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Inauguration
of
William Russell Strassner
as
The Sixth President
of
SHAW UNIVERSITY



Held in

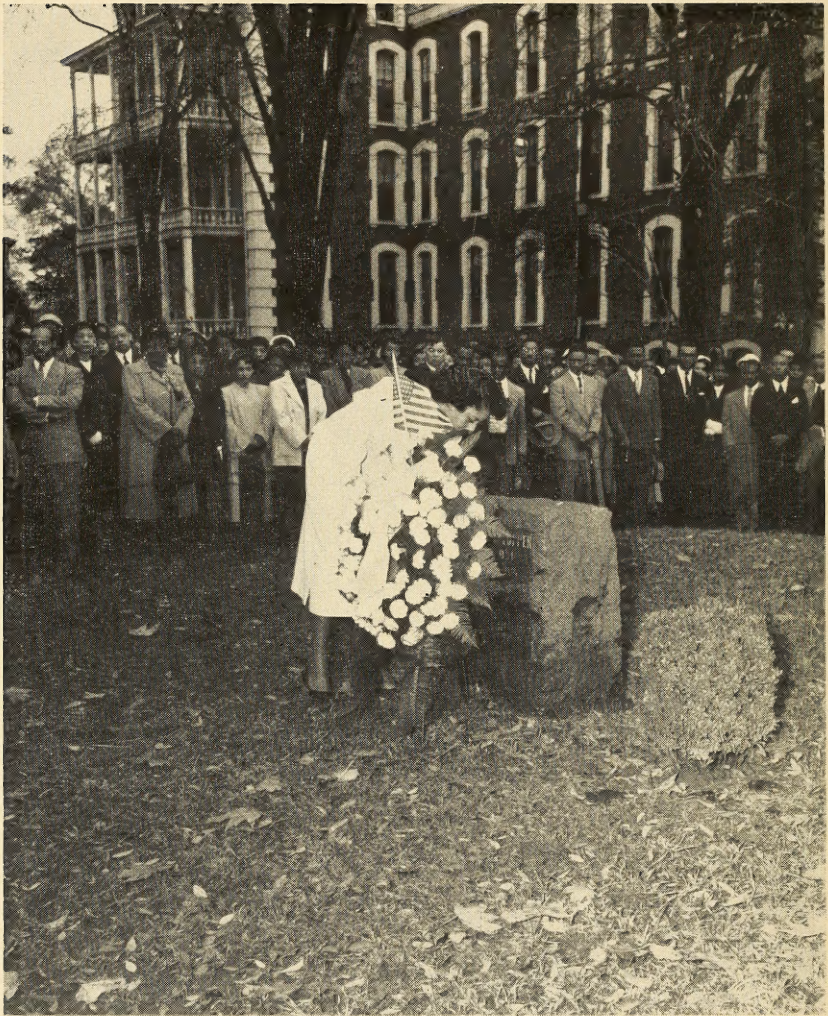
THE RALEIGH MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

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Miss Shirley Virginia Shannon, recently elected "Miss Shaw," places a wreath on the grave of Dr. Henry Martin Tupper, during ceremonies in observance of the University's 86th anniversary. Miss Shannon is a junior of Elizabeth City, N. C.

FOREWORD

WE ARE indeed pleased to take this opportunity to thank the Institutions, Learned Societies, Alumni, Baptist Associations and Women's Auxiliaries, Students and Friends for your attendance and support during the activities in observance of Founder's Day and the Inauguration of President William Russell Strassner as the Sixth President of Shaw University.

We were pleased to have the living former presidents of Shaw University, Dr. J. L. Peacock, Dr. W. S. Nelson and Dr. R. P. Daniel, present and participate on the Inaugural program.

It was a pleasure for us to be of service to you during the Inauguration and we sincerely hope that you enjoyed your stay on the Campus during this occasion.

THE INAUGURAL COMMITTEE

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SHIRLEY SHANNON

WILBERT NIXON



The Reverend William R. Strassner, (left) who was inducted by the Reverend Edwin McNeil Poteat, (right) as Shaw University's sixth president in inaugural ceremonies held in Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, November 16, 1951.

The Reverend William R. Strassner Is Installed As Sixth President In Impressive Ceremonies

"Our immediate task is one of internal development," said President William R. Strassner on the occasion of his inauguration as Shaw University's sixth president. He also announced that an extensive study and evaluation of all phases of the University program, including the immediate objective of the institution, faculty status, curricular offerings in the light of present needs, physical equipment, economic resources, and student life activities, have been already entered upon.

The inauguration ceremonies were preceded by memorial services on the Shaw east campus at the grave of Dr. Henry Martin Tupper, the founder of the school. The exercises were held in the Raleigh Memorial Auditorium at 11:00 o'clock a.m. Friday, November 16, before an audience of approximately 2,000 persons.

Representatives from 52 colleges and universities 15 learned societies and educational organizations over the country and 11 other organizations attended the induction.

The charter of Shaw University was given to President Strassner by the Reverend Edwin McNeil Poteat, vice-chairman of the board of trustees; and Dr. L. E. McCauley, secretary, board of trustees presented him with the seal of the University.

Presentation of the president elect was made by Dr. C. C. Spaulding, chairman of executive committee, board of trustees; and the Prayer of Consecration by the Reverend J. Roy Clifford, Minister, First Baptist Church, Lexington, North Carolina.

Commendations were given by three former presidents of Shaw University, Dr. Joseph L. Peacock, 1920-1931; Dr. W. S. Nelson, 1931-36; and Dr. R. P. Daniel, 1936-1950.

Greetings were extended by the Rev. W. L. Wilson, State Vice president of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A.; Dr. N. C. Newbold, on behalf of the National Education Association; the Rev. W. Drew Varney, American Baptist Convention; Dr. Alphonso Elder, president of North Carolina College at Durham; Dr. Clyde A. Erwin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; and the Rev. Paul A. Bishop, president, General Baptist Convention of North Carolina.

President Strassner noted the achievements of Shaw University's founder, and paid tribute to the four other presidents succeeding Dr. Tupper by saying, "It is noteworthy that this occasion is graced

with the presence of three former presidents of Shaw University Dr. Peacock, who carried forward the building program of Dr. Meserve by the addition of a modern science building and other notable achievements." Dr. Nelson, whose selection as the first Negro president marked the turning point in the history of the University, during whose administration the supporting constituency of the institution was revived and greatly strengthened, general improvements of the buildings and grounds was achieved, and the admission of the University to the group of colleges approved and supervised by the Board of Education of the Northern Baptist Convention was secured. Dr. Daniel, whose fourteen years of service brought further development of the University in all phases of its facilities and program. "Additional property and buildings at a cost exceeding a half million dollars, reorganization of the academic program, personal administration, and enlarged library services which secured "A" rating by the Southern Association, an intensive in-service program of training for ministers and religious workers, the designation of Shaw University as the major objective of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the location of the headquarters of the convention on the campus—are other highlights of Dr. Daniel's administration."

"As the sixth president of Shaw University," President Strassner continued, "I am conscious of the fact that I enter a stream of rich heritage and a great tradition inherent in the history of the institution." "My first consideration will be for the welfare of the institution and of those whom it seeks to serve, and the ideals for which the University was founded shall be my constant goal." "I am sure that the founder intended that Shaw University should be a Christian college. Shaw University will remain a Christian institution."

The services were opened with prayer by Dr. Harold L. Trigg, president, St. Augustine's College. The closing prayer was offered by the Reverend M. C. Allen, President of Virginia Seminary and College, Lynchburg, Virginia.

Music for the occasion was furnished by the Shaw University Chorale Society, under direction of Professor Harry Gil-Smythe.

At the Founder's Day and Inaugural luncheon, held in the University dining hall, it was announced that Baptist organizations had contributed \$10,000 to Shaw University; and \$4,500 was received from the National Alumni Association, which represented a part of the increment from the first 60 days of the Alumni Living Endowment Fellowship.

PROGRAM

Presiding.....	THE REVEREND EDWIN MCNEILL POTEAT, Th.M., D.D. <i>Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees</i>
Prelude—"Passacaglia"	CYRIL SCOTT HARRY GIL-SMYTHE, <i>Director of Music</i>
The Academic Procession—"Pomp and Circumstance".....	ELGAR
Invocation	HAROLD L. TRIGG, M.A., Ed.D. <i>President, St. Augustine's College</i>
Hymn—"God of Our Fathers"	

"GOD OF OUR FATHERS"

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
 Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
 Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
 Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,
 In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
 Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,
 Thy word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
 Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
 Thy true religion in our hearts increase,
 Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,
 Lead us from night to neverending day;
 Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
 And glory, laud and praise be ever Thine.

Amen

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

(Audience seated)

- Leader: For the freedom which we enjoy this day in the worship of God and the Eternal search for truth,
- People: We thank Thee, O Lord.
- Leader: For the labors of those who have gone before us, in faith and courage laying the foundations upon which we now build,
- People: We thank Thee, O Lord.
- Leader: For the many blessings that are ours in this present hour, renewing in us hope and assurance,
- People: We thank Thee, O Lord.

Leader: For the opportunities that lie open before us in the future, and the challenge with which they comfort us,

People: We thank Thee, O Lord.

Leader: For Thy continuing grace in Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever, without whom we can do nothing but in whom we can do all things,

People: We give Thee our heartfelt thanks, O Lord, and pray that in Thy mercy Thou wilt continue to bless and guide us in that way of everlasting trust which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Choral Response

Presentation of Delegates

Greetings:

National Education Association
N. C. NEWBOLD, LL.D.

American Baptist Convention

THE REVEREND W. DREW VARNEY, A.B., B.D., D.D.

National Baptist Convention of the U.S.A., Incorporated

THE REVEREND W. L. WILSON, A.B., B.D., *State Vice-President*

Colleges and Universities of North Carolina

ALPHONSO ELDER, A.M., Ed.D., *President of North Carolina College at Durham*

Public Schools of North Carolina

CLYDE A. ERWIN, Pd.D., Ed.D., *State Superintendent of Public Instruction*

General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

THE REVEREND PAUL A. BISHOP, D.D., *President*

Music—"Great Day" *Arranged by* WARREN MARTIN
The University Chorale Society

Greetings—Former Presidents of Shaw University:

Joseph Leishman Peacock, A.B., A.M., LL.D., 1920-1931

William Stuart Nelson, A.B., B.D., LL.D., 1931-1936

Robert Prentiss Daniel, A.B., A.M., Ph.D., LL.D., 1936-1950

Presentation of President Elect.....C. C. SPAULDING, LL.D.
Chairman of Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, Shaw University

The Induction of the President

THE REVEREND EDWIN MCNEILL POTEAT, Th.M., D.D.
Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees, Shaw University

The Prayer of Consecration

THE REVEREND J. ROY CLIFFORD, A.B., Th.M.
Minister, First Baptist Church, Lexington, North Carolina

Inaugural Address.....WILLIAM RUSSELL STRASSNER, A.B., B.D., S.T.M
President of the University

Hymn—"Faith of Our Fathers"

"FAITH OF OUR FATHERS"

Faith of our fathers, living still,
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whenever we hear that glorious word!

Faith of our Fathers, holy faith,
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers, faith and prayer.
Have kept our country brave and free,
And through the truth that comes from God,
Her children have true liberty.

Faith of our fathers, we will strive
To win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God,
Mankind shall then indeed be free.

Faith of our fathers, we will love
Both friend and foe in all our strife,
And preach thee, too, as love knows how
By kindly words and virtuous life.

Amen

Special Announcements.....	THE REVEREND O. S. BULLOCK, D.D. <i>Minister, First Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina</i>
Closing Prayer.....	THE REVEREND M. C. ALLEN, D.D. <i>President of Virginia Seminary and College, Lynchburg, Virginia</i>
The Recessional—"War March of the Priests"	MENDELSSOHN

Invocation

By DR. HAROLD L. TRIGG, *President Saint Augustine's College, Raleigh*

Almighty God, on this day of destiny for a man and an institution, we beseech Thee, with Thy gracious favor, to behold with kindness this Thy servant as the mantle of the leader settles upon his shoulders. Give him understanding for judgment; courage to face reality; strength for the rigors of his task; patience in adversity; faith in Thy power to comfort and heal; identity in purpose with Thy Law. Bestow Thy blessings upon all those assembled here; and all those who will labor with him; and all those who come to learn under his guidance; and all those whose spiritual and material support are essential to the life and continued effective work of this institution. Endue them with unswerving loyalty; with oneness of purpose; with the complete subordination of selfish interest to the good of the institution; and with the humility of greatness that they may look unto Thee for guidance in all that they think, feel, say, and do.

Grant these supplications for the sake of him, Thy Son, the Great Teacher, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREETINGS

from the
NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

November 16, 1951

By N. C. NEWBOLD, A.M. LL.D.

Mr. Chairman, President-Elect Strassner, Members of the Board of Trustees of Shaw University, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Upon the request of the Chief Executive Officer of the National Education Association, it affords me very keen pleasure to bring you warm greetings from that great American organization. The National Education Association of the United States was established in 1857—almost 100 years ago. Originally, it was known as the National Teachers' Association. Later, it was chartered by Act of Congress as the National Education Association.

Of this organization, we are told: "It is the only organization that ties into one organic whole the local, state, departmental, and national groups; the only organization that unites teachers, principals, and superintendents, elementary schools, high schools, colleges, and universities."

The emblem or symbol of the National Education Association is a square. In the center is a smaller square with the words: "Education Association." Above that is a hand grasping a torch—the light of which extends beyond the top of the square. In a panel, at the bottom of the large square, there is the word *Local* in large letters. In a similar panel at the left, is the word *State*; at the right another panel carries the word *National*; while in the top panel the word *World* is inscribed.

Thus, the National Education Association, in this simple emblem attempts to typify graphically the areas which it serves through leadership in education in *local, state, national, and world areas*.

This association, so far as latest data available shows, is the largest, most important, most influential, and the fastest growing such organization in the entire world. In the 94 years of its history, it now has 445,000 individual members, and 850,000 affiliated members. It has 52 state and 4,000 local affiliated associations; there are 32 departments, 14 headquarters' divisions, and 24 commissions and committees.

Members of the staff of these 32 departments, 14 headquarters divisions, and 24 commissions and committees are always available for service in local communities to assist in solving various kinds of educational problems. Likewise, such services are available to the 52 State Education Associations throughout the United States and its territories.

It is probably totally unnecessary to state here that the personnel in these units of the National Education Association who are available

for local service in the schools, colleges, and universities of the country rank high among the most highly trained, skilled, expert leaders in educational matters throughout America.

We speak here briefly, calmly, and dispassionately, about the marvelously useful services rendered by this great association to thousands of local communities, the counties and cities, the states and our nation. It is not so easy to be unemotional when we come to consider the fact that "N.E.A. influence circles the Globe,"—that it leads the world:

- a. In building *Unesco*—The United Nations' Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.
- b. In supporting the United Nations itself.
- c. In World Teachers Organization, and
- d. In aiding overseas teachers.

President Strassner, Members of the Board of Trustees, and friends of Shaw University, I am very happy to bring you the warmest, most cordial greetings and good wishes for abundant success from the National Education Association of the United States.

Greetings

THE REVEREND W. L. WILSON, *State Vice President*
National Baptist Convention of the U.S.A., Inc.

It was with profound pleasure that I greet you today on behalf of the President of the National Baptist Convention, Dr. D. V. Jemison, of Selma Alabama, who sorely regrets his inability to attend this great occasion, and through me his expressions of appreciation are given.

I bring greetings from the largest Negro Organization in the world, which has a constituency of more than four million and is represented by 43 states in the union.

It is a pleasure for me, on behalf of this great body to have a part in the inauguration of a man of this type, the kind of men that the world is in desperate need of. Men of sterling worth to meet the needs of this desperate day—men of distinguished courage and moral fiber, men who can triumph over difficulties, men with righteous convictions, Godly purposes, faultless integrity, unquestioned righteousness, unswerving perseverance, and unfaltering fidelity. We need men of integrity. In spite of all the odious iniquity, revolting lewdness, lamentable crookedness, dastardly dishonesty, unbridled greed, unbelievable humbugger, scandalous wickedness; integrity and honesty are the biggest words in the business world today. These two words shine like diamonds in the mud and slime of a boggy world.

We need men to stand in the breach of institutions and make up the walls. In many of our institutions blood has been mixed with the mortar, sacrifices have been made for their establishment, and lives

have been dedicated to their permanency. Because we feel that such a man has been placed at the head of this institution, which was established 86 years ago, we the President and four million members who make up the National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc., do heartily greet you on this memorable occasion.

*If we would build again
And build to stay
We must find God
And go His way.*

Greetings

DR. P. A. BISHOP, *President*
Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

Mr. Chairman, Reverend Strassner, Honored Guests, Friends:

As we come together today to inaugurate the sixth President of Shaw University, we are glad that the Baptist group of North Carolina has played a very great part in the history-making of the oldest Negro College in the South. Ever since its founding by Henry Martin Tupper, 86 years ago, the influence and usefulness of Shaw University have been felt throughout the nation. Her sons and daughters scattered even to far distant places have by their lives and work shown the true value of religious education. During these 86 years the Baptist forces have co-operated in such a way that it would be impossible to write the history of our University without including the Baptists of North Carolina.

President Strassner, you have come to pilot the ship of this great University in a very crucial time but, "who knoweth that thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this."

The trustees of Shaw University underwent a terrific struggle when trying to select our sixth president. Our plight was similar to the plight of the patriot Abraham. When Abraham built the altar and was ready to slay his own son, he looked and behold a ram was in the bushes ready for the occasion. It had in all probability been there all the time but was just over-looked by Abraham.

The trustees, after investigating and consulting many candidates for the presidency of Shaw, saw the hidden lamb at the very last moment, and we feel confident that President-Elect Strassner is capable and able to carry our cherished institution forward.

I bring you greetings from over 1,750 Baptist Churches, 1,100 ordained ministers and over 300,000 Negro Baptists and feel safe in saying that they all pledge to you sincere cooperation and hearty support. We all love Shaw University and today we re-dedicate our lives to its program of progress.

Felicitations

By DEAN FOSTER P. PAYNE

The Faculty of Shaw University

It is significant and unique that to-day we commemorate the founding of Shaw University and the inauguration of its sixth president. Here to witness and to participate in these observances, along with friends who have come from near and far, are the three living former presidents of the University. Over the years Shaw University has been fortunate in its leadership. Its presidents have without exception been able men dedicated to the ideals and objectives of the University. Each in his own time has wrought well, building, as it were, his story. To-day we honor another builder.

On behalf of the Faculty and Staff, I have the honor and pleasure of bringing greetings to Persident Strassner on the occasion of his inauguration as the sixth president of Shaw University. He has been one of us and on this day we rejoice with him and Mrs. Strassner in the ceremonies marking his official induction into office. As his fellow workers, we too accept the challenge which is his and rededicate our efforts and desires to the realization of the objectives of the University. In part, at least, we are aware of the hard work which lies ahead, of the problems which we must face and solve, of the necessity for the unquestioned loyalty and devotion of each member of our family.

Mr. President, we realize that as president, your relations with us will be different from those when we knew you affectionately as "Dean." However, we want you to know that through the years we shall cherish you both as president and friend.

May your term of office be one filled with satisfaction in a job well done. The Faculty and Staff are at your side. "Tomorrow to fresh woods and pastures new."

Presentation of President to Chairman of Board

By DR. C. C. SPAULDING

Mr. Chairman, I have the honor to present to you WILLIAM RUSSELL STRASSNER, who has been duly chosen by the Trustees of this Institution to be its sixth president. We deem him a worthy successor to the noble men who have builded themselves into the structure that is Shaw University and who have fostered here the ideal of religious education in the belief that through such training the fullness of living is achieved.

President Strassner is a native of Arkansas and received his literary training in that state, graduating from the Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1925 with highest honors. He then went to Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia, from which institution he received the degree of Bachelor of Divinity in 1928. While at Union he won the National Colver Prize Scholarship for two successive years. The Reverend Strassner then accepted the call to the pastorate of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Virginia, and after serving one year was given a leave of absence in order to take advantage of a Fellowship granted by the John F. Slater Foundation to do further graduate study at Andover Newton Theological Institution, Boston, Massachusetts, from which he received the degree of Master of Sacred Theology in 1932. He was chosen by the faculty of Andover Newton to deliver the class address at the graduation exercises, the only Negro who had received such honor from this New England Seminary. He then returned to the Charlottesville Church and continued his ministry there for six years.

After a highly successful pastorate in Virginia, he accepted the position as Dean of Religion at Bishop College, Marshall, Texas, in 1938, and served in that capacity for six years. While at Bishop College, he was given the technical duties of the President of the institution while President Joseph J. Rhoads was away on leave.

At the invitation of Dr. Robert P. Daniel, President Strassner came to Shaw University to assume the duties as dean of the School of Religion in 1944.

As President Strassner joins the ranks of young Negro college executives who are meeting the challenge of the times in an inspiring manner, the Trustees, Alumni, and his many friends throughout the country, as well as his co-workers, are confident that he will add achievement and prestige to the cause of education as President of Shaw University.

I, therefore, request, on behalf of the Trustees, that you signify President Strassner's assumption of the authority and dignity which appertain to the presidential office, by appropriate ceremonies of induction and investiture.

Statement of Induction

By THE REVEREND EDWIN MCNEILL POTEAT

WILLIAM RUSSELL STRASSNER

It is my responsibility to induct you into the office to which you have been elected by the Board of Trustees. You have been called to a grave responsibility. Education is the process of leading out; indoctrination is the process of leading in. Education leads in the direction of freedom; indoctrination tends ultimately to despotism. Each of these forces is at work today and the destiny of the world may be said to rest on the victory of the former over the latter.

You are recognized as the head of an educational institution. Your responsibility will be to lead young men and women out of anxiety into confidence, out of ignorance into wisdom, out of awkwardness into skill, out of darkness into light.

But this is a Christian educational institution. This places an even higher and heavier obligation upon you for if in leading men and women out into richer and more productive experience, you fail to lead them in the Way, and the Truth, and the Light, Who for us is Jesus Christ, they will fall short of the true freedom to which we are called in Christ Jesus.

As vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees of Shaw University I hereby induct you into the office of President, and bespeak for you the generous support of all lovers of education, and the confidence and cooperation of all who love the great institution that has appointed you its head. I hand you, herewith the Charter of Shaw University and bespeak God's blessing upon you.

Presentation of Seal

By DR. L. E. MCCAULEY, *Trustee*

MR. PRESIDENT:

Representing the secretary of the Board of Trustees, Dr. John P. Turner, I give you the custody of the seal of Shaw University and invest you with the right to use it, or authorize its use, in all transactions requiring such official certification of the University.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

WILLIAM RUSSELL STRASSNER

November 16, 1951

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board of Trustees, Distinguished Guests, and Friends of Shaw University:

I am deeply appreciative of the tributes and cordial greetings expressed here today, and I am profoundly conscious of the great responsibility which I assume in connection with the presidency of Shaw University. I humbly accept this responsibility as a sacred trust, and pledge faithful performance of the duties involved to the best of my ability. The welfare of the institution and of those whom it seeks to serve shall be my first consideration, and the ideals for which the University was founded shall be my constant goal.

It is note-worthy that this occasion is graced with the presence of three former presidents of Shaw University: Dr. Peacock, who carried forward the building program of Dr. Meserve by the addition of a modern science building and other notable achievements. Dr. Nelson, whose selection as the first Negro president marked the turning point in the history of the University. During his administration the supporting constituency of the institution was revived and greatly strengthened, general improvement of the buildings and grounds was achieved, and the admission of the University to the group of Negro colleges approved and supervised by the Board of Education of the then Northern Baptist Convention was secured. Dr. Daniel, whose fourteen years of service brought further development of the University in all phases of its facilities and program: Additional property and buildings at a cost exceeding one-half million dollars; reorganization of the academic program, personnel administration, and enlarged library services which secured "A" rating of the institution by the Southern Association; an extensive in-service program of training for ministers and religious workers, the designation of Shaw University as the major objective of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and the location of the headquarters of the convention on the campus, are other high lights of Dr. Daniel's administration. These distinguished servants of Shaw University have made, each in his turn, immeasurable contributions to its growth and progress, and their presence here today is indicative of their abiding interest in its welfare. My request of them is the request that Elisha made of Elijah whom he succeeded to the prophetic office, "Let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me."

As the sixth president of Shaw University I am conscious of the fact that I enter the stream of a rich heritage and a great tradition inherent in the history of the institution.

Shaw University was born out of an intense passion to meet the needs of a struggling race. The period surrounding 1865 was a critical one in our national and racial history; the nation had been torn by

internal conflict, and the Negro race was struggling to adjust itself to the responsibilities of freedom into which it had been so recently thrust. The days were dark, but there were foregleams of the dawn. The torchlight of hope was brought by those heroic souls who came into the South and established schools for the Freedmen. Among those who came was Henry Martin Tupper, the founder of Shaw University.

Dr. Tupper was a native of Monson, Massachusetts. He was reared in a humble rural home and, because of the limited economic status of his parents, he experienced difficulty in obtaining his education. In spite of the responsibility of self-support he finished Monson Academy, graduated from Amherst College in 1859, and from Newton Theological Institution in 1862, the same institution from which I graduated seventy years later. Heeding the call for young men "to carry the musket" he entered the Union Army, July 14, 1862. As a chaplain he held religious services for his men and to these meetings Negro slaves came in large numbers. Tupper saw their need, he had compassion upon them, and out of this experience he heard the call to a higher service; and so, when the war was over, and the smoke of battle had cleared away, he settled in Raleigh with his bride, Mrs. Sarah B. Tupper, October 10, 1865. He did this contrary to the advice of his comrades that he should return to the safety of his New England home. He was commissioned by the American Baptist Home Mission Society as a missionary to the Freedmen. On December 1, 1865 he organized a theological class in the old Guion Hotel which was situated where the State Museum now stands. As "great oaks from little acorns grow" so from this small beginning Shaw University was to grow into a great institution of learning for generations yet unborn.

The years that immediately followed were filled with the experience of arduous toil, great personal sacrifice, ridicule, and even threats of death; but, driven by an irresistible passion for service, his faith, courage, and fortitude never failed, for "he counted not his life dear unto himself that he might lift Godward his brother."

C. N. Hunter, in an address entitled "Dr. Henry Martin Tupper As I Knew Him," delivered on the occasion of the Semi-centennial celebration of the founding of Shaw University, May 10, 1916, says:

"I regarded Mr. Tupper as an evangel of righteousness and liberty commissioned by high heaven to the performance of a great work among our people. As I remember him in those early days, he was always optimistic, courageous, confident. He seemed to have had no thought of difficulty, no fear of danger, no calculation of consequences to himself."

Shaw University was born of the spirit of service. It is therefore the purpose of Shaw University not to prepare young men and women primarily to make a living, but rather to make a life, a life of service to mankind. We pass on to them the heritage of society in order that they may in turn enrich the life of society, make the lot of mankind better, and lift the group to higher levels of living. As Rabbi Silver says: "The full and free unfoldment of personality, which is life's chief goal, is impossible without projecting our lives into the lives

of others, and without linking our destiny with the destiny of the advancing life of mankind."

Through the years this institution has sent forth thousands of young men and women with the basic equipment for educational, professional, social, and religious service to people across the nation and in foreign fields. The spirit of Shaw is the spirit of service, and may that spirit never die!

The institution has been nurtured and maintained by the sacrificial gifts of devoted friends inspired by the spirit of Tupper himself. In a letter to Dr. J. S. Backus, corresponding secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, dated March 1, 1886, Dr. Tupper wrote:

"We have purchased a building lot in a pleasant part of the city. I have advanced the money to pay for it (my savings while a soldier.) Someone must make sacrifices—I am on the field and see the need and cannot withhold."

Under the inspiration of this spirit of unselfishness, friends throughout the country came to the rescue. Among the early individual donors history records the names of Andrew Porter, one of the founders of Holyoke College, \$100.00; Elijah Shaw who, in response to Dr. Tupper's appeal, said, "I would mortgage the roof over my head to help Tupper," gave \$5,000.00 toward the erection of Shaw Hall; Jacob Estey, \$8,000.00 which made possible the building of Estey Hall, the first school building of considerable size in the South solely for the accommodation of colored women in their Christian development and education; the Honorable O. H. Greenleaf who made possible the hall that bears his name; Judson Wade Leonard whose gift of \$15,000 brought into being Leonard Hall in which the Medical School was located; John D. Rockefeller, \$25,000.00 for the heating plant and his later support of the General Education Board which to date has made grants to Shaw University totaling nearly one-half million dollars.

Philanthropic institutions have, by their generous support, shown their faith in Shaw University. The chief benefactor was the American Baptist Home Mission Society; others were the John F. Slater Fund, the Board of Education of the American Baptist Convention, the Phelps-Stokes Foundation, the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the Women's Missionary Union of North Carolina which makes a significant contribution annually to our program of religious training. Such gifts are not meaningful simply because of their material benefit to the institution but rather because they are indications of faith in Shaw University and in Christian education for Negro youth.

Since the time when the Negro students went out with Tupper into the forest to cut the timber for the first frame building, and when they moulded with their hands the bricks of clay for the first permanent structure, Negroes also have contributed sacrificially to the support of Shaw University. They did not give out of their abundance, for they had no abundance from which to give, but out of their

poverty, small earnings, and meager savings, they gave much. Such gifts have come from individuals, churches, district associations, and conventions, alumni, the Women's Missionary and Educational Convention of North Carolina, and, in very recent years, from the United Negro College Fund which is increasingly becoming one of the chief sources of help for Negro colleges. It is of significance that Shaw University is the *one* educational objective of the *one* Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; and in this connection we are in the strategic position to make our school *second to none* among the church-related colleges for Negro youth. We must rise to this challenge and opportunity; for in proportion as we *help ourselves* do we merit the help of others.

Through the years Shaw University has been guided by the inspiration of its great objectives: "That religion and learning may go hand in hand and character grow with knowledge." On the seal of the University are the Latin words "Pro Cristo et Humanitate," for Christ and Humanity. In a letter to Dr. Tupper written by Dr. J. S. Backus, July 13, 1866, is the following statement:

"May the day come when all the colored people in North Carolina will be Baptists—well-educated, whole-souled, pure-minded, full-grown, peaceable, and prosperous Baptists, everyone true to every other one, and all true to God."

I am not sure that we shall ever realize that objective insofar as denominational affiliation of the colored people of North Carolina is concerned, but I am sure that the founder and early supporters intended that Shaw University should be a Christian institution. In this respect it is similar to the Christian spirit and purpose that obtained in the founding of the earliest colleges in America. The beginnings of higher education in the United States were under church auspices and the Christian college has made an abiding contribution to our democratic way of life.

In view of the rise and growth of state colleges and universities, and the development of small private colleges into great institutions of learning, the question is often raised as to the continued value of the small Christian college. The answer depends upon how well it can exercise the functions of liberal education. Can it perform these functions for a limited enrollment as well, or better, than the large tax-supported schools? The small college cannot compete with the state universities in the wide range of courses, the various fields of specialization, the expensive equipment, or in the relatively low cost to the individual student. But it is *free* from the restraints which these factors impose. It can maintain its own standards of admission, it can develop a spirit of community and close relationship between faculty and students, it can provide the kind of environment that is conducive to the well-rounded growth and development of youth; and, if well founded, it can insure a strong faculty and a sound program of liberal education.

While the Christian college must be careful to avoid narrow sectarian indoctrination, it cannot ignore the essential elements of our Christian

heritage if the education it offers is truly liberal. The Christian tradition is woven into the fabric of our culture and has been a great influence in its development. The Christian emphasis upon the essential worth of every human being, and upon the possibility of a more abundant life for all, has made a significant contribution to our concept of human freedom and democracy. The Christian college can, without hesitation, point out to its students those moral standards, values, and ideals which promise the greatest freedom of mind and spirit.

More deeply, the uniqueness of the Christian college does not inhere merely in the fact that it is the object of church support, offers courses in religion, provides religious services in its program of campus activities, or requires that members of the faculty shall have church affiliation; but rather in the fact that its basic philosophy of education is Christian, that it recognizes the unity of truth; and that its disciplines, in whatever field, are taught within the Christian frame of reference. The provision of education in such an environment will develop the type of men and women whom the world needs today, and will make for integrated, useful, and creative living. Shaw University must ever remain a Christian institution with a well trained faculty and a sound educational program. To this end I unreservedly commit myself.

I have mentioned briefly some of the facts indicated in the history of Shaw University, namely, (1) Its birth out of an intense passion to meet the needs of a struggling race, (2) Its nurture by the sacrificial gifts of devoted friends, and (3) Its guidance by the inspiration of great objectives.

Of these the institution must never lose sight if it would be true to the faith of our fathers. From these we should derive patience, courage, and a sense of direction for the difficult times through which we are passing today.

We are in the grip of a world crisis the outcome of which no one can predict; the military situation, the spiral of inflation, the decline in interest rates on already small endowments, and the general feeling of insecurity have greatly affected the small college. Enrollments are depleted, retrenchment is necessary in all areas, and we face the struggle, not only of maintaining our educational program at a high standard, but, possibly, the struggle for survival itself! It is imperative, therefore, that we face courageously the problem of support for the small private and church-related college; their contribution to American society has been so significant, and the education which they provide is so essential that they must be maintained as a strong and vital force for the welfare of society and the enrichment of life. This applies especially to the Negro colleges, notwithstanding the recent trend toward integration by many state institutions in the South. In this connection, Mr. Charles Dollard, president of the Carnegie Foundation of New York, speaking at the recent Convocation of the United Negro College Fund in Detroit, made the following observation, among others:

1. That 73 per cent of our Negro youth live in the 17 states of the South.
2. That in 1950 only one per cent of the total Negro population of college age were enrolled in the colleges and universities lying north of the Ohio and west of the Mississippi.
3. That if for the next several decades Negroes are to have any reasonable opportunity for higher education, that opportunity must be provided by Negro colleges located in in the South, and
4. That this opportunity will not be adequate unless these schools are greatly strengthened.

I feel keenly the need for providing this reasonable and adequate opportunity for the young men and women who enroll at Shaw University, and for strengthening the institution in all areas of its life and service.

We do not envision any further expansion of our physical plant within the fore-seeable future, my distinguished predecessors have left us amply provided for in that area. Our immediate task is one of *internal development*.

We have already entered upon an intensive study and evaluation of all phases of our University program, including the *immediate objectives of the institution, faculty status, curricular offerings in the light of present day needs, physical equipment, economic resources, and student life and activities*. Upon the basis of this study we shall address ourselves to a program designed to give added strength and stability to the institution for its task of providing the best possible education for our youth.

Shaw University had its birth in a time of crisis, and during the eighty-six years of its existence it has survived conditions that try men's souls—periods of war and economic depression, of doubt and uncertainty; but the shadows have always been interspersed with the light of hope, for there were those who had faith in its basic purpose and in its high destiny. It is with that faith that we face the future unafraid.

I terminate this address with a word to the various groups within the Shaw Family and community:

1. *To the students:* You are part of a great fellowship; others have toiled and sacrificed; you reap the fruit of their labor. Here you have the opportunity for the development of your possibilities and powers, the widening of your social vision, and the heightening of your ideals; and this, within the environment a Christian tradition to the end that you may make the best adjustment to life and render your best service to society. Make the most of your opportunity.

2. *To the faculty:* You are workers together in a great cause, the cause of Christian education for Negro youth. You have come from many backgrounds of education and rich experience, and in proportion as you share that education and experience to enrich the lives of

others, does life become worthwhile and meaningful for you. Your task is unlike that of a sculptor who carves from a block of marble the figure that exists in his own imagination; you work with the plastic minds of inquiring youth; yours is the task of developing character and shaping the lives of young men and women whose influence for good must bless the world. Be true to your sacred trust.

3. *To the Alumni:* You are the sons and daughters of a great institution. Your Alma Mater has made you what you are, and has imbued you with the spirit of service to mankind. She glories in your achievements, and is ever solicitous of your welfare. In return she asks for your increasing loyalty and cooperation to the end that she may send forth other sons and daughters to join hands with you in the struggle for a better world.

4. To the Trustees, men and women from the various walks of life, stewards of a rich heritage, guardians of our welfare: To you we look for guidance, wise counsel, and direction in our overall program in the light of our ideals and purposes and in our relationship to the world around us.

And so, working together as one great family we shall move forward with undaunted courage, and with faith in God for our common cause of Christian education at Shaw University.



WILLIAM R. STRASSNER

Luncheon Program

ONE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON
UNIVERSITY DINING HALL



DR. J. B. DAVIS, *Presiding*

Vice President, Shaw University National Alumni Association

Invocation and Blessing.....THE REVEREND J. R. MANLY
Rock Hill Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Felicitations:

MR. G. H. FERGUSON

Director, Division of Negro Education

MR. A. H. ANDERSON

President, North Carolina Teachers' Association

J. M. ELLISON, Ph.D.

President, Virginia Union University

THE REVEREND E. D. MCCREARY

Minister, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Virginia

MRS. FOY J. FARMER

Women's Missionary Union of North Carolina

MRS. M. A. HORNE

President, Women's Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention of North Carolina

THE REVEREND OTIS DUNN, B.D.

President, Theological Alumni Association of Shaw University

THE REVEREND E. C. LAWRENCE

The Ministerial Alliance of Raleigh

DEAN FOSTER P. PAYNE

The Faculty of Shaw University

MR. THOMAS DUNN

President, The Student Body of Shaw University

Special Announcements:

THE REVEREND G. E. CHEEK

Executive Secretary, National Alumni Association of Shaw University



President and Mrs. W. R. Strassner
at Home

to

Alumni, Faculty, Students and Friends

Six to Nine o'clock

816 South Wilmington Street

Seventy-Eight Colleges and Organizations Greet Shaw President At His Inauguration

Among the many delegates from Colleges and Universities were twenty-two college presidents, several deans, professors and other officers, who brought greetings to the newly-installed president William R. Strassner. Delegates brought messages from the following institutions:

Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, Mass.; Wake Forest College, Wake Forest; Union Theological Seminary, New York, N. Y.; Davidson College, Davidson; Guilford College, Guilford College; Duke University, Durham; Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, N. Y.; Lincoln University, Lincoln University, Pa.; Michigan State College, Lansing Mich.; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Atlanta University, Atlanta, Ga.; Virginia Union University, Richmond, Va.; Barber-Scotia College, Concord; Howard University, Washington, D. C.; Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga.; Morgan State College, Baltimore, Md.; Saint Augustine's College, Raleigh; Talladega College, Talladega, Ala.; Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va.; Peace College, Raleigh; Bennett College, Greensboro; Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tenn.; Fayetteville State Teachers College, Fayetteville; Livingstone College, Salisbury; Paine College, Augusta, Ga.; Virginia State College, Petersburg, Va.; Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Ga.; Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury; Campbell College, Buie's Creek; Pembroke State College, Pembroke.

Pfeiffer Junior College, Misenheimer; Saint Paul's Polytechnic Institute, Lawrenceville, Va.; Virginia Theological Seminary and College, Lynchburg, Va.; North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, Raleigh; Elizabeth City State Teachers College, Elizabeth City; Lenoir Rhyne College, Hickory; Meredith College, Raleigh; The Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina, Greensboro; Winston-Salem Teachers' College, Winston-Salem; The Fort Valley State College, Fort Valley, Ga.; Flora MacDonald College, Red Springs; Voorhees School and Junior College, Denmark, S.C.; Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Fla.; East Carolina Teachers College, Greenville; North Carolina College at Durham, Durham; Southern University, Scotlandville, La.; Washington Baptist Seminary, Washington, D. C.; Presbyterian Junior College, Maxton; Black Mountain College, Black Mountain; and Bible Training Institute, Goldsboro.

Delegates from Learned Societies and Educational Organizations

United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa (1776)

CARLTON P. WEST, A.B., B.S. in L.S., A.M.

National Education Association (1857)

NATHAN CARTER NEWBOLD, LL.D.

North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction (1868)

CLYDE A. ERWIN, Ph.D., Ed.D.

Superintendent

Division of Negro Education of the State Department of Public Instruction of
North Carolina

S. E. DUNCAN, A.B., M.A., Ph.D.

Supervisor of Negro High Schools

American Chemical Society (1876)

F. H. SMITH, B.S., M.S.

American Library Association (1876)

HARLAN C. BROWN, A.B., B.S., M.A.

North Carolina Teachers' Association (1881)

A. H. ANDERSON, A.B., M.A.

American Mathematical Society (1888)

MARJORIE LEE BROWNE, B.S., M.S., Ph.D.

The American Academy of Political and Social Science (1889)

WALTER F. ANDERSON

Board of Education and Publication of the American Baptist
Convention (1889)

THE REVEREND W. DREW VARNEY, A.B., M.A., D.D.

American Association of University Professors (1915)

J. S. DOOLITTLE, B.S., M.S.

Association of American Colleges (1915)

CARLYLE CAMPBELL, A.B., A.M., LL.D.

American Council on Education (1918)

HAROLD L. TRIGG, Ed.D. (hon)

National Association of Deans of Women and Advisers to Girls in Negro
Schools (1929)

ANN HAWKINS

Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society (1937)

MARTHA W. WHEELER, B.S., M.S.

Other Organizations Represented

AMERICAN BAPTIST CONVENTION

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETY

NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION OF THE U.S.A., INCORPORATED

BAPTIST DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

WOMEN'S BAPTIST HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY CONVENTION OF NORTH
CAROLINA

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION OF NORTH CAROLINA

NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF SHAW UNIVERSITY

THEOLOGICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF SHAW UNIVERSITY

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE

MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE OF RALEIGH

Shaw's Presidents

HENRY MARTIN TUPPER, A.B., B.D., D.D.

1865-1893

CHARLES FRANCIS MESERVE, A.B., A.M., LL.D.

1893-1919

JOSEPH LEISHMAN PEACOCK, A.B., A.M., D.D.

1920-1931

WILLIAM STUART NELSON, A.B., B.D., D.D.

1931-1936

ROBERT PRENTISS DANIEL, A.B., A.M., Ph.D.

1936-1950

WILLIAM RUSSELL STRASSNER, A.B., B.D., S.T.M.

1951-

Shaw Supporters Make Large Presentation

At the Founder's Day-Inaugural Exercises on November 16, churches, alumni, and individuals made financial presentations to the University totaling \$14,842.33. Of this amount the Shaw Alumni raised \$5,313.30. All alumni classes from 1886 to 1951 reported contributions with the exception of classes of 1902, 1903, 1917, 1919, and 1923. Churches and religious organizations reported \$9,529.03.

The Alumni Living Endowment Fellowship

The alumni Living Endowment Fellowship was established September 15, 1951. Loyal alumni and Christian friends everywhere are welcome to join the Endowment Fellowship. When you join the Living Endowment Fellowship you become a unit in the Endowment, and whatever you give is the increment from that unit.

The Shaw clubs are stimulating great interest in the Endowment Fellowship. An analytical report will be given of club activities and individuals after the end of the fiscal year, December 30, 1951.

The Annual University Alumni Award

For the past three years, at the May Commencement exercises, Shaw University has presented to an outstanding alumnus the Annual Alumni Award. Mr. W. C. Craver of Houston, Texas received the award in 1949; Prof. C. F. Graves of Elizabeth City, North Carolina, in 1950; and Dr. John P. Turner of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1951.

Selection of an alumnus to receive the Award is made by a Committee on Alumni Award from nominations sent in by any alumni group, any member of the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association, or any member of the University Administration. The Committee then recommends the individual to the Board of Trustees for the Award.

The Committee on Alumni Award is now receiving nominations for a recipient for the Alumni Award in May, 1952. A letter of nomination may be sent for any alumnus who meets the following qualifications:

- a. one who is singularly outstanding in his community
- b. one who has made a unique contribution of such importance to his community, state, or nation, as to merit public recognition

The letter of nomination should include information concerning the training of the nominee; the service he has rendered to and the achievement he has reached in his community; his past and present positions of responsibility; and any honors which have been accorded him.

Letters should be addressed *before February 15* to

REVEREND G. E. CHEEK, *Alumni Secretary*
Shaw University
Raleigh, North Carolina

