

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE
OF THE
REV. HECTOR HUMPHREYS, D.D.

LATE PRINCIPAL OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE;

"TRUE FREEDOM THE GIFT OF GOD THE SON,"

A
BACCALAUREATE SERMON;

AND THE
REGISTER OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,

FOR THE YEAR MDCCCLVII
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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

At our last annual festival, one short year ago, there stood among us one, whose towering form was the central object of attraction and regard. The associations of the place, the dignity of the office, the character of the man, the solemn duty which he was then to perform, all united to give to his position and his person this distinguished prominence.

But there were circumstances which lent to the occasion more than ordinary interest. The signet of suffering was upon his brow, and the evidences of failing health and wasting strength told, only too truly, that his earthly mission was nearly ended. A mysterious sympathy of conviction pervaded the hearts of all that they were witnessing for the last time his participation in that impressive ceremony; and a similar consciousness seemed to possess his own mind that it was indeed *for the last time!* How deeply earnest was his whole manner! How solemn were his words of admonition! How the yearnings of the immortal spirit seemed to triumph over the weakness of the flesh!

And now another year has passed, and we have again come up to the shrine of our *Alma Mater* to witness the bestowal of her honors upon her sons. But we see no more that majestic form. We hear no more that deep-toned voice. We feel no longer the influences of his presence. The temple is here, but the presiding genius has departed. He has been removed from the scene of his labors to the sphere of his reward.

It is meet, therefore, that on the first recurrence of that anniversary, we should unite in tender recollections of sorrow, and offer to his memory our tribute of respect and gratitude. It is due to him, and may be instructive to us, to review the past, to recall the events of his life, to recur to those high qualities which commanded our re-

gard, and raised him to distinction among his fellow-men. However unworthy the tribute, the spontaneous utterance from the heart of a pupil and friend will find a responsive chord of sympathy in your own.

Hector Humphreys was born at Canton, Hartford Co., Connecticut, June 8th, 1797, the youngest member of a family of ten children. His father, George Humphreys, was the fifth of a long-lived family of five sons and five daughters, and held several public offices with credit, having been a Judge of the Court of Probate, and a representative, for nearly twenty years, of his native town in the General Assembly. His mother, Rachael Humphreys, of Simsbury, was a woman of long-trying piety and great personal worth. She was sister-in-law to the Rev. Mr. Hallock, familiarly known in the Congregational communion to which he belonged as "*Father Hallock*," whose memoirs have been written by the Rev. Cyrus Yale. In the home of this venerable minister, the grandmother of Hector spent the last portion of her life, and died at the age of one hundred years, retaining her faculties in an extraordinary degree. The retentive memory of this remarkable woman, going back to an early period, was stored with incidents characteristic of the life of the hardy settlers of our country. In the subject of our memoir, she found a constant and eager listener—and her thrilling narratives of border life and Indian warfare, of the sufferings and privations of the sturdy men whose vigor of arm and heart subdued the savage wilderness, and conquered the yet more savage foe, must have exerted a considerable influence in forming in his mind the elements of that character of hardihood and persevering energy which distinguished him through life. The leading incidents of the struggle for Independence must also have been early familiar to his mind,—since the Col. David Humphreys, who was so distinguished an officer of that war, was his uncle.

The pious mother of the subject of our sketch, however, had other and far different views for him. With her he was the child of many prayers,—her heart earnestly yearning to see him a minister of the Gospel. With this view he was entered in 1811, as a student in Latin with James Hotchkiss, teacher of the High School in his native village.—From this gentleman he received his first taste of English poetry, in certain volumes which he won as premiums for distinction in scholarship. His summers at this period, were passed chiefly in laboring on the farm, while the winters were devoted to school;

according to the prevailing practice of that part of New England. How such a custom, while it gives dignity to labor, tends to develop the physical and intellectual energies, may be seen in the intelligent enterprise and hardy achievements of the men of that section of the country.

His course of preparation for College was conducted in part by the Rev. James Beach of Winsted, in whose family he resided for that purpose; and while there in 1813, during the war, he was selected by the citizens as orator on the occasion of a celebration of the 4th of July. He had then only just completed his sixteenth year,—and the selection of one so young for such a duty, if not very judicious, is at least a remarkable proof of the maturity both of mind and manliness, to which he had already attained. His preparatory studies were finished at Westfield Academy in Massachusetts, under the care of the Rev. Francis L. Robbins; and he entered Yale College a freshman, in September, 1814, as one of a class of one hundred. Although the collegiate career is not always a reliable indication, and the rule is not without its exceptions,—in his case the future life was foreshadowed,—“the boy was father to the man.” He devoted himself diligently to the appointed studies, with that persevering, self-relying industry which always characterized him;—and his college course was a succession of triumphs, terminated at the commencement of 1818, by his taking the first honors, without a rival, in the estimation of the faculty or his classmates, to dispute his claim.

An incident derived from one of his classmates, illustrates the thoroughness which characterized his preparation of the most difficult branches of academic study. This gentleman having occasion to take down from its quiet slumber on an upper shelf, his copy of the ponderous Euclid which challenged the diligence of the student of that day, opened its pages at one of the most difficult problems known to mathematical science,—when the first words that met his eye, written in large letters on the margin, was the laconic and expressive phrase, which every collegian will understand, “Humphreys stuck!” Such a record shows the rareness of the occurrence; in fact it was said to have been the only instance of a defective recitation during his entire College course of four years.

What an instructive example does this furnish to the students of St. Johns, that he whose minute and accurate scholarship we were

went to admire and to wonder at, attained his high and varied excellence by the thorough mastery of each detail of every branch, as it came up in succession. He was never satisfied with superficial acquirement in any thing; whatever he undertook, he did thoroughly. He was not willing to slur over a single chapter. He knew that the golden chain of knowledge is composed of many links, the omission of any one of which breaks its connection and mars its unity and its strength.

During his first year at College he became the subject of a revival which embraced a large number of students, and was admitted into the communion of the Congregational Church by Dr. Dwight.

Notwithstanding this, however, after taking his degree in 1818, he resolved, to the great grief of his devoted mother, (his father having died before he entered College,) to become a lawyer. With this object he accepted an appointment to keep the Hopkins Academy in New Haven, which charge he retained for two years, devoting a portion of his time to law studies in the office of Seth P. Staples. In due course he was admitted to the bar, and opened an office in New Haven, which he occupied for about one year; having received from Gov'r Wolcott the appointment of Judge Advocate for the state.

Circumstances however inclined him at this time, to turn his attention to theological studies, and especially to read ecclesiastical authors favorable to Episcopacy. And now at last the prayers of his devout mother were about to be answered, though in a way different perhaps from what she had contemplated. The result of this investigation was, not only to change his doctrinal views, but to induce him to abandon the profession upon which he had just entered with such prospects of success, and to become a candidate for the ministry. He removed to New York to pursue his theological studies, and was admitted to the order of Deacon, March 21st, 1824, in Trinity Church, New Haven, by the now venerable Bishop Brownell; having previously, on the same day, received the rite of Confirmation at the hands of the same estimable prelate.

Washington (now Trinity) College, Hartford, had just been organized, and he was immediately appointed tutor, and in the following year Professor of Ancient Languages in that institution; and soon became a leading member of its faculty, which—presided over by Bishop Brownell—numbered among its members, the present Bishop Doane of New Jersey, Bishop Horatio Potter of New York, the Rev Dr.

Hawkes, and other men of kindred mind and attainments. Perhaps no American College ever commenced its career with an abler corps of instructors. During his connection with Washington College he officiated with great acceptableness and with marked success, as Rector of St. Luke's Church, Glastenbury, about eight miles from Hartford; and in which church he was ordained Presbyterian, March 6th, 1825, by Bishop Brownell.

The reputation and prominence which Dr. Humphreys attained during his seven years' connection with Washington College, pointed him out as a suitable person to fill the vacancy which had occurred in the presidency of St. John's; to which position he was called in the spring of 1831, while yet only in the 34th year of his age. From that time to the day of his death, in January last, a period of twenty six years,—his name and fame, his talents and best energies, are identified with the history and progress of our alma mater,—and have worked out for him a monument more enduring than marble, more noble than "sculptured urn, or animated bust." For who shall estimate or set limits to the influences for good, upon the minds and hearts of men trained for immortality,—wrought out for more than a quarter of a century, in the earnest and faithful work of Christian education? Who can estimate the extent of such influences upon a single mind? for the seeds thus sown go on germinating through all eternity, bearing a rich harvest of fruits for each successive age.

But there are results, more palpable to the senses, which we may consider and weigh,—and to some of these we will now direct our attention.

There is a proneness in our country and our age, (in every sense a "fast" one,) to measure results by an arithmetical scale, and to estimate success by the numbers we can count. Now this is far from being a safe rule of judgment;—in many cases it is a false and delusive one,—teaching us to look for immediate and showy results, rather than for solid and permanent good.

Judging by this narrow and short-sighted standard, there are some who have presumed to consider St. John's College, as a *failure*. No true son of St. John's can be expected to admit the justice of such a conclusion. On what is it based? In what respects is it a failure? Because it has not annually sent forth as many graduates as the popular and richly endowed Colleges of other states, which a more sagacious policy, a wiser and more provident state-pride, has taught them

to foster? Maryland, indeed, has contributed largely to sustain these; while she has left her own institutions to struggle with difficulties, or languish in neglect. Half the sum thus expended, annually, in building up the institutions of other states, would have established the reputation and stability of her own. Give St. John's such a full corps of instructors,—give her such an endowment as these favored institutions possess, and you may look for like results even in numbers. But considering the small number of Professors employed, considering the scanty appliances for instruction which, until a comparatively recent period, these few possessed,—where will you look for richer fruits of toil, or results more satisfactory? So far from being a failure, our wonder rather, is excited that so much should be accomplished with such slender means.

During the last twenty-five years, nearly one hundred and twenty graduates have received the honors of St. Johns, while considerably upwards of three hundred have finished their education within her walls. Of these graduates, it may be safely said, that they will compare favorably in thoroughness of training and in grade of scholarship to the extent of the studies pursued, with an average number of any other institution. A large portion of them are yet too young to evince with any certainty their promise of future distinction; but a fair indication is afforded in the fact, that, of their number, already more than forty have been added to the profession of Law, more than thirty to that of Medicine, eight have sought, by a faithful discharge of the sacred office, to teach men the way of salvation, two are Professors in College, not less than eight have been added to the officers of our Army, and an equal number to those of the Navy. Of these, a fair average number have distinguished themselves in their respective positions, or in public offices which they have been called to fill in the state or the general government. And it may also, with equal truth be asserted, that, as a body, no equal number of graduates have gone forth from the walls of any College in our land, of a higher moral tone, or more generally exempt from those vices which College life is too apt to engender.

Now in the judgment of every considerate and thoughtful mind, a College which has accomplished all this, is very far from being a *failure*. Such results present, rather, the strongest claim to future confidence and support. Our Alma Mater has vindicated her right to say to the State of Maryland:

“Behold the fruits of my labors and my culture; estimate, if you can, the influence upon society and upon your future destiny, which shall be exerted by the band of well-trained, educated, moral and religious young men which I have sent forth into all your borders. If, with such meagre aid, if with such slender means, I have done so much, give me the power to do more. If I have been thus faithful over a few, make me ruler over many. Multiply the number of instructors, increase my means of usefulness to a standard more adequate to the demands of the time, in better keeping with the progress of the age, and I will make grateful returns in blessings of beneficence, which, descending like the gentle rains from heaven, shall purify the moral atmosphere, and fertilize the mental soil to a thousand generations.”

Such I know was the view of the claims and capabilities of St. John's entertained by him whose loss we so deeply deplore. Of his agency in accomplishing the results which I have described, while none more than he would desire full credit to be given to the co-operation of his colleagues in the faculty, none, I am sure, would be more ready than they to acknowledge his paramount influence.

Of that agency, and of his personal labors during the twenty six years of his connection with St. John's, we come now to speak more in detail. And in order to do so satisfactorily, it will be necessary to revert to the condition of the College at the period at which he was called to preside over it.

St. John's was at that time in an exceedingly depressed condition. It had not recovered from the paralyzing effects caused by the withdrawal of the State's annuity from its funds. It was but just beginning to revive its vigor and renew its growth. Of the means at its command, there was little besides the venerable hall in which we are now assembled, and a small remnant of the endowment, restored as if in pity by the hand of the spoiler. There was not a semblance of a cabinet, or a chemical apparatus, if such things had ever been—certainly no laboratory. Of an astronomical and philosophical apparatus, besides the excellent old telescope still in use, there could scarcely have been more than a dozen available pieces. As to the Library, the student of that day in search of miscellaneous reading, would have stirred up clouds of ancient dust, and be struck with awe at the curious old tomes, some in black-letter, some bound in vellum, mostly theological works, which, though a perfect treasure to the

learned antiquarian, were not precisely the food to satisfy the literary appetite of a freshman or a sophomore. The liberal bequest of the late LEWIS NETH, shortly after added a choice collection of miscellaneous books, which has been subsequently increased by accessions made by a literary society of the College, and, from time to time, by occasional purchases, and such presentation of works as were procured principally through the personal influence of Dr. Humphreys.

Such is a not exaggerated picture of the condition of the College at that period.

Coming, as the new President did, from the richly endowed and well furnished institutions of the North, he might well have been appalled at the work to which he had been invited. A man of less energy of character would have shrunk from the effort; but he saw in the discouraging circumstances that confronted him, only incentives to greater exertion.

One of the most pressing wants felt, was an increase of accommodations, embracing a provision for resident students. Accordingly in 1834, at the request and by the authority of the Board of Visitors and Governors, the Principal undertook the work of personal solicitation for funds, and traversed a large portion of the State for that purpose. The result was the erection of yonder graceful Hall, which, in imitation of a custom which obtains in other institutions, in order to perpetuate the name and memory of a public benefactor, might well bear his name. At present it has no distinctive appellation. Let us call it "HUMPHREYS HALL"—and thus, by daily use upon the tongue, make it a standing monument to his memory, and a medium for the transmission of his name to future generations of students, as they shall successively arise.*

To his persevering efforts, and personal influence with members of the Legislature, is also in a great measure to be attributed the passage of the Act of Compromise of 1832-3,—by which tardy and inadequate reparation was made for the grievous wrong that had been committed. The admirable philosophical apparatus which the College now possesses was entirely of his selection:—the cabinet, so rich in specimens of shells, minerals and earths, was collected principally by his own personal exertions and influence:—and the Laboratory, that creation of

* See Note A, page 17.

his later days, which he took such a noble pride in making complete in all its parts, was exclusively his work.

In these departments of science, St. John's is now as well supplied with the means of illustration as most other Colleges,—and these important accessories to instruction she owes almost entirely to the personal efforts of Dr. Humphreys.

During all this time he was laboriously engaged in various duties of the College; hearing several recitations each day and preparing lectures at night on different branches distinct from his proper chair.

His own department was that of "Moral Science," and in the liberal construction which he gave to its range, he made it embrace,—Moral Philosophy, Political Economy, Logic, Rhetoric, Belles-lettres, Elocution, Intellectual Philosophy, Evidences of Christianity, Analogy of Religion, Animal and Vegetable Physiology, and the laws of nations, and Constitution of the United States. Besides these studies, under his own proper chair, the limited number of the faculty required that he should take a portion of other branches. Under this distribution, the higher classics, both Greek and Latin, were taught by him during almost his entire connection with the College. Practical Astronomy also, or the use of astronomical instruments in observations on the sun, moon and stars, for the calculation of time, latitude and longitude, were taught by him at the same time and illustrated by lectures written and oral. Before the organization of the present chair specially for those branches, Chemistry, Geology and Mineralogy were taught exclusively by him,—and in part also, some of the leading topics of Natural Philosophy.

Now those who have ever been brought into the relation of pupil to Dr. Humphreys, know that this varied course of instruction was something more than merely nominal. Each of the enumerated studies had its own text book, which was thoroughly examined, explained and illustrated. Besides the oral and experimental lectures elicited by the daily recitations, there were stated courses of written lectures, each an hour in the delivery, illustrating with severe and faithful minuteness the several branches taught. I have seen a list in his own hand-writing of the titles of these lectures, with headings of their varied subjects,—which embraced fourteen in Political Economy, twenty-seven in Latin and Greek Literature, twenty-seven in Chemistry and Geology, thirty-four in Natural Philosophy, and six in As-

tronomy—making one hundred and eight lectures delivered by him in the regular annual course, besides the several recitations of each day!

I confess a review of these labors has filled me with amazement at the unflagging industry, the wonderful energy, mental and physical, which enabled one man, and that too under the pressure for the last few years of bodily suffering and infirmity, to accomplish so much. What wonder is it that the bow which had been over-tasked so long should at last be broken? that "the silver chord," which had been strained by so severe a tension, should one day snap asunder?

But notwithstanding the variety and severity of his official duties, he did not confine his labors to these, nor yet neglect the claims of friendship or society. It was only by the systematic arrangement of his time and the special occupation of every hour, that he accomplished what he did. And thus, besides contributions to scientific journals, and the occasional delivery of popular lectures, he was ever ready to give to his clerical brethren such aid as his health and the necessary relaxation from his stated duties would permit. These services were not alone occasional, but as is well known here, he repeatedly and for months together, had charge of St. Anne's Church during a vacancy or the temporary absence of its Rector; and in the period of his residence here he found time to write and preach not less than three hundred sermons.

Such is a brief summary of the labors of our departed friend, patiently pursued, day after day, in the quiet seclusion of a College life.

Unostentatious and unassuming, shunning rather than seeking popular applause, he preferred the path of duty, to the path of fame. Disdaining all mere sham, he aimed only at the real and the true.—Imitating the processes of nature, that seeks by gradual accretion to build up her most enduring monuments, he was content with the patient, faithful discharge of every-day duty; adding line to line, and precept to precept, trusting to time and to results to prove the excellence of his work.

Perhaps indeed, he carried this self-renunciation too far. Perhaps it was due to his own reputation and to the laudable pride of friendship, that the light which diffused so rich a radiance, should not so exclusively have confined its beams to the recitation room and the lecture hall.

But Dr. Humphreys seemed to have but little of the prevalent ambition of the day to give to the productions of his mind a visible form in print. His scientific articles were generally published without his name; and he repeatedly refused earnest requests for the publication of addresses and Baccalaureate discourses, which would have added to his reputation and produced a salutary impression upon the public mind. A single sermon, printed at private request in alleviation of personal bereavement, and two commencement addresses, comprise, it is believed, all that he has published under his own name. Yet only those who have been privileged to hear his lectures, or have had access to the voluminous manuscripts, all marked by that neatness and love of order which was a part of his character, can know what a rich store of concentrated wisdom, of well-digested learning, made attractive by vigor and beauty of style and a rare felicity of illustration, lie buried from the world. It is desirable, it is due to him, it is due to the College, that a judicious selection should be made from these works by some competent hand, some congenial mind, who would undertake the task of editing them, and give to the world a volume, which shall confer upon his name, now that he is dead, that just distinction which his modest worth shrank from while living.

Of his character as a professor and instructor, it is hardly necessary that I should speak in this place and presence. The students of St. John's, past and present, will need no reminder to recall the pleasant hour spent in his recitation room. They felt that his heart was in his work; that, loving science himself, he sought to infuse into their minds the devotion which burned in his own. He strove to make learning attractive, as something to be desired for its own sake; and endeavored, by awakening the interest of his pupil, to draw out his mental faculties to a self-reliant action.

His discipline was kind and parental, and his ready sympathy with his youthful charge never failed to win their esteem and affection. They dreaded to incur his displeasure as they would that of a father, and a look or gentle word of reproof was generally punishment enough for any except the incorrigibly reckless. It may be safely said that no worthy student ever left the walls of St. John's, without carrying with him grateful recollections of its late President.

Although from circumstances and the bent of his mind, his time was chiefly employed in the cause of science, he never forgot the sacred obligations which were upon him as a Clergyman. In the way

and at the times before referred to, he performed no small amount of clerical duty.* In these, his personal ministrations were gentle and consoling; while his sermons were earnest and forcible in style and delivery, and marked by solemn fervor and depth of religious conviction.

But it is not alone in parochial work that the duties of the clerical office are illustrated. That part of its commission which prescribes the obligation "*to teach*" is perhaps in no way more fitly complied with than in the work of Christian education. Of the responsibilities of that work, Dr. Humphreys entertained a deep sense. Debarred by the express letter of its charter from giving to St. John's any thing of a "sectarian" character, he sought not to evade the prohibition. Yet he labored to make it, in the whole scope of its teaching, a school of sound morals; and so used his personal influence and admonitions with the young minds committed to his care, as to strengthen and mature the germs of religious culture, and to train them up to consecrate their faculties to the service of God.

His own views on this subject are so forcibly expressed in his inaugural address, that I will call your attention to a brief extract.

"Human learning ought ever to be cultivated in subservience to the cause of religion. . . . The parent should feel assured that the course of instruction which he provides for his child, is accompanied by the holy influences of the word of God, sustained by prayer, and enforced by the combined energy of precept and example. Religion should be the presiding spirit of the place. The Bible should be the Alpha and Omega, if not in the literature, at least in the religion of these institutions. This is a consideration (he adds,) which I need not urge. Its bare suggestion awakens all your interest. What object on earth can excite more trembling solicitude than the young man who, unrestrained by such moral safeguards, stands on the verge of ruin! Removed from home, in a land of strangers, beset by bad examples, perhaps too prone to be led away by improper solicitations, and not possessed of an unyielding sense of virtue,—what shall save him? No mother is near to insinuate powerful influences in the prevailing modes of maternal love. No father is at hand to whose bosom his filial feelings will confide themselves. Of whom, then, shall he take counsel? Religion, religion must come round his path, and guide his feet in the way of peace. And to teachers who act under a solemn sense of their responsibility to the parent, to the

* See Note B, page 17.

child, to their own souls, and to God, must the community look for education that shall not cost the temporal, and possibly the eternal happiness of their sons."

That these sentiments, expressed at the outset of his administration, were the guide of his action until its close, all who have the means of knowledge will bear cheerful testimony. The result of this course, and the success of his influence in this respect, are evinced in the fact that at least *eight* of the graduates under his charge have been ordained to the sacred ministry, and a considerably larger number are known to be active and useful, within their sphere as laymen, in the work of the church.

It remains now only to speak of our departed friend as the man and the citizen. In both these relations you know how exemplary was his life and conversation. The traits which I have described as distinguishing him as the teacher, were manifested in every other relation. In fact they permeated his whole character, and made it one of uniform consistency and beauty. But it was in retirement that it shone most brightly, and those who enjoyed the closest intercourse with him appreciated it most. With them, the slight reserve of manner, which might be noticed on first acquaintance, melted away, and he appeared in all the genial warmth of his nature. What a delightful companion he then became, it was the privilege of not a few here before me to know. His stores of varied knowledge, his refined wit and keen sense of the humorous, combined with a happy blending of dignity and affability, to impart a peculiar charm to his conversation. The same qualities were exhibited in his letters, and made it a high and valued privilege to be his correspondent.

Few men have had warmer friends, and few have returned affection with a warmer sympathy. Of guileless simplicity and frank truthfulness, he was loth to distrust the sincerity of others. "With much sagacious insight into men, (it has been well said of him,) any thing like policy or concealment was foreign to his nature."

His heart was the home of every kindly impulse, and he ever took a warm interest in what concerned the welfare and happiness of his friends. With what intensity his affections gushed forth towards those who were nearest and dearest to him, this is not the time or occasion to speak.

As a citizen, he took an intelligent interest in public affairs; and, without obtruding his opinions upon others, or yielding a blind adhe-

sion to any party organization, he never failed to exercise his rights as a freeman, and to vindicate them by an independent and manly avowal. His patriotism was as ardent as his nature and comprehensive as his country.

As a christian and a clergyman, he adorned his profession. His religion was not of that kind which wastes itself in fitful emotions ; it was practical and habitual, and shone steadily in his daily walk. His piety was of that cheerful type, which taught by precept and example, that religion was never intended to make man gloomy and morose, or to debar him from the rational enjoyment of the innocent pleasures of life.

In short, we may sum up his character by describing him as a noble exemplar of that highest type of man, an accomplished christian gentleman.

He died, as you all know, on Sunday morning, the 25th of January last, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. While the church bell was summoning the worshipers to prayer, his spirit heard another summons, to join the innumerable company of "just men made perfect," and to swell the triumphant notes of praise in that Temple not of earth,—that "house not made of hands, eternal in the heavens."

And now, what remains to be said, but to invoke you, gentlemen of the faculty, who were his colleagues in the work in which his soul delighted, to bring your tribute of respect and affection to his memory, and to cast a wreath of blended laurel and myrtle upon his grave. Follow his bright example,—imbibe his gentle and earnest spirit,—emulate his love of science and devotion to duty,—and the success which shall crown your labors with honor, shall reflect back a mellowed radiance upon his.

And you, students of St. Johns, who have so long enjoyed his faithful instruction, and listened to his counsels of wisdom,—let the lessons which he inculcated sink into your hearts—let them bring forth there the fruits he strove to foster—and thus, by perpetuating the influence of his precepts, you will make the most grateful return for his labors and his care.

Citizens of Annapolis ! for twenty-six years he was one of the brightest ornaments of your society. Recall the hours of pleasant converse in times of joy—recall the spiritual consolation which he dispensed to many in times of sorrow :—treasure the recollection of his sympathy and friendship, and cherish the memory of his virtues.

NOTES.

(A)

This suggestion was embodied in a resolution offered by the Rev. Professor Trevett, at the meeting of the Association the same day, and unanimously passed, requesting the Board of Visitors and Governors to give to it their official sanction. There is no doubt but that this will be done, and the building be known hereafter as "Humphreys Hall."

The suggestion is also here ventured, that the venerable old building be called "*McDowell Hall*," in honor of the first Principal, who held that position, with distinguished reputation and usefulness, for seventeen years.

The new Hall, just erected, might wait for time to give it a more special designation.

(B)

He was Rector of St. Luke's Church, Glastenbury, for nearly seven years. He had temporary charge of the church at South River, and frequently preached at the Severn, and other churches around Annapolis. Besides frequent occasional services at St. Ann's, he had charge of that church at several periods; once for four months, during the absence of the Rector from ill health; and once for a longer period, while the Rev. Dr. McElhiney was acting as agent for the collection of the Episcopal fund, and also after the lamented death of that estimable Presbyterian. His services on that occasion evoked from the Convention a unanimous vote of thanks, acknowledging the "obligations of gratitude" which both the parish and the diocese were "under to the Rev. Dr. Humphreys for his kind and valuable assistance."

In these duties he was the pastor in deed as well as in name, performing them with that conscientious fidelity which marked all he did—visiting the sick and the poor with exemplary constancy and disregard of self, even during the heat of the summer vacation, which he usually devoted to recreation from his arduous professional labors.

Besides the three hundred or more sermons mentioned as written and preached by him during his residence at Annapolis, his other clerical ministrations would appear, from the records, to have been not less in number.