

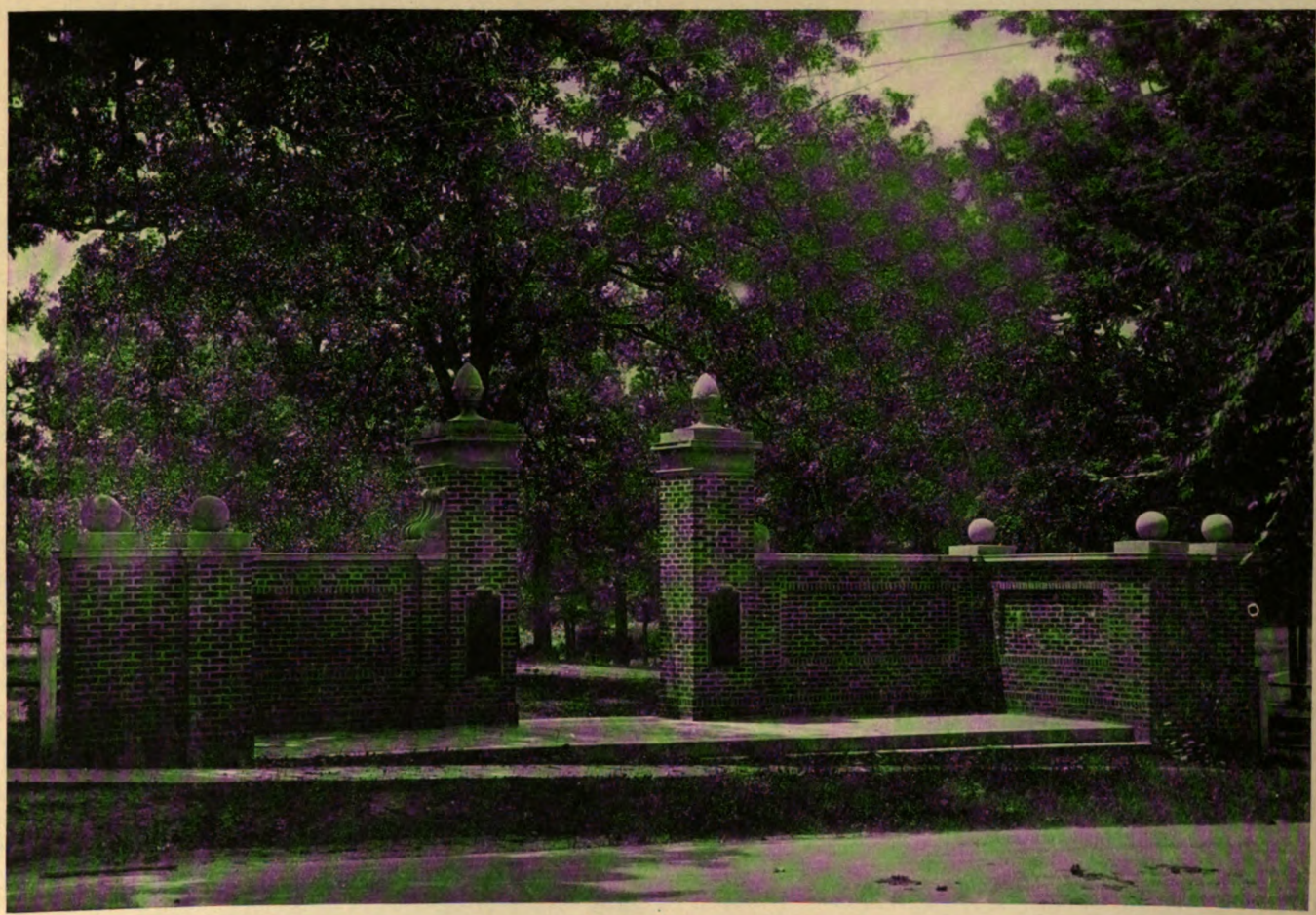
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The RECORD

of the

Hampden-Sidney Alumni Association

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HAMPDEN-SIDNEY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

VOLUME ONE

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NUMBER FOUR

Report of the President of the Alumni Association

By DR. CHARLES W. DABNEY

THE alumni of this College had never been organized in a systematic way until this year. The few chapters, formed at different times in the past, had nearly all ceased to function. A tentative constitution was adopted some years ago providing for a central Alumni Council to be constituted of delegates from the chapters, but delegates were never elected and the Council was never organized. The reorganization of the old chapters and the establishment of new ones was, therefore, the first thing undertaken. An effort was made to get this work started by correspondence, and "key-men" in the different localities were appealed to to organize chapters in their towns or districts. To this appeal only a slight response was made.

In the summer and fall the President of the Association, therefore, made twenty separate visits to the alumni at fourteen different places. Richmond was visited four times; Staunton, Farmville, and Charleston, W. Va., each twice. A visit was made to Lynchburg in an effort to get the alumni in that city and vicinity organized, but the men there were engaged at the time in a community-chest campaign, and we were invited to come back later. The alumni in and around Winchester could not meet on the day fixed by the President's itinerary. But a chapter for Clarke and Frederick Counties, with headquarters at Winchester, was duly organized. Roanoke had one of the few chapters in an active state. Indisposition, unfortunately, prevented the President from meeting the alumni at Roanoke at the appointed time, but they had a fine meeting. Correspondence with the alumni in other States, which could not be visited, has evidently awakened interest, but it is not known to have resulted in the organization of any new chapters yet.

As a result of these efforts, chapters are now organized and at work in fourteen cities and districts as follows: Farmville, Richmond, Petersburg, Roanoke, Covington, Clarke and Frederick Counties at Winchester, Charlotte C. H., Augusta-Highland at Staunton, Charleston, W. Va., Raleigh and Winston-Salem, N. C., New York, and Washington. The names of the officers of these chapters are given in Record No. 3.

The constitution of the Alumni Association provides for an Alumni Council, made up of one delegate from each chapter which shall meet at commencement of each year. Eleven chapters have appointed delegates to the Alumni Council to meet at the Commencement, 1927.

An Executive Committee was formed at Hampden-Sidney, consisting of the resident members, with the President of the College as Chairman and Mr. Robert K. Brock as Secretary. This Council has rendered most valuable assistance in compiling lists of the Alumni for a catalogue, and in getting out THE RECORD. This Committee should be provided for in the Constitution and made permanent. President Eggleston visited Covington and Staunton and Charleston, W. Va., with the President of the Association, and made addresses of great power. We are indebted to Dr. William H. Whiting, Jr., of Hampden-Sidney College, for his assistance in many ways, and to Mr. Robert K. Brock for invaluable assistance in getting out THE RECORD. Mr. P. Tulane Atkinson, Financial Secretary of the College, has kindly acted as Treasurer of the Association.

THE RECORD

Three numbers of THE RECORD OF THE HAMPDEN-SIDNEY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION have been published. The object of THE RECORD is to promote the organization of the alumni, to secure data for a new Alumni Catalogue, and to unite its friends in the support and development of the College. The articles, "Plans for the Association," in No. 1; the report of the "Visitation and Organization of Chapters," in No. 2; "Financial Plan for the Association," in No. 3, are to be considered as part of this report.

A PERMANENT SECRETARY

Our experience shows the vital necessity of having a permanent Secretary to keep up this visitation and correspondence with the alumni and friends of the college and solicit funds for it. Only in this way can we develop a body of workers for the College and secure the endowments the institution needs so desperately.

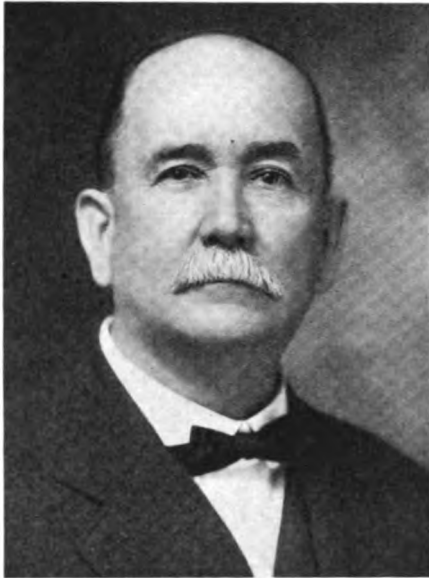
FINANCES, BUDGET AND COLLECTIONS

At the June meeting of the Association, it was resolved to raise the sum of \$5,000 for the employment of a permanent Secretary and for his expenses. The men at the meeting subscribed the sum of \$1,085 toward this fund. The Executive Committee, accordingly, authorized measures to raise the \$5,000 and \$3,000 additional for the publication of THE RECORD and the preparation of a catalogue of alumni.

Clement Cabell Dickinson, M. C.

THE subject of this brief sketch is not only a graduate of Hampden-Sidney College, but is a product of the county in which the College is located, having been born on December 6th, 1849, in Prince Edward County, only a few miles from the College, from which he graduated in the class of 1869.

Coming of distinguished ancestry, among whom were some of the leading men in the upbuilding of the State and National Government, not even the trying period of the Civil War and the poverty and suffering which followed in its wake were sufficient to suppress his spirit, and he was one of that class of young men who immediately stepped for-



C. C. DICKINSON

ward to rebuild the State and restore it to its former position. At the time of the outbreak of the Civil War he was but twelve years old, and therefore too young to enter the army, but took his place at home in important work of carrying on the operations of the farm.

Upon graduation he taught for several years and then went to Clinton, Missouri, and studied law, holding successive positions of Commonwealth's Attorney, Judge, Member of the State House of Representatives, of the State Senate, and being finally elected to Congress in 1910, in which body he has served continuously ever since with the exception of the 67th Congress. Mr. Dickinson has taken high rank in this body and has always held prominent positions on important committees. Representing a district in which the two political parties are nearly equally divided, the fact that he has carried this district in every election but one since his first election by decisive majorities bespeaks the confidence of his constituents in his integrity and ability.

Mr. Dickinson is one of the most genial and kindly of men, loyal to his old friends, his native State and County, and to his College, from which he graduated now nearly sixty years ago. He is upholding with marked distinction the high position which Hampden-Sidney took in the political field almost from its very founding.

R. D. Bedinger

ON the mud wall of a grass-covered hut in "Darkest Africa" hangs a Hampden-Sidney B. A. diploma. It belongs to Robert Dabney Bedinger, of the American Presbyterian Congo Mission, located at the Mutoto Station of the Morrison Bible Training School for Evangelists, where since 1922, he and Mrs. Bedinger have been working. Bedinger is in charge also of the progressive program for the Congo Mission which has the same objective as our own "church-wide" program. A graduate of Hampden-Sidney, we are interested in him and all he is doing.

Robert Dabney Bedinger comes of a family of ministers and missionaries. He is a son of Rev. B. F. Bedinger, of



R. D. BEDINGER

Charlotte Court House, Virginia, and grandson of Rev. E. W. Bedinger, for many years Superintendent of Home Missions for the Synod of Kentucky. An uncle, Rev. W. L. Bedinger, of Huntsville, Ala., spent ten years in Brazil; and two aunts, Mrs. James Lowe (Miss Sadie Bedinger), of Louisville, Ky., and the late Miss Anna Bedinger, served, the one in Mexico and the other in Korea.

At the age of fourteen, Bedinger was sent to Lafayette College, in Alabama. But the following year his father came to Virginia as Synodical Evangelist and removed his family to Hampden-Sidney in order that his sons might have the advantages afforded by the College.

In his junior year at College, after two months of struggle, young Bedinger decided to enter the ministry. When he told his father, he was astonished by his quiet remark, "Thank God, my son, but I knew it." When asked, "How did you know it? I only decided a few minutes ago." The father replied, "In infancy your mother and I dedicated you to be a preacher of the Word, if God desired you." In his senior year, 1906, Bedinger was a delegate from the College to the Y. M. C. A. Conference at Asheville, N. C. On the quiet mountain sides he fought out the battle that resulted in the dedication of his life to the foreign field.

Bedinger entered Union Theological Seminary in the fall of 1908 and was graduated in 1911. Two months later he

sailed for the Belgian Congo. Soon after he arrived at Luebo, in 1912, he was selected to accompany Dr. W. M. Morrison on an extensive tour through the country covered by the Presbyterians. This intimate association with the "great missionary statesman" made a tremendous impression on the young missionary. This trip was also the beginning of work among the Baluba and led to the opening of the Biganga Station with its now several score of evangelists, nearly one hundred out-stations, and many hundreds of converts. Upon his return, the young missionary became one of the first to start the work that has grown to such proportions as to overtax the energies of twelve missionaries.

Before returning from his furlough at home in 1916, he married Miss Mary Julia Smith, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. R. P. Smith, of Asheville, N. C. Together they have done noble work at Lusambo. One of the outstanding features of this work was teaching the people thrift and stewardship. In a short time, the evangelistic work became self-supporting. Bedinger has a genius for organization, which led him to adopt methods at Lusambo that have kept the work going in spite of many hindrances. Following the same methods at Mutoto, he soon put it on a sound basis. In his "Triumph of the Gospel in the Belgian Congo," Bedinger has written a thrilling history of the founding and growth of that Mission into a self-supporting community.

In a letter of January 18, 1927, Bedinger writes:

"To those of us who live here, Mutoto becomes a busier and more interesting station all the time. The Bible School students, the boys and girls from the two Homes here, are in school in the morning and in the afternoons work on the farms to raise their own foodstuffs. The grace of giving is growing in our Mission field, and some of our native Christians are practicing tithing. In one section the native church went 'over the top'; in eight months, they gave what they were supposed to give in a year's time. In another section our goal was set for 17,500 francs and in nine months they had given 17,960 francs. The coming of the railroad is giving employment to numbers of our men, and better prices for their foodstuffs."

In another letter, written on January 21, he says:

"I am deeply interested in all you write of the way the campaign for Hampden-Sidney has gotten under way. I hope the Lord will raise up some one, some day, with the vision to give a large

sum of money to Hampden-Sidney. On the other hand, I feel that the interest and love for the College can be deepened and sustained better by the 'mites' of the many. I have never craved greatness in a numerical sense for the College, but I would prefer that she not grow larger than say, three hundred students. But I do want to see her equipped sufficiently to do the work adequately and well for the students she has."

Referring to the book on "The Gospel in the Belgian Congo," he says:

"Nothing said in the book can give you an adequate idea of the natural beauty of Mutoto station and its environs. It is 'beautiful for situation,' in a clump of palms, some of which must be a hundred years old, with wooded hills in every direction. I lift up mine eyes unto these hills daily and gain inspiration and strength. The actual compound is in the shape of an L. The hospital, now in process of erection, is at the top, on a hill slightly higher than the rest of the grounds; the missionary residences face each other around an ellipse which is perhaps a hundred yards in width in the center. The Morrison Bible School rises beautifully at the base of the L. We have now 21 members on the Station, and every house is filled.

"I must not forget to explain the holes in the book I am sending you. These are the work of the termites, or white ants. I thought you might be interested to own this particular copy as a souvenir of the Congo. The white ants have cost us thousands of dollars in the course of the Mission's existence. Our grass roofs last only two years, due to the white ants. I took a week's trip last month and left my Hampden-Sidney College A. B. sheep skin hanging against the wall. Upon my return the white ants had eaten up the Board of Trustees of 1906! I am disgusted at my carelessness, but I now have a priceless souvenir of the Congo."

Writing on April 1, 1927, he says further:

"I held a conference with myself recently, being the only Alumni of the old College in this section of the world, and elected myself President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Mutoto Alumni Chapter. As Treasurer I have already forwarded my dues and subscription to Alumni Record for the years 1926-27.

Now if this is not a legitimately organized Alumni Chapter, please regard this bit of conceit as an "April Fool" joke!

You know, I am deeply interested in all you fellows back there are doing, and I want to help in every way that I can. My donation to the cause went in some months ago."

With every good wish, I am,

Ever cordially,

ROBT. D. BEDINGER.

