



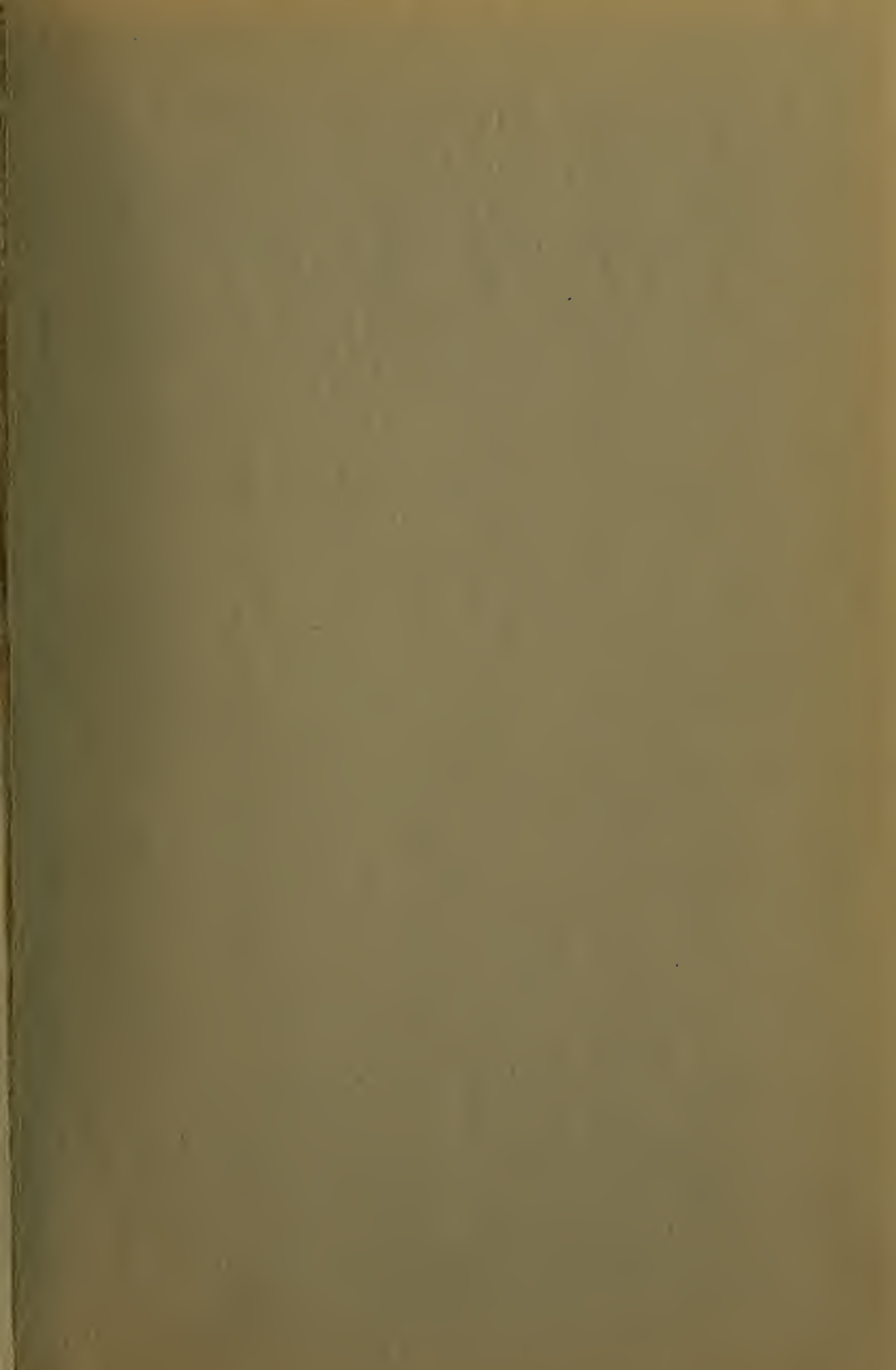
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# HOWARD COLLEGE BULLETIN

VOL. LXXXV

OCTOBER, 1927

NO. 4

## Howard College Studies

by members of the Faculty of Howard  
College, under the editorial supervision  
of President John C. Dawson

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Sixty Years of Howard College, 1842-1902.....  
.....Mitchell Bennett Garrett, Ph.D.

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## HOWARD COLLEGE STUDIES

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### SIXTY YEARS OF HOWARD COLLEGE 1842-1902

By MITCHELL BENNETT GARRETT, Ph.D.\*

#### CHAPTER I

##### ALABAMA IN THE THIRTIES

\*Dr. Garrett resigned from Howard College in June, 1927, to accept position as Professor of Modern European History at the University of North Carolina.

In 1830 the population of Alabama consisted of 190,406 whites, 119,121 negroes and an uncounted number of Indians. The whites and the negroes had come in from Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia, and had settled in the fertile Valley of the Tennessee and in the so-called Black Belt, leaving the mineral region in the north central part of the State comparatively unpopulated. Madison was the foremost county, having nearly twice as many inhabitants as any other. Limestone and Lawrence came next. Greene and Dallas led the counties of the Black Belt, with Tuscaloosa and Montgomery close behind. In the Western part of the State, the Choctaws had not yet ceded Sumter county; in the north-west, the Chickasaws still held a part of Franklin; in the north-east, the Cherokees occupied the counties of DeKalb, Cherokee and Marshall; while east of the Coosa river, the vast region which is embraced in the present counties of Calhoun, Cleburne, Clay, Randolph, Coosa, Chambers, Elmore, Tallapoosa, Lee, Macon, Russell, Bullock and Barbour, was still occupied by the warlike Creeks.

But the tenure of the Indians was well-nigh ended. By a series of treaties negotiated with the Federal Government in the early thirties, the tribes one by one ceded their lands in Alabama for new land beyond the Mississippi. The ceded lands were at once divided up into counties, immigrants rushed in, and by 1840 the population of the State had increased to 590,756.

An idea of what life was like in the Black Belt in the early thirties may be had from the following conversation with an old settler: "I came to Perry county in 1832 with Anderson West, who was speculating in negroes, and brought a drove with him at the time. Passing through the Creek Indians, we camped at Mt. Meggs, west of Montgom-

ery. Farmers were picking cotton and clearing land,—the axes were cutting until midnight, and an hour before day next morning. Camped near Marion on Saturday night. Negroes were cutting timber all night until sunrise Sunday. Marion was thronged with people on Sunday, talking about cotton and 'niggers.' Every man we met either wanted to buy a 'nigger' or to take a drink. Visited the section of the country between Marion and Hamburg, and west towards Greensboro. I had never seen negroes worked so hard or so poorly fed. One and a half pounds of meat and a peck of corn was the weekly allowance. Steel hand mills were used for grinding corn, and they were going all night. Many parched their corn and ate it. It looked to me as if the Devil had a clean bill of sale to all this country. But I caught the cotton and 'nigger' fever, and bought a negro next year, and the Yankees liberated ninety-two that I had collected."

As the majority of the first settlers of Alabama came from the older Southern States, they naturally brought with them the educational systems that there obtained. These systems produced private schools and academies, which were organized, conducted and supported independently of any State action. The most expected from the State was incorporation. This gave the trustees a legal existence and endowed them with full powers to conduct their business. No report to a State authority was at any time required; no supervision or inspection under public conduct was to be exercised. The State was content to give the schools official life and then let each work out its own salvation.

The school houses of those days beggared description—rude pine-pole cabins, with split logs benches without backs. Desks and blackboards were not used, but were subsequently introduced by young educators from the North. Pupils wrote with quill pens, on porous paper without lines;—only the advanced pupils had copy books. A plank nailed against the house served as a writing desk. Pupils were required to look on the book at all times during school hours, whether they understood a word of it or not. Little boys were perched on benches without backs so high that their feet could not touch the floor.

The school books in use were: The Testament, the American Reader, Murray's Grammar, Smiley's Arithmetic, and last, but by no means least, Webster's blue backed Spelling Book. Spelling was the principal study. Pupils were not only required to spell the lesson for the day, but to commit it to memory. Friday afternoons were devoted to "match spelling," when the school, divided into two classes, "tried to spell each other down." After the spelling book was mastered, pupils



were permitted to have a slate and a copy book and learn to read. One thing at the time was the rule.

Grammar and arithmetic were senior studies, and pupils pursuing them were permitted to "cipher" out of doors under a tree. These outdoor cipherers at times assisted the master in capturing some rebellious youth who, having vanquished the teacher in a scuffle in the school house, hoped to escape a whipping by a hasty flight through the woods.

Geography was not embraced in the curriculum proper. The manner of teaching it was as follows: The master formed his school in line and, marching inside or outside the house, he sang the States, capitals and rivers to some tune improvised by himself. After the same manner the multiplication table was also taught.

The teacher had his "Articles" and "Rules"—the former for the patrons, the latter as a guide in governing his school. The patrons assembled on the day of opening; the "Rules" were read and, if approved, the patrons signed the "Articles." A teacher's qualifications were judged by his "Rules," and the pedagogues of this period attempted to excel each other in the multiplicity of these useless, nonsensical regulations. The "Rules" were read Monday mornings, and the penalty for infraction was in every case a whipping. Thus, if Billy Jones inserted a pin into the leg of Skeeter Smith, the old master, with the dignity of a judge, would say: "William, you have broken *rule number nineteen of this school*. Please step forward," and a hickory withe, four feet long, would make the dust fly from Billy's trousers. Parents estimated their sons' progress at school by the number of whippings they received. If at any time the boy thrashed the teacher, the fond father was never so elated, and usually boasted of it in a quiet way to his neighbors, as evidencing his son's early physical development.

It was necessary to bar out a teacher to secure a holiday. If there should be a pond or brook nearby, the master received at least one ducking during the session. If the pupils were unable to do this, the patrons assembled some Friday afternoon to lend a helping hand. In 1840 a teacher not far from Marion, Alabama, was ducked by the patrons of the school until he was nearly drowned. He was carried to a deep hole in a creek and pitched in, and as fast as he crawled out he was thrown in again. This "fun" was kept up till the poor fellow, overcome with exhaustion, sank in a drowning condition, and with difficulty was dragged ashore and revived. Now all this was "just done in fun"—not a particle of malice in the affair, for the patrons were friends and neighbors of the teacher.

Jesse Nave of Marion once gave to a party of ladies at Shelby Springs the following account of his "graduating exercises:" "I studied Smiley's Arithmetic, Murray's Grammar and Webster's Spelling Book. I went through the spelling book sixty-four times, and memorized the entire book, from b-a, ba, to the boy in the apple tree. On examination day, in place of an oration, I repeated the book from memory, while the neighbors, seated around, followed me through the long columns of this interesting publication. My father gave me, as a reward for scholarly attainments, a red morocco hat."

Of supposedly higher grade than the academies, though not easily distinguishable from them, were a few seminaries and colleges supported by religious denominations. In 1830 La Grange College was founded in North Alabama by the Methodists, and conducted upon what has been called the "monastic" plan, which required a healthful site far from the haunts of men. But it had no endowment and little or no local patronage; the most strenuous efforts of the Conference failed to sustain it; and it was finally removed to Florence and became the progenitor of the Florence Normal School. Also in 1830 Spring Hill, or St. Joseph's College, was founded at Mobile by the Jesuit Fathers. Chartered in 1836 by the Legislature of Alabama, with all the rights and privileges of a university, and empowered to confer degrees, it was destined to become the oldest and best known institution in the State. In 1833 the Presbyterians established a Manual Labor Institute for boys at Marion and the Alabama Female Institute as a boarding school for girls at Tuscaloosa. The former became defunct in 1842 but the latter existed till 1870. Not to be outdone by other denominations, the Baptists, in 1836, established a Manual Labor Institute for boys at Greensboro and the Alabama Athenaeum for girls at Tuscaloosa. The former, as we shall see, came to an end the next year, but the latter lasted till 1845. In 1836, too, the Marion Female Seminary was founded by citizens of various denominations; the Baptist constituency, however, becoming dissatisfied with the arrangement, withdrew from the combination and founded the Judson Female Institute at Marion in 1838. All these institutions here mentioned, and a few others besides, were little more than academies with the co-educational feature eliminated. It was not thought quite proper in those days to educate adolescent girls and boys together in the same school.

Separate and distinct from the academies, and denominational seminaries and colleges, was the University of Alabama. The buildings of this institution were ready for use early in 1831, and in April of that year Dr. Alva Woods, native of Vermont, Baptist minister and graduate



of Harvard, was inaugurated president. Three professors and one tutor were also appointed. Fifty-two students entered the first day, and the number rose to nearly a hundred during the term. This fine prospect of a useful career was soon marred, however, by the disorderly behavior of the students who, before five years were out, forced the resignation of the entire faculty and brought about the temporary closing of the school.

Over the greater part of Alabama in the thirties there were no class distinctions. The State was too young for that. In the wilderness classes had fused, and the successful men were often those who had never been heard of in the older States. This does not mean that at Huntsville, Montgomery, Greensboro and Mobile there were not the beginnings of an aristocracy based on wealth, education and family descent; but these were small spots on the map, and there were no heart-burnings over social inequalities. The line between the slaveholder and the non-slaveholder was not sharply drawn. All alike were engaged in subduing the forest, tilling the rich virgin soil, and bettering their financial condition.

The period covering approximately the five years ending in 1837 has been given the undying appellation of "Flush Times in Alabama" by Joseph G. Baldwin, an early settler. Of this period he wrote: "That golden era when shin-plasters were the sole currency; when bank bills were as thick 'as Autumn leaves in Vallombrosa;' and credit was a franchise;" when to present a bill for collection was an insult!

Many causes contributed to bring about these inflated conditions, the result of which could only end in disaster. At that period there was a general atmosphere of unrest throughout the entire country. The population of every section was in a state of flux. The ambition to better their condition not only obtained among young men, but also animated men of families, who were prompted by the feeling that a change merited a better outlook for their children. Many men, too, had been failures in their old homes, and change was necessary for them if they were ever to accomplish anything in life. The removal of the Indians and the consequent enlargement of the public domain stimulated migration to Alabama, so that new communities sprang up almost overnight. The land was virgin and productive; bountiful harvest rewarded even limited labor; and good prices were paid for all products.

A State bank had been established in 1823, and from 1833 to 1836 branches were located in Montgomery, Mobile and Huntsville. These

institutions were intended to furnish money to the people, and the apparent profits were employed to meet the expenses of the State; but the bank management, dependent upon legislative favor, became involved in the politics of the day. When the crash came the banks suspended specie payments, and all classes of business stagnated. Farmers could not meet their obligations to the retailers. The wholesale merchants were helpless. Both farmers and merchants were without means to repay their loans to the banks. Paper money was uniformly refused, and in consequence commodities sold at greatly reduced prices because of the limited specie in circulation. Thousands of good men were ruined, and hundreds emigrated to newer States.

It was during these flush times, when bank bills were as thick as autumn leaves and credit was a franchise, that the Baptists made their first essay at founding a school in Alabama.

## CHAPTER II

## THE MANUAL LABOR INSTITUTE

The genesis of Baptist schools in Alabama can not be satisfactorily explained apart from the great missionary movement which arose among the American Baptists in the early years of the nineteenth century. In 1813 Luther Rice returned from India and began to arouse his new brethren to a consciousness of their world mission. The next year the General Baptist Convention was organized at Philadelphia, and Rice was appointed as its financial agent. During the next three or four years he traveled extensively in all the States of the Union, North and South, in an effort to awaken the Baptists to the importance of the new enterprise. But he often met with opposition and hostility, and he became convinced that the greatest enemy to foreign missions and denominational progress was ignorance. It seemed to him, and to many others also, that the most effective way to promote the cause of missions was to found schools for the education of Baptist leaders. So the appeal went forth to found schools.

When the question of a Baptist school in Alabama was first agitated, manual labor institutions were being tried out all over the United States and seemed to be working well. Such a plan of education had this great advantage, that no endowment was necessary for the support of the school. Once the farm was bought and paid for, and the necessary buildings and equipment provided, the school would be self-supporting. The students would study their books and recite their lessons in the forenoon and labor on the farm in the afternoon. From the products of the farm the members of the student body and the faculty would be fed, and from the sale of the surplus products would arise a profit sufficient to pay for the instruction and the administration of the school. In addition to this advantage, there was another almost as important. Physical culture would go hand in hand with literary culture and serve the same purpose as athletics do today. In the minds of our fathers the thought was always present that boys hardened by labor on the farm would be better fitted to endure the stress and strain incidental to missionary life; that is, they would become, as it were, hardened soldiers of Christ.

Given a fertile soil for the farm and a convenient market for the surplus products, there seemed to be no good economic reason why such an enterprise might not succeed. Accordingly, the Alabama Baptist State Convention, at its annual session in 1832, appointed Compere,

Travis and A. J. Holcombe a committee to prepare resolutions on the subject of "a Seminary of learning in the State of Alabama, on the Manual Labor Plan, for the education of indigent young men called to the ministry." This committee reported to the Convention at its next annual session, August, 1833:

"That in their opinion the cause of science and religion imperiously demands such an Institution; and that from the expression of public sentiment on the subject, it can be carried effectually into operation without delay. They would therefore recommend, that the Convention appoint a committee of five persons, whose duty it shall be to draft petitions, and appoint agents to circulate them for subscribers through the various parts of the State; to receive subscriptions, or donations; to examine such places as they may deem suitable for a site; to nominate suitable Trustees; and to obtain every possible information on the subject, and to report the same to a meeting of the Board, to be held in the Baptist church, in the town of Tuscaloosa, on Friday before the fourth Sabbath in November next; and that said committee, in conjunction with the Board, select a suitable site, and elect Trustees; and that the committee aforesaid use their exertions to have an act passed at the next Legislature vesting the Trustees with full corporate authority."

Whereupon the Convention, concurring fully in the views expressed in the above report, elected the following persons a committee, with authority to carry into execution the several objects therein expressed: A. G. McCraw, Joseph Ryan, Robert S. Foster, T. W. Cox, and Hosea Holcombe. In this action of the Convention was laid the foundation of the Manual Labor Institute, the first educational enterprise of the Alabama Baptists.

The meeting of the Board in November proved a failure, and the question of location was left undetermined. At the call of the president a quorum subsequently met in March, 1834, and appointed George Tucker and Hosea Holcombe agents to solicit subscriptions, and the last Friday in June as the time for the selection of a site. On the day appointed quite a number of places presented their claims. Those of Greensboro and Marion were the most prominent, the friends of each town offering a bonus of \$3,600 for the location. Since the Presbyterians had already located a Manual Labor Institute near Marion, it was deemed impractical to locate another in the same neighborhood. So

Greensboro was preferred. The Trustees accordingly selected as a site, and bought of Mr. James Hutchens for \$6,390, a tract of 355 acres lying one mile east of the town, to be paid for in three annual installments. About 200 acres of the land were in a state of cultivation.

To the Convention which met in Salem church near Greensboro, in November, 1834, the agents reported subscriptions amounting in the aggregate to about \$7,000. Collections were soon made on these subscriptions, and in due time the Trustees paid Mr. Hutchens \$2,130, the first installment on the land. At the same Convention, by recommendation of a special committee, the plan of the school was enlarged by the addition of a Literary to the hitherto exclusively contemplated Theological Department.

“It is believed by your committee,” says the report, “that the Principal of the school should be the Professor of Theology, and that no person should be selected until one eminently qualified can be procured. It is also believed that a Theological class can be made up so soon as that department can possibly be ready to go into operation.

“Your committee believe it to be of much importance that the Literary Department should go into operation early in the coming year. They therefore suggest to the Convention the propriety of selecting teachers who will be prepared to teach so soon as buildings can be erected for the reception of students. In the selection of such teachers your committee believe it to be of much importance that one should be procured who has had some experience in teaching at a Manual Labor Institution, for the obvious reason of avoiding the mistakes necessarily connected with inexperience and for the purpose of putting the Manual Labor Plan into immediate and successful operation.

“It is believed by your committee that a Professor of Languages and a Professor of Mathematics could find immediate employment, and that if the students become too numerous for these professors to attend to English Literature, then one should be selected exclusively for that purpose. Your committee consider it of much importance that a suitable Superintendent be procured to manage the Farm, and to board the Students, and that such person, if possible, be one who is acquainted with the business.”



By resolution of the Convention, Daniel P. Bestor (1) was requested to deliver lectures on Theology until a permanent professor could be procured.

At the annual session of the Convention in November, 1835, the Trustees of the Manual Labor Institution made the following report:

“Shortly after your last meeting, a contract was made to clear the campus for the Institution, at forty dollars, which was done in due time.

“In January, all the cleared land on the premises, (supposed to be about 200 acres) was rented at four dollars per acre. The dwelling house was also rented a part of the year, say seven months, at \$12.50 per month.

“In March, a contract was made for the erection of six dormitories, consisting of two rooms each, which will accommodate near fifty students. The sum to be paid for them, is two thousand seven hundred dollars. A house on the premises has been repaired and fitted for a dining room, and also furnished with tables and seats, at an expense of two hundred and forty dollars.

“An engagement has been made with Brother W. L. Williford, late Professor in Jackson College, Tennessee, to undertake[?], as Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, for a salary of one thousand dollars and the use of 20 acres of land for cultivate. [Footnote: ‘Brother Williford has arrived with his family, and is now on the premises.’]

“Brother Bestor has been chosen Professor of Theology—no salary stipulated—and requested to enter the Institution so soon as his present engagements shall have expired; but has not agreed to accept the appointment.

“Mr. James Packer has been chosen Steward and Farmer, with a stipulation of five hundred dollars salary, (all provisions, etc., being furnished by the Trustees). He has accepted the appointment and will probably arrive here about the first of January next.

“A contract has lately been made for building a Professor’s house, which will cost about one thousand four hundred dollars, and will probably be completed about the first of March next.”

(1) Daniel Perrin Bestor was born in Suffield, Connecticut, in February, 1797. After a thorough classical preparation, he went to Lexington, Kentucky, when a very young man and studied law. But under the preaching of the celebrated Dr. Fishback he was converted and began to preach at the age of twenty-two. He came to North Alabama about 1821, settled at LaGrange, established LaFayette Academy for young ladies, and was the pastor of several churches. In 1833 he removed to Greensboro and established another female academy which at once sprang into wide popularity. Preacher, teacher and planter, he was at this time one of the most prominent Baptist leaders in the State.

The Convention was well pleased with the report and, before the end of the session, adopted the following resolution :

“WHEREAS, We are informed that Brother Bestor anticipates making a tour through the northern States, during the next year,

“Therefore, *Resolved*, That we recommend to the Board of Trustees of the Manual Labor Institution, to put into his hands the means necessary to procure a Chemical and Philosophical apparatus, and to defray all attendant expenses.”

As an incentive, perhaps, to the students who would, from necessity, perform manual labor in the contemplated school, and to allow the example of the superiors to yield their most wholesome results, it was recommended by resolution—

“That the Convention recommend to the Trustees of the Manual Labor Institute, to make such provisions in their rules for the government of the Institution, that it shall be the duty of the professors to lead their respective classes in the performance of labor.”

Just whether or not the Trustees made such a regulation, the scanty records of the time do not state.

Instruction began on the third Monday in January, 1836, with thirty students in attendance. Before the end of the year, the number had increased to fifty. On February 15, the *Alabama Sentinel*, of Greensboro, began to carry from week to week the following announcement :

“GREENE COUNTY INSTITUTE  
of Literature and Industry

Is now in successful operation, and is open for the reception of a few more students. The price of board is one hundred dollars for the scholastic year. The tuition is thirty-two. The labor performed by each student, provided he works eleven hours per week, will amount to thirty-seven dollars, which deducted from the amount of board and tuition, leaves ninety-five dollars as the annual expense of each student ; or the price of board is ten dollars per month, the price of labor is eight cents an hour, eighty-eight cents a week and three dollars seventy-five cents per month, which, subtracted from ten, leaves six dollars thirty cents as the cost of

board per month. There is connected with this Institution a literary society for the improvement of students in public speaking.

A considerable sum has been subscribed by the students to obtain for themselves a library, and this amount has been increased by several honorary members. There is an instructor in the Ancient Languages; and Professor Williford, after an experience of more than twenty years, has gained just celebrity in teaching that most abstruse science, the Mathematics. With these prospects, it is believed the most ardent expectation of the friends and patrons of the Institution will be realized; since it is the determination of the instructors to spare no exertions to facilitate the progress of the students in useful literature. The course of instruction is similar to that of other Universities, but provision is also made for those who wish to pursue a scientific course of English Literature. Contingent expenses will be made known to those who offer for admission.

M. B. Clement, Secretary."

Greensboro, Ala., Feb. 15, 1836.

This is, for various reasons, an interesting and enlightening document. In the first place, one would never suspect from reading the announcement that this was a Baptist school. The secret is revealed only incidentally by the names of Williford and Clement, who were known to be Baptists. In the second place, it may be noted that only the Literary Department was in operation; the Theological Department for the benefit of indigent young men called to the ministry had not yet been organized. Thirdly, since the students could spare money for the purchase of a library for their library society, we would infer that they were not all indigent young men, obliged to work their way through school, but were sons of planters, probably, with considerable means at their disposal. Evidently, then, the manual labor feature of the school was not designed primarily to afford the students an opportunity for self-help but as a disciplinary measure—to give the students physical exercise and to teach the sons of planters how to labor with their hands. The paltry sum of eighty-eight cents a week which a student might earn on the farm could hardly have been a powerful incentive to labor, for it would pay only one-third of his board bill and none of his tuition. Of course the profits of the farm, if indeed there should be any profits, would benefit the students indirectly by making it possible for the school authorities to reduce the cost of board and tuition; but how could



a student be expected to appreciate this fact and to labor, not for himself directly, but for the benefit of the school community as a whole of which he was only a part? To supply the proper incentive, the professors would indeed have "to lead their respective classes in the performance of labor" and resort extensively to moral suasion besides.

The instructional staff was composed of Professors W. L. Williford, M. B. Clement and F. C. Lowry. Professor Williford had been imported from Tennessee because of his reputed experience with manual labor institutions. "Although he was a most excellent man," wrote the beloved old Hosea Holcombe two years later, "he was not in favour of the Manual Labor Plan; which circumstance proved detrimental to its progress." Thus the Trustees, in their anxiety for the prosperity and advancement of their institution, had committed the indiscretion of selecting for their principal teacher a man who had little faith in the success of their project. The other two professors were Baptist ministers of no great prominence.

By a stretch of our historical imagination, we can now picture to ourselves this first Baptist school in Alabama. On the campus were six little wooden dormitories, each with two rooms and a chimney between. In the midst of this group of buildings was the old farm house now fitted up as a recitation hall. Nearby was the barn now used as a dining hall. Professor Williford and his family occupied a dwelling house recently constructed and hardly yet finished. In the early morning fifteen or twenty dormitory students might be seen going to breakfast in the dining hall where a negro cook and a negro waiter supplied the food. Toward eight o'clock, Professors Clement and Lowry and the day students came in from Greensboro a mile away, and the instruction of the day began. There was an intermission for lunch, and at two or three in the afternoon school was out. Professors Clement and Lowry and the day students now returned to town; but Professor Williford, laying aside his books on "that most abstruse science, the Mathematics," undertook the lead the dormitory students to the farm for two hours of manual labor. A hateful task! Even Professor Williford was heard to complain of it, and among the students each afternoon there was of course a long list of invalids.

But when the Convention met in November, 1836, the Trustees reported—

"We feel highly gratified to have it in our power to state that the institution under our control is, at this time, in a flourishing condition, and presents flattering prospects of future usefulness to

the community. It has not yet, as you know, been in operation twelve months and may be justly regarded as in its infancy, and will require time as well as industry on the part of those under whose fostering care it is placed, to acquire a character abroad, especially one like this that is supported by private munificence. It has increased the present session from thirty to fifty students. It will no doubt be a source of high gratification to you to be informed that harmony and good order have prevailed in the institution, and that the students perform the tour of labor assigned them with cheerfulness. They have raised on the farm this year about seven hundred bushels of corn and about one hundred and fifty bushels of potatoes.

“In forming a judgment in respect to the result of labor, due regard should be had to the number and size of the students, *many of whom were small*. Since our last report a professor’s house (which was then under contract) and an additional dormitory have been completed together with some small items which need not be mentioned here. . . . .

“In conclusion, we beg leave to acknowledge, in humble gratitude to Almighty God, the signal display of His divine power in our Institution. Seven of our students have been constrained to yield to all the conquering power of divine grace and have been the happy subject of its renovating power, and have since been added to the church by Baptism.”

The Convention was well pleased with the progress of its infant institution, and appropriated \$200 for the purchase of a school library and endorsed a plan for raising \$50,000 as a permanent endowment. The plan of endowment was for the subscriber to pay the interest annually on the amount of his subscription, and at the end of ten years to pay the principal, which was to be retained and the interest only expended.

Meanwhile, brethren in the Convention were asking what provision was being made for “the benefit of indigent young men called to the ministry.” This original purpose of the school, as Hosea Holcombe mournfully writes, “was rather lost sight of.” Accordingly a special committee on the question was appointed, and reported the next day:

“Whereas much inquiry is made by many of our brethren respecting the use the Convention will make of its Institution, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

“*Resolved*, 1st. That the primary objects of the Convention in relation to the Institution was the improvement of the ministry of our denomination, by affording to our young ministers, who do not possess the means necessary for their own improvement, such aid as may be in our power, which persons shall be distinguished by the term *beneficiaries*.

“*Resolved*, 2d. That as a prerequisite to admission as beneficiaries, the applicants shall be members of some regular Baptist church and licensed by her to preach the Gospel; shall present from their churches vouchers for good moral character; shall undergo an examination by the Board of Directors relative to a change of grace and a call to the ministry, and shall make it appear that they have not the means to support themselves while pursuing their studies.

“*Resolved*, 3d. That the beneficiaries shall pursue such studies as they and the Board may think best, and preach as much as practicable.

“*Resolved*, 4th. That should a beneficiary become immoral, in the judgment of the Faculty, he shall appear at a meeting of the Faculty and Trustees; and should he not give satisfaction, the Faculty and Trustees shall have power to dismiss him from the benefits of the Institution.”

The adoption of these resolutions put the Convention on record as still favoring ministerial education, but it did little more. The establishment of the Theological Department would have to await the result of the endowment campaign and the experiment of the manual labor feature of the school. How long would it be before the profits of the farm would warrant the admission of a few free boarders to the dining hall?

The school year ended in November, and there followed two months of vacation. In January, 1837, the second scholastic year began. This turned out to be a year of great financial stringency—the celebrated panic of 1837, and subscriptions to the Manual Labor Institute could not be paid by the subscribers. The school was heavily in debt for its running expenses; and in April, just as the season arrived for planting another crop, an unfortunate dissension arose among the professors and the school was temporarily closed. The Trustees made an heroic attempt to pay off the indebtedness, which now amounted to \$6,000 or \$7,000, and to set the school on its feet again; but, owing to the financial stringency, none of the subscriptions could be collected.

In the quaint language of Hosea Holcombe: "Times had been, and recently too, when everything, with regard to pecuniary matters, appeared to prosper and to flourish;—but now the pressure was great." Creditors sued the Trustees for considerable sums and were likely to sue in other cases. So the Convention, when it met in December, 1837, ordered the property sold as soon as possible. Ninety-five acres of the land were bought by Daniel P. Bestor, and the rest went to other purchasers. From the proceeds of the sale the Convention paid off all indebtedness and had \$2,000 left over. This was made the nucleus of a fund for the assistance of indigent young preachers who needed books and private instruction.

For three or four years after the fiasco at Greensboro, the Convention did the best it could with the resources at its disposal. In 1838 it appointed Jesse Hartwell, James H. DeVotie, William C. Crane, Daniel P. Bestor and A. G. McCraw as a Board of Education,

"whose duty it shall be to receive application from any young minister who may desire to receive instruction; to place him under the private tuition of some minister of our denomination, to whom he may have access, and who may be willing and competent to instruct him; and to appropriate to his use the funds of the Convention, intended for education purposes, which are now in the Treasury, or may hereafter be collected, according as his necessities may require.

"That when a competent instructor cannot be obtained for a worthy applicant, the Board shall have power to purchase suitable books for his use and study."

In 1839 the committee on education reported to the Convention "that from documents forwarded by the Board of Education, it appears that two individuals have received aid during the past year, and various others have been supplied with books, either as a loan or a donation. Your committee would propose the following resolutions:

"*Resolved*, 1st. That the sum of \$100 be expended for books, which together with those on hand, shall be loaned or presented to our ministers, at their own discretion.

"*Resolved*, 2d. That the Board of Education be instructed to receive as many beneficiaries as can be maintained by the funds on hand for this object, and that the Treasurer be ordered to hold said funds subject to the order of the Board. . . . .

“Each beneficiary shall be required, at least once in each half year, to obtain from his teacher and forward to the Board a report of his progress in study, and of his general conduct.”

But of course such sporadic assistance was meant only to be temporary. In 1840 the committee on education recommended to the Convention—

“That the Board of Education be requested to enquire relative to the most suitable plan and place for the establishment and location of a Theological school, and to report to the Convention at its next annual meeting.”

The scene now shifts to Marion. But before we go, let us note in passing, that the school established by the Baptist Convention at Greensboro was not a *bona fide* Manual Labor Institute for ministerial students. Though Hosea Holcombe and others desired it to be such,—a sort of School of Prophets like that which existed for a time at High Hills of Santee in South Carolina,—the plan was modified, largely by the influence of Daniel P. Bestor, and the school was made first of all a Literary Institution, to which a Theological department was later to be added. Since the enterprise failed before the Theological department was added, there were never, in all probability, any ministerial students in this Manual Labor Institute at Greensboro.



## CHAPTER III

## THE FOUNDING OF HOWARD COLLEGE

In 1841 Marion was a pleasant village of some twelve hundred inhabitants. The leading citizen of the place was Gen. E. D. King, who had come to Alabama when it was still a Territory and begun life in a log cabin. From a poor man and a pioneer, he soon became the proprietor of broad acres, the lord of many slaves, and the richest man in Perry county. "Calm and self-reliant, endowed with an iron will and an unconquerable energy, simple and transparent, always guided by sound judgment, direct and going straight to the mark," as a contemporary characterizes him, he was destined to become the keystone of the arch which supported Baptist education in Alabama. By his side stood Milo P. Jewett. Born in the North, Rev. M. P. Jewett was traveling in his own conveyance through the South, in 1838, seeking a good location for establishing a girls' school. At Tuscaloosa he met Gen. King and followed him to Marion, to become the founder and first principal of the Judson Female Institute. The new pastor of the Marion Baptist church was James H. DeVotie. Born in Oneida county, New York, in 1813; baptized at Savannah, Georgia, in 1831, he afterwards attended the Furman Theological Seminary, then located at High Hills of Santee, Sumter District, South Carolina. He was ordained by Jesse Hartwell and Joseph B. Cook in 1833 and came to Alabama two years later. After serving the church at Montgomery for one year and the church at Tuscaloosa for four years, he came to Marion, where he remained for fourteen years.

One afternoon, early in 1841, these three gentlemen met in one of the lower front rooms of the new Judson building for a few minutes of friendly conversation. During the conversation Gen. King, looking through one of the front windows, called the attention of his companions to a lot situated at the terminus of the street directly in front of them, and remarked: "There is the very place for a male college." Acting on the suggestion thus thrown out, Rev. James H. DeVotie proceeded shortly afterwards to raise funds for the purchase of the lot mentioned, with the old building upon it—the same old building in which the Judson had commenced its career of usefulness. Soon the necessary funds were raised, the purchase was made, and the property passed into the hands of the Baptists of Marion.

In November, 1841, the Baptist State Convention met at Talladega, which was then a small frontier town. The session was thinly attended.

We note the absence of the President, Jesse Hartwell, and of the two Vice Presidents, Hosea Holcombe and J. Ryan. We note the absence also of other prominent leaders, such as Daniel P. Bestor, A. G. McCraw and J. L. Dagg. Among those present were S. Henderson, A. J. Holcombe, William C. Crane, S. Lindsley, T. Chilton, W. P. Chilton, J. F. Henderson, A. W. Chambliss, J. H. DeVotie, F. N. Tarrant and B. P. Curry. Thomas Chilton, of Talladega, was elected President and two men of no special prominence were elected Vice Presidents. At the appropriate time in the session, Rev. James H. DeVotie offered to make the Convention a present of the property which the Baptists of Marion had recently purchased, on condition, however, that a male college be established at Marion under the patronage of the Convention. This proposition was referred to the committee on education consisting of James H. DeVotie, chairman; Dr. William Carey Crane, of Montgomery, and Dr. A. W. Chambliss. The report of this committee, drafted by Crane and DeVotie, caused a spirited debate in the Convention. Some of the members thinking its recommendations rather strong, it was recommitted, modified, and adopted as follows:

1. The establishment of a Theological Institution, connected with the college hereinafter established.
2. The expediency and importance of establishing and endowing a university or college of a high character.
3. The appointment of an agent or agents to raise \$100,000 for the endowment of four professorships, and \$50,000 for buildings and apparatus.
4. That these sums be raised by subscriptions, the interest payable annually and the principal secured by notes or sealed bonds, payable within five years or in cash on hand.
5. That all indigent young men of approved talents and piety, who shall have been licensed by regular Baptist churches in Alabama to preach the Gospel, have their tuition in both the Literary and Theological Departments gratis.
6. That the location be at Marion, Perry County, and that the Convention accept the building and lot offered by the brethren of Marion.
7. That a board of thirteen trustees be appointed to control said institution, to whom all subscriptions shall be made payable and by whom, when they shall have become a corporate body, all property belonging to the institution shall be held.

8. That the college shall begin operations as soon as \$50,000 of permanent fund shall be secured, but no debt beyond the amount actually secured by subscriptions shall be contracted.

9. That should the Trustees deem it expedient a classical school may be opened in said building and continued until the \$50,000 shall have been raised, provided no expense to the Convention be incurred.(1)

After the adoption of the report, the Convention, on motion of Dr. A. W. Chambliss, united in solemn prayer, invoking the blessings of God on this great enterprise.

It was indeed a great enterprise, one for which the fears more than balanced the hopes. Daniel P. Bestor, a trustee and warm supporter of the school, on being invited to remove to Marion, replied: "I learn from your letters that the wind work of your school is well done. I will come when the \$50,000 is ready, and I think about a thousand years before that time; but I hope you will go ahead."

And go ahead they did. However the name may have originated, (2) Howard College was chartered by the General Assembly of Alabama on December 29, 1841, and empowered to confer academic honors and degrees. At the suggestion of Rev. Milo P. Jewett, the Trustees invited Mr. Samuel Sterling Sherman, then tutor in the University of Alabama, to come to Marion and assume charge of the classical school which should serve as a nucleus of the proposed college.

Mr. Sherman was then twenty-six years old. Born in Vermont of a long line of New England ancestors, he passed his early years on his father's farm, with such educational advantages as the district school afforded. At the age of nineteen, he entered Middlebury College, which was then a struggling institution without endowment but with a competent faculty. As in other colleges of the period, Latin and Greek and Mathematics were the principal studies, to which were added in the junior and senior years Moral Philosophy taught by the venerable president and Natural Philosophy, which included many subjects now classed as distinct sciences. But the studies of the college were such and so arranged that an industrious student could teach a district school three

(1) Unfortunately I have been able to examine only a mutilated copy of the *Minutes* of the Alabama Baptist State Convention for 1841. The above recommendations have been pieced together from the following sources: An "Alabama Baptist History," compiled by Benj. B. Davis, Secretary of the Convention, from Hosea Holcombe's *History of the Alabama Baptists* and the *Minutes* of the Convention. The compiler says in an introductory note that he uses almost the exact words of his sources. And a contribution by James H. DeVotie to the *Alabama Baptist*, June 9, 1887. Since both authorities are in substantial agreement, I feel confident that the phraseology here given is an almost exact reproduction of the original.

(2) Tradition has it that Howard College was named after John Howard, an English prison reformer, who died on January 20, 1790, and who was probably a Baptist. Just who gave the college this name cannot now be ascertained, but it is a safe guess, I think, that the nominator was Milo P. Jewett.



months, the usual length of the winter school, and not fall behind his classes. Young Sherman took advantage of this arrangement to earn the greater part of his expenses while in college. When he graduated in 1838, he felt that teaching was the only vocation for which he was in any degree qualified, and so he determined to teach—at least, for a few years.

Health prompted him to seek a warmer climate. On mentioning his wishes to one of his professors, the latter said that he had some acquaintance with Dr. Basil Manly, an eminent Baptist minister of Charleston, and would kindly inquire of him if there was an opening for a teacher in that city. Meantime, Dr. Manly had been elected President of the University of Alabama and had removed to Tuscaloosa; but the letter was forwarded, and the Doctor replied promptly that a competent teacher would do well in Tuscaloosa, and invited Sherman to come there at once. This he decided to do.

After many adventures by land and sea, he reached Tuscaloosa about six weeks after leaving his home in Vermont. Dr. Manly received him with much kindness and introduced him to Governor Bagby and to Chief Justice Collier. All three assured him that a good school preparatory to the University was much needed and offered him their names as references. He acted upon their suggestion and issued notice that he would open a private school on January 1, 1839, limiting the number of pupils to twenty, and charging \$100 per session of ten months. The proposed number of pupils soon applied, but in the meantime the Trustees of the University held their annual meeting, and he was re-elected tutor and accepted, a decision that he never had occasion course Dr. Manly was responsible for this unexpected honor, but the salary was only \$1,000 a year, half as much as he expected to make from his private school. So he declined the appointment. A couple of days later Dr. Manly called and advised him to accept the tutorship, giving as his reasons that the duties were light, never more than two recitations a day, and affording ample time for self-improvement. By discharging the duties of librarian, which were only nominal, he could add another hundred dollars to his salary. So he changed his mind, was re-elected tutor and accepted, a decision that he never had occasion to regret. Through his friendship with the president and other members of the faculty, and his semi-official position in the University, he had access to the best society of the city, which was then the capital of the State and its principal seat of learning.

Accepting the invitation to Marion, he found the prospects, on his arrival there, far from encouraging. Not a dollar had been contributed or even promised to the school. There was provided, however, the old frame building which the Baptists of Marion had recently purchased. There was also, in print, at the office of the local newspaper, a flaming announcement that "Howard University" would soon open for the reception of students in the spacious building lately occupied by the Judson Female Institute. He did not like the outlook and felt discouraged; but the resident trustees and friends of the enterprise assured him that the denomination was ripe for the harvest, that agents would soon be in the field to collect funds for buildings and endowment, and that in the meantime he would certainly have a large and remunerative private school. He did not attach much importance to all this, but having put his hand to the plow he resolved not to look back. So he went to the printing office and substituted for the flaming announcement the modest notice that the Howard English and Classical School was about to open for the reception of pupils.

The school opened as announced on January 3, 1842, with nine boys in attendance.

In the possession of Howard College today is the old registration book containing, in Mr. Sherman's handwriting, the names of the boys who matriculated from week to week and year to year. Under date of January 3, 1842, the following names were entered: John T. Barron, Thomas Booth, William Miller, Thomas A. Cravens, William D. King, William Blassengame, S. E. Goree, Thomas J. Anderson, and T. A. J. Oliver. These are the famous nine. Eight of them were from Marion and one, Thomas J. Anderson, was from Montgomery. The first mentioned on the list was the son of Mrs. Julia A. Barron, a wealthy widow, known for her liberality to the Judson Institute and now to the Howard school. William D. King had as his "Parent or Guardian" Gen. E. D. King—probably son and father. As eight of the boys were listed as taking the "English and Classical Course," we would infer that they were not very small boys—probably fourteen to sixteen years old. Before the end of the first week, two more boys entered and were given the "English-Classical Course." During the second week three more entered; but they do not seem to have been so well prepared, for one was given the "English-Science Course" and the other two were classified as "Preparatory." The last two were, in all probability, *small* boys. A note after the name of one of them reads: "A little truant—came only three days." All told, there were thirty-one entrants during

the first session, which closed at the end of June, 1842. Twenty-one were from Marion and the rest were from elsewhere—from such places as Mulberry, Centreville, Greene county, Selma, Nachitoches, Wilcox county, etc. The boy from Centreville was dubbed “So dull he couldn’t learn—and left May 16.” Nine of the thirty-one were in the Preparatory class; seven classified as English-Science; fourteen as English-Classical, and one as Common English. A note gives this information: “S. S. Sherman—only teacher—except during the last two or three weeks, when he employed S. Lindsley to assist.”

The tuition for the first term did not pay Sherman’s board bill. But on September 1, 1842, the second term opened more favorably—twenty-five pupils the first day, and Rev. Solon Lindsley was retained on the teaching force. By the end of September, there were forty-two pupils, and by the end of the scholastic year, June, 1843, there were seventy-seven. This increase of prosperity was due in part at least to the failure of the Manual Labor Institute which the Presbyterians had established a couple of miles from town. Mr. Sherman was able not only to secure some of the pupils of the defunct school but also to rent, and ultimately to purchase, its scientific apparatus. Then he collected a library for his school by rolling a wheelbarrow from house to house in Marion and asking for books.

By this time Professor Sherman was becoming better acquainted with the situation and gaining courage. He found that the Baptist denomination in Alabama was really large and wealthy, and that there had long been a feeling among the more intelligent that a better educated ministry was much needed. Believing that something could be done in this direction, he proposed to the Board of Trustees that an effort be made to endow a chair of Theology. He knew that for several years to come there would be little demand for instruction in Theology, but in the meantime such a professor could render valuable service by teaching in the Literary Department. The Trustees promptly adopted his suggestion and reported to the Convention, which met in November, 1842, the following plan for the endowment of such a chair:

1. That there be established, in connection with the Institution now in operation, a PROFESSORSHIP OF THEOLOGY, *for the purpose of giving instruction to pious young men who bring evidence of their call to the ministry from the churches to which they belong.*

2. That said Professorship be supported by the proceeds of an independent fund of Twenty Thousand Dollars, which shall be called the Permanent Theological Fund.

3. That the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars be raised for the purpose of erecting a suitable building, purchasing apparatus, etc.

4. That the said funds be raised on the following plan, viz: All subscriptions *under* One Hundred Dollars to be payable on or before the first of January, 1844, and to be applied to building and other purposes. All subscriptions *of* One Hundred Dollars and *over* be applied to the Permanent Theological Fund, and made payable on or before the first day of January, 1848, with annual interest from the first day of January, 1843.

5. That no subscription to the Permanent Theological Fund be obligatory, until the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars is subscribed to the same.

6. That one or more Agents be appointed, who shall enter upon his or their duties immediately after the adjournment of the Baptist State Convention.

7. That said Agents be required to close all subscriptions by Note or sealed Bond, at the time of taking the same."

In an address drafted by the Convention and distributed among the ministers of the State, the following statement was made:

"The Theological School is now attempted. It is to be an organization distinct in its operations and funds from Howard College."

Rev. James H. DeVotie took the field, on December 1, 1842, as the financial agent of the College to raise the proposed endowment. When the Convention met in November, 1843, the Trustees reported the following amounts raised: Permanent Theological Fund, \$19,403.69; building and other purposes, \$960. Proceeding, the Trustees said:

"In expectation that the proposed fund would soon be complete, your Board deemed it advisable to take such steps as would secure the services of a professor with as little delay as necessary. After corresponding with several brethren, Rev. J. L. Dagg, of Tuscaloosa, was elected, but declined the appointment. The Rev. Jesse Hartwell was subsequently elected by a unanimous vote of the Board. He has accepted, and is expected to enter upon the duties of his professorship at the beginning of the ensuing year. The number of Theological students will probably be small at first. Several have applied for admission, and have been invited to enter with the promise of pecuniary assistance from friends in Marion.



“Your Board would suggest the propriety of appointing a committee to examine applicants as to their religious experience and call to the ministry; also, to receive funds contributed for their support, and disburse the same agreeably to such regulations and provisions as the Convention, in its wisdom, may ordain.

“The first object of your Board being to complete the Permanent Fund, but little effort has yet been made for a building. The present house has been so far repaired as to render it comfortable, though less spacious than is needed. A dwelling house, situated near the premises, has accordingly been rented for the current year. The Board has also under consideration the purchase of a lot adjoining the one now occupied. The site is thought peculiarly favorable; and the house now on it will be of service until such time as their means will justify them in attempting one on a larger plan.”

The Trustees also announced that they had assumed the responsibility of paying fixed salaries to the teaching force. The two professors, literary and theological, were each to receive \$1,500 a year, and the preparatory teacher, \$750. As assistant in the preparatory department, the Rev. A. A. Connella had been employed for half-time teaching at a salary of \$375. The name of the school was now, in the fall of 1843, changed to the Howard Literary and Theological Institute. The library of 324 volumes of miscellaneous works, which belonged to the defunct Manual Labor Institute at Greensboro, was now added to the Howard library, making a total of about a thousand volumes.

The new Professor of Theology, Rev. Jesse Hartwell, arrived in Marion on January 1, 1844. He was a Northern man. Born in Massachusetts, educated at Brown University in Rhode Island, he had slowly drifted southward, preaching and teaching, a veritable pioneer in noble enterprises. In 1828 the Furman Theological Institution was established by the Baptist Convention of South Carolina at High Hills of Santee, and Jesse Hartwell was one of its first professors, building the first house at his own expense. Six years he labored in this position, having for pupils such men as James H. DeVotie, W. H. McIntosh, Edward Lathrop, W. J. Hard, H. A. Duncan, George Kempton and others. In 1836 he arrived in Alabama and acted for a short time as agent for the Foreign Mission Board. In 1837 he took charge of the Carlowville church and preached occasionally in Montgomery. In 1839 he was elected President of the Baptist State Convention and presided over its deliberations for several years. While resident in Marion

as Professor of Theology, he acted as President of the Board of Domestic Missions and contributed weekly to the columns of the *Alabama Baptist*. In 1848 he removed to Arkansas and later to Louisiana, still pioneering in noble enterprises.

“Dr. Hartwell was not a brilliant man,” wrote Rev. E. B. Teague in 1859, “but a man of sound abilities, great industry and application, and became one of the ablest linguists and theologians in the South. . . . When in the Alabama Convention, it was desired to pour out our hearts for some signal mark of the divine favor, we almost invariably called upon Brother Hartwell to be our mouth-piece at the throne of grace; and none who heard him will forget how humbly, fervently, rapturously, he performed that service. He was a man of prayer, and rose to an eloquence and a power, in that exercise, far above himself.”

When Dr. Hartwell entered upon his duties in the Howard Institute, he found four young men waiting to begin their study of Theology. These were Samuel C. Johnson, of Conecuh county; Valentine VanHoose and Azor VanHoose, of Pontotoc county, Mississippi; and H. B. Mathis, of Tuscaloosa. But their attainments were not such as to render it advisable for them to begin this subject. So they were distributed among the classes of the Literary Department. Before the year was out, three others entered,—Powhatan E. Collins, of Mobile; Matthew Bishop, of Talladega; and J. J. Bradford, of Sumter county—and were likewise distributed among the literary classes. These were, so far as known, the first ministerial students to enter a Baptist school in Alabama.

The ease with which the Professorship of Theology had been endowed encouraged the Trustees to attempt greater things, and it was resolved to begin the endowment of the college proper. But only a few subscriptions had been obtained, when the large frame building which had sheltered the institution hitherto was consumed by fire and all efforts to raise the endowment were immediately suspended. The fire occurred on May 10, 1844—fortunately at midday, and citizens promptly joined the students in saving nearly all the more valuable contents. The library and most of the apparatus were removed to places of safety; the frailer part of the chemical apparatus alone was destroyed. In what manner the fire originated is not known, there having been none in the building for several weeks previous.

On the day following the fire, a public meeting of the citizens of Marion was held, the strongest sympathy was expressed by all denominations and parties, and a subscription of more than \$8,000 was made.

The ladies of Marion undertook to repair the loss of the chemical apparatus by the work of their own hands, and a successful fair realized enough for the purpose. Within a short time the Trustees purchased a lot adjacent to the former premises, and exactly facing the Judson Institute, and let a contract for the erection thereon of a larger and better building. When the question of location arose, Gen. E. D. King, who exerted great influence by reason of his great wealth and force of character, said: "The boys' school must stand face to face with the girls' school, with no obstruction between." And this was resolved upon. The street was to lead from the front gate of the front yard of the Judson directly to the front gate of the front yard of the Howard. The distance between the two schools was three city blocks.

But the Baptists of the State did not respond to the ardor of the citizens of Marion. For lack of money the dimensions of the original plan of the proposed new building had to be reduced, and two years elapsed before the building was completed. Meanwhile, classes were held in the Baptist church and a dwelling house nearby, which was rented for the purpose, and the students were cared for in the homes of the citizens.

At the close of the scholastic year 1844-45, while the Howard Institute was still housed in temporary quarters, Professor Sherman issued his first annual catalogue. It shows that there were in attendance during the year 114 students, of whom 47 were in the preparatory Department. The following were ministerial students: P. E. Collins, of Mobile; Samuel C. Johnson, of Conecuh county; H. B. Mathis, of Tuscaloosa; J. A. Collins, of St. Clair county; W. R. Meador, of Sumter county; A. O. Blackwood, of Perry county; and Joseph Mitchell, of Bibb county. The faculty consisted of Samuel S. Sherman, M. A., Professor of Natural Philosophy; Rev. Jesse Hartwell, M. A., Professor of Theology; Rev. Solon Lindsley, M. A., Principal of the Preparatory Department; and Monsieur Pierre Raté, Teacher of Modern Languages. But Rev. Solon Lindsley was not actively on the teaching force this year. He was given a leave of absence and sent out by the Trustees as financial agent for the school, and Rev. O. Rockwell temporarily took his place in the school room. During the first five months of the year, Mr. P. Murrat, a student registered from Perry county, served as assistant in the Preparatory Department, and during the second five months Mr. William L. Moseley, a student from Cahaba, relieved Murrat.

Nothing of particular importance occurred during the academic year 1845-46. Rev. Solon Lindsley, who returned from his agency to

resume his teaching as head of the Preparatory Department, was permanently succeeded at the end of the first term by R. S. Lewis. W. L. Moseley remained as assistant throughout the year.

By this time the number of students in the higher classes had largely increased; the course of studies had been extended until it included all the usual college curriculum, and it seemed advisable to organize regular college classes. Accordingly, the Trustees, early in July, 1846, passed the following resolutions:

*“Resolved,* That the Faculty be requested to prepare and present to the Board before the beginning of the ensuing term, the schedule of a complete course of collegiate studies, embracing the usual period of four years, and classified accordingly.

*“Resolved,* That, as there are now in the institution students of the requisite stages of advancement to constitute three regular classes, namely, Freshman, Sophomore and Junior, said classes be organized at the beginning of the next term.

*“Resolved,* That immediate efforts be made to obtain means for the support of an additional instructor, and that agents now employed, and those hereafter appointed, be directed to use every exertion to secure the amount necessary for the above purposes.

*“Resolved,* That the Faculty be requested to prepare and present to the Board, at their earliest convenience, a code of laws, embracing such general rules and regulations as will be necessary for the government of the institution, and the successful management of all its interests.”

This plan was carried out, and thenceforth the institution assumed the name and privileges conferred by its charter, Howard College.

When college opened in September, 1846, the new building was ready for occupancy. It was a large brick structure four stories high, including the basement, which was half a storey above ground. The basement and first floor contained a chapel and rooms of convenient size for laboratory, library, recitations and professors' offices. On the two top floors were rooms used by students as dormitories. As there were no fire-escapes other than the stairways inside the building, one shudders as he thinks of the terrible possibility of a midnight fire.

To the Faculty was now added A. B. Goodhue. Born in New Boston, New Hampshire, and married to a lady who was born in Hancock, New Hampshire, Professor Goodhue came to Claiborne, Alabama, in 1845, and taught for one year in the Claiborne Academy. Coming to Howard in October, 1846, he was destined to serve the col-



lege through the dark period of civil war and reconstruction and, after a long absence, to return in 1893 and to die in its service.

When the Convention met at Marion in November, 1846, it formally dedicated the new college building and passed the following resolution:

“Whereas, the Convention cordially approves of the course pursued by the Board of Trustees of Howard College in their laudable efforts to elevate the literary character of the institution—therefore,

“*Resolved*, That this body make vigorous efforts to raise, during the next five years, the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars for the purpose of more amply endowing the College and placing it at once upon a permanent and honorable foundation.”

## CHAPTER IV

## THE FIRST EIGHT YEARS AS A COLLEGE

Howard assumed the status of a college in the fall of 1846. At the end of the academic year, the Trustees formally appointed Professor Sherman President. He had hitherto discharged the duties of that position without the formal title, and the success of his labors induced the hope that the institution would continue to grow under his direction. Measured by standards of the present day, Howard was not yet a great institution; but in that day and generation Howard suffered very little by comparison with the University of Alabama.

Some notion of the standard of scholarship maintained at the time may be had from a glance at the following transcription from the catalogue of 1848-49:

“The following text books are used in this institution, preparatory to the regular classes: Bullion’s English Grammar; Olney’s Geography; Davies’ Arithmetic and Algebra; Willard’s History of the United States; Ruschenburger’s Series of First Books in Natural History; Andrews and Stoddard’s Latin Grammar; Arnold’s First and Second Latin Books; Andrews’ Latin Reader; Anthon’s Caesar, Sallust and Virgil; Sophocles’ Greek Grammar; Anthon’s Greek Reader; the Greek Testament.

## Freshman Class

First Term.—Algebra, (Davies’ Bourdon); Latin, (Odes of Horace;) Greek, (Xenophon’s Anabasis;) Ancient Geography, (Mitchell.)

Second Term.—Geometry commenced, (Davies’ Legendre;) Latin, (Epistles and Satires of Horace;) Greek, (Gr. Majora;) Ancient Geography, (Mitchell;) Exercises in Latin Composition.

## Sophomore Class

First Term.—Geometry finished, (Davies’ Legendre;) Trigonometry, plain and spherical, (Davies’;) Latin, (Folsom’s Livy;) Greek, Homer’s Iliad;) Greek and Roman Antiquities, (Bojesen;) Exercises in Latin Composition; French commenced.

Second Term.—Mensuration, (Davies;) Surveying, (Davies;) Analytical Geometry, (Davies;) Differential and Integral Calculus, (Davies;) Latin, (Terence;) Greek, (Gr. Majora;) Logis, (Hedge;) French, (Charles XII or Telemachus.)

Junior Class

First Term.—Mechanics, Hydrostatics and Pneumatics, (Olmsted;) Chemistry commenced, (Draper;) Greek, (OEdipus, Tyrannus or Medea;) Rhetoric, (Newman;) French, Racine.)

Second Term.—Electricity, Magnetism and Optics, (Olmsted;) Chemistry finished, (Draper;) Agricultural Chemistry, (Gray;) Latin, (Juvenal;) French, (Racine;) History, (Lord.)

Senior Class

First Term.—Geology, (Hitchcock;) Astronomy, (Olmsted;) Mineralogy, (Dana;) Moral Science, (Wayland;) Greek, (Plato;) French, (Moliere.)

Second Term.—Political Economy, (Wayland;) Intellectual Philosophy, (Opham;) Latin, (Cicero de Oratore;) Philosophy of Rhetoric, (Campbell;) Butler's Analogy.

*The English and Scientific Course*

embraces three years, and is classified as follows:

First Year

First Term.—English Grammar and Arithmetic reviewed, Natural Philosophy and Algebra.

Second Term.—Natural Philosophy, Physiology, Geometry, History, and French or Latin.

Second Year

First Term.—Geometry, Trigonometry, Chemistry, Rhetoric, and French or Latin.

Second Term.—Surveying, Navigation, Analytical Geometry, Chemistry, Logis, French or Latin.

Third Year

First Term.—Moral Science, Geology, Astronomy, Mineralogy, French.

Second Term.—Political Economy, Intellectual Philosophy, Philosophy of Rhetoric, Evidences of Christianity, Constitution of the United States.

The studies of the Scientific Course are pursued as far as practicable in connection with the regular classes.

Lectures are delivered on Natural Sciences, accompanied with experiments.

Students having the ministry in view are permitted to study Hebrew instead of French, in the regular course.

The Bible will be used in future as a regular text-book in all the classes, and a weekly exercise in the original or in the English version will be required of every student."

On July 27, 1848, the college held its first annual commencement, when the degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred upon four young men who had completed the classical course, and the degree of Bachelor of Science was conferred upon three others who had completed the scientific course, which did not include Latin and Greek. We know the names of these first alumni of Howard College: John T. Barron, Thomas Booth, William S. Blassingame, William L. Moseley, Henry W. Nave, Milton M. Weissinger, and Singleton A. Williams; but we do not know their individual degrees. The early catalogues of this period, some of which are still available, give only the names of the graduates, and there is no other official record in existence. Apparently it was thought enough just to graduate; the degree received was a matter of no great consequence.

At this commencement, Rev. Jesse Hartwell tendered his resignation as Professor of Theology, to take effect, apparently, at the end of December of that year; and Rev. T. F. Curtis, pastor of Dr. Basil Manly's church at Tuscaloosa, was elected to that chair. The new incumbent was a scholarly Englishman, author of "The Progress of Baptist Principles in the Last Hundred Years." While professor in Howard he wrote articles for the *Alabama Baptist* on ministerial education and pretty soon engaged the Rev. Mr. Stickney, Episcopal clergyman of Marion, in a prolonged and acrid religious controversy through the columns of the *South Western Baptist*. He was remembered by Dr. E. B. Teague, in 1900, as the freshest, most original and fertile preacher of that day. He died in Boston, relapsing, however, in his later life from the evangelical faith.

Other changes and shifts in the faculty were made at this commencement, so that the list now reads as follows: Samuel S. Sherman, A. M., President and Professor of Chemistry; Rev. T. F. Curtis, A. M., Professor of Theology and Moral Science; A. B. Goodhue, A. M., Professor of Mathematics; Robert S. Lewis, A. M., Professor of Languages; William L. Moseley, A. B., Tutor; and W. H. Mason, Teacher of the Preparatory Department. At the end of the next year, the last

mentioned was replaced by J. A. Melcher, A. B., and the tutorship of Mr. Moseley disappeared without a substitute.(1)

Under Rev. T. F. Curtis, who assumed the duties of his professorship early in January, 1849, the course of study offered to the ministerial students was as follows:

#### “First Year

First Term.—English Grammar reviewed, Natural Philosophy, Algebra, and Greek commenced.

Second Term.—Geometry, Chemistry, Greek Testament, Principles of Interpretation, Introduction to the Old and New Testament, and Harmony of the Gospels.

#### Second Year

First Term.—Geometry, Trigonometry, Rhetoric, and Systematic Theology: 1. Natural Religion; 2. Evidences of Revealed Religion.

Second Term.—Logic, Intellectual Philosophy, and Systematic Theology continued: 1. The Trinity; 2. The Purposes of God—Election, etc.; 3. Moral Accountability, Natural and Moral Ability; 4. Man as a Sinner, The Fall, Depravity; 5. Salvation by Grace—the Covenant of Redemption, Atonement, Regeneration, Justification by Faith, Perseverance of the Saints; 6. Resurrection—Future Rewards and Punishments; 7. The Church—Baptism, Communion, Officers and Discipline of the Church.

#### Third Year

First Term.—Moral Science, Astronomy, Ecclesiastical History, Preparation of Plans, Criticisms of Sermons.

Second Term.—Philosophy of Rhetoric, Evidences of Christianity, Ecclesiastical History, Criticism of Sermons continued, and Pastoral Duties.”

The literary studies in the early part of this Course were varied to suit the capacities of Theological students, who were welcomed to all the advantages the college in any stage of literary advancement, free of all charge for instruction.

A glimpse of the Theological Department during Professor Curtis's first term of service may be had from the following extract from the *Alabama Baptist Advocate* of March 2, 1849:

(1) During the academic year 1848-49, the classes at the Judson in Chemistry, Natural Philosophy and Physiology attended lectures at the Howard.



"It will be gratifying to our brethren to learn that there are at present in the Howard College six promising young men prosecuting the study of Theology preparatory to the sacred ministry. These are almost altogether under the supervision of Rev. T. F. Curtis, than whom no man is better qualified to receive a trust so important. To say nothing of the orthodoxy of Professor Curtis or of his extensive literary and theological attainments, his profound modesty—almost to a fault, his exceeding delicacy of thought and expression, and most of all his deep, consistent and unostentatious piety befit him in a most admirable degree for the high and responsible office to which he has been called, of guiding the studies and forming the manners of those who are ere long to go forth as ambassadors of Christ and to mingle in the most delicate relations of life. We cannot resist the temptation to report in this place a little incident which fell under our observation a few evenings since—illustrative of the course pursued in the instructions of his Theological Class. Having been frequently invited to witness some of the exercises of this class, in which above all others we always feel the deepest interest, we made it convenient to call at the recitation room about the time when we supposed they would be engaged in their stated Biblical exercises. As we softly approached the door, we were delighted to find the professor at the head of his class engaged in a low and almost secret prayer to the Father of light for the guidance and assistance of His Holy Spirit. Immediately the conviction fixed itself upon our thoughts, if this be the uniform course of this class, we shall not wonder if they come forth at length sound theologians and soul stirring Christians."<sup>(2)</sup>

The editorial "we" in this instance was evidently Dr. A. W. Chambliss, editor and owner of the *Alabama Baptist Advocate*. What he witnessed was a recitation of the class in Systematic Theology. Professor Curtis taught two other classes, not connected with the Theological Department, namely, Rhetoric and Moral Science.

The collegiate year was a session of ten months, divided into two terms of five months each. The first term began on the first Monday in October and the second on the first day of March. Except a week during the Christmas holidays, there was but one vacation—August and September. Previous to the Christmas holidays and again at the end of the session in July, every student was required to undergo a thorough

(2) The six ministerial students registered for 1848-49 were: James S. Abbott, of Perry county; James M. Boyles, of Monroe county; Andrew J. Lambert, of Monroe county; Peter L. Shamburger, of Wilcox County; Mark H. Tallioferro, of Tennessee; and Washington Wilkes, of Barbour county.



examination on the studies of the preceding term and perform such other duties as the faculty might assign.

These examinations were all oral and were taken in the presence of visitors invited in for the occasion. When they occurred in connection with the commencement exercises, the occasion was especially gala. In the *South Western Baptist* for July 30, 1851, we read:

“The annual Examination of the students of Howard College commenced on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> inst.

“The first day was occupied with the exercises of the Preparatory Department under the charge of Mr. Melcher. The lads acquitted themselves with great credit in all their performances. A large class in Geography attracted particular attention. Most of the members of this class drew very accurate and handsome maps upon the blackboard, with an ease and rapidity of execution which showed that they had been thoroughly instructed in the use of chalk and board. Atlases of their own drawing were also passed to the spectators. Some of these were executed with great beauty and fidelity. This method of teaching Geography and impressing upon the youthful mind the situation, boundaries, and prominent features of different countries is decidedly superior to all others and ought to be more generally adopted. In fact, the blackboard is the most useful article of apparatus that was ever introduced into the school-room, and we were glad to see no less than four large ones in pretty constant use.

The Rhetorical exercises for the juvenile performers were also highly creditable. A class of the smallest rehearsed a piece or two in concert with fine effect. Why were so few of the parents present? Mr. Melcher retains charge of this department another year, and a more laborious and faithful teacher it would be hard to find.

On Friday the advanced Preparatory and Irregular classes were examined, including several classes in Latin, Greek, Algebra, Natural Philosophy, etc.

The regular college classes were examined on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday following, also the Theological classes in Church History and Systematic Theology. Competent judges pronounce these examinations fully equal if not superior to any they have ever witnessed in the institution.

On Tuesday night several of the young gentlemen delivered select speeches in the Town Hall. The performances are highly spoken of by those who were present. The exhibition of the Junior

Class, on Wednesday night, has elicited much commendation. Most of the members of this class are quite young in appearance, but their orations indicated well disciplined and mature minds. An appropriate and graceful delivery of valuable thoughts neatly and logically expressed, rendered the exercises of the class exceedingly interesting and secured the closest attention of a very large and intelligent audience. The following is the Programme:

Exhibition of the Junior Class of Howard College,  
July 23, 1851.

Music

Oration.—“The Influence of National Melody,” by George W. Chase.

Music

Oration.—“Electricity,” by Powhatan Lockett.

Music

Oration.—“Science,” by Charles O. Jones.

Music

Oration.—“Romance,” by George W. Lockhart.

Music

Oration.—“The Fall of Grenada,” by William D. Lee.

Music

Oration.—“The Moral, the Sovereign Power,” by Richard A. Montague.

Music

The Commencement Exercises were held in the Town Hall on the 24th. A procession, consisting of the Faculty and Students was formed at the College at 9:30 o'clock, under direction of Robert T. Goree, Esq., and two assistant marshals. The following is the order of the exercises:

Fourth Annual Commencement of Howard College,  
Marion, July 24, 1851.

Prayer

Music

Oration.—“The Tendencies of Modern Science,” by James S. Abbott, Perry county.

Music

Oration.—“Diversity of Opinions in Religion,” by Washington Wilkes, Barbour county.

Music

Master's Oration, by John T. Barron, M. D.  
Address and Degrees Conferred.

Music

Benediction

. . . .at the conclusion of the President's Address, he conferred the degrees of Bachelor of Arts upon Mr. James S. Abbott, and the degree of Master of Arts, in course, upon John T. Barron, M. D., of Marion; William S. Blassingame, Esq., of Autauga county; Singleton A. Williams, of Montgomery, and Milton M. Weissinger, of Marion, members of the first class of Graduates.

They were also the first on whom the Institution has conferred this degree.

The honorary degree of Master of Arts was also conferred on the Rev. Rufus C. Burleson, President elect of Baylor University.

Certificates of having completed the Theological course were conferred on Messrs. James S. Abbott and Washington Wilkes, accompanied with appropriate remarks on their duties and responsibilities as to ministers, by the Professor of Theology.

Music was furnished at both the Junior Exhibition and the Commencement by the young ladies of the Judson Institute, under direction of Professor Wurm."

This may be taken as an account of a typical week of examinations and commencement exercises, though no mention was made here of the annual address before the two literary societies and the levee, or reception, usually held at the college on the evening of the last day. The levee held at the close of commencement, 1850, was attended by "some five or six hundred persons. Students and faculty, trustees and patrons, parents and children, brothers and sisters, citizens and strangers, were co-mingled in pleasing harmony, all apparently happy in each other's society and happiness."

The semi-sessional examinations, held just before Christmas, were of course less gala occasions, though they were attended by visitors and closed with declamations in the college chapel. During the year an occasional Friday afternoon was devoted to a public "exhibition", when students made speeches and read original compositions.

At the commencement of 1851, Rev. T. F. Curtis tendered his resignation as Professor of Theology, to take effect on the first day of January, 1852. The Rev. Henry Talbird, of Montgomery, was elected

as his successor. Professor Robert S. Lewis also retired from his chair, that of Ancient Languages, and was succeeded by Professor A. B. Goodhue, who was transferred to that position from the chair of Mathematics. Rev. Russel Holman was elected Professor of Mathematics and entered upon his duties in October, 1851.

In their report to the Convention in November, 1851, the Trustees complained of the want of a good library. "As yet", they said, "no money has been expended in the purchase of books. Other wants which could not be postponed have been so numerous and urgent that this has not received its share of attention. About 1,000 volumes collected from various sources (most of them contributed by friends in Marion and Greensboro) compose the entire library. These, even if well selected, would be entirely inadequate to the wants of a college. \* \* \* Within the last year the students belonging to the two Literary Societies made a commendable effort to procure libraries of their own. With funds contributed by themselves and their friends, they have obtained about 600 volumes each. As most of these have been selected with care, they form a very valuable beginning." But the complaint of the Trustees was without results. Sixty years later, alas, the library of Howard College was no larger.

On January 1, 1852, Rev. Henry Talbird entered upon his duties as Professor of Theology. Born on Hilton Head Island, Beaufort District, South Carolina, he was now in his forty-first year. His family were among the earliest settlers and most prominent citizens of the State. He was educated at Hamilton Literary and Theological Institution, now Colgate University, New York, graduating therefrom in 1841. Coming straightway to Alabama, he was pastor of the church at Tuscaloosa for one year and of the church at Montgomery for nine years. In after years President Sherman thus characterized him: "Dr. Talbird possessed a strong and well balanced mind; was never visionary and rarely enthusiastic. His mental processes sometimes seemed a little slow, for he was always deliberate, undertaking nothing from impulse and doing nothing by halves. He was more philosophical than imaginative. In the pulpit he appealed to the reason rather than to the emotions of his hearers." Shortly after coming to the Howard, he married Mrs. Griffin, wealthy widow and sister of Mrs. Julia Barron, and thus become closely identified with the best families of Marion.

With the coming of Professor Talbird, the relationship between Howard College and the Baptist State Convention became peculiarly



close. Dr. Talbird was President of the Convention from 1852 to 1855, inclusive, and again in 1860 and 1861. Professor A. B. Goodhue was Clerk from 1854 to 1866.

The advent of Professor Talbird, however, was closely followed by the departure of President Sherman. "Feeling", says the latter, "that I had discharged my duty to the Howard and that an increasing family had higher claims upon me, I quietly purchased a school property known as 'Brownwood', near LaGrange, Ga., and much to the surprise of all interested, in June, 1852, resigned the presidency of the College." The Trustees accepted his resignation with sincere regret and, after mature and prayerful deliberation, unanimously elected Professor Talbird to the office thus vacated. Thus the Presidency of the College and the Professorship of Theology became united in the same individual. President Sherman officiated for the last time on Commencement Day, 1852, and stepped down and out. That afternoon a public meeting of the citizens of Marion was held in the Town Hall, where speeches were made in high commendation of his services to the college and, as a substantial assurance of the confidence and esteem in which he was held by the public, he was given a tea service of solid silver. He was destined to return three years later as Principal of the Judson Institute. On the eve of the Civil War he left Alabama and took up his residence for a time in Milwaukee, far from war's alarms, and then settled permanently in Chicago, where he died on November 22, 1914, lacking two days of being ninety-nine years old.

The resignation of President Sherman left the chair of Natural Sciences vacant. To that position the Trustees elected Noah K. Davis, stepson of Dr. J. L. Dagg and a young man of great promise.

Noah Knowles Davis, son of Noah and Mary Young Davis, was born in Philadelphia, Pa., on May 15, 1830. His father died when he was yet an infant. His mother married Rev. John L. Dagg, then a pastor in the city, and the family shortly afterwards removed to Tuscaloosa, Ala., where Dr. Dagg served for a time as Principal of the Alabama Athenaeum. In 1843 Dr. Dagg became President of Mercer University, then located at Penfield, Ga. Here young Davis graduated in 1849 with high honor. He then spent some time in Philadelphia, his native city, in the study of Chemistry, supporting himself by teaching, by service in an architect's office, and by editing two books, the "Model Architect" and the "Carpenter's Guide". He was Professor of Natural Science in Delaware College when he was invited to come to Howard in 1852.

“The above arrangement had hardly been completed”, say the Trustees in their report to the Convention in 1852, “before your board were called upon to fill another vacancy in the faculty. In consequence of the state of his health, Professor Holman was compelled to resign his professorship, and although your Board regretted the loss of his valuable services to the College, they felt it to be due to him to accept his resignation. They have, however, found it difficult to fill his place; for, while several persons could be found who were fitted for the Department of Language, no one could be obtained who was capable and willing to take the Department of Mathematics. Your Board were relieved from this embarrassment by Professor Goodhue. From choice he had been transferred from the Department of Mathematics to that of Languages; but as soon as he became aware of the difficulty of the Board, he with the spirit of self-sacrifice which has marked his conduct in all his connection with the College, immediately consented to resume his duties as Professor of Mathematics.” The Board then appointed to the vacant position Professor Leander Brown, who was reputed to be an experienced and accomplished teacher of languages, both ancient and modern. Richard A. Montague, a recent graduate of the college, was also added to the faculty in the position of tutor. The Preparatory Department remained under the direction of Mr. Melcher, assisted by Dr. Graham.

“The Faculty of the College”, continue the Trustees in the same report, “is now more completely organized than at any former period. They can now give instruction in the French and Spanish languages; and, without materially abridging the course of instruction in the Ancient Languages, they will have it in their power to appropriate more time to the study of Natural Science and Civil Engineering. The application of Chemistry to Agricultural pursuits is becoming a very important branch of a liberal education, and the faculty have devised a plan by which they can, without expense to the board, give practical illustrations of all that is known in this Department of Chemistry. Thus, any young gentleman who desires to prepare himself to become a complete and thorough farmer may find helps in this Institution which can be found in no other College in the South with which the Board is acquainted.”

“During the session”, the Trustees continue, “the College was visited by a gracious revival, and twelve of its students, upon profession of faith in Christ, were received into the fellowship of the Baptist church—two others connected themselves with the Methodist brethren. It has



been the privilege of your Board, on several occasions, to make mention of these precious seasons, as occurring in the Howard, and they are convinced that they are brought about mainly through the instrumentality of the Theological students. Thus these young brethren, while pursuing studies which exclude them from the active duties of the ministry, have exhibited the spirit of their calling, and have been made a blessing to their young associates."

On August 5, 1853, the *South Western Baptist* thus describes the equipment of the college:

"The Department of Mathematics is supplied with a good Theodolite, Compass, Chain, Levelling Staves, etc. In Surveying, the student is familiarized with the use of Instruments and Field Practice.

The Philosophical Apparatus is complete, and comprises all that is requisite for illustration. Throughout the course of Natural Philosophy pursued by the Senior Class, experiments are performed in connection with the daily recitation in the text-books.

The Astronomical Apparatus consists of a good Telescope, Orrery, Globes, Circle, Transit, and all other such instruments as are useful to the student of the Elements of Astronomy, and they are freely used throughout the course.

The Chemical Department possesses ample means for exhibiting all the experiments indicated in the text-book. In addition, many others are performed illustrating the higher branches of the science. Agricultural Chemistry receives a large share of attention, and no pains are spared to give the student a clear insight into the truths upon which this important branch of Chemical Science is based. Mineralogy is taught in connection with Chemistry; and the Senior Class is introduced to the science of Botany by a series of familiar lectures.

The Cabinet contains a number of minerals and geological specimens. These are quite sufficient for the purpose of instruction, but as a larger collection is desirable, contributions are solicited."

## CHAPTER V

*The Midnight Fire*

In the fall of 1854, the college opened with brighter prospects than ever before. The number of students was larger, and most of them were older and better prepared than usual for college work. But the hopes of the professors, students and friends of the college were destined to be blasted in a moment. On the night of October 15, the startling cry of fire was heard about the hour of midnight, and it was soon discovered that the college building was on fire. Prompt efforts were made to do what might be done, but the flames had progressed too far to be stayed by any human agency. Not only were the spectators unable to do anything toward extinguishing the fire, but they were soon horror-stricken to see the students crowding to the windows with scorched hands and faces, doomed, either to an awful death by the flames, which were already approaching them, or to take the scarcely less dreadful alternative of leaping from the windows.

The story of this dreadful night may best be told by the actors and spectators in the tragedy, who wrote letter after letter to the *South Western Baptist* for publication:

“With deep sorrow of heart,” wrote Joseph Walker on the morning of the fire, “I inform the readers of the *Baptist* of the sad calamity which has befallen this community and the Baptists of Alabama. Between 12 and 1 o’clock this morning, the cry of fire rang out through our town. It was soon ascertained that the building doomed to destruction was our own beloved College. So rapid were the flames in their progress that scarcely anything could be saved, and Books, Apparatus and Laboratory, together with all things pertaining to the edifice, save the College notes, now lie a heap of smouldering ruins. The pecuniary loss can not be less than fifteen or twenty thousand dollars. Dr. Talbird’s individual loss is from four to five thousand dollars.

But this is not the least nor the worst of the disaster. Would that it were.

Two of the Professors, with some eighteen of the students, sustained more or less personal injury. The flames burst forth at an hour of the night when the occupants of the College building had retired to rest, and no way of egress was allowed them but to leap from the windows, which they did, from the second, third, and fourth stories of the house. Consequently, some were taken from

the places where they had fallen, with fractured limbs, and several were fearfully burned. Young Hunter, a son of Judge Chilton, Anderson Talbert, and the younger Cleveland are among the severest sufferers, though it is hoped that all will recover. A faithful servant of President Talbird, who attended at the College, died this morning from his burns.

The cause of the fire is unknown. Circumstances strongly indicate it as the work of an incendiary, but I must doubt, till convinced to the contrary, that any person could have been so recklessly depraved as to commit so great a crime. The fire, by the testimony of all the students, originated on the stairs of the hall on the first floor, and, ascending upward, cut off all egress by the main entrance. None were aware of its existence till waked by the smoke or ignition of their bed clothes. No fire had been used in any of the rooms this season, and at the place of its origin, it could not easily have been kindled either by accident of a lighted candle or cigar. At nine o'clock President Talbird, as was his custom, passed through the building to see that all was right, and he saw no signs of fire. A committee has been appointed to ascertain, if possible, the cause of this great misfortune, who will report in due time. Thus I have endeavored to give you the facts of this sad event.

A meeting of the citizens was convened in the Baptist Church this morning at 11 o'clock, and the first business they did was to appoint a committee to detail suitable persons to attend to and nurse the sick. Every young man has the benefit of medical aid, and is doubtless as well cared for as he could be at home. The parents of the injured were promptly telegraphed and written to. It has been found, too, that the condition of most of the wounded is not as bad as at first supposed.

The next business to which the citizens gave attention was to open a subscription for the re-erection of the Howard College. About six thousand dollars were subscribed on the spot, when the meeting adjourned to re-assemble at 7 o'clock in the evening.

Arrangements are to be made for the conducting of the College exercises till the contemplated building for the purpose shall have been erected." (1)

(1) *South Western Baptist*, October 19, 1854.

On October 17, Joseph Walker again wrote to the same paper:

"The fire is now supposed to have been produced by spontaneous combustion. Doubtless this *was* its origin. The building had been recently painted and several oil kegs had been placed in a closet under the stairs in the hall into which some old clothes had been thrown, and it is agreed on all hands that the fire originated at that point; it can be accounted for only in this way.

The recitations are to be resumed tomorrow in the basement of the Baptist church, and in the Town Hall, and the Howard building is to be replaced with the greatest possible despatch. Eight thousand dollars have been subscribed by the citizens of Marion, which will be raised to at least ten or twelve thousand, and \$2,200 were pledged by individuals of the Cahaba Association, as soon as the intelligence of the calamity reached them. The aim is to have better buildings than heretofore, costing, probably, \$20,000 or more, and they *will be built.*"<sup>(2)</sup>

On October 18:

"The Committee appointed to prepare a statement of facts respecting the burning of the building of Howard College, on the night of the 15th inst., and the prospects of its re-erection, and to investigate the origin of the fire, submit the following:

The conflagration occurred about midnight. When the fire was first discovered by the students, the passages and stairways of the building were impossible on account of the flames and smoke, and they were driven to attempt an escape by leaping hurriedly from the windows. One life had been lost, that of the College servant, who died on the following day of injuries received from the fire during his efforts to awake the students to a knowledge of their perilous condition.

Six students received injuries from burns by leaping from windows of the building which for a time rendered their cases precarious, but they are now believed to be out of danger.

One Professor, the Tutor and ten students received injuries from the same causes, which, though serious, are such that they will speedily recover.

The remaining seven students in the building were all slightly hurt, but are now able to resume their duties.

The friends of all the injured were promptly informed of their situation, and parents and guardians receiving no such information, may feel assured that the safety of their sons and wards.

(2) *South Western Baptist*, October 26, 1854.



The building is a total loss. All the Chemical and Philosophical Apparatus, the Cabinet, the Libraries of the College and the Literary Societies, the private Libraries of the President and Professors are utterly destroyed.

The notes given for the endowment of the College and the papers relating to its monetary affairs were all saved, but so great was the demand for aid to save life and relieve the sufferers, that no effort could be made to rescue property of minor importance.

The fire appears to have originated either about the staircase of the basement or that of the first story of the building, the one staircase being immediately over the other, but from what cause the committee are unable, after the most thorough investigation they could give the subject, to come to any conclusion.

The exercises of the Institution are to be resumed at once, the Trustees having made suitable arrangements for that purpose.

This great loss will be speedily repaired. Large subscriptions for rebuilding the College have already been made in Marion and vicinity and there is no doubt but that the amount will, in a short time, be greatly increased.

A. B. GOODUE  
L. A. WEISINGER  
J. H. LEE  
N. K. DAVIS

Marion, Oct. 18, 1854."<sup>(3)</sup>

A vivid description of the disaster was given by one of the Theological students who was in the burning building. Writing to the *South Western Baptist* on October 23, he says:

"I was the only theological student rooming in the building. My room was in the third story, twenty-five feet from the ground, a corner room having two windows. I and my roommate retired at 9 o'clock, and both were soon asleep. But a quarter before 12 o'clock I was awakened, not by any friendly hands, but my suffocation. And then quickly rising, I flew to my door, to see if the stairs were clear, but finding them enveloped in flames, I shut the door, not, however, without burning away the best portion of my hair. The door now being shut, for it was open at first, the heated air with which the room was filled, was soon dispersed by the current of cool air passing through the windows, and the room was pleasant enough.

(3) *South Western Baptist*, October 26, 1854.



By this time my roommate had waked, though his reason left him the moment he arose. He raved from one side of the room to the other, over chairs, etc., not knowing what he was doing, and made two attempts to jump out at one of the windows, but I arrested him both times, and remonstrated with him thus: 'Thomas' (for that was his name) 'you must not do so; we are about to be lost, but I can save you.' Upon this he was calm—made an effort to throw out his trunk, but failed, and I threw it out, and mine also. I then ordered a negro to remove the trunks from below, as they would have been in the way of falling. He did so. I then told him to put a plank in the window below mine. This being done, I seated myself firmly in my window, holding fast to it with my left hand, and with my right hand, suspended my roommate on the plank, and the negro drew it slowly at the bottom, and my friend slid safely to the ground unhurt. . . .

I now saw my friend safe, . . . but as for me, I was yet in the burning room. But I continued to watch, work and pray—dressed, ran to one of my windows and saw four dead men, as I supposed, my fellow students, who had jumped from the rooms above. I then ran to the other window, and saw three in like condition, all serving to augment my fear, as I soon expected to experience the same. In this dread moment, as I was sitting in my window waiting for help, fearing the awful flames behind, which the good door kept off, but now was red with heat, and dreading the great distance before me, a kind friend passed—Prof. Davis, of the college, and said: 'Wright, do not jump; I will save you,' and passed on. I then ran and threw out my bed, and my roommate, who had not left me, doubled it in good form. But this time my good professor passed again. I asked if he had a ladder, but understanding him in the negative, for I could not hear for the fire, I soon suspended myself from the window, and dropped face toward the wall, on my bed below and only sprained my ankle badly. I was the last one that jumped from the building.

Such was my escape. I thank God for His mercy and saving power, and the good ladies of Marion for their kindness and attention to me and to my fellow students.

JAMES C. WRIGHT.

Marion, October 23, 1854."

In November, 1854, the Rev. A. C. Dayton, Corresponding Secretary of the Southern Bible Board at Nashville, passed through Marion,

and wrote for the *Tennessee Baptist* the following story, which was reprinted in the *South Western Baptist*, February 8, 1855:

“The most mournfully interesting object to one visiting Marion Alabama, at this time is the crumbling and blackened ruins which tell of the recent destruction of our denominational College building. It was of brick, four stories high, and although it was not nearly large enough for the purpose for which it was employed, was nevertheless an imposing and valuable edifice.

The origin of the fire is yet a mystery. The probable conjecture seems to be that it was caused by spontaneous combustion of some cloths which had been used about the painting recently done, and which were saturated with linseed oil and paint, and thrown in a pile in a closet under the stairs. Experiments made for the purpose have proved that under certain circumstances such cloths will spontaneously take fire.

The President, Mr. Talbird, passed through the building at half-past nine and found all things well. About eleven a light was seen in the basement story by a physician that chanced to be passing, but it did not excite in his mind a suspicion of an incipient conflagration, though doubtless the lower stairs were then beginning to blaze, for in half an hour, when the alarm of fire was given, and the citizens rushed to the place, they found the stairs already consumed; and the only way of escape for the twenty-eight persons who had suddenly been roused from sleep was by leaping from the third and fourth stories to the ground.

Ladders were sent for and procured, but before they came, nearly all had been driven to the dreadful alternative to perish in the flames or leap to the earth. When it was thought that all were out, inquiry was made and one was missing. Young Mr. Talbert was still in the burning house, and who could dare attempt his rescue? A youth whose name (if I do not forget) was Shofinworth, and Professor Davis, a young man who bids fair by his great mental endowments and generous aspirations to stand among the great men of his country, rushed up a ladder to the window of his room. They entered, and the sudden jar caused the sash to close behind them. A fearful thrill of horror froze the hearts of those who from below witnessed the good deed. Few doubted but that they were lost. Some wrung their hands in silent anguish. Some groaned and shrieked aloud. Some stood and gazed with big tears streaming down their faces, unable for an instant to turn

away their eyes from that window which held them like a spell. It was not long, for though the room was so darkened by the suffocating smoke that nothing could be seen, yet providentially when the poor youth had fainted he fell beneath the window from which he had been trying to escape; and, as Professor Davis entered the room he stepped upon the body, and so discovered where he was. Taking him up like an infant in his strong arms, he placed his heel against the window sash, which had so unceremoniously shut them in, and sent it shivering among the crowd below; then handing out his precious burthen to Tutor Montague and another who had come up the ladder to his aid they all reached the ground in safety. But the poor youth expired in a few days of terrible suffering. His death was not occasioned by his external burns, but from injury to his lungs, occasioned by breathing the suffocating vapors so long before his rescue. Of the twenty-four who leaped to the ground, only a few were seriously injured; and all are likely to recover.

They were all, however, in a most pitiable condition. Not one had time to secure a single article of property or even to put on his clothes. Suddenly started from their sleep at midnight, they found the floor hot and ready to cave in beneath their feet. Their first impulse was to rush to the staircase; but it was here at the bottom of the stairway that the fire had begun, and the steps being composed of resinous pine and dry as tinder, burned with tremendous fury—the flames rushing up the open space left for stairs, from one story to another as up the flue of a chimney. Here therefore then was no hope, they rushed back again to their rooms—their hands and feet and faces already blistered and peeling from the intensity of the heat, and with the energy of despair forced open the windows and leaped to the ground.

Thinking these facts might interest your many readers, as they have done myself, I tell them as they were related to me during my late visit to Marion to attend the session of the Alabama Convention."

Since the Rev. A. C. Dayton was only a visitor in the town, a month after the occurrence described, he must be excused for his failure to remember accurately the names of the actors in the tragedy. A more trustworthy account of the rescue of young Talbert was given by the Trustees in their report to the Convention in November, 1854:

"After the interchange of a few hasty words, the students determined to leap from the giddy heights where they stood, rather

than fall sacrifices to the merciless element which was raging behind them. All but four did take the fearful leap, and astonishing to relate, though many of them jumped from the windows of the fourth story of the building, not one was killed. A ladder was fortunately brought, by the thoughtfulness of a citizen of Marion, by which Mr. Montague, one of the teachers, and three students were rescued from the dreadful death with which they were threatened. It was then discovered that Mr. A. H. Talbert, one of the students, was still in the fourth story of the burning building, and his death seemed inevitable. He was not seen at the windows, but it was known that he was in the building. Three noble spirits, Prof. N. K. Davis, Augustus Stollenwerk, and Mr. Washburn, immediately volunteered to imperil their own lives to rescue him. He was found by them, insensible on the floor of a room in the fourth story, and amid smoke, fire and falling timbers, was taken up, and by heroic daring and great physical energy, he was carried down and saved from immediate death. . . . Hopes were for some time entertained that he would recover, but the great Disposer of events had decreed otherwise." The young man died in a few days.

Mr. Montague, the tutor, was so badly injured by inhaling fumes before his escape from the building, being detained by his efforts to learn that the students were all out, that his health gradually failed and he at length died from consumption of the lungs.

After leaping from the windows, some of the young men were able to crawl away from the burning building a little distance; others were dragged away out of danger and left, for a time, lying along the sidewalks writhing and groaning with pain, like wounded soldiers on the field of battle. As soon as possible, however, with the kindness and hospitality characteristic of the good people of Marion, they were taken up and tenderly cared for until they were able to return to their college work.

The real hero of the fire was the faithful slave, Harry. When told to escape while he could, he replied, "Not till I wake up the boys," and he immediately started on his errand of mercy, rapping and calling loudly at every door. When the last room on the upper floor was reached, the flames were upon him; he could not return by the stairs, but jumped from the hall window and was fatally injured. He was buried in the public cemetery at Marion, and over his grave was erected, by the joint contribution of the officers and students of the College and the members of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, a neat and handsome obelisk, bearing the following inscriptions:

HOWARD COLLEGE  
LIBRARY



(Front)

HARRY

Servant of H. Talbird, D. D., President of Howard College, who lost his life from injuries received while rousing the students at the burning of the College building on the night of Oct. 15th, 1854. Aged 23 years.

(Rear)

As a grateful tribute to his fidelity, and to commemorate a noble act, this monument has been erected by the students of Howard College and the Alabama Baptist Convention.

(Side)

He was employed as waiter<sup>(4)</sup> in the College, and when alarmed by the flames at midnight, and warned to escape for his life, replied, "I must wake the boys first," and thus saved their lives at the cost of his own.

(Side)

A consistent member of the Baptist Church he illustrated the character of the Christian servant, faithful unto death.

<sup>(4)</sup> That is, janitor and general utility man. There was no dining hall connected with the college.



## CHAPTER VI

## "THOU PHOENIX FAIR"

When the Convention met in November, 1854, just one month after the fire, the Trustees reported that about \$20,000 had already been subscribed to rebuild the College, that steps had been taken to secure a more eligible site, and that new buildings would soon be under contract. The site eventually selected was within the corporate limits of Marion but more than half a mile from the center of town, on a lot donated by Dr. John T. Barron, son of Mrs. Julia Barron and member of the first graduating class of the College. Here the new Howard was to rise again, Phoenix-like, out of the ashes of misfortune.

The buildings for the new campus were designed by Professor Noah K. Davis, who had seen service in an architect's office and had edited two books on architecture. Facing a quadrangle from opposite sides were to be two barrack-like, brick dormitories, two stories high, and at one end of the quadrangle the administration building, also of brick and two stories high, consisting of Chapel, Library, President's Office, Halls for the Literary Societies, and the Chemical Department. This arrangement of building was, of course, copied from that of other educational institutions of the day and deserves no praise for originality, but it was something to have a professor on the faculty who could do as much.

By May, 1855, six months after the fire, the Trustees were able to report that a contract had been let for the construction of a dormitory and the administration building, and that the former would be completed by the beginning of the next school year and the latter as soon thereafter as practicable. Meanwhile instruction was being carried on in buildings temporarily employed for the purpose.

In July, Professor Leander Brown declined a re-election to the professorship of languages, and Professor D. G. Sherman was appointed to fill the vacancy. In other respects the faculty remained unchanged.

At the same time, the Trustees announced the separation of the Preparatory Department from the college proper, giving as reasons for their action that the preparatory department had "fallen short of defraying its expenses" and that, since it was patronized almost exclusively by the people of Marion, it should not be supported by funds contributed by the Baptists of the State. The department would continue to function, however, under the direction of Mr. Melcher in a building separate and distinct from the college buildings.

During the summer, Professor Davis, with some \$3,000 raised by private subscription, made a trip to the North and East, where he placed orders for the manufacture and importation of scientific apparatus of various sorts. On his return in the fall, he announced that Howard was going to have the best equipped laboratory of any college in the country "with perhaps the single exception of Cambridge."

When the Convention met at LaFayette, in April, 1856, the Trustees reported:

"No institution of equal age and advantages can be found in our country which has taken a higher stand in the department of instruction, or in which that instruction is more thoroughly given. In the languages, the students are well trained and are progressing with great rapidity. The Professor of Mathematics has succeeded in advancing his classes in those difficult branches with a thoroughness and rapidity which has both surprised and gratified your Board. Thus the Freshman Class will, in a few days, have completed, in a highly creditable manner, the whole of Algebra and Geometry; and the Sophomore class, the entire course of pure mathematics. In the department of Natural Sciences—if anywhere—it might have been expected that an institution so recently organized would fail in efficiency. Such, however, is not the fact. Immediately after the destruction of the college building, with the entire Philosophical Apparatus, the citizens of Marion, by private subscription, presented a fund to the college to supply the latter. This fund was increased to something over \$3,000 by friends not residents of Marion. A complete Chemical Apparatus has been purchased, and a Philosophical Apparatus, being in quality of the first class and superior to that destroyed. In order that the Convention may form some idea of the facilities possessed by the college for imparting instruction in these branches, we invite your attention to the subjoined extract from a report of the Professor of Natural Sciences:

'During the present session, now six months gone, there have been exhibited to the classes studying these branches: In Mechanics thirty distinct experiments; in Hydrostatics ten; in Pneumatics forty-eight; in Optics there have been few illustrations, chiefly because the room designed for and adapted to such experiments is not yet finished. The powerful Solar Microscope has not yet arrived, but is expected daily. The no less powerful compound Microscope is on hand. In Electricity and Magnetism one hundred and twenty-

one experiments have been exhibited—subject not yet completed. In Heat, and the remaining Physics connected with Chemistry, sixty. Chemistry proper, the class has been first entered upon. Only six or seven of the elements have been discussed. Up to the present time the experiments number only eighty-one; making in all, thus far in the session, three hundred and fifty distinct experiments. When the entire apparatus is received, and the rooms designed for this department, now in process of erection, are finished, nearly twice as many illustrative experiments will be exhibited.'

. . . . .

The college is in possession of all the necessary appliances for giving instruction in Astronomy except a Telescope. The ladies of Marion have presented the college with \$460 to purchase an instrument, but at least double this amount is requisite, and the instrument has not yet been ordered. The cabinet contains a good suit of Geographical and Mineralogical specimens.

The Board have done all in their power to provide suitable accommodations for the college in buildings. One dormitory 122 feet long and 50 feet wide has been so nearly completed as to be fit for occupancy. The main college building is now in process of erection. The work has been delayed by the severity of the winter, and the building will not be finished before September, 1856. It will be ready for occupancy by the opening of the next session. It will contain a Chapel, Philosophical and Society Halls, Library, Cabinet and Recitation rooms. Before the close of another year, the college will greatly need a second dormitory building."

On May 21, 1857, Professor Davis was able to report through the columns of the *South Western Baptist* that the big Telescope had arrived.

"This instrument was presented to the College by the Ladies' Benevolent Society of Marion. It is one of the many valuable gifts with which this society has enriched our apparatus. The cost was \$1,000.

It was manufactured by Alvan Clark and Sons, of Cambridge, Mass. Mr. Clark has won for himself the reputation of a first class artist among scientific men. His Telescopes compare favorably with those of the best European manufactures, and one which he made for an eminent English observer has been pronounced "unsurpassed if not unequalled." With his own instruments he has discovered at least seven double stars, a valuable contribution to

astronomical science. Three of these were discovered with an instrument smaller than ours. Amherst, Williams and other Colleges have been supplied with Telescopes from this factory, and one has been sent to Canada. I was recommended to secure Mr. Clark's services for our College by Mr. Wm. C. Bond of the Cambridge Observatory, whose discoveries rank him as one of the first astronomers of the age. The result, so far as can at present be judged, is most happy.

Our Telescope is a refractor, having a clear aperture of 6 inches, and a focal length of 8 ft.  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It is mounted equatorially on a cast iron stand weighing 300 lbs. A driving clock is attached by which the instrument is made to follow the motions of a star or other object. The machinery is beautifully finished. The declination circle is 10 inches in diameter and reads by verniers to 30 sec. of arc. The right ascension circle is 8 inches in diameter and reads to 2 sec. of time. As to the quality of the glass of the instrument, it is impossible finally to judge until a series of observations have been made. Mr. Clark pronounced it (and his statement may be fully relied on) 'the most perfect thing imaginable.'

. . . . .

There are but *eight Colleges* in the United States, out of some two hundred, that can claim the title of having larger Telescopes than ours. There may be a few others, but the statement cannot be far from correct. . . . .

It is to be regretted that this elegant instrument cannot be at once mounted for the benefit of our present graduating class. It must be mounted permanently, and will require a separate building for its reception, with a revolving dome, etc. It is the intention of our Board of Trustees to erect this observatory as soon as they can command the means. I fear it will not be completed till fall.

The possession of so large a Telescope, it will be observed, places us, in this particular, in the front rank of Colleges in the Union. . . . .

Our fine Chemical and Philosophical Apparatus continues to receive accessions. In this also we claim a place in the front rank. A superior Sextant, by Grunow, is on its way. . . . .

Marion, May 6.

N. K. DAVIS."

But, notwithstanding the excellence of the instructional force and of the scientific equipment, the college was greatly in need of a library. The ladies of Montgomery and Mobile had made small contributions



for the purchase of books, but no efficient measures had been taken since the fire to supply this acknowledged want. Since the Trustees were hard pressed for funds to erect buildings and to increase the endowment, the only hope was that some enlightened, generous patron of learning would step forward and supply a portion at least of the money needed to meet the pressing demand for books. At length this patron was found in the person of Col. Edmund King, of Montevallo. In April, 1857, he made the generous offer of \$500 for the purchase of a library, provided the amount of \$5,000 could be secured for that purpose by April 14, 1858. The Rev. William S. Barton immediately interested himself in the matter and set out to raise the money. By November, 1857, he had notes and pledges to the amount of about \$10,000. The Trustees gratefully accepted these subscriptions and resolved, so soon as collections could be made, to make an immediate expenditure of \$5,000 for the purchase of books that were most needed and with the other \$5,000 to create a fund, of which only the interest would be annually expended on books. How much money was actually collected on these subscriptions, however, and how much was expended for the purpose designated remains a matter of speculation. The Trustees in their subsequent reports never answered these questions.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees in July, 1858, the members of the Faculty were all unanimously re-appointed to fill their respective chairs, and all signified their intention to retain their places in the college; but a few weeks later Professor Noah K. Davis requested to be released from his engagement, as he desired to enter another field of labor which offered more ample salary. The Trustees were fully aware of the value of his services to the college, but felt compelled, though they did it with extreme reluctance, to accept his resignation. Dr. N. Friend was appointed to the vacant chair.

By the resignation of Noah K. Davis, the college lost its most accomplished professor. He went to Montgomery to accept the editorial department of the *Alabama Educational Journal*, which was just then being launched, and to become principal of a private school; but exactly one year later he returned to Marion to take Samuel S. Sherman's place as Principal of the Judson Institute and to guide that institution with the greatest success through the trying period of the Civil War. In 1868 he accepted the presidency of Bethel College, Russellville, Ky., and in 1873 he was elected to the chair of Moral Science in the University of Virginia, where he spent his declining years. Besides articles in reviews, he published in 1880 an important book entitled "The Theory of Thought, a Treatise on Deductive Logic."



As the indications at the Howard were now all in favor of a considerable increase in the number of students, and as it was desirable to have the services of at least two tutors, the Trustees decided to increase the number of instructors from five to seven. Accordingly they appointed Mr. W. C. Ward, A. B., and Mr. W. A. Parker, A. B., to tutorships respectively in Mathematics and Languages. Both were graduates of the University of Alabama and excellent scholars, but their connection with the college ceased three years later when Fort Sumter was attacked. They entered the army as soldiers of the Confederacy. After the war, Capt. Ward returned to Alabama to become an eminent lawyer, Baptist, statesman, and president of the Board of Trustees, where we shall find him later guiding the destinies of Howard College through very trying times.

When the school year opened in October, 1858, all three of the college buildings were so nearly completed as to be fit for occupancy. The scientific apparatus had been well-nigh completed by the purchase, with money raised by the ladies of Marion, of a complete cabinet of minerals. The original charter had been amended by enlarging the powers and privileges of the college and increasing the number of trustees from fifteen to twenty-five. The endowment had been increased by notes and subscriptions to \$171,265.68, and financial agents were still actively in the field. Thus the college was reaching an important milestone on the road to expansion and success.

In the Minutes of the Baptist State Convention for November, 1858, the College ran a page advertisement, which reads as follows:

HOWARD COLLEGE,

Marion, Alabama.

*Faculty*

H. Talbird, D. D.,

President, and Professor of Theology and Moral Science.

A. B. Goodhue, A. M.,

Professor of Mathematics, pure and mixed.

D. G. Sherman, A. M.,

Professor of the Latin Language and Literature.

R. A. Montague, A. M.,

Professor of the Greek Language and Literature.

N. Friend, M. D.,

Professor of the Natural Sciences.

W. A. Parker, A. B., Tutor.

W. C. Ward, A. B., Tutor.

*Course of Study*

There are three courses of study pursued, the Classical, the Scientific and the Theological. The Classical course, embracing four years, is as complete and thorough as in any College in the country. The Scientific course embraces three years, omitting the Greek and the Classical course. The Theological course is varied to suit the wants of Students in the Department.

*Admission*

Candidates for admission to the Freshman Class are examined in Caesar, Virgil, Cicero's Select Orations, the Greek Reader, and Davies' Elementary Algebra through Equations of the first degree or their equivalent.

*Apparatus*

The College has an excellent Apparatus, new and commodious buildings, and in short offers all the usual facilities for acquiring a collegiate education.

*Expenses*

Tuition per term of 4½ months.....	\$25.00
Incidentals per term of 4½ months.....	2.00
Students rooming in the college are charged for room and servant hire per month.....	2.00
Washing per month .....	1.50
Board per month .....	12.00

The expense of wood and lights varies with the season. To Theological Students Tuition and Room Rent are free.

Students are forbidden to contract debts in the town of Marion, except under the express permission of Parents or Guardians. To aid in enforcing this important regulation, Parents and Guardians are earnestly requested not to pay such debts.

The next session commences on the first day of October and closes on the 25th of June.

I. W. GARROTT,  
President, Board of Trustees.

J. F. COCKE, Sec'y.

The character of the student body and faculty was thus appraised by the Committee on Education in a report to the Convention in November, 1858:

"It is gratifying to state that while the interests of other institutions have suffered materially from the disorderly conduct of their pupils, the history of Howard College during the period of sixteen years is not stained by a single serious disturbance. This fact speaks volumes in its favor, and reflects credit alike on the students, its faculty, and the citizens of Marion. Your Committee cannot but express the conviction that this uniform good conduct is attributable mainly to the prudence, wisdom, and decision with which the internal regulations of the College have been managed. While the discipline has been firm, and the bearing of the faculty dignified, yet kindness has formed a component element of that discipline, and the dignity has not been too reserved or aristocratic to prevent familiar intercourse. Thus the students have respected and obeyed the laws of the institution, influenced in a great degree by the personal attachment and affection for their teachers. In Dr. Talbird they have found not only an efficient, erudite, and dignified President, but a kind-hearted, affable gentleman, a prudent and faithful counsellor, a warm, devoted, personal friend. Other members of the faculty possess these qualities in a scarcely less degree, and to this, pre-eminently, is owing the absence of these turbulent and painful scenes which too frequently occur at other seats of learning. Other causes might be named, as the religious influence of the Theological students, and the healthy tone of morals which pervades the town of Marion. Taken together, they have surrounded Howard College with ramparts of more than adamantine strength, so that he who enters in may peacefully pursue his studies, gathering moral and mental power, and leave his Alma Mater with a vigorous intellect, a sound mind, and a pure heart."

During the year ending in June, 1859, the College enjoyed a degree of prosperity never attained in any former period of its history. The whole number of names entered on its register was 99, all names of full-fledged college students. At commencement, twelve promising young men received the honors of graduation, and in the public exercises acquitted themselves in a manner highly creditable to the institution. During the summer the ladies of Marion raised between \$1,200 and \$1,400, to be expended in fencing and beautifying the college grounds.

Dr. N. Friend, Professor of Chemistry and Natural History, declined re-appointment for another year because his salary did not seem adequate to his wants. After an interval, the Trustees appointed Ed Quin Thornton to the place. The new incumbent was a graduate of the

University of Alabama in the class of 1853. For two years after graduation, he was associated with the eminent State geologist and University professor, Michael Tuomey, in the preparation of the great work on "The Geology of the State of Alabama," to which Thornton contributed many valuable chapters over his own signature. He then spent two years studying in Europe, returning in July, 1858, to become a professor for one year in the Alabama Central Female College at Tuscaloosa. Hardly had he come to Howard College than he laid down his books and became a soldier of the Confederacy, serving on the staff of Major General H. D. Clayton, of Perry county. After the war, Professor Thornton returned to the College, where we shall meet him again, "the most genial, popular and scholarly professor in Alabama," as the *Marion Commonwealth* styled him in 1872.

The other professors accepted re-appointment, but Professor Richard A. Montague was destined to teach only one year more. Injured by inhalation of fumes when the college was destroyed by fire, he was afterwards subject to hemorrhages of the lungs, and prostration of health in 1860 forced him from his position. He was an excellent instructor and an enthusiastic educator—one of those men whose loss to an institution of learning can never be repaired.

The last important act of the Board of Trustees, before the storms of war broke over the institution, was to establish a second professorship of Theology. The number of Theological students had been increasing and the administrative duties of Dr. Talbird were becoming more exacting. Clearly another professor was needed in the Theological Department who could devote his entire time to instruction. In 1859 Mr. Jere H. Brown, wealthy planter of Sumter county, gave his note for \$25,000 as an endowment for the new chair, and the Trustees, as a token of their gratitude, appointed Mr. Brown's pastor, Rev. T. W. Tobey, as the new professor, who entered upon his duties in the fall of 1859.

In the spring of 1861 the college consisted of seven professors and sixty-two students. The three college buildings had been completed and equipped, and the college grounds, under the supervision of Professor Goodhue, had been carefully graded and fenced. The endowment in reliable notes and pledges was estimated at \$210,000.

On April 12, 1861, just before dawn, Confederate batteries opened fire on Fort Sumter.



## CHAPTER VII

## THE ANTE-BELLUM ENDOWMENT

In June, 1902, the late Dr. W. B. Crumpton said to the Baptist State Convention at Decatur: "I hear the brethren talk of the endowment that was lost during the War. That was a paper endowment only. Men signed notes without an expectation of ever paying them, only the interest. The negro property of the South was carried away—that carried with it our endowment." How accurately Dr. Crumpton described the situation, the present chapter will disclose.

The Convention at Talladega in 1841 resolved, as we have seen, to appoint agents to raise \$100,000 for the endowment of four professorships in the proposed college. A year later, however, the Board of Directors reported: "The pecuniary embarrassments of the times have prevented the College Agent from accomplishing any of the designs contemplated at your last meeting." In consequence, the Convention voted to postpone for the time being all attempts to raise an endowment for the college proper and to endow, instead, a chair of Theology; for it was found easier to raise money for this purpose than for the other.

The plan of campaign was to take subscriptions payable on or before January 1, 1848, with annual interest from January 1, 1843. Rev. James H. DeVotie, the Marion pastor, took the field at once, and when the Convention held its annual session in 1843, the Trustees reported \$19,403.69 raised by subscriptions to the Theological Fund. A little cash had also been raised, but in the reported figures no distinction was made between cash and written pledges.

The ease with which this had been done encouraged the Convention to keep an agent in the field with a view to raising the Theological Endowment to \$25,000, if possible; but the amount was never destined to rise much above \$20,000.

Encouraged in 1846 by the completion of the new college building and the elevation of Howard to the status of a college, the Convention resolved to make vigorous efforts, during the next five years, to raise \$100,000 for the endowment of the college proper, and left the Trustees free to formulate the plan of campaign. After canvassing the possibilities of the situation, the Trustees adopted the so-called Scholarship Plan and sent Dr. A. W. Chambliss into the field to raise the subscriptions.



The plan was as follows :

1. "Any individual, or association of individuals, subscribing \$1,000 payable on or before January 1, 1852, and paying 8% annual interest on the same from January 1, 1847, shall be entitled to a permanent scholarship in Howard College, and to an additional scholarship for each additional \$1,000 thus subscribed.

2. Any individual, or association of individuals, subscribing \$500, principal and interest payable as aforesaid, shall be entitled to the tuition of one pupil through an entire course, preparatory and collegiate ; or to eight years tuition at the option of the subscribed.

3. Any minister of the Gospel subscribing \$500, principal and interest payable as aforesaid, shall, in consideration of his calling and the sacrifices he is often required to make, be entitled to a permanent scholarship."

Dr. Chambliss took the field in January, 1847, and the Trustees reported to the Convention in November that nearly \$19,000 had been raised in accordance with the plan. But during the next Conventional year, the agent raised only \$9,800. Then Dr. Chambliss resigned, and no suitable agent could be induced to take the field during the year ending in November, 1849. "Few new subscriptions have been obtained," the Trustees reported, "and many that have fallen due, as well as the interest on others, are uncollected. The effect is severely felt by the Board. . . . The financial condition is essentially the same as detailed in the last annual report."

"Almost in despair," as was stated in the *South Western Baptist*, the Trustees now determined to modify the Scholarship Plan, to read as follows :

1. "Any person, or persons, subscribing \$500 shall be entitled to a permanent scholarship; that is, to tuition of one pupil *in perpetuo*.

2. Any minister of the Gospel, or any church for a minister, subscribing \$250 shall be entitled to a perpetual scholarship.

3. Any person, or persons, subscribing \$100 shall be entitled to a single scholarship; that is, to the tuition of one particular individual through the regular collegiate course of four years, or to tuition any equivalent number of years in any department of the institution.

4. All subscriptions, unless paid in cash, shall be made by notes payable when the plan of this endowment matures. Before the privileges of single scholarships can be enjoyed, the principal

must be paid into the Treasury; but in cases of permanent scholarships, students may be admitted on payment of the annual interest.

5. The Treasurer shall issue certificates on the payment of subscription, and these shall not be transferable except in permanent scholarships.

6. Students admitted on the scholarship basis shall be subject to the same discipline and regulations as other students, and there shall be no substitution in case of expulsion, dismissal, or withdrawal (except in permanent scholarships), and no money shall be refunded in any case.

7. The obligations and privileges of subscriptions in pursuance of this plan shall take effect on October 1, 1850.

8. Nothing contained in the above shall be so construed as to affect in any manner subscriptions already made, until the sum of \$50,000 shall have been subscribed on this basis; when all former subscribers to the Literary Fund shall be entitled to the same advantages as the new, to-wit: Those who have paid \$100 to a single scholarship; \$200 to two; \$500 to a permanent scholarship, etc.; *except* that any individual who has already subscribed \$100 or more to the Literary Fund may, by increasing this amount to \$500, be entitled to a permanent scholarship."

At the annual session of the Convention, held at Marion in 1850, there was a larger delegation than had ever before been assembled, and the contributions sent up for various benevolent objects were more than double those of the preceding year. A spirit of enthusiasm and optimism prevailed. When the Trustees made their report, they were requested by the Convention to appoint three agents at whatever salary was necessary and complete the endowment of \$100,000 according to the plan proposed. And, the enthusiasm mounting high, it was resolved to raise, in addition, the sum of \$35,000 for the permanent endowment of the presidency of the institution. The business of the Convention was then suspended for half an hour and the sum of \$14,050 was pledged in support of the resolution.

But hopes, alas, sometimes turn to ashes in the mouth. In 1851 the Trustees reported to the Convention that they had found an insuperable obstacle in the difficulty of procuring an agent. They had not been able to secure the continued services of any one. Brother Devotie had made such effort as his other engagements would permit, mostly in the vicinity of Marion; Brother Holman had spent a few weeks in soliciting funds in other parts of the State, and this was about

all the Board had been able to accomplish toward the endowment of the presidency. The entire amount which had been raised for this specific purpose was \$17,000.

The Treasurer of the Board of Trustees made his report for 1851 as follows :

*Assets*

Literary Fund (Principal and interest due Oct. 1).....	\$23,092
Endowment of Presidency (drawing interest from Oct. 1)	17,500
Theol. Fund (Principal and interest from Oct. 1).....	23,100
	-----
Total .....	\$63,692

*Debts*

Salaries of Professors, October 1.....	\$ 2,450
Other debts .....	771
	-----
Total .....	\$ 3,221
Balance above liabilities .....	\$60,471

Here, as elsewhere in these financial statements, no distinction was drawn between written pledges and cash on hand ; between the principal which was not to be expended and the interest which might be used for current expenses ; between what had been collected and what remained uncollected. How far, therefore, the assets were only promises to pay can not now be determined.

After this year the fund raised as an endowment of the presidency was merged with the literary fund, and we hear no more about it as a separate item. In 1852 the Trustees reported :

“Your Board have not found it possible to secure the services of an efficient agent, and in consequence but few new subscriptions have been obtained. Of the notes already obtained, many have fallen due which remain uncollected, and the interest on others have been accumulating for two, three, and even four years. The existence of this state of things in the financial department of the college will not be surprising to the Convention, if its members will reflect on the difficulties with which the Board have had to contend. The persons who have given notes to the fund of the college are residing at points in the state distant from each other, and the amount to be collected from each one is not sufficient to warrant the employment of special agents. It is true, however, that most of these individuals have been called on by some person

in behalf of the college. On such occasions they have not by them the means of paying their notes, or the interest due on them; and when they have the money in hand, either from indifference or some other cause, they fail to transmit it to the Treasurer of the college.

This has been very severely felt by your Board, and during the year several things have combined to increase the embarrassment of their position. Four members of the faculty in rapid succession resigned their places, and it became necessary that their salaries should be immediately paid. The only alternative was to use any amounts which could be collected, whether of principal or interest, in the liquidation of these claims. By adopting this plan, the debts of the college have been nearly all paid off; but in consequence there has occurred a slight diminution in the permanent fund, as will be seen from the financial report. In addition, the college is sustaining very serious loss from the reverses which are constantly occurring in the pecuniary condition of those who have contributed by their notes to the fund. This gradual exhaustion of the principal of the fund must continue, unless the notes can be collected and the money placed within the control of the Board.

The financial condition of the college is as follows:

Due Oct. 1st, 1851, Theological Fund, prin. and int. ....	\$23,092.85
Literary Fund, principal and interest .....	36,813.47
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$59,906.32

There is a point upon which the Board are anxious to obtain the advice and direction of the Convention. Several persons who formerly gave these notes for the endowment of the college are now refusing to pay them—principal or interest. There is no plea of inability, but a simple unwillingness to comply with their written contracts. The notes must therefore remain as useless paper in the hands of the Treasurer, unless resort be had to legal measures. Your Board ask the direction of the Convention as to the manner in which they shall proceed, and the moral influence of your authority in carrying out your wishes.”

In reply to the request for “advice and direction,” the Convention passed the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the Convention instruct the Trustees of Howard College to collect all monies due the institution; and where this cannot be done without distressing the givers of the notes, they be



required to pay punctually the interest on their notes and give some sufficient security for the ultimate payment of the principal.

*Resolved*, That in case of refusal to pay, the Trustees are hereby required to enforce payment by resort to the courts of law, at their discretion.

The difficulty of procuring an efficient field agent was solved by a formal and unanimous request of the Convention that "our beloved Brother D. P. Bestor go forth as the advocate of the college, with a view of both completing the endowment of the Literary department and adding the endowment of another Chair of Theology." Brother Bestor demurred but eventually agreed to comply with the request. We would now expect something to be done, but let us not be too sanguine.

Beginning with October 28, 1853, the *South Western Baptist* devoted a long article each week to the college endowment. In the article for November 11, the following explanation is made:

"The Literary Fund has resulted from the sale of scholarships. Under the present modified plan, a subscription of \$500 gives title to a permanent scholarship, and \$100 to your years' tuition. Upon this system, the Fund once amounted to \$40,000, but the necessary expenses of the institution exceeding the income have reduced it to \$36,000, at which it now stands. Of this, \$17,500 is the endowment of the presidency of the college; but in disbursements the distinction has not been maintained. Other small amounts have been collected and expended for apparatus, buildings, etc.

Both the Theological and Literary Funds exist in the form of notes upon the subscribers, bearing legal interest. As much of this interest as can be collected annually constitutes the income. There has always been great difficulty and expense attending this collection; and, as the notes are now payable, it is eminently desirable that the principals should be collected and invested in a more secure and convenient form. . . . The income from the tuition fees, if all the students were paying scholars, would amount to \$4,000 annually, but some are beneficiaries, and one-half of the remainder are in possession of scholarships. The amount is thus reduced to \$2,000, which, with the interest of the endowment, makes a total income of \$6,000. . . . The salaries alone for the session of 1852-53 amounted to \$6,300. Other expenses bring the total up to \$7,000 per annum. Deficit \$1,000. *This must be paid from the principal of the endowment.*"



In November, 1853, when the Convention met, the Trustees reported that the financial condition of the college was not materially different from what it had been the preceding year. "Your Board," they said, "have accomplished but little in collecting the notes given for the endowment of the college which have fallen due. They have not forgotten the direction of the Convention, at its last session, as touching this point. It will be remembered, however, that Rev. D. P. Bestor was appointed general agent, by your body, with the understanding that he would labor to complete at once the endowment of the college. It was thought that any coercive measures adopted by your Board for the collection of the college notes might have an unfortunate bearing on the agency. They have therefore deferred all action in the matter." Nowhere in the minutes of the session is it stated what the agent's report was, but it is safe to assume that little was done for the endowment. The Rev. Daniel P. Bestor had failed, as the eminent Dr. Chambliss had done before him. Who would be the next eminent Baptist leader to assume the role of Heracles and attempt to slay the many-headed Hydra of denominational indifference?

The Trustees now had no concrete plan of further procedure to propose, and that task devolved upon the committee on education. After explaining how of necessity the principal of the endowment fund was being drawn upon to pay current expenses, how "by a constant reaction of interest upon principal and principal upon interest," the whole fund was rapidly melting away, the committee asked with emphasis, "*Shall Howard College live or die?*" Then it proposed the two plans which follow:

"The first plan . . . is this: Let the Convention resolve to raise annually \$5,000 or \$10,000, until the fund shall be completed: let the ministry in the bounds of each Association in connection with this body pledge themselves to devote a portion of their time each year to this matter; let each pastor try to raise at least as much as one dollar from each member of his church or churches; and let the Board of Trustees immediately issue a short Circular, setting forth these facts, addressing a copy of it to every pastor in the State, known to be favorable to the cause. This plan, if it could be made to work, would enlist the energies of the entire denomination, a desideratum which the most active agent could not accomplish, besides the saving of the salaries of agents. . . . .

The second plan is to employ some competent agent for five years, with a suitable salary, who shall canvass the entire State

and earnestly solicit the brethren to relieve the institution. We say that such an agent ought to be appointed for five years for two reasons: First, we could scarcely hope that the fund could be completed in less than that time. At least \$50,000 more is needed to place the college on such a foundation as is desired and essential to its prosperity; and the most flattering success would not authorize us to hope that that amount could be raised short of five years. Secondly, the man who is to assume such an undertaking must be taken from a permanent and responsible position for which he is so eminently qualified that he can be spared only for this service. And unless some guarantee of this kind is furnished, we cannot hope to command the services of such a man."

After interesting addresses from a number of brethren, the Convention voted to combine both of the plans suggested and to appoint an agent to carry them into effect. Whereupon Rev. Sam'l Henderson was unanimously elected agent and his salary fixed at \$1,600 a year, to be raised by private subscription. A subscription was opened there and then in the Convention hall, and several hundred dollars were subscribed for the purpose. But after a short time for consideration, Brother Henderson declined the appointment.

When the Trustees made their next annual report, November, 1854, they made the complaint, which had now become chronic, that no efficient agent could be procured to solicit new subscriptions or to collect the old ones.

"The last annual report," they said, "shows that the Theological and Literary funds amounted to \$58,855.80. It may now be set down at several hundred dollars less. But these sums are merely nominal. A careful examination of the books and inquiry into the condition of the subscribers to the different funds have developed the fact that but little over \$40,000 of the entire funds of the college can now be regarded as available. The annual interest on the portion of this amount which pays interest, and the tuition from students who are not receiving the benefit of scholarships and are not beneficiaries, will not pay the current expenses of the college. . . . How shall the annual deficit be met? Shall the principal continue to be used, and thus the chances for the permanent endowment of the college be annually diminished, the diminution increasing in amount with the time this system shall be followed? These are questions which the Board of Trustees submit to the Convention and ask solutions at the present session."

The Convention referred these thorny questions to the committee on education, which in due time recommended (1) that an efficient agent be put in the field to raise funds sufficient to place the Literary fund beyond the sinking process and (2) to raise funds for the endowment of an additional professorship of Theology. "Funds for Theological education," said the committee, "can be more readily obtained than for any other cause, and thus the general interest of the college be promoted." These recommendations were, of course, adopted.

Is it true that the darkest hour is always just before the dawn? Whatever be the answer to this question, the dawn of a better day was breaking for Howard College. At the adjourned meeting of the Convention in April, 1856, the Trustees reported: "During the year 1855 the Rev. James H. Devotie filled the office of Financial Secretary of the College and discharged its duties with distinguished success. He secured contributions amounting in all to about \$40,000—one-half for the erection of the building, the other for the increase of the endowment fund. The Board regret that they could not induce him to continue in his office another year. They are happy, however, to state that they have secured the services of the Rev. Washington Wilkes (a recent graduate of the college), who has entered upon his work with great enthusiasm and with encouraging prospects of success. . . . The present financial condition of the college is as follows:

Theological Fund .....	\$20,000.50
Literary Fund .....	59,628.21
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$79,628.71

A year later the total had reached \$95,528.21.

During the year 1857, Rev. Z. G. Henderson and Mr. John C. Foster, two recent graduates of the college, entered the field as financial agents and raised about \$50,000 in notes and pledges for the endowment fund.

In January, 1858, Rev. William S. Barton, who had distinguished himself the year before by raising \$10,000 in notes and pledges for the library fund, set out with great zeal and energy to raise \$100,000 for the endowment fund by March 1, 1860. He took notes and pledges with the understanding that none of them would be binding on the giver unless the \$100,000 was raised by the date specified.

In November, 1858, the Trustees made the following financial report:

Theological Fund .....	\$20,400.00
Endowment Fund (principal) .....	89,000.00
Endowment Fund (interest) .....	14,865.68
Amount reported by Rev. W. S. Barton, agent, as raised in notes and pledges the present year.....	47,000.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$171,265.68</b>

"The pledges reported by the agent are of course not legal instruments, but it is presumed the amounts will for the most part be realized.

Your Board regret to be compelled to state that but little progress has been made in collecting that portion of the fund which is now due. This, however, is attributable to circumstances beyond their control. At the commencement of the year they elected Brother W. W. Pascal to the office of Treasurer, but severe personal illness and family bereavements constrained him to resign the office. The Hon. J. F. Cocke was appointed in his place, and at once entered upon the duties of his office. Unfortunately he found these duties to be incompatible with his private business arrangements, and he too resigned his place. But so thoroughly convinced are your Board of the necessity of collecting the funds of the college, that they at once sought a suitable person to fill the place which Brother Cocke's resignation had vacated. They congratulate the Convention on being able to state that Brother R. Lide, of Carlowville, has consented to enter upon this important but delicate work."

Continuing, the Trustees then explained that they had been constrained to draw upon the endowment fund for money to pay for the erection of the second college dormitory.

In 1859, Mr. Jere H. Brown, a wealthy planter of Sumter county, who had already been sustaining a dozen or more beneficiaries in the college, made the munificent pledge of \$25,000 for the endowment of a second chair of Theology, on condition that the Rev. W. S. Barton raise the remainder of the \$100,000 by March 1, 1860. But in consequence of protracted ill-health, Brother Barton accomplished little during the year.

When the Trustees reported to the Convention in November, the status of the endowment was as follows:



Literary Endowment, Prin. and Int.....	\$100,418.12	
Of this, bad and doubtful .....	11,248.92	
Indebtedness (say) \$7,000.00.....	18,248.92	
Leaving reliable Lit. Fund .....		\$ 82,169.20
Theological Endowment .....		20,400.00
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Total .....		\$102,569.20
Lit. Endowment, conditional .....	\$ 38,875.00	
Theol. Endowment, conditional .....	25,000.00	63,875.00
Certificates of Railroad Stock, estimated value.....		\$ 3,500.00
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Grand total .....		\$169,944.20

The Board stated plainly that "\$38,625 must be made between this and the first of March, 1860, to render all the notes binding."

Thus the ante-bellum endowment reached its peak at \$210,000. How much of this was in cash and how much in mere promises to pay cash, cannot now be determined. In 1884 the Board of Trustees threw this light on the matter: "Parties giving their notes bearing 8% interest for \$500 received a certificate of scholarship *in perpetuo*. There was at the same time a tacit understanding, if not a positive agreement, that so long as interest on these notes was paid, the principal would not be called for. Hence but a small proportion of the endowment was paid in, until during the war, when a large proportion of the notes were taken up with Confederate money." Five years earlier the Trustees had said: "These scholarships constituted by far the larger part of the endowment. The amounts collected in money and paid into the Treasury before the war, were subsequently invested in Confederate bonds. A large proportion of the notes were redeemed in Confederate money which is still on hand. At the close of the war a large number of notes remained uncollected, and the payment of these was almost universally resisted. Hence the amounts received were so limited, and the disaffection incurred was so great, that further endeavor to collect them was abandoned."

Such is the story of the ante-bellum endowment, as told by the men who handled the notes and the money. To the historian who reads the records today, it would seem that, before the war, no distinction was drawn between principal and interest, but that, as fast as cash came in, whether as payment of principal or of interest, it was invested at once in buildings or apparatus or paid out for current expenses. The only



thing that looks like an investment for the sake of income is the item listed as "certificates of R. R. Stock."

Meantime, Brother Barton's health became seriously impaired, and he was so unfortunate, while in this feeble state, as to break his leg. In consequence, the Trustees began to indulge in serious apprehension of failure to raise the \$100,000 by March 1, 1860. As a last resort, they requested President Talbird to make an appeal in person to the liberality of the denomination. The response to his appeal was liberal and by February 1 he had raised an additional sum of \$30,000. This left nearly \$8,000 to be supplied. From the inclemency of the weather, the roads were now rendered impassible, and nothing more could be done. In this emergency, President Talbird gave his own *bona fide* note for the deficiency, with the understanding that he should be allowed at some subsequent time to raise the amount. Thus ended the last drive for the ante-bellum endowment.

In November, 1860, the status of the endowment was as follows:

Literary Endowment, principal and interest.....	\$175,350.20
Of this, bad and doubtful .....	\$11,250.40
Indebtedness, say .....	3,000.00
Leaving reliable Literary Fund .....	14,250.40
Theological Endowment .....	161,099.80
	45,400.00
	<hr/>
Total reliable endowment .....	\$206,499.80
Certificates of R. R. Stock.....	3,500.00
	<hr/>
Grand total .....	\$209,999.80

## CHAPTER VIII

## WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION

Those of us who remember what happened to our schools and colleges in April, 1917, can easily realize what happened in April, 1861, when Lincoln issued his call for seventy-five thousand men to coerce the South. At Howard the two tutors, W. C. Ward and W. A. Parker, laid aside their books and joined volunteer companies before the end of April, and were followed by many students. Professor Ed Quin Thornton was soon to follow, and before Commencement President Talbird had become Captain Talbird of the "Independent Volunteers," a company composed of Howard students and boys of the vicinity, and before the middle of July he had "gone to Virginia to meet the Northern Vandals." But Captain Talbird found upon trial that he could not endure the fatigues of military life and, while in camp near Manassas Junction, August 15, he resigned his command and returned to Marion. He had not enjoyed one day of good health while in Virginia.

Meantime the Trustees of the college had resolved to restore the preparatory department and to introduce military drill, at the beginning of the next session. In September, the Treasurer of the Board was authorized to receive coupon bonds of the Confederate States in payment of the principal of all subscriptions or debts due the college.

Instruction was resumed on October 1, 1861, with the following faculty: Talbird, Goodhue, Sherman, and Tobey. The enrollment of students for the entire scholastic year reached 68, of whom, it is safe to say, the majority were sub-Freshmen. Dr. Talbird gave daily instruction in military tactics until the spring of 1862, when he raised a regiment and entered the service again as Colonel.

To save expense, the Trustees, at their annual meeting in July, 1862, vacated the Brown Professorship of Theology and reduced the salaries of Professors Goodhue and Sherman, the only remaining members of the faculty. This they called "getting on a war basis." Professor Tobey was at once commissioned by the Board of Domestic Missions as missionary to the Army of Mississippi. During the summer Col. Talbird's regiment was stationed at Tuscaloosa to guard some Federal prisoners and to protect the city; at the end of the year it rendered effective service in the battles at Murfreesboro.

Professors Goodhue and Sherman opened college at the usual date in the fall of 1862. In November they had 41 students, viz: 1 Junior, 6 Sophomores, 10 Freshmen, and 24 sub-Freshmen. Before the scholastic year closed they had enrolled 56.

When the Baptist Convention met in November, 1863, the Trustees reported:

"That about the 20th of May last application was made by the Medical Director of this Military Department for the temporary use of the two dormitory buildings for hospital purposes, which was granted, and consequently the college exercises were soon afterwards suspended. There being a strong probability that the buildings would be held by the Government for an indefinite period, your Board, at its last annual meeting, resolved to retain but one member of the Faculty, and made it his duty to take charge of the main building, with its contents, library, apparatus, cabinet, furniture, etc., to protect them from injury, and also to afford instruction to such students as might apply for it. He has a school of about twenty boys, one-half of whom are pursuing the studies of the Freshman and Sophomore classes.

The rent of the building paid by the Government and the tuition of those who have not scholarships more than cover the salary of Professor Goodhue and the expense of insurance on the property. The college is free from debt."

During the scholastic year 1863-64, Professor Goodhue enrolled 27 boys in his school, of whom 24 were from Marion.

In the summer of 1864, the Trustees resolved that the usual school should not open in the fall, but that Howard College should offer gratuitous instruction exclusively to disabled Confederate soldiers. Those who were convalescent in the dormitory buildings would be given a course of education calculated to fit them for business and usefulness in life. Accordingly, the soldiers' school opened in October, 1864, with Professor A. B. Goodhue as teacher, assisted by his son, D. P. Goodhue, who had been detailed from military service, at the instance of Col. Talbird, for this purpose. About 125 soldiers availed themselves of the opportunities thus offered, and the school continued for about five months.

Then came the end of the war. In the spring of 1865, Alabama was overrun by Federal forces and Marion, as well as other important points, was occupied. Federal troops occupied the college buildings and, against the earnest and repeated protest of the Trustees, one of the dormitories was appropriated to the use of the freed negroes. Professor Goodhue ceased to give instruction, and from March to June, 1865, Howard College as an institution of learning closed its doors. For many months the college property was under libel for confiscation by the United States Government; but it was, of course, subsequently relieved.

Gloomy was the prospect faced by the Trustees in the summer of 1865. Many of the subscribers had paid their notes during the war in Confederate securities, which were now valueless. Whether the unpaid notes were worth the paper they were written on, only time could tell. Meanwhile the Trustees were legally obligated to honor scholarship certificates—how many were afloat nobody seemed to know—as soon as college should re-open in the fall.

After a free interchange of views, the Trustees resolved to open the college in the fall of 1865 at the usual time, October 1—not relying, however, upon the endowment for support; but to make the institution as far as possible self-supporting, to depend upon the voluntary contributions of its friends to meet any deficiencies in the income derived from tuition. To this end, holders of scholarships were requested to waive their privileges, at least for the time being. The amount of salaries for which the Trustees pledged themselves was \$4,200. To meet this obligation, it was estimated that 50 paying students would be needed.

Rev. Henry Talbird was requested to resume his duties as president of the institution, but he declined to do so, preferring to devote his entire time thenceforth to pastoral work. So the college opened at the time appointed with only a remnant of its former faculty: Professor A. B. Goodhue, Professor E. Q. Thornton, and Tutor D. P. Goodhue. During the entire scholastic year, the total enrollment reached only 41.

“What shall we do?” asked the Trustees of the Convention in November, 1865. “We do not propose, just now, to attempt to re-endow the college, but rather to prepare ourselves for it at the earliest practicable moment. If the friends of Howard College would, by voluntary contribution, for the next two years, put it in the power of the Board to sustain a President at a salary of \$\_\_\_\_\_, who should give as much of his time as could be spared from other duties, to securing that part of the endowment fund which has not been absolutely lost, reviving the hopes of the people and taking advantage of opportunities as they arise, to renewed effort, we believe that a brighter day dawns upon this institution; and with the return of prosperity to the country, would come back the former days, with increased honor and usefulness. In an emergency as great as this, the Prophet cried: ‘Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord.’”

The man who presided over the Baptist Convention in November, 1865, was the Hon. J. L. M. Curry, of Talladega—lawyer, statesman,



soldier, politician and preacher. Casting a significant glance in his direction, the Rev. Sam'l R. Freeman, chairman of the committee on education, said: "Let us select from our brethren a man highly endowed by nature and cultivation for the presidency of Howard College. Let him be commissioned to go among the Baptists of the State and spend one year, and if need be, two years, in the work of resuscitating the endowment and stimulating the enterprise and liberality of our brethren in behalf of this important institution. It needs no lamp of Diogenes to find this man. He is already among us. Let us lay violent hands upon him, and let us say to him: 'Here, our brother, is the task we commit to your hands. We lay upon you the onus and the honor of rescuing this important instrumentality of usefulness to man and to the glory of God from the dust. In the name of our God and our cause, we call you to this trust, and we pledge ourselves to sustain you.' Let the Trustees be requested to raise, by voluntary subscription, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_, for one year, as the President's salary."

The result of all this maneuvering and negotiations was the election of the Hon. J. L. M. Curry as president of Howard College at an annual salary of \$5,000 in currency or \$3,500 in gold, to be raised by private subscription. This was a large salary for the time, but the president-elect was one of the ablest and most prominent men in the State.

Jabez Lamar Monroe Curry was born in Lincoln County, Georgia, on June 5, 1825. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1843 and from the Harvard Law School in 1845. On leaving Harvard, he located in Talladega, Alabama, as the law partner of Andrew W. Bowie, whose sister he soon afterwards married. But Mr. Curry's inclinations were not legal and he early entered politics as a Democrat. With a great talent for oratory and strong personal magnetism, he made a wide reputation very quickly and was elected to the State Legislature in 1847, to which honor he was again elected in 1853 and 1855. In 1857 he was elected to Congress and re-elected in 1859, and was one of the Alabama delegation that walked out of Congress when the State seceded. He sat in the first Confederate Congress and distinguished himself as an orator and secessionist. Upon the adjournment of this Congress, he joined the army as Lieutenant Colonel of the Fifth Alabama Cavalry and surrendered with this regiment in 1865.

After the war Colonel Curry became a Baptist minister and preached frequently, though never accepting the pastoral care of a church. Throughout the years of his public service he had been active in Christian work, and it now seemed eminently appropriate to his brethren



ren in Alabama that he should assume the leadership in Christian education. Dignified in demeanor, faultless in manner, with extensive learning and unquestioned ability, and with a wide acquaintanceship throughout the State, he seemed just the man to pull Howard College from the Slough of Despond and to preside over its future destinies.

Col. Curry accepted the presidency at the salary mentioned, and removed in December, 1865, to Marion, taking with him his son, Manly, then a boy eight or nine years old, whose sister, Susie, a young lady of fifteen, had already entered the Judson Institute. His wife had died on the 8th of the preceding April.

He entered upon his duties in January, 1866. Of this year's work he afterwards wrote: "Most of my time, after a little teaching in Moral and Mental Science and Political Economy, was given to travel through the States and to public addresses in behalf of the college and general education. \* \* \* During the year I visited Selma, Montgomery, Tuskegee, Jacksonville, Talladega, Mobile, Gainesville and Mississippi."

But President Curry did little toward the resuscitation of Howard College, for the simple reason that little could be done. The ante-bellum social and economic system in the South was breaking up, and years would be required for readjustment. During the summer of 1865, the negroes showed a disposition to remain on the plantations and gather the crops; but influenced by their new-found friends from the North, they soon wandered away, interpreting their freedom as a license to indulge in idleness and vagrancy. In the autumn the rumor gained currency among them that on New Year's Day the United States Government would give each freedom "forty acres and a mule." Accordingly, many refused to contract for farm labor during the coming year. In consequence, crops failed and credit was paralyzed by reason of the disorganization of labor through emancipation. Since the war had already exhausted the fields and swept away the banks, insurance companies, and every other institution which lent money to the community, the average Southerner was hard put to it for wherewithal to eke out a bare existence. This added to the political turmoil of the times, made the support and endowment of colleges precarious, if not impossible, for many years to come.

In the fall of 1866, instruction began at Howard College at the usual date. The following were the members of the faculty:

Rev. J. L. M. Curry, President and Professor of Mental and Moral Science.

A. B. Goodhue, A.M., Professor of Mathematics and Physics.

E. Q. Thornton, A.M., Professor Chemistry and Modern Languages.

I. B. Vaiden, A.M., Professor of Ancient Languages.

The last mentioned on the list had just succeeded D. P. Goodhue. Born in Virginia on September 11, 1820, Major Vaiden, as he was for some reason called, was residing at Uniontown, Alabama, when he was called to the Howard. He was destined the following year to be made the Principal of the Preparatory Department and to remain such for several years.

It was announced, when college opened, that, in order to meet the wants of the times, students, for the time being, would be admitted to pursue a partial, irregular, or even a preparatory course of study. This was a euphonious way of saying that there would be no entrance requirements at all.

When the Baptist Convention met in November, 1866, the Trustees reported:

“The unsettled condition of the country, and the failure of the crops foreshadowed early in the season, forbade any attempt on the part of the President to raise money. In the opinion of many among our wisest and most experienced business men, the effort to do so would be prejudicial to the interest of the college. His efforts have, therefore, been to prepare the way for this work when the time shall come.”

On February 28, 1867, President Curry entered into correspondence with Mr. Robert C. Winthrop, with reference to the Peabody donation, a gift of \$3,000,000, by which Mr. George Peabody, of Massachusetts, established what became known later as the Peabody Education Fund. About the middle of March, President Curry, with proper credentials and resolutions of confidence from his Board of Trustees, set out for Richmond and Baltimore, for the purpose of securing, if possible, some part of the Peabody fund. But in April he was back in Marion without any fruitful results to show for his pains.

On June 25, 1867, he married Mary Wortham Thomas, and four days later sailed for Europe. In October, he was elected to the chair of History and Literature in Richmond College, the leading Baptist institution in Virginia. On April 21, 1868, he resigned the presidency of Howard College and a week later removed to Richmond, never again to be a resident of Alabama.

To say that the Baptists of Alabama were disappointed in Dr. Curry's administration of the college, is not to state the case correctly.

There was a great disappointment, it is true, but this was due to the delay in the return of prosperity. When the war closed, the South was willing to let bygones be bygones and to get busy again with the production of wealth; but the demoralization of the negroes through the agents of the Freedman's Bureau, the political turmoil due to the machinations of carpetbaggers and scalawags, and the scarcely credible determination of a radical Congress to raise the negro to the social level of the white man—all these things entered in to paralyze credit and to interfere with the production of wealth. Neither J. L. M. Curry nor any other Southern man could have resuscitated Howard College at that time.

In November, 1867, just before Dr. Curry resigned the presidency, the Trustees made another gloomy report to the Convention.

“The unparalleled prostration of the financial affairs of the country has fallen with peculiar severity upon the college. In our reports of 1865-66, we have stated the difficulty of reaching any definite conclusion as to the amount of the endowment upon which we could rely, arising from the fact that it consisted of notes of individuals scattered over a large part of the State, many of whom, it might be presumed, were unable to meet their obligations. The Board have realized the importance of obtaining at least some approximate idea of what remains of this fund. \* \* \* Yet they have felt greatly embarrassed as to the manner in which they should attempt to reach this desirable end. \* \* \* At their last annual meeting, a change of policy was adopted, which, if successful, would relieve the college of the burden of an accumulating debt, and still preserve the institution to the denomination and the public. The plan was, first to connect with the college a preparatory department, to be under the supervision of one of the faculty. Second, the president and two professors should devote themselves to the regular college classes: the number of instructors to be increased if necessary. The professors were to receive as compensation all the tuition fees, paying all necessary expenses, giving instruction to such as might claim the right of scholarships and to candidates for the ministry. Third, the president's salary to be secured by by voluntary contribution. \* \* \* The results have not been favorable. The number of students is not sufficient to sustain the teachers; and as we could not keep our part of the previous contract with them, we cannot hold them to theirs. Unless the Convention shall devise some better plan, we see no al-

ternative but to suspend operations as a college. \* \* \* The indebtedness of the college is: For the salaries due to the professors, \$8,900; to D. R. Lide, \$483.37; to Phister and White, \$382.05. Of the president's salary (for nearly all of which pledges were made) for the two years now terminated, of \$5,000 per annum, fixed by the Convention, there has been collected in all .....

Whereupon the Convention did the only thing it could do—it issued an address—

“To the Baptists of Alabama:

“Brethren:—

“If there ever was a time when the highest interest of our people, the honor and the efficiency for good of our denomination, and the glory of our blessed Master, demanded of you an extraordinary exertion in promoting our denominational interest, *now is the time*. \* \* \* If you cannot give much, give something. Do not wait to be called on by an agent, but send up your contributions by registered letter, containing \$20, \$15, \$10, \$5, or even \$1, as God has prospered you.”

But the results of this appeal were meager. Dr. Curry went away with several hundred dollars still owing to him on his salary. The other professors took what they could get, and drew their economic belts a little closer around their stomachs.

With the departure of Dr. Curry, the hope of realizing anything on the endowment was well-nigh abandoned. It was buried along with the ante-bellum prosperity of the South; but the ghost of it, in the form of old scholarship certificates, could not easily be laid, and continued to walk the earth, causing annoyance and embarrassment for years to come.

In July, 1868, the Trustees elected Professor Ed. Quin Thornton president of the college, offered him the use of the buildings, apparatus and other property free of rent, and the privilege of selecting his own faculty, on condition that he keep the property in repair and make the college self-sustaining. He accepted the appointment upon the condition that the Trustees would become responsible for the tuition of forty students over the first sixty; that is to say, he would take the risk of obtaining sixty, if the deficit should be made good by the Trustees between that number and a hundred—the number necessary to make the college self-sustaining. The Trustees, perforce, agreed, and the college opened in the fall of 1868 with the following faculty:

E. Q. Thornton, A.M., President, and Professor of Chemistry, Natural History and Modern Languages.



A. B. Goodhue, A. M., Professor of Mathematics and Greek.  
 D. G. Sherman, A.M., Professor of Latin Language and  
 Literature.

I. B. Vaiden, A.M., Principal of the Preparatory Department.  
 J. H. Hendon, Assistant in the Preparatory Department.

Professor D. G. Sherman, who now comes back after an absence of five years, was not destined to serve again. He died about the time college opened and his place was left vacant during the rest of the academic year.

In their annual report to the Convention in November, 1868, the Trustees said:

“We are endeavoring to make the college self-sustaining; but to do so, two things are essential: First, the system of scholarships must be abolished. To almost every application for the surrender of this privilege, the response has been favorable. Still, there are a few who claim it, and, when claimed, it is not disputed; but it must be evident that, without an endowment, and dependent upon tuition for support, many such demands would close its doors. Second, the friends of the college must increase its patronage. \* \* \* This can be done, both directly and indirectly, by sending their sons and wards to it, and by using their influence to induce others to do so.”

Then the Trustees stated that the college was due Professor A. B. Goodhue \$4,330.06; Professor Thornton \$1,206.43; Professor Vaiden, \$1,762.50, and Rev. J. L. M. Curry, balance on note, \$922.71.

Since the number of students during the presidency of Professor Thornton rose to 116, it is to be presumed that the college was almost, if not quite, self-sustaining.

From the old catalogue for the year 1868-69, we learn what intellectual pabulum was offered to the students in the college courses. Any boy of good moral character could enter the Preparatory Department, but candidates for admission to the Freshman Class were required to sustain a creditable examination in the Common English Branches, Latin and Greek Grammars, Caesar, Virgil, Sallust or Cicero's Oration, the Greek Reader, and Davies' Elementary Algebra to simple Equations.

There were still two courses of study—the Classical and the Scientific. Students taking the Classical Course had all their work prescribed for them. To the Freshmen was offered the following pabulum: The Odes, Epistles and Satires of Horace; three books of

Xenophon's *Anabasis*; Herodotus and Thucydides; Mitchell's *Ancient Geography*, and Arnold's *Latin Prose Composition*. At the end of this formidable menu, albeit inclosed in brackets, was appended the cryptic words *Gr. Majora*. In Mathematics, Robinson's text-books on Algebra and Geometry; in English, which seems to have been under the direction of no particular professor, Freshmen were required to practice composition and declamation "throughout the year", which means probably that they had "speaking" on Friday afternoons.

In the Sophomore year, students were required to read Lincoln's *Lioz* (whatever that was), Tacitus, Terence, Homer's *Iliad*, Xenophon's *Cyropaedia*, Demosthenes, Bojesen's *Grecian and Roman Antiquities*, and to study Knapp's *French Grammar* and De Fiva's *French Reader*; German was optional. In Mathematics, they were required to complete Robinson's text-books on Trigonometry, plane and spherical, mensuration of surfaces and solids, surveying and navigation, measurements of heights and distances, Analytical Geometry, and Calculus, both differential and integral. In English they were to study Pinneo's *English Grammar*, but "throughout the year" they were still required to practice composition and declamation.

Juniors had to read Sophocles and Euripides, Juvenal, Cicero's *De Officio*, and to study De Fiva's *Classic Reader* and *Corinne*; German was optional. In lieu of Mathematics, they took subjects in the Department of Natural Philosophy under President Thornton. Here they had "lectures" on Hydrostatics, Pneumatics, Acoustics, Optics, Heat, Electricity and Magnetism, and Meteorology (sic). Though these were "lecture courses", the students had to buy text-books by Jackson and Brocklesby. Under President Thornton, too, were required courses on General Chemistry and Agricultural Chemistry, for which text-books had to be bought. In English, Juniors had to study Whatley's *Rhetoric and Logic*, and practice composition and declamation "throughout the year".

In the Senior year, there was no room, in all conscience, for Latin and Greek and Mathematics; but Seniors took courses in Zoology (Agassiz and Gould, and lectures), Minerology (Dana's *Handbook*, and lectures), Geology (Dana's *Handbook*, and lectures), Botany (Gray's *Handbook*, and Astronomy (Olmstead, and lectures). In addition to these, they had to study Wayland's text-books on Political Economy, Moral Science, and Intellectual Philosophy, and Campbell's *Philosophy of Rhetoric*. Throughout the year they also had to practice declamation, but in their case the declamation must be *original*. Why not, forsooth?

The Scientific Course was the same as the above except that no Greek was required; but in lieu thereof the Seniors had to study the Constitution of the United States. Whether they found in the study of this document a justification for the doctrine of States' Rights can not for a moment be doubted.

Though there had been no military discipline on the campus since 1862, the students were nevertheless subject to a regular schedule of daily duties. Thus we read in the catalogue:

"The Bell will be rung at dawn to rise and dress, and at sunrise for recitation and study, to which one hour will be devoted before breakfast. The hours of study, recitations and recreation during the remainder of the day will be regulated with reference to strict economy of time.

"Monthly reports showing the standing of students in their classes and the number of absences from prayers, recitations, and rooms during study hours, together with other regularities, will be sent to parents or guardians."

Since there was at this time no dining hall on the campus, and many of the students and professors lived in town, these recitations before breakfast must have been an acid test of their enthusiasm for learning.

At the close of the session of 1868-69, Professor Thornton resigned the presidency, preferring to devote his energies exclusively to teaching. Thereupon the Board of Trustees, "with flattering unanimity", selected as president the Rev. S. R. Freeman, a graduate of the college and "a gentleman distinguished for his practical wisdom, and his sound scholarly and theological attainments". With him were selected the following faculty: Ed. Quin Thornton, Professor of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Natural History and Modern Languages; Thomas J. Dill, Professor of the Latin and Greek Languages and Literature; John H. Jones, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy; I. B. Vaiden, Professor and Principal of the Preparatory Department. The salary of President Freeman was to be \$2,000, raised by private subscription. The salaries of the other professors were to be paid from the tuition fees. The old scholarship certificates were still to be honored, but with increasingly bad grace.

Rev. Samuel R. Freeman, the new president, was a native of Tennessee. Ordained minister of the Gospel at the age of twenty-five, he came to Howard College for an education. In addition to poverty, he suffered from an affliction of the eyes, one of which he ultimately

lost, and the other was a source of trouble to him until the close of his life. After leaving college, he became pastor of Hopewell church, in the eastern part of Perry county, from which he was called to the presidency of Howard College.

He was a man of considerable ability. The simplicity of his dress and manners, coupled with his rugged eloquence, made him a great favorite with the people. It was not difficult for him to enter into cordial and pleasant relations with the preachers of the denomination. As an agent of the college he was tactful, and as a preacher or speaker he was forceful. His beaming face and rugged eloquence were soon to awake interest in all parts of the State.

It will be noticed that Professor A. B. Goodhue, who had been connected with the college since 1846, has disappeared from the faculty. He resigned from the Howard and went over to the Judson where he remained for two years, teaching mathematics to the young ladies. In January, 1873, he and his family removed from Marion to Oxford, Alabama, where he took charge of a boys' school. In 1880 he went to Gadsden to become principal of the high school of that place.

Thomas J. Dill, who now entered the faculty as Professor of Latin and Greek, was destined to render the college a long and distinguished service. When he resigned in 1900, from age and infirmity, there were hundreds of old Howard boys to rise and call him blessed.

Thomas John Dill was born on November 8, 1925, on Edisto Island, a broad and rich delta land, some thirty miles below Charleston, South Carolina. His father, Joseph Mason Dill, was a planter-physician of the old school, broadly educated, and with a home surrounded by the best culture of the times. Young Thomas received his early education at the Academy of Christopher Cotes in Charleston. At the age of sixteen, he was ready to enter the sophomore class of the University of South Carolina, at Columbia. When he was only nineteen, he graduated from the University with the degree of A. B.—second honor man in a class of sixty. For four years thereafter he taught in the local academy at Edisto. In 1849 he followed a colony of Charlestonians and Edistonians, composed of Lees, Lockwoods, Lides, Youngbloods, and Alisons, to Dallas county, Alabama, where they had formed the village of Carlowville. Here the young professor opened an academy for boys which he successfully conducted for twenty years.

During the first years of his career as a teacher, he had great confidence in the educating power of the hickory switch, and he cultivated a vigorous muscle for laying it on. Later in life, however, he changed



his method and instituted a system of rewards instead of punishments. This he found to be the better way. The appeal was to the boy's ambition, and developed a sense of honor and self-respect. He had a degree of tact in the management of his boys, and he often relieved the tedium of the class room with sallies of ready wit and humor.

Professor Dill's task in Howard College was to teach Latin and Greek, which he did in his own original way. With a genius for philology and the fine points of syntax, he made the dry bones to live and the dead roots to bring forth life. In his class room many a young man caught his first inspiration for the study of language.

Early in his career as a college professor, Mercer University conferred upon him the degree of LL.D., and this honor he wore with credit.<sup>(1)</sup>

At the first faculty meeting in the fall of 1869, Professor Dill was made secretary of that body and, in the methodical manner characteristic of him, he kept accurate minutes of the faculty meetings for a year or two. These records are exceedingly interesting today by reason of the glimpse they give us of the inside workings of the college. Here are a few extracts:

Sept. 23rd, 1869.

The faculty of Howard College met together at the call of the president, in one of the recitation rooms of the North College, at 10 a. m. All the members of the faculty were present; namely, the President, Sam'l R. Freeman, and Professors E. Q. Thornton, Thos. J. Dill, Jno. H. Jones, and I. B. Vaiden.

After making a few remarks appropriate to the occasion, the President offered up a prayer to Almighty God, that his blessings would accompany the labors in which they were about to engage. Professor Dill was then requested to act as secretary.

The President opened the discussion of business by proposing as the order of exercises in the College proper, the following programme:

Chapel Exercises at sunrise, the hour varying with the seasons of the year, immediately followed by recitation hour. The remaining hours of the day to be apportioned as follows:

Study Hours—9 to 11 A. M.—2 to 4 P. M.—7 to 9½ P. M.

Recitation Hours—11 A. M. to 12—4 to 5 P. M.

The arrangement in regard to the Chapel Exercises and morning recitation shall be considered as applying to Saturday also. After some discussion the above schedule was adopted unanimously.

(1) In the *Howard College Bulletin* (Summer Issue, August, 1911), appears a biographical sketch of Dr. Dill, by his son, the Rev. J. S. Dill, from which I have freely drawn. In the same publication are two appreciative articles by two of Dr. Dill's former students, Dr. John R. Sampey and Dr. W. A. Hobson.

Prof. Jones then proposed that a change should be made in the course of studies in the Department of Mathematics. His reasons for the change were given and were approved of by the faculty. Prof. Dill also requested some change in the Department of Ancient Languages. This change was also explained to the faculty and met with their approbation. Profs. Jones and Dill were appointed a committee to wait upon the Board of Trustees, and to request that they would sanction these changes.

There being no other business before the meeting Prof. Vaiden proposed an adjournment to meet again on Thursday, the 30th inst., at 9 a. m.

THOS. J. DILL, Sec.

October 11th, 1869.

The faculty came together this day at the appointed hour. Excuses rendered by students for absences during the past week, either from their rooms or from the college exercises, were read and approved of. There being no other business to be considered they adjourned to the next regular meeting.

November 15th, 1869.

The faculty met today at the usual hour, Profs. Thornton, Dill and Jones being present. Prof. Jones reported that, in consequence of the sickness of Horace, he had been compelled to engage the services of another freedman during the past week. He was authorized to make the best terms he could to satisfy the said freedman. Excuses rendered for the past week were considered and disposed of. The faculty then adjourned.

November 20th, 1869.

The faculty met together at the call of the president. It was proposed that the number of demerits imposed for absences, and tardiness in attending upon college exercises shall be as follows:

Absence from recitation .....	3
Absence from worship .....	3
Absence from building .....	2
Absence from room .....	1
Tardiness .....	1

Also that the number of demerits given to each student during the month shall be taken from the maximum (100), to determine his deportment, and that the scholarship and deportment shall count equally in determining general averages. This arrangement being satisfactory to all, was adopted. Prof. Jones proposed that written exercises at examination count twice as much as oral; agreed to; also, that the examination and term standing count equally; this rule also was adopted. It was also decided that the secretary keep a demerit roll, from which, on Tuesday evening of each week, he shall read out in Chapel the number of demerits imposed on each student for the preceding week. Adjourned to the next regular meeting.

December 20th, 1869.

The members of the faculty came together at the usual hour. Excuses rendered for absences during the past week were read and disposed of. The secretary was instructed to read out in the Chapel the names of the following students, being those appointed to deliver original speeches at the close of the term: Thos. White, Elbert M. Vay, Thaddeus Jones, Wm. H. England, and Walter Jones. Professors Thornton, Dill and Jones were instructed to select each three students from his class in declamation to prepare extracts for the public exercises on the same occasion. It was also decided that the college exercises be suspended from Thursday evening until the first Monday in January.

May 16th, 1870.

The faculty convened today at the usual hour \* \* \* the following resolution was then proposed and unanimously carried:

*Resolved*, That the parents or guardians of the following gentlemen be informed that they habitually neglect their college duties, and that their attention be called to Page 11, Art. 12 of the College Laws making it the duty of the faculty to dismiss such students from college;

*Resolved*, That the Secretary be required to carry out the above instructions.

Names of students included in the above: (Ten boys resident in Marion and one from Camden, Wilcox county. Probably small boys in the Preparatory Department.)

The academic year ending in June, 1870, was regarded as being fairly successful. There were in attendance 184 students, of whom nine were studying for the ministry under the direction of President Freeman. Early in the session the Trustees provided a Mess Hall on the campus where students, by forming a Mess Club, might obtain board at actual cost. Fifteen students availed themselves of this opportunity and boarded themselves at an average cost of \$7.38 a month for each individual. The Trustees, seeing the success of the plan, promised to increase the accommodations for the next session.

When the fall session opened on October 3, 1870, George D. Bancroft, A. M., had succeeded John H. Jones as Professor of Mathematics. At the end of October, Professor Dill reported the registration of 108 students, distributed as follows:

In Preparatory Department .....	40
In College pursuing irregular course .....	20
Sub-Freshman Class .....	13
Freshman Class .....	16
Sophomore Class .....	17
Junior Class .....	2 68
Total .....	108

Theological Students, 5.	
From Perry County .....	62
From other Counties .....	46

The following are extracts from the minutes of the faculty meetings, showing that boys will be boys even in a church school :

November 1st, 1870.

The faculty had a special meeting at the call of the President to consider the cases of Messrs. Crenshaw, Caffey and Richardson, charged with disorderly conduct in the South Building. The case of Mr. Crenshaw was disposed of first. Mr. C. was not only charged with disturbing the quiet of the building, as were the others, but also with carrying firearms, drawing a pistol on one of the students, and using profane language. Having before been reported for carrying firearms, and having been admonished in regard to this violation of the College Laws, Mr. C. was dismissed privately, and his father was notified of the decision of the faculty. The other cases were postponed for the next day.

November 2, 1870.

The faculty met today pursuant to adjournment to consider the cases of Messrs. Caffey and Richardson. It was decided that these gentlemen be privately admonished by the President, and that three demerits be imposed upon each.

November 7, 1870.

The faculty met today at 12 m. to consider the case of Messrs. Weaver and Richardson reported for fighting. Since the collision appeared to be not premeditated by either, and since these gentlemen pledged themselves to avoid the recurrence of such an event, they were privately admonished by the President, and no further notice taken of the case.

January 6, 1871.

A call meeting of the faculty of Howard College was held this day, at which the following matters were discussed and acted upon :

Prof. Dill proposed that, whereas we consider the Literary Societies an important adjunct to our institution, and we believe that recitations on Saturday mornings interfere with the successful working of these Societies, therefore :—

*Resolved,* That, from this time, the recitations at that hour be discontinued.

After some discussion the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Prof. Thornton then proposed the following resolution :

*Resolved,* That the students shall on the last Friday in each month declaim before the faculty and students in the Chapel, each member of the faculty rating the proficiency of every student, and that the selections for the public exercises at the close of the session shall be determined by these awards.



President Freeman resigned in June, 1871, and removed to Texas, where he died the next year. He was succeeded by Col. James T. Murfree, who brought to the presidency of the college a high reputation as an organizer, disciplinarian and instructor. The dark period of reconstruction was now slowly coming to a close, the negroes were gradually adjusting themselves to their changed condition, and the political adventurers in State and county government were preparing to pack their grips and depart. The advent of Col. Murfee marks the beginning of an era in the history of Howard College.

## CHAPTER IX

## THE ADMINISTRATION OF COLONEL MURFEE

James Thomas Murfee was born on September 13, 1833, at Murfee's Depot, Southhampton county, Virginia. He graduated from the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington in 1853, as a Civil Engineer, without a single demerit and with the highest honors of his class. After graduation he taught for one year at Madison College, Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and for two years in Lynchburg College in Virginia. In 1860 he was called to the University of Alabama as Professor of Mathematics and Commandant of Cadets. At the outbreak of hostilities he gave up his chair of Mathematics and devoted his entire time to military instruction.

On the night of April 3, 1865, a brigade of Federal cavalry under the command of General Croxton, having come down the west side of the Warrior river, reached the bridge at Tuscaloosa about ten o'clock. The guards at the bridge were few in number and, after an ineffectual resistance, retreated and allowed the enemy to cross and occupy the city. When news of this reached the University, the long roll was beaten and every boy responded to the call. Under the command of Colonel Murfee and President Garland, the cadets were marched in all haste to the scene of hostilities. At the top of the long hillside road leading to the bridge took place a short and quick encounter. After firing one or two volleys, the cadets marched back to the University in good order. Here they destroyed a large quantity of ammunition and then took up the line of march for Marion, Alabama, where they were disbanded a few days later. The war was over.

In June, 1866, the Trustees of the University took measures for the speedy reconstruction of the University buildings, and appointed Colonel Murfee architect and superintendent of the enterprise. Here he labored for three or four years, until the Carpetbag-Scalawag crowd of politicians got control of the University and forced all self-respecting gentlemen to retire.

After severing his connection with the University, Col. Murfee seriously considered the possibility of entering the business world as a manufacturer of commercial fertilizers; but that old longing to be of service to young men would not down, and when he was offered the presidency of Howard College in the summer of 1871, he did not hesitate, though the remuneration offered was very meager. His reward was to come in after-years, when he saw his "boys" occupying high

positions of trust and responsibility and pointing to him as their great model and inspirer. "All his old pupils," writes Dr. John R. Sampey, Sr., who was one of them, "carry in memory the erect form, the searching, flashing eye, and the penetrating voice of the great teacher. In his bearing there was the directness and crispness of the soldier, coupled with the courtesy of the cultivated scholar and gentleman. If he entered a group or passed along the street, all eyes were attracted to him by that subtle telepathy which announces the presence of a great personality. In the class room, as on the parade ground, all recognized his leadership, and waited for the expression of his will. His well-built frame and broad brow were but an index to his keen and massive mind and his vigorous moral manhood."

Such was Col. Murfee,—a man of high ideals, a devout Christian, and a Southern gentleman of the planter class. On his arrival at Marion, he found an atmosphere which he understood and liked. His magnetic touch was to awaken Howard College, slumbering like all others from the effects of the war.

From the first day of his arrival, Col. Murfee charmed and surprised the citizens of Marion. He announced his intention to introduce a new system of college organization, "the counterpart of which has not been seen in this country." There would be new features in *discipline*, in *methods of instruction*, in *moral culture*, and in *practical education*. The *Marion Commonwealth* of August 24, 1871, characterized him as "emphatically a *live man*" and proceeded to say:

"We had the pleasure last Monday of a short conversation with Col. Murfee, the President-elect, upon the plan, the prospects, the future government, etc., of the Howard. He gave us an insight into the system of instruction which he proposes to adopt. We were well pleased with his ideas in the main. He proposes to *avoid* large classes, a nuisance common to colleges, and which too often converts college instruction into a mere farce—a burlesque upon education. This he will do by dividing the classes into sections to recite daily, and require *every* boy to recite *à son tour*. We have not unfrequently heard of boys going whole weeks without a recitation, where the classes are large. Under the proposed plan, there can be no such injustice to the student, and outrage upon parents.

He intends that the students in the English branches *shall be thorough*. An English course is all that many of our young men will be able to take, on account of their honest poverty, but it is the foundation of all education in this country, and owing to the

necessitous circumstances by which Southern youth is trammelled, it assumes additional and untold importance. He will require the pupil to compose regularly and *frequently*, submitting his composition to the most searching criticism by the professor and by his classmates. This is another new feature and a decidedly better one than the old habit of making the professor the sole critic, who made the criticisms in pencil mark on the margin of the composition and handed it back to the boy to be torn up by him before he fairly left the recitation room. There will be daily exercises on the blackboard, the pupil extemporaneously embodying in his own language the sentiments, or ideas, contained in any piece that the professor may read in his hearing before sending him to the board. This will give the pupil command of language, it will quicken all the energies of his mind, and will especially cultivate the analytical faculties and powers, by forcing him to comprehend the idea and reasoning of the author and arrange all methodically in his own mind, in an instant. In Philosophy and Chemistry the pupil, instead of the professor, will lecture, experiment and illustrate. The advantage of this over the old custom of putting it all upon the professor, and depriving the student of the highest advantages to be derived from the study of these sciences, is unquestionable and needs no comment. And so throughout there will be *practical application* of everything taught. In Mathematics, original problems will be insisted upon, and every possible *test* applied which will, or can, prove the thorough comprehension of the subject. But best of all Col. Murfee intends to have perfect discipline by enforcing the rules and regulations of the college *rigidly*. This is the great want of our college. If positively required, most boys will study, and if they study they must learn.

Col. Murfee, accustomed to military discipline, will apply a system of school tactics to his pupils which must educate them into strong minded, active, useful men. Parents, then, who send to Howard will have the gratifying assurance that their children will not go there to contract loose habits from the loose discipline maintained, as is too often the case, in high schools and colleges."

The college opened in the fall of 1871 with a faculty of ten, the longest list in the previous history of the institution. Col. Murfee, who was Professor of Mental Science, Architecture, and Engineering, and Professors Thornton, Dill, Bancroft and Vaiden, who continued to occupy their respective chairs, there were five students on the teaching



force with the rank of assistant professors. On November 2, 1871, the *Marion Commonwealth* informed the public that "the professors labor in the class room five or six hours per day, besides keeping careful supervision of the students at night."

In conscious imitation of Washington and Lee University, Col. Murfee divided the course of study into ten distinct schools, to-wit: Latin, Greek, Modern Languages, English, Moral Science and Theology, Mathematics, Chemistry and Geology, Natural Philosophy and Applied Mathematics, Civil Engineering, and Business. The student might select the schools he would attend; but he was required to have at least fifteen recitations a week, unless, for good cause shown, he was allowed less than fifteen.

As a means of grading the scholarship of students, the following plan was adopted: (1) "Certificates of Distinction" were given for distinguished attainments in *any* class within *any* of the schools; (2) "Certificates of Proficiency" were conferred as evidences of *satisfactory* attainments in any of the schools; (3) "Certificates of Distinguished Proficiency" were conferred as evidences of *distinguished* attainments in any of the schools; (4) a Certificate, with the title of "Distinguished Undergraduate," was conferred upon any student who might make distinguished attainments in any *three* schools within one session. These certificates were actually conferred at Commencement each year, and may be said to correspond roughly to the grades of D, C, B, and A commonly used in colleges and universities of the present day.

The college now offered the following degrees: (1) Bachelor of Philosophy (B. P.). *Required*: Certificates of proficiency in English, Moral Philosophy and Rhetoric, History and Literature, French and German, and the Junior course of Mathematics. *Elective*: Chemistry or Physics, Astronomy or Geology or Physiology. Latin or Greek could be substituted for either of the Modern Languages. (2) Bachelor of Science (B. S.). *Required*: Certificates of Proficiency in Mathematics, Applied Mathematics and Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, Ethics and Evidences of Christianity. *Elective*: Geology or Physiology, French and German or English. (3) Bachelor of Arts (A. B.). *Required*: Certificates of Proficiency in Latin, Greek, Mathematics, Moral Philosophy. *Elective*: Moral Philosophy and Rhetoric or History and Literature, English or one Modern Language, Chemistry or Physics, Astronomy or Geology or Physiology. (4) Master of Arts (M.A.). To attain this degree the student had to have

certificates of Proficiency in Latin, Greek, English, Moral Philosophy, History, Mathematics, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, Modern Languages and English Literature or Applied Mathematics; and certificates of Distinguished Proficiency in at least *seven entire schools*, and have passed a satisfactory review examination on all subjects included. (5) Civil Engineering (C. E.). The requirements for this degree were certificates of Proficiency in Mathematics, Applied Mathematics including Astronomy, Chemistry, Geology, Natural Philosophy including Analytical Mechanics, French, English, and plans and reports upon assigned subjects. For each of the above degrees a suitable essay or oration had to be furnished, which might be read on Commencement Day, if required.

The custom was now introduced of offering at Commencement a gold medal for the best declaimer among the Sophomores and a similar medal for the best orator among the Juniors, while the Senior who had attained the highest degree of general scholarship was chosen by the faculty to deliver the Valedictory Oration at the close of the Commencement exercises.

On June 6, 1872, just before his first Commencement, the *Marion Commonwealth* thus comments on "the present genial, scholarly and *irrepressibly* active President":

"Col. Murfee seems to have as many hands as old Briareus is reported to have had, and as many heads as hands, if we may judge from the numerous ways in which he employs his energy to build up, refit and beautify the Howard, its building and grounds. He is now engaged in painting the roof so as to preserve the slating and prevent damage from leaking. He is at the same time building a new, neat and more commodious Mess Hall, painting the railings around the campus, planting shade trees, and sowing grass over the bleak and sterile soil. All the while he relaxes none of his rules of government and discipline, but everywhere present himself guiding, directing, encouraging and pushing ahead. In a few years the Howard grounds will be as beautiful and as attractive as a park. Such improvement and such transformation as he is fast making in every feature, phase and department of the college, will make it in a short time the leading institution in the land."

Of all the Colonel's innovations, however, the one that attracted the most attention and produced the greatest psychological effect upon both students and citizens was the requirement that the boys wear uniforms when off the campus and on public occasions. Military drill was

not introduced until 1876; but such uniforms! "The buttons," comments the *Marion Commonwealth*, "bear a most beautiful and suitable device—a cross and crown irradiating a halo of light and glory, with 'Howard College' in prominent letters around the button. The whole costume is in elegant taste and adds wonderfully to the appearance of the young gentlemen." How the Judson girls must have opened their eyes in admiration!

Beginning with 1872, Col. Murfee made a canvass each summer for students in different parts of Alabama and Mississippi. Wherever he went, he pressed home the argument that Howard College had certain points of genuine merit and superiority, to-wit: (1) Its able and experienced faculty; (2) the exceeding cheapness of tuition, board, etc., and uniform,—the cost for a whole session of nine months being only \$275; (3) its system of class instruction, by which *every* student, from the youngest to the oldest, was reached in *every* recitation; (4) its plan of rewards and punishment, encouraging emulation and a generous rivalry among good students, and stimulating wholesomely and effectually the idle and indifferent; (5) its kind but firm and inflexible, semi-military discipline, from which there was *no* escape but in a faithful, manly discharge of scholastic duties, and which perforce develops everything in the *boy* that goes to make up the *man*.

And so the years passed in well-nigh uneventful succession. To the local public Howard College became "Col. Murfee's school;" his personality permeated the campus; his "rules" and his "methods" were well known and accepted by everybody. When the boys wrote their orations and literary essays, they took the result of their effort to the Colonel for his criticism and suggestion. The young ministers met the Colonel once a week and preached before him a composite sermon. One would take the "introduction," one the "proposition," one the "first subdivision," one the "second subdivision," etc., one the "conclusion," one the "application to the saved," and one the "application to the sinner." The Colonel would listen and give the most illuminating and analytical criticisms. At the Chapel exercises the Colonel discussed moral and religious questions, brought out the difference between moral courage and brute force, and had a way of making his talks stick. Naturally the boys came to admire, reverence and fear the Colonel, and the tone of the student body in the matter of honesty and morality was kept at a pretty high level.

The year 1876 was the Centennial of the Declaration of Independence. Col. Murfee celebrated it by making several important changes in his faculty and curriculum. W. D. Fonville, who had gradu-

ated from the Howard as Valedictorian of the class of '73 took the place of George D. Bancroft as Professor of Mathematics. A School of Law was added under Judge Powhatan Lockett, of the class of '52, as Professor. There was also to be a Commercial School in which Col. Murfee was to teach the Art and Science of Accounts; Professor Dill, Penmanship; and Professor Fonville, Mathematics. A School of Military Art and Science was also established, with Col. Murfee as Professor of Strategy and Military Fortifications, and Lieutenant Colonel W. D. Fonville Commandant of Cadets and instructor in Tactics. The military school, however, was nothing more than an hour's drill on the campus in the late afternoon.

The Baptist State Convention undertook to celebrate the Centennial by raising an endowment of \$100,000 for the college. The plan of operation was simplicity itself. A General Agent and a Central Committee, sub-agents and sub-committees, etc., were to be appointed and every Baptist in the State was to be approached and asked for \$1 as a donation to the endowment. The result of the drive is thus described by the late Dr. W. B. Crumpton: "It was supposed, of course, that many of the wealthy would give their hundreds and thousands, and thus make up for the many thousands who we knew would never give a cent. The Agent, noble man of God that he was, our lamented Brother J. J. D. Renfroe, started out on horseback. To his utter confusion he discovered in a few days that the rich brethren were tickled to death over the idea of getting off with the payment of one dollar. Some became generous and gave a dollar each for all their posterity. I remember a brother from whom we expected \$500 or \$1,000, rising in the meeting after Renfroe's sermon and saying with much enthusiasm that we might put him down for \$13—one dollar each for himself, his wife, his children and his grandchildren, though some of them were not members of the church."

This was the "inglorious failure of '76." Not enough money was collected to pay the expenses of the campaign.

The Howard was now left in the position of a private school, obliged to support itself from tuition fees. In order that they might conduct the institution on strictly business principles and give value received, the Trustees declared all the old scholarship certificates canceled. Whereupon a certain Matthew Turner, resident near Talladega, Alabama, and reported to have been a Methodist preacher, brought suit against the corporation to recover damages for the alleged breach of an agreement evidenced by a certificate of permanent scholarship issued



by the said corporation. It was shown that the said Turner had subscribed to the endowment fund of Howard College in December, 1859, executing his five promissory notes, each payable to the Trustees of Howard College, in the sum of one hundred dollars. These notes had been taken up and discharged—three of the five by the payment of the full amount due on them, in Confederate currency, upon the 23rd of January, 1863, when the certificate was dated and delivered. The Trustees contested the suit on the ground that Confederate currency not being legal tender in 1876 could not be so considered in 1863 and that the Treasurer of the Board was not authorized to accept it as such. The case dragged on in the courts for eight years, going to the supreme court twice, with the result, as we shall see, that verdict and judgment were rendered in favor of Turner for \$640.

On May 13, 1878, the *Marion Commonwealth* tells us how the Judson girls, in a beautiful ceremony, presented to the Howard cadets a beautiful banner. "It is made of blue and white silk. On the blue side at the top, in gilt letters, is the word 'Howard,' and at the bottom the words 'Cadet Corps.' Between them is a large cross and crown, the coat of arms of Howard College. The banner hangs from a solid brass rod, and its sides are fringed with gold tassel work. Two large tassels hang from its corners. Three cheers were then given by the corps for the faculty and students of the Judson Female Institute, and wheeling into line, they marched on the lawn, proud of the banner which floated above them, and thankful to the young ladies for their considerate and surely highly appreciated kindness."

"Military is all the go among us now," wrote a student for publication in the local paper. "Some of the cadets love it so well that they practise marching up and down the principal walks of the campus for an hour or two on Saturdays." But, as every old Howard boy knows, this "marching up and down" was not voluntary; it was extra duty imposed on the unfortunate student for violation of some of the Colonel's rules. The proud occasion for marching came on Commencement Day, with the Cadet Corps, headed by the Colonel and the Board of Trustees, marched into the Chapel and stacked arms in front of the stage, while the audience admired "their manly bearing which reflects great credit upon our college."

In 1879 the Trustees reported: "The money received from patronage and other sources, in the use of the most rigid economy, has defrayed the current expenses of the college and added over \$6,000 to the property, in the building of a commodious Dining Hall, buying furniture and bedding for the dormitories, and paying a balance of

\$1,000 due on the President's Mansion, and reduced the old debt to \$2,600. This is now about the indebtedness of the institution. . . . The session just closed has been one of the most successful since the war. . . . We do not appear today asking of you a donation of money, but we do ask for your influence and patronage."

For this measurable degree of success Col. Murfee alone was not due the credit. Behind him stood two sturdy Trustees and stalwart Baptists, Dr. W. W. Wilkerson and Mr. J. B. Lovelace. They had the financial ability and the skill necessary to manipulate the meager economic resources, and for nearly two decades they were the chief directors amid the rocks and shoals of that stormy period. But for their interest and skill it is doubtful if the college could have survived.

Meantime several faculty changes were taking place, which should here be mentioned. In June, 1877, Ed. Quin Thornton, the senior professor in point of length of service, resigned to accept the professorship of Natural Science in the new A. & M. College at Auburn, Alabama, where he died suddenly on May 20, 1878. His place at Howard was taken by J. M. Dill, son of Professor T. J. Dill; but he served only two years and was succeeded by W. R. Boggs, Jr., of Virginia. In 1877 also L. R. Gwaltney, D. D., was appointed Professor of English Literature, but after a service of two years he resigned and his professorship disappeared with him. In 1878 Professor W. D. Fonville was superseded by Lewis T. Gwathmey, A. M., as Professor of Mathematics and Modern Languages, and during the same year the School of Law disappeared and with it Judge Powhatan Lockett. In 1879 Professor I. B. Vaiden was superseded by M. W. Hand, A. B., as Principal of the Preparatory Department. Major Vaiden left Howard to establish in Marion a private school for boys, which flourished until his sudden death in January, 1886. In 1880 W. G. Hix superseded M. W. Hand and was in turn superseded the next year by H. P. McCormick. In 1881 A. F. Redd superseded W. R. Boggs and A. D. Smith superseded Lewis T. Gwathmey. These frequent changes in the faculty are indications that the policy of economy practiced by the President and Trustees was reducing salaries to the margin of subsistence, especially for men with families; but with the coming of Redd and Smith a certain degree of stability was attained.

When the military feature was introduced in 1876, Col. Murfee became the Superintendent and Professor W. D. Fonville the Commandant. The resignation of the latter in 1878 left Col. Murfee holding both of these military offices; but the opportune resignation of

Professor J. M. Dill opened the way next year for the appointment of another Commandant, and Col. W. R. Boggs, of Virginia, the son of a distinguished father, was called in to take the place. After Col. Boggs came Col. Redd.

Like Col. Murfee himself, A. F. Redd was a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, and after graduation he served there as an instructor. Then he prepared himself for the ministry at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville. Afterwards he filled the chair of Chemistry in the University of North Carolina for five years, and was called thence to Howard College. He was a brilliant man and served the college well for six years. In 1887 he resigned to become a planter near Marion. Ultimately he became mentally unbalanced, and died in the insane asylum at Tuscaloosa.

A. D. Smith was born on June 30, 1854, on a farm near Marietta, Georgia. After attending the schools of his neighborhood, and a certain degree of self-instruction, he went to the University of Georgia on a scholarship and entered the sophomore class. He graduated in three years with the degree of Civil Engineering. Being in need of immediate funds, he decided to teach—at least for a while. He was principal of an academy at Smyrna for a year, principal of another academy at Quitman for two years, then in the Means School in Atlanta. While he was teaching in the last named place, Col. Murfee asked President Mell, of the University of Georgia, to recommend a good man for the chair of Mathematics in Howard College, as Professor Gwathmey was ill of typhoid fever and not expected to recover. The good man recommended was A. D. Smith. "Capt. Smith," wrote Dr. Mell, "is a first class mathematician, and a first class man in every respect. Since his graduation he has had, for a number of years, experience as a successful teacher. He is a man of fine personal appearance and weight of character, and withal a military expert. Any institution obtaining his service would gain a prize." Professor Smith accepted the position and arrived at Marion just as the college was opening for the fall session of 1881. A year later he married the accomplished daughter of Dr. Mell, the man who had recommended him so enthusiastically for the professorship. Professor and Mrs. A. D. Smith became thoroughly identified with Howard College and served it many years. We shall meet them again in the course of this story.

H. P. McCormick was a Virginian, a graduate of Richmond College, and a minister of the Gospel. He was principal of the preparatory department in Howard College for the year 1881-82, and then re-

signed to enter the ministry; but two years later he was back in his old position, only to resign again after a year's service to enter the Southern Baptist Seminary at Louisville. Later he went to Mexico as a missionary. While at Marion he was a very popular young professor.

A glimpse of the military feature of the college in the spring of 1880 may be had from the following extract from the *Alabama Baptist*:

"We visited Howard College last week and found all as busy as usual. The recitations for the day were over, but the cadet corps had gone out on drill, in which they spend one hour every afternoon. This department of the college is unusually thorough, including both artillery and infantry tactics taught theoretically and practically. Week before last the students displayed their efficiency in a sham battle, which of course was full of adventure and amusing incidents. Last week they were having experience in camp life, doing duty in the field, marching like an army, carrying their shelter tents on their backs, pitching and striking encampments, etc. . . . While the military feature of the college is very thorough, it is not allowed to interfere with studies. No military duty is done, except during one hour at the close of the afternoon recitations."

In July, 1881, the Trustees reported:

"For years past, we have been compelled to burden you with a report of the indebtedness of the college, created on the faith of the old endowment. But now, thanks to an all-wise Providence, we are able to report that this indebtedness has been discharged. Not only are we able to report that the college is out of debt, but while this was being done, the current expenses were met, and some \$8,000 or \$10,000 in new property was added to the institution. This has been accomplished by observing the strictest economy, and by the fidelity of your Board and of the Faculty. Especially has the burden rested upon the Faculty who have faithfully and uncomplainingly worked on reduced salaries. This we should not expect or desire to do longer."

In the early eighties, the joint Commencements of the Howard and the Judson were brilliant social and intellectual occasions at Marion; visitors from different parts of the State were present, and a good time was had by all. The following was the program for the Howard Commencement of 1882:



*Week Preceding Commencement*

Examinations from 8 to 12 a. m. daily.

Wednesday, June 7th—Junior Exhibition, at 8 p. m., College Chapel.

Friday, June 9th—Address before the Literary Societies, 10 a. m., College Chapel, by Col. Eli S. Shorter.

Saturday morning, June 10th—Freshman Prize Declamation Contest.

*Commencement Week*

Sunday, June 11th—Commencement Sermon, 11 a. m., Baptist Church, by Rev. E. J. Forrester.

Monday, June 12th—Sophomore Prize Declamation, 10 a. m., College Chapel.

Tuesday, June 13th—Meeting of the Board of Trustees, 8 a. m., Review of Howard Cadet Corps, College Parade Grounds, 5:30 p. m.

Wednesday, June 14th—Commencement Exercises, 10 a. m.; Baccalaureate Address by Rev. E. T. Winkler, D. D.; Alumni Address, 8 p. m., Court House; Alumni Banquet, 9 p. m., at College.

On June 14, the *Marion Standard* carried the following comment: "Rev. E. J. Forrester preached the Howard and the Judson Commencement sermon Sunday, to a very large and intelligent audience. The Cadets in their bright uniforms, to the number of about 70, and the Judson girls, numbering 101, all dressed in pure white, made a beautiful and imposing sight. We noticed quite a large number of strangers in the audience."

In the *Franklin Advocate* for June, 1885, the following occurs:

"On Monday morning, June 8, a large audience assembled in the College Chapel to hear the Sophomore prize declamation of twenty young men, whose bright faces and satisfied manners inspired the audience at once with the idea that they were masters of the task before them. Mr. T. M. Hurt, of Marion, opened up with a stirring piece that confirmed the impression already made. Mr. A. L. Smith, of Autauga county, followed with the 'Last Charge of Ney.' We can but bespeak a great future for Mr. Smith. We have not space to comment on each one, but among those who seemed to receive the highest applause from the audience were: 'Our Duty to the Republic,' by A. S. J. McNath, of Montevallo; 'Death of Leonidas,' by S. Reese, of Marion; 'The Last Day of Herculaneum,' by J. W. McCollum, of Dallas county. Mr. McCollum enters very largely into the spirit of what he de-

claims and commands the very best attention of his auditors. We might very appropriately add that he was the fortunate man to wear off the laurels in the Franklin Society Prize Declamation 'Parrhasius and the Captive,' by T. H. Gunn, of Decatur, was elegantly delivered. Mr. J. M. Kailin acquitted himself nobly on 'The Closing Year,' and Mr. J. M. Thomas gave us the 'Hunter's Last Ride' in such a lucid manner that we almost saw horse and rider sink beneath the fiery billows of burning prairie. The speech on 'Vindication,' by E. W. Brock, of Choctaw county, bore off the medal. We need not add that his piece was well delivered. Messrs. S. V. Woodfin, of Marion, and L. L. Hays, of Jackson county, acquitted themselves nobly. After the Declamation was over, the ladies of the audience requested Mr. L. E. Thomas, of Marion, La., to favor them with 'Rubenstein,' which he did in such a manner that everybody shouted applause loud and prolonged."

What happened on the evening of June 8 is thus described in the same publication:

"With hearts throbbing with eager expectancy, the Howard boys wended their way to the Judson on the night of the 8th, with hopes of seeing their 'Judson girls' the first time during the session, and we did see them; but, as is the case with all earth's pleasures, we didn't see them long enough. Well, when we reached the chapel hall, at about 8 o'clock, there was already assembled a goodly crowd, but they kept on coming, and, before the introductory exercises were over, the hall, though quite spacious, was filled. . . . The President of the Institution then invited the audience into the art rooms adjoining, which were most richly dressed in life-like paintings of every character. Indeed it was a splendid display, but we of the Howard (we guess we speak for all the boys when we speak for ourself) sought first those living pictures that the Faculty have been working on so faithfully, and if they could claim these as their display, surely the highest pinnacle of renown would only slander their merits. But nature has done the lovely work here, and they have only guarded its treasures, and for the manner in which they have done this all praise would not be sufficient. We might write this paper full of praises of the music, art, with the Kindergarten work, and everything that goes to make life a thing of happiness surrounded by beauties, but 'twould no more do it justice than does the feeble expression, 'We give them 100 and a credit of 10 for extra work.'"

By 1883-84 the number of ministerial students in Howard College had increased to 15 or 20. They pursued the same studies and were subject to the same discipline as the lay students. Although they paid no tuition fees as a general rule, they were required to live in the dormitories and to take their meals at the Mess Hall, from which the college reaped a small profit. Once a week they were met as a group, outside the regular recitation periods, by Col. Murfee and Col. Redd and given instruction in sermonizing. This was all the theological training that they received. Being for the greater part indigent young men, they had to look to the denomination for financial support.

In 1883 the Convention created a Ministerial Board of Education and assigned to it the task of devising means for the care of these young men and for increasing their number. During the ensuing year this Board exerted itself in a mild way to arouse interest on the subject of ministerial education by distributing circulars, by correspondence and by publishing articles in the *Alabama Baptist*, but not much was accomplished. At the next Convention, that of 1884, the personnel of the Board was changed, and seven men were appointed on it who were expected to bring things to pass. Though not chairman, the most active member of the new Board was Dr. D. I. Purser, who had come to Birmingham from Mississippi in April, 1883, as pastor of the First Baptist Church. What he wanted was the organization of the group of ministerial students at Howard College under the supervision and control of the Ministerial Board.

Before college opened in the fall of 1884, Dr. Purser went down to Marion and asked Col. Murfee to give the ministerial students a certain amount of recognition, that is, to favor them as ministerial students—exempt them from military drill, etc. To this end they should be allowed to live as a special group in a house off the campus. Such an arrangement would relieve the young ministers from the expense of buying military uniforms, and give the Ministerial Board an opportunity to keep a careful check on accounts and possibly to reduce the cost of board and room rent for the young brethren.

This proposition did not please Col. Murfee, and he said so. "Let the young brethren stay here in the dormitories," he said, "just as they have been doing, and they will be treated exactly right; but they must do the things that are here to do." The majority of the local Trustees supported the Colonel in the matter, but Judge Porter King, son of Gen. E. D. King, an influential trustee, supported the contention of Dr. Purser, and, after considerable feeling had been stirred up on the

question, a separate house was rented and the ministerial students moved off the campus in 1884. Rev. A. C. Davidson, the local pastor, was engaged to give instruction to these young ministers as often as his duties as pastor would allow. During the year they were also favored with lectures by such eminent Baptist preachers as J. J. D. Renfroe, Samuel Henderson, W. B. Crumpton, John P. Shaffer, and T. M. Bailey. In July, 1885, the Ministerial Board suggested that, as soon as it could be done, a competent minister be made a member of the Howard faculty, whose duty it should be, as far as practicable, to give instruction to the ministerial students.

All this seemed to many to be an uncalled-for interference with the internal administration of the college and a usurpation of authority which properly belonged to the Board of Trustees. Although it was not aired much on the floor of the Convention, the question was fought out in committee meetings and elsewhere, with the result that in July, 1886, the Ministerial Board resigned *en masse*, the ministerial club house, after an existence of two years, was given up and the furniture sold, and the ministerial students were required to return to the college dormitories. Another Ministerial Board was appointed and its jurisdiction specifically limited, "so far as their work pertains to Howard College, to the raising of funds and the examining and recommending of candidates, and arranging with the authorities of Howard College for them to secure the benefits of ministerial education."

Thus Col. Murfee and the local trustees won their point at last, but at the cost of alienating a small group of influential and determined men.

Of more importance, however, than the quibble over the control of ministerial students was the sale of the Howard College property. For eight years, and at considerable expense, under the advice and with the able assistance of such eminent attorneys as John F. Vary of Marion, who gave his services gratuitously, Judge W. M. Brooks of Selma, and ex-Governor Thomas H. Watts of Montgomery, the Trustees had resisted the claim of Matthew Turner in the scholarship case mentioned on another page. But to no avail. On April 5, 1884, Howard College was sold by the sheriff to satisfy the execution in favor of Turner. Acting entirely in the capacity of private citizens, two individuals bid the property in; but these two individuals, in their public capacity, chanced to be two sturdy Trustees of Howard College, namely, Dr. W. W. Wilkerson and Mr. J. B. Lovelace, men who for nearly two decades had stood valiantly by the college and refused to lose hope when



others despaired. They now had full and unencumbered title to the property, with no ancient debts to worry over. In 1886, with the public spirit and unselfish purpose, characteristic of them, they *dedicated* the property to the Baptist State Convention, which meant that that particular property could never again be mortgaged or sold for debt or used for other than educational purposes. In return for their outlay of money, the donors asked for and received nothing except the thanks of the Convention. The Baptists of Alabama were free now to endow the college without any fear that old scholarships or other indebtedness would come to light and sweep the endowment away.

Col. Murfee had now been President of Howard College for fifteen years, and had established an enviable record for efficiency in administration and for moral influence in the community. Encumbered with debt in 1871, the college had become, through his wise management and that of the local Trustees, free from debt and self-sustaining. By his "rules" and "methods" the quality of instruction had been greatly improved and made equal, if not superior, to that in any other institution in the State. He took young men as he found them and lifted their thoughts to higher things and to nobler aspirations. At Marion, among citizens and students, his was a name to conjure with. But by 1883, a date which happens to synchronize with the arrival of Dr. D. I. Purser in Birmingham, it is easy to detect certain notes of dissatisfaction with the administration and especially with the imperceptible growth of Howard College. In August, 1883, an agitation was started through the columns of the *Alabama Baptist* for the re-establishment of the chair of Theology; Dr. E. B. Teague was mentioned as a man well fitted for the position; and the discussion was kept up during much of 1884; but the sentiment of the leaders of the denomination was so divided that favorable action was never taken. At the same time the Ministerial Board was created, which, as we have just seen, tried to modify the internal administration of the college. At the same time, too, there was a growing sentiment in favor of making another attempt to raise an endowment, but in certain quarters the conviction was expressed that no endowment campaign could ever be successful so long as the college remained under the control of "the old crowd" at Marion. These notes of dissatisfaction, scarcely articulate at first, were soon blended into considerable chorus for the removal of the college elsewhere. Fundamentally it was the dissatisfaction of the new industrial South with the manners and methods of the old agricultural South. The center of power and influence was shifting from the Black Belt to the hitherto undeveloped mineral regions of the State.

## CHAPTER X

## THE REMOVAL AND ITS AFTERMATH

The question of endowment began to be systematically agitated during the latter half of 1885. The strong argument was used that Auburn and the University were offering free tuition, and the Methodist university at Greensboro was in the process of being endowed. If Howard College was to survive, it must follow suit.

The opening gun of the campaign was fired by the venerable Sam Henderson, who had sat in the Convention of 1841 and was intimately acquainted with the struggles of the college from its infancy. Writing in the *Alabama Baptist*, on August 27, 1885, he said:

“What can be done for Howard College? Shall we let it drift and take its chances to live or die without any endowment? Or shall we abandon the present location, and seek one where we can hope to build it up under happier auspices? But few, we presume, are in favor of the latter alternative, but even that would be better than for it to remain as it is. Every sensible man must know, with but little reflection, that as things now are, it cannot compete with other institutions in the State which are largely endowed, and otherwise thoroughly equipped, and with faculties of a dozen or fifteen able professors. In competing for patronage, it is simply impossible for half a dozen professors to do the work of fifteen in the long run no matter how thorough their work. And even if this could be realized in fact, the public would be slow to believe it. We have been reiterating this for ten years at our Convention, and time only serves to deepen the impression. Either we must put the college on a firm basis, or it will be overshadowed by the endowed institutions of the State.”

The same writer returned to the charge on September 17 with a suggestion as to how the thing was possible, and this was followed on October 1 by an article from the pen of Rev. Z. D. Roby, of Opelika, who suggested a definite plan of campaign. On October 15 a letter appeared from Rev. B. F. Riley, of Livingston, urging that the campaign begin. Then Rev. Joseph Shackelford, in North Alabama, and others joined in the chorus. By the time the Convention met in July, 1886, a strong sentiment in favor of an endowment campaign had thus been aroused among the leaders of the denomination.

The Convention of 1886 met in Birmingham, a community some fifteen years old, which at that time was booming and aspiring to be

ere long the Pittsburg of the South. At the appointed time in the session the Trustees of Howard College made their report, of which the following is a summary: 108 students in attendance; 14 ministerial. "The professors spend six hours a day in the class-room, besides inspecting the buildings at night and early morning. All this labor is performed cheerfully and with interest. In this way the college is getting an amount of services from each professor, such as is assigned to two or more teachers in most institutions . . . . it prevents the mind of the teacher from becoming engrossed in outside matters . . . . We believe the time has come for an effort to be made looking to the endowment of your college."

The report of the Trustees was referred to a committee, of which Dr. G. A. Nunnally was chairman. In due time the committee made its report, commending "this effort at endowment to the support and liberality of all Baptist churches in the State." As fast as the clerk could record names and amounts, \$6,600 was subscribed by the brethren present. The appointment of a financial agent to take the field was freely discussed, and perhaps something would have become of the movement had not a suggestion been sprung from another source.

At the Saturday afternoon session of the Convention, Rev. E. B. Teague, of Wilsonville, known and respected by the brethren for his age, scholarship and wisdom, was heard to say: "You must bring the Howard to Birmingham. You cannot endow it where it is." At the Monday night session he offered the following resolution:

"That a committee of five be appointed by the President of the Convention, with R. H. Sterrett as chairman, and requested to confer with the Elyton and Avondale Land Companies and with citizens of the city of Birmingham, or either of them, or any other land company, or the citizens of any other city within the State who may claim to bid for the location, to ascertain whether they may be disposed to make any gift or grant to the Baptist Convention of the State, looking to the location of a college, provided the Convention shall be prepared to place such buildings on any lot or lots donated as shall be in keeping with the style and property of the city, and to man the college with a corp of instruction of high order, and to ascertain whatever other facts may be useful to the prospective establishment of such college at such points, and to report to the next meeting of the Convention."

Speaking to the resolution, Dr. Teague said he had thought for some time that much would be gained by the removal of Howard Col-

lege to Birmingham, a live, stirring city. He favored putting the students to board in private houses rather than in dormitories, and thought this a favorable time to get a valuable grant of land and money.

Dr. M. B. Wharton, of Montgomery, favored the resolution, suggesting, however, that Montgomery would be a good location, and would make a bid for the college. Much was to be gained by having it in a larger place than it then was.

Dr. J. M. Robertson, of Tennessee, favored Birmingham as a good point, and spoke of the valuable gifts which might be expected from that city.

Judge Porter King, of Marion, saw no reason why the college should be removed. He thought the health of Marion and the moral influence of Marion should be prime considerations.

Dr. J. B. Hawthorne, of Atlanta, and C. C. Huckabee, of Marion, endorsed what Judge King said. A motion to table the resolution was then made and carried by the narrow margin of 25 to 26.

On Tuesday morning, Dr. B. F. Riley, of Livingston, moved that the resolution be taken from the table. The question of the location of Howard College, he said, would not down, and he thought that a committee should be appointed to make a full report to the next meeting of the Convention, and let the question be determined. Otherwise the question would remain unsettled, and would be agitated from year to year to the detriment of the college. His motion was carried, and the resolution was again placed before the Convention.

Dr. J. E. Chambliss opposed the appointment of the committee, and thought that many things were to be considered more important than the amount of money to be gained by a change in location. Dr. M. B. Wharton favored the appointment of the committee, and expressed the opinion that large cities had many advantages. Rev. B. H. Crumpton, though preferring the cotton belt—as his home was there—for the location of the college, and though very much attached to Marion, thought the committee should be appointed to inquire into the matter and report all the facts for the decision of the question the next year. Dr. Z. D. Roby thought likewise. Dr. Sam Henderson stated that he was on the committee which reported in favor of the removal of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to Louisville, and had never regretted the action. He favored a large city for the location of the Howard. Dr. J. M. Frost favored the appointment of the committee, thinking that a larger town than Marion might offer superior advantages. Dr. B. Manly, of Louisville, expressed the desire that the Con-



vention might remain united and that the college might be strengthened in the hearts of the denomination.

The resolution was adopted and the chair announced as the committee, R. H. Sterrett, chairman; E. B. Teague, Porter King, J. E. Chambliss, and H. S. D. Mallory. The committee went to work at once, and before the final adjournment, Col. Sterrett stated to that body that several citizens had promised sums of money to aid the enterprise, many promising as much as \$500. Dr. Caldwell, President of the Elyton Land Company, said that the land for the buildings and grounds would be given. Wealthy men were heard to say upon the street cars that the corporations to which they belonged could be counted on to give \$25,000 for the removal of the college to Birmingham. "Now that shows what we are willing to do," exclaimed a Birmingham Baptist; "that's the way we do things here; we never do them by halves."

On July 25, three days after the adjournment of the Convention the *Birmingham Sunday Chronicle* said editorially:

"Birmingham wants Howard College and Howard College needs Birmingham.

A new era is upon us and Birmingham is the center of new thought in the South. In the long ago it was considered necessary to isolate the student and also to isolate the school. Men retired to study. The scholars were a different class of men from those who did the business of the world. The scholar was not a business man and the business man was not a scholar. All that has changed. . . . Now, the theory is to give a utilitarian education to fit a man to live among his fellow men. Howard College is a college of the present age. Birmingham is a city of today. The two seem to be made for each other. It has been as now located in a remote village in the prairie section of the State. It would at once assume the dimensions and dignity of a great university if removed to this city. Our railroad facilities, central position, healthful climate, and our cosmopolitan population make this city the most desirable location in the State for the college. Here its students would meet the men who are doing something. They would be among the men with whom they would spend their future lives. . . . Birmingham will give a location and cash to the college."

Dr. D. I. Purser, pastor of the First Church, began an active canvass of the city for pledges to the proposed college, taking down the names of the subscribers and the amounts pledged on loose sheets of

paper, old envelopes, and anything else that happened to be convenient. At the end of the year Dr. J. J. D. Renfroe and Dr. E. B. Teague joined him in the promotion of the enterprise, the former as pastor of the Southside Church and the latter as pastor at East Lake, an enterprising suburb six miles out of town. In all circles of the Magic City the removal project was discussed, and plans were made for the establishment of an immense college, with magnificent buildings and a handsome endowment to begin with.

Delegates coming home from the Convention of course transferred the contest to the Baptist churches throughout the State, where it became the prevailing topic for the next twelve months. Naturally enough, denominational sentiment was divided on the question. The secular press of the State became involved and was divided also, region against region, as the papers chanced to be published in Northern or Southern Alabama. Scarcely was it noticed that Dr. G. A. Nunally had been appointed financial agent by the College Trustees and was in the field to raise the endowment according to the original plan. He soon found the churches so disturbed by the agitation of the removal question that he devoted only a part of the year to the work, and returned to his pastorate at Eufaula. Everything respecting the future of the college turned upon the action to be taken by the next Convention which was to meet at Union Springs in July, 1887.

Meantime, Howard College opened at Marion on October 6, 1886, with seventy-five matriculates and with the prospect of a hundred before the end of the session. During the same year the University had 200 students and Auburn 185. These figures were to be quoted in the Convention as an argument in favor of removal.

As the day for the next meeting of the Convention drew near, feeling became intense, especially at Marion. At the Alumni Banquet, in June, 1887, Dr. L. R. Gwaltney, of Shorter College, Rome, Ga., said that the removal project seemed to him nothing better than *treason*. This sentiment was heartily applauded, and was re-echoed in the speeches of Dr. J. B. Hawthorne, of Atlanta, Col. McKleroy and others who were present.

The late Dr. W. B. Crumpton, in a private conversation, gave the writer the following story: "I got a letter from Ben Riley (he was pastor at Livingston) telling me that the Birmingham people were going in force to the Convention at Union Springs; that they were going to write all over the State and get men favorable to the removal project to come as delegates. I called Col. Murfee, Jesse Lovelace, Dr. Wilker-

son and Judge Porter King together. We discussed it and decided that we could go over to the Convention just as we always had done, without doing anything at all—just let the thing go and depend upon the justice of our cause to win. The delegates from Birmingham were there. You never saw a finer set of fellows in your life. All of them had rented stove-pipe hats and long “Jim swingers” for the occasion, and looked like princes. They talked about the great things they were going to do. Those poor Baptists who had been bearing the burdens of Howard for years had never heard of such things. Purser told of a private park that was going to be established there at East Lake, right out in front of where Professor Eagles’ house now stands, extending over the pike, and surrounded by buildings, none of which should cost less than \$25,000. When they met at the Convention, they saw that they would have to cut off debate somehow or other; so they arranged with M. B. Wharton, pastor of the First Church of Montgomery, that at the proper time he would call the previous question. When they had made three or four speeches on that side and maybe one on Marion’s side, Wharton called the previous question. Wharton was very much ashamed of it afterwards.”

“The Convention met,” wrote Dr. B. F. Riley six or seven years later (Ben Riley, as Dr. Crumpton called him). “Nothing was discussed but the college. The State was overwhelmingly represented. Birmingham had an immense delegation present. They bore assurances of a royal endowment. They invested the future of Howard College with the prophetic hues derived from the rosy speculation so rife in the Magic City. The promises were in hundreds of thousands of dollars. The Convention was fascinated by the dazzling offers made. The promises were without limit. It was manifest that the college would not aid Birmingham, but Birmingham was longing for an object upon which to bestow its munificent offerings. The college was depressed. It had been writhing beneath its misfortune through many eventful decades. Why should it longer do so, when a royal welcome awaited it at Birmingham? The vision was as charming as the dream of a caliph. The soberest elements of the Convention were aroused.”

On the afternoon of the first day of the session, Friday, July 15, the Trustees made their report to the Convention:

“The number of students in attendance at Howard College during the past session was 103. Of these 24 were preparing for the ministry. This is the largest number of Theological students that has been in attendance during any one session. . . . For the

first time in years, we have to report that the income of the college has not been sufficient to defray current expenses. The agitation of the removal question has so much shaken the confidence of many in the perpetuity of the college that many parents and guardians have been unwilling to enter their sons and wards while this question is pending. . . . We have now to report a deficit for the year of \$1,632.29. This amount the Board of Trustees had to borrow by giving a lien on the President's house and some other property. We ask you at this session to raise this amount to relieve the incumbrance thus created. . . .

It is no longer necessary to report to you the superior character of training and mental culture imparted at Howard College, for it has made its impress through its graduates all over the land, and it is generally conceded to be the equal of any institution of the same high grade. So true is this that whatever may have been said, no one has yet undertaken to criticise adversely its work, at least for the past fifteen years. On the contrary, commendations of it throughout this State and by distinguished educators of colleges and universities of other States, are too numerous to mention. If we would retain this distinction, and make it what it should be, the question of removal must be at once definitely settled, the endowment move pushed forward, and it must receive the warm support of the denomination in patronage and otherwise as it deserves."

Dr. Nunnally's report as financial agent showed that he had collected subscriptions in notes to the amount of \$14,000 on permanent endowment, and his cash receipts amounted to \$2,172.97.

No discussion followed.

On Saturday morning, July 16, R. H. Sterrett, chairman of the committee appointed at the last meeting of the Convention, read the following report on the location of a college:

"That the following offers have been made to the Convention as donations for the establishment of a Baptist college:

I. The Bessemer Land and Improvement Company: A choice block of ground in Bessemer, Ala., on the A. G. S. R. R., about twelve miles west of Birmingham, estimated in value at \$10,000, and a cash subscription of \$10,000. The college to be located in Bessemer.

II. The North Birmingham Land Company—If buildings are erected, and the character of the school established be such as is set forth in the said resolutions, to donate to the Convention, as a site for the college, twelve acres of land, situated near the



Georgia Pacific Railroad, and near the dummy line and near the park of the Company, and about three miles north of the city of Birmingham, Ala., estimated in value by the donors at \$4,000 per acre.

To this is added the offer of the Lakeside Land Company, to establish in or near Birmingham, a Baptist university of high order, twenty acres of their land valued by the Company at \$500 per acre, and the subscriptions in money from the citizens of Birmingham, provided said college is located within six miles of said city, the sum of \$20,000, making in all, in land and money, an estimated value of \$78,000.

III. The East Lake Land Company, a donation of sixty acres of land at East Lake, a new town, near Ruhama Baptist Church, near the dummy line, and near the lake of the Company, and about six miles east of Birmingham, in Jones' Valley, for the location of a Baptist college thereon, the gift being to the Baptists of Alabama on condition that they open a school by October 1st, next, and that the sum of \$50,000 be expended on buildings, within eighteen months from date of acceptance. This property is estimated by those acquainted with its location and value at \$85,000.

To this is added the following donations:

The Walker Land Company, a donation of fifteen acres of land to the Baptists of Alabama for the location of a college on condition that the college be located either on the lands of the East Lake Land Company, or the adjoining lands of this Company, and that the school be opened by October 1st, 1887, and that the sum of \$50,000 be expended on the college buildings within eighteen months from the date of acceptance of such donation. This property is estimated in value by those acquainted with its location and value at \$15,000. It is situated near the dummy line between Woodlawn and East Lake, and is about five miles east of Birmingham. Also subscriptions from the citizens of East Lake in land estimated by those acquainted with its location and value at \$30,075.

Also the offer of the Lakeside Land Company, in order to establish in or near Birmingham a Baptist university of high order, twenty acres of its land valued by the company at \$500 per acre. Also subscriptions from the citizens of Woodlawn in land and money estimated by those acquainted with the location of the land at \$10,000, and the subscriptions in money from the citizens of Birmingham, provided said college is located within six miles of said city, the sum of \$20,000, making a total in land and money of an estimated sum of \$170,075.

The foregoing bids are herewith delivered to the Convention."

Thereupon, the following resolutions were submitted by Rev. M. B. Wharton:

*Resolved*, That we gratefully accept the proposition of the East Lake Land Company and citizens of Birmingham wherein

they propose to donate \$170,075 in real estate and money for the removal, establishment and endowment of what is known as 'Howard College,' said institution to be owned, controlled and fostered by the Baptist Convention of the State of Alabama, provided that the offer made shall be found, upon investigation, to be substantially what it is represented to be in the report of the committee appointed at the last Convention.

*Resolved*, That a Prudential Committee, composed of Jonathan Haralson, Samuel Henderson, J. M. Frost, G. A. Loftin, G. A. Nunnally, B. F. Riley, Z. D. Roby, J. A. Howard, L. W. Lawler, W. C. Cleveland, J. P. Shaffer, M. B. Wharton and T. G. Bush, be appointed to visit Birmingham during the present month for the purpose of ascertaining the value of the offer made, with full power to act in approving or rejecting the same, and in case of approval, the said committee shall arrange for the opening of the institution there on October 1st next with the faculty as at present constituted at Marion. The Committee shall report the result of their labors through the *Alabama Baptist* and other leading papers.

*Resolved*, That in case the Committee decide favorably as to the proposition made it, it be instructed to apply to the next Legislature for such amendments to the charter of Howard College as may be necessary.

Hon. T. G. Bush offered a proviso as follows:

"Provided further, that if the Committee decide that the inducements, in accordance with the instructions, are sufficient to justify the removal of Howard College, they shall be authorized to entertain a proposition from the same or any other place offering equal inducements and advantages and act upon them."

These resolutions and the proviso were discussed by J. C. Wright, T. G. Bush, D. I. Purser, W. E. Lloyd, B. H. Crumpton, J. P. Hubbard, J. A. Howard, E. A. Stone, G. A. Lofton, J. O. Hixson, G. T. Lee, F. C. Plaster, when the hour of adjournment having arrived, on motion, further consideration was suspended until three o'clock.

At the afternoon session the following communication from Rev. E. T. Smyth was read:

"Dear Brethren:—If in the wisdom of the Convention it is decided to remove Howard College from Marion to some other point in the State, it is thought that Anniston furnishes more advantages and fewer objections for the location of the college than any other point in the State; and as an inducement for its location in Anniston, provided it is resolved to remove it, I am authorized to offer \$15,000 in money and twenty acres of land in the corporate limits of the city, less than one-half mile from the center of the city and beautifully located. This land can be sold for \$2,000 per acre at the present time. This offer is an absolute gift, with the privilege of selling whatever is not needed for the college and other necessary buildings. Ten acres of this land can be sold

for \$20,000. This amount, added to the \$15,000 in money, would furnish buildings worth \$35,000, located on a plot of ten acres of land beautifully located in the city.

In addition to this, one hundred acres of land can be procured as an endowment for the college *by gift* within three miles of the city. This land is beautifully located, and would be very valuable to the college as the nucleus of an endowment.

We respectfully suggest that if it is resolved to remove the college that a committee be appointed representing every part of the State, no member of the committee to be from the communities bidding for the college, to visit the communities bidding for the college and thoroughly investigate, first, the location and value of the gifts to the college; secondly, the water and health of the location and surroundings; thirdly, the morals of the city; and fourthly, the accessibility and probabilities of local patronage."

The discussion was then resumed and participated in by C. Smith, A. B. Johnston, C. C. Huckabee, B. H. Crumpton, L. W. Lawler, when the Convention adjourned for the afternoon with the subject still pending.

At the evening session, the speeches, by motion, were limited to ten minutes, and the discussion was continued by L. W. Lawler, M. B. Wharton, E. B. Teague, J. P. Hubbard, when the resolutions as stated above were adopted.

The nature of the discussion is thus described by Dr. B. F. Riley, who was present and heard what was said: "The first question was, 'Shall the college be removed?' Several considerations were urged against Marion. The college had not flourished there for years. It being an old town, many of its best and wealthiest citizens had removed to more thrifty centers. Students from North Alabama could not be induced to come so far south. The tendency of all colleges was toward the centers of population and influence. It was a town located in the Black Belt, and invested by an immense population of negroes. All efforts to expel the drinking saloons from Marion had been in vain. These considerations were vigorously and efficaciously pressed by those favoring the removal of the college.

"In the whirl of excitement which prevailed, the Convention failed to weigh with deliberation the offers made, and listened to the rosy suggestions and hints which came thick and fast. From these it was inferred and assumed that Birmingham would erect the buildings of the college, when the stipulations provided that others should do so. It was further assumed and boldly proclaimed that the contributions would vastly exceed those already made. Rev. D. I. Purser stated in a brief speech that he had never seen such readiness to subscribe as was mani-

fested on the part of the people of Birmingham, and he believed that the amount could have been easily doubled had the canvass been prosecuted a little further.<sup>1</sup> This was emphatically endorsed by Dr. Renfroe. Dr. Henderson believed that the city of Birmingham would promptly erect the buildings, and eventually endow the college. Capt. A. B. Johnston warned the Convention against precipitate action, and though a citizen of Birmingham, he insisted that the values named were fictitious. The Convention was swept by the storm of excitement such as it has rarely experienced. The tide of discussion surged to and fro, and finally a vote was reached."

The vote for removal was unofficially stated as 113 to 58. At the Monday afternoon session, Col. C. C. Huckabee, of Anniston, but formerly of Marion, in a feeling and telling speech, made a motion as representing the minority, to make the action of the Convention in removing Howard College unanimous. His motion was carried amid great enthusiasm and good feeling. At the same afternoon session, a committee, consisting of H. S. D. Mallory, H. A. Haralson and J. M. Frost, was appointed by the Convention to meet and confer with Dr. Wilkerson and Mr. Lovelace to make surrender and transfer of the college property at Marion which they had a year before dedicated to the Convention, thereby recognizing their legal right to the property.

The Prudential Committee, it will be recalled, had less than two weeks to decide on a location for the college. Before leaving Union Springs the thirteen members composing the committee held their first meeting and organized by the election of M. B. Wharton as chairman and B. F. Riley as secretary. By appointment they met again in the parlor of the Wilson House, in Birmingham, on July 26. The following morning they visited East Lake to investigate the property offered by the East Lake Land Company. There they were met by Robert Jemison, president of the company, and conducted over the property. At midday they were given a sumptuous repast by the ladies and citizens of the place, under the shade trees in front of the old Ruhama church. After describing the festive scene, the reporter for the *Weekly Iron Age* thus continues: "The site tendered by President Jemison embraces the old Ruhama Academy, with ten acres of beautiful land admirably adapted for a campus, and adjacent fifty-three acres more, worth, if the college is located on the ten acres, \$2,000 per acre. That whole-souled, big-bodied Baptist and bold real estate man, Billy Vann, arose in meeting and in stentorian tones offered out of his own plethoric pocket \$53,000 cash for the fifty-three acres; but a knowing member



of the 'P. C.' replied that Brother Vann would have to ante up that much more."

Having put themselves in possession of all information possible concerning the lands at East Lake, their location and estimated value, and examined the subscriptions offered, the committee repaired to An-niston, where they were likewise royally entertained and conducted over the property there. A day thus spent in the beautiful mountain town gave the committee ample time to reflect upon the merits of each place. At the close of the day the sentiment of the committee was tested and, by a vote of ten to three, East Lake was chosen as the future location of Howard College. A sub-committee was then appointed, composed in part of prominent brethren of Birmingham and in part of members of the Prudential Committee, to secure the deeds to the property donated and collect cash subscriptions, secure notes for the deferred payments, to erect temporary buildings for the use of the faculty and students, to superintend the removal of the college property from Marion, and to make all necessary arrangements for the opening of the college on October 1. Then the Prudential Committee adjourned to meet again on October 4, at the college, to hear the report of the sub-committee.

On being notified of their retention, all the members of the faculty signified their intention to remove with the college—except Col. Murfee.

"Col. J. T. Murfee, President of Howard College," we read in the *Marion Standard* of July 27, "has decided not to go with the college to Birmingham, but will remain in Marion. The Howard College buildings here have been turned over to him for educational purposes, and he will employ an able faculty and open on October 1 a school of high order, to be known as the Marion Military Institute. The same distinctive feature of mental and moral training introduced by him and employed in Howard College for sixteen years will be continued. His name at the head is a guarantee that the work will be thorough and practical. This Marion Military Institute will be an academy, like those so celebrated in Virginia and the other older States, and for which there is now arising a demand in Alabama. They differ from the mixed high schools throughout the country. They employ instructors of the same grade as those of the best colleges. They have made pupils only, and have a large teaching force in proportion to the number of pupils. They have a full college course of studies as far as through the Junior Class. . . ."

The *Alabama Baptist* for August 18 carried the following announcement:

*Marion Military Institute*

In Old Howard Buildings

Marion, Ala., Aug. 5, '87

To My Old Student Friends:

These halls so dear to us all have been turned over to me for educational purposes; and I shall continue in them the same system of discipline and methods of instruction which I introduced in 1871.

I shall aim to train other young men as you were trained, and to make them like you in character, popularity and usefulness. The memory of your good deeds shall be preserved, and your worthy examples held up as models for your successors.

The hearts of the good people of Marion will ever be with you; and we hope you may often be inclined to revisit the old college home—the scenes amid which you developed those elements of character which have been the foundation of your success and happiness. You will find here open doors and a warm welcome—in the town and at the school.

Whenever an opportunity occurs, I shall rejoice to assist in extending your influence and promoting your welfare.

Ever Your Friend,

J. T. MURFEE.

Before the end of August, Col. Murfee had secured the services of William Garrott Brown, first honor man of the class of '86, to assist him in the Military Institute. Brown was a Marion boy, at that time eighteen years old. He was destined a few years later to make a fine record as graduate student and instructor in Harvard University, and to become an author of considerable note. He died in October, 1913. Howard College still puts him high on her list of distinguished graduates.

Marion Military Institute opened on October 1, 1888, with more students than were expected, and W. H. Caffey, of the class of '87, was added to the teaching force and given the command of the Cadet Corps. At the close of the session, in June, 1888, the Commencement exercises were declared equal to those of previous years. Thus the M. M. I. started on its career of usefulness.

The feeling at Marion and in South Alabama over the removal of the college may best be illustrated by a few excerpts from local newspapers. Thus the *Marion Standard* of July 20, 1887, has this to say:

“A great act of injustice has been done the Baptists of Marion, who have so long and so faithfully worked to sustain the college, when the Baptists of North Alabama were doing nothing.

In discussing the removal of the college we are informed that

Dr. Wharton, of Montgomery, slandered Marion outrageously, making us out a town of drunkards and a very immoral community . . . . A minister of the Gospel should not allow his zeal to cause him to misrepresent one of the most temperate, moral and refined towns in the South. If another school is established in its place, Marion will not be injured a particle by the removal of Howard College."

A week later the same paper continues :

"The removal of Howard College from this place, instead of being a calamity as some seem to regard it, will prove a blessing in disguise. The buildings and all of their fixtures still remain and, as private property of two of our best citizens, will be put to a good use. We prophesy that Dr. Wharton in his slanderous speech against Marion will find that he overshot his mark and that he has aroused a bitter feeling that cannot be removed."

Again, a week later :

"The location of Howard College has been decided upon, and its location will not be at all satisfactory to South Alabama. We are informed that a new school will be opened in the old college buildings, and we hope that every friend of the new institution will put his shoulder to the wheel to make it a success."

During the first week of August, the *Montgomery Dispatch* :

"It is hoped the Howard in its new location and under new auspices will maintain its high standing among the colleges of the country, and that in all respects the results will justify the change that has been made ; but ill feelings have been engendered among friends, and for a time, at least, it will not have the earnest and cordial support of some who have heretofore labored most zealously and unceasingly, in season and out of season, in its behalf. It is not to be credited that any improper influence was brought to bear to determine its new location. The Christian character of the gentlemen selected by the Convention to make the location forbids any imputation upon their integrity or good faith. That such charges have been made has significance only as indicating bad temper, disappointment, dissatisfaction and resentment. To the extent these prevail, the prospects of the college are clouded ; but the causes that alienate the affections of old friends will operate to secure the attachment of others, and, mayhap, the loss of one will be the gaining of a dozen. . . .

It saddens one to see a great school, or other institution, church

or state, theological or political, sold to the highest bidder; for in such a sale, no matter how conscientiously conducted, it can hardly happen that too much weight is not given to the pecuniary consideration, which, after all, and no matter how important, ought to be subordinate to considerations concerning the moral and physical well-being of those for whose benefit it is instituted and established, and who are to occupy and use it."

Probably this excerpt from the *Pollard Standard Gauge* best sums up the prevailing sentiment in temperate language:

"The removal of Howard College from Marion to Birmingham does not meet with the approval of a large majority of its patrons or admirers in this section of the State. . . . .

Howard College may go to Birmingham, but the glory of its past will still hover around Marion."

As may be seen from these excerpts, there was a general feeling in South Alabama that a great act of injustice had been done. Apropos of this situation, the late Dr. W. B. Crumpton, who was resident at Marion at the time of the removal, said to the writer in a private conversation: "If it had not been for the level-headed Christian men at Marion, there would have been a split in the denomination. But Col. Murfee, Jesse Lovelace and Dr. Wilkerson, three of the greatest men we ever had, said, 'No, no,' and so I, and a great many others, began to agitate the question of supporting the college in its new location and did all we could. For a while, though, it looked like South Alabama was going to secede. When the Convention was going to meet at Selma, in July, 1889, D. I. Purser had conducted himself in such a way that a great many people were hard on him. He was an enthusiastic fellow, though, hale-fellow-well-met with everybody, a good talker and good campaigner. The question was raised, 'What are we going to do?' We had the second day over at the Judson. Came back to Selma that night, and the Howard question was up. Purser made his speech and his appeal, and I don't know who else talked, but, anyhow, he raised \$14,000, and nearly all of it was from South Alabama. That settled it. There has never been any more talk of secession."

Meanwhile Howard College had been removed to East Lake. Having received notification of the choice of location made by the Prudential Committee, the Trustees of the College met for organization, on August 10, 1887, in the lecture room of the First Church, Birmingham. In the absence of the president, Dr. W. W. Wilkerson, Capt. W. C. Ward, an eminent lawyer and stalwart Baptist recently come to the city, was called to the chair, and Col. R. H. Sterrett was appointed secretary.



All of the old faculty were formally elected as members of the new faculty, except Col. Murfee, who had resigned. Dr. Thomas J. Dill, Professor of Latin and Greek, was made dean of the faculty *pro tem*. Professor Robert Judson Waldrop, Principal of the Ruhama Academy, was now added to the faculty, and the degree of A. B. conferred upon him by the Trustees. The necessary arrangements were made for the erection of suitable temporary buildings upon the grounds at East Lake and for the opening of the college on October 1; and an executive committee, consisting of W. C. Ward, R. H. Sterrett, Rev. J. J. D. Renfro, and Dr. Dill, was appointed to transact for the Trustees such business as might be necessary in organizing the college. Rev. D. I. Purser and N. F. Miles were appointed as a committee to collect the subscriptions given in Jefferson county to the college. Professor R. J. Waldrop, Rev. D. I. Purser, H. H. Brown, W. H. Wood, and Dr. Dill were appointed as a building committee. The executive committee was authorized to issue circulars, advertise through the press, and make all necessary arrangements for board, room rent, etc., for the students. On motion the Board then adjourned to meet again with the Prudential Committee at the college on October 4.

The first task of the Trustees was to secure deeds to the property donated. To their chagrin, they found that the lots fronting on Underwood Avenue had not been included in the donation, and the best that could be done for the time being was to take an option on these lots. Likewise Dr. Purser's subscription committee was having troubles of its own. The pledges had never been put in legal form, but merely jotted down as memoranda on loose sheets of paper, old envelopes, etc., and now subscribers showed a marked indifference toward keeping their promises to pay. The real estate boom was subsiding and financial stringency developing.

The building committee, however, proceeded in great haste to erect the temporary buildings, and within six or eight weeks had completed the task. Among the old field pines and underbrush, on the site now occupied by Renfro Hall, a huge two-story frame structure was erected, containing thirty-seven rooms, to serve as dormitory and mess hall. Directly across the campus, near the place where Montague Hall now stands, was erected a smaller two-story frame building, containing four or five recitation rooms upstairs and a chapel and president's office downstairs. This was called euphemistically the administration building. Twenty or thirty steps northwest of the administration building stood the old building of the Ruhama Academy, the ownership

of which was at first, curiously enough, in dispute. In front of the academy building, running diagonally across the new campus from the west wing of the present Science Hall to the western end of Renfroe Hall, was an old road bed, which dropped below the level of the surrounding surface some three or four feet. Between this old road and Underwood Avenue was a considerable hillock sloping off toward the north into a frog pond. Such was the new site being prepared for Howard College in the summer of 1887.

Outside the campus the village of East Lake had not yet shed the habiliments of a rural community. Though the artificial lake had already been excavated and the water impounded, the pavilion built and the park laid off, the new subdivision of the East Lake Land Company was hardly visible on the surface of the countryside. Underwood Avenue was nothing more than a new country road; between Underwood and First Avenue, Eightieth Street, then called Twelfth Street, had not been cleared of tree stumps; and the only other street opened up was Seventy-Seventh, then called Ninth Street, which ran up from the station on the dummy line to Underwood Avenue, near Ruhama church. Under the influence of the real estate boom, the brethren of Ruhama church had just completed, in 1886, a new church building, which stood in all its painted glory facing Underwood Avenue, and had called the wise and scholarly old Dr. E. B. Teague up from Wilsonville to be their pastor. This old church building still stands, sad and dilapidated, though full of pleasant memories for the old Howard boys of the nineties and later. The membership deserted it in 1926 for the commodious brick building further up the avenue.

The village communicated with the city, or was about to communicate with the city, by means of a dummy line along First Avenue. Every hour regular "puffing Billies" drew trains of small passenger coaches over the six mile stretch of ponds and woods from Birmingham to Ruhama Station, and thence on to the lake. The fare was five cents. The passenger descended to find no streets or sidewalks, just dirt roads and cow paths. The campus of the college sadly needed a board fence to keep off the cows and the pigs.

The Ruhama Academy was established before the Civil War by the Canaan Baptist Association, and was probably older than Howard College itself. When the East Lake Land Company came with its subdivision, Robert J. Waldrop was principal of the academy and had established an enviable local reputation as an educator and manager of the boys. In August, 1887, he was added to the faculty of Howard

College, as we have seen, and no mistake was made by the addition. His sunny disposition, his fine Christian character, his forceful personality, and his native wisdom, all united to make him the greatest teacher of youth the writer ever met. When the old Howard boys have forgotten all else learned in college, they will remember "Big Jud", as they affectionately called Professor Waldrop, and his noisy instruction, his pointed jokes and repartees, and his fine personality.

As soon as possible, the apparatus and equipment, and other movable property belonging to the college, were brought up from Marion and temporarily stored wherever space could be found. The great thousand-dollar telescope, over the possession of which Professor Noah K. Davis rejoiced in 1857, lay dismantled in Professor A. D. Smith's class room for years, until some one stole the lens and the rest of the instrument was eventually cast away as junk. The old civil war muskets, which Governor Houston had given to the college, were among the plunder, to be used again for military drill on the new campus, and the beautiful silk banner which the Judson girls gave to the Cadet Corps in 1878 was again to flutter in the breeze over a new terrain. Books, pictures and furniture came up in boxes or in crates. The portrait of Samuel S. Sherman, the first president of the college, which had been painted in 1886 and just received by Col. Murfee was, of course, brought along, too, and was eventually to find its place in the new Howard College chapel, where it hangs today. Many of the old books, dusty, mouldy, and mutilated, may still be seen, if one chooses, in a separate collection on the shelves of the present library of the college. The old manuscript roll book, containing the names of all the students registered in the college from its beginning, has been preserved, because it was in current use after the removal; but what became of the other manuscript records—the minutes of the two literary societies and the minutes of the Board of Trustees—no one knows. In the general mix-up, they were probably one day swept into the junk heap.

The college opened at its new location on October 3, 1887. At the first chapel exercises, about 65 students were in attendance and 85 were enrolled during the day. All boys over ten years of age were admitted to the preparatory department, and all those over fourteen, who were competent, were admitted to the college classes. The two ranking professors were Dr. Thos. J. Dill and Professor A. D. Smith, the former having been on the faculty since 1869 and the latter since 1881. Rev. B. F. Giles, of the class of '82, had already taught one year in the college at Marion as principal of the preparatory department, and

this position he now retained. Professor George W. Macon, of the class of '84, had been elected in June, before the removal question was decided, as the successor of Col. Redd. He was to begin his professorship in the new location, with the title of Colonel by virtue of his position as commandant of the cadet corps. Professor Waldrop was to teach the lower branches of Mathematics.

Many of the students followed the college from Marion, and many others came in to register for the first time. Though a few small boys came in from East Lake, the Birmingham patronage was all but nil. For the most part, the students were country boys, unused to the conveniences of city life, and as a consequence they found the physical environment of the college and their society with each other not un congenial. The absence of electric lights, lavatories, bathtubs, and furnace heating was not noticed, for these things were absent from their homes. An inch pipe brought water from a spring far up the mountainside, and a couple of hydrants stood ready at convenient points on the campus to fill the student's empty pail any time he cared for water. Kerosene lamps of various sizes and shapes furnished light in the rooms at night. To most of the students, greater conveniences would have been strange, bizarre, even embarrassing.

On October 4, pursuant to adjournment, the Prudential Committee and the Board of Trustees met at the college to hear the reports of the local committees. To the profound surprise of the brethren who had come in from different parts of the State, Dr. D. I. Purser and other local brethren argued against the immediate erection of permanent buildings, and urged that the existing ones would do for years to come. "It was now clearly manifest," writes Dr. B. F. Riley, one of the actors in the scene, "that a change had come over the dreams of those who were the most vociferous for removal. The tones that rang loudest at Union Springs the preceding July had now lapsed into a strange and suggestive silence. Now that the college was removed, the visions of grandeur had vanished. Those who talked most of 'magnificent buildings becoming a great college' now spoke of some of the European universities being domiciled in a few insignificant buildings. Dr. Henderson insisted that it would be better to put money into brains than into bricks, and told an illustrative anecdote of how he had spent his first money for a pocket book and had nothing left to put into it. Rev. J. P. Shaffer was very pronounced in saying in a deprecatory tone, 'Well, if I had known that we were not to have buildings, I should never have voted for removal.'



"A change had come over the spirit of the dreams of Birmingham. The college had reached the city at a most inopportune time—just as the bubble had burst. The hubbub which reigned for many months was lapsing into the quiet of the graveyard. A strange stillness filled the land."

To Dr. Purser more than to any other man the removal of the college was due. He was now asked by the Trustees to take the field as financial agent and raise money for the college, but he declined to do so. After months of delay and discussion, Rev. John P. Shaffer, of Roanoke, Alabama, one of the lesser lights of the denomination, took the field as financial agent on January 1, 1888. Born in 1841, Mr. Shaffer was ordained at the request of the church at Lineville, Alabama, in 1863, and at once entered upon his ministry. He founded the Lineville Academy in 1868 and organized Roanoke College in 1875, and for ten years was president of the latter. According to those who urged him for this difficult and delicate position, he was a man whose financial ability would equal such a crisis as now confronted Howard College.

The new financial agent was embarrassed to find that confidence in the success of the college had greatly declined, even in Birmingham. Many of those who had been most active in the removal of the college now treated with icy indifference the efforts of Mr. Shaffer to enlist aid and sympathy in behalf of his work. He found it even difficult to raise sufficient money to tide the college over the current year. Dr. J. J. D. Renfroe and a few others were faithful and steadfast, but they were exceptional.

Of a determined spirit, and aware of the expectations which had been aroused, Mr. Shaffer resolved in May, 1888, to call on the Birmingham Baptists to show their true colors. So a great rally was announced for the fourth Sunday of that month in Dr. Purser's church. What happened is thus described in the *Alabama Baptist* for May 31:

"Bro. Shaffer stated that Bro. R. H. Sterrett had been requested to state the condition of affairs, what promises Birmingham through her representatives had made to the denomination and just what they lacked of fulfilling those promises; but sickness prevented the appointee from being present and Bro. Renfroe had consented to make a statement for him.

"It was apparent from the beginning of Bro. Renfroe's remarks that he was quite unwell, and before he had proceeded far

had to be helped to a chair, from which after a moment's rest he completed his earnest talk. Briefly the speaker reviewed the marvelous career of Howard College at Marion for forty-seven years, told how it had grown into the hearts of the Baptists of Alabama; reminded his hearers that the subject of removal was first discussed in Birmingham in July, 1886, and that so strong an effort did the city put forth, such flattering promises did she make, that she swept the field before every other competitor, that her offer of \$200,000—\$60,000 in cash and the balance in land—decided the Prudential Committee to select East Lake as a location rather than Anniston's liberal offer. The landed part of the promise was all right. 'We made as fair a promise to give \$60,000 in cash', he said, 'as a man ever offered \$125 for a horse.' He passed a noble eulogy upon the young men who had been so loyal to the college as to put up with inconveniences, and who were still willing to stand by the college as long as there was any hope.

"His closing words were uttered with all the energy his feeble condition would admit. 'Back of this interest is a great denomination, and this college is their educational idol, and it is my opinion that unless something is done speedily to fulfill our promises this great denomination will turn in disgust from us.'

"Bro. B. F. Riley, on behalf of the Prudential Committee, stated that the two strongest points which influenced the location of the college at East Lake were the greatness of Birmingham and the knowledge of the fact that she never failed in any particular in carrying to success enterprises to which she set her hand.

"Bro. Shaffer's speech was a very solemn one. He asked the people to come to the rescue of a great Christian college. His hands had been tied since the first of January, and never freer hands were tied. Their promises to build and equip the college without calling on the denomination outside the Magic City had walled him in, and it would have been cowardly for him to have attempted to scale those walls. Birmingham stood successfully at the Convention, and it was now to be seen whether she still stood as a great city of influence. There were no 'ifs' and 'ands' in their promises, but they said that they *would* furnish buildings. He did not appear as a critic of Birmingham; she was still, mid all her misfortunes, the first city of the State; but whether she proposed to be the great center of education, of Christian thought,

remained to be seen. His hands had been tied as long as they could be, and now, cloud or no cloud, they must be released. Unless the help of Birmingham was given, the college was lost to them and lost to everybody else. He greatly praised the location of the college for both secular and ministerial students. We owe it to our college boys to give them a building, to put them in position to know how to meet the criticisms of the friends at home. He said if he could get the support of the college boys, he could be successful against any odds; but we can't afford to ask the boys to put themselves forever in temporary quarters, or expect them to be loyal to us who ourselves are not loyal.

"In calling for contributions, Mr. Shaffer stated that he wanted no half notes. If they did not mean to give, he did not want their promises. He desired notes made payable at either of the banks. The contributions were to be given in three payments—15th June, 15th September, 15th December. The time consumed in calling for money was most painful to those who had the college at all at heart. We sat among the cadets, and they with bated breath watched the progress of affairs. Five men or women were asked to give \$1,000 each. The East Lake Land Company was the only one to respond. Then \$500 was asked for and then \$250, and no one said aye, until \$100 was requested, when the speaker requested Eugene Enslin, the secretary, to put down \$100 for Professor R. J. Waldrop. \$50, \$25, and \$10 were successively asked for and no one answered. At the suggestion of Bro. W. C. Ward, those who had already subscribed were asked to rise. Then somebody proposed a hat collection. After the battle was over, it was ascertained that \$1,880 had been subscribed."

The end of this day's business broke the heart of Dr. J. J. D. Renfroe, who retired to his sick bed never to rise again.

In June, 1888, the first Commencement of Howard College in its new location was held at the pavilion, which still stands, on the border of East Lake. Seven young men received diplomas of graduation. During the exercises of Commencement Day, Dr. M. B. Wharton exhibited to the audience a drawing of the proposed main building of the college, which was to be pushed to immediate completion at a cost of \$50,000. The Trustees, at their meeting held some time during the week, elected Dr. John L. Johnson, Professor of English in the University of Mississippi, as President of Howard College. Whether he would accept the place or not remained to be seen.

The most important business before the Convention which met at Talladega in July was of course the condition of the college. On the afternoon of the first day of the session, Mr. Shaffer's report was read and found most enlightening. When he took office, he said:

"The money subscriptions at my command amounted to \$27,100, and payable in equal installments September 1st, 1887, September 1st, 1888, September 1st, 1889. The money subscription was less than I had supposed it was, and than it was generally understood to be throughout the State. I find the discrepancy between general understanding and the actual facts as to the amount of the subscription comes mainly from receiving lands, and not money, on certain subscriptions which the Prudential Committee understood and reported as money subscriptions. This misunderstanding was very unfortunate, and gave birth to a vast amount of misunderstanding of the real situation throughout the State, making it appear that the proposition and promises of Birmingham were false, and had not been complied with. \* \* \* After carefully investigating the financial condition of those from whom I could expect further subscriptions, I decided that it was not wise to make an attempt to enlarge our money subscription. \* \* \* The East Lake and Walker Companies have granted us an extension of eighteen months in which to execute our original promise to erect \$50,000 worth of buildings on the property donated to us. \* \* \* I find that the city and community of Birmingham are warmer and firmer in their friendship for the college than ever before, and determined not only to fulfill the original promise of Birmingham and community—time excepted—but to more than do so."

On motion, this report and the report of the Board of Trustees were referred to a committee of thirteen, with instructions to submit to the Convention at this session a plan of action. On the next day this committee made its report, the conclusion of which was as follows:

"Because of the assurance conveyed to us from the Birmingham brethren, that they intend and expect to redeem their promises by raising a sufficient amount by September, 1889, to complete the erection of the main college building at East Lake, at a cost of \$50,000, and because of the belief and hope that values will revive and that the landed property of the college will yet be of considerable moneyed value, and because of the belief that the Baptists of Alabama will rise up as one man and build for God and the cause



of religious training a magnificent structure worthy of the name and the cause, we recommend:

1. That the work be continued at the present location.

2. That the Baptists of Alabama arrange at once for meeting the deficit of expenses for the president and faculty of the college—the ways and means of this, of course, to be devised by the Trustees.

We recommend further that the Baptists of the State raise, just as soon as possible, the amount of \$60,000 for building a dormitory at East Lake. This is a necessity, and to build now is economy.”

This report was discussed at the sessions of Saturday afternoon and evening. The nature of the discussion is revealed in the following extracts taken from the *Alabama Baptist* of July 26:

“Hon. W. C. Ward, of Birmingham, said: He desired to apologize for Birmingham, not for himself; that he felt grateful that the committee had reported to leave Howard College at Birmingham, for he felt that the question was now settled forever; that he regrets that the Baptists think of waiting for Birmingham to do anything; that if they propose to wait until Birmingham does something, they will wait until it is too late. If you determine by your vote tonight that East Lake shall be the home of your college, then bury tonight every disappointed, sore feeling forever; burn your bridges behind you! Don't wait on Birmingham! Go to work and endow your college! Even if Birmingham has broken every pledge, the Baptists of Alabama should build their college right where it is. The speaker then gave a graphic description of Birmingham, her business, her prospects, and her resources; then in thundering tones he added: ‘How long will it take Howard College to be a grander institution of learning than you will find in these glorious Southern States, situated, as it is, in that glorious valley?’ He said Baptists were too slow to grasp an advantageous situation. Did they suppose the Methodists would wait? Wait until Birmingham would build the college? He said men didn't wait in Birmingham; they must ‘get up and git’ to do anything in Birmingham. Birmingham waits for no man. Then in his grand style he said: ‘Build it! Build! Build until it is the grandest college in the United States!’ \* \* \*

“Dr. Purser said that Birmingham was sorry, very sorry, that she had not done what she had been expected to do; that there

was a falling off in the bid could be explained by the failure of the Board of Trustees to accept school property in Woodlawn tendered; that the balance which didn't turn up would be made up by private parties; that the stringency of the money market caused it all. Birmingham asked for time, and that alone. Birmingham asked kindness at the hands of the Convention, and she would do what she had promised. Again the speaker said: 'Birmingham has not done what she could, but will do more.' \* \* \*

"Dr. Nunnally, of Montgomery, said that he felt like singing 'Blest be the tie that binds', when the gentlemen from Birmingham got up and begged forgiveness; that he thought more of Birmingham tonight than ever before (Laughter). 'Let's forgive 'em, brethren', he said. \* \* \*

Dr. B. H. Crumpton said that he had waited for somebody to say something on the other side, but it appeared that every speaker had been on the same side; that if Howard was back in Marion now it would be better; that he never did think it should have been moved and didn't think so yet, but still he was for Howard College and the Baptist denomination always; that he had been to Birmingham and had seen it; that he had watched carefully, and that Birmingham had done all that she could do under the circumstances. Then in passionate language he begged the Baptists of Alabama to stand by the college. \* \* \*

Col. C. C. Huckabee, of Marion, said that Marion had a full school and that Marion people were all in good humor; that he had heard that some of the brethren wanted the college brought back to Marion. He wished to say that Marion didn't want the college brought back unless endowed; that he wanted Birmingham to keep the college now that she had it. \* \* \*

At the conclusion of the discussion the Convention adopted the report of the committee of thirteen. Mr. Shaffer was now instructed to go out into the State and raise \$60,000 for a dormitory. On motion of J. E. Chambliss, the first Sunday in October was set apart as the day for a special collection to cover any deficit that might appear in the current expenses of the college during the ensuing year.

Professor John L. Johnson, President-elect of Howard College, was present at these discussions and took note of what was done. About the middle of August he telegraphed the Trustees that he could not accept the position tendered him. A meeting of the Board was at once called. Dr. B. H. Crumpton urged the claims of Rev. B. F. Riley, D.D., then a member of the Board and pastor of the church at Livings-

ton. Dr. Riley indicated a willingness to assume the duties of that responsible office, and was elected. His election created no enthusiasm and aroused no confidence. It was generally regarded as a makeshift and a doubtful experiment. What capacities he brought to his office we shall soon see.

## CHAPTER XI

*Buildings and Debts*

Benjamin Franklin Riley was born on July 16, 1849, near Pineville, Monroe county, Alabama. His educational advantages were very poor until he was nineteen years old. Then he asked his father to release him from work on the farm so that he might make his way to an education. Leaving home with \$100 in his pocket, laboring and living hard, he worked his way through Erskine College, in South Carolina, and graduated in 1871 with credit. The first year after his graduation he taught school in Monroe county. In 1873 he was ordained minister and entered the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Greenville, South Carolina, and later studied at Crozer Seminary, near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His first pastorate was at Carlowville, where he succeeded Dr. W. C. Cleveland. He next went to Albany, Georgia, then to Opelika, Alabama, and afterwards he was editor of the *Alabama Baptist* for one year. While engaged in this work he was called to Livingston, where he served as pastor until he was elected President of Howard College. He published in 1884 a "History of Conecuh County" and in 1888 a sort of guide-book entitled "Alabama As It Is." In 1885 the University of Alabama conferred upon him the degree of D. D., and the same degree was conferred upon him by Erskine College in 1887.

The new president entered upon his duties in September, 1888, in the face of many adverse circumstances. Besides the demoralization arising from the incidents and conditions attending the recent removal of the college, yellow fever was reported at Decatur and other points, cutting off all possibility of canvassing for students. So rigid were the quarantine regulations that Dr. Riley was arrested in Birmingham after "running the blockade" to reach the city. Students, in their endeavor to reach the college, were put off the trains and forced to make their way by private conveyance through the country.

At the college the scene was anything but inviting. Two wooden buildings of hasty construction stood wide apart in a growth of old field pines. The surroundings were uncleared of underbrush, and the trees which had been felled more than a year before to make room for the buildings were still lying about the grounds. The remnants of the library were scattered and torn over the floor of an outhouse; pictures and broken furniture were piled in the corners of the limited hallways; the furniture of all the departments was old and rickety; the bedding inferior and worn.



One of the first acts of the new president was to take possession of the old dilapidated building of the defunct Ruhama Academy, which stood on the campus, and transform it into a Mess Hall. Then he bought four good cows and established a small dairy on the hillside back of where Berry Athletic Field is now situated, and laid plans for a first-class garden. In this way milk and vegetables could be had for the Mess Hall at cost.

Col. Macon had probably already done something toward the re-establishment of military drill at the college. The cadet corps was now fully organized, and Howard boys again carried Col. Murfee's old civil war muskets up and down the campus in obedience to the familiar words of command. To Mr. C. G. Elliott, the college adjutant, was partially due the excellent discipline that prevailed during the scholastic year.

Early in the spring of 1889 Dr. Riley made a significant gesture, which needs here a word of explanation.

In 1888, or thereabouts, a real estate boom developed at Florence, Alabama. Among other things that happened, an Educational Company was formed, of which Dr. J. B. Hawthorne, who was on leave of absence from his pastorate in Atlanta, was made president and Judge Porter King, of Marion, first vice-president. Many others were connected with the movement, among whom was Capt. J. C. Featherstone, of Virginia. The main purpose of the Educational Company was to establish a Baptist college in the close vicinity of Florence and draw students from North Alabama and the neighboring States. On November 24, 1888, the Judson building at Marion was burned down, and Judge King conceived the idea of putting up a building exactly like the Judson at Florence and of establishing there a Baptist school for girls. Naturally it did not require a very fertile brain to conceive the idea of moving Howard College up there too.

"Well, after a little", says Dr. W. B. Crumpton, "it began to be talked about that Riley had been up to Florence, and after he had made a trip or two Shaffer said, 'You going to Florence again?' Riley said, 'Yes.' Shaffer said, 'Well, I want to go, too.' So he went up there with Riley. Several times Riley was meeting with some committee or other, but Shaffer was not invited to meet with them. Shaffer got wind of it after a while and said, 'Well I am financial agent of Howard College and I think I ought to go and see what is being done.' So he pressed the matter and they had to invite him. They were making overtures right straight, intending to present them to the Convention in the fall, basing them upon the idea that Birmingham had not come

across with her money to put up the college buildings. W. C. Ward was president of the Board of Trustees at Howard. Shaffer told him what he had discovered. So Ward went to Riley and asked him what it all meant. Riley said, 'It means that I am going to put the people of Birmingham in the place where they will have to pay the money they promised at Union Springs'."

That this gesture of Dr. Riley had a wholesome effect in Birmingham may be judged by the fact that the Baptist leaders there began to rally to the college. On April 6, 1889, Dr. D. I. Purser, at last, consented to take Mr. Shaffer's place as financial agent and set out to raise the \$40,000 necessary to complete the main building of the college. Commenting on Dr. Purser's acceptance, the *Age-Herald* for April 10, says: "This augurs well for the success of Howard College, and causes a new wave of hope to rise in the breasts of its friends. It is a matter of giving. If the citizens come up to the necessities of the hour, then Howard College is a fixture as an institution in this community. If the work fails, then Florence goes before the next Baptist State Convention with her proposition. Dr. Hawthorne was at the Opera House Hotel last night, and was talking Florence to interested listeners. \* \* \* He said they have no desire to interfere with Howard College at East Lake and hope the enterprise there will succeed. But if it does not, then Florence will be prepared to offer it an abiding place."

When Dr. Purser took hold of the finances, the foundation of the Main Building had already been laid at a cost of \$7,000 or more. This building, according to the plans, was to be only the core of a pile of buildings, including dormitory, dining hall and science building and covering four hundred feet front. The estimated cost of the pile was about \$125,000. Needless to say that only the main building was ever completed.

The Commencement exercises of June, 1889, were again held in the pavilion at the lake. A class of six promising young men received degrees. At the close of the exercises on Commencement Day, says the

*Age-Herald* of June 19, "Dr. Riley marched his boys back to their quarters, and bade them all an affectionate adieu, to which they responded by wishing him much happiness during the summer and a college full next session. \* \* \* After the dismissal of the boys, the Trustees of the college had a meeting, which was very harmonious throughout. Every section of the State was represented. Resolutions were passed strongly condemning any agitation of the question of the

removal of the college from Birmingham, and every man present pledged himself to support both morally and financially."

During the summer vacation, the old equipment of the dormitory was replaced by a new supply of bedding and furniture. Miss Annie Grace Tartt, of Livingston, raised a sufficient fund to purchase wrought iron bedsteads and wire woven mattresses, and the ladies throughout the State supplied the remaining furniture.

On July 17, a reporter of the *Weekly Age-Herald* called on Dr. Purser and found him hard at work on the building fund of the college, having raised up to date \$17,000 of the \$40,000 needed. The reporter asked him how the work was progressing. "Slowly, sir, slowly. They are willing to give, but don't do it. There are seventy-five men in this city who say they will give, but they all want to be the last, and how to make the whole seventy-five last is a mathematical problem I have as yet been able to solve, after days of thinking and working. Some one of them has got to give in first, but they won't compromise. There are also a number of men in Birmingham who promised me that I took hold of this thing they would subscribe \$1,000 each, and not a single dime have I received from any of them up to this hour."

In November, the Convention met at Selma but held the second day's session in the new Judson building at Marion. Citizens of Marion met the delegates at the railroad station with carriages and conveyed them to the place of meeting, where great enthusiasm prevailed and \$10,000 was raised in cash and pledges for the Judson. That afternoon the Convention returned to Selma and reassembled in the evening. Speeches were made for the Howard by Hon. W. C. Ward and Dr. D. I. Purser, which culminated in an appeal for money for the Howard buildings. The collection was engineered by Drs. Purser, Frost and Wharton, and resulted in a grand total in cash and subscriptions of \$14,415.51, most of which was pledged by the brethren from South Alabama. Thenceforth harmony prevailed between the former opponents and advocates of the removal of the college from Marion. The schism was healed and an era of good feeling inaugurated.

The Selma Convention authorized and empowered W. C. Ward, as President of the Board of Trustees of Howard College, to sell and convey or mortgage any property donated to the Convention for the purpose of obtaining money to complete the main building. The Board of Trustees was also empowered to borrow money at any time, by the hypothecation of subscription notes, to carry on the work of completing the said building.

By virtue of this authority, the Board of Trustees executed the bonds of the college, payable at five years after April 1, 1890, interest payable semi-annually, at eight per cent. per annum, for the sum of \$40,000 to the Union Trust Company of Philadelphia, and to secure the payment of the same hypothecated the subscription notes given to the Convention for the erection of the main building to the amount of \$43,500, and mortgaged the land, sixty-four acres, donated by the East Lake Company and the Ruhama Academy. With this arrangement consummated, Dr. Purser resumed work on the main building early in 1890. In April of that year, the corner stone was laid with much speech-making by local celebrities.

The graduating exercises of 1890 were held as usual in the pavilion at the lake. After Commencement, from the middle of June to the middle of July, a summer school for preachers was held in the college buildings under the auspices of Dr. L. I. Purser. The purpose was to afford the pastors of the State facilities for improvement by means of lectures upon topics of practical interest. Drs. Basil Manly, J. C. Hiden, E. B. Teague, Henry McDonald, W. H. Young and Rev. G. S. Anderson were the chief lecturers. The founding of this Preachers' Institute did much to re-instate Dr. Purser in the good graces of the Baptists of the State, and he was buoyantly hopeful that the Institute might become a permanent adjunct to the college; but after three summers the founder left the State, and with his departure perished the Institute.

When the college opened in the fall of 1890, the students overflowed the dormitory and made it necessary to rent five other houses adjacent to the campus. Thereupon Dr. Purser made arrangements for the erection of two small brick dormitories, one on each side of the campus near the main building, to care for the increasing numbers. These two little buildings were finished in the spring of 1891, as was also the main building.

In his semi-annual report to the Trustees, in March, 1891, Dr. Riley said among other things: "In conference with Professor A. D. Smith, who, in addition to his professional duties, kindly aids me in many essential particulars in the various departments of the college, I determined at the beginning of the present session to establish a garden and a dairy in connection with the mess hall. \* \* \* We have not succeeded as well as we could have hoped; but after repeated efforts to procure a superintendent, we have at last in our employ a skilled dairyman. Through the kindness of a few friends, I have been enabled to



erect necessary houses for the dairy. A neat barn has been erected and a pleasant residence together with sufficient fencing about the premises and the garden, without involving the college treasury in the expenditure of a cent. Our dairy is now beginning to pay us and a little later will prove quite a contributor to our economy." The "pleasant residence" is still standing on the hill back of Berry Field.

In June, 1891, the Commencement exercises were held for the first time in the chapel of the Main Building—to the immense gratification of the faculty, students and friends of the college—when fourteen promising young men received degrees. At the close of the graduating exercise, Dr. Purser announced to the audience that the comfortable and tasteful opera chairs in the chapel, 550 in number, had been presented by the church of Columbia, in Henry county. It was announced also that the total enrollment of students during the year had been 206, the largest in the history of the institution.

During the summer vacation a number of improvements were projected and carried out on the campus. The old dormitory, which the boys called "the barn", was repaired, repainted and made more comfortable than it was when first built, and Dr. Purser set about the erection of two more small brick dormitories of the same dimensions as those first built. The old temporary administration building was altered and fitted up for a dining hall. The dilapidated old building of the Ruhama Academy was then abandoned as a mess hall, and was shortly afterwards demolished.

A glimpse of the college at its opening in the fall of 1891 may be had through the eyes of Mr. J. J. Finklea, of Buena Vista, Alabama, who came up with his son for the opening day. "About 12 o'clock that night", he writes for the *Alabama Baptist*, "the East Lake dummy put us off near Howard College. When we walked up to the college grounds, I said: "My boy, how much farther? Are we not about at the place?" "Yes, Papa, this is the place." "But I didn't know, my boy, that you were camped here in the woods." He replied: "You can see better in the morning, and things will look entirely different when cleared off." The beautiful and large main brick building, and the new brick dormitories are back of the pines and oaks on a hill which gradually slopes off, and when nicely cleared off, graded and fenced, and the other new buildings finished, which are going up, it will present a beautiful appearance."

"The college", writes Miss Lida B. Robertson of this year, "had no campus—just a rugged, rocky out-of-doors; and no conveyance to

haul the students' trunks from the station. I begged two generous Baptists to give the money to buy a horse, and they did so. One was my brother, Gaston, and the other a Texan, a Mr. Patty. Dr. B. F. Riley, president of the college, bought the horse, and the boys dubbed the horse and wagon the 'trunk dummy.' The 'diner' was a rough plank one-room building about where Montague Hall now is, which the boys called 'grub house'."

During 1891-92 Dr. Riley undertook to inaugurate a movement for the founding and fostering of Baptist secondary schools, or academies, in different parts of the State, as auxiliaries of the Howard and the Judson, in which he was ably sustained by Dr. W. C. Cleveland. But the plan was resisted on the plea that they would operate against the patronage of the two larger schools, which patronage was then urgently needed. The opponents of the plan urged with effect that the college needed concentration, while the proposed plan meant dissipation. The proposition was tabled at the Convention of 1892 and nothing more was heard of it.

At the Commencement of 1892, the Semi-Centennial of Howard College was appropriately celebrated. The program was properly characterized by the fact that only those who had previously been connected with the college as officials or students participated. The college welcomed to this jubilee those who were students when it was in its infancy, but had grown gray in usefulness, and who had achieved distinction in the different walks of life. The speakers chosen for the occasion were: Dr. J. B. Hawthorne, of Atlanta; Gen. George D. Johnston, of Washington, D. C.; Dr. David G. Lyon, of Harvard University; Mr. W. L. Sanford, of Sherman, Texas; and Hon. W. C. Ward, of Birmingham. The addresses were embodied in a memorial catalogue of the college.

In October, 1892, Dr. D. I. Purser gave up his work as financial agent of Howard College and left the State to become missionary pastor of the Valence Street Church in New Orleans. Though he had been bitterly criticised in 1888 for his refusal to assume responsibilities in regard to the college that logically devolved upon him as the prime advocate of the removal project, he abundantly redeemed himself later by his able and invaluable services, and his heroic death during the yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans in 1897 proved that he was by nature no shirker.

Early in 1893 the University of Chicago, under the presidency of Dr. Harper, proposed the formation of an association of all the Bap-

tist colleges of the United States. Chicago was to fix the standard of instruction and scholarship, and provide for an exchange of professors between Chicago and the various affiliated colleges; but Chicago did not propose to give financial assistance. The arrangement was to be something like a standardizing agency.

At the end of May, 1893, Dr. Riley visited Chicago to confer with President Harper and to inquire about the possibility of obtaining financial assistance. Though he did not obtain the assistance or the promise of it, he was greatly encouraged by his visit and enthusiastic over the prospect of making Howard College an integral part of a great organization of Baptist colleges into which wealthy men, like the Rockefellers, might be expected to pour oceans of money.

When the Trustees of Howard College met in June, Dr. Riley submitted the result of his Chicago visit, and recommended that such action be taken as would secure the bonds of affiliation between the two institutions. The Board, unwilling to take the initiative in a matter so important, referred the whole question to the Convention, which was to meet in November. In the meantime the merits of the question were warmly discussed by Baptist leaders in the columns of the *Alabama Baptist*. Dr. A. J. Dickinson, of Selma, strongly advocated affiliation. His argument was that Howard College, without adequate resources, could only do the work of an academy. Affiliation with Chicago would raise the standards and probably increase the resources. Moreover, affiliation would be conducive to higher scholarship, in that many students and professors would go to Chicago for graduate work. In any event, the experiment was harmless. "Not so", said the opponents. Chicago would reap all the benefits by attracting graduate students to her halls. Why should we help Chicago without benefit to ourselves? Moreover, and above all, the University of Chicago was not orthodox. This was the doctrinal danger.

When the question came up in the Convention, it caused a breezy debate, and the settlement of it was referred to the next annual meeting. A year later all interest in it had vanished.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees in June, 1893, all the members of the faculty were re-elected and Professor A. B. Goodhue was added as Professor of Elocution. For years Professor Goodhue had been teaching at Gadsden, but losing his wife in 1887 and being advanced in years, he gave up his work there and came to live with his son-in-law, Capt. W. C. Ward, in Birmingham. Like all elderly people who have led an active life, he wanted something to occupy his time. What more congenial task could be found than serv-

ice in the college of which he was well-nigh the founder? So without salary or other compensation, Professor Goodhue came back like a pleasant memory of yesteryears to train the Howard boys in public speaking. The writer remembers seeing him in the fall of 1899, sitting in the college chapel, a venerable figure, like the great law-giver of Israel.

Shortly after the termination of the session of 1892-93, Dr. Riley resigned the presidency of the college to accept the professorship of English in the University of Georgia, and Rev. A. W. McGaha, D. D., pastor of Ruhama Church, was shortly afterwards elected to succeed him.

Dr. Arthur Watkins McGaha was born in Marshall county, Alabama, on September 12, 1857. His father trained him to work on the farm, but when not thus engaged he was taught by his mother. He attended school but little until he was seventeen years old, when he entered Oxford College, Oxford, Alabama, then under the presidency of Professor A. B. Goodhue, where he spent eighteen months. Afterwards he was for a time clerk and book-keeper in a dry goods store. His health not being very good, he returned to the farm for a year. While on the farm he decided to accept the ministry as his life work. He entered Howard College in October, 1877, and graduated therefrom in June, 1880. Then he spent two years in the Southern Baptist Seminary at Louisville. He was serving a church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, when he received the call to the pastorate at East Lake in September, 1888. It was with reluctance that he left his pastoral duties to assume the administration of the college. His leading characteristic was loveliness and human kindness.

The other members of the faculty were: Thomas John Dill, LL.D., Professor of Greek and Latin; Albert Durant Smith, A. M., Professor of Applied Mathematics; George Washington Macon, A. M., Ph. D., Professor of Chemistry, Natural History and Modern Languages; Benjamin Franklin Giles, A. M., Professor of English; Robert Judson Waldrop, A. M., Professor of Pure Mathematics; Amos Bailey Goodhue, A. M., Professor of Elocution; and Willis Hillard Payne, A. B., Professor of the Sub-Collegiate Department. The last mentioned was the first honor man of the class of 1890 and had been added to the faculty to enable Professor Giles to become Professor of English.

At the Convention in November, 1893, the bonded indebtedness of the college lay heavily upon the minds of the delegates. After mak-



ing a gloomy report on debts and deficits, Capt. W. C. Ward concluded: "The members of the Board of Trustees, like all public servants who serve a cause without reward, and in this case without honor, do not expect to escape criticism. The only satisfaction derived from the fact of criticism is that it shows the critics are concerned for the college. We ask, however, that your criticisms be so guarded as not to injure the college. Some recent strictures are not helpful. In all good faith and with all due respect, if there are any brethren who know how to build and operate a college without money, and one that is in debt, most gladly will we give back into the hands of the Convention the trust committed to us. In fact, it may be the wisest thing to discharge the old crew and put the institution in the hands of new men."

Now that Dr. Purser was gone, there was no one in the field as financial agent. With characteristic zeal and courage, Miss Lida B. Robertson, of Mobile, granddaughter of Daniel P. Bestor, suggested that the Baptist women of Alabama be set the task of raising money for the endowment the college. This prompted Capt. Ward to offer the following resolution:

"That the Alabama State Convention hereby commits to the Baptist Women of Alabama the work of raising the means to endow the chair of the President of the Faculty of Howard College, and that the duty of organizing for this work be entrusted to Miss Lida B. Robertson of Mobile, who, by pen and deed, has shown great zeal in behalf of the college."

This resolution was adopted, but was shortly afterwards reconsidered and Miss Robertson was assigned the task of raising funds for the erection of a hospital at the college. Then the Convention advised the Board of Trustees to put a man in the field to work for the college at a stipulated salary. This agent was to give his full time to the work, collecting back notes, soliciting students, and raising \$25,000 for a permanent endowment of the President's chair. An impressive moment during the discussion was when J. B. Lovelace, of Marion, asked all the Howard boys present to stand. When a goodly array of gray-haired brethren and younger men arose, he said: "Let us resolve that Howard shall not die." A hearty "Amen" was the response.

At the close of the day's session, about twenty Howard alumni held a meeting and decided to recommend Rev. W. A. Whittle, of Birmingham, as a suitable man, who, with his illustrated lectures of the Holy Land, should travel over the State, giving the income of his lectures to the college, as well as taking subscriptions. The Howard

boys would pay his salary for twelve months, so that the public could feel that it did not come out of their pockets. A subscription was at once started, with John R. Sampey, L. O. Dawson, and P. T. Hale putting down \$50 each, followed by others who gave liberally. Nearly half enough was raised there and then among the twenty to pay the salary.

On December 30, 1893, the Board of Trustees unanimously elected Rev. W. A. Whittle as Vice President and Financial Secretary of Howard College, and sent him forth.

President McGaha's administration is notable for two things, namely, the introduction of the Bible into the curriculum and the introduction of co-education. The first received much favorable comment among the brethren but the other created a ripple of discussion. In the Convention, which met in July, 1894, Capt. Ward, Dr. Teague and others defended co-education on the grounds of justice and policy. "Auburn, Tuscaloosa and Greensboro", Capt. Ward pointed out, "have wheeled into line and Howard proposes to stand abreast of them." In the *Alabama Baptist* for July 19, the following editorial comment was made: "The 'woman craze' seems to be on us just now, and it must run its course. All the colleges are falling into line, only because it is the fashion, and not because there is any great demand for co-education. \* \* \* Without claiming to be a prophet, we predict that in the South, at least, the time will never come when any considerable number of our young women will attend the male colleges which are throwing their doors open to them." In general the comment of the brethren was favorable to giving co-education a trial.

"Immediately preceding the Commencement Exercises", reported the Trustees in July, 1894, "the students, learning that President McGaha desired the college grounds put in order, went to work of their own accord and removed all the pines, digging them up, and carrying trees and stumps outside the campus; and graded and made walks. This was done cheerfully and largely because it was seen that it would give great pleasure to the President. Through the efforts of Rev. W. A. Whittle, some very necessary brick work has been done in front of the main building, making a beautiful terrace, and the wooden buildings have been repaired and beautifully painted."

On reading this account, one can but admire the spirit and the loyalty of the boys, but what a pity to destroy those pines.

Rev. A. A. Hutto, who entered Howard College in 1892 and graduated in 1896, gives the writer the following account of life on the campus in his day:

“Dr. B. F. Riley was president during the first session of my student life at Howard. Then came Dr. A. W. McGaha, who filled the office three years.

The college was under military regulations, and President Riley was insistent on every rule being observed. I remember going into his office one day. I thought I was very careful to assume a military position; but to my amazement he looked me over and said, “Mr. Hutto, you are given three demerits for having your hands locked behind you.” How humiliated I was! I was doing my best, but in my awkward way had shown at about my worst. Later, on petition, the demerits were removed, but I had learned my lesson.

Dr. Riley was a strict disciplinarian, and was proud of it. The boys were often just as determined to get by ‘Doc’. One night two boys decided they would break into the commissary and get a ham. They knew that ‘Doc’ might be around at any time. So they climbed a tree to the roof of a shed, raised a window, went in and got the ham, came out again on top of the shed, and looked out on the campus—and saw ‘Doc’ coming directly toward the tree. There was no other way down than by that tree. The two boys lay down on the roof. ‘Doc’ sat down at the root of the tree and tarried there for almost an hour. The boys dared not move and hardly dared to breathe. But finally ‘Doc’ moved away and disappeared, and the boys got away with the ham.

The members of one of Dr. Dill’s classes were warned that at a certain place in the course the Doctor always told a certain story. As a joke on the Doctor, the class entered into an agreement not to laugh when the story was sprung. The time came and the Doctor went into the story in great detail, and he could tell a story well. The class listened with apparent interest. But when the time came for all to laugh, no one laughed. Dr. Dill quickly caught the situation, and said in his quaint way: ‘Well, I was a little afraid that story was too deep for you.’ Then the class fairly exploded. The Doctor had the best of the joke.

Professor Waldrop was known as ‘Big Jud.’ His knowledge of boys was perhaps due to his earlier experiences in conducting the Ruhama Academy. Usually when a Howard boy got into trouble he went to ‘Big Jud’ for counsel and help. A ‘day rat’ named Ralph failed for several days to answer to the roll call in his classes. Inquiry being made at his home, it was discovered

that Ralph had been 'playing hookie.' As a consequence of his absence from classes without permission, he was suspended from college. In his troubles he went to 'Big Jud' and said, 'Professor Waldrop, I have been playing hookie and am as mean as a dog.' 'You surely are, Ralph.' 'I am not worthy of anybody's love and care.' 'That's so, Ralph.' 'I never will be worth killing.' 'I think you are right, Ralph.' 'But, Professor, what can I do?' Then the big kindly voice of Professor Waldrop assured the wayward youth that he could yet make a man if he would only try. Ralph promised to try and was reinstated. Today he is doing well in his chosen profession.

Before chapel, on April 1, 1895, some forty or fifty boys be-took themselves to the woods as an April's Fool joke. They expected so few boys to remain behind that work must needs be suspended for the day. But on their return in the late afternoon, hungry and tired, they found that classes had been meeting as usual and that each of the absentees had received five demerits and a zero in each of his classes. They never played 'April fool' again."

During the year 1894-95 the college enrolled two young ladies as students, and during the next year five. "We expected", says the *Franklin Advocate* for March, 1895, "that the girls' presence would put an end to Dr. Dill's bountiful flow of laughable anecdotes, that we thought only suitable for us; but we find that he relates them as freely as ever, with the apology that he would tell them if the girls were not present. \* \* \* We also anticipated that a wonderful change would be wrought in Prof. Smith's room. We looked forward with anxiety to the time when the soft and gentle words should take the place of those strong and forcible terms used heretofore; but, to say the least of it, we 'got left.' There is no perceptible change. The last expression of his, which seemed to leave an impression on my mind, was: 'Well, young gentlemen, I see I'll have to draw the rein a little tighter'."

At the Commencement of 1895, Col. G. W. Macon, who had been on the Howard faculty for eight years, resigned to accept a professorship in Mercer University. Professor W. H. Payne, who had been in charge of the preparatory department, was promoted to Col. Macon's former place. Mr. S. J. Ansley, first honor man of the class of '95, was associated with Dr. Dill as assistant in Latin and Greek.

On March 6, 1895, the Board of Trustees held a meeting in Birmingham to see what could be done about the approaching maturity



of the mortgage debt due the Union Trust Company of Philadelphia. At this meeting Rev. W. A. Whittle made his report as financial agent of the college, which in substance was that he had accomplished nothing—nothing in collecting new subscriptions, nothing on the collection of old subscriptions. The impression seemed to have gotten abroad that it was useless to waste money on Howard College. Messrs. Ward, Arnold, Cabaniss and Enslin were appointed a committee to secure if possible an extension of the mortgage debt. After considerable correspondence, the negotiations resulted in an extension of \$30,000 of the debt for the term of three years from April 1, 1895; but payment of the back interest and the rest of the principal was required. The sequel showed that the Trustees could not meet even this requirement. Thereupon Capt. W. C. Ward, in great disappointment and bitterness of heart, resigned as president of the Board, and Rev. P. T. Hale, pastor of the Southside church, took his place.

In due time foreclosure was seriously threatened; the property of Howard College was advertised for sale under mortgage on June 22, 1896. In all hastes the Trustees summoned a meeting of the Directors of the Convention, and a frantic appeal was made to all the Baptists and friends of education in the State. Dr. B. D. Gray, pastor of the First Church; Dr. P. T. Hale, pastor of the Southside, and soon afterwards Rev. W. A. Hobson, pastor of Ruhama Church, took the field to raise what money they could for the pressing exigency. Within four months, notwithstanding the popular excitement over the Presidential campaign of that year, these brethren raised \$8,000 in spot cash and the promise of more. Then the Union Trust Company agreed to remit all back interest due November 1, 1896, and deduct besides \$1,000 from the principal. Thus the college was saved, for the time being, by the fact that its creditors had more hope of realization by waiting than they would have had if the school should come under the hammer of the sheriff.

Under the stress of the moment, President McGaha resigned and Professor A. D. Smith was made President. The latter had been Professor of Mathematics since 1881, and for eight years had been in charge of the buying and other financial duties connected with the internal administration of the college. He was a good business man, thrifty when necessary, and always of a sound judgment. The Trustees turned the college over to the new president with the admonition to make it self-sustaining and to incur no debts.

Writing for the *Alabama Baptist*, June 18, 1896, Rev. P. T. Hale said: "When, on Commencement Day, the announcement was made that Professor A. D. Smith had been elected President of the college, he received a perfect ovation from both the students and the entire audience. While a very strict disciplinarian, and the students dread his 'Math', he is respected and esteemed by all, and is a business man of the first order. Thus the people believe that his business and executive ability will do great things for the institution. Professor Smith assured the Board that his time and utmost abilities and energies would be given faithfully to the advancement of the college."

At last, under the stress of the moment, Col. Jemison of the East Lake Land Company, agreed to donate to the college the row of lots fronting along Underwood Avenue, and to fix the matter in legal shape at once. Thus a situation which had for eight years been very annoying was permanently remedied. During this summer, too, electric cars, running every fifteen minutes, replaced the old dummies of former years.

On entering upon the duties of the presidency in the summer of 1896, Professor Smith gave the entire plant a thorough overhauling. Walks were laid out in appropriate places; the mess hall repaired, cleansed, and made more inviting; and everything else put in good condition. Finding that suitable arrangements could not well be made for the accommodation of young ladies as students in the college, co-education was abandoned. It had been in existence for two years, and less than half a dozen girl students had been enrolled.

On August 20, 1896, President Smith issued through the *Alabama Baptist* the following proclamation, which smacks loudly of the days of Col. Murfee:

"I desire to say to the patrons of Howard College, and to those who expect to patronize the school the coming fall, that it will be conducted on strict business principles; that there will be a system and a method for everything and every man, and everything and every man must fit into its or his place, like each piece of a complete machine. In this we recognize the importance of that branch of an education by which young men learn that there should be a time for each duty, and that each duty should be performed at the proper time.

Study hours will begin at 6 o'clock a. m. and continue until 7; from 7 a. m. to 8:15 will be allowed for breakfast and recreation. At 8:15 a. m. chapel assembly and prayer to 8:30; recitations

from 8:30 to 12:30. Release from 12:30 to 2:00 for dinner and rest. Recitations from 2 to 4; drill from 4 to 5. Release from 5 to 7 for supper and rest. From 7 to 9:30 p. m. students will be required to remain in their rooms at work; from 9:30 to 10, thirty minutes is allowed for preparation to retire; at 10 p. m. the bell taps, when all lights must be put out. During the hours of release above mentioned, students will not be allowed to leave the quiet little town of East Lake; in fact, they will be allowed to visit the city only once a week—from 8 to 12 a. m. on Saturdays.  
\* \* \*

Recognizing that the great principle in learning to obey is to learn to govern, our students are in turn appointed Officer of the Day, on which days the student is absolutely officer in charge, when his authority is unquestioned, being subordinate only to the President of the college. I find this to be a valuable part of a boy's education. \* \* \*

Secret societies are not tolerated, and those young men who have kept up these societies *sub rosa* need not return with the intention of doing so in the future."

Testimony to Professor Smith's strict discipline is thus borne by a writer to the *Alabama Baptist* for October 29, 1896:

"I was in Professor Smith's office two mornings the past week, during his office hour. I was anxious to see how he managed the boys as they came in with their permits and excuses. I failed to find out. Instead of the great number of boys loitering around the President's office, one lonely lad came each morning. Every boy goes from chapel directly to his work. There is nothing but business through the whole day. Everything is done in systematic order."

For one year Professor Smith worked faithfully at the task of pulling the college out of the hole and making it self-sustaining. He put in a refrigerator, bought and butchered his own meat, and from his garden back of the main building he supplied the vegetables for the mess hall. By strict economy and close buying, he succeeded at his task; but in June, 1897, he resigned the presidency and entered into business, never again to be connected with the faculty. His interest in the college, though, during the years that have passed since then, has never abated.

Professor Smith was immediately succeeded by Professor F. M. Roof as president of the college. At the same time Professor Giles

was superseded by Professor Edwin H. Foster in the English Department, and Professor Payne was superseded by Professor Edgar P. Hogan, of the class of '93. Since Professor Roof's chief interest was in Psychology and Pedagogy, a professor of Mathematics was needed, and in the middle of the ensuing year, Professor Edward Brand was chosen as Professor of Applied Mathematics.

Professor Francis Marion Roof, the new president, was a native of Kentucky. He came to Birmingham in 1887 as principal of the Henly high school. On entering upon his duties at Howard, he made the usual effort to clean up the campus and make improvements. In the old "barn building" he had a suite of bath rooms fitted up, and projected a movement for a gymnasium also—if the requisite money could be raised. He closed the first year of his administration with the report that excellent work had been done and that the college had been self-sustaining.

The most notable occurrence of Professor Roof's administration was the liquidation of the total indebtedness of Howard College. The Convention which met at Opelika in November, 1898, realizing that something had to be done, and quickly, to prevent the sale of the college, resolved to inaugurate a State-wide "drive" for funds in January and to bring the campaign to a conclusion in October following. The indebtedness was estimated at \$38,000.

Few of the delegates present at that Convention thought that anything would or could be done; but Dr. B. D. Gray, pastor of the First Church of Birmingham and now President of the Board of Trustees, asked for and obtained a leave of absence from his pastoral duties to inaugurate the campaign. During February and March, 1899, the work of circulating literature and organizing forces was begun. After considerable headway had been made along these lines, a meeting of influential laymen and ministers from various parts of the State was held in Montgomery on April 25. About twenty were present, of whom fifteen were laymen. By agreement the indebtedness of the State Mission Board and that of the Board of Ministerial Education were included with the Howard College debt. In the enthusiasm of the moment \$9,750 was subscribed on the spot. Then a committee, composed of Mr. D. L. Lewis of Sycamore, Dr. A. C. Davidson of the Southside Church in Birmingham, Professor F. M. Roof of Howard College, and Dr. B. D. Gray, with the last named as chairman and F. M. Roof as secretary, was appointed with instructions to push the work of collection as rapidly as possible. To the surprise of many, if



not of everybody, the campaign prospered abundantly. On July 14, 1899, every dollar of the Howard College debt was paid, and the bonds and mortgages were rent in twain from top to bottom. The next struggle would be for an endowment.

The next three years are not notable for anything in particular. On returning in the fall of 1899 the boys found the mess hall newly painted, frescoed and furnished with chairs, and a matron, Mrs. Helen Stone, in charge. As an instructor in athletics, Professor Harry Miles was employed for a few hours each week.

On January 13, 1900, while the boys were at breakfast, the announcement was made that one of the students rooming in the "barn building", Mr. W. R. Lambert of Monroe county, had smallpox. There was considerable excitement, and about a dozen boys left for home on the first trains; but the rest remained and submitted to quarantine on the campus. Mr. Lambert was isolated some distance from the campus and in due time was nursed back to health. The work of the college was scarcely interrupted by the incident.

Dr. Dill had previously announced that because of advancing years and dimness of vision, he was going to resign in June, 1900. When the time came he laid the burden down, after having served the college faithfully through thirty-one years. As a token of their love and respect, the Trustees presented him on Commencement Day a gold-headed cane, and the beloved old professor spoke briefly and feelingly in response. At the alumni banquet that evening Dr. W. P. McAdory in a fitting speech in behalf of the Howard boys from 1870 to 1900, presented him a beautiful silver tea service. On January 31, 1901, Dr. Dill was dead. At the next alumni banquet the boys stood for a moment with bowed heads in his memory.

Dr. Dill's work in the college was taken over by Professor Ansley, who had already been connected with the department for five years as Professor of Greek. In October, 1901, Professor Ansley's health gave way, and Mr. Allen J. Moon, first honor man of the class of '97, was called from his graduate studies in the University of Virginia to take his place. Professor Moon was to remain at the head of the Department of Latin and Greek for many years.

In June, 1902, Professor Roof resigned the presidency of the college, giving as his reason for doing so the meagerness of the salary. At once the Trustees unanimously elected Rev. L. O. Dawson, pastor of the church at Tuscaloosa, to the presidency. He was unwilling to have that action taken and protested against it, but the Trustees were deter-

mined to lay the burden upon him and have him decide the matter in the fear of God. Great pressure was brought to bear upon him also by brethren outside the Board of Trustees, but he steadfastly declined and in the end remained in his pastorate at Tuscaloosa. Twenty-two years later he was destined to come to Howard as Professor of the Bible and to be a great power for good in these latter days.

Early in July the Trustees called the eminent President of Furman University, and to their great joy the call was at once accepted. Dr. Andrew Philip Montague was a man of scholarship, energy and personality. With his *entrée en scène*, Howard College entered upon a distinctly new era.

## CHAPTER XII

*Student Activities*

1. *Literary Societies.*—No sooner had the Manual Labor Institute been organized at Greensboro in 1836 than the students organized a debating club and named it the Franklin Polemic Society. Its small library, after the establishment of Howard College, was transferred to Marion.

The Howard boys soon organized two literary societies—the Franklin and the Adelphi. By 1849, if not earlier, the custom was established of inviting a speaker of some distinction to deliver the annual address before the two literary societies during Commencement week. This address was delivered by Mr. J. W. Taylor, of Eutaw, in 1849; by Rev. T. G. Keen, of Mobile, in 1850; by Professor Noah K. Davis, of Howard College, in 1853; and so on. In November, 1851, the Trustees reported to the Convention that, with funds contributed by the boys and their friends, each society had purchased about 600 volumes for a library. This library was, of course, totally destroyed by the fire of 1854.

When erecting the new main building, which still stands at Marion, rooms were provided for the two literary societies on the second floor. In the announcement of the approaching Commencement of 1857, President Talbird included this item: "Dedication of the Hall of the Franklin Society. Address by William A. May, Esq., of Sumter county, June 23rd."

The decrease in membership caused by the Civil War made it impossible to sustain two societies, yet neither was willing to be absorbed by the other. The result was the organization of a new society, under a new name, the Philomathic. After the war the Franklin Society was reorganized, but the Adelphi was superseded by the Philomathic. In 1869, for the first time in the history of the college, the two societies are mentioned by name in the annual catalogue. Under Col. Murfee they reached the heyday of their activity.

During the college session each society held a meeting every Saturday evening and at other times if deemed advisable. At the hour appointed for the opening of the meeting, the President and other officers of the society ascended the rostrum and took seats in a prescribed order. On the right and left of the President sat respectively the Counsellor and the Vice President; in front of the President sat the Secretary, and to the right and the left of the Secretary sat the Treasurer

and the Librarian. It was the duty of the Vice President to assist the President in keeping order, to take note of all persons who committed offenses during the meeting, and to make a verbal report of the same at such a time as was prescribed by the "Order of Business". The duty of the Counsellor was to keep the President posted on points of parliamentary law.

Having called the house to order, the President asked the Chaplain to lead in prayer, and the Secretary to call the roll and read the minutes of the previous meeting. The next item in the "Order of Business" was the "Proposition for Membership." There were two sorts of members—active and honorary. In order to elect an active member, a unanimous vote of all the active members present was required; but this vote was never difficult to obtain, for there was keen rivalry between the two societies over the acquisition of members. When a boy's name was proposed for active membership there was loud applause and, at the request of the President, the applicant was escorted from the hall by the young gentlemen who had proposed his name, and the society proceeded to the election. The action being favorable, as was always the case, the applicant was re-admitted to the hall and escorted to the rostrum amidst applause, where the President administered the following pledge of membership: "I do hereby pledge myself to support and obey the constitution and by-laws of this society." The initiation fee of a new member was two dollars a year, payable within one month. After the first year, a member's fee was fifty cents a semester. The honorary members paid no fees whatever, and their names were enrolled in a separate book. It was the custom of the boys to propose the names of their lady friends as honorary members, but by constitutional provision the number of ladies elected honorary members during any session was limited.

The officers of a society were as follows: President, Vice President, Counsellor, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Chaplain, Critic, Monthly Orator, and Door Keeper. They held office for one month, except the Librarian, Counsellor and Chaplain, whose term of office was two months, and the Treasurer who continued in office during the semester. At the meeting preceding the expiration of these terms, new officers were elected for the ensuing term, by a majority of the votes cast by the members present. The outgoing President administered the pledge to the incoming President, who in turn administered it to all the other newly elected officers. There was always considerable



enthusiasm, genuine or feigned, manifested at these inauguration ceremonies as each officer came to the rostrum and acceded to the pledge, which was as follows: "Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ you have been elected to the office of \_\_\_\_\_ of this Society. Do you promise to discharge, to the best of your ability, the duties devolving upon you as \_\_\_\_\_?"

The duty of the Chaplain was to open the society with prayer; that of the Critic was to observe closely the speakers, while on the stand, and to render a report at the time designated in the "Order of Business"; that of the Monthly Orator was to deliver an oration on the last Saturday evening of the month constituting his term; that of the Door Keeper was to perform the services of janitor in connection with the society hall. The President was required to deliver an inaugural address at the meeting following his election.

Near the middle of the college session, that is, in January or February, each society held a public meeting called its Anniversary in celebration of its foundation as a society; and during the Commencement week a joint meeting was held by the two societies. On these occasions the societies put forth their best efforts and always attracted large audiences.

The primary purpose of these societies was to afford an opportunity for the students to exercise their powers as orators and debaters. The program always provided for a declaimer who spoke an extract from some great masterpiece of prose or poetry. There was also provision for an extempore orator. This unhappy individual was appointed by the President just before the beginning of the evening's debate and assigned a subject. He might retire from the hall for a few minutes, if he so desired, to prepare his oration; but at the time designated in the "Order of Business" he must be ready with his offering sans notes, sans manuscript, sans everything.

The debates were conducted in the usual manner, and the President decided the question according to the merits of the arguments produced.

To regulate the conduct of the members while in the hall, there were numerous by-laws. Here are a few samples:

"Any member who shall applaud with his feet shall be fined 10 cents."

"Any member who shall spit on the floor shall be fined 10 cents."

"Any member who shall use obscene language in the hall shall be fined 25 cents."

"Any member who shall turn his back upon the President shall be fined 10 cents."

"Any member who shall be guilty of disrespect to any officer shall be fined 50 cents."

"Any member who shall be guilty of disrespect to the President shall be reported to President of the College."

It was customary, at the last meeting of a society each year, to present diplomas to the outgoing Seniors. A diploma of this nature was a testimony of regard and a certificate of faithful duty rendered to the society. A Junior handed out the diplomas with a feeling speech of farewell. In the nineties, however, little gold badges, like medals, superseded the diplomas.

What a typical Anniversary program of one of these societies was like may be realized from the following, transcribed from the *Marion Standard* of March 1, 1882:

"The Chapel of Howard College was well filled Friday night with the élite of Marion society, to witness the Annual Celebration of the Philomathic Society. The exercises were opened with prayer by Dr. L. R. Gwaltney, followed by most delightful music from Mrs. Parker and Misses Lucy Fox and Augusta Lovelace. The opening piece was a Declamation of 'The Wounded Soldier,' by E. L. Thornton, in which the speaker showed thorough training in elocution. Oration by John R. Sampey. Subject: 'Stonewall Jackson, the Military Genius of the South.' Mr. Sampey is quite an orator, and his gesticulation was almost perfect. His oration was very touching, and carried us back to the scenes which he pictured so vividly and in which we were actors. The important event of the evening was the debate on the question: 'Was the banishment of Napoleon Bonaparte to St. Helena justifiable?' Affirmative: W. A. Whittle, Orr Haralson. Negative: B. F. Giles, L. G. Skipper. The question was ably and very ingeniously argued by both sides, but we think that the negative had much the advantage, and the question was decided in their favor by the committee. Mr. Skipper, we think, was by far the best speaker of the occasion, and his speech would have done credit to a much older head. The exercises were interspersed with music by Misses Fox and Lovelace and a song from Mrs. A. D. Smith, which added very materially to the pleasures of the occasion. \* \* \* The designs used in the decorations were the handiwork of Miss Julia Murfee, and they were much admired for their beauty and excellence, and for the tasteful and skillful style in which they were made."

What a typical Final Meeting was like may be realized from this breezy description penned by a student editor of the *Franklin Advocate*:

Franklin Hall, May 30, 1885.

J. E. Herring, President.

At about 8 p. m. the people began to assemble, and in a way to thrill every Franklin boy and make him glad he was a 'Frank' at least for tonight. Down the walk toward the stile a long, dark column was seen that moved steadily on, and then there was on the calm starlit air the whisper heard afloat, 'The Jud. is coming!'

\* \* \*

Our boys formed in column of twos below stairs, and marched up, led by the marshal. At the door came to right by file and thus proceeded up the aisle, one taking a seat at the right, the next at the left of the rostrum, and so on.

The President called the house to order, and the exercises were opened with a short and appropriate prayer by Mr. L. O. Dawson.

Then the President welcomed the people to our hall in an eloquent yet brief manner, after which he called for the declaimers in regular order. They all did credit to themselves and added new honor to Franklin's name. There were eight declaimers in the arena, waving with eloquence and anxious for a medal, which the Society offers yearly to the man among the new members who acquits himself most honorably in the noblest of arts—oratory.

Mr. Dawson then delivered the diplomas to the seniors, accompanied with an appropriate and pointed speech, which was all the better for not being too long. In eloquent strains, mingled with pathos, he touched upon the fact that this is the last year that we are to enjoy the companionship of those noble men and that there he bade farewell to them, never to meet them again as brother 'Franks' in Franklin Hall.

We then heard the parting words of the seniors, which were appropriate and full of feeling and advice, as they committed to our keeping the solemn charge of our Society. Now they lay the burden on us and are we not to bear it?

Next the President, in a few and select words, presented the medal to Mr. J. W. McCollum as victor on the field of eloquence.

Adjournment came after singing our annual song, 'Franklin Hymn', the words of which are as beautiful and appropriate as any that mark the course of a pen controlled by genius, in taste and beauty, and which was sung to the best of all airs, 'Home,

Sweet Home.' But that which thrilled us with emotions of pleasure and satisfaction, and fired us with a determination to move onward and upward in the cause in which we are engaged as a Society was to see so many of the fair ones in the audience wearing our badges, showing that their hearts beat in sympathy with us as we toil on in the cause of letters. And when the closing hymn was called for, there on the two front rows of seats, occupied by our representatives among the Judson's fairest, we saw each, by some means, we care not what, produce the words of the 'Franklin Hymn', and as all rose and sang, the air seemed melted into liquid harmony, issuing from about twenty-five throats tuned to seraph-like sweetness, and we felt that it was not in vain that we had worked hard to make the night a success."

From the *Franklin Advocate* of June, 1886, we cull the following:

"The custom of our societies on the last night before the *first final meeting* is to assemble in joint session for the purpose of having a good time. This, called the 'jollification meeting', was held in the Franklin Hall on May the 15th. There was, of course, a good deal of levity at the beginning, and the boys had to laugh themselves hoarse before the President, Capt. R. F. Smith, could get order, and then speeches were made on the subject, 'The Ladies of Marion', by Messrs. Dawson and Gamble, and on 'The Societies', by Mr. W. G. Brown. After all the speeches were heard the boys gathered around the rostrum and sang, 'We Shall Gather at the River', in a most touching manner. It was a pretty sight—Philomathic and Franklin voices harmoniously blending and swelling with joy up through the calm, peaceful night air. There was no discord there. All strife for the supremacy was forgotten. All were once again brothers. Soul of old Howard, whose benign countenance, we imagine, must have brightened while contemplating the lovely scene. 'Soon we'll reach the shining river', and as they sang it each heart seemed to realize that this was an earnest of the happy meeting in Paradise. Yes, we *will* reach the shining river, boys, and all discords that may have been here will be lost in the sweet refrain of the heavenly chorus. 'Three cheers for the work of '85 and '86 adjourned. We went out, and in going some of us, alas, went out forever."

Just a year before the college was removed to East Lake, both societies papered, carpeted, painted and decorated their halls at private expense and in a most beautiful manner. But all this had to be



given up. At East Lake, recitation rooms were used for ordinary meetings, and Ruhama Church was pressed into service for public meetings and anniversaries, until the main building of the college was erected. In this building two society halls were provided.

In March, 1890, Henry J. Willingham was the Secretary of the Philomathic Society and recorded the following minutes for the meeting of March 1. Little did the Secretary dream at the time that his record of that evening's business would ever reach the printer. But here it is:

"Society was called to order by Pres. R. W. Huey. After roll call and prayer the minutes of last meeting were read and approved. Under head of application for membership, Thompson, J., arose and in his happy manner proposed the name of Mr. R. E. Weaver, who was unanimously elected an active member of our Society and signed the pledge amid loud and continued applause. Barnes, J. E., then proposed the name of Miss Maude Hardy, who was unanimously elected as an honorary member of our Society.

Excuses for fines were called for, and those of Thompson, J., and Barnes were received. Treasurer being absent, Harris, J. E., by instruction, made for him the following report: \* \* \*

Librarian absent, and no report by him.

Next came the installation of officers and, in the absence of the Pres. elect, the following were installed by Pres. Huey, R., who presided throughout the evening: Vice President, Harris, J. E.; Secretary, Willingham; Critic, Lambert; Chaplain, Thames; Librarian, Barnes; Door Keeper, Huey, R.

President then made the following appointments: Monthly Orator, R. B. Devine; Query Committee, Willingham, Still, and Rose; Assistant Door Keepers, Miller, Starkey, Swindle, and Williams, E.

The debate was next in order and, on account of one speaker on the affirmative being absent, and the other acting in the capacity of President, Nettles and Willingham were substituted in their respective places. After a somewhat lengthy discussion on the part of the debaters, and a most extraordinary Philippic by an irregular on the negative, the President decided in favor of the negative side.

Under the head of new business, several members spoke of devising a means for averting the financial embarrassment which seems to threaten us in the near future. Definite action on the

matter, however, was postponed until our next meeting, when a fuller attendance is expected.

Query committee then handed in the following as our program for next meeting: 'Resolved, That a student should not ride a jack'. Affirmative: Barnes and Devine. Negative: Huey, R., and Thompson, J. Declaimer, Thames.

The Vice President handed in the following report: Martin, J. R., chewing; Bramer, Reeves, Williams, Spurlin and Barnes, moving to stove without permission; Devine, speaking without permission; Knight, the same; Riley, E., laughing; Devine, interrupting speaker without permission.

There being no further business, the Society adjourned."

Both societies moved into their new halls at the opening of college in the fall of 1891. Money had been collected and the halls partially furnished during the summer. Miss Eugenia Weatherly, one of the few co-eds, was Secretary of the Philomathic Society from February 23 to March 30, 1895, and Vice President from March 7 to April 7, 1896. At the Final Meeting of the Society in 1896, she was the presiding officer. About this time the custom was inaugurated of presenting Alumni Badges to the outgoing Seniors instead of diplomas.

By 1902 interest in the literary societies was on the point of being supplanted by interest in athletic sports and other activities.

2. *Student Publications.*—In the *South Western Baptist* for November 25, 1852, appears the following:

*Howard College Magazine*

Is the title of a neat Magazine just issued from the office of Dennis Dykous, Marion, Ala., and edited by several young men of Howard College. The young men have the hearty concurrence of President Talbird, and other members of the Faculty in behalf of their effort; and judging from the matter in the issue before us, (October number), they have commenced under favorable auspices. Wishing everything connected with Howard College well, this handsome Magazine shall not be an exception. We trust the public will patronize it liberally, as it is now eminently deserving, and will be more so as it gets older. It is filled with most valuable matter and it is neatly printed. Here follows their prospectus:

*Prospectus of the Howard College Magazine*

The students of Howard College propose to issue a Magazine under the above title; the editorial department being conducted

by a committee appointed from themselves. It will be published monthly for nine months in the year, and if they meet with sufficient encouragement from the friends of the enterprise, the first number will make its appearance on the 31st of October next. Each number will contain about thirty pages of reading matter, the greater portion of which will be original; contributed by the students of the College.

No great pretension will be made to literary excellence, but it is hoped that the Magazine will not be entirely unworthy of patronage. The friends of education, and all who may be willing to aid an effort on the part of young men to improve themselves, and to contribute to the entertainment of the public, are respectfully solicited to subscribe to the Magazine.

Another object contemplated is to appropriate all surplus funds to the increase of the libraries of the Franklin and Adelphi Societies, connected with the College. \* \* \*

The terms of subscription are \$1; payable on the reception of the first number."

Whether the boys actually succeeded in publishing every month for nine months in the year, it is now impossible to ascertain; but *the South Western Baptist* refers to its appearance in May, 1859, and again on April 11, 1861, in these terms: "The *Howard College Magazine* for March sustains its well earned reputation." This was in all probability its last issue, by reason of the outbreak of the war. A hiatus follows—the long period of war and reconstruction.

On July 18, 1878, the *Marion Commonwealth* says: "The *Howard Collegian* for July is on our table. It is made up of interesting matter, and well printed." One year later, July 10, the same local paper announces: "Cadet Howard Griggs, a young man of universally fine endowments, who has had charge of the *Howard Collegian* for some time since, left this week to spend a few weeks at his home in Tuskegee." Thus about the middle of Col. Murfee's administration, the monthly publication had been revived, under another name. There are references to its appearance in June and December, 1882; and in January and August, 1883.

But boys will be boys. The rivalry between the two literary societies was intense during the early eighties, and in order to outdo its rival, the Franklin Literary Society decided in a series of very secret sessions to spring a new publication upon the astonished Philomathic world. Accordingly the *Franklin Advocate* appeared suddenly in February, 1885. The personnel of the Editorial Staff was as fol-

lows: L. E. Thomas, L. O. Dawson, J. M. McIver, J. E. Herring, and W. J. Elliott. The leading editorial was entitled "Salutatory", and begins thus: "The Franklin Literary Society of Howard College was organized in the year 1861." This is not an accurate statement, but we can easily forgive inaccuracy here because of the excellence of style and composition in the rest of the publication. An editorial entitled "The Noble Man" was signed by L. O. Dawson.

Other issues of the *Franklin Advocate* appeared at monthly intervals, containing such material as original orations, original editorials, and original speeches delivered in debate. The Locals were usually spicy, full of puns, local hits, and references to the fair sex. For two years this department was under the editorial direction of L. O. Dawson.

The monthly oration required by the Society was often a good piece of school boy oratory. Here is a flowery one by R. M. Hunter, entitled "The Young Live Forward, the Old Live Backward in Memory". A critic of the present day might be so ungracious as to find fault with this speech, but measured by the standards of 1885 it was a model of eloquence, metaphorical and dramatic. Here is a sample of it: "It was an orphan boy (Napoleon, I suppose) that wrenched the sceptre from a long line of kings, crumbled empires, set up dominions, leaped upon the throne and convulsed the world. (Splendid, if true.) It was the youthful mind of Franklin that flew to the sky, raced with the clouds through the heavens, caught the secret, conceived the plan, tore the fiery plume from the lightning's pinion, winged a thousand wires with flying messages, split the thunder-bolt to torches, and set the world aglow with electric lights."

Here is another on the "Power of Thought", by J. M. Kailin, pitched only in a less lofty flight. "Shut down the power of thought", he says, "and the engine of civilization will stand still on the broad road of time." And much more of the same nature. Space forbids the presentation here of further specimens.

Of course, the rival society could not stand idly by and be outdone. No sooner had the *Franklin Advocate* appeared than out came the *Philomathian*, and the two magazines ran neck and neck for a couple of years. Evidently, however, the financial strain proved too great, for in the spring of 1887 the *Howard Collegian* appeared again under an editorial staff composed of both Franklins and Philomathians.

For more than a year after the removal of the college to East Lake, no student publication was issued. Then, in January, 1889, the *Howard*



*Collegian* appeared, and other numbers followed in February, March, May and June. The editors for this year were W. D. Hubbard and H. R. Dill for the Philomathic, and H. H. Shell and W. H. Owings for the Franklin Society. Among the editorials was one in opposition to "Co-Education of the Sexes", by H. R. Dill.

But the two societies could not long work in harmony, and soon agreed to publish each its own magazine. In January, 1890, the *Franklin Advocate* re-appeared, appealing to the traditions of the past and to the loyalty of the old Franklins for support. The editors were H. H. Shell, S. J. Strock, W. H. Payne, and L. A. Smith; business manager, S. P. Lindsey. The Philomathic Society continued to publish the *Collegian*, but from their manuscript minutes one gathers that the Philos were having difficulty in financing it.

In the fall of 1890, the Philomathic Society made overtures to the Franklin for joint publication of the college magazine; but no agreement was reached, and no publication appeared that year. In the fall of 1891, however, agreement was reached to publish the *Howard Magazine*. How many numbers appeared, it is impossible to ascertain. The writer has found no reference to any for the year 1891-92. In December, 1892, however, one number appeared, and then publication seems to have ceased altogether for the rest of the year. Evidently these were discouraging times for the boys as well as for the Trustees.

In the spring of 1895, the societies were having their usual discord over the joint publication of a college magazine, when the *Franklin Advocate* suddenly appeared again. "Twice before in the history of the Franklin Society", wrote the editor, "she has seen fit to publish her own magazine. In 1890 the *Advocate* was regularly issued during the greater part of the session." Then he went on to say the *Howard Magazine* under the management of both societies had proved a failure.

Of course the Philomathians now bestirred themselves and issued a publication of their own, which chanced to have the name of *Howard Magazine*. The Franklins complained of the name, but to no purpose. "It may be", taunted the editor of the *Advocate*, "that they are afraid to sail under the colors of their society and have, therefore, launched forth under the broader and more influential banner of the college."

From 1897 to 1902 the *Howard Collegian* appeared about half a dozen times a year as the joint publication of the two societies. Neither society ever tried again to finance and publish its own magazine.

3. *Greek Letter Fraternities*.—In the sense in which the term is used today, the first Greek letter fraternity in the United States was

Kappa Alpha, founded at Union College in 1825. The first fraternity to enter Alabama was Delta Kappa Epsilon, which established a chapter at the University in 1847. The next to enter was Alpha Delta Phi, in 1850. Sigma Alpha Epsilon was founded at the University in 1856 by Noble Leslie DeVotie, who had been a student at Howard College during the academic year 1850-51.

The first fraternity chapter established at Howard College was Mu of Phi Gamma Delta, 1856. It was closed because of the war and was never revived.

The next was Alabama Beta Beta of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 1870. Then came Pi chapter of Sigma Chi in 1872, Alpha Mu of Beta Theta Pi in 1872, and Iota of Sigma Nu in 1879.

In 1876 the college authorities at Howard ordered the fraternities to cease further initiation of members. This order was generally obeyed, and all the chapters disappeared except that of Sigma Nu, which continued to exist *sub rosa*.

After the removal of the college to East Lake the *sub rosa* chapter of Sigma Nu gave the faculty and Trustees considerably annoyance, but drastic action was never resorted to.

At the Commencement of 1899, a petition to the Board of Trustees was signed by a large number of students asking that Greek letter fraternities be permitted at Howard. After the graduating exercises of Commencement Day, Dr. B. D. Gray, President of the Board, announced that the Trustees had decided to report adversely on the big petition.

How the Sigma Nus, while their chapter was *sub rosa*, sometimes cloaked their activities in thus described by Mr. W. R. Hood:

“About 1900 there appeared in the college an organization or association of students which was ostensibly an ordinary social club but which, to many observers, was in reality a cloak for Iota chapter of Sigma Nu. The club was called *The Sixteenth Infantry* and was composed of the entire membership of Iota chapter, several students of more or less prominence who were not fraternity men, and some ten or twelve young women residents of the town of East Lake. For the purpose of chaperoning, one or two matrons of the town were also included. The officers of the club were a colonel, a major, and subordinates, such as an adjutant; and some of the feminine contingent were made honorary ‘captains’. The Sixteenth Infantry was most active about the years 1900-1 and 1901-2, and its organization and quality of membership continued substantially the same throughout this period. \* \* \*

That the Sixteenth Infantry was well adapted for cloaking the fraternity will be readily appreciated. Outwardly it was merely a social club, and its military name had no significance except possibly to mystify. Its membership included girls, and everybody knew that these could not be members of Sigma Nu. Moreover, there were among the club's members certain men students who were generally known to be non-fraternity men, and some, be it said, were probably marked by the Sigma Nus as 'impossible' for real fraternity purposes. Add to these features that no non-fraternity member of the outer circle knew positively who were or were not members of the Sigma Nu inner circle, and you will have a fairly workable device for hiding the inner circle away from faculty scrutiny. This was the cleverest of all the various devices for keeping the *sub rosa* Iota chapter in concealment, and it, and its train of similar schemes, constituted a strong consideration when it was finally decided to open the college to Greek letter fraternities generally."

At Commencement in 1902 the Trustees removed the ban on all fraternities, and the Sigma Nus straightway fitted up a "chapter hall" in the main building of the college. It was now only a matter of time before chapters of other fraternities would be established.

4. *College Sports*.—When the soldiers returned from the Civil War, they brought baseball with them. The game grew rapidly in public favor and soon found a ready place in all the schools. The students of the University of Alabama were playing baseball as early as 1872. The first reference to a game by Howard boys is the following from the *Marion Commonwealth* of April 11, 1878:

"A game of baseball was played last Saturday (April 6) between a nine of the Howard College club and a nine of the Southern University club, of Greensboro. The game was hotly contested and resulted in favor of the Howard College club by a score of 42 to 35."

When it is remembered that the Southern University at Greensboro was the progenitor of Birmingham-Southern, the Howard boys ought to appreciate this score.

On April 23, 1884, the *Marion Standard* gives this interesting bit of news:

"The Howard boys in a match game of baseball with a club from the Southern University at Greensboro last Saturday were victorious by a score of 27 to 26."

But, alas, in May, 1885, the Southern University defeated Howard by a score of 29 to 13. The next spring L. O. Dawson wrote in the "Locals" of the *Franklin Advocate*: "Baseball is languishing at Howard College. The trouble is a bat can't be had for less than six bits." So it was lack of funds and not timidity that kept the Howard boys from giving the Methodists a thorough trouncing in 1886!

After the removal of the college to East Lake, the boys played baseball in a desultory fashion every spring. Here is a choice clipping from the *Howard Collegian* for May, 1898:

"It seems that Howard cannot play ball a little bit this year, as we have recently had the misfortune to lose (sic) two games played with Massey's Business College. However, too great proficiency in some lines is not altogether to be desired. \* \* \* Baseball is not Howard's strong point."

Football, as the game is now played, came into vogue in the nineties. In all probability the first movement to introduce football into the colleges of Alabama is described in the following news item from the *Age-Herald* of January 11, 1891:

"Representatives from the University of Alabama, the Agricultural and Mechanical College, and Howard College met in Birmingham yesterday and organized an intercollegiate association.

Howard College was represented by Capt. Robt. W. Huey and Corporal C. N. White. The Agricultural and Mechanical College by Lieutenant J. C. Kimball and Sergeant Frank Peabody. The University by Cadet Burr Ferguson and Martin D. Sibert.

The meeting was called to order by Cadet Frank Peabody, and it was decided to adopt the American intercollegiate football rules. The officers for the year are as follows: President Martin D. Sibert of the University Law School; Secretary, John C. Kimball of the Agricultural and Mechanical College; Treasurer, Robt. W. Huey of Howard College.

The students of the different colleges are very anxious to make this association a success, as it will be both a pleasure and a benefit to them.

The students fear, as this is a new move, that they will have opposition from some members of the different faculties; but as the leading colleges in the North favor such associations, they hope, by playing on holidays and Saturdays, to be allowed to proceed. The first game will probably be played within the next month, and the boys hope to be encouraged by a large crowd to witness their first attempt."



Nothing more is heard of this association, but the football contagion was now seizing all the leading Southern colleges. The University of Georgia, in the first game of its history, defeated Mercer University on January 30, 1892, and played the Auburn A. & M. on February 20 of the same year. At the University of Alabama, the Trustees, in February, 1892, formally permitted the students to play match games.

At Howard College some of the boys may have been seen, at certain seasons of the year, kicking a football about the campus; but no football team was organized at Howard until the fall of 1902. The first football coach at Howard was Houston Gwin, an old Auburn man, and the first intercollegiate game was played with the Marion Military Institute on October 26, in which Howard was victorious by a score of 6 to 0.

Basket ball, unlike other sports, was not evolved into its present form through years of growth with gradual improvements, but leaped with one bound into its present position. It was invented in 1892 by Dr. James Naismith, physical instructor in the Y. M. C. A. at Springfield, Mass. How it was received at Howard College may be realized from the following description in the *Howard Collegian* for March, 1900:

“When it was announced two or three weeks ago that we would play our first game of basket ball on the next Thursday afternoon, there was a visible stir in camp. What is it like? How many baskets? How many balls? was heard on every hand. Every man has his own basket, was the information volunteered by one who, no doubt, was better acquainted with picking cotton than with this new game.

The memorable afternoon came and with it a great rush for the ‘peanut gallery’ in the gymnasium. Even our ever-attentive matron neglected to give Peter his daily scolding in order to get off in time to see this wonderful game.

‘Boys, I believe we could sell *preserved* seats to these games,’ said a mercenary looking Freshman, as we crowded up the back stairway.

Finally the instructor called out the chosen men to take their places, and the game began. ‘I don’t see any baskets,’ said several spectators; and for quite a while it seemed that the players also failed to see the baskets. After much puffing and blowing and many fouls, one side succeeded in making a score.

But times change and we change with them. Today every citizen of East Lake understands the game thoroughly. Some of our young lady friends, who confess that baseball is not quite clear to their mind, and who have not ceased wondering why it takes the pitcher so long to hit the club in the batter's hands, tell us that for interest to spectators this is the master of games. In short, 'it is too sweet for anything and is awful nice'."

In May, 1902, a student writing to the *Alabama Baptist* thus summed up the athletic situation at Howard:

"In athletics, of course, all are familiar with Howard's basket ball record. Four out of the five inter-collegiate games were won by our enthusiastic team. As to baseball, this is our first season, and confidence hasn't yet been developed, but evidences are in favor of future success. Three courts on the campus show how the boys like lawn tennis, and those who see the indoor athletic exhibition at Commencement will not regret their visit."

## APPENDIX

## AN ACT

*To Incorporate the "Howard College" in Marion, Perry County.*

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama in General Assembly convened, That E. D. King, H. C. Lea, O. G. Eiland, Jas. M. Massey, Wm. N. Wyatt, Walker Reynolds, D. P. Bestor, Ovid C. Eiland, Wm. C. Crane, Wm. P. Chilton, James H. DeVotie, Edward Baptist, Robt. J. Ware, L. Y. Tarrant and Langston Goree, and their successors in office, be, and they are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name and style of the Trustees of the Howard College; and by that name shall have full power and authority to have and to use a common seal, and the same to break, alter and renew at pleasure; to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in all kinds of actions in law or equity, to receive donations and to purchase property, both real and personal, in value not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars; which shall enure to them and their successors forever; and to sell, aliens and dispose of the same, and to pass all such by-laws, rules and regulations as the said corporation may deem expedient for the good government of the said institution and of their own proceedings; the same not being repugnant to the constitution and laws of the United States or of this State.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That seven trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and shall have power to appoint a president, a secretary and a treasurer and such other officers as may be deemed necessary for said institution, and to prescribe the duties of each; to fill all vacancies that may occur in the Board of Trustees, from death or resignation; to appoint all necessary committees, and to act and do all things whatever, in as ample a manner as any person or body politic or corporate can or may do by law, in conformity with the objects of this act.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That there shall be a stated meeting of the board of trustees in each year, at the time of conferring degrees, and that the President of said board of trustees shall have full power to call an occasional meeting of the board whenever it shall appear to him necessary.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the head of the institution shall be styled the President, and the instructors thereof the professors; and the president and professors or a majority of them, the faculty of Howard College, which faculty shall have the power of enforcing the ordinances and by-laws adopted by the trustees for the government of the students, by rewarding or censuring them, and finally by suspending them until a determination of the Board of Trustees can be had, but it shall be only in the power of the trustees to expell any student or students of the said institute.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the trustees at their stated meetings, shall have full power by the principal or professors of the said institution, to grant or confer such degree or degrees in the arts and sciences, to any of the students of said institution or any person

by them thought worthy, as are usually granted and conferred in other colleges or universities, in the United States, and to give diplomas or certificates thereof signed by them, and sealed with the common seal of the trustees of the said institution, to authenticate and perpetuate the memory of such graduation.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That the trustees shall have the power of fixing the salaries of all the officers connected with the said institution and of removing them for neglect, incompetency or misconduct in office, a majority of the whole number of trustees concurring in said removal.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the said trustees shall have power to define the rates of tuition, and the same to increase or diminish at pleasure; to appoint the time of their own meetings, and to determine the place at which said institution shall be located; which shall be in Marion, Perry County.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That so long as the property, real and personal of said corporation shall be used for purposes of education, the same be exempt from taxation of any kind.

Approved, December 29, 1841.

(Acts of Alabama, 1838 to 1841.)





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