

North Carolina and Her University.

At the adoption of the State Constitution in 1776 a provision was inserted looking to the establishment of one or more Universities and on the 11th. of December 1789 a charter was granted for this Institution.

The care and management of the University was, from the beginning given over to a Board of Trustees composed of her best and wisest men. After much discussion as to location, this spot was at last selected as being the most central and the corner stone of the old East Building was laid with Masonic honors October 12th. 1793. The doors were opened in 1795, just one hundred years ago and we are here to do honor to this historic occasion, - to show our appreciation of the grand and glorious work accomplished during this century by the University of North Carolina. If every son could be present today and tell the world the history of his achievements, how proudly would they lay their laurels ~~####~~ before the portals of their Alma Mater, ascribing to her the credit, - giving her the praise for the foundation of their future success and acknowledging to her the justice due this grand Institution for the early training and the formation of the character of the youth of the State which has developed in the manhood of her sons that strength of character, that conservatism, candor and courage which has characterized our people in all their public acts. While the Institution had a handsome endowment fund prior to the war, it yielded little or no income during the four years of war and its then venerable President Governor David L. Swain, said that the transfer of a quantity of "rent ^{in kind} corn" through the Quartermaster Department of the Confederate Government from his own estate in the East, prevented the closing of the doors during the war. This sad fate however was reserved until a later period. On the adoption of the Constitution of 1868 the old faculty was displaced and the blighting hand of Reconstruction fell heavily upon the University and its doors were closed from 1870 to 1875. Of its revival by private subscription and state aid we are all familiar.

The influence of the University of North Carolina on the South has been remarkable. It has furnished a President, a Vice-President, many cabinet officers, foreign ministers and numerous Federal Senators & Representatives, it has provided every State South with either Governors, Judges of the Supreme Court or prominent legislators; but the acme of its glory is its war record compared with other institutions.

There were in the Union Army and Navy from those who had been students at Harvard College a total of 938 and of these 117 died in the service. My attention was first arrested as to this great disparity between our own University and the ^{Sparsity} ~~scarcity~~ of names which appear upon the monument erected on the grounds of the Girard College of Philadelphia in memory of its dead. Amherst had in the Federal service 247 men, seventeen (17) only were killed and wounded in the war. Brown University had 294, with fifteen (15) killed and wounded, while Yale sent 836, concerning the number killed and wounded I quote from the history of the College "of the total number of deaths 110, it is believed that at least 106 were the direct results of active service".

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There seems to be no record of how many men the University of North Carolina furnished but her Confederate dead actually recorded number 270. Many were wounded and oftentimes mere boys left this quiet retreat and went to the front in defence of the principles which they believed to be ^{the} foundation upon which this American Union was founded. The record of the wounded and those who died after the war from the effects of wounds received in battle is not recorded. The part taken by her sons in the war was as grand as in proportion as is her unefulness in times of peace. By comparison North Carolina has produced more great men according to population than any State in the Union. At one time when Thos. H. Benton, Silas Wright, Hugh L. White and Wm. R. King were in Congress, it is said half the Senators were native North Carolinians. It has been charged against our dear old Mother State that her sons

are never fully developed until they become citizens of other States. This I deny but am willing to admit that as a nursery for statesmen her stock has some times become crowded and her surplus has been sent to other States ,where on account of the superiority of the early training ,it is quickly appreciated by a people who are awaiting a statesman to lead ~~them~~ and the qualities inborn in the North Carolinian and nurtured in his early training grasps the opportunity and quickly becomes the Leader of the adopted State But here ,here within the walls of our Alma Mater has been the hot bed within which the seeds of Statesmen were sown and nurtured ~~###~~ and to this source more^ethan to any other is due the superiority of the men of North Carolina.

While the university is the child of the State ,created by the State ,it is of co-equal age .Born under the same Constitution ,reared together as the independent State has grown in population and increased in wealth , sharing each others prosperities and bearing together each others misfortunes for more than a century, the love and affection of the state for its first born is only natural and the growth of the closest bond of inter-dependence the one for the other. I feel that they will live and flourish together forever;the one the strength and support of the other.