



IN MEMORIAM

Miss Sue May Kirkland

LATE LADY PRINCIPAL

OF THE

**STATE NORMAL AND
INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE**

Copy. 2

Tribute

If but a lingering "dream" be humanhood,
From which we wake to fairer living
things,
To look behind, with dim rememberings—
"How much was weak; how much was
fair and good?"

And if to mourn a space; to kiss the rood;
If to rejoice; and hope; and love all things;
Be but "dreams" o' the soul that waking,
flings
Aside the veil—when all is understood;

If but awakening be death, I say,
Thru want of her, whose wise, strong,
gentle hand
Has served us long, shall we not under-
stand,

Nor grieve o'ermuch? But loving tribute
lay
About the memory we cherish. Yet
Nor all the years that come shall quite
forget.



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Resolutions of Respect to Miss Kirkland

The following resolutions were read and adopted by a rising vote:

The faculty of the State Normal and Industrial College wishes to place on record a statement of its appreciation of the long and faithful services rendered to the College by Miss Sue May Kirkland, who was taken from us on the eighth of June, 1914.

Miss Kirkland was chosen Lady Principal by our first Board of Directors in 1892, and for twenty-two years she performed with a gracious dignity and unflagging interest the duties of this most exacting position.

During her long-continued service she touched the lives of hundreds of North Carolina's young women, and it was her great concern that the highest standards of decorum be maintained, and that lofty ideals for the development of character be continually kept before them.

We feel that in her death the College as an institution has sustained a great loss; the faculty and students, a close friend and wise counsellor; and the State of North Carolina one of her most devoted and loyal women.

VIOLA BODDIE,
MELVILLE V. FORT,
GERTRUDE W. MENDENHALL,
E. J. FORNEY,

Committee.

Memorial Services

Born at a time when woman's work was bounded almost entirely by the four walls of her home, Miss Kirkland grew up a type of the "old order" so dear to the south. But—

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new,
And God fulfills himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world",

and suddenly she found herself thrust into the necessity for making her own living. She chose her work among the girls of the state.

When she came to us many years later she brought with her into the chaos of an organizing school the best of the old order. For twenty-two years she gave herself to us unstintingly. She kept fresh in her own heart the buoyancy of youth; she was unfailing in her sympathy, and understanding of our girlhood; she gave us a sure faith in the girls replacing us as we grew older; she showed us the beauty of a sense of humor even under the most trying circumstances, and she gave us an example of calm dignity and poise never to be forgotten.

She is not dead; she does not sleep; she lives.

On Sunday afternoon, October 4th, at 4:30 o'clock, memorial services were held at the College for Miss Sue May Kirkland, the beloved Lady Principal of the institution until her death during the past summer. She had been with the College through its whole history, and her nobility of character and devoted personal service make our loss doubly inestimable.

After the introductory hymn and prayer, a quartet composed of Mr. W. C. A. Hammel, Miss Katheryn Severson, Miss Ethel Harris and Mr. Edgar Clapp, rendered Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar."

The address of the afternoon was delivered by Dr. Melton Clark, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, of which Miss Kirkland was a member. Dr. Clark was preceded by Dr. Foust, who gave a brief personal appreciation of Miss Kirkland, with whom he had been so closely associated in the

work of the College. His remarks are quoted from the *Greensboro Daily News*, as follows:

“Since we met here one year ago to celebrate the founding of this College, one who held an important position at its opening, and who, for twenty-two years, exerted an influence that it is difficult to estimate, has passed from us into the great beyond,” said Dr. Foust.

In part, he continued:

“It is almost quite beyond us to fully appreciate and understand the struggle and hopes long deferred of President McIver, Miss Kirkland, and the others associated with them when they were laying the broad and deep foundations for a great college where the young women of this state might be given an opportunity to catch that larger vision of work and of service. The atmosphere of this place from the time the doors were first opened for the reception of students to the present day has been surcharged with a broad and liberal state pride, with the spirit of self-sacrifice, with a devotion to duty and with an intelligent loyalty that is worthy of all praise. These conditions have not come of themselves but they are ours today because the founders of this institution planted them here. For that reason I always approach this anniversary occasion with a sort of deep reverence and feel that you and I should reconsecrate ourselves for the purpose of making real the vision which inspired and guided these first workers. It is in this spirit and for this purpose that we have assembled this afternoon. If we can catch something of the fine spirit of fidelity, of loyalty, and of unfaltering faith which characterized our departed fellow worker and friend, it will not be in vain that we have come together.

“I never came in contact with Miss Kirkland without being impressed by her devoted loyalty to this College and

all of its interests. It is no exaggeration to say that Miss Kirkland loved the Normal College. In a democracy like ours there is no power which forces any individual into a particular vocation. And yet, after the choice has been made, uncompromising loyalty is demanded. Her loyalty was not of that weak kind which accepts conditions without question and without reason. She had firm and steady convictions with reference to what was best and wisest under given circumstances. When a decision had, however, been reached and a given policy adopted with reference to the management of the College, she never wavered in her determination to carry out the policy agreed upon and adopted. She accepted it wholeheartedly.

“Many are the times which I have heard her remark: ‘I know we have the best body of students in the world. They may at times be thoughtless, they often do things that they should not do, but at heart they are true and sincere.’ This same attitude extended to the humblest servant on the place. She had lived and labored in these buildings and on this campus until everybody and everything was not only interesting to her, but drew out her deep and abiding sympathy.

“Not less prominent was her definite and wholesome optimism. In this world of disappointment and misunderstanding there are those delightful spirits who make us all more hopeful by their presence. I never conferred with Miss Kirkland about the affairs at this College without being helped. No matter how gloomy the day, she could always see and point out to you a ray of sunshine. This would have been impossible if she had not interpreted the acts of the people with whom she came in contact charitably and with broad toleration. If the conduct of any student were capable of two interpretations she invariably gave that student the benefit of any doubt that might arise in her mind. Had she adopted the opposite

plan it would have been impossible for her to have lived and labored among and with the students with increasing happiness from year to year.”

Still another characteristic referred to was Miss Kirkland’s sympathy for young women—a sympathy which, while not parading itself, always was true and quick to understand. He closed with a tribute to a life that had left such a rich inheritance for the institution as has her own.

Dr. Clark paid a brief tribute to Miss Kirkland and expressed, too, the firm spirit of helpfulness that had touched him from her. For his talk he chose to call before the minds of the students their dependence upon the past, their duty thereby and the richness of their inheritance from such lives as the one of Miss Kirkland.

There is no such quantity as the self-made man or self-made woman, said Dr. Clark. All people, no matter what their accomplishments may have been, have been dependent on the lives and deeds of people who lived before them. Upon the sacrifices of fathers and mothers the youth of today in the schools are given their opportunities; upon the suffering and pain of their forebears they have been brought to the high place they occupy.

Every mother has expected, too, that her child fulfill the ideal of her heart, and every mother, when she held her babe in her arms, had a definite high ideal for that babe to fit into. To secure that she labors and suffers and endures the pain of anxiety and care.

The youths of today are the heirs of the past and the good that has been wrought, and for such an influence as has been wielded by the life of Miss Kirkland in that institution.

In quite a beautiful way he pictured the future to them, when they should be called upon to a high service, when, as the prince awoke the princess in the legend story, they should be awakened and move into a sphere of wider activity and responsibilities.

A Tribute

The Cornelian and Adelpian Literary Societies, wishing to show their love for and appreciation of Miss Kirkland, pay this tribute to her:

During her long services in the College, Miss Kirkland did not join either society, preferring that the students should feel that she belonged entirely to all of them, rather than endear herself more closely to a smaller group. In her attitude toward them she ever showed the closest interest, and held the highest ideals of what the societies should stand for in the life of the students.

Those who have been touched by it can appreciate far better than others her respect and her sympathy for girlhood, her deep and abiding faith in girls, her firmness yet gentleness in dealing with them, and her deep insight into their characters.

In her death the societies have lost an ardent advocate of the highest culture for women; a dignified example of what womanliness should be; and a source of inspiration for achieving greater things.

ETHEL THOMAS,
ANNA DOGGETT,
Cornelian Committee.

LUCY HATCH,
RUTH ALBRIGHT,
KATHERINE ERWIN,
Adelpian Committee.

From the Standpoint of a Student

To those of us who came under the influence of Miss Kirkland, there is one thing which stands out in our minds as we remember her, and that is her rare good taste. In her sitting room were pictures, books and furnishings which bespoke the rest, harmony, and refinement that one enjoyed who appreciated art and beauty everywhere. In her dress, whether among us or on the streets, there was always the simplicity and appropriateness shown that expresses culture.

Not only did she show her good taste in regard to the selection of her surroundings and her dress but also in regard to the propriety of actions. She tried always to use her influence among the girls in this respect and as a result she made us *feel* (rather than told us) that such and such a course would not be wise under certain conditions.

Through this native gift of hers—good taste in all matters—she was able to preside at any occasion in which chance placed her, with the poise, dignity and grace which made us all respect, admire, and strive to emulate her.

Her Creed

To live ; to love ; to serve ;
To know well the virtues of others,
The far-reaching radiance of a cheerful spirit,
The sure faith of a Christian heart,
The joy of giving freely and much.

To live ; to love ; to serve ;
To offer sympathy to the sorrowing,
Understanding to the weary and discouraged,
Gentleness to the wounded in spirit,
Help for each human, pressing need.

A Student's Appreciation

For twenty-two years Miss Kirkland held the position of Lady Principal at our College. How great was the influence she exerted over the girls who were under her during those many years can only be estimated when we realize how great her influence was over each one of us who knew her these last few years. We all were molded, to a greater or less extent, I think, by the example of her calm, poised dignity and never-failing courtesy. Her tact and genuine kindness toward us helped us to be, in turn, more kindly toward each other. Hers was the tranquil and refining touch in the midst of the rush of our busy, hurried college life.

Miss Kirkland was also deeply interested in the girls; she was always glad to hear of some triumph or success of one of "her" girls. Because of her own broad culture, she was interested in our intellectual and spiritual development. For many years she held a reading circle for girls every Sunday afternoon at which some book, such as Van Dyke's, was read. She also encouraged the members of her circle to learn passages from the Bible, in the old Presbyterian fashion.

To any girl who was ever in grief or sorrow here, Miss Kirkland meant more than this even. Her deep sympathy and delicate understanding made one feel nearer home and gave one new courage. One felt that she intuitively understood our grief, without any expression of it, and that she as silently conveyed her sympathy.

Founder's Day

On the fifth of October, regularly observed as a holiday by the College, the twenty-second anniversary of its founding was celebrated. The speaker of the day was Dr. Edward K. Graham, President of the University of North Carolina. His address was penetratingly practical and at the same time a call to idealism. Every visitor and every student was impressed by his theme and his personality, so that the merit of both will be exemplified in some small degree, at least, by the fruits yet to appear in the lives of his hearers.

In the evening the faculty, visitors and students assembled in the auditorium for the dedication of the new dormitory, known as Woman's Building, in honor of the women of the Confederacy. General Julian S. Carr, of Durham, who, in nineteen hundred and eleven, was instrumental in obtaining from the Legislature the needed appropriation for this building, presided at the exercises of the evening, presenting as the speaker, Chief Justice Walter Clark, of Raleigh. Judge Clark spoke briefly and interestingly on the cause of education in North Carolina, after which the exercises closed with the presentation of a portrait of Charles B. Aycock, by Miss Mary Tennant, on behalf of the class of 1913. Dr. Foust accepted the portrait for the College.

After the program closed, a reception was held in honor of the guests of the occasion. It was a generally informal and pleasant affair, terminating an equally pleasant day.

The one sorrow in every heart to mar the happiness of the occasion was due to the absence of Miss Kirkland, so long the moving spirit and hostess of the day. It is good to think, however, that the anniversary was observed in every respect as she would have wished.

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