurturing, liberal hand of the Legislature may be extended to it by a grant of lands in the easterly part of this Commonwealth, or in such other way as to your Honors may seem fit.’

This petition proved successful, and we now pass on to notice the rise and progress of ‘ Williams College.’

## CHAPTER III.

### WILLIAMS COLLEGE.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT FITCH.

THE act of incorporation changing the Free School into a College, under the name of Williams College, was granted by the Legislature, June 22, 1793.

By this act all the trustees of the Free School were made trustees of the College; and in addition to them were added the Rev. Stephen West, D. D., Henry Van Schaack, Hon. Elijah Williams, and the President of the College for the time being. Gen. Philip Schuyler, Hon. Stephen Van Renssalaer, and Rev. Job Swift, were subsequently elected. The charter allowed the board to consist of 17 members, including the President; empowered them to fill all vacancies; to confer the usual academic degrees and doctorates; and to hold property to the amount of £6000. The property vested in the Free School was also transferred to the College, and a grant of \$4000 made from the State treasury, for the procurement of a library and philosophical apparatus.

The first meeting of the board was called by Mr. Skinner, August 6, 1793, (notice having been previously given in the Stockbridge paper.) All the trustees were present. The meeting having been organized, Mr. Fitch was unanimously elected President, Rev. Stephen West, D. D., Vice President, and Daniel Dewey, Secretary. A committee waited on Mr. Fitch, who attended, and signified his acceptance of the office.

From the records of this meeting we extract the following items: 'Voted, That Commencement be on the first Wednesday of September.' 'That a grammar school be connected with the college.' 'That Mr. Noah Linsley be appointed Tutor, with a salary of £65 per annum, and Mr. Nathaniel Steel, master of the Grammar School, with a salary of £60.' 'That the salary of the President be £140, and the corporation provide him with a house.' 'That each person who applies for admission be able to accurately read, parse, and

construe, to the satisfaction of the President and Tutor, Virgil's *Æneid*, Tully's Orations, and the Evangelists in Greek; or, if he prefers to become acquainted with French, he must be able to read and pronounce with a tolerable degree of accuracy and fluency, Hudson's French Scholar's Guide, Telemachus, or some other approved French author.' 'That Messrs. Skinner, Swift, and Noble, be a committee to counsel the President.' The thanks of the board were also voted to Mr. Noble for the present of a bell.

At a subsequent meeting it was also voted, 'That a committee be appointed to *procure* a well, and prevent the rooms from smoking.' 'That a public dinner be provided at the next commencement, for the President, Trustees, and officers, of the college, together with such other gentlemen as the President may invite.' 'That Mr. Elijah Dunbar be appointed Senior Tutor.' 'That the Monitor be allowed for his services the sum of 13 shillings, and in future an annual stipend, equal to one quarter's tuition.' Hon. Theodore Sedgwick was appointed Professor of Law and Civil Polity. A code of laws not differing materially from those now in use, was prepared and accepted at this meeting.

In October 1793, Mr. Fitch commenced his duties as President, and the college was duly organized by the admission of three small classes. President Fitch, and Tutors Linsley and Dunbar, constituted the first Faculty. From 1795 to 1799, Mr. Samuel McKay, a gentleman of amiable character, and a good scholar, was Professor of the French Language. Prof. M. resigned in 1799, and since then the Professorship has been discontinued. Jeremiah Day, since President of Yale College, was Tutor from 1796 to 1798. The Academy continued for several years in connection with the college; it was found to be a convenient place for the preparatory studies, and students more advanced had the privilege of reciting with the college classes.

The President's house was built in 1794.

At the time of the establishment of Williams College, there were already four other colleges in New England, viz: Yale and Dartmouth Colleges, and Brown and Harvard Universities.

Under the influence and persevering efforts of President Fitch, Williams College increased rapidly, and soon, from a humble beginning, was raised to a station of high and acknowledged usefulness and respectability. The first commencement was held on Wednesday, Sept. 2, 1795. Samuel Bishop, John Collins, Chancy Lusk, and Dan Stone, were the first that received academic honors at this institution. Chancy Lusk took the valedictory. The second class, graduating in 1796, consisted of six members; the third ten; and the fourth thirty.

The first three commencements were held in a small meeting house, the first one built in the town. This was found to be so small and inconvenient, that the Trustees voted to hold their succeeding commencements at Pittsfield, or Lanesboro, unless the town would provide them with a more suitable place: but before the next commencement, measures were taken to erect a new, and more commodious building. Towards the expenses of this building, the corporation contributed one hundred pounds, on condition that seats should be reserved for the students, and that they should have the use of the house on all public days. The fourth commencement was held in the present house, then in an unfinished state. The early commencements were attended by numerous collections of people from the vicinity, and from a distance, and by various distinguished and literary characters. At the first commencement, President Fitch delivered an able and popular address to the graduating class; but this practice was afterwards discontinued. During the administration of Dr. Griffin, it was resumed again and continued for some years.

In January, 1796, the Legislature granted two townships of land, which were sold the May following, for about \$10,000, and the avails, with a considerable sum beside, amounting in all to \$12,400, were applied to build East College, which was erected in 1797. It was a brick building of four stories, one hundred and four feet by ninety-eight. It was convenient for students; contained thirty-two rooms and three recitation rooms; and was regularly occupied until 1842, when it was destroyed by fire. With a portion of the grant from the Commonwealth at the time of its incorporation, a small, but well selected library was procured, and some philosophical apparatus.

In 1795, the two literary societies were formed, and a library under the name of the Adelpic Union was commenced. A catalogue of the college printed in 1795 contained the names of 77 students. The following note was appended: 'Besides the above members of college there are about fifty students in the academy connected with the college.' This catalogue, according to Dr. Robbins, the antiquarian, was the first catalogue of the members of a college ever printed. The same thing was done at Yale the year following, and the plan was subsequently adopted by the colleges generally. It was first printed on a single sheet, but afterwards in the form of a pamphlet, and contained the names of the Trustees and Faculty, which were before omitted. The first Triennial Catalogue was issued in 1799, and has since been regularly continued.

According to Dr. Fitch, the expenses of the Free School and college, from 1789 to 1800 were as follows: For West College, \$11,700;

President's house and land, \$2,400 ; for East College, \$12,400 ; for the meeting house, \$333 ; library, \$567 ; total, \$28,000. The funds received for the same time were the Williams fund, \$11,000 ; from the lottery, \$3,500 ; subscriptions, \$2,000 ; legislative grant, \$4,000 ; two townships of land, \$10,000 ; total, \$30,500 ; leaving a balance in the college treasury at the close of the year 1799, of \$2,500.

For a series of years after its establishment, the college continued to advance with accelerated progress in reputation and prosperity, students resorting to it from all parts of New England, New York, and Canada. And such was the rapidity of its growth that in 1804, nine years after the first class graduated, it enrolled upon its catalogue 144 students. In 1802, the whole number of volumes in the college library amounted to over two thousand ; while that of the Adelpic Union contained 375.

Some of the causes that contributed to the early prosperity of this college were that the necessary expenditures of the students were less than elsewhere ; its retired situation, and the character of the community, presenting few inducements to extravagance or dissipation. The principal means of instruction in all our colleges at that time, were the personal application of the students, and the recitation of the classes. Professional lectures on scientific subjects had not then come into fashion, and the apparatus for illustration was poor and limited.

In choosing Dr. Fitch for the first President of Williams College, (a station for which by his learning, talents, and experience in teaching, he was eminently qualified,) the trustees were united and happy ; and that they were neither unwise nor disappointed is sufficiently evident. In his hands, and under his care the college soon acquired a celebrity and influence not surpassed by any sister institution of any period, under circumstances no more favorable to success.

The following statement will show that the average yearly number of students graduating during the twenty-one years of President Fitch's administration was greater than under either of the succeeding Presidents, Doctors Moore or Griffin. The whole number of students which graduated under President Fitch, amounted to 460, averaging nearly 22 annually. The six classes under President Moore, contained 90, average 15 yearly. Fifteen under Dr. Griffin, contained 311 ; yearly average, about 21. The ten classes which have thus far (1847) graduated under President Hopkins, have contained 299 ; average nearly 30.

The following extracts from some of President Fitch's letters, will we think be read with interest in this connection :

' JANUARY, 1796. The number of students is increasing rapidly, so that we are already in want of another college edifice. We hope to

obtain from the state a grant of two townships of land in Maine, which, if obtained, will enable us to erect another building. At present we have a very likely collection of young men. They are very studious and orderly, and scarcely give us any trouble.'

'JANUARY, 1799. Things go on well in our infant seminary. Our number is hardly so large as last year. The scarcity of money is one cause of the decline; some leaving through mere poverty. But our ambition is to make good scholars, rather than add to our numbers; and in this we mean not to be outdone by any college in New England. Perseverance in the system we have adopted, will eventually give reputation to this institution in the view of all who prefer the useful to the showy.'

'JUNE, 1801. Our college is prospering. We have admitted forty-five Freshmen and nine Sophomores, and expect to make the number up to sixty before commencement.'

'JANUARY, 1802. Our Freshman class this year is not so large as usual; but we expect it will increase to twenty-five or more. A larger number, however, are professors of religion, and will I hope make pious and useful ministers.'

'APRIL, 1802. We have lately had trouble in college. The judgments we drew up and published to the classes respecting their examinations in March, gave offence. Three classes in succession were in a state of insurrection against the government of the college. For ten days we had a good deal of difficulty; but the Faculty stood firm, and determined to give up no right. At last, without the loss of a single member, we reduced all to due obedience and subordination. Never had I occasion for so much firmness and prudence; not even in the great rebellion of 1782 at Yale. Most of the students are now much ashamed of their conduct. The present generation I trust will never burn their fingers again. They have found that we will support our authority.'

MARCH, 1803. We have both our College buildings full of students. This is truly encouraging.'

In the year 1798, when our country resolved to resist the aggressions of France, and pledged the support of government by various addresses, one was sent by the students of Williams College, with the approbation of the Faculty. President Adams returned a polite answer, commending the patriotism of the students, and spoke in flattering terms of the flourishing state of so young an institution.

In 1804 a strip of land of no great value was granted to Williams and Bowdoin Colleges, and in 1805 another township of land was granted, which sold for \$4,500, and also one in 1809, which brought nearly \$5,000.

The commencement of 1807 was a mournful occasion. President Fitch's eldest son, having been admitted to College, died the evening before the commencement. The President presided at the exercises with great propriety, and the next morning attended the funeral of his son.

At a meeting of the board of Trustees, Sept. 1805, it was voted to break and discontinue the former seal of the corporation, and to adopt a new one with the following device, viz : a globe, telescope, inkstand, and pens, below a wreath of laurel, above a morning glory, with this motto, ' E Liberalitate, E. Williams, Armigeri.'

In the year 1806, a professorship of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy was established. Mr. Gamaliel Olds, formerly a Tutor, was elected to this professorship. It was also voted at this time to discontinue the Grammar School, on account of the paucity of students.

Thus far, with the exception of the disturbance alluded to in President Fitch's letters, nothing had occurred to check the prosperity of the College, or to cause any difficulty. In the summer of 1808, however, some disturbance took place among the students, of which Professor Dewey of Rochester, then residing at Williamstown, has favored us with the following account :

'In the spring and summer of 1808, there was an attempt of the Sophomore Class to prevent the continuance of some of the officers of College after the commencement. The students supposed the Tutors to be elected annually ; and that by a petition to the Trustees against a re-election, the desired end would be secured. To effect their object they enlisted the interest of two members of the senior class, then about to graduate. So much was said and done by these two Seniors, that the Faculty obliged them to make some acknowledgment of the impropriety of any such interference on their part, before they could be permitted to perform their parts at the Commencement, and receive their degrees. Though the Seniors believed a change of tutors to be important, they were sensible that it was not their part to meddle with such a matter, and the affair was settled with them. The commencement passed off pleasantly, and as the tutors remained in their office, it was supposed the whole matter was settled ; and the students returned after vacation, with the intention, as they said, of going on in peace and good will.

'Professor Olds had felt that the students were too much disposed to present petitions on subjects over which they had no control, and in which their interference was entirely improper. This practice he wished to have broken up, and this he designed to effect. He felt that the tutors had been injured by the course of the students, and that the



Faculty were abused by it. He had led the Seniors, by the direction of the Faculty, to make their acknowledgment in the case, and he expected to bring the class more particularly concerned in the petition to do the same. The Faculty agreed on the course to be pursued, and the President and Professor Olds presented the subject to members of the offending class, which was now under the care of Professor Olds. When the acknowledgement of the wrong and the renunciation of the practice were proposed, *each individual refused* to put his name to the paper. The Junior Class was now therefore in direct opposition to a measure resolved on by the Faculty. Recitations were suspended in that class, and the whole college was in a state of high excitement. The expulsion of some of those most deeply implicated was feared.

‘When the state of things was reported to the Faculty, the President, with the advice of one of the Trustees, refused to sustain the officers in the attempt, and disclosed that he had been mistaken in the facts, or he should not have consented to require the Juniors to make the proposed acknowledgment. He took a stand in favor of the Students, and against the Professor and Tutors. He said the matter had been managed by Professor Olds, in whom great confidence was placed, and who had great influence with the Faculty and the Students; and that Professor Olds had come to conclusions and had led them to adopt measures, which the true state of the facts, and the feelings and intentions of the students did not authorize. He therefore told the Professor that the proposed measure was not proper or called for, and must be given up.

‘Professor Olds felt that his honor was compromised, and that he could not hold a respectable standing in the eyes of the students, and that he must be sustained or leave the college. In a few hours the resignation of the Tutors was sent to the President, and soon after that of Professor Olds.

‘The college was then without any officer except the President; and as the vacancies could not be supplied immediately, a recess of four weeks was given to the students, and they returned to their homes.

‘A few were disgusted by the procedure, and took dismissions from the College. At the end of the recess most returned, and Chester Dewey, John Nelson, and James W. Robbins, having been called to the tutorships, the remainder of the year was employed in quiet and profitable study. For two years the students pursued an unexceptionable course in all things. Order, peace, study, and good feelings ruled.

‘Professor Olds felt that he was greatly injured by the decision of the President, and his failing to sustain him when the trial came. The President, whom the Trustees judged to have decided correctly,

felt that he had been led into a mistake by the misrepresentations of Professor Olds, not as intending any error, but carried beyond the facts of the case by the influence and strong feelings of the Professor. He regretted that he had not earlier scrutinized the case, but believed he had now taken the only wise, because the only right, course.

Professor O. doubtless misjudged on the dishonor of his situation. So high was the estimation of his talents by the students, and so great his influence with them, and so strong their attachment to him; that they uniformly declared many times in the year or two following, that they should have entertained all respect and regard for the Professor, as they believed he had erred honestly, and with the best intentions. By resigning, and leaving the College, he lost much of their respect, as it seemed to charge them with a criminal intention, which they disowned. There is another apology for Professor Olds, to be found in the fact that he had labored to support the Tutors; and as they could not consistently remain, he was bound to share with them the results.'

From this shock, increased by exaggerated reports respecting the extent of the disorders which had prevailed, the college did not recover during the administration of President Fitch. The Institution was then at its height. The rooms of both buildings were fully occupied, and the four classes then on the ground, produced more graduates than any successive four classes, up to 1834. The class that entered the fall after the disturbance graduated but twenty, while the four succeeding classes together numbered but eighty-nine. This was owing in some measure to the fact that other colleges had in the meantime been founded, which diminished the average number of students. It may here be remarked that it was at this time that Gordon Hall, Sam'l J. Mills and others, began their efforts, which resulted in the formation of the A. B. C. F. M. Mr. Hall graduated in 1808; S. J. Mills in 1809.

In 1810 Mr. Chester Dewey was elected to the professorship vacated by Mr. Olds. Ebenezer Adams, of Exeter, N. H., was also elected Professor of Mathematics, but declined.

In May, 1811, Woodbridge Little, Esq., of Pittsfield, one of the first Trustees, made a donation of \$2,500, for the education of talented and indigent young men for the Gospel ministry, and at his death, in 1813, increased the sum to \$5,700; the interest of which is applied annually to the above purpose.

In February, the Legislature granted \$3,000 per year, for ten years, from the tax on banks, the interest of one fourth of which constitutes a fund for the payment of bills of such students as may require assistance. This was most providential, and served to sustain the college during the troubles which afterwards followed.

In May, 1815, a professorship of Languages was established, and Mr. Ebenezer Kellogg appointed Professor. At the same meeting of the Trustees, the Prize Rhetorical Exercise on the evening preceding commencement was instituted.

We have now traced with perhaps too great minuteness, the history of the college as far as the year 1815. For twenty years had Dr. Fitch successfully, and with distinguished ability, presided over its interests, and with the exception of Dr. Manning of Brown University, what first President ever retained his station for so long a period in this country? But now the college by a concurrence of circumstances, had begun to decline. Since 1808 the institution had not enjoyed the reputation and prosperity of former years, and notwithstanding all the exertions of the President and Professors, aided by the counsel and cordial co-operation of a judicious and active board of Trustees, it still seemed to decline. Dr. Fitch had long believed, and it would seem had induced others to believe, that it was desirable and expedient to have a younger and more popular man to stand at the head of the institution. The funds of the college were small, and the salary which he received was wholly inadequate to the support of his large and expensive family. And in addition, he could not bear to see this object of his affections, which he had so carefully nurtured and watched over for so many years, droop under his care. Especially he could not endure the thought of having the cause of its decline attributed to himself. Under all these circumstances, Dr. Fitch thought it his duty, and judged it expedient that he should resign.\* He accordingly tendered his resignation to the Trustees, May 2, 1815. By permission, he immediately left college for the remainder of the summer, his salary continuing until the end of the year. In his absence, Prof. Dewey discharged the duties of President. Before leaving, Dr. Fitch delivered an affectionate parting address to the students, which in the end was productive of much good. He returned to the college in August, presided at commencement, inducted Professor Kellogg into his office as Professor of Languages, and then resigned. He staid long enough to receive Dr. Moore, and leaving town in October, was soon after installed pastor of a church in West Bloomfield, New York.

At a meeting of the President and Board of Trustees of Williams College, May, 1815, the following vote was unanimously passed: 'Whereas the Rev. President Fitch has signified his intention of

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\* The attempt to remove the college to Amherst, is assigned by Mr. Durfee, in his life of Fitch, as reason for his resignation. This is believed to be erroneous.

resigning at the next commencement, and whereas, in consequence of the state of the funds, the corporation has not been able to give him such a salary as his station and expenditures have required, voted, that there be granted to the Rev. Dr. Fitch the sum of twenty-two hundred dollars, to be paid in one year from the time of his resignation.' This sum was cheerfully paid to Dr. Fitch as a remuneration for his long and faithful services as President of the college, and was esteemed by him as an act of generosity; while the Board considered it as an act of justice.

Having retired at the age of sixty from a life of so much care, toil, and activity as his had been, President Fitch soon began to experience and exhibit the enfeebling effects of age. He continued however to discharge the regular and active duties of pastor to the church in Bloomfield for twelve years, when he was compelled by his increasing infirmities, to retire. He however occasionally preached after his dismissal until within a short time previous to his decease.

In the summer of 1828, he again in his seventy-second year, visited Williamstown, and after proceeding as far east as Boston, returned. It was his last visit to the scene of his labors, and was a source of much satisfaction to him, during the remainder of his days. He died at Bloomfield, N. Y., March 21, 1833, aged 76 years.

In personal appearance, Dr. Fitch was rather below than above the middling stature. His countenance was grave but pleasant, and by no means austere. His appearance and deportment was always gentlemanly and dignified; though sometimes, through his great modesty, not marked with perfect ease and elegance. He possessed native powers of mind of a high, if not of a pre-eminent order; characterized by solid strength rather than brilliancy, and capable of deliberate and manly rather than high-wrought efforts. His memory was strong and retentive; possessed of a large fund of useful anecdotes, which were ever at his command, and which he employed with happy success at the recitations, and to enliven and instruct in the social circle. During his presidency he was extensively known as a man of solid and varied learning, engaging with ardor and perseverance in the investigation of every subject to which he turned his attention.

He possessed the faculty of governing to that degree, that he was revered and beloved by all his numerous pupils: so much so that all who graduated during his presidency, or had any connection with him otherwise, invariably speak of him in the highest terms of respect and veneration. He took a deep interest in the cause of education, and was prominent in the establishment of the American Education Society and the Theological Seminary at Auburn.

As a christian, Dr. Fitch was sincere, devout and consistent; and no one could be in his society long, without perceiving that his mind was strongly imbued with religious feeling. 'He was,' says his biographer, 'desirous of knowing his duty, and when ascertained, was ready beyond most men, to perform it. As a preacher his sermons were distinguished for their plainness of style, clearness of illustration, soundness of argument, and simplicity of the gospel; while his accuracy in rhetorical composition was sometimes carried to excess.'

'His life was gentle — and the elements  
So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up,  
And say to all the world, THIS WAS A MAN!'

In closing this imperfect sketch of the life and character of the first President of Williams College, we feel it our duty to say, that to no one does this College owe a deeper debt of gratitude, than to President Fitch. For its interests and welfare he labored assiduously and constantly, and by his efforts it obtained rank, character, and standing. Diligent, faithful and active, he was unwearied in his efforts to promote the happiness and welfare of all confided to his care; faithfully maintaining at the same time strict and healthful discipline.

After his decease, his manuscripts fell into the hands of his son, and were afterwards destroyed by fire. His cotemporaries, like himself, having nearly all passed away, little save the general incidents of his life can now be rescued from oblivion. A valuable memoir of his life has, however, been published by the Rev. Calvin Durfee of Dedham, Mass., to which we are indebted for much of our information respecting him.

On a large and beautiful monument, erected over his grave at Bloomfield, is the following inscription:

IN MEMORY OF

**THE REV. PRESIDENT FITCH, D. D.**

WHO WAS BORN AT CANTERBURY, CONN., 1756;

GRADUATED AT YALE COLLEGE IN 1777;

TUTOR IN THE SAME EIGHT YEARS;

PRESIDENT OF WILLIAMS COLLEGE TWENTY-TWO YEARS;

PASTOR OF THE CHURCH AT WEST BLOOMFIELD TWELVE YEARS.

**HE DIED MARCH 21, 1833.**

AGED 76 YEARS.

'The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.'

## CHAPTER IV.

### ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT MOORE.

IMMEDIATELY on the receipt of President Fitch's resignation, May 2, 1815, the board of Trustees proceeded to the election of a President, to supply the vacancy. The Rev. Leonard Woods, D. D., of Andover, was unanimously elected President, and Professor of Divinity; Rev. Zephaniah Swift Moore, D. D.,\* Prof. of Languages at Dartmouth College, being chosen as a substitute. It was voted to raise the salary of the President from one thousand to fourteen hundred dollars. Dr. Woods declining the office, the Board thereupon notified Mr. Moore, who accepted, and was inaugurated with appropriate ceremonies, Sept. 3, 1815. His address on this occasion has been highly spoken of as a finished and elegant production.

At a meeting of the Board in the spring of 1815, the following vote was passed, probably introduced by the Rev. Mr. Packard of Shelburne: 'Voted, that a committee of six persons be appointed, to take into consideration the subject of a removal of the college to some other part of the Commonwealth; to make all necessary inquiries which have a bearing on the subject, and report at the next meeting.' The committee reported in September, that 'a removal of Williams College from Williamstown, is inexpedient at the present time and under existing circumstances.'

This appears to have been the first suggestion, made in the secrecy of the session, and apparently without any serious intent, concerning a removal of the College to Connecticut river. It does not appear, as

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\* ZEPHANIAH SWIFT MOORE was born Nov. 20, 1770, at Palmer, Mass. He graduated at Dartmouth in 1793, and immediately took charge of an academy in Londonderry, N. H. After remaining here some time, he studied divinity and settled first at Tolland Ct., and afterwards removed to Leicester, Mass. In 1811, he accepted the appointment of Prof. of Languages at Dartmouth, where he remained four years. He was elected President of Williams College in 1815, and on his resignation in 1821, became President of the Collegiate institution at Amherst, afterwards called Amherst College, and was inaugurated Sept. 1821. He died June 30, 1823, aged 53.

Dr. Griffin states, (see sermon at the dedication of the chapel,) to have been immediately divulged or thought of to any extent. Very little was said about it during that summer, and our informant, who was at that time a member of College, states, that so far as he knew, no one entertained the slightest idea that any serious attempt would be made to remove the institution. When Dr. Moore accepted the presidency, in that year, having been informed, (probably by Dr. Packard, who was the originator of the plan, and also one of the committee appointed to notify Dr. Moore of his election,) of the vote taken by the Trustees and the advantages consequent to a removal, he expressed a strong desire that the Board would not relax their efforts to effect this change, and also openly declared at the time of his inauguration, that he was convinced that the College would never prosper in its present location.

When the feelings of the community became excited afterwards on this subject, Dr. Moore, in defence of his conduct, assigned as a reason, that he came with the expectation that the College would be removed immediately. This may be so, and without doubt was the case, but at the same time it is sufficiently evident that until after Dr. Moore came to Williamstown, but little was said by those connected with the College concerning its removal, and that such a plan was thought of was scarcely known among the community at large.

Soon after President Moore entered upon his duties, he began to agitate the subject publicly. The vote taken by the Trustees in the spring was made known, and spread like wildfire. Rumor with its hundred tongues went through the country, and during the six years that Dr. Moore remained at the College, the expectation was continually kept alive, that the College would be removed. The leading argument employed by Dr. Moore, and the one by which all the Trustees but three were induced to vote for a removal, provided the consent of the Legislature could be obtained, was its retired and sequestered location. It was supposed that but one College could be supported in Western Massachusetts, and it was urged that the situation of this instead of being in the corner of the county of Berkshire, should rather be in the centre of the adjoining county of Hampshire.

The consequence to the College of the agitation of such measures, was obvious. Few would attach themselves to a falling interest. Many immediately left the College to graduate elsewhere. The last class that graduated under Dr. Fitch, numbered 24. The first under President Moore, but 16, while the second contained but 7. The whole number of students in 1819, was only 87.

No farther action was taken in reference to this subject until the fall of 1818, when a communication was received from the Trustees of

Amherst Academy, requesting the Board to unite the College with a proposed literary institution, to be established at Amherst. No action was taken upon this communication by the Trustees; but from this time open and secret movements were at work to effect a removal of the College to Northampton, or some other place in the county of Hampshire. President Moore especially was active and strenuous in his exertions, and by his influence many from this section of the county were induced to believe that the College would never prosper in its present location.

The faculty generally were in favor of removal; Prof. Kellogg in particular, who was afterward ascertained to be the author of many able anonymous articles in favor of removal, which appeared from time to time in the public prints.

At a special meeting of the Corporation of Williams College, held Nov. 10, 1818, the following resolutions were adopted with slight opposition: '*Resolved*, That it is expedient to remove Williams College to some more central part of the State, whenever sufficient funds can be obtained to defray the necessary expenses incurred, and losses sustained by removal. *Resolved*, That in order to guide the Trustees in determining to which place the College shall be removed, and to produce harmony, the following gentlemen, viz: Hon. James Kent, Chancellor of the State of New York; Hon. Nathaniel Smith, Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut; and the Rev. Seth Payson of New Hampshire, be a committee, to visit the towns in Hampshire County, and determine the place to which the College shall be removed; the Trustees pledging themselves to abide by their decision, provided the requisite sum be raised.'

The Board then adjourned to meet at Pittsfield in May next, at which time and place, the committee reported that the proper place to remove to, was Northampton. An address to the public was also prepared and printed, setting forth the reasons for the intended removal of the College, and requesting donations to increase its funds, and to promote its prosperity at its new location, viz: at Northampton.

The following reasons were set forth in the address, which was extensively circulated: 'That since its establishment in 1793, other Colleges have sprung up about it, and had almost wholly withdrawn the patronage it formerly received from the North and West. That owing to the want of support, its funds have become so reduced, that the income falls short of the expenditures, and the Trustees for this reason are unable to maintain the institution in its present state, and enable it to compete with other Colleges. These circumstances have induced the Trustees, after mature reflection and deliberation, to



think a removal of the College, to a situation more central and more convenient of access, necessary to its support and continuance in usefulness.'

A proposition was also made to the Trustees of Amherst Academy, requesting them to unite their charitable funds with the College, in case it was removed to Northampton, but it was rejected, unless they would change the location to Amherst. The President and others were instructed to petition the Legislature on the subject of removal, and request leave to do so. The reasons brought forward in this petition were substantially the same with those in the address to the public. This petition met with a spirited opposition on the part of the inhabitants of the town and county, and upon their own responsibility, they raised a subscription of \$17,500, which was laid before the Legislature, and which was to be paid to the College, in case it should not be removed.

This subscription, raised against the wishes of a majority of the Trustees, and which they could not refuse without a fraud upon the Legislature, was made payable in ten years. At the expiration of this time, the subscribers were called on, and in some cases payment was refused. So much dependence had been placed on this fund by the College, that it was found impossible to do without it, and legal measures were reluctantly resorted to. One case was carried to the Supreme Court and the decision being in favor of the corporation, the remainder was collected without difficulty. It was, however, unjustly made the ground of much ill feeling, and much odium was thrown on the College on account of the measures pursued. This subscription, it must be remembered, was procured by those not connected with the College, and was one of the principal reasons that influenced the Legislature to refuse permission for removal; and under these circumstances, the collection of this sum, guaranteed to the College by the subscribers, and which was necessary for its very existence, could not have been otherwise than honorable and just.

Nor were the inhabitants in Hampshire and the adjoining counties inactive. Fifty thousand dollars, together with lumber and other materials for building, were subscribed in a short time, and pledged to the College in case of removal. So far indeed had matters progressed, that the situation for the College had even been fixed on, while the subject of removal was the principal topic of discussion throughout the western part of the State.

In the mean time the Collegiate Institution at Amherst had commenced operations, while the prospects of Williams College were indeed gloomy. It seemed to be upon the brink of ruin, and even its warmest

friends were in serious doubt whether it would much longer have a name and a place among the kindred institutions of the land: regarding the time as not distant when '*fuit*' must be written upon its empty walls. The number of students continued to decrease. The College did not support itself, but drew upon its funds for maintenance. The few students that remained were generally in favor of retaining the College at Williamstown, and as an illustration of their feelings, the following anecdote may not be inappropriate.

Rev. Mr. Packard of Shelburne, (who from the first was very active in relation to the removal of the College) had on one occasion attended a meeting of the Board at Williamstown, and in a speech had expressed himself strongly on the facility with which the College could be removed to Northampton. This coming to the ears of the students they adopted the following plan to expose the fallacy of the Reverend gentleman's reasoning. He always came upon an old gray horse, and as was the fashion of the times, with a huge pair of saddle bags dangling on each side. On the evening previous to his departure from town, this horse was duly tarred and sheared of his tail and mane, while his master's saddle bags were well filled with bricks and mortar, taken from West College. So much of the story is undoubtedly true; for the remainder we cannot answer, viz: that as the old gentleman, astride of his charger, moved off the next morning, from among the crowd of students collected to witness his departure, loud cries were heard, 'The College is in motion! Packard is carrying it off!'

The petition to the Legislature was laid before that body, and after a long and vexatious discussion and consideration, in consequence of the subscription of \$17,500, and of the representations and remonstrances from the inhabitants of Berkshire county, permission to remove the College was refused to the Trustees.

Strong expectations however had been excited in Hampshire county, that there would be a College there, and the people of Amherst, taking advantage of the opportunity, raised large subscriptions, and erected buildings for the reception of students, with the expectation of obtaining a charter. Dr. Moore, having stated his intention of leaving Williams College at or before the next Commencement, (1821), a proposition was made to him to place himself at the head of the institution there. He accepted their invitation, and at a meeting of the Trustees of Williams College, held July 17, 1821, resigned his office, to take effect after the next Commencement, and sooner if they desired.

The Trustees then proceeded to an election of President to supply the vacancy. Rev. Thomas McAuley, L. L. D. Professor of Natural Philosophy at Union College, was unanimously elected. The Trustees

at the same time published a circular, announcing the election of Dr. McAuley, and their determination, (now that the matter of removal was settled) to stand by the College and restore it to its former usefulness and respectability.

Dr. McAuley, however, declined, as well as Rev. Chauncey A. Goodrich, of New Haven, Professor in Yale. The condition and prospects of the College were now disheartening. Dr. Moore had resigned; while the two others who had been elected did not feel disposed to leave permanent and profitable situations elsewhere, to place themselves at the head of an institution which it was thought must soon go down.

The students also began to be discouraged. Many left on account of Dr. Moore's resignation, and went to Amherst. The members of the senior class, supposing that there would be no Commencement, had about made up their minds to leave, and take their degrees at other Colleges. Some had already done so, and the rest wavering, had called a class meeting to determine what to do; when two individuals, most nobly and with a determination to sustain the reputation and honor of their Alma Mater, addressed the class; declared their intention of remaining, and of having a Commencement; that if left alone they would still graduate in the usual manner, and perform the several parts which would have been allotted to the others.

Influenced by such a spirit, the remainder concluded to stay; the Commencement came off as usual, thirteen taking degrees. Dr. Moore presided at the exercises, which were well attended, and immediately left for Amherst, where he was inaugurated in September. His continuance there, however, was short. He died within two years after leaving Williamstown, in the fifty-third year of his age. His remains repose in the burying-ground at Amherst, beneath a neat marble monument erected by the Trustees. While living, he greatly exerted himself to build up Amherst College, and bequeathed to it, in his will, the sum of five thousand dollars.

In regard to the conduct of Dr. Moore during his connection with Williams College, a variety of opinions have existed. We would not wish to be in the number of those who judge harshly of him, for we believe that in whatever he did he acted conscientiously, and endeavored to promote the interests of the College. His situation was in many respects delicate and embarrassing, yet we think it evident that if Dr. Moore had exerted the same energy and zeal in sustaining the interests of this College which he afterwards displayed at Amherst, its affairs would never have been reduced to so low a state. If the location of the College was the cause of its decline during the Presidency of Dr. Moore, how shall we account for the uncommon degree of prosperity

and reputation which, notwithstanding its subsequent embarrassments, it has since enjoyed. We do not, however, wish to dwell upon his failings, if they were failings; but would rather conceal them, leaving to each to form his own opinions in respect to his merits and his deeds. In personal appearance Dr. Moore was prepossessing; corpulent, and modest-looking. He was popular with the students, especially at Amherst, and in all his intercourse with them was courteous and affable. During his connection with Williams College the people of Williamstown and the vicinity were much opposed to Dr. Moore, for the stand that he took in relation to the removal; but this asperity of feeling was in a great measure mitigated by their estimation of his talents and acquisitions, and by their belief of his sincerity in attempting to advance what he considered to be the highest interests of the College.

## CHAPTER V.

### ADMINISTRATION OF DR. GRIFFIN.

DR. MCAULEY and Prof. Goodrich having declined the office of President, the Trustees then made choice of Rev. Edward Dorr Griffin,\* at that time minister in Newark, N. J.; and a committee was immediately sent to notify him of his election. Dr. Griffin had for some time been interested in the College, from its connection with Missionary operations, and coming directly on to meet the Trustees, arrived at Williamstown, on Commencement day about noon, and took a seat upon the stage.

It having been intimated that he would not accept the appointment, a feeling of despondency had taken possession of all interested in the continuance of the College, but his unexpected appearance at that time, revived their hopes, and thenceforth things began to assume a brighter aspect.

Dr. Griffin having accepted the appointment, he was inaugurated President and Professor of Divinity, Nov. 14, 1821. A large number

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\* EDWARD DORR GRIFFIN was born at East Haddam, Ct. Jan. 6, 1770. He entered Yale College in 1786, at the age of 16, and graduated in 1790, with the highest honors of his class. He first turned his attention to Law, but being converted, afterwards gave himself to the study of Theology, and settled at New Hartford, in 1796. In 1801 he became pastor of the first Presbyterian church at Newark, where he remained preaching with great success until 1809; in 1808 he received the degree of D. D. from Union College. The Theological Seminary at Andover, being at that time about to commence operations, Dr. Griffin accepted the Professorship of Pulpit Eloquence, having previously declined a call to the Park Street church in Boston. He remained at Andover until 1811, when owing to repeated solicitations from Boston, he at last consented to go, and was installed Pastor of the above named church in July, 1811. He here labored with great success, and acquired the reputation of being the most eloquent preacher at that time in New England. Among those converted under his preaching, was the Rev. Mr. Taylor, since known as the Bethel preacher, who was at that time a rough sailor. For various reasons, Dr. Griffin was induced to leave Boston in 1815 and return to Newark, at the invitation of the church there, where he remained seven years, until 1821, when he was elected President of Williams College.


of people were drawn together from the neighboring towns, by the interest of the occasion. Rev. Dr. Hyde, the Vice President, after making a short Latin address to the President elect and receiving his answer, and after the blessing of heaven had been invoked on the President in his new station, by the Rev. Dr. Shepard, proceeded to invest him with the office in the usual form, and committed to him the instruction and government of the Institution in a serious and interesting manner.

An inaugural address was then delivered by the President, in which he traced the influence of the higher institutions of learning upon all the inferior schools, their connection with the happiness of society, the interests of civil and religious liberty, and the cause of vital piety in our own and other lands; he alluded with great eloquence to the exertions of Mills and Hall, which led to the establishment of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and waked the churches to a great and long-neglected duty. In the course of this able and elegant discourse, he showed how all the principal branches of study conduce to such valuable results. This was followed by a congratulatory address from Prof. Kellogg in Latin. A sermon was also preached by Rev. Dr. Humphrey. The College choir of singers then performed two or three pieces selected and executed with good taste.

Dr. Griffin had precisely the kind of reputation needed by the College in such a crisis. Confidence was revived; a comparatively large class entered; and the College continued to increase in numbers and prosperity.

The BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION, having been established at Pittsfield about this time, was placed under the care and supervision of the College; the degree of M. D. being conferred by the President, at the regular Commencements. This connection was dissolved after a few years.

At the Commencement of 1821, the Alumni being desirous of doing something to aid and sustain the College in its desperate situation, formed themselves into a society, to be called the Society of Alumni. The object of this society is perhaps best explained by the following notice calling the meeting together, which we extract from one of the newspapers of that day:

‘ WILLIAMS COLLEGE.—A meeting of the Alumni of Williams College will be held at the College chapel, Sept. 5, at 9 A. M., to consider the expediency of forming a Society of Alumni. The meeting is notified at the request of a number of gentlemen educated at the Institution, who are desirous that the true state of the College may be

known to the Alumni, and that the influence and patronage of those it has educated may be united for its support, protection, and improvement. A general meeting is requested. *August 25, 1821.*

The meeting having assembled pursuant to notice, the following preamble and constitution were adopted :

‘ For the promotion of literature and good fellowship among ourselves, and the better to advance the reputation and interests of our Alma Mater, we, the subscribers, graduates of Williams College, do form ourselves into a society, and adopt the following Constitution :

ART. 1. This society shall be called the Society of Alumni of Williams College.

ART. 2. This society shall meet annually at the College, at the time of the annual Commencement.

ART. 3. An address shall also be delivered at each meeting by one of its members chosen for that purpose.

ART. 4. The officers of this society shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and an Executive Committee of three members, to be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting.’

The remaining articles specify the duties of the officers, &c., and are of no great interest. The first President was Dr. Asa Burbank. Hon. Elijah H. Mills, a distinguished U. S. Senator was elected first orator. This appointment was not fulfilled. The first oration delivered, was in 1823, by Rev. Dr. Woodbridge of Hadley, which was well worthy of the occasion. Since that time, the annual oration before the Alumni has seldom failed. This was the first association of the kind ever formed, and the example has since been followed by nearly every College in the United States. Who can tell how great the influence of such associations may become in cherishing kind feeling, in fostering literature, in calling out talent, and in leading men to act, not selfishly, but more efficiently for the general cause, through particular institutions ?

We have now come to a most interesting epoch in the history of Williams College. Steadily and surely, under the able and judicious management of Dr. Griffin, was it recovering from the embarrassments under which it had well nigh fallen, when misfortunes again gathered around it, and it was again doubtful whether it would longer have an existence or not.

In February, after a long dispute in the Legislature, a charter was granted to Amherst College, by a small majority. Great efforts had been made to prevent this by the friends of the College, and it had been so often used as an argument in opposition to that Semi-

nary, that two Colleges could not be sustained in the western part of this State, that the doctrine now came back upon the College like a reflux wave, and it was generally supposed would be a death blow to the institution. This story had been so often told that it had come to be believed, and the inference was that Williams College must go down. A panic seized the public mind and extended to the College. A number of the students immediately took dismissions, while a very small class entered at the ensuing Commencement. The whole number sunk from 120 to 80, and little prospect appeared of there being any increase. It was now seen that in order to extract the seeds of consumption, which had lurked in the College for eleven years, something must be done to convince the public that it would live and flourish on this ground. It was believed that nothing was needed to give stability to the institution but to fasten this conviction in the public mind. It was evident, notwithstanding interested reports to the contrary, that it was well situated for a healthful, moderate sized College, in one of the most beautiful vallies in America, in a region perfectly healthy, far removed from the temptations of cities and large towns, in the midst of a population distinguished for morality and religion, where living was as cheap as in any town in the United States, and where sufficient range was still left for a College.

As a last resort, therefore, the Trustees determined to raise twenty-five thousand dollars, to found a new professorship and build a chapel.\*

Such an addition to the funds, officers, and buildings, would, it was thought, certainly restore confidence in the public mind and accomplish everything. But this fund *was to be* raised. Unless it could be done, and the institution be placed on a stable and prosperous footing, two of the Professors had determined to leave, a third was apparently sinking into the grave, while the Trustees disheartened and discouraged by eleven years conflict and troubles, would have given up in despair of doing anything further. It must be evident to every one, who reflects on the situation of the College, that the crisis had come, and that its fate was staked on raising the twenty-five thousand dollars; the subscription being void unless completed before the last day of November 1826, ten months being allowed to obtain the same. To attempt to raise this sum seemed hopeless, and the most practical men pronounced with emphasis and concern, that in the embarrassed state of the country it never could be done. Notwithstanding, Dr. Griffin encouraged by a powerful revival of religion, undertook the work, and

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\*Before the present building was erected, the chapel was situated in West College, south end, comprising a portion of the second and third stories.



accomplished what no other man could have done. In four weeks he raised twelve thousand dollars. The fund was completed; a professorship of Rhetoric and Moral Philosophy endowed, and the work on the chapel immediately commenced. Such is the history of the darkest period in the annals of the College and which we hope will be the last. From that time it has been felt that the College was permanent, and it has been going on side by side with sister institutions, doing its part in carrying on the great business of education in this country.

In 1827, Prof. Dewey having resigned, Mr. Sylvester Hovey was elected in his place. Mr. Augustus Porter, was at the same time chosen Professor of Rhetoric and Moral Philosophy. Prof. Porter died in 1830, aged 31.

The chapel was completed in 1828, at a cost of ten thousand dollars, and on the second of September of the same year, was dedicated by the President, Dr. Griffin, who at the same time preached a sermon, in which he gave a concise history of the College from the foundation to that time. In 1828, Joseph Burr, of Manchester Vt., left to the College by will a legacy of one thousand dollars, the interest of which was to be devoted to increasing the Library.

In 1828, Dr. Emmons was appointed Professor of Chemistry and Natural History.

In 1829, Mr. Albert Hopkins was elected Professor of Astronomy and Natural Philosophy vice Prof. Hovey resigned.

In 1830, Dr. Mark Hopkins was elected Professor of Rhetoric and Moral Philosophy, vice Prof. Porter deceased.

In 1832, a measure of great importance to the College was undertaken by the Society of Alumni. In consideration of the meager condition of the Philosophical and Chemical apparatus; it was voted at a meeting held September 5, to attempt to raise the sum of four thousand dollars, to be expended for the benefit of these respective departments. Immediate action was taken upon this subject, and in a comparatively short time the sum (including interest) of \$4,511 was subscribed and paid. This sum has since been applied, under the direction of a committee, for the purchase of instruments. In the raising and appropriating of this fund, great credit is due to Professor Kellogg, for his unwearied and constant exertions.

In 1834, Professor Albert Hopkins was sent to Europe, to procure the necessary apparatus. Professor H. went out at his own expense, his salary, however, continuing during his absence.

A Professorship of Chemistry was established the same year, Mr. Edward Lasell being appointed Professor of the same. At this time, for the sake of increasing the funds of the College, the respective

officers, with a spirit of generous self-sacrifice, voluntarily agreed to relinquish a portion of their respective salaries; each Professor, from the small salary of \$800 giving up \$100, while the President, with a salary of \$1400, reduced it to \$1000. Such a spirit is not often met with in our public men, and is worthy of remembrance. It is to this unity of attachment and feeling, that the preservation of the College during so many and successive misfortunes, (greater than which have not been encountered by any Institution,) is in a great measure attributable.

In 1834, a bequest of \$1000 was received from the will of Hon. Ezra Starkweather, the interest of which was to be applied to the assistance of indigent students.

Dr. Griffin continued to preside over the institution with distinguished ability and success, till the spring of 1833, when it became evident that his services were drawing to a close, and that the infirmities of age and disease were gathering upon him. From this time, however, notwithstanding occasional attacks of paralysis, he continued to exert himself for the College, until 1836, when he found it necessary to resign, which he accordingly did at the meeting of the Board of Trustees in August. His resignation was accepted with the deepest regret that circumstances rendered this step necessary, and with strong emotions of gratitude for the services he had rendered.

As soon as arrangements could be made, he left Williamstown and the scene of his labors for ever. On the morning of his departure, (September 28,) the students waited on him in a body, to take their leave of him, and presented him with a respectful and affectionate address. The old gentleman was much affected, and with overflowing feelings replied to them from his carriage. Dr. Griffin returned to Newark, where he soon after died, November 8, 1837, having been President of the College fifteen years.

In personal appearance, Dr. Griffin was tall, over six feet in height, well built, large and portly. He was rather prepossessing in his appearance, but had an authoritative and commanding look. His person was uncommonly suited to excite attention, and awaken respect and interest. His towering height, expressive countenance, and gentlemanly deportment, all together, gave him such an aspect, that no one could once see him without a distinct recollection of him ever after. In any collection of men, he was the person on whom the attention of a stranger would be first fastened.

Providence appears to have brought Dr. Griffin to Williams College just in time to save it from extinction. The obligations to him are great, not because he showed an uncommon tact or skill in managing

its affairs in reference to education, but because his reputation and personal efforts were the means of raising it from obscurity, and giving it character and standing before the public. His talents were of a high order, both brilliant and profound, and exhibited a combination of qualities not often united in the same individual. He was distinguished for his boldness of thought, and the eloquence with which he expressed himself, on every occasion. As a minister of the gospel, he was eminent and successful.

The following inscription is taken from his monument at Newark :

S A C R E D  
To the Memory of the  
REV. EDWARD DORR GRIFFIN, D. D.  
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE  
IN THE HOPES OF A GLORIOUS IMMORTALITY,  
NOV. 8, 1837,  
IN THE 68TH YEAR OF HIS AGE.

'They that turn many to righteousness, shall shine as the stars forever and ever!'

## CHAPTER VI.

### ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT HOPKINS.

UPON the resignation of President Griffin, the Trustees unanimously elected Prof. Mark Hopkins, President and Professor of Moral and Intellectual Philosophy. Dr. Griffin presided at the Commencement exercises for the last time, in 1836, and on the fifteenth of September of the same year, Prof. Hopkins was inaugurated President of Williams College. The ceremony was performed in the chapel, in the following manner. The record of the Trustees in regard to the election was first read by the Secretary of the Board, and a charge delivered to the President elect, by the Vice President, Rev. Dr. Shepard of Lenox. The exercises closed with an inaugural address from the President.

In 1838, the Professorship of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy was abolished, the department of Prof. Hopkins being termed the Professorship of Natural Philosophy and Astronomy; while a new Professorship of Mathematics was at this time established, Mr. John Tatlock being appointed Professor of the same.

In the spring of 1837, the building of an Astronomical Observatory (the first on this continent designed exclusively for such an object,) was commenced wholly on the responsibility, and nearly all at the expense of Prof. Hopkins. The original plan extended only to the erection of a small edifice which might serve as a convenient place for deposit of a valuable Transit instrument; but it was thought best afterwards to enlarge the design so as to accommodate other instruments, which at some future time might be furnished. The building so far as the outside was concerned was finished in the fall of the same year. The work was resumed the ensuing spring, and in June, 1838, the instruments having been mounted and arranged, the building was dedicated by an address from Prof. Hopkins. The cost of the Observatory, exclusive of the fixtures in and about, was not far from two thousand dollars; to aid in defraying which, four hundred dollars were subscribed by four gentlemen in Worcester, Boston, New York, and Williamstown, the remainder of the expense devolving upon Prof. Hopkins. This sum has since been partially repaid to Prof. Hopkins by the Trustees, and in honor of the efforts and generosity of Prof.

Hopkins, it was unanimously voted that the building be called the 'Hopkins Observatory.'

In the summer of 1842, with the money repaid by the corporation, a Magnetic Observatory was also constructed and presented, together with the land on which it stands, to the College by Professor Hopkins. This Observatory was likewise one of the first in the country.

On Sunday, October 17, 1841, the building long known as the East College was destroyed by fire. The fire took in the afternoon while the students were at church, and was communicated, as is supposed, from a stick of wood falling from the fire place upon the floor, in a room situated on the North Hall, fourth story, and on the west side. When first discovered, as the students were returning from church, it had made such progress that there was but little hope of saving the building; in addition to which the height of the building and the want of any adequate supply of water, combined to render all attempts to extinguish the flames abortive. The students were however enabled to save most of their furniture and books, with the exception of those in the immediate vicinity of the fire.

All of the immense concourse assembled showed a laudable zeal in saving property of *every description*, but the means taken were not always adapted to the end in view, as exemplified by the throwing of a valuable cabinet of minerals belonging to Professor Hopkins from the third story windows, as well as looking-glasses, trunks, etc., while stove-pipes, bedsteads, and such articles, were carefully carried down stairs. The building being old, the flames spread with great rapidity, and in a short time the edifice which fond recollections had rendered dear to many, and which for nearly half a century, unscathed, had withstood so many storms and partial burnings, was soon a smouldering ruin.

While the south end of the College was burning, the Astronomical Observatory was at times in great danger, and was saved only by covering the combustible parts with wet blankets. The Theological library was entirely destroyed. But the loss that fell with the greatest weight upon the students, was the destruction of the rooms belonging to the Literary Societies. These apartments had been but recently fitted up in this building, and were situated in the third story; the Logian in the north-west and the Technian in the south-west corner. To each was allotted a space occupied by one large study room, and bed rooms belonging to it, together with the end of the hall adjoining. The rooms were plain, but at the same time fitted up with great taste and elegance. The major part of the Libraries and furniture was removed, though not without great injury, the students exerting themselves to

the utmost to save all that was possible, and not deserting their posts until compelled by the increasing heat.

The articles saved from the flames were heaped promiscuously together in the yard and green in front, without respect to ownership or nature. The goods were afterwards for security stowed in the chapel; for although the articles were carefully watched in spite of wind and cold, by the ladies, who generously volunteered their assistance, there were some, even in the quiet and moral village of Williamstown, who were willing to save property not only from the devouring element, but also from the owners.

The fire, though severely felt by some, on account of the loss of books and furniture, did not break up the regular course of studies, even of the Junior and Senior classes, for more than one day; and the Junior class recited the regular lesson of the day on the next morning in the Philosophical lecture room. The students by the activity of the faculty and the kindness of the inhabitants of the town, were without exception furnished with comfortable rooms before the close of the next day. There being no insurance, the loss fell heavily on the College, but a meeting of the Trustees being immediately called, active measures were at once taken, and in a comparatively short time \$9,000 was subscribed to aid in re-building. A petition was also sent to the Legislature for aid, but for several reasons was not successful. During the ensuing spring and summer, two new Colleges, called East and South Colleges, were erected at an expense of \$11,000.

In 1842, a full suit of the minerals of the State of New York, was presented to the College by Dr. Ebenezer Emmons of Albany.

On Wednesday, August 16th, 1843, in accordance with previous arrangements, the Society of Alumni celebrated the Semi-centennial Anniversary of the founding of the College. The gathering at this anniversary, of Alumni and others, was large; every college building and house, public and private, was crowded to excess. His Excellency the Governor, and the Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth, were escorted into town, together with other distinguished gentlemen, the evening previous, by a band of music and a long train of carriages, and gentlemen on horse-back.

Agreeably to public notice, the Alumni assembled in the Chapel at 8 o'clock on Wednesday morning. Here were assembled men of every profession — Judges and Magistrates, Pastors and Teachers, some whose locks were white with the frosts of many winters and others in the full strength of manhood; some of whom had not pressed the hands of their classmates or revisited the scenes of their youth, since the parting of the class on Commencement day. Curious, pain-

ful, and interesting, was the recognition of venerable men, who when life was bright before them had left this pleasant valley, to return after the lapse of years, when the visions of youth had departed, and the sober realities of old age had gathered around them. Delightful were the congratulations; a hurried review was taken of the past; new pledges of friendship were given and received, while a spontaneous and universal, though silent prayer, went up to Heaven for the long-continued prosperity and usefulness of their Alma Mater.

The meeting was called to order by Judge Morris, of Springfield, who as President of the association, took the chair. A book was procured, in which each of the Alumni present, in the order of time, beginning with the first class, enrolled his name, year of graduation, and residence, each being read off by the President. It was voted that the book be preserved among the archives of the society, and presented at the next half-century meeting, in 1893. There was at this time only one surviving member of the first class of graduates, in 1795, who was not present. The only representative of the second class was the Rev. Dr. Robbins. After him, Judge Walker of Lenox, of the class of 1798; Rev. Dr. Fisher of Albany, and William Patrick of Canterbury, Conn., of the class of 1799; Caleb Knight of Worthington, Thomas Day of Hartford, Rev. Jared Curtiss\* of Charlestown, Mass., John Dickinson of Amherst, of the class of 1800; Judge Morris, of Springfield, 1801; Lieutenant Governor Childs, and J. W. Robbins, 1802.

After the reading of the names by the President, the society proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year. Judge Betts of New York, was unanimously elected President. At 10 o'clock a procession was formed in the following order: Graduates of this and other colleges, in the order of their graduation; Trustees and Faculty of the College; strangers and undergraduates; and proceeded to the church, which was filled to overflowing. The exercises consisted of addresses by President Hopkins, and the Rev. Dr. Robbins, of the class of 1796, a prayer by the Rev. Dr. Edwards, followed by the benediction by Rev. Dr. Fisher, of the class of 1799. The address of the President occupied the attention of the audience for nearly an hour and a half, and was marked by strength and origin-

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\* MR. CURTISS being Chaplain of the Charlestown Prison, was introduced to the audience as the only one of the Alumni who was known to have been in State Prison; and he had been there eighteen years, and did not blush to tell it. Some one suggesting that the presence of the Governor rendered it a favorable time to apply for a pardon, the Governor remarked that it would be impossible to let Mr. Curtiss out so long as he continued his present course of conduct.

ality of thought, and beauty and elegance of language. So touching and true were some of his allusions, in awakening emotions and recollections of the past, that the eyes of many unaccustomed to weep were suffused with tears. After welcoming the Alumni in his own name and in that of their venerated Alma Mater, to her quiet seats, to that green spot in the memory of the past, to these familiar scenes, these remembered walks, to the sound of that bell not unwelcome now, to these circling and unchanged mountains, and the scenery unsurpassed, he thus briefly reviewed the changes that had passed since the founding of the College :

‘ Fifty years! What changes do these words suggest! Some of them occurring in those ordinary and ever-repeated movements of nature which return upon themselves, and some in that onward march of things which is made known only as the scroll of Divine Providence is unrolled. Fifty years! so many times has the verdure of spring been seen to brighten this valley, and to creep up the sides of these mountains; so many times have their tops slept in the sunlight of the summer noon; so many times have they put on the gorgeous robes of autumn, and been swept bare, and rested in the embrace of winter. These changes have passed upon them, but they are still the same. Not so those who have looked upon them. Of those who were in active life at the commencement of this period, but few, if any, remain. He that was then an infant clinging to his mother’s bosom, is now a man with gray hairs upon him, and his children grown up around him. In the meantime, with the regularity of the seasons, there has come the Senior Examination, and then the Commencement, with its greetings, and partings, and wide dispersion; with its gathered crowd that has come in like the rush of a brook after a shower, and has again dispersed, leaving these streets solitary and quiet. During this time more than a thousand young men have received the honors of this Institution. Here they have been agitated with hopes and fears, and have shared the pleasures and perils of this miniature world. From this retreat they have looked out upon the ocean they were to sail, and have gathered strength and skill for the voyage. Ah! who can tell how many anxious thoughts, how many hopes and fears of parents, how many fervent prayers have clustered round, and ascended for all these! During this time too, the heads of the three venerable men who have presided over the institution, have been laid low. FITCH, and MOORE, and GRIFFIN, whose voices have been so often heard in this place, and were once so familiar to many of you, where are they!’

After noticing the changes that had taken place during this time, in this valley and in the world, he passed on to the subject of his discourse,



which was the Law of Progress of the race, and the connection of this College with the mighty movements of the last fifty years. The concluding portion of the address was as follows :

‘Brethren Alumni, you have come up at the call of your committee, to celebrate this semi-centennial anniversary. *You* have come, but our number is not all here. Many whose hearts are with us, are detained by business, or prevented by distance; but many, too, are where no call of ours could reach them. Some rest beneath the soil of their own New England; some beneath the prairies of the far West; some are with Mills in his ocean bed, and some slumber with Hall and Richards, and my own beloved classmate and associate Tutor, the beloved Hervey, ‘on India’s coral strand.’

‘Along the earlier years of our catalogue, the stars have gathered thickly. In all, 217 are known to have terminated their earthly career. And those stars will continue thus to gather, as, one by one, we too go down to the tomb. When another half century is passed, and the call shall go forth for the *centennial* gathering, we shall not hear it. Possibly indeed, as we now venerate the age, and are to be instructed by the wisdom of one who was within one year of the very earliest of the Alumni, so those who shall be gathered then, may hear the voice of one whose words shall fall with weight, as from the height of these earlier times; possibly they may listen to one who now hears me. But long before that time, the most of us will have done what we have to do for the weal or the wo of man. The impressions which we choose to make in the yielding materials of time, will, before that, have been made, and have become set in the eternal adamant of the past. What then remains to us in this period of the birth-throes of coming wonders, but to meet our responsibilities as patriots, as scholars, as christians, as the Alumni of an institution where the fire of a benevolence practically embracing the world was first kindled in this country, and upon whose altars that fire has never gone out? Let us then throw ourselves upon the tide of this great movement — the advancing tide of Christian progress — which we trust is to rise, and swell, and flow over the whole earth. We are here to-day to build up not merely local or sectional interest. We have, indeed, our personal feelings, we have associations dear to us, connected with this spot. But there are higher considerations than these, and we would do nothing, and ask nothing for this institution, except as it may be, and ought to be, in its place, one of the grand instrumentalities through which we can labor most effectually for the highest good of man. As such we cherish it. As such we commit it to the guardian care of Him who has hitherto watched over it. As such we hope to see its influence expanding as a seat of all

liberal culture, but especially as connected with the great cause of Christian benevolence, till those plans and movements which originated here shall be consummated, and they shall not teach any longer every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord; for all shall know him from the least to the greatest.'

Rev. Dr. Robbins of Hartford, then pronounced a truly original and elaborate address, occupying about two hours in delivery, in which he gave a brief sketch of the history of the College, accompanied with many well digested thoughts in relation to the obligations of students.

The services being concluded, the Alumni, invited guests, and others repaired to the College green, where under a building erected for the occasion, a sumptuous and elegant collation was prepared. After having feasted liberally, the intellectual repast was again renewed in numerous and spirited addresses. Judge Betts of New York led the way, by a glowing description of the advantages of this institution, and the benefits conferred by it, not only on individuals, but also upon the community at large, and in concluding called upon His Excellency Governor Morton. The Governor responded in a very happy speech, which was received with the liveliest applause. He was followed by Professor Dewey of Rochester, New York, Lieutenant Governor Childs of Pittsfield, Judge Dewey of Northampton, Rev. Dr. Nelson of Leicester, Rev. Dr. Edwards of Andover, Hon. Emory Washburn, Rev. Dr. Brigham, Rev. J. N. Danforth, Erastus Benedict, Esq., and many others, all Alumni. The remarks of these gentlemen were calculated to awaken good feeling, revive old associations, and excite new hopes. The company, increased and enlivened by the presence of a large number of ladies, continued in this delightful interchange of sentiment until the shades of evening suggested the necessity of retiring. The usual Commencement exercises took place on the following day.

In 1844 - 5 Amos Lawrence, Esq., of Boston, made, at different times, several munificent donations, amounting in all to over \$20,000. With a portion of the above sum, a Professorship has been founded, and which, in honor of Mr. Lawrence, has been styled The Lawrence Professorship of Languages. In addition to his repeated gifts, Mr. Lawrence has also enriched the College Library by numerous costly and valuable contributions.

In August of the same year, Professor Kellogg resigned his office of Professor of Languages, having been unable for some time past, on account of ill health, to attend to all his College duties. He died at Williamstown, October, 1846, having been connected with the College for a period of 30 years.

In 1845, Professor Tatlock was appointed Professor of Languages, Mr. John Darby of Georgia, being appointed Professor of Mathematics.

The old Laboratory being inconvenient, a new and commodious building was erected at this time, and the chemical apparatus greatly enlarged.

In 1846, Dr. Shepard, long Vice President, and a firm friend of the College, died at Lenox.

The same year, Professor Darby having resigned, Professor Tatlock was appointed Professor of Mathematics, and Rev. Nathaniel H. Griffin elected Lawrence Professor of Languages. The same year, Mr. Lawrence having made a donation of \$6,000, a library building was erected, of octagonal form, and situated upon a lot adjoining East and South Colleges. By vote of the Board of Trustees, this building is called 'Lawrence Hall,' in honor of its philanthropic and generous founder. For the further accommodation of students, a new college building is to be erected, (1847) on a lot south-east of West College. A botanical garden, and the erection of a conservatory, are also contemplated.

We have now traced the history of Williams College from its origin, through the administrations of its successive Presidents, to the present time. Fifty-four years have elapsed since President Fitch first assumed the care and government of the infant institution. It came into existence at the commencement of a new era, when society was beginning to advance, and was experiencing new views concerning man's nature and his rights.

In effecting the many changes that have since taken place, in swelling the mighty movement of the last fifty years, we claim that Williams College, obscure as she has indeed been to many, has done something, even much. We claim as its great distinction, that it was here and through its agency, that American Missions had their origin. We claim for it the honor of originating the first Society of Alumni; the founding of the first Astronomical Observatory; and the formation of the first Horticultural and Landscape Gardening Association, in this country.

The number of her sons is not large, but the proportion of them who have been men high in office, influence, and honor, is not small. The whole number of graduates, up to 1846, is 1192. Many of these would never have been educated had it not been for Williams College. In the words of another, 'embosomed among the mountains, it has exerted a suggestive power, and called out many such men as become most useful, when educated. They have come from the yeomanry of the country, from the plough and workshop, with clear heads and firm

nerves, industrious habits, and unperverted tastes, in need, it may be, of polish, but susceptible of the highest. They have come because they have felt high impulses struggling within them, and have made their own way. They are intellectually, the working men of the land, energetic, practical men, whose influence has been, and is, extensively felt. It is probably by bringing forward such men, as teachers, as ministers, as practical men in every profession, and diffusing in society the leaven of their influence, that this college has done most good.'

Of the whole number of graduates, nearly one half have been or will be ministers of the gospel. About 300 are dead. Of this number, five have been Chief Justices of States; three, Presidents of Colleges; four U. S. Senators; forty-one U. S. Representatives; twenty-five State Senators, and Judges of Probate; nine, Professors of Medical Colleges; twenty-six, Professors in other Colleges; two, Lieut. Governors; seven, U. S. District Court Judges; four, Professors, and one, President of Theological Seminaries; and four, Judges of the Supreme Court. In stating this proportion, it should be remembered that none of the above probably graduated within the last ten years, the number for which time, has been greater than at any former consecutive period.

The present condition of the College is eminently prosperous, and we do not hesitate to say, that under the government and care of the present faculty of working men, and with the present and continually increasing advantages and facilities for instruction, as good an education can be obtained here as at any other Institution in the country.

In reflecting on its past history, on what, with scanty means, and even struggling at times, for its very existence, Williams College has done, we reasonably anticipate that with increased advantages, a high and glorious career of usefulness and prosperity is yet reserved for it. 'SEMPER HONOR, NOMENQUE SUUM, LAUDESQUE MANEBUNT.'

PART II.

WILLIAMS COLLEGE AS IT IS.

1847.



# TRUSTEES.

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REV. MARK HOPKINS, D. D.  
REV. TIMOTHY MATHER COOLEY, D. D.  
HON. CHARLES AUGUSTUS DEWEY, LL. D.  
HON. DAVID BUEL.  
DANIEL NOBLE DEWEY, Esq.  
REV. EMERSON DAVIS.  
HON. WILLIAM PORTER.  
REV. HORATIO N. BRINSMADE, D. D.  
HENRY LYMAN SABIN, M. D.  
CHARLES STODDARD, ESQ.  
REV. THOMAS ROBBINS, D. D.  
HON. EMORY WASHBURN.  
HON. GEORGE N. BRIGGS, LL. D.  
REV. JOHN TODD, D. D.  
REV. ABSALOM PETERS, D. D.

# FACULTY.

---

REV. MARK HOPKINS, D. D., PRESIDENT,  
*and Professor of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy.*  
EBENEZER EMMONS, M. A., M. D.,  
*Professor of Natural History.*  
ALBERT HOPKINS, M. A.,  
*Professor of Natural Philosophy and Astronomy.*  
REV. JOSEPH ALDEN, D. D.,  
*Professor of Rhetoric, Political Economy, and American History.*  
EDWARD LASELL, M. A.,  
*Professor of Chemistry.*  
REV. NATHANIEL H. GRIFFIN, M. A.,  
*Lawrence Professor of Languages.*  
JOHN TATLOCK, M. A.,  
*Professor of Mathematics and Librarian.*  
HENRY B. HOSFORD, M. A.,





## CHAPTER I.

### THE SITUATION OF THE COLLEGE.

THE location of a College is the first consideration of its founders, and afterwards also, of those deciding upon its merits. The young man who intends to spend four years of his life at a College, will very naturally first inquire about the situation of the place. He will want to know if the climate is healthy and agreeable, if the scenery is pleasant; and if the artificial, as well as the natural features of the place are favorable to mental and moral progress. If these are the questions which he asks, and which must be answered in the affirmative, to determine his choice, he will soon be found presenting himself for admission at Williams College.

It may be that we are somewhat prejudiced; it would be strange if we were not; but, for ourselves, we prefer the situation of Williams College, in all respects, to that of any other.

In the first place, we like the climate. Some might suppose that a town, situated as this is, among the northern mountains, would be intolerably cold. But this is not so. There are times, to be sure, during our Williamstown winters, when we can imagine what the winds might do if Æolus should let them loose together. There are times too when we can readily infer what might be the effects of heavy frosts and severe cold. But these times are rare; the average temperature here during the winter months, is higher than in towns many miles to the south. The coldest year on record was 1834; the average temperature was 42° Fahrenheit. The average temperature for the few past years, is 46°. The fact is, the giant mountains which surround us, muffled in their white, winter drapery, protect us from the bleak winds which howl in vain for admittance to our snug retreat. However, we have breezes enough to ventilate the valley, and to refresh and invigorate our bodies. The weather in summer is not so warm as to be enfeebling. On the whole, the climate may be called salubrious. The death-bell seldom tolls, and then, usually, to announce the death of some aged person who has lived out the appointed years of man.

In the next place, we like the scenery. The valley in which we are,

seems to have been hollowed out on purpose for a college. Two rivers run through it. The Green River is a small, impetuous stream, dashing over a rocky bed. Its waters are green,

‘As if the bright fringe of herbs on its brink  
Had given the stain to the waves they drink.’

The Hoosac is a deeper and more quiet river, winding through rich meadows. The mountains surrounding us on every side are thickly wooded. In summer, when these mountain trees are arrayed in their green livery, we challenge even the Swiss to show a more beautiful region. When they put on the variegated vestments of Autumn,

‘They seem groups of giant kings, in purple and gold,  
That guard the enchanted ground.’

And when in winter the leafless branches are loaded with snow, the picture is changed, but not spoiled.

If living in the midst of such scenery has any effect upon students, (and who will deny that it has,) it surely is not to produce effeminacy nor gloom. When the weary student turns from the dull printed page, his eye rests upon the pictured book of Nature, open before him. He strolls forth, not through a wilderness of houses, but over green fields, shaded by pleasant trees, and watered by gentle brooks. He thus invigorates his body, cultivates a love for nature, and if his thoughts are rightly directed,

‘The mountain, river, forest, field, and grove,  
Remind him of his Maker’s power and love.’

Of course, our horizon, bounded as it is by the highest mountains in the state, is rather limited; so that a traveler affirmed that he started from Williamstown just at sunset, and after riding a dozen miles west, found it broad noon. After stripping this remark of the hyperbole in which travelers usually enwrap what little truth they tell, there is something in it. The sun is, perhaps, hidden from our view some minutes earlier than in surrounding towns. But

‘What though they say, with phizzes long,  
Our days are sooner past?  
We would reply, with reason strong,  
They’re sweeter while they last.’

Finally, we like the situation of Williams College because it is in a quiet country village. In fancy and reality, the Academic groves have ever been planted in the country. The scholars of ancient and modern

times have always sought rural retirement for the prosecution of their labors. Some may prefer the city. It may be that some minds are disposed to study by the din of machinery, the rattling of pavements, and the deafening cries of city hucksters. But men that can study amid such confusion must be curiously organized. The majority of men make most progress in literary pursuits in the country, where the stillness is unbroken save by the gentle music of nature.

Not only is a retired village better adapted to the mental progress of students, but it is also more favorable to their morals. This should not be overlooked. The temptations incident to college life, are, to be sure, numerous enough any where: but they are necessarily more dangerous in the city than in the country. In a city lurk the artful panderers to vice. They know how to clothe it in seductive garb. They know the weak points of the young; and they use their knowledge with, alas! too sure success. The syren voice of pleasure is too enchanting to be disregarded; and the youth treads almost unconsciously down the winding path of vice. He easily conceals his progress from his parents and instructors, and graduates thoroughly dissipated. In the country it is not so. Vice puts not on such fascinating forms, and is pursued with greater danger of detection; while virtue presents greater attractions, and is easily and safely followed.

‘ Away the vicious pleasures of the town,  
Let empty, partial fortune on us frown,  
But grant, ye powers, that it may be our lot,  
To live in peace, from noisy towns remote.’

To balance these advantages, what objections are urged against country colleges? The greatest is, that a ‘knowledge of the world’ is not gained. In the view of some it is the goal of perfection to be ‘men of the world;’ compared to this, every other attainment dwindles into insignificance. Our city Colleges are crowded with worms of this kind, who would scorn to remain ‘book-worms,’ but who long for the time when they shall become the gay butterflies of fashion. And to be sure the city student does see more of ‘the world,’ but he sees it at a time when he is least fitted to profit by the sight. He looks not with the calm eye of the philosopher, but with the impassioned gaze of youth. He is likely to be beguiled from his books by its bewitching splendors, and perhaps, allured from the paths of virtue. A knowledge of men and manners is undoubtedly worth possessing, but we would ask if college life is the best period for its acquisition, and if it is ever worth the loss, or even hazard of moral purity.

The country student sees less of the world during his College course. He learns less of fashion's forms, but not necessarily less of true politeness. And does he not acquire physical, moral, and mental habits which shall enable him, when he enters the world, the stronger to bear up against its rude blasts, the better to withstand its temptations, and to lead as honorable and useful a life as if he had spent four years in vibrating between the halls of fashion and the halls of learning?

We have given our principal reasons for liking the situation of Williams College. There are some minor ones. It is easy of access. This could not have been said with truth a year ago. We then led a sort of hermit life up here among the mountains. But the completion of the Adams and Pittsfield Rail Road, coming within five miles of us, almost joins us to the net-work of railroads, which now pervades our country. The railroad will probably soon be extended through this town.

Another advantage resulting from our country location, is the small expense necessarily incurred by the students. The tuition is low and the board cheap. For this reason our college is peculiarly favorable to those who in their poverty are struggling for an education. Many such come here. They are usually men who become an honor to the nation and the glory of their Alma Mater.

## CHAPTER II.

### COLLEGE BUILDINGS, LIBRARY, AND APPARATUS.

The WEST COLLEGE is the most ancient and venerable of the college buildings. It was built just after the adoption of the Constitution of the United States; and like that substantial document, it is based on firm foundations; it has remained unshaken by storms within or without; and promises to endure for ages. It is four stories high. The walls are of brick, and very thick. It stands on an eminence, and is conspicuous from a great distance. On the roof is perched a small tower, in which the College bell once made its tintinnabulating revolutions, when this edifice was the only college building on the ground, and served for chapel, libraries, recitation and lodging rooms. The building is at present occupied by the Sophomores and Freshmen. It underwent thorough repairs about a year since.

The Chapel stands several rods to the east of the West College, and on the opposite side of the street. It is of brick, three stories high, with a handsome steeple. It was completed in 1828. About one half of the building is occupied by the Chapel; the rest is used for various purposes.

Joined to the Chapel building, on the east side, is the Chemical Laboratory, which was completed in 1845. It contains a large room for lectures and experiments, an apparatus-room, and a convenient work-room. The Laboratory is supplied with all the conveniences and improvements of modern times.

The Astronomical Observatory stands in the centre of the East College Garden. It is built of marble, in an octagonal form, with two wings, and a dome in which is the large Herschelian telescope. The main lower room is used for the recitations of the Junior Class in Astronomy. For this purpose the celestial concave is mirrored overhead, and the most important circles, signs, and constellations of the heavens are drawn upon it.

The Magnetic Observatory is of brick, in an octagonal form. It is the most easterly of the college buildings. In it is the large variation transit instrument, by which the variations of the needle are observed daily.

The East and South Colleges were erected in 1842. They are of brick, three stories high, and contain rooms for the Seniors and Juniors. Each room has two bed-rooms and two closets. From the West to the East College, through the hollow, there is a raised gravel walk. This walk, though it now echoes to the tread of peaceful and sober students, owes its origin to war and intemperance. During the administration of the elder Adams, a war with the French being expected, the army was called out, and a company was stationed in this town awhile, on their way to Canada. During their stay, the students hired them to build this walk, and paid them in whiskey; an article of which soldiers then, as now, were fond; and which students were then permitted and permitted themselves to deal in.

Lawrence Hall, the new library building, is just completed. It is a very beautiful and convenient edifice. Its form is an octagon, whose diameter is forty-eight feet, and each side twenty feet long by thirty-six high. It is two stories in height — constructed of brick and marble. The second story is the proper library room, and is sufficiently capacious to receive from twenty to thirty thousand volumes. It has eight alcoves, separated from each other by partitions proceeding from each of the eight angles to within twelve feet of the centre, thus leaving a circular space, twenty-four feet in diameter. The dome is supported by eight Ionic columns. It takes its name from Amos Lawrence, Esq., of Boston, by whose liberality it was erected.

In addition to these buildings, another will soon be erected. It will stand in the centre of the west College garden, and will contain, besides two large recitation rooms, a dozen or more rooms for the accommodation of Students.

The College Library is well selected, and for a country College is quite large. It has been kept, of late years, in the third story of the Chapel building.

The apparatus belonging to the College is extensive in all the departments, and additions are constantly being made. Much of it was purchased in Europe, a few years since, by Professor Hopkins.

Among the apparatus, are the following instruments: Atwood's Machine; Mechanical Powers; Model of a Steam Engine; Whirling Tables; Hydrostatic Press; Montgolfier's Hydraulic Ram; Self-Registering Rain Gauge; Air-Pumps of different kinds; Hiero's Fountain; Intermittent Fountain; Jet d'eau in vacuus; Sonometer; two large Electrical Machines; Coulombs' Torsion Balance; Electrical Battery; Dipping Needle with agate planes; Large Variation Transit; Wollaston's Goniometer; Improved Magic Lantern; Biot's Prism; Speculums, Mirrors, and Lenses of various kinds; Solar and

Compound Microscopes; Camera Obscura, and Camera Lucida; Telescopes of various kinds and sizes; Transit Instrument; Orrery; Dolland's Micrometer; Astronomical Clock; Large Compound Blow-pipe; Galvanic Batteries; Daguerreotype Apparatus; Barometers and Thermometers of various kinds; and a Mannikin.

We have not given by any means, a catalogue of the apparatus, but merely a list of some of the larger instruments. There are two others which deserve a more particular notice; the Pantometer and the Polariscopes.

The former instrument was invented by Prof. Hopkins some years ago. It is, as its name denotes, a universal measurer. It is intended to answer a variety of purposes, both magnetic and astronomical. It may be used either to obtain the variations or dip of the needle, as an azimuth and altitude instrument, or as an equatorial.

The Polariscopes is an elegant piece of apparatus, recently procured from the distinguished optician, M. Soleil, of Paris, at a cost of seven hundred and fifty francs. At the time of its importation, it was the only one in America. It is intended to illustrate that particular condition of light which is denominated polarized light. The instrument is elegant in its construction. Its exhibitions are of singular and extraordinary beauty, especially those of colored and circular polarizations, opening to the eye in the interior structure of the commonest crystalline pebble, a new world of wonders, so full of lights and lovely shadows, and such exquisite and gorgeous colors, as to surpass even the dreamings of philosophy.

## CHAPTER III.

### REGULATIONS AND EXERCISES OF THE COLLEGE.

IN this chapter we propose to follow a young man from his entrance to College through the course, and mention the principal regulations which will affect him, and the exercises which he will be required to perform. In order to give, if possible, some vivacity to the mass of detail which our design will oblige us to insert, we propose to give to our imaginary student the name of A. B. This name we consider peculiarly appropriate; for when he enters, he is in the 'a-b ab' of science, and when at last we bid him good-bye, as a graduate, he has only become an 'A. B.'

On the day before Commencement, that is, the day before the third Wednesday in August, A. B. presents himself for admission. He might come at any other time during the year, but this is the regular time. For admission to the Freshman class, A. B. is examined in Geography, Vulgar Arithmetic, and Algebra through simple equations; in English, Latin, and Greek Grammar, including Prosody; in Virgil, and Cicero's select Orations; in Cæsar's Commentaries or in Sallust; in the Greek Testament, and in Jacob's, Colton's, or Felton's Greek Reader. If A. B. passes a satisfactory examination in these studies, and can produce testimonials of good moral character, he is declared to be admitted to Williams College. And after, perhaps, remaining through the next day to attend the exercises of Commencement, he goes home to his friends to enjoy a four weeks' vacation, with the new dignity of a Freshman.

At the expiration of the vacation, A. B. comes on to begin his labors. We shall not attempt to describe the strange feelings which will come over him at the opening of this new scene in his existence. Four long years lie before him; strange faces are around him; new labors await him. He may perhaps advert to the scenes of his boyhood, and as the image of 'sweet home' rises before him, an unbidden tear trickle from his eye. But although there is nothing unmanly in bestowing a tender thought upon parents and friends, yet we shall not permit our hero long to indulge in such a reverie. He must commence his duties.

A. B. is woke up early on the first morning of the term by the ring-



ing of the chapel bell. In fifteen minutes after, it will begin to toll, and he will join the crowd thronging to the chapel to attend prayers. At the close of the day, he will obey a similar summons; and these religious exercises, he will be required to attend morning and evening, every day of his college course. If he is ever absent, a monitor from his class will notify his instructor, who will call upon him for an excuse.

At nine o'clock A. M., the bell will ring again. This is for study hours. There are six hours in the day allotted to study, and during this time, A. B. must be in his room. During the first term of the year, the study hours are from nine till eleven, A. M.; from two till four, P. M.; and from seven till nine, in the evening.

At eleven o'clock A. M., the bell will call A. B. to recitation. There are three recitations every day: one before breakfast; one before dinner; and one before supper; excepting Wednesdays and Saturdays, when the afternoon recitation is omitted. A. B.'s studies, during his first term will be, Combe on Health and Mental Education; Livy; Dalzel's Græca Majora, vol. I; Euclid, four books; and exercises in Latin Composition.

On the Sabbath, A. B. will always be required to attend service in the town church, unless necessarily detained. This duty, together with many others, he will find enjoined upon him in a pamphlet containing the College Laws, which will be placed in his hands within a few days after his entrance.

During the first week of his residence in College, A. B. will be required to subscribe the following engagement: 'I, A. B., promise on my faith and honor, that during the term time, and while residing at College, I will neither drink any intoxicating drink, nor supply it to others, nor have any agency in introducing it into College.' If he should ever violate this, he will be dismissed from College.

Besides the regular exercises in recitation, mentioned above, there are some miscellaneous exercises which A. B. will be required to perform. He will have to declaim before his class as often as twice a term, during the course. He will have to declaim before all the classes in the chapel about eight times during his course. During his Freshman and Sophomore year, he will be called upon in the class once or twice a term for a written translation from Latin or Greek. Other exercises will come in as he advances.

We will suppose that our friend has passed safely along through this term. It is the third Wednesday in December, and the term closes. A vacation of six weeks is before him. We will leave him to go to his admiring friends, and recount to the gaping multitude the wonders of College life, which of course seem more wonderful to him,

after his short experience, than they ever will again. After he has been home a day or two, his parent or guardian receives a letter post-marked Williamstown. It is opened with great curiosity. In it is found, on the first page, a record of his absences, tardinesses, and unprepared lessons during the term; also, his general deportment, marked No. 1, probably, which 'denotes a high degree of industry, correctness of moral conduct, and of manners.'

This long vacation comes in the winter, so as to enable those who may wish to teach school, to do it and lose as little term time as possible. We will suppose however, that our hero finds no necessity for earning his own living; and now, after six weeks, having probably enlightened the whole community, and told his college adventures until his friends are satiated, he willingly comes on to begin another term, and gather a new stock of stories.

A. B.'s studies during his second term Freshman, are Livy continued; Homer's Iliad, two books; and Algebra. His miscellaneous duties, this term, are the same as before. The time of study hours remains the same till the twentieth of March, when they are from half after eight till eleven o'clock, A. M.; from two till half after four P. M., and from half after seven till nine, in the evening.

About the middle of this term, if A. B. has conformed to College rules and behaved regularly since his entrance, he will become a regular member of the College, by subscribing the following engagement. 'I, A. B. on condition of being admitted a member of Williams College, promise on my faith and honor, to observe all the laws and regulations of this College; particularly that I will faithfully avoid the use of profane language, gaming, and all disorderly behavior.' This ceremony is called the matriculation.

Near the close of the second term, A. B., with the rest of his class, will be publicly examined in the branches studied during the two terms. The faculty and such other gentlemen as may please to attend, will be present. After the examination, the faculty will make up their judgment of the literary merit of the members of the class, and the result be communicated to them. And during the course, an examination of the class will occur annually at this time, in the studies pursued during the two previous terms. This term will close on the first Wednesday in May. A vacation of three weeks will ensue, during which time we leave A. B. to his domestic pleasures.

The studies of the summer term, are Horace through the odes; Herodotus and Thucydides, and Algebra concluded. This term, A. B. will be expected to read two compositions in the class, as well as

perform the other miscellaneous duties. Composition writing is kept up from this time through the course. The exercise is so arranged that he will have to write twice each term.

The time for study is changed again this term. The study hours are from eight o'clock till eleven, A. M., and from one till five, P. M.

Near the close of the term, the class is again examined in all the studies since admission to College. This examination is annual, and after spending two or three years in College, becomes of course, quite laborious. On success in this examination, depends admittance to the next year.

The third term closes at Commencement. The evening before Commencement, there is a prize Rhetorical exercise. At this exhibition three Freshmen, three Sophomores, and three Juniors speak original pieces; and a prize is awarded for the best performance in each class, by a committee of three persons designated by the Professor of Rhetoric. The exhibitors are elected by their several classes.

We now greet our friend A. B., as a Sophomore. We trust he will wrap himself in none of that foolish dignity which some Sophomores put on; we trust he will add by his example no significancy to that pithy word, 'Sophomoric.' We are aware that it is a period of his education when A. B. will feel wiser than he ever has or ever will again. But he must overcome this feeling. He will do well to reflect if he can, upon the time when even he was a Freshman, and perhaps as unsophisticated and verdant as any of those whom he now looks down upon as Freshmen. And when he imagines that he is plunging to the lowest depths of the ocean of truth, he will do well to remember that even Newton, after his life of labor, asserted that he had only picked up pebbles on its shores. But especially let him avoid that most foolish of all Sophomore pranks — breaking windows. The sport of this is hardly discoverable. We used to account for the enthusiasm with which some engaged in it by supposing that their ears were so fully developed that they could catch music from the rattling of the glass. But the rationale of it lies deeper than this. Solomon wrote a passage which explains it fully: 'It is as sport to a fool to do mischief.'

The studies of Sophomore year are as follows: **FIRST TERM.** Horace, Satires and Epistles; Euclid finished; Logarithms and Trigonometry; Woolsey's Greek Tragedies; Blair's Lectures on Rhetoric. **SECOND TERM.** Euclid reviewed; Hedge's Logic; Mensuration, Navigation, and Surveying, and Greek Poetry. **THIRD TERM.** Spherical Trigonometry, and Analytical Geometry; Jackson's Conic Sections, and Cicero de Officiis. The miscellaneous exercises remain as before.

It will be perceived that the studies thus far are chiefly Languages and Mathematics. By the discipline thus gained, A. B. will be prepared for the pursuits of Junior year, which involve more of the practical. The studies of the first term Junior, are Wayland's Political Economy; Græca Majora, vol. II.; Olmsted's Natural Philosophy; Chemistry, Quintilian begun. During this term lectures on natural Philosophy are delivered to the class, and continue through the year. A course of Chemical lectures is also commenced and resumed again the third term.

In addition to the miscellaneous exercises of previous years, debates are commenced in the class this term, and kept up through the rest of the course. Six usually debate at an exercise. It is so arranged that A. B. will be called upon to debate once or twice a term.

If A. B. has studied well enough to rank among the first fourteen scholars of his class, he will receive an appointment at the end of this term, as speaker at the Junior Exhibition; which occurs at the end of the second term.

The studies of the second term Junior, are Quintilian continued; Demosthenes, and Plato's Gorgias; Evidences of Revealed Religion; Olmsted continued, and Botany. Lectures are given this term on Botany.

The third term, Junior year, the studies are Astronomy, Tacitus, and Fluxions, or French. The compositions this term, are required to be on philosophical subjects. Lectures are given on Mineralogy and Geology.

Our friend A. B. has now completed three years of his course. We have said nothing in relation to his breaking any college laws; for we thought it well that an imaginary student should do nothing wrong. But in order to explain the principles of the college government in regard to punishment, we insert the following passage from the College Laws: 'The punishments are mostly of the moral kind, and addressed to a sense of duty and the principles of honor, and are the following: private admonition by an officer of the College; formal admonition before the class, with acknowledgment of the fault and promise of amendment; admonitions or concessions before the Faculty; putting the offender on a state of probation; suspension from the privileges of the College for a limited time; rustication; private dismissal; and formal expulsion.'

The studies of the Senior year are different in their nature from those of the three others. No branch of Mathematics or Languages is studied. The studies of the first term, are Campbell's Philosophy of Rhetoric; Anatomy, Stewart's Elements of Intellectual Philosophy,

and Whately's Rhetoric. Lectures are given on Anatomy and Physiology, on Rhetoric, and on Intellectual and Moral Philosophy. During this year, the recitation before breakfast is omitted.

In addition to the other miscellaneous exercises, there is a weekly exercise in reading this term; also, a weekly critical exercise which is kept up through the year; one member reads a composition, and the rest of the class pass judgments upon it, subject to the decision of the presiding officer. Every Saturday forenoon through the year, there is a recitation in Vincent on the Catechism. Each member of the class is required to speak an original declamation on the chapel stage during the first or second term of this year.

A. B.'s studies during the second term, Senior year, will be Wayland's Elements of Moral Science; Story on the Constitution; Paley's Political Philosophy; and Kame's Elements of Criticism. He will hear lectures on Intellectual and Moral Philosophy, and on International Law.

We now have accompanied our fancied friend to his last term in College. The four years which looked so long at his entrance, have slipped almost away. The past will seem like a dream. He will doubtless see many things which he would wish had been done differently. It is always the case with one who reflects. It has well been said: 'A man needs to live one life to know how to live another.'

The studies of the third term are Kames continued; Butler's Analogy; and Paley's Natural Theology. The Seniors remain in College but seven or eight weeks, this term. On the Tuesday preceding the third Wednesday in July, and on the said Wednesday, the Seniors are publicly examined for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, by the Faculty, the Standing Committee of the Trustees, the Secretary of the Corporation, and any other gentlemen of liberal education, who may please to attend. They are examined in the several languages, arts, and sciences, which compose the course. After the examination, the chairman of the standing committee reads a list of those candidates who have been approved; and those thus recommended are entitled to the degree of Bachelor of Arts at the next Commencement.

On the evening of the last day of the Senior Examination, the Adelphic Union Exhibition is held in the Chapel. There are fourteen exhibitors, chosen equally from the two Literary Societies: all members of the Senior Class.

The time between this and Commencement is called the Senior vacation. A. B. we leave to enjoy himself as he pleases. On the Saturday evening preceding Commencement, he will probably return.

On the next afternoon, the President preaches the Baccalaureate Sermon to the graduating class.

Commencement is on the next Wednesday. The exercises consist principally of orations from the graduating class. The appointments are given out at the close of the second term. All those who by their scholarship, conduct, etc., during their college course have attained a required standing, receive honors; and their appointments, which are all equal, are allotted at the discretion of the Faculty.

At nine o'clock the procession is formed at the East College, and marches to the church. The President commences the exercises with prayer. After a piece of sacred music, the Salutatory Oration in Latin is delivered. Then follow the other pieces, interspersed with music. There is generally a forenoon and an afternoon session. The speaking in the afternoon closes with the Valedictory Address.

After the Valedictory, the degrees are conferred, and the exercises closed with prayer. The form used in conferring the degrees is as follows: 'Pro auctoritate mihi commissa, admitto vos ad primum gradum in artibus; et singulis juribus, privilegiis, et honoribus ad istum gradum pertinentibus, frui et gaudere jubeo; cujus, hæc instrumenta, sigillo collegii munita, testimonio sint.'

## CHAPTER IV.

### COLLEGE SOCIETIES.

THERE are two Literary Societies in College; the 'Philologian Society,' and the 'Philotechnian.' They were formed in 1795. They receive their members by allotment, which relieves them from the excitement and trouble of 'electioneering.' They meet every Wednesday evening in their respective Halls, which occupy the third story of the South College. These rooms are handsomely furnished. On public occasions, the Philologians wear a blue ribbon, and the Technian a white one.

There is a pleasant rivalry existing between the two Societies; just sufficient to give zest to their exercises and stimulate each to excellence, but not hot enough to hinder their forming together the 'Adelphic Union.' The library belonged to the 'Adelphic Union' until four or five years ago, when it was divided between the two. Each Society has now a very good library.

There is an annual exhibition of the Adelphic Union, on the evening of the third Wednesday in July. The annual Address before the Adelphic Union, is delivered on the evening before commencement.

The 'THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY' was formed soon after the Literary Societies. It usually numbers from twenty to thirty members; pious young men, from all the classes. They meet once a fortnight, usually on Sabbath morning. The exercises are essays and disputations on moral and religious subjects, and dissertations on texts of Scripture. They have a library of several hundred volumes.

The 'MILLS SOCIETY OF INQUIRY' was formed in 1820. It holds its meetings once a fortnight, alternating with the Theological Society. Since its organization it has had 135 members. They have a considerable library. The characteristic of the Society is set forth in the following covenant, which the members are required to sign:— 'We pledge ourselves to the cause of missions, resolving to devote our personal services to the heathen, or the destitute in our own land, and in all our efforts to aim at nothing short of the conversion of the world to Christ.' The Mills and Theological Societies usually have a public address on the Sabbath evening before Commencement.

The 'HANDEL AND HAYDN SOCIETY' was formed soon after the incorporation of the College. Its members constitute the College choir, who make melody ('in their hearts,' we trust, if not with their voices,) at evening prayers. The paraphernalia of the Society consists in a musical library, and various musical instruments. They meet every Thursday evening.

The 'FRANKLIN SOCIETY' was formed in 1820. Any student may become a member by the payment of \$3.00. This entitles him to the use of text books from the 'Franklin Library' during his course. It was first called the 'Benevolent Society,' and was formed by the Theological Society, to supply indigent students with text books free of expense. But in a few years the present name and plan were adopted. The library contains sixteen hundred books, in good repair. The Librarian is chosen from the junior class, and occupies the Society's room in East College.

The 'LYCEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY' was founded in 1835, on the ruins of the 'Linnean Society.' It was originally a secret society, called the Phi Beta Theta; (Phusis, Biblos, Theou, Nature, the book of God;) but dropped its veil in about a year, and assumed its present title. The object of the society is 'the study of the Natural Sciences, and the prosecution of antiquarian researches.' They have a room in the South College, where they meet once in two weeks, and listen to reports from the committees on the various branches of Natural History. The room is well stored with specimens, although many were lost in the fire. They have also a very valuable library. The society have sent out two expeditions to procure specimens, which were eminently successful; the first in 1835, to Nova Scotia, and the second in 1840, through this county, and the eastern part of the state of New York.

The 'HORTICULTURAL AND LANDSCAPE GARDENING ASSOCIATION,' was formed in 1835. It includes nearly all the students. Its object is 'to improve and ornament the college grounds.' To the good influence of this association, the fragrance and beauty of the college gardens, and the health and vigor of the students bear ample testimony.

There are three secret societies in College. They usually number from fifteen to twenty members each, taken from all the classes.

The 'KAPPA ALPHA' Society was started here in 1834. Since that time, they have had one hundred and ten members. They have branches in two other Colleges.

The 'SIGMA PHI' came here nine months after. They have had one hundred and three members. They have five other branches.

The 'CHI PSI' began in 1842, since which time, it has had thirty eight members. There are branches of it in seven other Colleges.



The 'SOCIAL FRATERNITY' is an anti-secret Society, founded in 1836. Most of the students not connected with secret societies belong to the S. F. Its motto is 'Ouden Adelon,' (nothing secret.)

The last four Societies wear badges. That of the Kappa Alpha is a diamond-shaped gold key. The badges of the Sigma Phi and Chi Psi are gold breast pins, formed of the two Greek letters which form their respective titles, united in a monogram. The badge of the S. F., is a square gold key. Each of the badges bears various devices which it would be difficult to represent without an engraving, which unfortunately, was not procured in time for insertion.

## CHAPTER V.

### COLLEGE LIFE.

ALMOST as many different ideas are formed of college life, by the world without, as there are individuals to form them. Some think that college is a sort of heathen paradise, where a desire for pleasure is the only motive power; where books hide their faces in the dust, and where the course of life is one continued round of gaiety and dissipation. Accordingly, if they meet with a student, who is straying for a while from the enchanted circle, they ascribe to him the spirit of his place, and burden him with the blame of every practical joke, however wicked and unfeeling, perpetrated in the vicinity. These persons, especially if religious in profession and prejudice only, will tell, with long countenances, of college temptations; and consider it almost impossible for the fire of religion to retain its glow, or even its 'lukewarmness,' in a student's breast.

Others regard college as a sort of monastery, where Science and Religion, clothed in their sternest garbs, govern like tyrants. They pity the poor fellows who have doomed themselves to such a hermit life among musty books; rising to their labors 'while it is yet night,' and prolonging the same by the light of the 'midnight lamp.' This class consider piety as inseparable from a life in college; as we once heard a devout old lady say of a young man, whose character was up for remarks: 'Of course he's pious; he's been to college!'

It is difficult to say which of the above classes is most at fault. At any rate, neither is right. The student has his pleasures, but he is not always pursuing them. He studies; but seldom becomes a recluse. His temptations are numerous, but no more formidable than assail young men of active minds and strong feelings in other walks of life. Neither are all students Christians, by any means. Would that they were.

In order to correct, if possible, some false notions, and to impart, perhaps, some new ones, we propose to attempt a short description of college life. We know of no better way to effect this, than to insert some extracts from a student's journal, which give his first impressions

of his new course of life, some descriptions of certain customs, and various reflections and remarks. Of course, not much method is preserved in so rambling a composition as a private journal. The first extract contains an account of a Freshman's first experience :

' Friday, 10 o'clock P. M. The term began yesterday. I arrived last night, was examined, and had a room assigned me in the fourth story of this monstrous pile of bricks, called West College. My room-mate is rather a boisterous fellow, a Dutchman, full of practical and theoretical jokes. Fear he will interfere somewhat with the course of study I intend to pursue. For if sleepless nights and laborious days will accomplish it, I intend to stand first in my class. I have always been considered the first scholar in my native town, and my father and teachers justly expect me to excel here. Have not seen my superior in the class.

' About light, this morning, was awoken by the chapel bell rolling around at a furious rate, and emitting its hoarse notes of command, as if it were at once proud of its office, and impatient of restraint. Was just dreaming of delivering the college valedictory, and fancied I saw the proud look of my father as he listened. (Mem. To be up before the bell rings after this.) Dressed as quick as possible and went over to the chapel. Several of our class were already there; but as the higher classes, lazy fellows, were not up yet, we had to wait till the bell was tolled.

' The religious exercises occupied some fifteen minutes. What an odd look does a man present, who has just emerged from his bed. I presume that of the 175 students who were present, not a dozen had been out of the land of Nod long enough to lose their residence. In fact, I am told that some of the seniors retain it, and go back after prayers. After the religious exercises, which occupied about fifteen minutes, and consisted in reading the Bible, and in prayer, we came over to the Livy recitation. This took about an hour. In going to breakfast, was accosted by a Sophomore, who appeared to know me — said he took an interest in new comers — invited me to his room. Clever fellow, I guess, and a suitable man for a friend. His name is Fairspeech.

' After breakfast, studied Greek till 11 o'clock. Had to help my chum a good deal. He is far my inferior in the languages. As I was passing through the hall from recitation, Fairspeech threw a tumbler of water in my face. But he said it was a mistake, and felt so bad, I really pitied him. (Mem. To call on Fairspeech and show him that I retain no hard feelings.) The afternoon recitation was in Mathe-

matics. Like college life very much. Every thing goes on like clock work.'

So ended the Freshman's first day in college. He of course, has not yet learned the hollowness of some friendship. The second day, betrays him into like error :

'Saturday. Called on Fairspeech. Like him still better. Rather an amusing incident occurred at my entrance. F. handed me a chair, and as I sat down, pulled it away, and I sprawled on the floor, to the laughter of the company. Mr. F. did not laugh though; but kindly helped me up, apologizing with his wonted politeness, saying that he just then thought to dust out the chair. F. then drew me out in conversation. Told him my history, and my intentions. He seemed to sympathize with me fully; said he stood first in his class for three days after admission, when his eyes failed him. (Mem. To take special care of my eyes.)

'This afternoon, took a long walk over these hills. Enjoyed the scenery very much.'

The next extract is dated some four or five weeks after the above, and shows that the scales had begun to fall from the Freshman's eyes :

'Am now pretty well acquainted. Found that Fairspeech only wanted to 'gas' me, which he did pretty effectually. Come to measure swords with my classmates, find my prospects for the valedictory rather dubious. We have had several lessons in Physiology, with accompanying lectures from the President. These are designed to give some important information in regard to health. But why need any one be sick who breathes this pure air, and wanders over these hills?'

The next extract gives an account of a Wednesday in college, some two months after our friend's entrance.

'Wednesdays, we have only two recitations. The afternoon is devoted to an exercise in speaking, &c. It was my turn to declaim to-day. Spoke that eloquent extract, commencing, 'Venerable men! you have come down, &c.' Got quite excited in the delivery. Splendid audience! All the students in the college were present. Two spoke from each class. But though I say it myself, I think I rather took the lead to-day. I felt that I held the audience in my power, and

could sway them as I would. There is a magic in eloquence. The President and the Professor of Rhetoric sit on the stage, and criticise each speaker. I was criticised as little as any one — was told that I had 'no tone and the elements of a good speaker.' Oratory is a department in which I hope to make a great proficiency. Mean to practise reading aloud some eloquent writer. (Mem. To draw out Burke for this purpose.)

'This evening, joined the Philo-Technian Society. Admission fee, \$5. We have a beautiful room to meet in, and the entertainment is of the highest order. Freshmen give declamations and compositions; Sophomores, compositions and disputes; Juniors, compositions and orations; and Seniors, orations and debates.'

The following betrays the large ideas of our young friend on reading, dated near the close of the first term. It is well to aim high, but our friend evidently formed greater purposes than he could execute, as will be seen in the sequel.

'Looked over, this evening, a book of advice to students. An article on 'general reading' struck me forcibly. Immediately resolved inwardly to read a great deal while here. The libraries are large. My opportunities never will be better. I have adopted the following scheme for my college course. HISTORY; Rollin, Josephus, Gibbon, Hallam's Middle Ages, Hume's England, Bancroft's United States, and Alison's Modern Europe; also, some minor histories to fill up the intervals. BIOGRAPHY; Lives of all the great men in whom I become interested by other reading. ENGLISH LITERATURE; Shakspeare, Milton, Addison, Pope, Young, Swift, Goldsmith, Burke, and Cowper. I think this course, well pursued, will employ me through college, and make me at graduation a man of great general information. Began Rollin to-night. (Mem. To draw the 1st vol. of Shakspeare from the Library, and the lives both of Shakspeare and Rollin.)'

Here is an extract written during the second term, Freshman year, which contains a fact worth noticing. Though somewhat sanguine and unsophisticated in some of his notions, our young tyro has made no mistake in this.

'Called on the President and two or three of the Professors to-day. Was struck with the affable and familiar manner with which they treated me. How different from my old Academy teacher, who used, when I called on him, to assume the dignity of a Turkish Sultan.

The instructors here, on the contrary, seem to consider the students as young gentlemen desirous of an education, and themselves as their friendly guides, not sentinels nor police officers. The result is, that the students almost universally regard the faculty as their friends, and of course, treat them with respect.

We pass now to a new college year. The Sophomore now looks upon the Freshman as the butterfly does on the caterpillar, although he himself was one so little while ago.

‘Here I am at the beginning of Sophomore year—not a poor Freshman, forlorn, friendless and verdant—but acquainted with every student and all the faculty. I stand well in my class, and have a high reputation as a writer, speaker and debater; am acquainted somewhat with the ladies, and courted for my conversational power. But hold! suppose somebody should read this! Would’nt I be called green?’

‘A year ago, the then Sophomores hectored me somewhat. They would lock me in if I left my key outside, smoke me out, duck me, &c. I told them then that every dog must have his day. Yes, said they, and every puppy too; you’ll have your’s. Puppy or no puppy, my day has come. I must repay those indignities to the present freshmen. Rather odd revenge this—visiting the iniquities of one generation on the third. But so goes the world.

‘Carried a composition to Professor ——, to-day, to be criticised. It was one of my finest efforts. Subject, ‘the Extensive Flight and upward Aim of the American Eagle.’ The Professor told me it was rather Sophomorical. Wonder what he intended by that epithet. If he meant to insinuate anything personally disrespectful, shall not soon forget it. (Mem. To treat Professor ——, with a marked coldness until an explanation be made.)’

‘The examinations which round off Sophomore year are past. There are now three or four days of leisure, during which, the student is in a sort of chrysaline state, changing from a Sophomore into a Junior. As the occasion seemed to invite to some kind of recreation, our class voted last week to perform the funeral obsequies of Euclid—a gentleman who has ceased to instruct us forever. Accordingly the burial took place last night. The class assembled in the recitation room in full numbers, at 9 o’clock. The deceased, much emaciated, and in a torn and tattered dress, was stretched on a black table in the centre of the room. This table, by the way, was formed of the old blackboard, which like a mirror, had so often reflected the image of old Euclid. In the body of the corpse was a triangular hole, made for the post

mortem examination, a report of which was read. Through this hole, those who wished were allowed to look; and then placing the body on their heads, they could say with truth that they had for once seen through and understood Euclid.

‘A eulogy was then pronounced, followed by an oration and the reading of the epitaph, after which, the class formed a procession, and marched with slow and solemn tread to the place of burial. The spot selected was in the woods half a mile south of the Colleges. As we approached the place we saw a bright fire burning on the altar of turf, and torches gleaming through the dark pines. All was still save the occasional sympathetic groans of some forlorn bull-frogs which came up like minute guns from the marsh below.’

‘When we arrived at the spot, the sexton received the body. This dignitary presented rather a grotesque appearance. He wore a white robe bound around his waist with a black scarf, and on his head a black, conical-shaped hat, some three feet high. Having fastened the remains to the extremity of a long black wand, he held them in the fire of the altar until they were nearly consumed, and then laid the charred mass in the urn, muttering an incantation in Latin. The urn being buried deep in the ground, we formed a ring around the grave, and sung the following dirge, written for the occasion :

‘Why gathers this band in mourning here?  
 Why bend we in sorrow over the bier?  
 Oh! well may we weep and in sadness mourn,  
 For from us a friend by death has been torn.  
     Then weep! brothers, weep!  
     For he sleeps his last sleep,  
 With whom we have all held sweet converse together.  
     Then brothers, come turn  
     One last look at his urn,  
 And leave him there gently to slumber for ever.

‘We ne'er shall forget while memories last,  
 How Playfair loved us, and clung to us fast;  
 He led us to conquer in the *Elements*' war,  
 Though some of us show full many a scar.  
     But now the fierce battle,  
     With its din and its rattle,  
 Hath passed, and the sky is beautifully clear.  
     See! that *triangle* host,  
     With a *rectangle's* ghost,  
 In a *tangent*-like course, is leaving our *sphere*.

‘T is well then to gather in sorrow now,  
 T is well o'er our hero's corse to bow;

In sackcloth and ashes most humbly we mourn ;  
 We weep that a loved one is from us borne.  
     And his spirit e'en now,  
     With the freshmen below,  
 Is far, very far from the home of the blest !  
     Then shout loud and long  
     The funeral song,  
 Ere we in sweet slumbers lie down to our rest.'

' Then lighting our torches by the dying fire, we retraced our steps with feelings suited to the occasion.'

We are aware that some of the foregoing extracts do not speak very highly for the good sense of the writer. We might have made a different selection ; but we purposely chose such passages as set forth in strong colors, the failings which are apt to characterize Freshmen and Sophomores. Although these failings are not necessary, they are, when seen, often useful. The student profits by his hard lessons. He learns by his freshman experience, that some professions of friendship are hollow ; that his sanguine expectations cannot all be fulfilled. Before he completes his Sophomore year, he begins to discover that his knowledge does not embrace all science and literature, and repents of the empty pretensions which Sophomore vanity prompted him to make. In the remaining quotations, the reader will notice a comparative absence of these weaknesses.

' I have now reached the half-way house of my college course. How strangely my views and feelings have changed since I came on here two years ago. Well did an old man say, ' Freshmen know everything ; Sophomores more than that ; Juniors are comparatively ignorant ; and Seniors know nothing at all.' I begin to feel my ignorance. How foolish seem the failings of my past course ! How conceited I was ! I loved distinction as a scholar more than knowledge. I liked to have it thought that I recited well without much study. But I now believe that industry is not a very shameful virtue. A man must not be ashamed to be called a ' grub ' in college, if he would shine in the world.'

' Wednesday. Joined the Natural History Society this afternoon. This association meets once in two weeks. There are committees in the various departments of natural science, who report on the different specimens procured. To-day we heard some very interesting reports on the Cicuta, the Fish Hawk, &c. I was added to the committee on Botany.



‘Was interrupted a moment just now, by the entrance of Mr. C.—, the gentleman who makes the beds, sweeps, takes up the ashes, and supports the dignity of the title, ‘Professor of dust and ashes.’ He is a tall, well-made man; forehead high, and eyebrows prominent, phrenologically indicative of great mental power. He has smoothed the sheets wrinkled by the restless repose of genius, for more than thirty years. He will regale one for hours, if invited, with choice bits of college gossip, and scraps of college history and biography, no where else to be obtained. He is a devout, conscientious man. His calm, philosophic spirit is rarely ruffled by the perplexities of his avocation. ‘Fortunate Senex!’ May he long continue his philanthropic labors. ‘Serus in cœlum redeat.’

‘I always supposed before I came here, that college government must be very galling. I knew that to be under tutors and governors at any period of life was naturally irksome, and thought that at the age of students, it must be exceedingly so. I imagined that the Faculty would take pains to impress on their subjects the almost oriental despotism with which they could sway their tiny sceptre. But I find on experience, that my imaginings were groundless. I have never felt the halter draw. I have occupied my circle; the Faculty, theirs; the circumferences meet; they do not cut. So I have now come to the conclusion that a young man who regards at all the object of his coming here, will experience no trouble from college government. It is not here as at some other colleges which I have heard of, where the student is treated as an infant; where he is watched in all his out-goings and in-comings, his down-sittings and up-risings, as if it were feared that he were plotting treason; where he is considered a rogue until he proves himself honest; and where he is liable to dismissal on the slightest suspicion; or, worse than all, the testimony beguiled from him by the siren voice of feigned friendship is magnified into an accusation sufficient to banish him from college. No! thank fortune, such is not the course pursued by the Faculty of Williams.’

‘Looked out my window just now, and saw a decrepit old horse, whom some fun-loving students or other had been arraying in all sorts of trumpery. He had boots on his feet, pantaloons on his legs, and his body covered with old carpets. A pipe was stuck in his mouth, and an antiquated umbrella hoisted over his head. On his side was fastened a flaming notice, ‘OATS WANTED — INQUIRE INSIDE.’ In this regalia, the unfortunate animal, compared to whom, Don Quixote’s Rosinante was a perfect Bucephalus, was moving off at about half the

velocity of the minute-hand of a clock. I was immediately struck with the analogy between this beast and that other animal, styled by late writers on natural history, a dandy. Both sport in useless and often in borrowed finery. Both lack mental power. Yet there are two essential differences. First, the horse is degraded contrary to his will, while the dandy voluntarily degrades himself. Secondly, that horse, with all the load of incongruities upon him, is not ridiculous; the dandy is. Humanity alone can become ridiculous.'

The remaining extracts are dated at different periods during Senior year.

'A Senior! How all that the student knows of dignity and literary ease, clusters around that name! It signifies the 'otium cum dignitate,' which is the bright object of hope to cheer the weary pilgrim through three years of toil. And yet, when the bright bubble is within one's grasp, it proves as empty as any other. Senior dignity, like a new pair of boots, is very uncomfortable. And although the exemption from a recitation before breakfast seems to afford a superabundance of time, the studies are so much more difficult, and so many new duties in writing, reading and debating, stare one in the face, that there is little time to spare. On the whole, I agree with him who said, 'Nunquam se minus otiosum esse, quam cum otiosus esset.'

In olden time, a Senior was quite a consequential personage. The lower classes were required to touch their hats to him, to stand when they entered his room, until desired to sit, and to give him the preference on all occasions. But that custom has died out. There is very little class distinction here, less than at other colleges. Freshmen and Sophomores are much more haughty than Juniors and Seniors, and all the classes are on terms of familiarity. It is perhaps partly owing to the influence of the secret societies, who take men from all the classes, and of course pay special deference to the new comers during the time of electioneering.'

'GRAVEL DAY. On the second Monday of the first term in the year, if the weather be at all favorable, it has been customary from time immemorial to hold a college meeting, and petition the president for 'Gravel day.' We did so this morning. The day was granted, and recitations being dispensed with, the students turned out en masse to re-gravel the college walks. The gravel which we obtain here is of such a nature that it packs down very closely, and renders the walks as hard and smooth as a pavement.

'The Faculty grant this day for the purpose of fostering in the

students the habit of physical labor and exercise, so essential to vigorous mental exertion. On the same principle, they give us, near the close of the second term what is called 'chip day,' when we put the grounds in order, and remove the ruins caused by a winter's siege on the wood-piles.'

'Spring is opening. The last snow-drift on the towering peaks above us, has melted away, and the breezes blow mildly and warmly over the valley. The Horticultural Society, which embraces nearly every student in college, have divided their summer's task among them. A share in the cultivation of a beautiful flower-bed has fallen to my lot. Many improvements in the college grounds are to be made this summer. What a blessing is a large and luxuriant flower-garden.' I agree perfectly with the following passage in 'Kames' Elements of Criticism,' on the importance of a neat college garden. 'It is not easy to suppress a degree of enthusiasm, when we reflect on the advantages of gardening with respect to virtuous education. In the beginning of life, the deepest impressions are made, and it is a sad truth, that the young student, familiarized to the dirtiness and disorder of many colleges, pent within narrow bounds in populous cities, is rendered in a measure insensible to the elegant beauties of art and nature. Is there no man of fortune sufficiently patriotic to think of reforming this evil? It seems to me far from an exaggeration, that good professors are not more essential to a college, than a spacious garden sweetly ornamented, but without anything glaring or fantastic, so as upon the whole to inspire our youth with a taste, no less for simplicity than for elegance. (Changing a word or two.) In that respect Williams College may justly be deemed a model.'

'Two weeks more, and my studies in college will be finished. How little do I know? How little have I read? How feeble the execution of the scheme of reading which I find entered on my journal during the buoyancy of Freshman year! A sense of my ignorance and my incapacity for holding a station as a scholar, sometimes overwhelms me with melancholy. Would that I could enter college again with my present experience! But this is an idle wish. My business now is, to remedy immediately the faults I discover. If I do this, my four years in college will not have been wasted; for it is half the business of education to unlearn evil.

'Perhaps I have mistaken the object of college life. It is not to gather facts merely, but to acquire discipline. Better know how to use the pencil skilfully than to own a dozen pictures without. I believe I have gained some facility in directing and fixing my powers

on a specific object; and although I cannot yet, as old Dr. Emmons would have his theological students do, 'look at the point of a cambric needle for a half an hour without moving an eyelid,' I can look longer and steadier than I could four years ago. I have not richly freighted my ship, but I trust I have acquired some little skill in managing its helm and its sails; and I know where the freight is, where my course lies, where the rocks are hid, and I humbly hope I may reach the port towards which I steer.'

'Senior examination has passed. It occupied two whole days. Hot! Hot! Hot! It was a trying time, physically as well as intellectually. The last link of college duties is broken. After four weeks of vacation, we shall attend Commencement, receive our diplomas, and enter the world as freshmen. How I dread to leave! I never knew before how many and strong are the ties which bind one to his Alma Mater. My college life has constituted the golden days of my existence. It has left indelible impressions on my soul, many of which I shall delight to review. Never shall I revisit or remember these scenes without feeling my pulses thrill again with the warm gush of youth.

'To my classmates, I feel new affection as the day of parting approaches. All past difficulties and petty animosities are drowned in the bitter cup of separation. Some whom I at times used to regard almost with aversion, seem now like brothers. We probably never shall all meet again on earth. We shall be scattered far and wide, as the winds scatter the winged seeds of the trees in Autumn. But God grant that when we meet in another world, it may be to part no more.'

## CHAPTER VI.

### EXCURSIONS IN THE VICINITY.

The location of Williams College, if we regard the pleasures and advantages of natural and romantic scenery, is perhaps unsurpassed by that of any other college in the country. Environed as it is by some of the loftiest mountains in New England, in a region replete with scenes of historic interest, and abounding in wild and picturesque views, the surrounding country, as might be expected, presents many objects well worthy of the attention of the tourist and geologist, and which by numerous and delightful associations have become hallowed in the memory of every graduate. Notwithstanding the complaints of former times, we cannot but regard the situation of Williams College as most fortunate; as calculated to awaken those finer feelings in the heart of every student, which arise from a frequent contemplation of the sublime and beautiful, and the influence of which may in some measure account for the ardent and cherished attachment which has ever characterized the Alumni of this Institution. In this chapter, therefore, which we have denominated EXCURSIONS IN THE VICINITY, we propose to accompany our reader to some of the most interesting of these places, and point out as well as we are able, the distinctive features and history of each.

The first place of note which we propose to visit is the site of Fort Massachusetts, situated about three miles from the college, on the road to North Adams, and interesting both from the historical associations connected with it, as well as from the few scattered relics that yet remain upon the ground. 'The plough has passed over its rude lines, but what scenes of humble heroism, and almost forgotten valor are associated with its name. It was the bulwark of the frontier in the day of its infancy. The trembling mother on the banks of the Connecticut, in the heart of the Commonwealth, clasped her babes closer, at an idle rumor that Fort Massachusetts had given way. A hundred villages reposed in the strength of this stout guardian of New England's Thermopylæ, through which for two generations, the French and Canadian foe strove to burst into the colonies.'

This fort was built in 1741-2, and was part of the line of defence erected to protect the northern and western settlements of New England against French and Indian hostilities. It was at that time the most extreme northern outpost, in the very centre of the wilderness, the nearest settlements being Albany and Springfield. The enemy directed their principal movements towards Connecticut river; but some came down the Hudson, and proceeding eastward, up the Hoosic, appeared at intervals in the neighborhood of this fort, beneath whose walls many bloody skirmishes took place.

The first action of any importance occurred on the 20th of August, 1746, when an attack was made by upwards of 900 French and Indians, under Gen. Vaudreuil. The garrison at that time consisted of thirty-three persons, including women and children; of this number twenty-two only were effective men, who were miserably supplied with ammunition. Notwithstanding these unfortunate circumstances, the fort was most bravely defended for forty-eight hours, when they were compelled to surrender, the means of defence being wholly exhausted. The terms of capitulation stipulated that none of the prisoners should be delivered into the hands of the Indians; but this condition was most shamefully violated on the succeeding day, on the plea that there was danger of mutiny in the army; the Indians being irritated because they were cut off from the profits of the conquest. One half were accordingly delivered up, the sick and infirm immediately butchered, and the remainder carried captive to Canada. The enemy lost forty-five men, a portion of whom, from the quantity of bones discovered during the summer of 1846 in the rear of the Magnetic Observatory, possibly were buried in that place. The fort, which was destroyed, was rebuilt the succeeding summer by Col. Williams, who was attacked on the 25th of May, 1747, by a large party of the enemy, who came with the design of hindering the undertaking, but were repulsed with considerable loss. In 1748, another action took place. Col. W. was compelled to retire, after some sharp fighting within the walls.

After the death of Col. Williams, the command of the fort devolved on one Capt. Wyman. The last attack was in June, 1756, when the enemy killed a few men whom they unexpectedly surprised in the fields.

The Rev. Stephen West, afterwards Dr. West, and first Vice President of the College, was stationed at this fort as chaplain, from 1755 to 1757.

The following incident is said to have occurred in 1746. It was the daily custom of an old Indian, to come upon a ledge of rocks, (by the side of which the present road now passes,) in full sight of the

garrison, and provoke them with insulting gestures and taunting exclamations. The old fellow had cautiously calculated the intervening distance, and safe beyond the reach of shot from the fort, would calmly await any attempt to approach him, when he would retire to the adjoining woods, where on account of the numbers and strength of the enemy scouting in the vicinity, it was highly imprudent to follow. This scene was daily repeated for some time, and what measures to take the garrison were for a time at a loss to know. To submit to these repeated outrages was not to be thought of by the stern old settlers for an instant.

Among the various topics that formed the subject of conversation at that time, the merits of a famous long gun, celebrated along the borders for its power to send a ball to a great distance, held a prominent place. This gun was owned in Springfield, and without delay a messenger was despatched on the long and perilous journey of seventy-five miles, through a trackless wilderness, to obtain it. In five days, the man, fortunately escaping the enemy's outposts, returned, having effected his object, and when the unsuspecting Indian again made his appearance, a sure and fatal shot prevented him from ever repeating the performance. So the story runs. That the shot was a long one, any one who will take the trouble to examine the distance, will not for a moment doubt.

The locality of this fort is still indicated by the print of the cellar, and by horse-radish, which was planted by the soldiers, and still grows upon the spot. Beneath an apple tree, a short distance from the road, are two rude monumental stones, one of which bears the following inscription :

1746  
JUNE 26,  
ELISHA NIMS.

The inscription upon the other, with the exception of the date, 1748, and a few other rude characters is nearly obliterated. Tradition having asserted, that the *gallant Nims* was shot in the back, by the Indian above referred to, while carrying water to the garrison, (from the Spring which still bubbles at the foot of the hill,) a party of students a few years since, while making some explorations in the vicinity, opened the grave, designated by the stone as his. A skeleton was there found, with a bullet imbedded in one of the vertebræ ; having been undisturbed and in a good state of preservation, for nearly a hundred years. The vertebræ containing the ball is still to be seen, in the Museum of the N. H. Society, at the College. The foundations of the chimnies, together with some traces of the walls, were at the same time discovered.

It was probably while stationed at this fort, (from 1747 to 1755,) that the mind of Col. Williams, foreseeing that brighter days were yet to dawn upon the infant settlement, and that the little groups of log-cabins, the smoke from whose chimnies had just began to curl up amid the lonely and mysterious woods, would soon give place to prosperous and thriving villages, resolved thus early, to devote his property to the cause of future education, the result of which fifty years afterwards, was the establishment of Williams College.

Leaving Fort Massachusetts, and proceeding about a mile across the fields, towards the eastern extremity of Saddle Mountain, you enter a wild and beautiful gorge, which is well worthy the attention of all lovers of romantic scenery. Following the mountain stream, that rushes in miniature cascades, along the narrow bottom of the ravine, now half concealed by the thick foliage, and at times apparently lost amid the huge boulders and broken trunks that are scattered in every direction, you come at last to a beautiful water-fall, falling by a series of successive leaps, a distance of about sixty feet, over the opposing precipice into a circular rock basin, whose placid and mirror-like surface presents a pleasing contrast with the turbulence and foam of the stream above. The scenery around is of the wildest and most romantic character.

The steep moss-covered rocks that rise on either side, the lofty and primeval forests that crown their summits and hang over the gulf, the accumulated rocky masses below; all remain unmodified by the hand of man, just as the mighty agencies of nature have left them. This spot, although so near the College, is so effectually concealed among the recesses of the mountains, that its very existence was comparatively unknown until within the last five years. In honor of the generous benefactor of the College, this place has received the name of **LAWRENCE GORGE.**

Two miles east of Fort Massachusetts, situated in the town of Adams is a natural bridge. A small stream flowing over the soft white lime stone, has excavated for itself a deep chasm, from fifteen to twenty feet wide, and thirty rods in length. The rocks terminate on the south in a steep precipice, over which the waters of the brook once fell, but finding in some places natural fissures, and wearing away the rocks themselves in others, the present stream now flows far below its former bed, leaving two masses of rock which connect the opposing sides and form natural bridges. The upper bridge is now much broken; the lower one, which is yet perfect, is beautifully arched, and spans the stream now flowing fifty feet below. Singular and grotesque cavities of different figures and dimensions, worn by the action



of the water, appear on either side of the precipice, while the adjoining rocks, even in some places that appear inaccessible, are covered with the names and initials of numerous visitors. The scenery about the bridge is very fine, and the place itself, is well worthy of a visit.

But the principal object of attraction in the vicinity of the college, is Saddle Mountain ; so called from the appearance which its summits have been fancied to have, at a distance, though we think it would be somewhat difficult to trace the resemblance. This mountain, properly speaking, does not belong to either of the three great ranges that traverse the State, in various directions, but is in fact, an insulated eminence, connected at its southern extremity with the Taconic, and at the northern, with the Hoosic, ranges of mountains, running diagonally between them, and surrounded by vallies. This mountain, with the exception of some peaks of the White Mountains, is the most elevated point in New England, rising by barometrical measurement, 3600 feet above the tide water of the ocean, and 2800 feet above the situation of the colleges. It is chiefly the insulated character of this mountain, that renders it so striking an object in the surrounding scenery ; and seen from the adjoining towns, to the south and east, presents a grand and imposing appearance. The highest peak has received the more poetical designation of Grey Lock, from the singular and fantastic appearance of the frost, which, wreathing itself during the winter months, along the dark evergreens, and extending for a great distance in an apparently horizontal line, it needs no great effort of the imagination to regard as the grey locks of the venerable mountain. This distinct line of congelation, sinking lower and lower as the cold increases, and covering more of the mountain with its grey and sparkling mantle, and exhibiting a contrary result from an increase of temperature, is a most interesting and beautiful phenomenon.

Grey Lock is to the student in his rambles, what Mecca is to the Mahometan ; and a pilgrimage to the summit is considered necessary, at least once during the collegiate course. There is an ancient and time-honored custom which has existed from the establishment of the College, of granting to the students, once a year, a certain day of relaxation and amusement, known by the name of ' Mountain Day.' It usually occurs about the middle of June, when the weather is most favorable for excursions to the mountains and other places of interest in the vicinity. It is customary on this and other occasions during the summer, for parties to pass the night upon the summit, both for the novelty of the thing, and also to enjoy the unrivalled prospect at sunrise next morning. We invite our readers to accompany us upon one of these excursions ; for we think that the general features of the

mountain can be better described in this way than in any other. The summit of Grey Lock is accessible by various routes; but the one usually preferred by students, is to pass directly over the nearest point, (called Prospect Mountain,) and descending the other side, join the main road that comes up the Hopper.

We will suppose our party, each amply supplied with provisions and a huge pile of blankets, to leave the College about the middle of the afternoon. After proceeding about a mile over the adjoining fields, we arrive at the base of Prospect Mountain; and here our labor properly begins. The elevation to be overcome is about 1800 feet. The sides of the mountain are extremely steep, and covered with a thick growth of trees and under-brush. After toiling up the lower part of the mountain, which to some extent has been cleared, and stopping here and there to refresh yourself with the wild berries, which, in tempting profusion, flourish on every side, or to admire the green valley below, you pass from the broad, clear sunlight, to the thick gloom of the almost impenetrable woods. And now for the ascent; 'Hoc opus, hic labor, est:' as every one will readily say who has experienced it. Now clambering over the trunks of fallen trees, catching at this and that twig to assist us; now stopping to dislodge from the bed, where the last deluge had left it, some nicely poised boulder, and send it crashing down the precipitous side; now resting, and then pushing forward with renewed zeal, we at last, weary, and ready to sink with exhaustion, reach the summit. The view which unexpectedly bursts upon you here is surpassingly beautiful. Below you is a valley, completely encircled by a huge wall of mountains, with two silver-like streams crossing it in opposite directions. In the centre is the village of Williamstown, and on an eminence in the midst, stand the Colleges and the Astronomical Observatory. On your right, the vast slope of the Hoosic Mountains, stretching far away into Vermont; on the left, the Taconic range, stretching northerly still farther, while in the far-off horizon you witness peak after peak towering one above another, until blended in the distance. Behind you Grey Lock rises in silent grandeur, and the vast gulf of the Hopper is a thousand feet below you. The view from Grey Lock may have more of sublimity and grandeur, but that from Prospect Mountain, we regard as by far the most beautiful.

But our time is short, and the way is yet long; so once more resuming our bundles, we again commence our march, by descending the southern slope, which is divested of trees and is comparatively a gentle declivity. On reaching the bottom we again commence the ascent, but now by a carriage road, which was constructed with great labor, some years since, by the contributions of the inhabitants of the

adjoining towns. The ascent is moderate, — the road circuitous and winding, — now descending amid seemingly impenetrable thickets of evergreens and the decayed accumulations of centuries, and now mounting up and catching a faint glimpse of the world beneath. In about three hours after leaving the Colleges, we reach the summit. Here in the midst of a cleared space of about an acre, is a wooden building of two stories, from the top of which rises a tower, with an elevation of about fifty feet from the ground, erected partly for meteorological purposes, and partly in order to afford to visitors a more uninterrupted view of the surrounding country. The second story formerly contained an ingenious apparatus for registering the strength and direction of the wind, together with some other instruments; but the apartment was forcibly entered, and the whole machinery shamefully destroyed or carried away by some persons unknown. The tower and building which have suffered considerably from the action of the elements, and still more from the destructive propensities of visitors, is yet in a tolerable state of preservation.

On reaching the summit, a huge fire is speedily kindled; spruce boughs are collected for beds, and fuel for the fire during the night. After performing these duties, and witnessing the gorgeous spectacle at sunset, the party proceed to supper with an appetite not a little heightened by their long and fatiguing walk. The evening is generally spent in merriment and conversation around the fire, (for, although the heat in the valley below may be most oppressive, there are few times in the course of the season, when a fire on Grey Lock is at all uncomfortable,) or in enjoying the singular appearance of the sentinel-like peaks below you, seen through the thick gloom of the evening. One of the most impressive circumstances at this time and spot, if the air be clear, and the winds at rest, is the solemn stillness which pervades the whole place, and the feeling of solitude which invariably steals over you. Not a light can be seen from any human habitation, not a sound breaks in upon the serene quiet which there reigns; while the appearance of the surrounding forrest, so wild and unreclaimed from a state of nature, greatly heightens the sublimity of the scene. As the evening advances the circle around the fire by degrees breaks up, and each wrapping himself in his blanket and selecting the most comfortable place among the spruce boughs, lays himself away for a night's rest.

The scene at sunrise, from the top of the tower, is unequalled, and any description would fail of giving any adequate idea of the magnificence of the spectacle. 'I know of no place,' says President Hitchcock, in the Geological Survey of the State, 'where the mind is so forcibly

impressed with the idea of vastness, and even of immensity, as when the eye ranges abroad from this eminence. Towards the south, you have a view, more or less interrupted by spurs from the Taconic and Hoosic ranges of mountains, of that fertile valley that crosses the whole of Berkshire county. On your right and left you look down upon, or rather overlook mountains, which from the valley beneath, seemed of towering height and grandeur.' In the distance, is the Hudson, winding majestically through a region of country, thick with countless towns and villages, while far beyond, standing in bold relief against the western sky, the blue peaks of the Catskills are distinctly visible. In another direction, the principal towns of Berkshire, interspersed here and there with some beautiful sheets of water, are spread out before you, as upon a map; while farther to the east, the eye wanders over the valley of the Connecticut, chequered with cultivated fields and forests, the view being limited by Mt. Tom in one direction, and Monadnoc at the farthest extremity, on the other. As the sun rises, the scene becomes changed. The mist gradually rising and filling the whole valley, presents the appearance of a vast sea of vapor,

' Where vales and mountains round  
Stand motionless in solemn silence bound,  
Like leaning masts of stranded ships appear,  
The pines that near the coast their summits rear,  
Of mountains, woods and plains, a pleasant shore,  
Bound calm and clear the chaos still and hoar.'

This mist, by a refraction of the sun-rays, assumes at times, a beautiful golden appearance, as if the beauties of the landscape below, resolved by some magic power, had risen in vast and gorgeous exhalations around us.

Descending the mountain by a different route, and following the naked summit of Bald Mt. (the southwest peak of Saddle Mt.,) nearly to its extremity, you find yourself upon the edge of a gulf, at least a thousand feet deep, the four sides of which apparently converge to a point at the bottom. This place, from its peculiar form, is called the Hopper. The sides, which are extremely steep, are covered for the most part, with bright patches of evergreens and other trees of various species; but in some places the rocks are left bare for hundreds of feet, exhibiting the strata in some instances, to the very base. On the northern side may be seen traces of several avalanches, by which the trees and loose soil have been swept away in some cases, from a height of 1600 feet, and of considerable width. The most remarkable of these slides, occurred in 1784, when a vast accumulation of earth,

trees and rocks, descending from an elevation of 1400 feet, produced a sudden deluge in the narrow valley of the Hopper below, destroying in its course a dwelling house, the inmates of which barely escaped with their lives. A similar slide took place in 1823, and several smaller ones have since occurred, the paths of which are yet destitute of vegetation. Vestiges of earlier avalanches may be perceived in other places, through the stunted growth or the peculiar character of the trees that have sprung up since. Traces of diluvial action seen in furrows and scratches on the rocks, occur in various places on Bald Mountain. There are some other places of interest connected with Saddle Mountain, and an excursion there in the summer, will not fail to furnish ample gratification.

To the north of the College, on the road leading to Bennington, is a curious geological phenomenon, called the 'Weeping Rock.' The water exuding from the limestone cliff, heavily impregnated with calcareous matter, drops continually upon a mass of sand and gravel, which it has cemented into a firm and solid rock. Specimens of conglomerate may be obtained here, most singular in their aspect, and sometimes beautiful in their appearance.

There is a legend about these grey old rocks, which runs as follows: That as the last Indian, standing here, bade adieu to the homes and the graves of his forefathers, to his rivers and mountains, and recounting his tale of oppression and wrong, turned away from them forever, the rocks wept, and since that time, through sympathy, have continued to pour out fountains of tears. Hence the name 'weeping rocks.'

A few miles farther north, upon the summit of a neighboring mountain, is a natural curiosity, known by the name of 'SNOW HOLE.' Here, in a huge crevice or fissure of unfathomable depth, the snows that accumulate during the winter, are preserved unwasted and in all their original purity throughout the year. This place is considerably resorted to during the summer months, both on account of the beautiful prospect to be obtained from the summit, as well as to enjoy the novelty of snow-balling during the months of July or August. The mountain is situated in New York State, and forms a portion of the manor of Van Renssellaer.

In an adjoining valley, near the route by which you ascend the mountain, is a stone monument, marking the three corners of the three States of New York, Massachusetts, and Vermont, which at this place intersect with one another; one side of the stone being in New York, another in Massachusetts, and a third in Vermont. The curious may here gratify themselves by visiting in a short space of time, three different towns, each situated in different counties and States.

The battle field of Bennington, to which excursions are sometimes made, is situated fourteen miles to the north of the colleges.

In preparing this sketch of a few of the numerous and beautiful places of resort in the vicinity of Williams College, we have of necessity been obliged to omit many, which some may deem more worthy of a place than those we have mentioned; but we think it sufficient to say, in closing, that if wild and romantic scenery, the sharp bold mountain, the craggy and precipitous cliff, the beautiful cascade, or the gently winding river, can add any thing of attraction or interest to a place, then surely the country in the vicinity of Williams College, possesses these attractions.

‘Scenes of such beauty, varying in the light  
Of living nature, cannot be portrayed  
By words, nor by the pencil’s silent skill,  
But is the property of him alone  
Who hath beheld it, noted it with care,  
And in his mind recorded it with love.’

## CHAPTER VII.

### MORAL AND RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE OF THE COLLEGE.

WE have reserved until the last the subject at the head of this chapter, because we regard it as the most important of all. Knowledge is power; educated men will exert a more powerful influence in the community in which they reside, than the uneducated. The high places in society are for the most part filled by the graduates of colleges, or by those who have in some way received an education that is equivalent to it. The leading men in our National and State Legislatures, judges, lawyers, physicians, and clergymen are educated men. In every town and village in our country, there are found a few men that exert a great influence; they are the oracles of wisdom; they are the men who have received a better education than those among whom they dwell.

How important it is then, that the men sent out from our colleges from year to year, be men of moral and religious principle. It is not enough that they exert an influence; it should be a healthful influence. A mind may be well stored with human science, but destitute of moral principle; such minds are a curse to the community rather than a blessing. Educate well an immoral or unprincipled man, and he is only abler prepared to corrupt and destroy. No college, therefore, can be regarded as a blessing to the state or nation in which it is located, unless its guardians make provision for the moral, as well as for the intellectual culture of those who resort to it.

The Trustees of this College have always been men who appreciated the necessity of moral and religious training, and have appointed from time to time, those men to instruct, who would carry out their views — men of principle, and of an active piety — who would labor for the spiritual welfare of those committed to their charge. Under such auspices, it might have been expected that the influence of this college would be as good as it was great.

Williams College sprung into being during the French Revolution, when French liberty and French philosophy were pouring in their

flood of impiety and infidelity, and threatened to sweep away every thing serious. In the early classes there were very few professors of religion. Many of the students made Volney their oracle, and openly avowed the principles he inculcated.

Although the number of pious students was at first small, they were men of active and efficient piety, and did much to restrain and enlighten their companions. For four or five years, a prayer-meeting was sustained every evening in the week. At the ringing of the bell at nine o'clock in the evening, as many as were disposed met together in a private room, read a chapter, listened to a few expository or hortatory remarks, and united in prayer. The whole exercise did not exceed fifteen minutes.

Infidelity gradually diminished, and the number of pious young men that entered College, after the year 1800, was considerably increased. There was, however, no special attention to religion in College until the summer of 1806. 'Some of all the classes shared in it. It brought religion into the ascendant.' Gordon Hall was a subject of that revival. Samuel J. Mills and James Richards were then members of the College.

An important fruit of this revival was the awakening in the minds of the young men above mentioned, and of others, a missionary spirit, which resulted in the organization of the American Board of Foreign Missions. In September, 1808, an association was formed on this ground, with a written constitution, the objects and character of which are thus stated in the original document :

'The object of this Society shall be to effect in the persons of its members, a mission or missions to the heathen.'

'No person shall be admitted who is under any engagement of any kind, which shall be incompatible with going on a mission to the heathen.'

'Each member shall keep absolutely free from every engagement, which, after his prayerful attention, and after consultation with the brethren, shall be deemed incompatible with the object of this society ; and shall hold himself in readiness to go on a mission when and where duty may call.'

This constitution was originally signed by Samuel J. Mills, and James Richards, and Ezra Fisk, and Cyrus W. Gray, and Robert C. Robbins, and Daniel Smead ; and afterwards by Gordon Hall. Said Dr. Griffin in speaking of this society, at the dedication of the Chapel : 'I have been in situations to know that from the counsels formed in that sacred conclave, or from the mind of Mills himself, arose the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the American



Bible Society, the United Foreign Missionary Society, and the African School, under the care of the Synod of New York and New Jersey; besides all the impetus given to domestic missions, to the Colonization Society, and to the general cause of benevolence in both hemispheres.

We have been told by one who was then a member of college, that Algernon Sidney Bailey, though his name is seldom mentioned in connection with this subject, did as much as any one to awaken a missionary spirit. From Professor Hopkins' Narrative of Revivals in Williams College, we learn that this Bailey was a man of uncommon piety. 'He was mighty,' it is said, 'in prayer, and a terror to the wicked, both in town and college.' In the summer of 1805, he with a few others, held a prayer meeting, over the Hoosic, at a distance from college, to pray for a revival among the students, it being supposed that such a meeting could not be held in College without interruption and ridicule. In that meeting, it is thought, was the beginning of the revival of which we have just spoken.

At the close of the year 1811, there were but twenty professors of religion in College, and several of these were inefficient as Christians.

'The Senior class appears to have embodied most of the active piety which remained, and as this class entered upon its last year, distressing apprehensions began to be entertained lest religion should altogether go out in the institution.' In the spring term, (1812) a Senior conversed with all the professors of religion in College, and established a Sabbath morning meeting, which has been continued to the present time, and is now observed in all the colleges and theological seminaries of New England, as a concert of prayer for colleges. This meeting was thronged. The disorderly spirit which had prevailed was hushed, and the solemnity of death reigned through the institution. Charles Jenkins, then a Junior, went to Professor Dewey one forenoon, and said, 'We (the class) wish not to have a recitation at eleven; but to meet in the recitation room, and hear you on the subject of religion.' Jenkins had been a deist, but now, 'his voice faltered, and the big tear stood in his eye.' He said 'the truth was all before him, and he could find no refuge in error.' He soon became a new man. This was the Rev. Charles Jenkins, who died in Portland in 1831. The Professor met the class. 'The feeling was so deep that several minutes elapsed before anything could be said. The place was truly a Bochim.' This revival changed entirely the aspect of College.' 'The whole number that cherished hopes was between thirty and forty, nearly all of whom were in the three lower classes.' The Junior exhibition was dispensed with, and in its stead a sermon was preached by Professor Dewey.

The next revival was in the summer of 1815. The first indication of seriousness was in connection with the preaching of the President, Dr. Fitch, which was more than usually pungent. The converts were mostly from the upper classes, so that its influence upon the College was more transient than that of 1812.

During all the presidency of Dr. Moore, the subject of the removal of the College was agitated, and though about half of the students were professedly pious, religion was in a low state.

In 1824, a deep seriousness pervaded the whole College, but there was only one conversion; that was William Hervey who went on a mission to India, where he died in 1832. At this time, one of the Professors said, 'Is it possible that God has shaken this College to the centre, to bring out one conversion?' 'His conversion,' says Professor Hopkins, 'was worth this and infinitely more.' It is supposed that the idea of an annual fast for the conversion of the world originated with Hervey.

In the autumn of 1825, there was another revival, which continued through the spring term of 1826. Our limits will not allow us to give the particulars. The reader is referred to Professor Hopkins' account of revivals in Williams College, in the Quarterly Register, vol. 13; to which article we are indebted for most of the facts in this chapter.

The number of students then in College was 85; 43 were hopefully pious before; 27 indulged hopes during the revival; 15 remained without hope, 11 of whom were absent from College.

This revival came at the darkest hour of the College's existence. It seemed a special interposition of Providence to preserve the Institution from extinction. It forced upon the churches the irresistible impression, 'Heaven has decreed that this College shall live.' In the strength of it Dr. Griffin went forth, and in a wonderfully short time, in a season of commercial embarrassment, raised \$25,000 for the funds of the sinking college. 'He was convinced that it was an institution dear to Christ,' and he devoted his powerful energies to its up-building, with an enthusiasm which such a conviction alone could have inspired. And when success was attained, he could not but exclaim: 'This College has been saved by the Holy Ghost; and to the Holy Ghost let it be forever devoted, as a scene of revivals of religion, to raise up ministers and missionaries for Christ and his Church.' 'I will go home,' said he, 'and preach this doctrine to the Trustees, and Faculty, and students, and the people of the town, and to all the friends of Williams College. I would it were written on the broad side of heaven, where all the friends of the College might read it till the final conflagration.'

In the autumn of 1826, there were eleven conversions, mostly in the Freshman class. During the three succeeding years, the religious history of the College became dark. There was a great increase of impiety and wickedness. At the commencement of the spring term of 1829, the religious aspect of College was greatly changed. There was a deep feeling among professors of religion: more than twenty gave up their hopes; there were several conversions.

There was considerable religious interest in 1832, and it is thought that the revival of that year contributed more than that of any former year, to permanent religious order. It led Christians to act from a principle of steady devotedness, of personal exertion, and self-sacrifice.

In 1834, the religious influence in College was increased by the admission of a large number of pious young men, who had been subjects of the revivals that occurred through the country extensively in 1831. About this time, the College Church was formed. A tutor, who was appointed this year, was much devoted to the spiritual welfare of the students. Meetings, continuing fifteen or twenty minutes, were holden every day at noon, which had a salutary influence. One young man, who had embraced infidel sentiments, was greatly annoyed by these meetings, although he did not attend them. He heard the singing; it arrested his attention; led to serious reflection; and finally to his conversion.

In the spring of 1838, there was a season of spiritual refreshing, which resulted in the conversion of several individuals, though the work was not as deep nor as thorough as in some former years. The years 1840, and 1842, also witnessed powerful out-pourings of God's Spirit. And in the spring of the present year, (1847,) when this account was written, holy influences were at work. Many were converted. Many Christians were strengthened in their faith, and many professors discovered that they had built their hopes on the sand, and founded their future hopes, as they trusted, on the Rock, Christ Jesus.

Thus has this College, from its early years to the present time, been peculiarly favored by the visits of the Holy Spirit. Although the Institution has sometimes struggled for its very existence, and has passed through the fire, and, if we may so speak, 'through the valley of the shadow of death,' God has raised it up friends. He has made it an object of love to the church, as the birth-place of American Missions. Long may these sacred influences hover around us, until heathen nations shall join with us in blessing God for the establishment of Williams College.

## A P P E N D I X .

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### THE WILL OF COLONEL WILLIAMS.

THE following copy of the will of Colonel Williams, kindly furnished by a friend, was received too late for insertion in the chapter containing a sketch of his life. We therefore present it in an appendix, thinking it may be of interest, both from its connection with the foundation of the college, and as an object of curiosity to the antiquarian.

'In the name of God, Amen. I, Ephraim Williams, of Hatfield, in the County of Hampshire, in New England, now at Albany, in the province of New York, on my march in the expedition against Crown Point, being of sound and perfect mind and memory, (blessed be God therefor,) but not knowing how God in his providence may dispose of my life, and remembering the uncertainty of it at all times, I do therefore make, and publish this, my last Will and Testament, in the following manner :

First, I give my soul into the hands of God that gave it, and my body to the dust, from whence it was taken, humbly hoping for pardon, acceptance, and a resurrection to immortal glory, through the merits and mediation of a glorious Redeemer; and as touching such worldly estate, wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, bequeath and dispose of the same, in manner and form following, that is to say :

*Item.* It is my will and desire, that my just debts and funeral charges be first paid and discharged by my Executors, hereafter named, out of my estate.

*Item.* It is my will and desire that the deed I gave my brother Elijah Williams, of my house and homestead at Stockbridge, and my note hand, payable for one hundred pounds, in twelve months after my parents' decease, as also his mortgage deed and his bond to me, be destroyed, and made of none effect.

*Item.* I give and bequeath unto my beloved brothers, Josiah Williams and Elijah Williams, and the heirs of their bodies, my homestead at Stockbridge, with all the buildings and appurtenances thereunto belonging, with all the stock of cattle, and negro servants now upon the place, to be equally divided between them, upon the following conditions, and not otherwise, viz : That they pay annually to my honored mother, for her support, twenty-six pounds, thirteen

shillings and four pence, and also, provided they fulfil the obligations I laid myself under, in a certain bond to my honored parents, for their support, and decent interment, exclusive of the money I then obliged myself annually to pay her; provided also, that they pay unto my sister Judith Williams, or the heirs of her body, the sum of one hundred pounds, and to the heirs of my sister Abigail Dwight, born of her body, the sum of one hundred pounds, to be paid them severally, within twelve months after my honored mother's decease. In case my sisters, Judith or Elizabeth should come to die without heirs; then it is my will that her, or their part or parts shall devolve to the heirs of my sister Abigail Dwight.

*Item.* It is my will, that in case one of my aforesaid brothers die without issue, then the whole of the above bequest revert to the survivor, and the heirs of his body, provided he fulfil the above obligations laid on them both; but in case my said brothers die without issue, then my will is that the above mentioned estate be sold, and the money be put out to interest, and that the said interest shall be used for some pious or charitable purposes, as the propagating Christianity, the support of the poor in the county of Hampshire, or for schools on the frontier, in the county aforesaid, to be at the direction of my Executors, herein after named, and after their decease, to be at the direction of the justices of the sessions for the county aforesaid; but in case my brother, Elijah Williams, should deny, or refuse to destroy the above mentioned writings, as above directed, then it is my will he pay to my honored mother, annually, for her support, twenty-six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence, and also the sum of thirteen pounds, six shillings and eight pence, to my brother Josiah Williams, annually, until my honored mother's decease, after which, to pay to my sisters, and the heirs of my sister Abigail Dwight, as above directed, and that, within one twelve months after my honored mother's decease; also to pay to my brother Josiah Williams, or the heirs of his body, the sum of four hundred pounds, and in case my said brother Josiah should die without issue, then it is my will that my brother Elijah shall pay the said sum of four hundred pounds to my executors, to be appropriated by them to some, or all the public uses above mentioned.

*Item.* I give and bequeath unto my beloved brother, Thomas Williams, one hundred pounds, to be paid him out of my bonds; but in case of his decease in the present expedition, to be equally divided amongst his five daughters, viz: Elizabeth, Anne, Cynthia, Mary and Martha.

*Item.* I give and bequeath to my beloved cousin, Thomas Williams, son to my brother, Thomas Williams, nine hundred dollars of land, known by the name of the Equivalent, and joining upon the township of Stockbridge; and in case he dies without issue, I give it to my beloved cousins, Erastus Sergeant and John Sergeant, to be equally divided between them; but in case one dies without issue, the whole to go to the survivor; if they both die without issue, the whole to be appropriated to the public uses, as before mentioned.

*Item.* I give and bequeath to my loving cousins, Elijah Graves, Moses Graves, John Graves, and Martha Graves, children of Moses and Martha Graves, the sum of one hundred pounds, to be equally divided between them; in case any dies without issue, then the whole to go to the survivor or survivors; and in case they all die without issue, then the said hundred pounds to be appropriated to the public uses, as above directed, the said money to be taken out of Moses Graves' and Elisha Chapin's joint bond, and to be put on interest until the children come of age.

*Item.* I give and bequeath to my beloved cousins, James and John Gray, sons of James and Sarah Gray, fifty acres of land lying north of the great pond, in Stockbridge, so called, bounded upon land of their father, James Gray, on the east, by Josiah Jones' land on the west, by the great pond on the south, and the town line on the north, to be equally divided between them; but in case they die without issue, then the said land to be disposed of for public uses, as aforesaid.

*Item.* I give and bequeath to my loving cousins, William Williams, and Israel Williams, sons of Israel Williams, Esq., and Sarah, his wife, two lots of meadow land in Hatfield, Great Meadow, the contents of which, and the bounds, may be seen in a deed given to me of the same, by Moses Graves, of Hatfield. The lot lying nearest to Pine Bridge, I give to William, and the other to Israel, and in case one of them dies without issue, then both lots to go to the survivor; if they both die without issue, then the lots to be disposed of for public uses, as above directed.

*Item.* I give and bequeath to my beloved cousins, Eunice Williams, Jerusha, Elizabeth, and Lucretia Williams, daughters of Israel Williams, Esq., and Sarah, his wife, the sum of twenty pounds each. In case any of them die without issue, their part to be equally divided among the survivors; and in case they all should die without issue, the money to be disposed of for public uses as aforesaid.

*Item.* I give and bequeath to my loving cousin, Elizabeth Williams, over and above the twenty pounds above mentioned, my silver cream pot and tea spoons.

*Item.* I give and bequeath unto my loving brother, Thomas Williams, all my wearing apparel, and my shoe buckles; but in case my said brother should die, I then give them to my surviving brothers, to be equally divided among them.

*Item.* I give to my beloved friend and kinsman, Israel Williams, Esq., of Hatfield, my sorrel mare, now at Northampton, and my bald colt, now at Sheffield.

*Item.* I give to my trusty and well beloved friend, John Worthington, Esq., of Springfield, my Chambers' Dictionary, with the whole of Pope's works, and some other books that came in the same box, now in his hands, and also my French fire arm, my case of pistols and hanger, in case the French don't get them; but if he dies without issue, then the above articles to be given to the eldest male heir in Colonel Israel Williams' family.

*Item.* I give and bequeath to my beloved brother, Thomas Williams, my fire arm, now in possession.

*Item.* I give the remaining part of my library, not yet disposed of, (excepting my large Bible, and Ridgley's Body of Divinity,) to my beloved brothers, Thomas and Elijah Williams, to be equally divided between them; but in case my brother Thomas dies, his part to go to his son Thomas; and in case my brother Elijah dies without issue, then his part to be given to my cousins, William and Israel Williams, to be equally divided between them, over and above the lots of land bequeathed them above; and it is my will and desire, further, that my cousin William Williams, above mentioned, shall have the perusal of the books hereby given to my brothers, Thomas and Elijah, any reasonable time upon his desire.

*Item.* I give and bequeath unto my brother Thomas Williams' two eldest daughters, three silver spoons, now at Hatfield, and a silver tankard now at

Stockbridge, and what silver may be bequeathed me by my aunt Cooke in New Town.

*Item.* I give to my brother Josiah, my large Bible, and Ridgley's body of Divinity.

*Item.* I give to Solomon and Israel Stoddard, sons of my great benefactor, John Stoddard, deceased, my two colts now at Northampton.

*Item.* I give and devise and remit to the poor, distressed and imprudent Captain Elisha Chapin, the sum of one hundred pounds, to be deducted out of the bond given jointly by Moses Graves and said Elisha Chapin; the said hundred pounds to be remitted out of said Chapin's part.

*Item.* It is my will, and pleasure, and desire, that the remaining part of lands not yet disposed of, shall be sold at the direction of my executors, within five years after an established peace, and the interest of the money, and also the interest of my money arising by my bonds and notes, shall be appropriated towards the support and maintainance of a free school, (in a township west of Fort Massachusetts, commonly called the West Township,) forever, provided the said township fall within the jurisdiction of the province of the Massachusetts Bay, and, provided also, that the Governor and general Court give the said township the name of WILLIAMSTOWN; and it is my further will and desire that if there should remain any monies of the above donation, for the said school, it be given towards the support of a school in the East Township, where the fort now stands; but in case the above provisos are not complied with, then it is my will and desire that the interest of the above mentioned monies be appropriated to some pious and charitable uses, in manner and form as directed in the former of this, my last Will and Testament.

*Lastly.* I nominate and appoint my trusty and well beloved friends, Israel Williams, Esq., of Hatfield, and John Worthington, Esq., of Springfield, in the County of Hampshire, and Province of Massachusetts Bay, of New England, to be Executors of this my last Will and Testament, and thereby revoke, disannul, and make void all former Wills and Testaments by me heretofore made, done or executed; and I do hereby confirm and allow this, and no other, to be my last Will and Testament, and desire it may be observed as such.

In witness whereof, I hereunto set my hand and seal, the twenty-second day of July in the twenty-ninth year of his Majesty's reign, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-five.

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced and declared, by the said Ephraim Williams as his last will and testament, (the erasure at the word Hatfield, being first made,) in the presence of us, who were present at the signing. EPHRAIM WILLIAMS, (Seal.)

WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Jr.  
NOAH BELDING.  
RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

## MISSIONARIES WHO HAVE GRADUATED AT THIS COLLEGE.

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THE following graduates of Williams College have been, or are Missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

GORDON HALL, born Tolland, Mass., 1784; graduated 1808; went to Bombay in 1813; died at Doorle D'hapoor, 1826.

SAMUEL J. MILLS, born Torrington, Ct., 1783; graduated 1809; went on missionary tours through the western and southern sections of the United States, from 1812 to 1815; went to England, and from thence to Africa, in 1818, and died at sea, June 16, of the same year.

JAMES RICHARDS, born Abington, Mass., 1784; graduated 1809; went to Ceylon in 1816; died August 3, 1822.

LUTHER RICE, born Northboro' Mass., 1783; graduated 1810; went to Calcutta, became a Baptist; withdrew from the A. B. C. F. M., returned to America in 1813, and labored in the cause of Baptist missions.

ALFRED WRIGHT, born Columbia, Ct., 1788; graduated in 1812; went to the Choctaw Indians 1821.

JONAS KING, born Hawley, Mass., 1792; graduated 1816; went to Jerusalem in 1823 to Poros in Greece, in 1828, and to Athens in 1831, where he still labors.

JOHN C. BRIGHAM, born New Marlborough, Mass., 1794; graduated 1819; went on a missionary tour through South America, 1822, 3, and 4; is now Corresponding Secretary of the American Bible Society.

WILLIAM RICHARDS, born Plainfield, Mass., 1793; graduated in 1819; went to Sandwich Islands in 1822; since 1838 has held the offices of Foreign Ambassador, and Secretary of State under the government of the Islands.

WILLIAM HERVEY, born Kingsbury, N. Y., 1799; graduated 1824; went to Bombay in 1831; died May 13, 1832.

HOLLIS READ, born Newfane, Vt., 1802; went to Bombay in 1830, returned in 1835, and is now pastor of a church in Derby, Ct.

HENRY R. HOISINGTON, born Vergennes, Vt., 1801; graduated 1828; went to Ceylon, in 1833.

SAMUEL HUTCHINGS, born New York City, 1806; graduated in 1828; went to Ceylon in 1833.

DAVID B. LYMAN, born New Hartford, Ct., 1803; graduated 1828; went to Sandwich Islands, in 1831.

CHARLES ROBINSON, graduated in 1829; went to Bangkok, in 1833.

SIMEON H. CALHOUN, born in Boston; graduated in 1829; went to Greece and Turkey in 1836, as agent of the American Bible Society; went to Syria in 1843.

LOWELL SMITH, born Heath, Mass., 1802; graduated in 1829; went to the Sandwich Islands in 1832.

NATHAN BENJAMIN, born Catskill, N. Y., 1811; graduated in 1831; went to Greece in 1836; to Nicomedia in 1846.

JOHN DUNBAR, born Palmer, Mass., 1804; graduated in 1832; went to the Grand Pawnees in 1834.

CUSHING EELLS, born Blandford, Mass., 1810; graduated in 1834; went to Oregon in 1838.

OSRO FRENCH, born Dummerston, Vt., 1807; graduated in 1834; went to Bombay in 1839.





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