CHAPTER IV
THE SIX YEARS BEFORE THE STORM
1854-60

The Spartan of July 10, 1851, says of the Wofford College main building, "A beautiful drawing of this magnificent structure, executed by Edward C. Jones, Esq., of Charleston is before us." The edifice, continues The Spartan, is 226 feet long; the chapel 48 by 80 feet; the museum 30 by 37; library and chemistry lecture room and two society rooms each of the same dimensions; eleven recitation rooms 22 by 24; twelve Professor's rooms 12 by 22; two study rooms 20 by 60, etc. The towers are called 100 feet high. There will be five handsome residences for Professors.

Edward C. Jones was one of the leading architects of Charleston. He designed the original building of Furman University, now called Furman Hall, on somewhat the same plan, though more slight, as Wofford. The most beautiful monument of his skill is the magnificent Trinity Methodist Church in Charleston (built as the Westminster Presbyterian Church, and later sold to the Methodists), a perfect example of the Greek Corinthian temple, dedicated February 3, 1850.1

The builders, say The Spartan, were Messrs. Clayton & Burgess of Asheville, N. C. I have (as referred to in the note) the contract, which bears only the name of Clayton. Tradition has it that the workmen were Negro slaves; but whether that applies to only the common laborers or to the skilled workmen also I cannot say.2 The walls are of great thickness, and fortunately so; for the material is so inferior that, as the Trustee Minutes reveal, repairs were soon necessary. The rear wall of the west wing soon had to have a new foundation, Prof. D. A. DuPre told me; and in his manuscript notes left of these early years for his children he states that during construction the western tower collapsed and killed one man. The bulging south wall of the west wing, saved from collapse by inserting heavy iron binding rods, still bears testimony to the soft brick which, contrary to the architect's orders, were used for the interior of the walls. Only the outer and inner facing of brick in the thick walls of the residence long occupied by Dr. Carlisle, and now by the writer, wherever occasion has called for piercing them are found to be hard burned brick, the inner brick being sun dried brick joined by mud. Not unnaturally the west wall of this house had to be underpinned, Dr. Carlisle, his son told me, finding it expedient to abandon for a time that side of the house.3 Fortunately oak and long leaf pine were then abundant. They were not made by man, and still are sound.

The building committee, doubtless motivated by economy, must share the blame with the contractor. They permitted modifications of the architect's specifications, such as reducing the depth of the foundation, and permitting tenpenny nails, instead of twentypennies, for certain purposes. Though they did not direct the use of soft brick, they did not prevent it. After all, it is a marvel that, with the limit of $50,000, they were able to erect the buildings which they did. Tradition says that the contractor lost money. $1,250 or more was left over from the building fund, to be added, the will required, to the endowment. It was used, as the first misdirection of endowment funds, $250 for Professors' salaries, and $1,000 to purchase scientific apparatus, the will specifically forbidding the use of endowment for any purpose but the production of income.4

In 1876 Captain Boutelle, of the United States Coast Survey, while making observations from a tower erected on the roof of the college chapel, from which lights were flashed to the stations on Hog Back and King's Mountain, ascertained the exact position of the building as:

| Latitude North | 34 degrees, 57 minutes, 32 seconds. |
| Longitude West from Greenwich | 81 degrees, 56 minutes, 7 seconds. |
| Time West of Greenwich | 5 hours, 27 minutes, 36.5 seconds. |
| Time West of Washington | 19 minutes, 24.4 seconds. |
| Ridge of roof of chapel above sea | 888.8 feet. |
| Ridge of roof of chapel above ground | 62.25 feet. |

The buildings were not complete when the college opened its first session, August 1, 1854. Not until January 1, 1855, did the temporary Trustees turn over the property to the permanent Trustees. The executors delivered to the permanent Trustees $50,000 in notes, bonds, and cash.5 This en-

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1. Miss Beatrie St. Julian Ravenel, Architects of Charleston (1945), 204, passim. Jones' original specifications, signed by him, have come down to me from my great-grandfather, David Dugan, the first Treasurer of the college. I am giving these and other early papers to the college.
2. Conf. Miss. 1854, 29; Catalogue 1872, 18; Trustee Miss.
3. Mr. Albert Simons, the Charleston architect, tells me that sometimes such construction was due to the difficulty of transporting hard brick from a distance, and that both here and in Europe it sometimes led to grave defects.
4. Trustee Miss.
5. Wofford Catalogue 1895-6, 33.
6. Tr. Miss.
dowment was, at the request of the Trustees, supplemented by the South Carolina Conference in 1853 by the gift of $11,000, being half the Centenary Fund, plus $85.50 interest, on the condition that this should be considered as providing free tuition for all sons of Methodist ministers attending the college. (The college itself later extended this privilege to the sons of all ministers.) A gift of $5,000 about the same time from Mr. George W. Williams of Charleston, the income of which was to be used for the support and education of one or more candidates for the ministry, brought the endowment to $66,085.50. The request that the President travel, so far as his duties permitted, in order to raise the endowment to $120,000 by the sale of scholarships—a plan then and earlier tried elsewhere—accomplished something.7 At the request of the Trustees the Conference in December, 1859, appointed Rev. H. H. Durant as Agent to raise the endowment to $200,000, a movement which for a year made encouraging progress in securing pledges; but alas, for reasons we know too well, most of these were never made good.8

From the first the Trustees lent endowment money in a few cases to members of their own body and to at least two members of the Faculty, of course with security. Occasionally done in later years, it was opposed as bad practice by Dr. Snyder on his becoming President and, with the hearty concurrence of the Board, was discontinued. The loans to the two professors and the members of the Board were, after the War of Secession, written off, which at least had the excuse that the college owed much more than the amounts involved to the professors as back salaries, and that the trustee had donated to the college far more than the amount of his loan.9

Our narrative is hurrying in advance of events. Let us return to November 24, 1853, when the permanent Trustees held their first meeting at the Conference in Newberry. All were present except Shipp and Leitner. They elected as President and Professor of Mental and Moral Science Rev. William M. Wightman, D.D., the outstanding member of the South Carolina Conference, editor of the Southern Christian Advocate, and later a Bishop; as Professor of Ancient Languages David Duncan, A.M., then holding the same chair in Randolph-Macon College; James H. Carlisle, A.M., as Professor of Mathematics, who had taught four years in the Odd Fellows' School in Columbia, and five years in the Columbia Male Academy in

8. Trustee Mins., Dec. 3, 1859; Dec. 14, 1860. These additions to endowment are itemized in an address before the S. C. Conference Historical Society, November 4, 1914, by Dr. John O. Williams, reprinted in Hist. of Woff. Fam., 78-84. Trustee Mins. Nov. 24, 1853; July 10, 1859; Conf. Mins. 1854, 22, etc.
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Columbia; Warren DuPre, A.M., as Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy, etc., then head of the female academy in Newberry; Rev. A. M. Shipp, A.M., as Professor of English Literature, then holding the chair of History in the University of North Carolina. Commented The Advocate, "If they all consent to serve, Wofford College will have a noble Faculty." Rev. Shipp declined the position, and Prof. DuPre was granted absence on leave.

Thus, when the college opened its first session, August 1, 1854, it was with only three instructors, clean-cut, clean-shaven, upstanding men (for the bearded era was still in the future): President Wightman, aged 46; Duncan, aged 63; and Carlisle only 29. The first day seven students were enrolled, all in the Freshman and Sophomore classes. A few days later two more entered. Thus the population stood until the opening of the spring term in January, when additions brought the total for the year up to 24.

The second Wednesday in January, 1855, a preparatory department was opened under Mr. Robert W. Boyd assisted by Mr. Herman Baer, and enrolled 34 pupils. With the determination not to derogate from the standing of the college, the professors took no part in preparatory teaching until the hard years following the War of Secession. In July, 1859, the Trustees even moved the preparatory department from the college building into the village, we may infer in order totally to protect the college from being lowered in public estimation by too close association with preparatory work. The homes of the total of 69 for both college and preparatory classes were as follows: Abbeville District 6; Barnwell District 1; Charleston District 2; Chester District 3; Colleton District 3; Fairfield District 1; Georgetown District 1; Greenville District 2; Laurens District 4; Marion District 1; Orangeburg District 3; Richland District 1; Spartanburg District 24 (all but 5 in the preparatory department); Sumter District 2; Union District 7; North Carolina 4; Georgia 2; Tennessee 1; Mexico 1. The wide distribution of the students in the college classes is significant; and significant also is the fact that the huge Spartanburg, including then a large part of the present Cherokee, had only 5 in the college classes as against, for instance, 6 from Abbeville. Taking into consideration the distances, the relative numbers are doubtless significant of the then state of relative culture.

It is interesting to note how the small but able faculty impressed at least one younger, one of the four who drove from Shelby, N. C., to enroll in

10. Rare old photograph for their appearance.
11. Dr. J. B. Carlisle's MS. history of the college to 1869; Faculty report to Trustees November 1855; register of students, which, incidentally, is not complete.
January, 1856. He wrote forty-one years later, including in his description two professors who were not present until several months later:

My eyes stared wide-open as I looked half-scarred into the faces of my new teachers, by far the greatest men I had ever yet seen. I can see them to-day. I love now to see them in imagination as I then saw them face to face: Dr. Wightman, self-poised, scholarly, suave, finical, always equal to any occasion, uniformly ponderous and always overwhelmingly great in thunderous public speech; Prof. David Duncan, at this time the most learned of the panche (PATENT APPLIED FOR) and the faultlessly fine gentleman, neat almost to nattiness in his well-fitting garrisons and spotless linen, witty but not wordly, a stalwart hater and hitter of shallow sham and show; Dr. Whiteford Smith, neither a student nor a scholar, but an aesthetic "to the manner born," the inspired declamer of South Carolina Methodism, the high-toned gentleman of unchallenged integrity, the sweet-spirited Christian of unaffected humility and meekness, powerful in public discourse but most of all powerful in prayer, the Christian Knight, without fear and without reproach, the "Rupert of debate"; Prof. Warren DuPre, a sweet-spirited Christian of the old school of the low country, South Carolina gentry, a fluent and thoughtful speaker of graceful English, ever an object-lesson as he walked the campus as to the significance and purpose of a Christian education; Prof. James H. Carlisle,—well, I'll spare his characteristic modesty. I have no delicacy about saying what I feel in his case; but he has, so I curb my pen.14

We may add something from other sources on the original Faculty. As indicated, Dr. Wightman was a man of power. In a camp meeting sermon at Cokesbury, August 4, 1838, though Negroes were present, as usual, in their appointed places, he denounced the opposition, which was voiced by some persons in the up country, to the Methodist missions to the slaves on the great low country plantations, a work very dear to his heart and recognized by religious leaders of other denominations and the wealthy planters as of the most beneficial character. The missions, he said, would make the Negroes better servants in the up country as they had below. He respected all men, irrespective of their color, he continued. These words, uttered in the presence of slaves, roused strong protest, which brought from him a strong reply.15 Bishop Wightman was born January 29, 1808, in Charleston, S. C. He died in Charleston February 15, 1882.16 He graduated at the College of Charleston in 1827. He was for three years from 1834 Financial Agent of Randolph-Macon College and for the next two years

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13. He is said to have sometimes played fifteen minutes in an ice-cold chapel.
14. An Old Boy, in So. Christian Ad., August 12, 1897. Might have been one of the other four coming from North Carolina; but the style is decidedly that of Dr. S. A. Weber.
16. Memorial tablet in Trinity Methodist Church, Charleston, S. C.

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Professor of English there. He was eminently successful as a college President, both at Wofford and at Southern University, to which he went from here as its head from 1859 to 1866. In 1854, he was, says Dr. Thomas O. Summers' in fact elected Bishop; but one of the ballots clearly intended for him was written "William M. Bishop," and so was not counted. He was elected in 1866.

Bishop Wightman was a man of vigorous, even powerful, physique, and, we may add, of vigorous, even powerful, emotions, which, however, he kept well under control. Says Dr. Summers, "There was a volcano in his breast."

An intimate friend and next door neighbor, Prof. Carlisle, and a younger friend, Charles Forster Smith, have left interesting recollections of David Duncan, which we may weave together along with some facts which I derived from members of his family.17 David Duncan was born in northern Ireland, in 1791.18 His father was at the same time a Presbyterian elder and a Methodist class leader, before the Methodists had developed from a reforming religious movement into a distinct denomination. The young man was educated at the University of Glasgow. He entered the British navy as a midshipman March 25, 1810, and served three years. On the death of the purser he reluctantly accepted, on the imperative command of the Captain, the position of purser, in which he won the praise of the commander of the warship Helder in a certificate of June 3, 1812. Thus began a long course of trust officer in charge of finances, for which his exquisite handwriting and his business ability fitted him. In 1817 a classical teacher in Norfolk, Va., wrote to his old pastor in North Ireland for an assistant. The pastor sent out David Duncan, who intended to remain for a year. He soon became principal of a prominent classical school in Norfolk, from which he was elected, in 1836, to the chair of classical languages in Randolph-Macon College, then situated in Boydston, Va., with Stephen Olin as President and Langdon C. Garland (the later Chancellor of Vanderbilt University) and William M. Wightman among the Faculty. Probably the association with Wightman led to his being invited to become a member of the first Faculty of Wofford. Duncan was the first member of the Faculty

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17. Dr. Carlisle's article, written on the night of the day of David Duncan's death, is in So. Christian Ad., of Nov. 12, 1881; Dr. Charles Forster Smith's article in Woff. Col. Jour., June, 1889.
18. The difference in tradition as to birthplace of David Duncan seems to be definitely settled by his registration as a student at Glasgow University: "David Duncan, Filium natus secundum Davids Mercatoriam, la parochia 5a Donough in Comitiis Donegal." (Assistant Register of Glasgow University to D. D. Wallace, 28 Oct., 1949.) His gravestone says County Donegal. Dr. J. H. Carlisle and some of Prof. Duncan's descendants seem therefore to be mistaken in giving County Armagh as his birthplace. But Dr. Carlile was a man of great accuracy, and was for many years the next door neighbor and intimate friend of David Duncan.

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to reach the campus, says Dr. Carlisle, and took up his residence in the house now used as the Hugh Ratchford Black Infirmary. Though teaching until eighty-six years of age, he refused to the last to give up his third story recitation room in the eastern wing of the college. He was diffident and self-distrustful to a marked degree, so much so that to lead chapel prayers was always a trial, says Dr. Carlisle, which is supplemented by the statement of Charles Forster Smith that he never knew him to appear before the public but twice; first, in his inaugural address on “The Claims of Classical Learning,” and second, in acting as a member of the examining board at the South Carolina College in 1859. Smith emphasizes his absolute punctuality and his immaculate neatness in dress. He was not an original thinker, continues Smith, but a very broad reader of the classics and was a great lover of fine bindings. There are stories of how he sometimes slipped in such treasures hidden from the eyes of his thrifty wife. Dr. Carlisle thought that his classical library was perhaps unequaled by any other private collection in the South. In conclusion, says Dr. Carlisle, “He had fewer of the failings of extreme age, whether physical, mental, or social, than anyone I have met. . . . He kept up his fresh interest in life to the last. . . . He was a lover of good books to an almost romantic degree.” He was very generous, but completely unostentatious with it.

The third teacher with whom the college began was the clean-shaven young man of 29, James Henry Carlisle. On graduation he had been offered the principaship of the Odd Fellows School in Columbia, his Assistant being his close friend John H. Logan, later the author of the History of Upper South Carolina. Four years later, he was elected to the Columbia Male Academy, where he taught until coming to Wofford. Young Professor Carlisle had already established a reputation as an eloquent and inspiring speaker on religious and moral subjects. While teaching in Columbia, he made an address before the Society of Missionary Enquiry of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary which was so highly thought of as to be published in the Southern Presbyterian Review, and published in the Southern Methodist Quarterly Review an article on The Essays of John Foster “which was universally praised and admired.” He was one of forty-one teachers, all men, who in July, 1850, at the call of Gov. Whitmarsh B. Seabrook met in Columbia “to consider the subject of Free Schools, the preparation at home of elementary and other books for the use of our schools, the best mode of insuring the progress of education, and other kindred matters.” Dr. W. A. Leland was elected President and James H. Carlisle

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Secretary. Evidently few if any teachers from the miserable “free schools,” sometimes even called by Governors in official statements “pauper schools,” were present; but the roll contains the names of numbers of outstanding teachers of the time. The Teachers’ Association died in a year and a half from lack of interest; but it, as did its later successful successor, found James H. Carlisle among its leaders.

In a brief manuscript history of the college down to 1869 by Dr. James H. Carlisle we are told that the college building was not finished until several months after the opening. The east wing was finished first. For the first two years chapel was held in the easternmost room on the third story. On Sunday, June 24, 1855, and Wednesday, June 27, occurred the first commencement, which was of high order. Examinations occupied Monday and Tuesday. On dedication Sunday, June 24th, President Wightman preached an eloquent sermon, rich in historical illustration and spiritual power, from the first verse of the 80th Psalm: “Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubim, shine forth.” Then the Chairman of the Board, Rev. H. A. C. Walker, “called the assembly to their feet, and in a brief form of presentation and invocation offered the Chapel to God.” Wednesday morning a procession formed at the corner of Church and Main Streets and marched to the college. There being no graduate, the three Faculty members delivered addresses of about fifty minutes each. President Wightman spoke of the mission of the institution and defended the church college idea with some warmth, alluding to the complete lack of Methodists on the Faculty of the State college and pointing out the peculiar advantages offered by Wofford.

Prof. Duncan, a ripe scholar of sixty-four years, spoke on the nobility and value of the classics in a finished address, at places spiced with his keen native wit. Prof. Carlisle, tall, imposing, modest, followed, as a hearer expressed it, “in one of his own happy efforts, at once profound, simple, and delightful.” The subject matter was moral and philosophical, “at times thrilling.” A distinct contrast, which, he said to me, he felt without throwing it into prominence, was presented in his close with a portion of the address of President Wightman. “He extended a fraternal hand to all similar institutions” and paid “a tribute to the South Carolina College—in some sort the mother of us all said the orator, and hoped that when Wofford College should be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, as the State College is doing this year, that institution, still flourishing and vigorous might be celebrating its hundredth.” He lived to see his hope fulfilled when Wofford at her semi-
centennial conferred the degree of LL.D. on President Benjamin Sloan of the University.

The young Professor of thirty had chosen his line. There was nothing but maturity to be added in the next fifty years. 22

The Faculty of three with which the college began August 1, 1854, was supplemented in August, 1855, by Prof. Warren DuPre, who had been allowed, at half pay for the first half of 1855, to travel in the North and purchase scientific apparatus, during which time he also studied under the famous chemist and geologist Benjamin Silliman at Yale. Prof. DuPre was already well known as one of the leading teachers of the State. He was one of the forty-one referred to above who met in Columbia in 1850 to form a State Teachers' Association. He was born at Mt. Pleasant, S. C., January 24, 1816. 23 When he was elected to Wofford he was head of the Newberry Female Academy, after having taught in Charleston and in Randolph-Macon College. He was the first occupant of the house immediately east of the main building, occupied for so long by Dr. H. N. Snyder, from which he moved to the house immediately to the west of the main building, later occupied by his son, Prof. D. A. DuPre and of recent years by his distant kinsman Dr. A. Mason DuPre. The first death among the campus community came with the loss soon after his arrival of Prof. Warren DuPre's eleven-year-old son. 24

"An Alumnus" writes in the Wofford College Journal of November, 1889:

I do not suppose anyone lived a more temperate life than Prof. DuPre, yet he had every appearance of a high liver, not unbecoming. The kindness, the gentleness in his look cannot be described; his person, his presence all spoke it. There lay his heart upon his sleeve, and such a heart! So big, so pure, so true!... Prof. DuPre was irresistible—a spontaneous flow of esteem or rather affection which felt itself more than half way met.

Prof. DuPre having taken up his duties in August, 1855, and Dr. Whitefoord Smith his in the middle of the spring term in 1856, the second year's commencement exercises, July, 1856, included the inaugural addresses of these two belated additions to the Faculty. Says the correspondent of the Greenville Patriot: 25

22. The account of the commencement is from my article in the history of the College in The Avery, the first Wofford annals (1904), based on account in So. Christian Ad., of July 5 and 12, 1855, and Dr. J. B. Carlisle's MS. hist. of the college to 1859.
24. Dr. J. B. Carlisle's manuscript history of the college to 1869; Prof. D. A. DuPre's written recollections. Prof. DuPre also records the death of someone (Finley by name) who fell from a tower window. I knew of this, but not the name, from my mother. The bars across the tower windows were placed there by Prof. D. A. DuPre at my suggestion to prevent such accidents, which the position of the windows rendered not unlikely.
25. Reproduced in Charleston Courier, August 20, 1856.
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institution was owned by the city, and the Faculty, in which the students acted on the South Carolina assumption that as gentlemen they were fully on a par with the Faculty and must be so treated, the class were permitted to return; but several, including Dibble, declined to do so. Dibble, being a Methodist, came to Wofford. He took the Junior studies with that class and at the same time completed privately the studies for the Senior class. 26

The praise heaped on Dr. Whitefoord Smith by the correspondent of the Greenville Patriot expresses the opinion generally held of him in his prime. It is hard for those who knew him only in the years of decrepitude of his later life to realize the man that he was in his prime. He did not, like Duncan and Carlisle, ripen into a well rounded and vigorous old age. Born November 7, 1812, he lived to April 27, 1893. He was of distinguished Scotch ancestry. His oratory either in the pulpit or on civic occasions, was a remarkable example of fluent, polished elocution, expressed in the purest English with the most perfect enunciation, and illuminated by great emotional power. Says Rev. A. J. Stokes, "That prince of orators, William C. Preston, said on one occasion, that he would like to exhibit Whitefoord Smith at the international oratorical contest in Paris as a specimen of American oratory. At another time, after lecturing fervidly on eloquence and eloquence before his class, he said, 'Go and hear Whitefoord Smith as an illustration of all I have said.'" Admirers in Charleston, where he repeatedly served as pastor, in order to keep him permanently, offered to build him his own independent church, but his loyalty to Methodism would not permit him to accept such an offer. Failing health limited his activities, rendering it advisable, for instance, for him to continue accepting membership in the General Conference, so that he had been retired to the position of a supernumerary for several years when elected as a professor in Wofford College. After serving for a few months as the first President of the Columbia Female College in 1859-60, on account of insufficient strength for executive duties, he resigned in February, 1860, and was in April, 1860, re-elected to Wofford, where he continued to teach, barring a period during the Civil War, until 1885, when he became Professor Emeritus until his death in 1893. 27

Dr. Smith was supreme in reading hymns or masterpieces of literature. A prominent clergyman once remarked that he never realized the meaning of a certain hymn until he heard Dr. Smith read it. He would at times re-


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peat passages from the great poets at length to an admiring group of students, either in classroom or on the campus. The style of his preaching did not appeal to his Scotch-Irish colleague, David Duncan. After one of Dr. Smith's sermons in the chapel (a regular Sunday afternoon function in the early days), a student said to Professor Duncan, "That was a wonderful sermon!" The old Scotch-Irishman stopped long enough to say, "Vox! Vox et praetera non Nihil!" It is said that Professor Duncan's ideal of a preacher was illustrated by a humble country minister of the time.

Dr. Smith was very nervous and completely lacking in humor. His fear of thunder and lightning was excessive. A mischievous student would sometimes say, Professor, it looks like it is going to storm. Dr. Smith, seeing some clouds in the sky, would dismiss his class and hurry home, where he would in a thunder storm collect his family in a room with solid blinds closed and lamp lit to obscure the lightning flashes, and as the Almighty beneficently watered the earth, would desperately pray for safety, while he was in less danger than he incurred every time he drank water from his well. An old pupil, after describing Dr. Smith's wonderful charm as a teacher of English literature, tells of his conduct on discovering in a student's book the following lines:

Who was Holm?
A critic bold and rare,
A judge with a wig.
Who could dance a jig.
Drain a marsh, carve a pig.
And frame a law with care.

The skit was aimed at Henry Holm, Lord Kames, whose Elements of Criticism Dr. Smith used as a textbook. "The Doctor resented this as a personal reflection, and the hour was spent in the vindication of his favorites, Lord Kames and Mr. Blair." 28

The curriculum, heavily loaded with classics and mathematics, was the diet at that time ordinarily furnished by first-class colleges. Admission was by examination, and not by certificate from preparatory schools. Among the requirements for admission were Algebra through quadratics, four books of Caesar, six books of the Aeneid, Sallust, Cicero's Orations, six books of Xenophont's Anaebas. Such paubulum is almost the complete bill of fare through the Junior year; but Chemistry was prescribed for Juniors. The only references to English are Rhetoric in the second half of the Sophomore year and the requirement of composition and declamation throughout

the course, “and the Senior class deliver original speeches.” The Senior year broadens out into something more modern, including Natural and Moral Philosophy, Evidences of Christianity, Political Economy, Mineralogy, Geology, and a second year of Chemistry. From January through December, 1855, the presence of a bright young converted Jew, Herman Baer, made it possible to offer as electives French, German, and Hebrew, extras which the Trustees soon discarded. Without entering upon the controversy regarding the value of the classics, we may remark that the students of that day at least had the opportunity to acquire a sufficient skill in them to make the reading of them a pleasure on account of their content, instead of being, as under reduced requirements, too often a mere persecution while meeting the supposedly decent minimum of acquaintance with cultural studies.

The catalogue of 1858 contains the rule that it is considered an impropriety for students to attend any quasi theatrical or other amusements which take their money on the plea of furnishing amusement, or any lectures, whatever their professed object, without the sanction of the Faculty. It was declared an impropriety for any student during term time to attend any dancing school without written permission of parent or guardian previously communicated to the Faculty. Prayers must be attended both morning and evening, and church on Sunday. Professors found it prudent to carry a pocket Testament, as miscreants, not approving of the injunction to pray without ceasing, sometimes hid the chapel Bible. Keeping a book out of time, or taking out too many books at a time, incurred a fine of one dollar—quite a penalty, considering the then value of the dollar. In sum, concluded the rules, students are expected at all times “to display that delicate regard for the rights and feelings of others, which is the sure test and unfailing characteristics of the GENTLEMAN.”

Expenses were low: tuition and contingent fees respectively $25 and $2 for the half year. The Trustees rejected the dormitory and mess hall plan, this, like the locating of the college in the town instead of the country, being on the advice of Stephen Olin, on the theory that the influence of life in families would be better, in addition to saving the college large expense for buildings. Board was from $10 to $12 a month. The Trustees resolved, July 10, 1860, that if the students cannot get board at $12 a month, they will consider opening a college mess hall. The Faculty reported to the Trustees, December 14, 1860, that a number of students have been diverted to other institutions, and others have been compelled to remain at home, by a rumor that board would be advanced to $15 a month. The Faculty succeeded, at the cost of considerable hostile feeling on the part of leading boarding-house keepers, in having board remain at the old figure. Soon students were allowed to occupy some of the unused “recitation rooms” at a merely nominal rental. Four boys occupying one of these long apartments would sometimes divide it by a chalk line, across which no trespassing was allowed.31

The first catalogue, i.e., for the year 1855-56, defines the first term as extending from the fourth Wednesday in August through the second Wednesday in December, and the second term from the second Wednesday in January through the fourth Wednesday in June—dates, however, which were soon changed. Beginning with 1856 the college opened October 1, and commencement was carried far up into July; but climate soon forced it back into mid-June. The Trustees soon abolished the month of holiday between the two terms and sought to have only three days’ intermission at Christmas; but student protest ended this proposal before it went into effect. The catalogue of 1870-71 announces a holiday of two weeks at Christmas, a practice which may have originated earlier, as we have no catalogue between 1851 and 1871, though for some of those years we have a single sheet circular by way of announcement.

The Conference at this period had a committee of three for each of the four institutions under its charge. The report on the final examinations which they witnessed at Wofford at the commencement of 1856 convinced them of the thoroughness of the teaching. The Freshmen were rigorously examined on the first eight books of Homer, Horace as far as the Epodes, Geometry throughout, and Smith’s History of Greece. There were eighteen applicants for the Freshman class from the preparatory department, of whom, after a rigid examination by the college Faculty, only twelve were admitted.32

Beginning college work in the heat of August was held responsible for the extraordinary amount of bad health during the first and second college years. One student died in the spring of the first year and four others out of the little group of twenty-four were obliged to withdraw on account of impaired health. Two students died in September, 1855, and another soon left on account of feeble health.33

In the springs of 1857 and 1858, and particularly in the fall of 1859, the college experienced remarkable religious revivals. Said the Faculty to the

31. W. H. W. to D. D. W.
33. Trustee Min., Nov. 30, 1855; Nov. 21, 1856.
History of Wofford College

Trustees: "The end we all aim at, is the connection of thorough intellectual training with a pervading religious influence; and we should feel that we have failed in the main, essential point, if with progress in study, we could perceive no growth of Christian principle among the young men entrusted to our oversight. The Faculty are happy to say, that during the term now closing there has been a gracious revival of religion among the students." 34

Of the revival of November, 1859, Dr. Carlisle writes, November 14, 1859:

During this week the college was favored with the most remarkable season of religious interest we have known since its opening. It began without any special effort on the part of the ministers. Service has been held every night in the Methodist church and a noon prayer meeting daily. The students have held prayer meetings frequently among themselves. . . . A great many already members have been quickened and converted and twenty-one admitted to the church. . . . The Female College shared largely in the benefits. 35

The Spartanburg Female College, some of whose buildings still stand in the village of the Spartan Mills, the present owner of the property, was opened by the South Carolina Methodist Conference in August, 1855. 36

Some apprehended danger from having a college for young women so near one for men; but during the entire time that the Female College remained in operation these fears proved groundless. In about 1873 the Female College, having been for several years under private management, was closed on its owner's being made President of the revived Columbia Female College, which the church had opened in 1859, but which had been closed as the result of the war until 1873.

Though the students of Wofford have been of unusually good behavior, still boys are boys, and hence problems were not far in the offing. One of the first concerned the "commencement party" which they requested permission to hold at a local hotel on the evening of commencement day in July, 1856. The Faculty consented on condition that both the committee on arrangements and the hotel proprietor pledge themselves that there should be no intoxicants or dancing. This arrangement continued for many years. 37 Less lovely sides of human nature were also in evidence. In the second year a prep student was dismissed for immorality, and in the third year one prep and one college student for misconduct. In the spring of 1859 a college student was suspended for intoxication and fighting with a knife. May 14, 1860, a committee informed the Faculty that the student body unanimously refused to associate with two students, who thereupon withdrew. The circumstances indicate that it was not the fact that they had been drunk, but the fact that they had shamelessly lied to the Faculty when questioned, that disgusted the students; for the South Carolinians of that day one was pardonable, but not the other. 38 Dr. Carlisle, years later, when President of the college, would sometimes say that he always had hopes for a young man until he would deliberately lock him in the face and lie. That was something which many an errant one acknowledged it was impossible to do.

The college in early years pursued the custom of awarding first and second honors to the best and second best members of the graduating class. Perhaps the following incident in 1858 helped to account for the later President Carlisle's aversion to the custom, and his dislike for medals and all other invidious marks of distinction. In 1858 two Seniors were so dissatisfied with the distribution of honors that they withdrew from college. The Faculty, in view of their both being first grade men, recommended that the Trustees should grant them their diplomas if they should apply; but the tougher governing powers rejected the suggestion. 39

From the first, salaries were fixed at $1,800 for the President and $1,500 for the Professors, but not for many years was income sufficient to make good the promise. 40 The Faculty suggested that an Agent be appointed to raise funds for increasing the endowment, as has been narrated elsewhere. The income of the college for the entire first two years was $10,231.76, being about $2,000 short of enough to pay salaries in full. By July, 1859, back salaries amounted to $6,602, for which notes were given the Professors. The nearest approach to payment of a Professor's salary before 1859-60 seems to have been $1,341.61, in 1858-59; but in 1859-60 the Professors were paid 110.5 per cent.

The eighteen existing alumni proved their loyalty by requesting in July, 1859, permission of the Trustees to organize an Alumni Association. Accordingly, on July 12, 1859, they met in the college chapel, organized, and elected Charles Petty President, M. B. Tarrant Secretary, and the eloquent William M. Martin Orator for the next commencement, and adopted the motto, majestic in sound and beautiful in meaning, Τρόφημοι τῶν τροφῶν

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34. Trustees Min., July 7, 1857; July 13, 1858.
35. Dr. Carlisle's MS, history of college to 1869.
37. Faculty report to Trustees July 7, 1857; Dr. Carlisle as above.
38. Trustees Min., July 15, 1856; July 7, 1857; July 13, 1858; July 11, 1859; July 9, 1860; Dr. Carlisle as above.
39. Ib., July 13, 1858.
40. Ib., Nov. 24, 1853.
The Six Years before the Storm, 1854-60

Doggett of Virginia declined the offer of the chair of English, and for the next year Prof. Duncan and Carlisle being engaged every hour, the English classes were taught by the new President, Dr. Shipp, and Prof. DuPree. Dr. Smith's strength proving unequal to the burden of the presidency, he resigned it in February, 1860. He was asked to return to Wofford, which he did November 20, 1860.44

As the young college faced the future—unknown, and yet known to be of great glory or great calamity—it had behind it six years of, on the whole, encouraging history. Speeches by students on public occasions gave little signs of consciousness of the seething fires of sectional strife soon to burst into eruption. Typical oration subjects from 1854 to 1860 were Consequences of Marathon, Conscience, My Mind to Me a Kingdom Is, Dangers and Duties of Educated Men, Marius Sitting Among the Ruins of Carthage—reflections of the curriculum rather than of contemporary life. Calculated to shock men into keener realization of immediate problems was the opening of railroad connection with Columbia—November 25, 1859—a day of speeches and general holiday.46 Endowment was approximately $69,000, and pledges for more were coming in. The student body had increased every year, rising from 24 to 76. High standards of scholarship had been maintained by a Faculty of unusual ability and culture, who rigorously held themselves to purely college work, though they governed the preparatory department without teaching in it. The Library contained about one thousand volumes, and a good beginning had been made toward a scientific museum through the donation of the Indian and mineral collections of Dr. J. H. Dogan and the purchase for $500 worth of scholarships of the minerals of Dr. Andrews of Charlotte.46 Co-operation between the church, Trustees, and Faculty had been perfect and the attitude of the public was cordial. Methodists had cause to be well pleased with their colleges.

44. Trustee Misc.; Dr. Smith's letter of acceptance in So. Christian Ad., also Mrs. M. A. Graeber in St. Aug. 14, 1897.
45. Dr. Carlisle, as cited above.

42. Dr. Carlisle's MS. history for dates of societies; catalogue 1871-2; Dibble and the badge in Wof, Col. Jour. May, 1890, with no authority stated. Most of the other data are from article by J. Wright Nash in Wof, Jour. June, 1899, evidently based on information from older persons, and article in same issue by W. P. Foshee, presumably from similar sources. Dibble did not come to Wofford until about a year after the Calhoun Society was organized.
43. January 19, 1864, Dr. Wightman donated to the college the note which he had held since his resignation here for $1479.29 back salary, which with interest amounted to $1821, with the proviso that $50 of it go toward a monument for Wofford men who died in the war—Treasured's papers, Wofford College.