

ADDRESSES AND PAPERS  
BEARING CHIEFLY ON  
EDUCATION.

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## PREFACE.

The leading motive in issuing this volume is to put its contents in *permanent* shape, easily obtainable by readers who care to become acquainted with them. Eight of its twelve components are already in print but in such form as to be inaccessible to most persons.

The other four numbers (VII-X), connected closely with Public School work, are believed to be of equal value and in the present state of educational progress throughout Virginia and the South to be distinctly in accord with it.

The papers about Hampden-Sidney College give some account of the oldest institution for higher education in the South, the College of William and Mary alone excepted. It still stands after a century and a quarter of active collegiate work, and deserves the regard of all lovers of sound learning coupled with high ideals of personal character. Several of her younger sisters in Virginia have outstripped her in equipment and number of matriculates but none in fitting men for high and noble usefulness in life. The whole volume, especially the biographical sketches and the two concluding addresses, will be found to contain much adapted to awaken the aspirations of ingenuous youth, along with the desire to lead pure and honorable lives: "to make the most of themselves" as citizens of a free government and immortal beings, destined to a never-ending existence.

THE AUTHOR.

*Richmond, Va., September 1, 1908.*

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# ADDRESSES *and* PAPERS BEARING CHIEFLY *on* EDUCATION.

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## INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

*Gentlemen of the Board of Trustees:*

**I**N assuming the duties to which you have called me, I do so with diffidence coupled with hopefulness. I am abashed when I think that I am to be the successor of the Smiths, and of Alexander, Hoge, Cushing, Carroll, Maxwell, Sparrow, Green and Atkinson; but I am comforted by the thought that their virtues are imitable, and that their strength was in God. I am cheered, too, by the consideration that I am the unanimous choice of your honorable body for this high position; that your selection was not based on friendly solicitation or on evidence furnished by others, but upon your own intimate knowledge of my character, attainments and mode of life, and that I have the assurance of your cordial coöperation in any efforts I may make to enlarge and extend the usefulness of the College whose interests are entrusted to your care. Permit me to say that there is no body of gentlemen with whom I would prefer to be associated. It has been my fortune to be acquainted with many of the good and great, but I have met none whose sentiments and aims seem to me to be more exalted or which more entirely secure my sympathy and approval; and I confidently anticipate both profit and pleasure from the relations we are to sustain to one another in the future.

I esteem myself happy, too, on being inducted into office, to believe that my colleagues in the Faculty are, without exception, "the right men in the right place," who could not be profitably exchanged for any others, and that they have the entire approval not only of yourselves but of all the friends of the College. I will be pardoned, I am sure, for special allusion to the unalloyed pleasure I feel in the reëstablishment of close personal relations with our senior professor, who, as my class-mate at Hampden-Sidney and room-mate at the University of Virginia, and the unwavering friend of my whole life, is "grappled to my soul with hooks of steel"; who has now served the College longer than any person in its history, and with an intelligence, fidelity and success surpassed by none, and to whom she owes a debt of gratitude which I trust it may be in your power, as I know it will be your pleasure, to recognize in some substantial form at no distant day. Nor can I forbear to express my personal regret that I shall be deprived of the counsel and intelligent assistance of Professor Kemper, whose kindness and urbanity, together with his zeal for the College, have won for him the respectful and affectionate regard of us all, especially of those whose sons at times have needed and received his generous assistance. I am sure he will carry with him the warm regards and best wishes of a host of friends, and that we will all be glad to know of his future success and happiness. I should be recreant to my feelings did I not make some worthy mention of our valued friend and associate, our honored ex-President, Dr. Atkinson, of whom I am rejoiced to speak as Professor Emeritus of Mental and Moral Philosophy, and to say that his name and fame

will continue to be linked with those of the College, and that if returning health shall permit, his services will still be at her command. The silent influence of such a man amongst us is a heritage of inestimable value, and should the good providence of God restore him to association with our young men and to participation in their instruction, we will all regard it as a priceless blessing. It is to me, too, a pleasing reflection that my official life begins here at a time when, by the testimony of all, there is enrolled on our catalogue a list of students whose zeal in study has never been surpassed, and whose amiable bearing, and refined demeanor, and gentlemanly conduct do honor to the institution of which they are members, and give promise of the happiest state of things for the future.

I find much, then, in the Board of Trustees, in the Faculty and among the students to encourage me on assuming a position which in some of its aspects, will be one of difficulty, and the responsibilities of which no wise man would willingly seek. And I am persuaded that if the members of our institution continue united in mutual regard, and stand together in the discharge of their several duties, and all labor in their places for her highest interests, it is no uncertain prophecy to say that the burdens of none will be too heavy, and that a glorious success will crown our efforts.

As we gather here to-day, ladies and gentlemen, we celebrate the centennial of the corporate life of Hampden-Sidney. It was in 1783 our College was chartered by the Legislature of Virginia and entered upon its career of usefulness as one of the collegiate institutions of the land, it having previously existed only as a private enterprise under the care of Hanover Presbytery. It was



established to be a seat of sound learning, of religion and of good morals, and such, under various vicissitudes, it has continued, until we find it to-day stronger in every real element of strength (except in its chief officer and the number of students) than it has ever been before. Its Faculty is larger and more able; its endowment, lamentably small as it is, is more ample; its surroundings are more pleasant; its friends are more numerous; its culture is broader and higher; its influence is more salutary and extensive; its prospects are brighter than at any former period. The labors, prayers and sacrifices of her friends in the past have not been in vain. The vigilance of her trustees has borne fruit. The self-denials and labors of her Faculty have achieved a gratifying success. The love of her sons is her strength and hope. Her diploma is regarded as one of the best in the land. Her name is never mentioned except with respect, for there is here no sham and no pretension, but solid work and useful results.

But having said this, shall we not candidly confess that "we have not yet attained, neither are we already perfect." The fathers builded wisely. Their descendants have done something in carrying out their designs. Much yet remains to be accomplished. I will not be esteemed wanting in reverence if I say that the College is not quite up to the demands of the present age in some respects, and that while she stands before us as a venerable matron to be loved, and honored, and revered, she needs to be more beautifully arrayed, and more tenderly cherished, and more bountifully sustained than she has been. The loyal hearts of the people of this portion of the State, and of the Presbyterians throughout our whole Synod, must be rallied to her support.

Hampden-Sidney is the only College in Southside Virginia, from Piedmont to the sea. It was established to meet the wants and contribute to the welfare of this entire section, and while Presbyterian in origin, it was designed by expressed enactment to be, as it has always been, undenominational in its instructions. Our fathers said, "though the strictest regard should be paid to the morals of the youth, and worship carried on evening and morning in the Presbyterian way, yet, on the other hand, all possible care should be taken that no undue influence shall be used \* \* \* to bias the judgment of any; but that all of every denomination shall fully enjoy their own religious sentiments, and be at liberty to attend that mode of worship that either custom or conscience makes most agreeable to them, when and where they may have an opportunity of enjoying it."

Hampden-Sidney is the only College in Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland which, being founded by Presbyterians, maintains a prevailing Christian and Presbyterian influence. Her usefulness, then, should extend to all classes and denominations throughout Southside Virginia, and to Presbyterians in the whole Synod and to the descendants of Virginia Presbyterians everywhere. She has claims upon these such as no other literary institution can assert, and she must be kept true to the mark of securing a high literary and scientific education, and at the same time of furnishing that social, moral and religious culture, without which our institutions of higher grade will necessarily degenerate into skepticism and immorality. The character of the gentlemen who compose the Board of Trustees and Faculty gives ample assurance that these high ends will be kept continually in view, and our fellow-citizens and brother

Presbyterians may rest assured, in committing their sons to our guidance, that we will do our best to send them home, at the end of their college course, not only ripe scholars, but refined Christian gentlemen, whose aspiration in life shall be to do their work well, and to work for the cause of truth, and of God, and of their country.

The question has been widely and seriously raised, whether in the present state of American society there is any reason for the continued existence of such institutions as Hampden-Sidney? Whether it is not best to let our colleges die and to unite our efforts in the up-building of our great universities, where scores of professors and thousands of students may be gathered? Not to dwell on many arguments adapted to 'weaken the force of this suggestion, it is sufficient to say that the tendency of some of our great literary institutions seems to be largely skeptical, and their spirit far from what serious Christians deem safe for immature youth to come in contact with. It is also true that university instruction, if it be what it professes, is poorly adapted to meet the wants of the class of young men whom the colleges aspire to teach and help. It is to be feared, indeed, that many so-called universities are badly named, and that a much larger proportion of their students are unbenefitted than those of our faithful and less ambitious colleges. It is also clearly a mistake to say that the gathering together of very large numbers of professors and students is, of itself, conducive to higher effort on the part of either, while it is certain that there is involved in it a total loss of social communion between the teachers and the taught, and of the personal example and stimulus which are such important elements in the proper training of the young.

It may also be said that most of the students who attend the universities take only such partial courses of study as bear directly on their life-work, and that the effect of this is hurtfully to narrow the culture of many of our professional men. The colleges in their prescribed curricula of study now stand before the country as advocates of broad and generous learning, and are the chief opponents of that contracted system of merely technical education, which must prove damaging to true scholarship. Institutions which offer facilities and temptations to young men to neglect important branches of liberal culture are not to be praised, but blamed, and whatever other good qualities they may possess cannot be esteemed the peculiar friends of the higher education. If the students prepared for them by the faithful discipline and drill of the colleges be stricken from their catalogues they will lose a large part of the material from which first-rate scholars are to be made. So true is this that the most thoroughly pronounced, though the youngest, of American universities not only offers inducements of a very high order to the graduates of other colleges, but has found it necessary to institute a regular collegiate department to prepare students for its own university classes, the *sine qua non* of admission to which is a diploma from a college of good grade. When our other universities shall imitate this honorable example they will occupy their true positions.

But the crowning objection to the abandonment of our colleges is the restriction which would at once be put on education, for a very small proportion of the young men who frequent them would ever be able to attend the more distant and expensive universities. Society would thus lose the salutary influence of a large

class of educated men, and the depreciation thus occasioned would be fatally manifest in all the departments of business and professional life. It is impossible to estimate what our colleges have done and are doing for the promotion of intelligence, the inculcation of virtue, the establishment of freedom and the extension of religion among our people; and it behoves every true patriot, no less than every sincere Christian, to cherish these institutions as the bulwarks of liberty and the conservators of society.

Another question of even nearer and more practical concern to us has been mooted by some of the best friends of our college, to wit: whether it would not be wise to change its location to some more accessible point, and perhaps to the suburbs of one of our larger cities? It is alleged that remoteness from the great centres of life and activity, and from the main lines of travel, want of contiguity to a populous community from which many students might be drawn, and difficulty of access, together with the fact that our situation is in a region not naturally rich and fertile, and consequently not likely to secure rapid growth and improvement, stand in the way of its greatly enlarged usefulness. It is vain to say that there is no force in these suggestions. They are important and deserve consideration, and have been thoroughly weighed by those who have the interest of the College at heart. But these things are not all that can be said and deserve to be considered on the subject, and in a matter of such importance it behoves us to act with much deliberation and on the best advice.

It is obvious, on the other side of the question, that our present location has the prestige of the past in its favor. The memories of more than a hundred years



cluster about this spot. In days of yore such men as Patrick Henry, William Cabell, Sr., Paul Carrington, James Madison, John Nash, Nathaniel Venable, Everard Meade, Joel Watkins, John Morton, Thomas Reade, Peter Johnston and others of Virginia's worthies met here to consult for the welfare of the infant institution. The affections of many generations of students now alive find their focus at this point, and the descendants of honored sires who have long since fallen asleep, from all parts of our common country, look this way with reverential, ancestral pride. Union Theological Seminary, too, the fair and vigorous and beautiful daughter of Hampden-Sidney, in the fullness of her strength and usefulness, and destined to scatter yet richer and larger blessings over the land through her learned and consecrated sons, sits here by her side, and would be left disconsolate at the departure of her mother. Then we have a hundred acres of land, the gift a hundred years ago of Peter Johnston, the ancestor of many distinguished Virginians, among whom General Joseph E. Johnston will ever stand prominent, and many more broad acres acquired by gift and purchase from others, with a commodious college building and five professional residences, with spacious grounds, besides the steward's hall, and other appurtenances, which can not have cost less than from \$60,000 to \$75,000, most of which would have to be sacrificed by a removal. Then our endowment, amounting at present to over \$100,000, has been secured for the institution, located where it is; and it is doubtful whether the wishes of many of the donors would be consulted by a change of place. Then, again, it is by no means certain that our comparatively secluded situation is not a factor of great value in the educational

advantage we offer. There is here as entire freedom from temptation to idleness and vice as can be found anywhere. Our community, though small, is homogeneous, social, refined, literary and elevated. It is doubtful whether you can find on earth a higher moral tone than exists in old Prince Edward; the people are among the most upright, conscientious and truth-loving in the world. Our soil, too, while not rich, is generous, yielding abundant returns to good treatment, and is destined some of these days to be occupied by a large and thrifty population. Then we must remember that our location is about midway between the mountains and the sea, in a section proverbially healthful and free from the diseases incident to the higher and lower regions of the State, so that during more than a hundred years only two students of the College are known to have died of disease on this hill; that our situation is in the midst of a population of some 230,000 white people, who have no other college in their section; while on the north of James river there are two colleges and a university; in the Valley a college and a university, and in Southwestern Virginia two colleges, and just on its borders another. When we consider the Presbyterian population of this and other States from which we may expect to draw patronage, our present location has, perhaps, the advantage of any other. It is not improbable, too, that at no distant day a railroad will come to our very doors, and that our community will on its advent be enlarged by the accession of a desirable population, and even now we are only about an hour from direct railroad communication with all parts of the country. So that, summing up the argument on both sides, it seems that the advantage is in favor of remaining where we are, and that the ques-

tion being thus settled, had best be definitely set at rest, and the friends of the College throughout our own State and elsewhere be summoned to its support in order to make it what it ought to be.

The day has long since passed, if it ever was, when it is possible to develop a first-rate literary institution without an adequate endowment; and no college in the land has higher claim on account of past service, as well as because of its possibilities of future usefulness, than Hampden-Sidney. *Our great want at present is money.* We have an admirable corps of instructors, but they are poorly provided for. One of our professors, a gentleman of high culture, is about to leave us to assume a position more attractive in some of its features and with an ampler salary. Two others, but for their love of their *alma mater*, would long ago have been drawn off by tempting offers from other institutions. It is doubtful whether we can retain our younger men permanently unless we offer them more substantial inducements than at present. A professor ought to receive a salary large enough to enable him to support and educate his family in comfort, to exercise the rites of cheerful and refined hospitality, to secure an abundance of books, periodicals and apparatus adapted to his department, and to lay by something for his declining years and for his family after his decease. This is necessary to his full efficiency as well as to the highest welfare of his students, and for the reputation of the institution with which he is connected. But we need funds for other purposes besides professors' salaries. There are certain incentives and stimuli to proficiency in special departments of study through prizes given to their most meritorious students, which other higher institutions feel it important to em-



ploy, and which might well be introduced here, were the means at hand. Honorable competition would quicken effort after excellence, and would tend to elevate the general standard of our scholarship and to enhance our reputation, by sending forth annually a body of men peculiarly distinguished in their special branches of work.

When we look at the external appearance of things about us, a catalogue of wants too long for enumeration easily suggests itself. Our college building stands out in the open campus, naked and unadorned as it was when the finishing touches were given to it some fifty years ago. It is a very fine structure, solidly built and well adapted to our purposes; and the addition of a cupola, of porticos in front and rear, of blinds to the windows and of some comparatively inexpensive repairs, would make it attractive to the eye and delightful as a residence for students. Our college grounds, too, capable of beautiful arrangement and display, mutely invite us to enrich and improve them. The health of our young men also demands that a well-appointed gymnasium for their physical culture shall be secured, so that their bodily strength may keep pace with their mental growth, and not be sapped and destroyed by it. We need additional apparatus for our chemical, and philosophical, and geological, and astronomical, and mathematical departments. We must have a library fund, the income of which will provide books of reference for our professors and students; and a library building, in which, perhaps, more spacious halls may be provided for the young gentlemen of the literary societies. Will I be thought too sanguine when I say that at the earliest practicable moment the old kerosene lamp ought to be supplanted on this hill by gas or electric light? and that the day may come when an

adequate supply of water may be secured not only for all the comfortable uses of life, but even to sustain a little fountain on the campus, with a little lake fed by its refreshing streams, on the margin of which shall grow beautiful flowers, begirt on every side by pleasant walks hidden among trees and shrubs, upon which the boys and girls of that time may promenade on commencement day, and educate one another in the art of love, as their predecessors were accustomed to do amid ruder scenes. This may be all a dream, a fancy, an illusion of the imagination, but it is pleasant to think of, and will be realized if the money can be secured; for the good Book says, "money answereth all things," which in this connection means it will do a great deal for Hampden-Sidney—if we can only get it.

Institutions, like men, are in danger of embracing and cherishing an idea with such strength and persistency as to exclude other vital truths necessary to a normal and healthful development. Such lack symmetry, and while they may do valuable work in an important direction, they miss their full measure of usefulness by failing to produce the full-orbed impression which is essential to perfectness. In this day no system of education will stand the test of examination which overlooks the esthetic. "The true, the beautiful and the good" are closely related. In the development of our institution, with the view of its attaining its highest and largest usefulness, we must put it abreast of our sister colleges in all those elements of refined culture which are exerting so beneficent an influence in educating the better classes of our American society. Hampden-Sidney, looking to the mountains on the one hand and to the sea on the other, and inviting to her halls aspiring youth from all

sections of our common country, must be prepared not only to give them a hearty welcome and to conduct them into the arcana of sound learning and up to the broad plains of high moral and religious life, as she has always done, but must also greet them with such surroundings and furnish them with such instructions as shall educate all the better elements of their natures, and stimulate them to seek the highest improvement of which they are capable and at once to do honor to themselves and credit to their College, and be a blessing to their race in their future lives.

Such, gentlemen of the Board of Trustees, is the object to which we should address ourselves in the conduct of this venerable institution! Such is the aim I propose for myself, and in which, I am sure, my brethren of the Faculty will concur! Such, we invite our undergraduates and alumni and the friends of the College here and everywhere to help us to make old Hampden-Sidney, so that as she goes forward in the second century of her existence she may continually grow more vigorous and beneficent, and dispense her blessings to Church and State in ever-enlarging measure, and everywhere be known, and honored and loved, because of the merits of her sons.