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The Transcript.

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 25, 1885.

Subscription $1.50 per year; 75 cents for six months, in advance.

Advertising Rates.

Transient advertising will be charged at a rate of *one dollar* per square for first three insertions, and twenty-five cents per square for each subsequent insertion. A space equal to eight lines of brevier, constitutes a square. Figure work will be charged fifty cents per square additional for first three insertions.

JOB WORK.

Handbills, large and small; flyers, dodger letterheads, billheads, envelopes, cards, tag programmes, and other kinds of job work will be done neatly and reasonably.

Simple notices of marriages and deaths, inserted free. Obituary notices will be charged at rate of five cents per line.

—The old jail has pretty nearly disappeared.

—The public schools of the county closes next Tuesday.

—Harvest begins this week, and will be entirely over by the close of next week.

—Mr. Fallowfield, the principal of the public school, publishes a notice regarding commencement exercises.

—The last quarterly teachers' association meets in the main room of the public school building in Chestertown next Tuesday at 10 o'clock A. M.

—Mr. F. Fountain, as agent for R. J. Baker & Co., advertises in this issue brands of fertilizers and fertilizing materials. See his advertisement.

—The first evening's entertainment for benefit of P. E. Sabbath school came off at town hall last evening. There will be another entertainment this evening.

—Nearly all the Chestertown merchants have agreed to observe July 6th as a holiday instead of July 4th. The 4th comes on Saturday, the busiest day in the week, hence the change.

—Mr. C. F. Stam has raised by popular subscription a fund for placing a handsome drinking fountain for public use on his drug store corner. The fountain is now in position and is quite ornamental.

—Mr. H. H. Barroll, who was thrown from his carriage last week, and of whom it was feared that he had sustained a serious brain concussion, is getting all right again and will be out in a few days.

—A number of Kent county growers are talking very blue about peaches. They say the June fall is much heavier than usual, and that some of the yellow varieties have almost entirely fallen off.

—Mr. B. F. Fleming has removed the express and telegraph office from under the Voshell House to the building on Main street, formerly occupied by Mr. Chas. Rolph as a pool room.

—The schooner "Bonita" hoisted sail on last Tuesday evening and took a pleasure party for a sail down the river. Unfortunately the Bonita grounded about one-half mile from Chestertown, but the party had a good time all the same. It was composed, for the most part, of young people. There was no dance music, but some of the boys sang "Sweet Violets," and a few couples waltzed to the air. Miss ——, of Pittsburg, was especially popular with the young men, not only from her charming witticisms, but from the fact that she had under her care a box of Havannahs. The party was finally landed in the yawl boat, as the Bonita could not be got off until the tide rose. The trip would be very pleasantly repeated on some nice, hot, moonlight night.

—Orphans' Court, Tuesday, June 23, 1885.—Present, Judges Walker, Hyland and Stevens. On application, letters of administration on the personal estate of John N. Usilton, dec'd, were granted and committed unto John W. Corey and Sarah M. Usilton, who filed their bond in the penal sum of $10,000, with approved security and was ordered to be recorded. Richard Hynson, executor of Geo. W. Spencer, deceased, returned an account of sales of personal estate, which was recorded.

Galena Items.

Dr. Phelps, of Galena, will be absent from his dental office the present week, having gone to Philadelphia and New York to purchase a large stock of dental materials. He will return on Monday.

Miss Hattie, eldest daughter of Mr. T. A. Jacobs of Sassafras, recently graduated with high honors at the Winchester Female Seminary, Va. The Misses Woodall and Wilson, of Georgetown, also Miss Linda Jacobs of Sassafras, recently returned from the same school.

Improvements in property at Galena and vicinity are in progress. Among others, Messrs. J. Peacock, W. G. Phelps, Thos. Horsey, Capt. N. A. Scotton are beautifying and improving their respective residences.

Death of a Prominent Citizen.

Mr. John N. Usilton, a highly-respected citizen of this county, died suddenly and unexpectedly about three o'clock last Thursday morning. He had exercised himself in the hot sun of Monday and complained at night of exhaustion; on Tuesday Dr. Whaland was sent for and applied restoratives and he was thought to be in no special danger; on Wednesday noon, however, his symptoms became alarming and when the doctor reached his bedside he at once pronounced his disease typho-malarial fever with congestion of the brain, and death ensued in a few hours after. He was in the 70th year of his age. Mr. Usilton owns the farm on the suburbs of town where he has lived most of his life. He leaves a wife and one child. Mr. Usilton was noted as a shrewd business man, and was esteemed as possessing many fine traits of character. He had been from early life a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and for many years was one of the most active officials in that church in Kent. He generously donated the beautiful building lot for the new church in Chestertown and was for many years and at the time of his death president of the board of trustees. His second wife survives him; she was a Miss Potter, and a native of New Hampshire. He leaves an estate estimated at fifty thousand dollars. His funeral took place Friday afternoon and the remains were interred in Chester Cemetery.

The Condition of Bishop Lay.

Bishop Lay, who has been sick of heart disease at his residence in Easton, since his return from New York, took some cold the early part of the past week, and since last Wednesday has been ill. On Sunday morning Professor Frank Donaldson, of Baltimore, visited him and held a consultation with Doctors Earle, Bateman and Chamberlaine. For some days the Bishop has experienced great difficulty in breathing and has been troubled with a racking cough. After the consultation, between 11 and 12 o'clock in the forenoon, Dr. Donaldson performed the operation of paracentesis, or tapping the chest, and drew from the pleural cavity 40 ounces, or about three pints, of serum. The operation was attended with but little pain, and was satisfactory to the physicians, reducing the action of the heart eighteen beats per minute, and relieving the oppression in the chest. On Sunday night the distinguished patient rested comfortably, but yesterday morning he was very weak from the reaction which is usual after such an operation. Great solicitude is felt for the Bishop, and we sincerely hope by next week to be able to report him convalescent.—*Easton Star of Tuesday.*

Peninsula Items.

A charter has been obtained for a savings bank in Easton, to be called the Talbot County Savings Bank of Easton, Maryland.

Smyrna will shortly have an election in which the women will have a vote. The question of water supply is to be submitted to a ballot of property owners, regardless of sex.

Mr. Elon Hobbs has purchased the interest of Mr. George T. Melvin in the Denton *Journal*, and the paper will hereafter be published by Mr. Howard Melvin in connection with Mr. Hobbs.

The Dover (Del.) *Sentinel* publishes eleven and a-half columns of letters from peach-growers. The gist of the information they contain is that, on the whole, the yield will not be so large as the earlier estimates foreshadowed. The June drop has been unexpectedly heavy in most of the districts.

The Middletown *Transcript*, whose editor is chairman of the executive committee of the Peninsula Press Association, announces that the committee is at work yet arranging route for annual excursion, and that the committee hopes to be able to make definite announcements in a few days.

A lady visitor, in describing her visit to this place not long since, asserts that fo' fried chicken and fried potatoes Smyrna girls cannot be beat. Even in the hour of midnight she was invariably awakened night after night by her room-mate yawning and longing for fried chicken and white potatoes.—*Smyrna Record.*

There is no longer danger of war between Delaware and New Jersey. They have, like England and Russia, compromised their boundary-line question, and New Jersey will not hereafter go a-fishing on the Delaware side of the stream.

In the Democratic primary election in Cecil on last Saturday, which partook somewhat of the nature of a contest between ex-Senator Groome and Mr. Albert Constable, the Groome wing was successful. Mr. Constable was himself a candidate for the State Legislature. The returns point to the nomination of Clinton McCullough for the Senate, R. E. Jamar for register and Robert Mackey for sheriff. The clerkship is very doubtful. The entire Legislative ticket will be favorable to returning Senator Gorman to the U. S. Senate.

WASHINGTON COLLEGE.

A Brief Historical Sketch of Maryland's First College.

[The following sketch was prepared by Rowland Watts, a member of the class of 1886.]

I am indebted to old manuscripts in the possession of Prof. Rivers for the facts concerning the early history of the College. R. W.

Upon a beautiful natural eminence one-fourth of a mile north of Chestertown is situated that venerable institution known as Washington College. From its observatory may be had a magnificent view of the antique but beautiful town of Chester, the windings of the romantic river of the same name, and to the north and west a stretch of fertile and well-improved agricultural region teeming with abundance. Before entering upon the minute details of this history, permit us to say that of all famous and honored institutions for the advancement of education none should be more famous and more honored than Washington College. If it had nothing else to recommend it, the illustrious name of Washington would suffice to gain for it an elevated reputation, and endear it to our hearts when we consider that it was so called by Washington's own personal consent.

In the early days of the Colonies, Maryland had provided by law for the establishment of schools for the study of Latin and Greek and the ordinary studies of the times. To obtain a more extended education than these county schools could furnish, young men were compelled to go to other provinces, making the journey on horseback through the then sparsely inhabited country, or to make long and tedious voyages to the mother countries. A desire had long been entertained by the people of Maryland to found at home an institution for the advancement of higher education, but as the State was divided by the waters of the Chesapeake, no spot could be decided upon that would be conveniently accessible to all. At length the question was decided by determining to build two colleges, one on the Eastern, the other on the Western Shores, which (to use the words of the charter or act of incorporation passed by the spring session of the Assembly in 1782) might become united "under one supreme legislation, and visitational jurisdiction as distinct branches or members of the same State University."

The venerable Dr. Wroth, lately deceased, who was a student of the College near the close of the last century, furnishes a few reminiscences. His story about the endowment is singular and it may not be amiss to record it. He informs us that his class was told by Prof. Daniel McCurtin, a most reliable gentleman, that Lord Baltimore, the last proprietary, not long before the Revolutionary war, proposed to the Assembly to give—and did give—£40,000 (the currency pound being equal to $2.66) provided they would endow two such Colleges as above mentioned, one with an annual appropriation of £1250, the other at Annapolis with £1750, the college buildings to be erected by subscription among the people. The £40,000 paid by Lord Baltimore is supposed to have been used for war purposes during the Revolution.

At the close of the Revolution the Kent county school known as the Free School, and situated upon the eminence which overlooks the Free School Spring, still so called, and the ravine or valley bordering the town of Chester, was in a flourishing condition. It had received accessions from the Eastern Shore of Maryland and the State of Delaware until it numbered 140 scholars. "Upon the representation of the 7 trustees or visitors of the school (Rev. Dr. Wm. Smith, Benjamin Chambers, Joseph Nicholson, James Anderson, John Scott, Wm. Bordley and Perigrine Letherbury, Esqs.) the General Assembly proposed that if the Eastern Shore counties would in 5 years contribute to the existing funds of the school the additional sum of £5,000 currency, to be paid in Spanish milled dollars, or the value thereof in merchantable wheat or tobacco." When such a sum had been raised the said school should be incorporated as a college with an enlarged course of studies and suitable professors, and should be denominated Washington College "in honorable and perpetual memory of His Excellency General George Washington, the illustrious and virtuous Commander in Chief of the armies of the United States."

Dr. Smith, being deputed by the trustees of the school, mounted his horse and visited the Eastern counties, including part of Delaware in behalf of the enterprise. So promptly and liberally did the people respond to this appeal that in five months instead of the alloted five years he had raised by subscription the sum of $14,000. Encouraged by this success, the visitors and governors (ten of whom, His Excellency, William Paca, John Page, Robert Goldsborough, William Perry, Peter Chaille, James Lloyd, Joshua Seney, Thomas Smyth, Samuel Keene and William Thompson, Esqs., in addition to those of the school had been selected in the Eastern counties in compliance with the condition of the act of incorporation) at the close of the same year submitted to the General Assembly, then in session, a report of their action and a declaration of acceptance of the trust conferred upon them; and under resolution of approbation unanimously passed by both the House of Delegates and the Senate of 1782, the Academy became a College, the first institution of the kind in the State of Maryland. As students and professors were already on hand and at work, the only appreciable difference made by the change from an Academy to a College was that the exercises progressed with greatly augmented diligence and order. The number of students immediately began to increase, and young men came from all parts of the country anxious to avail themselves of the opportunities of obtaining a higher education under the direction of such able instructors as Dr. Smith and his assistants. So well had the classes of the school been instructed that the College was able to celebrate its first commencement and award its first diplomas in the ensuing spring. Up to this time the whole capital raised for the College was estimated at $28,000.

The number of trustees, or visitors and governors, as they are still called, was limited to 24. Of this number 7 could be chosen from any part of Maryland and the adjoining States. It was under this privilege that Gen. Washington had been chosen one of the visitors and governors. To an admirable letter on the occasion, addressed to him on the 8th of July, 1782, by Dr. Smith, president of the board, and acting principal of the College, he responded as follows:

"HEADQUARTERS NEWBURY, 18th August, 1782.

"I have the honor to receive your favor of the 8th ult. by Col. Tilghman, who arrived here about ten days ago, and to whom I have committed the charge of forwarding this answer.

"To the gentleman who moved the matter, and to the assembly for accepting, I am much indebted for the honor conferred on me by giving my name to the college at Chester. At the same time that I acknowledge the honor, I feel a grateful sensibility for the manner of bestowing it, which, as it will remain a monument of their esteem, cannot but make a deep impression on my mind, only to be exceeded by the flattering assurances of lasting and extensive usefulness of the seminary.

"If the trifling sum of fifty guineas will be considered an earnest of my wishes for the prosperity of this seminary, I shall be ready to pay that sum to the order of the visitors whenever it is their pleasure to call for it. It is too trifling to stand in any other point of view, nor would I wish it to do so.

"With much pleasure would I consent to have my name enrolled among the worthy visitors and governors of this college; but convinced as I am that it will never be in my power to give the attendance, which by law is required, my name could only be inserted to the exclusion of some other, whose abilities and proximity might enable him to become a more useful member.

"When that period shall arrive, where we can hail the blest return of peace, it will add to my pleasure to see this infant seat of learning, rising into consistence, and proficiency in the sciences under the nurturing hands of its founders.

"I have the honor to be Rev. Sir, your most obedient servent, GEO WASHINGTON."

To the Rev. Dr. Smith at Chester, Kent county Maryland.

There are three interesting topics that arrest our attention when we are glancing over the early history of the College, namely: the first commencement exercises, the laying the foundation of the college structure, and the presence of General Washington at the college in 1784, when he took his seat and subscribed his name as one of the visitors and governors. In so brief a sketch as this must necessarily be we must content ourselves with but a few particulars of each occasion. At the first commencement on the 14th of May 1783, the procession led by Governor Paca, who was then one of the board of visitors and governors, entered the church in inverted order. Dr. Smith presided upon this occasion, and the Baccalaureate was conferred upon Mr. Chas. Smith, son of the president, and the valedictory orator of the class; on Mr. John Scott, who delivered the Latin salutatory; on Mr. James Scott who spoke an oration in French; and on Mr. Wm. Barroll and Mr. Wm. Bordley, who were opponents in a Latin syllogistic dispute "*Num aeternitas prenarum contradicit divinis attributis.*" An English Forensic Dispute followed on the question "Whether the state of nature be a state of war?" in which all the graduates participated. The honorary degree of B. A. was conferred on Mr. Samuel Kerr, one of the grammar school, and that of M. A. on Mr. Colin Ferguson and Mr. Samuel Armor, professors in the college. On the evening of the same day, the graduating class, assisted by some of the other students, performed Young's "Tragedy of the Brothers," to a large and appreciative audience.

On the day following, May 15th, the visitors and governors, professors, masters, students and grammar school scholars, accompanied by a great concourse of people from the neighboring counties went in procession to the hill upon which the college edifice was to be erected. After prayer by Rev. Dr. Smith, the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremony by His Excellency, Governor Paca. A salute of 13 guns greeted the performance of this rite. After this impressive ceremony was concluded the students entertained the assembled multitude by orations in French, and the performance of a pastoral dialogue.

The college was honored in May, 1784, by a visit from General Washington. On this occasion the students acted before him, and the great number of people who had convened to do him honor, the tragedy of "Gustavus Vasa," the great Deliverer of Sweeden from Danish oppression. At the close of the performance the president of the college, Rev. Dr. Smith, complimented the young men very highly upon their rendering of the tragedy, and it is said that he made the remark: "Young gentlemen, you have just performed a play illustrative of the life and actions of Gustavus Vasa, behold," said he, pointing to Washington, "the Gustavus of America." Afterwards some verses composed by Dr. Smith in honor of their distinguished guest were introduced, and were received by the audience with bursts of applause. A portion of the verses are as follows:

"For this, to-night with trembling hope and fear
We humbly dared to greet your candid ear,
To bid heroic ages roll anew
And call the great Gustavus back to view,
How late did fell oppression o'er this land
With more than Danish fury raise her hand;
When lo! a Hero of immortal name
From whe e Potomac rolls his mighty stream,
Arose the champion of his country's cause
The friend of mankind, liberty and laws."

The scheme of studies for a three years collegiate course was prepared by Dr. Smith, and was the same as that adopted by his recommendation at the college of Philadelphia. It embraced Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry; Conic Sections, Fluxions, Surveying, Navigation, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Astronomy, Moral Philosophy, Logic, Mataphysics, Rhetoric and extensive reading in Greek and Latin authors. French was to be studied in leisure hours. The annual expense for boarding, washing, etc., was 23 pounds, 10s, for tuition 6 pounds, and for room rent 3 pounds; in all 32 pounds, 10s.

The main college building was a handsome one, one hundred and sixty feet in length with center and wings; with three stories above a suit of spacious basement rooms. A high and tasteful cupola surmounted the center of the building.

This auspicious inauguration of Washington College was followed by the foundation of St. Johns College at Annapolis in 1784, which was joined to Washington College with the idea to carry out the original design of constituting a university with the name of "University of Maryland." The Rev. John Carroll, the first Roman Catholic Arch Bishop of the United States, and the Reverend Doctors Wm. Smith and Patrick Allison, Richard Sprigg and John Sterett were appointed agents to obtain subscriptions.

On the 11th of July, 1789, Rev. Wm. Smith, D.D., the Hon. John Henry of the United States Senate, and Hon. Joshua Seney of the House of Representatives, were appointed as a committee by the board of visitors and governors and faculty of professors of Washington College to wait upon Gen. Washington just after his election as President of the United States, and present him with an address and the degree of Doctor of Laws in the name of the college. A very interesting correspondence between the committee and Washington upon this subject may be seen in Scharf's History of Maryland, vol. 3, p. 515-17.

The junction formed between the colleges was intended to be permanent, but the political party gaining ascendency about 1798-9 first diminished the support theretofore regularly given, and soon afterward withheld such aid altogether from the college, or reduced it to such an insignificant sum that the colleges were not able to maintain themselves as a university. In 1805 the colleges no longer receiving sufficient assistance from the State, were discontinued, and the law constituting Washington and St. Johns Colleges the "University of Maryland" was repealed.

The Rev. Dr. Smith being elected provost of the University of Pennsylvania, in Philadelphia, had left Washington College about 1787-8. He remained at the University of Pennsylvania until his death. His success as principal of the college was the Rev. Dr. Colin Ferguson, a native of Kent county, but educated at Edinburgh in Scotland. When the college ceased to receive the appropriation from the State he resigned his position and retired to his farm, where he remained until his death in 1805. Because of the withdrawal of the usual appropriation, the board of visitors were only able to keep up the college on a reduced scale. Mr. Colin Ferguson, nephew of the Rev. Dr. Ferguson, was put in charge—its sole professor.

Referring to the address of Mr. Ringgold, in 1844, we find that the college continued with alternations of success and depression, "to discharge the obligations imposed by its charter until Jan. 1827, when the building was destroyed by fire." The building is supposed to have been accidentally set on fire by one of the students who went into a basement room to get some fodder which was stored there. It is thought that the fodder was ignited by a lamp which he carried in his hand, or by sparks from his pipe. At any rate the building was entirely consumed by fire.

After that event a house was rented in Chestertown, and the exercises of the college were resumed, but no literary degrees were conferred for many years. The visitors "having endeavored to manage the funds with frugality for the purpose of erecting a new college edifice upon part of the original foundation," were at length able in 1844 on the 4th of May to lay one more the corner stone of the college; the Hon. R. F. Chambers performing on this occasion the duties which in May, 1783, had devolved on Governor Paca. Once more a stirring appeal was issued to the people of the Eastern Shore to encourage and assist the visitors and governors in the task of reviving the reputation and prosperity of an institution whose success would bring incalculable blessings to themselves and their children. We are not told whether the people responded so nobly upon this occasion as they had in 1782 or not, but we are inclined to think that they did not.

The board of visitors were Hon. E. F. Chambers, L.L.D., president; Joseph N. Gordon, M. D., Hon. John B. Eccleston, Joseph Wickes, Esq., Geo. E. Hollyday, Esq., Hon. James A. Pearce, M. A., James B. Ricaud, Esq., James E. Barroll, Esq., Peregrine Wroth, M. D., Benj. F. Houston, M. D., Thomas C. Kennard, M.D., James F. Gordon, M. D. The faculty were Richard W. Ringgold, M. A., principal and professor of the Greek and Latin languages and literature; B. Franklin Green, M. A., vice principal and professor of Math. and Natural Phil.; Rev. Clement F. Jones, D. D., professor of Mental and Moral Phil.; Peregrine Wroth, M. D., professor of Chem. and Physiology; Hon. James A. Pearce, M. A., professor of law; B. T. Green, M. A., curator and secretary of the faculty. The terms of entrance to the Freshman Class and the entire curiculum of studies were as high as those prescribed for the best colleges in the United States, and the course of instruction for the grammar school attached to the college was equal to the requirements of our present high schools, embracing for example, in the classics Cæsar, Virgil and Cicero, the four gospels, Graeco Minora and Lucians Dialogues, and in Mathematics; Algebra, Geometry and practical Trigonometry. The elements of Nat. Phil. Chem. Astronomy and Animal Vegetable Physiology, and the French language were also regular subjects of instruction in the grammar school.

Prof. Ringgold, who was principal in 1844, says: "Among its oldest alumni were several of the most distinguished men in Maryland.—Some of the alumni of later years, are supporting the highest characters on the bench, at the bar, in the pulpit and among the medical profession. Others in the enjoyment of private life, are exerting salutary influence by diffusing the blessings of knowledge, virtue and religion through the various orders of society." We have seen how the appropriation voted to Washington College by the General Assembly in 1784, was lessened and lessened until it was reduced to $500 per annum, and so continued until 1848. From documents now in possession of James A. Pearce, Esq., we learn that by resolution 31 of 1848, an additional sum of fifteen hundred dollars ($1500) was granted to Washington College, in consideration of which the visitors and governors were required to board, educate and provide all necessary books and stationery to one scholar from each of the then existing eight counties on the Eastern Shore. By the Act of 1856, chapter 219, the further sum of one thousand dollars was granted to increase to a proper amount the compensation for these eight students, and after Wicomico county was organized, the further sum of $375 was granted by the Act of 1870, chapter 339, for the education and support of a student from that county upon the same footing with the other Eastern Shore counties, thus making a total annual appropriation of $3,375.

The reduction of the appropriation of 1,250 pounds (1784) to $500 (1805) after crediting all sums received by the college, and not mentioning that for the sums actually received the college had furnished board and tuition to one scholar from each county of the Eastern Shore, although the original appropriation was intended only to pay the salaries of the professors, left the State indebted to the college to a sum exceeding $150,000. In consideration of this fact and the matter recited in Resolution of 1848 and in Acts of 1856 and 1870, in 1874 by chapter 282 the Legislature increased the number of free students to fifteen, and the annual appropriation from $3,375 to $5,375, preserving the same proportion for each student.

The college, after its reorganization upon its old site in 1848, continued in a very prosperous condition for a number of years. Prof. Ringgold was succeeded by Rev. Dr. Francis Waters in 1854, being the second time he had held that position. During the same year two additional buildings were erected, one on each side of the main building. These are plain, but commodious, flat-roofed brick buildings three stories in height exclusive of the spacious suit of basement rooms. The east building is used as a residence by the principal and vice-principal. The one on the west contains the recitation halls, and dormitories for the students. All the buildings have been recently modernized and improved. During Prof. Waters' administration the affairs of the college were in a very prosperous condition. The college was filled with students from Virginia, Delaware and Maryland. But at length it had the misfortune to fall into the hands of men incompetent to conduct the affairs of a college and commenced rapidly to decline. It commenced to decline under the administration of Prof. Sutton. Prof. Sutton was a man of excellent education and a fine gentleman, but entirely unfit to govern a college. He was afflicted by that deadly malady consumption, and at length acquired a habit of drinking to excess, thus rendering him even less capable of properly filling the position which he held. Prof. Berkeley, who succeeded Prof. Sutton in 1867, was a man of excellent literary accomplishments but no disciplinarian. The college rapidly descended into disrepute on account of the lax discipline exercised over the young men. It was no longer distinguished as an institution where good moral character as well as great literary attainments were required of the young men who filled its halls. The young men were no longer patterns of gentlemanly conduct and scolarly attainments worthy of imitation as they had been under the administrations of Dr. Smith and his immediate successors. That relic of barbarism, hazing, was carried on to such an unlimited extent that the persons and even the lives of the younger students were in constant danger. Such was the state of affairs that parents would not send their younger sons to college at all, preferring no education to education obtained amid such pernicious surroundings. Even the property of persons living near the college was not free from molestation. The matron's pantry was constantly suffering from the depredations of the students. One flue of the students' building was rendered almost useless by the empty fruit cans deposited therein. The college had gained for itself no enviable reputation throughout the Eastern Shore, and, as a consequence, persons would not send their sons to it, nor could they recommend it to others. This wonderful fall in the reputation of the college was not owing to the natural depravity of the students, but more especially to the incompetence of the professors. The college was peculiarly unfortunate in the selection of professors. They were for the most part men of high attainments and educational ability, but bad disciplinarians. Some of them, as we have said, were addicted to drink and insufficient to the task of governing. Falling from the lofty pinnacle of its early reputation, it descended with startling rapidity to the lowest depths that one could imagine possible for an institution of learning to reach. It was in this semi-dormant condition at the breaking out of the "late unpleasantness between the States," and during the war it dropped entirely below the surface of popular estimation. The number of students decreased, and the college was only carried on at a very reduced rate. It continued in this deplorable condition until its present principal with a competent corps of professors took hold of it in 1873, since which time Prof. Rivers has continued as principal of the college. Prof. Rivers previous to his coming here was for 17 years professor in the University of South Carolina and is well known as a distinguished scholar and instructor. The aim of the new principal has ever been to elevate the standard of scholarship at the college and render morally pure all its influences.

The board of visitors and governors at present is: Hon. Joseph A. Wickes, president; J. A. Pearce, secretary; Geo. W. T. Perkins, John L. Stam, Richard Hynson, David C. Blackiston, Richard W. Jones, Wm. N. E. Wickes, Jesse K. Hines, Thos. Dec. Ruth, Wm. S. Walker, Nicholas G. Westcott, N. W. Comegys and John B. Brown, Dr. B. F. Houston, Dr. Samuel Beck, Col. Samuel Hambleton, Hon. Fredrick Stump and Hon. John W. Crisfield.

There have been and are yet many noble-hearted men in the State of Maryland, as the liberal donations and bequests to educational institutions testify, but never has one man given a single dollar, so far as we can ascertain, in the way of endowment to Washington College. Millions of dollars have been expended on marble shafts erected in honorable tribute to the illustrious deliverer of his country, but never in our knowledge has any one been patriotic enough to endow Washington College, thus helping in the most effectual manner to perpetuate a more reverent and lasting memory of the beloved Washington than marble shafts and sculptured busts. It is true the people responded most liberally to the call of Dr. Smith for assistance, but now that other institutions have sprung up and the dollar is king instead of King George, the people no longer burn with patriotic zeal to commemorate their deliverance by cherishing the only institution bearing the signature of George Washington upon its roll of visitors and governors and bearing his name by his own personal consent.

The course of studies has been modified and much extended and comprises Latin, Greek, German, French, chemistry and natural science, rhetoric, logic, mental and moral philosophy, etc., and a thoroughly practical course in mathematics, besides special courses on any of the modern subjects of thought; telegraphy, mechanical drawing, electroplating, photography, etc. Of course, chief attention is paid to the regular course, which is an admirably complete one and will bear comparison with that of any college in the State. Under the present regime the college has become as highly noted for the fine moral character of its students as it formerly was for their disorderly and immoral conduct. It would sound almost like an Arabian romance to say that we had a college in which card playing and drunkenness were not known and blasphemy and falsehood never blacken the roll of honor. Our admirable situation does much to remove the tendency to drunkenness which is so frightfully prevalent in some institutions of learning. We are one-half mile from Chestertown, and there are no intoxicants sold in the town or county except in violation of the law. There are no open dens of destruction laid for the young men, and we think the moral character of Chestertown is unsurpassed in the United States. Upon our college Code of Laws are heavy penalties for the mere entrance of a pool room or other place of resort for gamblers, but during our 3-years' stay we have not known of a case wherein the penalty of she law had to be inflicted, nor have we known of a case of drunkenness. The law against profanity has only been called into use once, and the use of tobacco is the exception and not the rule. I hope I will be pardoned if a student's love for his alma mater has led him to digress from the dry theme of history into the praises of the moral tendency of the institution which, although he cannot overestimate, are not purely historical.

The good accomplished by this institution is almost incalculable. From its classic halls young men have been sent forth into the world admirably fitted to battle with its opposing elements and meet with honor its highest responsibilities. This beneficial influence has not been confined to the Eastern Shore, nor even to the State of Maryland, but has been disseminated throughout the broad fields of the West and South. There are men to-day filling honorable places in their counties and proving an inestimable blessing to their fellow-men who owe their influence to the liberal education obtained within the honored walls of Washington College. Is gratitude dead? Is American patriotism a forgotten thing of the past? and has King Money torn in shreds the parchments of Maryland's history and bound the eyes of her once patriotic sons to all sense of obligation and civic pride? Our spirits revolt at the very idea; and yet with sorrow we must confess that such is not far from the fact. We were touched by reading Daniel Webster's pathetic appeal for his alma mater before the Legislature of his State. In imagination we can see that noble man filled with enthusiastic love and veneration for the institution that had been the instructor of his youth beating back with eloquent and indisputable arguments the miserly monopolists who, like hungry jackals, were desirous of tearing with merciless fangs the vitals from that mother of the better part of their State in order to lessen, by an almost pitiable amount, the taxes upon their enormous properties. When old Washington College shall be assailed by the foes of popular education shall we, her sons, suffer her to look upon us with sorrow and say, "tu quoque, mi fili?" or shall we, with hearts swelling with gratitude, like Webster manfully defend her rights and ward off from her the insidious blows of her assailants? As we are not making a plea but simply writing a sketch of the college we hope our readers will pardon this digression from the subject. We will say that Washington College is not a suppliant at the feet of the people of Maryland. She has her rights and dares to vindicate them. We claim nothing more than her rights when we say that she deserves a more liberal support from the Eastern Shore in the way of students. Why should our young men seek in colleges in other parts of the country that which they can get at an equally cheap rate at home? Do they go because of numbers or exalted name? Why not increase the numbers and enjoy the already exalted name of Washington College. There are men in every county of the Eastern Shore who should wield an influence in favor of their alma mater. If she is not what they would wish her to be, who should be the ones to try to elevate her to that lofty position? Leaving this question unanswered, we will mention just a few of the many noted alumni of the institution. Perhaps among the oldest and best known of the living alumni is Hon. John W. Crisfield, yet, although advanced in years, one of old Somerset's most eminent lawyers and, I might add, one of old Maryland's most worthy sons. Ex-Senator Robert F. Bratton, of Somerset; our present Congressman, Hon. Chas. H. Gibson, of Talbot; Michael Bannon, Esq., of Anne Arundel county; Dr. Hugh M. Wallis, M. A., Houma, Louisiana; James A. Cruikshanks, Alexandria, Louisiana; Henry C. Kennard, Esq., Baltimore; Oregon R. Benson, Esq., Baltimore; George Alfred Townsend, Col. Nicholas R. Johnson and Henry R. Johnson, Esq., of Delaware; James M. Emmerson, editor of a paper in Connecticut; James E. Ellegood, Wicomico county; Thomas Perry, editor of Salisbury *Advertiser* and examiner of schools for Wicomico county; E. F. Perkins, school examiner of Kent county, and Nathaniel T. Meginness, Esq., of Baltimore, besides many others of distinguished merit who are worthily filling places in the pulpit, at the bar, in the medical professon and as instructors in schools and academies or filling with benefit to their friends private places on their farms and in all the various avocations of busy life. The alumni association, which organized last year, gives promise of great things in the future.

We should not conclude this notice of the organization of the first college in Maryland without mention of the non-sectarian character imposed upon it by the liberal spirit which marks the whole history of the State. Its incorporation was designed for "Training up good, useful and accomplished men for the service of their country in church and state; and youth of all religious denominations and persuasions shall be fully and liberally admitted to equal privileges and advantages of education and to all literary honors of the college according to their merit—nor should any preference be given in the choice of any visitor and governor of said college or of any principal, vice-principal or any professor or master on account of his religious persuasion, but merely on account of his literary and other necessary qualifications to fill the place for which he is chosen."

Down the Peninsula.

Ocean City, our lower Maryland summer resort, anticipates a more lively season this year than last. All the hotels expect to be open.—The "Seaside" opened a week or so ago, and already a few guests have made their appearance. The Seaside is kept by Mr. Rich. Nickols formerly of this county and well known in the county. He is an old time Marylander, and practices at his hotel, old time Maryland hospitality. He and his good wife entertain guests more as though they were honored visitors than upon the strictly commercial principles generally observed in running a hotel. The Captain himself is full of anecdotes of the good old times, and will entertain guests by the hour with before-the-war reminiscences. He is intensely patriotic, and loves to talk about "old Kent" and loves to see a Kent county face. He even contends that the celebrated Chincoteague oysters are surpassed in some points by Chester river oysters. The Captain hopes to see a number of Kent county people at the "Seaside" before the season is over. Fishing, later in the season, is said to be very fine at Ocean City. Already fishermen are casting lines off the bridge into the sound. On last Sunday Mr. Charles Fountain, of Chestertown, in company with Mr. Williams, a Berlin merchant, had a day's sport fishing off the bridge. Mr. Fountain landed a four-and-a-half-pound sheephead, of which he was reasonably proud.

Perhaps nowhere else in the United States can the old-fashioned simplicity of fifty years ago be found so faithfully handed down as in some sections of Wicomico and Worcester counties. One is continually surprised at the 1835 appearance of the country and the people.—Amusing things sometimes happen, illustrative of the interest the natives take in each other's affairs. Here is an amusing incident that occurred on the Wicomico and Pocomoke Railroad on last Saturday, at a station called Pittsville. The train stopped about fifteen minutes at each station and put in about half an hour at Pittsville. The writer was sitting on a trunk in the baggage car, so as to get plenty of air and to observe the country. At Pittsville there came in an old fellow with the tobacco juice running down each corner of his mouth. He was in his shirt sleeves and had on a before-the-war striped cotton shirt. He soon proved to be a philosopher of the first water, one of the kind that invariably reflects before he gives an answer. He had not been seated long before he was accosted by an acquaintance with,—

'Hello, Ned! Where you goin' ?'

The philosopher meditated awhile, calmly ejected a large supply of tobacco juice, and calmly replied:

'I'm a leetle under the weather. I'm goin' to Berlin to get some medicine. I'm ridin' on the ke-ars to save myself a leetle walk.' (Berlin was twelve miles distant.)

Pretty soon another Burgher popped in, said he,—

'Hello, Ned! Where you goin' ?'

The philosopher again meditated with a far-away look in his eyes, again ejected calmly about half a gill of tobacco juice out through the open door and replied:

'I'm a leetle under the weather. I'm goin' to Berlin to get some medicine. I'm ridin' on the ke-ars to save myself a leetle walk.'

The philosopher chewed his cud peacefully and meditatively for a minute or two, but another citizen appeared, and the first querry was:

'Hello, Ned! Where you goin ?'

The philosopher shifted his tobacco from his left to his right jaw, spat calmly, chewed reflectively for about half a minute and spat a second time. The thing was evidently growing monotonous. Finally, fixing an earnest gaze upon his questioner, he said:

'I'm a leetle under the weather. I'm goin' to Berlin to get some medicine. I'm goin' on the ke-ars to save myself a leetle walk.'

After this the philosopher spent five munutes in uninterrupted silence. He chewed slowly and spat thoughtfully about once a minute. Evidently he was wrestling with some problem. Finally he seemed to have solved it, and turning to the writer he said:

'It do seem to me strange—durned strange—how this here railroad manages about once a week to run over a valible hog and kaint manage to run over none o' these here durned dogs.'

Again the philosopher lapsed into silence, and took up for meditation a fresh problem. Before the train started, however, another Pittsviller appeared, and his first ejaculation was:

'Hello, Ned! Where you goin'?'

The line of forbearance was passed. The philosopher lost that calmness of spirit which endureth long, and arose from his seat. He shook his fist under his questioner's nose and said:

'I'm a leetle under the weather. I'm goin' to Berlin to get some medicine. I'm goin' on the ke-ars to save myself a leetle walk. And what's mo' to the pint, durned if I can't lick any galoot about your size what pokes his nose into my business.'

Soon after, the train started, and the philosopher fell into a deep and reflective silence.

The people down the Peninsula all stand up for their country. They say it would be a great country if it were only a little improved.

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Resp'y