In the paragraph on school buildings there appears this reference: "The Hemenway building for whites is well arranged and well supplied with comfortable seats. The Union building, in White District No. 2, is comfortable, but in every other respect it is entirely unfit for school purposes. After many years of waiting and vexatious delay, the committee hope to have a handsome building ready for occupancy next fall." This wish was realized, as the following extract shows: "In 1886, the pupils were moved from the old school into the handsome new Union building at the northwest corner of Sixth and Ann. It contained eight large schoolrooms and a beautiful hall."

In the spring of 1891 the fire alarm sounded "48," and it was the Union School building on fire. It caught from a defective flue and burned to the ground. The new structure was built upon the foundation of the old one, and on the first Monday of the following October the new building, as you see it today, was occupied. In 1889, a building like the Union was built upon a lot running through from Fifth to Sixth, between Chestnut and Walnut, which had been purchased through the earnest advice of Mr. Horace Bagg.

On Saturday night early in the summer vacation of 1897, some one set fire to the new Hemenway, and the next morning this beautiful building was a mass of smoking ruins. This school was at once rebuilt, and turned over ready for the opening on the first Monday in October in that year.

### DECADE 1890-1900—GROWTH OF THE HIGH-SCHOOL IDEA.

The high school as an organic part of the public-school system had its origin at a very recent date. Previous to 1890 most of the graded-school reports show provision for primary and grammar grades only. The superintendent's report for Wilmington, 1886, shows a provision for six grades only. No reference is made in this report to a high school. It was evidently intended that the private schools which had flourished in the towns and cities for a long time should take care of advanced work, and in fact by many it seemed to be regarded as their rightful heritage and possession.

During this decade there was an aggressive opposition to the public high-school idea. In Raleigh, so determined was this opposition, in the interest of the existing academy, that some of its citizens had a law passed forbidding the teaching of high-



school subjects in the public schools. Later, the Raleigh Academy gave way to the high school, its principal becoming the principal of the high school.

In Wilmington, the idea began to take shape in the mind of the superintendent soon after the schools were moved into the new Hemenway and Union School buildings, for he began gradually to add high-school subjects and thus to enrich the course of study.

The school committees, with prophetic vision, saw the necessity for it in order to close up the gap between the grammar school and the State University. As evidence of their faith in it, they bought at this time a lot at the corner of Third and Market Streets, where the Colonial Inn now stands, and moved the advanced classes from the lower schools into the little one-story schoolhouse just south of the courthouse, on Third Street. This remained Wilmington's high school until the year 1897, when the advanced classes from the Hemenway, Union, and Third Street Schools, numbering in all one hundred, with four teachers in charge, moved into the Tileston Normal building. The city came into control of this building by a lease obtained through the personal efforts of Mr. James H. Chadbourn, then chairman of the joint committee. The following May the first graduating exercises were held and certificates were given to three girl graduates. Each year there were gratifying increases. The class of 1914 numbered 30, bringing the total number of graduates up to 315. In 1910, nine more rooms were added and a faculty of fourteen teachers and a principal employed.

### 1900-1914.

On January 5, 1899, Mr. John J. Blair succeeded Mr. Noble as superintendent. A few leading events of this period are enumerated below:

In 1901, by deed of gift, the Tileston building and half of that city block became the property of the city of Wilmington.

In 1904 an addition of fourteen rooms was made to the Union School, and just previous to this, eight rooms were added to the Hemenway.

In 1909 a local tax of fifteen cents on the one-hundred-dollar valuation was voted by the entire county, and New Hanover was the first county to become a special tax district.

In 1910, under an enactment of Congress, eleven city blocks of land back of the Marine Hospital were secured by the Board of Education for park and school purposes.