

Memoir of
REV. JOHN WILEY FAIRES
A.M., D.D.

FOUNDER AND PRINCIPAL OF THE
CLASSICAL INSTITUTE
PHILADELPHIA

A Teacher from 1831 to 1888

WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND BIOGRAPHIC
SKETCHES OF UPWARD OF FIVE
HUNDRED OF HIS FORMER PUPILS

BY
CHARLES J. COHEN

1926

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While the Doctor was still living a John W. Faires Memorial Fund Committee was formed with Effingham B. Morris as chairman, the membership including a number of former pupils of the Classical Institute. The Fund was paid to the University of Pennsylvania, the income to be used for the purchase of books on classical subjects, each book to be marked with an indication of the source of its acquirement; these are now a proper addition to the collection in the library of the university.

A NOTABLE SCHOOLMASTER

BY ROBERT ELLIS THOMPSON, D.D.

[Reprinted from *The Presbyterian Journal*, April 25, 1901]

On the day of his death at Aird's Moss, Richard Cameron, as Patrick Walker tells us, "when they saw the enemy so near, and no escaping, prayed a short word, and had these expressions three times, 'Lord, spare the green, and take the ripe.'" He has "taken the ripe" in the removal, by death, of Dr. John W. Faires, in his eighty-ninth year, after a long usefulness in many directions, but especially as the head of one of the best and largest schools in Philadelphia.

It is forty-four years this very month since I first saw and heard him in the pulpit of Dr. Wylie's church in this city. I was a mere boy, a stranger still in the land, and I did not even know his name. Still less did I imagine how much kindness I was to receive at his hand. But I remember that I received at that time certain impressions about him, which deepened with every year of our friendship, and which seem to me especially characteristic of the man.

The first was his perfect sincerity. The words he uttered he seemed to have weighed carefully, that they might express exactly his own thought and feeling about sacred things. They were not conventional phrases, caught up from others, and treated as current coin. They were not the borrowed sacrifice, which the law rejected, but his own. The second was his genuine humility. I could not but feel that he was a good man, and yet there was evident in him not the slightest wish to exalt himself above any other human beings as better than they. The charm by which the meek are to inherit the earth drew me to him. And last of all was the cheerfulness which lighted up his face as he spoke of his and our hope in the Gospel. Most Christians libel the Gospel by their faces. They look like the occupants of the condemned cell while they speak of what is the consolation of earth and the joy of heaven. His face always was a Gospel face, whether he was addressing the throne of grace, or speaking

to us of divine things, or meeting us in the welcome handgrasp of friendship.

His labors as a teacher extended over fifty years. He was the last in the long succession of Scotch-Irish schoolmasters, to which Philadelphia and the Commonwealth owe so much. That succession embraces Charles Thomson, Thomas McAdam, Samuel Brown Wylie, Samuel Wylie Crawford, and many other honorable names. These were men of strong char-

C I R C U L A R .

A Classical Seminary will be opened on Monday September 4th 1837, in the second story of the house No. 47 Eighth Street, (a few doors south of Chesnut Street,) by

JOHN W. FAIRES, A. M.

The branches of instruction will be such as are preparatory to a collegiate course. The principal attention will be paid to the Latin and Greek languages. Geography, History, Arithmetic, and the elements of Algebra and Geometry will not be neglected.

There will be a week of vacation at Christmas, the same at Easter, and five weeks in whatever part of the summer a majority of the parents of the pupils may prefer.

There will be five hours of instruction on the other days of the week, and two on Saturday. The terms will be,

From Sept. to March, § 13 50 per qr.

From March to Sept. 12 50 per qr.

Persons, who may wish to learn the Classics only, can have an hour every day at the same place, if a class be formed of from five to ten individuals. The terms for such persons will be § 25 per qr.

For information as to the character and qualifications of the instructor, reference may be made to the following gentlemen.

<p>S. B. Wylie, D. D. } Professors in the H. Reed, Esq. } University of Penn. W. H. De Lancey, D. D.</p>	<p>F. F. Mayer, D. D. Thos. Cadwalader, Esq. Thos. Biddle, Esq.</p>
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A CIRCULAR ABOUT THE OPENING OF THE SCHOOL, 1837

(Courtesy of Miss Elizabeth Faires)

acter, and our citizens, in placing their sons under their charge, knew that they would receive the impress of strength and probity. They also knew they would be trained in sound scholarship, not by the easy and spoon-feeding methods of modern pedagogy, but in the struggle with difficulties, and the acquisition of intellectual muscle which comes of struggle. Dr. Faires may take rank with the best of them, as the record of his school in the training of scholars and the formation of character shows.