

**An address delivered before the Association of the Alumni of Yale College,
in New Haven, August 17, 1842 / By Professor Silliman.**

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SILLIMAN, Benjamin.

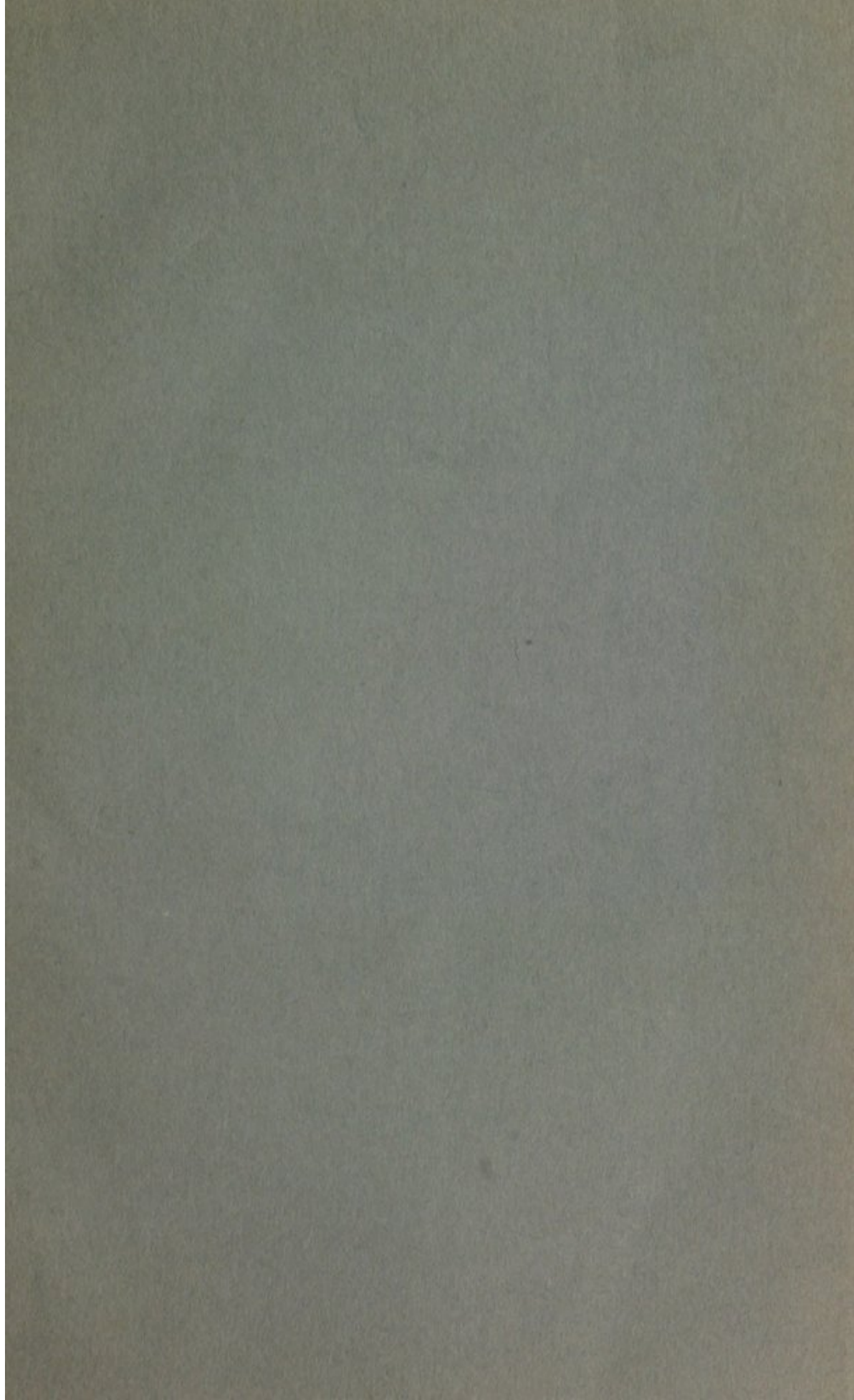
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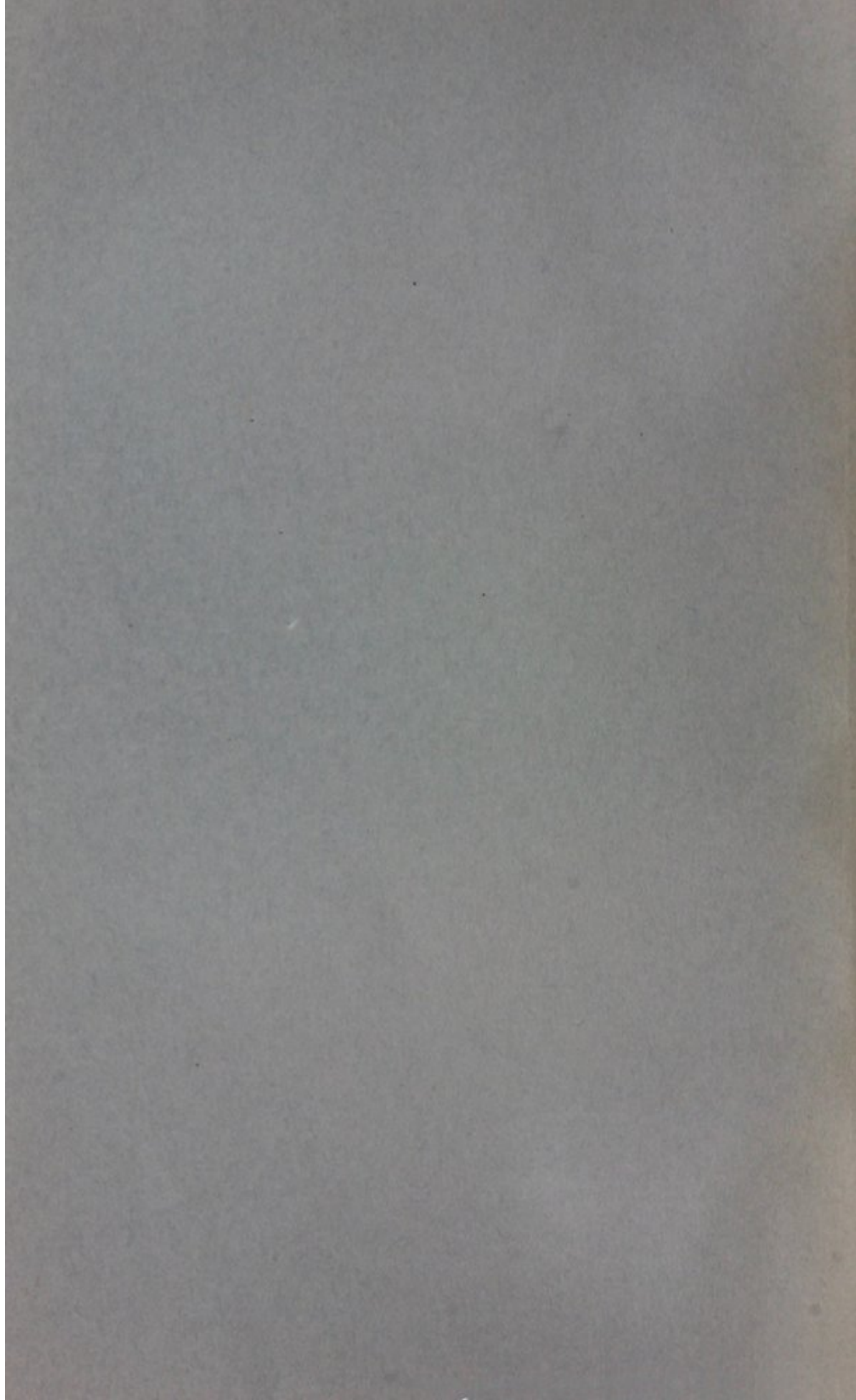
New Haven, 1842.

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AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED

BEFORE THE ASSOCIATION

OF THE

ALUMNI OF YALE COLLEGE,

IN

New Haven, August 17, 1842.

BY

PROFESSOR SILLIMAN.

NEW HAVEN:
PRINTED BY B. L. HAMLEN.

1842.



TO PROFESSOR SILLIMAN.

Sir—The undersigned were appointed by the Association of the Alumni to present their thanks for the address delivered by you this day, at their request, and to ask a copy for the press. With great pleasure we comply with their request.

Respectfully, yours, &c.

DAVID DAGGETT,

ROGER M. SHERMAN.

New Haven, August 17, 1842.

*To the Hon. DAVID DAGGETT and the Hon. ROGER MINOT SHERMAN,
a Committee of the Association of the Alumni of Yale College.*

Gentlemen—In complying with the request contained in your note, which I have the honor to acknowledge, I am influenced by a wish to promote, in however humble a manner, the design of the Association which you represent, regretting, at the same time, that this step is rendered, to a degree necessary, by the absence of the communication which we had hoped for. I remain, gentlemen, with the highest respect, your friend and servant,

B. SILLIMAN.

Yale College, August 20, 1842.

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
IN SENATE CHAMBERS
WASHINGTON, D. C.
DEAR SENATORS AND MEMBERS:

Respectfully,
Yours truly,

Wm. H. Taft
President

Washington, D. C., July 1, 1909.

I am very glad to hear that the House of Representatives
has passed the bill for the establishment of the National
Archives.

The bill is a very important one, and it is
very gratifying to me to hear that it has been
passed. I am sure that the House of Representatives
will pass the bill in the near future. I am
very glad to hear that the House of Representatives
has passed the bill for the establishment of the
National Archives.

Very truly,
Yours,

Wm. H. Taft

Washington, D. C., July 1, 1909.

ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the Alumni of Yale College,

IT would have been far more grateful to me to have listened, on this occasion, to the remarks of some one among the eminent men who do honor to our Institution; but, in failure of the proposed arrangement for effecting that object, I have, at a late day, reluctantly consented to become *a speaker*, instead of *a hearer*.

At the College commencement of 1841, an association was formed which was intended to combine, in one band, all the living alumni of our honored Institution.* No conditions are annexed; there is no pecuniary stipulation, no enquiry as to opinion, no demand for definite action.

We come together because we are brethren, the literary children of a common parent, and we desire no other bond than our filial and fraternal love; we have no other object than to promote the welfare of our Alma Mater, with that of our common country, while we meet annually, (as long as God shall grant us life,) and with open hands and cordial hearts, reciprocate our mutual gratulations.

Brethren, of earlier and of later years; youthful alumni, fresh in zeal and warm with hope; men of life's meridian, marching firmly onward beneath the heat and burden of the day; veterans, still vigorous in age and wearing blanchèd locks with honor; fathers of three-

* The former society of the alumni of Yale College prescribed various conditions of membership, and was relinquished in favor of the present association.

score years and ten, and revered octogenarians, (alas, how few!) we salute you all—and from our inmost hearts, we greet you with a classical *salvete!* while, in Saxon phrase and in Christian truth, we also pray, God bless you!

Men of Yale! at this first meeting, under our enlarged and truly catholic organization, how shall we best employ a portion of this fleeting morning, and what impulse will be most happy? The occasion is one of sentiment as well as of intellect; our better feelings rally, spontaneously, in the retrospect of gone-by years, and we will therefore indulge them now, leaving it to our successors to expatiate upon the more tranquil themes of learning, while we yield to a cordial and lively sympathy, whose natural effect will be harmonious action.

In relation to Yale College, let us look then, *at what we have been—at what we are—and at what we hope to be.*

A few anniversaries more will round off one hundred and fifty years, (a solemn cycle of a century and a half,) since our venerated fathers instituted the humble collegiate school, whose foundations were laid, when the people were few, poor, and feeble—and in an age when frequent wars wasted our borders, thinning the numbers and exhausting the resources of a sparse population.

How then can we sufficiently appreciate the firmness, the magnanimity and the disinterestedness, which could prompt men to think of founding a college, when life itself was so often in jeopardy, from the hostile aggression of savage and civilized foes, and when every effort was demanded to sustain a precarious physical existence. Speak we of magnanimity and disinterestedness—these high moral qualities were still more strongly exhibited by our fathers, when, many years before, even in the middle of the seventeenth century, they relin-

quished and postponed for almost two generations, the favorite project, already entertained and matured, of founding a college in the colony of New Haven, because it might interfere with the then infant institution of Massachusetts. Nay more—they appropriated to the college of the sister colony, a portion of the income of their farms, sending on annually their contributions, *in kind*, to aid in sustaining the common cause of liberal education.

Founding of Yale College.—In the course of fifty years however, when population had increased, and it appeared that there was room in New England for another college, the original design was resumed; benefactors were raised up, especially among the clergy, who, as well as others, gave liberally, in proportion to their means; a distinguished individual in England, a native of New Haven, bestowed a large donation, for that day, and the infant College assumed the name which we all delight to honor.

Location fixed.—Our early annals record the startling fact, that, for half a generation of human life, our College was without a fixed local habitation. Some humble stones are still pointed out in Saybrook, on the seat of its temporary abode, and it took up more than one intermediate migration, from town to town, before it was determined, in 1716, after much heat and controversy, to establish the College in New Haven. In October, 1716, the students and their instructors assembled here, and the first commencement was celebrated in this city on the 12th of September, 1718. The first charter was granted by the legislature in 1701, and a new charter in 1745, which, with some important modifications, was fully confirmed in the new constitution of the State in 1817. The corporation consisted of the president and ten clergymen until 1792, when a considerable pecuniary

grant was made to the College by the legislature, upon the condition, that the governor, lieutenant governor, and the six senior members of the council or state senate, should be, ever after, *ex-officio* members of the College corporation—the clerical part of which board retaining the right of filling its own vacancies.

Union of civil and ecclesiastical power.—The proposition being promptly accepted, the College senate, now composed of distinguished civilians as well as eminent clergymen, was no longer regarded as an *exclusive* body, and soon secured the public favor, in a much greater degree than before. This organization has now continued for fifty years, and has been attended with happy results.

With the final establishment of the College in New Haven, its success was secured, and about forty students were enrolled in its classes in 1718.

Retrospect.—During the greater part of the first century of the existence of the College, the colonies, as dependencies of England, were engaged in numerous wars on her account, and their frontiers, then far within the limits of regions now filled with towns and with a dense population, were ravaged by frequent incursions of the French and Indians; and hardly were these murderous conflicts ended, before the parent country became the scourge instead of the protector of the infant colonies.

Still, Yale College advanced with a variable but encouraging progress, and the following synopsis of the relative numbers of its graduates in different periods will confirm this statement.*

* The statistics of this address are founded upon the triennial catalogue of 1841, corrected by such notices of the demise of individuals as have come to the writer's knowledge; doubtless death has made other inroads unknown to him, especially among the ancient graduates.

Persons in each class.	Classes with that number of persons.	Years of graduation.	Persons in each class.	Classes with that number of persons.	Years of graduation.
1	1	1703	40	2	1757, 78
2	2	1710, 13	41	1	1805
3	7	1704, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 16	42	2	1763, 83
4	1	1719	43	2	1758, 1809
5	2	1707, 17	44	1	1762
6	2	1702, 5	47	1	1765
8	1	1722	49	2	1759, 1811
9	3	1709, 14, 25	50	2	1808, 12
10	1	1739	51	1	1786
11	3	1720, 27, 23	52	1	1784
12	2	1729, 46	53	1	1832
13	2	1718, 31	54	1	1810
14	2	1734, 52	56	2	1777, 1802
15	2	1738, 44	57	1	1820
16	2	1733, 54	58	1	1787, 1803
17	3	1729, 42, 53	61	2	1816, 17
18	2	1724, 30	63	1	1807
19	2	1736, 70, 71	65	1	1834
20	1	1741	66	1	1804
21	1	1798	67	1	1818
22	2	1751, 94	68	1	1824
23	5	1736, 32, 49, 55, 72	69	2	1821, 30
24	5	1735, 37, 43, 67, 90	70	5	1785, 1806, 13, 15, 25
26	3	1769, 82, 99	72	1	1823
27	4	1746, 80, 81, 91	75	2	1835, 41
28	1	1764	76	1	1822
29	2	1761, 68	77	1	1829
30	2	1774, 89	80	1	1827
33	5	1756, 60, 76, 95, 96	81	2	1831, 36
34	2	1779, 92	82	2	1814, 28
35	3	1769, 75, 88	87	1	1833
36	2	1748, 78	93	1	1839
37	3	1766, 93, 97	98	2	1837, 40
38	1	1801	100	1	1826
39	1	1819	105	1	1842

BY DECADES.

				Persons.
1st decade,	1702	to	1712,	average graduation, 4.1
2d "	1712	"	1722,	" " 6.7
3d "	1722	"	1732,	" " 15.1
4th "	1732	"	1742,	" " 18.6
5th "	1742	"	1752,	" " 21.1
6th "	1752	"	1762,	" " 28.3

					Persons.
7th decade,	1762	to	1772,	average graduation,	17.7
8th "	1772	"	1782,	" "	36.1
9th "	1782	"	1792,	" "	31.5
10th "	1792	"	1802,	" "	25.
11th "	1802	"	1812,	" "	54.
12th "	1812	"	1822,	" "	50.
13th "	1822	"	1832,	" "	87.5
14th "	1832	"	1842,	" "	81.4
Average of the two last decades, (20 years,) . . .					84.50
Average of the four last decades, (40 years,) . . .					68.2
Average by the entire College catalogue, per annum,					37 $\frac{1}{4}$

The class of 1826 is the only one before the present year that has graduated 100. The class that will be graduated to-morrow numbers 105, the largest ever graduated in Yale College. The classes of 1837 and 1840, were each in number 98. The average of those two years and of 1826 and the present year, is 100.25—the four largest classes that have been graduated here. The class of 1839 was in number 93. The five classes now named, are all that have exceeded 90, and their average is nearly 99.

The first 26 classes of graduates averaged 7; the 13 classes under Rector Williams, from 1727 onwards, 16; the 27 classes of President Clap, 28; the 11 classes of Dr. Daggett, 30; the 17 classes of Dr. Stiles, 38; the 22 classes of Dr. Dwight, 50; the 25 classes of President Day, 72. The average by the presidencies through 140 years, is as the numbers, 7, 16, 28, 30, 50, and 72. The actual undergraduate classes have advanced from 1 to 135; and the graduates from 1 to 105.

Statistics of the dead and the living.—The oldest graduate of the College is found in the class of 1769, in which there is only one survivor—Mr. William Plumbe, of Middletown, Conn. This class was graduated 74 years ago. President Dwight was a member of it, as was the late Rev. Dr. Nathan Strong of Hartford; also the late Rev.

Dr. David Ely of Huntington, and the venerable Dr. Samuel Darling of this city, recently deceased at the age of 91 years.

In the classes of 1770, '71, '72, and '73, there is one survivor in each.

In the classes of 1775 and '76, there are, in each of them, two survivors.

From the foundation of the College in 1700 to 1768 inclusive, 69 years, there were 1190 graduates, of whom not one survives.

From 1769 to 1800 inclusive, 32 years, there were 1190 graduates; the same number in less than half the time. Of these, 356, or nearly one third, are living; a large proportion, considering that the youngest class of them was graduated 42 years ago, and the eldest 73 years since; 834 are dead, out of 1190 graduates of this period.

From 1801 to 1842 inclusive, being 42 years, the number of graduates is 2837, of whom five sixths survive, being 2359; the dead are one sixth, in number 478.

The graduates of the first 100 years are 2350, of whom only 356 survive. The dead of that century are 2024.

The entire number of alumni (1842 included) is 5200, of whom 2716, considerably more than half, survive—an astonishing result for 143 years. It is explained, in part, by the smallness of the early and the largeness of the later classes; but after making every allowance, it would appear that literary and professional pursuits are favorable to longevity; doubtless owing in part to sober and regular habits of life, and to occupations, generally, adapted to cherish pure and benevolent moral feelings.

It must not be forgotten, that the number of persons who have received degrees is far short of all who have been members, during the transit of the respective classes through their college life. Instances have occurred when

the latter number has been, nearly or quite, double of the former. If we assume, therefore, that one fourth part of all who have entered the classes from the beginning, fall off during the four years, we shall probably not exceed the truth. Then, instead of 5200, the number of graduates to this present commencement, we should reckon 7000 persons who have passed the examinations and become regular members, and the average annual admissions will have been little short of fifty.

In the classes of the later years, the number of premature exits has been far greater than the average assumed above, while in the earlier years it was much less. Some drop off from ill health ; some from change of circumstances and destination ; some to remove to other institutions ; and not a few from the operation of the rules of discipline, which show no favor to the indolent, negligent, apathetic or vicious youth. All possible favor is however granted to those worthy young men, whose physical power falls short of sustaining their honest zeal ; but even they, too frequently, find it necessary to retire from a conflict to which their health is unequal.

From all these causes it happens, as in the armies of Napoleon, pushing forward in the forced marches of an arduous campaign, that many are enrolled who do not reach their destination ; the irresolute, the cowardly, the feeble, and the infirm, drop off by the way, while only the hardy and the brave live it through ; the phalanx, thinned in numbers but tempered by hardship and toil, arrives on the field of conflict, with men of iron bodies and indomitable minds, and the shout of victory follows hard upon the cry of battle.

From a fair review of the numbers from which our conclusions have been drawn, it follows, that our venerable institution has advanced as rapidly, as its most sanguine founders could have anticipated.

Division by generations.—The period of its existence covers nearly five generations of men, estimating a generation at the usual rate of thirty years. Of these five generations, the three first, covering ninety years, from 1700 to 1790, present little else than the struggles of an infant people for existence. From 1700, when the College was founded, to the peace of 1763, a period of two generations, the people of New England were obliged to contend not only with the dangers of the wilderness and the distresses of poverty, but to encounter the horrors of savage war, sustained by the colossal power of France. After the termination of the Gallo-American empire, there was but a short breathing spell before the American revolution, when the cruel invasion of England wasted our sea-coast by her navies, and desolated the land by her armies, until the peace of 1783.

The third generation, from the founding of the College, closed with mourning, for the prime of its youth slain in the high places of the field, or cut off by a lingering death in military prisons and prison-ships; the country was exhausted of its wealth, commerce was destroyed, business entirely deranged, individuals were poor, and the states were without an efficient general government. It is believed that when Yale College was founded, the whole population of the colony of Connecticut did not exceed the number at present found in this city;* and that at the close of the Revolution, the entire population of the United States did not surpass that now existing in the single state of New York.

Honor, then, to our noble ancestors!—who founded schools, colleges, and churches, while they were fighting for life; and who, in their deep poverty and severe trials, contributed liberally to sustain those excellent institutions

* Fourteen to fifteen thousand.

under which we have the happiness to live. An intelligent foreigner, who, after exploring many other countries as well as this, has just left our shores, has said, that New England is the happiest country on earth. We owe this high distinction (under God) to the sublime spirit and noble virtues of our pilgrim fathers, which still live, as we trust, in the bosoms of their sons.

Present state.—We have not intended, in the preceding remarks, to attempt any thing like a full history of Yale College. This would be incompatible with our limits of time on the present occasion, and quite superfluous, as this information is contained in histories already published, especially in a very accurate, condensed sketch, by one of the living professors of the College;* the facts stated in that work, having been diligently compared with the original records of the institution. Our object has been merely to recall, in a vivid manner, the origin and early history of Yale College, that we may contrast it with the condition of the institution, as it exists in our day, and with that still more improved state, to which we trust that it will arrive, in periods still to come.

It has been already observed, that the graduating classes fall considerably short of the actual numbers of those classes in their progress through the institution. The progression proceeds by unequal steps; in some seasons, from causes unknown, there is an expansion, and in others a contraction. In various cases, however, the cause is obvious; thus, it is remarked that the increase of students some time before and after the year 1760, was a consequence of the French war, some having entered College to avoid military impressment. The same thing occurred during the war of the Revolution. But the cause of liberty did not suffer on this account, for many

* Prof. Kingsley, in the *American Quarterly Register* for 1835.

brave and able officers and surgeons, and chaplains also, were formed from the recent graduates of the College, and from among those who left their studies to volunteer in the service of their country.*

The trying times that are now passing over us, have crippled the means of parents, and reduced the numbers in most of our institutions of learning;† nor can it be doubted, that an increased reduction must be expected, unless means should be found to reinvigorate the industry of the people, and to supply them with an available and equal currency.

We will now advert, more particularly than we have done, to the last fifty years of the existence of Yale College. It will be remembered, that we divided the whole period of one hundred and forty three years into five divisions, corresponding, very nearly, with five generations of men.

Of the three first of these, reaching from 1700 to 1790 inclusive, we have already spoken. It so happens, (in the providence of God,) that three witnesses survive, in the government and instruction of the College, whose personal observation and experience cover the whole of the remaining period from 1790, '91, and '92, up to the present hour. More than half a century has elapsed, since two of them became members of the College classes, and more than forty years since they all became members of the College faculty. No other instance of the kind

* Among them we may name Col. Humphreys, Col. Talmadge, Gen. Ebenezer Huntington, Dr. Dwight, and Joel Barlow; and there were many others.

† It should be observed, that in Yale College the Freshman class is generally larger than the same class is when it is graduated; it is much preferred that the pupils should go thoroughly through the whole course of instruction of the four years, instead of presenting a large accumulation in the later periods, and especially at the time of graduation.

exists in this country; and it is owing to the fact that their course of duty as instructors and governors began in early youth, that they have the happiness, even now, to behold around them in this assembly of the alumni, some of their own honored instructors of a still earlier day, few indeed in number—

“Rari nantes, in gurgite vasto”—

venerable relics of an age that is past. As witnesses, then, we may be allowed to speak while we sketch some outlines of College reminiscences, seen through the deepening twilight of the evening of the late century, and the brightening dawn of the present.

Reminiscences.—Let it however be understood, that in these brief sketches, the speaker alone is responsible for the statements he makes, which are merely his own embodied recollections.

Yale College was established in New Haven in 1717–18, and its first edifice was finished in the latter year. For the sake of connecting the past with the present, we may state, that this building was of wood, one hundred and seventy feet long, twenty two feet wide, and three stories high, with dormer windows. Besides a chapel and dining hall,* library, and kitchen, it contained rooms for the tutors and the students, which are stated by a venerable gentleman still among us, to have been exceedingly pleasant, as they extended through the breadth of the building. This gentleman, whose class was graduated in 1781, sixty one years ago, occupied a chamber in the building, which, after repeated aggressions by wanton violence, was finally taken down in 1782.† Its position was in front of the present South College, near to Col-

* The chapel and dining hall were in one room.

† Being only sixty four years old.

lege street, and its well was, not many years since, easily identified by remaining stones, near the south gate upon Chapel street. Although every vestige of the building has long since vanished, we have recently, through the kindness of a friend in Boston,* obtained a correct drawing of the original college; the edifice to which the trustees, in the morning of the 12th of September, 1718, with much solemnity, gave the name of Yale College.

The president's house was the only other building of this era. It was erected for Dr. Cutler in 1716—finished in 1722, and remained until 1834, one hundred and eighteen years. It had been honored as the residence of all the presidents from Dr. Cutler in 1719, to Dr. Dwight in 1799, a period of eighty years, but was sold, and unfortunately with it a very valuable tract of land, to provide means for erecting the now existing president's house, which has been inhabited by Dr. Dwight and by his successor. The site of the old house was on College street on the west side, a little south of the corner of Chapel street, opposite to the present residence of Prof. Fitch. When taken down, its massy timbers were so sound that it might well have stood another century, and we can only regret that it had not been preserved as a venerable relic of the olden time.

The ancient president's house, after it passed from the possession of the corporation, remained thirty five years; but it had ceased to be the temple of the muses, and had become so degraded, that those who remembered the *glories* of this first house, were glad at last to witness *its obsequies*.

Reverence.—But what Yalensian, who was on this ground not later than the era of President Stiles,† has

* Isaac P. Davis, Esq.

† Who died in May, 1795.

forgotten the deep veneration, nay, the solemn awe, with which he passed beneath the arching portal of the wide court-yard of the president's house, and, with uncovered head, no matter whether in rain or snow, in winter's cold or in hot sunbeams, doffed his beaver, and approached the vestibule, as he would that of Solomon's temple, or of the mosque of Omar. In the same manner, whether in doors or out, we always approached the presidential presence *uncovered*, and with a distant and guarded reverence, increased, no doubt, by the peculiar costume of the day,* and still more by an assumed austerity of manner, (then thought to be necessary to insure respect,) which ill accorded, however, with the peculiarly kind and cordial feelings of one of the mildest and best of men, for such was President Stiles. If our young friends should exclaim, this was excessive veneration! We grant it, but it was an error on the right side; for now, our youth have swung to the opposite extreme. It is much, indeed, if they† are uncovered even in private parlors, or if vulgar manners and indolent and irreverent postures and employments are always excluded from the temple of Jehovah, for

“Men rush in where angels fear to tread.”

Buildings, 1792.—Those who entered the grounds of Yale College in the later years of President Stiles, saw, upon the proper College premises, only three buildings—the Connecticut Hall, being the present old South Middle College; the Chapel, now called the Athenæum; and the Dining Hall and Refectory, now the Laboratory.

Thus, there was then only one building containing apartments for the residence of the students. It was

* As preserved in the portrait of President Stiles in the Trumbull Gallery.

† As well as older and graver persons.

called Connecticut Hall, because the Legislature had granted considerable funds towards the expense of building it; a part of the funds being the avails of a lottery, and a part also arising from the sale of a French prize taken by a public ship. It was finished in 1752, and had dormer windows in the roof, which were removed in 1797, and the walls were carried up as we see them now, so as to make four complete stories. Over the Chapel, erected in 1761, was a room for the library; and through this we passed to a museum, containing a small miscellaneous collection, in which there was no attempt at scientific arrangement.

The dining hall, with a kitchen in the same building, was erected in 1782, and both were included within the area of the present chemical lecture room. Another kitchen was afterwards added to the same building; but there were no commons when President Dwight came into office. He caused them to be set up anew, (as they had been discontinued under Dr. Stiles four years before,) and after being maintained for about forty five years, they have been, during the late year, again relinquished, in favor of private boarding houses and voluntary clubs, which appear to be both more economical* and comfortable, and to cherish a better state of feeling and better manners among the students. These three buildings were all that appeared upon the College ground in 1792. A close fence of paneled boards, painted red and relieved by cross strips of white, enclosed the nar-

* The average price of board of every name was, during the last term, \$2 05 per week; the average of the boarding houses, was \$2 66; the highest boarding house \$3 50, the lowest \$2 25. The average of the clubs was \$1 66; the highest \$1 75, the lowest \$1 48. About one half of the students board in clubs, which are remarkable for good order, decorum, and comfort.

row premises, which occupied no more of the present front than to the north end of the old College.

The remainder, and far the greater part of that now extended line, was filled with a grotesque group, generally of most undesirable establishments, among which were a barn, a barber's shop, several coarse taverns or boarding houses, a poor-house and house of correction, and the public jail with its prison yard; the jail being used alike for criminals, for maniacs and debtors. Being very near to the College, the moans of innocent prisoners, the curses of felons, and the shrill screams and wild laughter of the insane, were sometimes mingled with the sacred songs of praise and with the voice of prayer, rising from the academic edifices. Now, thirteen College buildings occupy the area where there were then only three, and the motley group that has been described, along with other annoying establishments in the rear, has been so long swept away, that the present generation are not aware that they ever existed. Some of them may still be found in the city, improved in appearance by their graduation and by their travels. The alms-house, then called the poor-house, is now a comfortable private dwelling near the north end of College street; the jail-house may be found near the corner of High and Crown streets, and is inhabited by one of our most ancient citizens; the Ward boarding house, formerly in front of the Lyceum, now figures as the vestibule of the late Columbian Garden in Olive street; while the venerable Greenough house, anciently on the ground in front of the Divinity College, was, a few years since, taken down to make room for that institution.

The president's house, at present in the College yard, was doubtless placed where it is, from a belief that the line of College buildings would not overtake it in its lifetime; but it is now so effectually beleaguered, that it must, ere

long, surrender at discretion, and like some of its predecessors, migrate to some new position, while we hope that means may be provided for a more appropriate presidential residence.

It may be worth mentioning, that in rear of the present State House and in front of the present Chapel, on the public square, stood an ancient and dilapidated court-house, whose well is still preserved, and thus marks its site. The removal of the buildings that disfigured the now beautiful College square, and which might have opposed an insuperable barrier against the extension of the line of academic edifices in a northerly direction, was effected, chiefly, by the energy and good management (with the coöperation of discreet friends) of that most useful and eminent patron of the College, the late Hon. JAMES HILLHOUSE—*clarum et venerabile nomen*.

To the historical sketch already cited, we must refer, for the fuller illustration of his great and worthy deeds in favor of Yale College. He had, in his noble work, able and warm-hearted coadjutors, whom our limits of time will not permit us even to name; but to him, unquestionably, is due the important grant by the legislature in 1792, of the arrearages of uncollected taxes, with the relinquishment in part, in 1796, of the reserved State right to fifty per cent. of the avails; the latter most important modification being secured also, by the eloquence of Dr. Dwight, convincing, exciting, and carrying along the legislature, to the important consummation, that laid the basis of our subsequent prosperity.

Corner Stone of the South College.—One of its early results was the erection of the South College, called Union Hall, to commemorate the happy combination of the civil with the ecclesiastical interest in the corporation of the College. Being then a member of the Freshman class, I saw the breaking up of the frozen ground early in

March, and was in the College procession, which advanced in due order, from the president's house in College street, to commemorate the laying of the corner stone. The cellar was already excavated, and by a slope at the south end, on Chapel street, we descended, on the 15th day of April, 1793, and marched the entire length of the cellar; when the President, Dr. Stiles, mounted the corner stone, upon which an appropriate Latin inscription had been cut, and, with his characteristic fervor, pronounced a brilliant English address.* He then laid upon the stone, as a compliment to the head mason, the late excellent and most skillful Rutherford Trowbridge, a substantial present, not of bank notes of doubtful credit, but a pile of Spanish silver dollars. The stone was next deposited, with due solemnity, *in situ*, and will be found beneath the northeastern angle of the building whenever time shall have razed its foundations, and the zeal of some future antiquary shall explore the mass of ruins.

Our limits of time enjoin silence with respect to the rise and progress of the other buildings; but on this subject, as well as all other details of facts, reference may be had to Professor Kingsley's historical sketch, which is exact and accurate in dates, and in all attendant and connected events. Unfortunately, poverty of means has restricted most of the College edifices to a very humble style of architecture. There they stand—a long and solemn array of plain brick walls, like manufactories; but it is a consolation that they are truly manufactories, not indeed of cotton and wool, but of mind, resulting in an annual product of cultivated intellect and moral power. We cannot say that our buildings are *simplices munditiis*, since *munditiæ* they have none, except such ornaments as the illustrious mother of the Gracchi produced. Our

* Which is preserved among his manuscripts.

cultivated, intellectual and moral sons, whose influence is felt through all our widely extended domain, through the islands of the vast Pacific, and on distant continents, are prouder monuments than the Pantheon of Rome or the Parthenon of Athens. Still, humble as our front line of buildings is, it enjoys the beauty of arranged symmetry and intelligent design; and, occupying the elevated side of the square, with an aspect towards the rising sun, and towards one of the most splendid parks in the world, the effect is fine. The result is not unlike that of arranging men in military order. They may be ordinary men clad in the plainest uniform, even the brown frocks and trowsers of our revolutionary riflemen, and they will, when regularly arrayed in rank and file, make an imposing appearance. Our plain features are also screened from view by the exuberant foliage of grand forest trees, and as in other cases, *our* veil may be *supposed* to be worn, either to heighten beauty or to conceal deformity. Our recent buildings, on the west front, have been constructed with more reference to beauty of architecture, and what is of still greater importance, to solidity and endurance, in which some of our edifices are deficient. It is remarkable that our oldest buildings, the old College, and the old chapel of President Clap, of the age of eighty and ninety years, are still our best; and their walls will stand when some of the others are crumbled into ruins. We believe however, that the new library building, now constructing of stone, a work undertaken from private contributions, will combine firmness, utility, and beauty, in a higher degree than they have been hitherto attained in our edifices.

Means of instruction.—With the progress of the buildings, the means of instruction have, in some good degree, kept pace.

In 1792, the College Faculty consisted of the President and three tutors, with a professor of divinity, who was disabled from duty by infirmity; and at no period during my own College life, did the Faculty consist of more than five effective instructors, only one of whom was a professor. Now, the instructing Faculty of the College proper, includes about twenty individuals, of whom about half are permanent officers. In my time, there were no professional departments, except that the President, as acting professor of divinity, gave instruction in theology. *Now*, there is a fully organized divinity school, with four professors, one of whom is common also to the College, as professor and pastor.

A medical school, in a distinct building, has been many years in operation, with six professors, one of whom is common also to the College. This institution has a distinct library, and an anatomical museum of great value.

A law school, with two professors and an ample library, is nominally attached to the College, although not fully under its control;* but the senior professor gives lectures in the College to the Senior class, on certain general topics, and holds also some recitations. All the instructors, of every name in all the faculties, are about thirty in number, while the students, of every description, range from five hundred to six hundred—a strong contrast to the four or five instructors, and one hundred and thirty to one hundred and forty students of my own time.

Furniture of instruction.—Not less strongly marked is the furniture of instruction, of the present period, compared with the past.

The library in 1792, was less than three thousand volumes, and the literary societies might have had eight

* By a recent ordinance of the Corporation, degrees will in future be conferred on students of the law school.

hundred more, making less than four thousand volumes.

Now, the College library alone contains,	12,000 or more.
Libraries of the Societies, - -	20,000
Medical library, - - - -	1,000
Libraries of the Medical professors,	3,000
Law library, and Divinity library, -	2,000
Private libraries of College professors,	12,000
	<hr/>

Aggregate of available means in books, }	50,000
within reach of all,	

Still, these are only beginnings, and many times the number would not transcend the demands of learning in its various departments. Indeed, the proper College library should contain at least ten times its present amount of books. Many departments, both of literature and science, are more or less deficient, and some are entirely wanting; so that literary and scientific researches are often crippled or prevented, for want of the proper authorities—the records of what has been done by our predecessors.

As to philosophical apparatus, there was in 1792 no more than was contained in a common (student's) room in the old College. An air-pump, a whirling table, a telescope or two, an electrical machine, a quadrant, a theodolite, the mechanical powers, a spouting fountain, and a few miscellaneous articles, were sufficient to excite our wonder and to procure some reputation for the College, especially in pneumatics, mechanics and electricity.

In pneumatics, however, the air-pump would with difficulty kill a mouse, when placed upon its plate under a receiver, so imperfect was its exhaustion; but the electrical machine produced more brilliant results. The splendid discoveries of Dr. Franklin, had given the science of electricity great eclat, and every thing was expected

from it, especially in its applications to medicine. A physician of that day,* equally conspicuous for his love of science and his love of sport, related to me the following incident. Many years before, a distinguished man in the College had conceived the idea, that the subtle essence of medicines might be conveyed into the human system, by means of electricity; and it was natural to suppose, that aromatics, by their volatile odor, would afford the most decisive evidence. The doctor favored the hypothesis, and having prepared a vial of cinnamon, through which, by means of an interrupted wire, it was proposed to pass an electrical discharge, it was agreed that the author of so brilliant a suggestion was justly entitled to the honor of crowning his own discovery, by actual personal experience. Accordingly, the apparatus being duly arranged on the table, and the battery adequately charged, the sanguine projector, kneeling upon the floor, applied the organ of the olfactory nerves to the point of the electrical conductor. It is hardly necessary to add, that the miniature lightning rod instantly prostrated both the hopes and the person of the respectable gentleman, who hastily gathering up both himself and the fallen honors of his head, precipitately retired, heedless of the question gravely and urgently pressed by the doctor, whether he perceived the electrified odor of the cinnamon; nor was the startling experiment renewed within the College walls.

Chemistry was then hardly known in the institution, even by name, except that the late Prof. Meigs, of the department of natural philosophy, read a few chemical lectures in the College chapel, but without any experiments.

The late President Fitch of Williams College, (formerly a tutor in Yale,) had indeed brought out from England

* The late Dr. Eneas Monson, who died June 16, 1826, aged 92 years.

a few gas bottles and tubes, but they remained clean, and apparently unused, until that department was organized, in form, early in the succeeding century.

It has been already remarked, that there were a few articles of natural history in the miscellaneous museum, but they had little or no reference to science.

The few minerals were generally without labels, and those that were thought of sufficient importance to be named, were easily packed in the autumn of 1802 in a small portable box, and carried in the stage to Philadelphia, there to be classified, by an eminent mineralogist, then recently returned from the celebrated school of WERNER, in Germany. Exercising the same function as his honored namesake of old, Dr. *Adam* Seybert *there* imposed appellations upon these *then* unknown objects of the creation.

In the sciences it is hardly necessary to draw a contrast between the past and the present in Yale College. Since the beginning of the present century, several important departments of natural science have been created and endowed in the institution; but any feelings of exultation that might arise, are instantly checked by a consciousness that much more needs to be done to carry these departments into full effect, and to sustain them in the rapid advances now making in the sciences to which they appertain.

Fine Arts.—In the fine arts we had, in 1792, nothing to exhibit, beyond a few portraits of some of our ancient worthies. Now, the splendid Trumbull Gallery, with the *chef d'œuvres* of our great historical painter, (in this country the father of his art,) a collection unrivalled, and elsewhere unattainable, forms a bright gem in our coronet—a gem reflecting a more splendid and beautiful light, since it is inscribed with the names of charity and love.* In

* The proceeds of the exhibition of the Trumbull Gallery, are devoted by the venerable artist to the support of poor students in the College, without reference to their destination in life.

the same building, but in a distinct apartment, a miscellaneous collection of pictures, prints, and statuary, medals and antiquities, with works of art, has already become rich and attractive; and the day is not distant when another edifice, or an extension of the Trumbull Gallery, will be demanded, for the productions of the useful and fine arts; especially as our own artists, either natives or citizens of New Haven,* are already eminent, particularly in the sister arts of sculpture, painting, and engraving.

Classics.—In classical literature the means of accurate instruction have been greatly extended, along with a parallel extension in the sciences. Where there were, in 1792, only three tutors, there are now usually six or eight, whose instructions are divided between literature and the sciences, as preparatory or auxiliary to those of the professors. The Latin, the Greek, and the Hebrew languages and literature, have each a distinct professor; the latter being attached to the theological department, although accessible to all. In the same department, there will soon be a professor of Arabic and Sanscrit, a gentleman at present in Europe being already appointed, and now engaged in those studies.† The rhetorical department is furnished with a professor, and an assistant also in the hard work of drilling.

The modern languages are taught by distinct instructors; provision is made also for instruction in perspective and drawing, and we hope that engineering will not be long forgotten. In 1847, a professorship of moral philosophy and metaphysics, and in 1848 and 1849, two scholarships will be established on the Clark foundation.‡

* N. Jocelyn and the Flaggs in painting; S. S. Jocelyn, Daggett and Hinman in engraving; Augur and Ives in statuary.

† Prof. Edward E. Salisbury, now at Bonn, in Germany, and a student in that country for the second time.

‡ See the biographical notice of Mr. Clark in the American Journal of Science, Vol. xli, p. 217.

New Haven.—In presenting our summary of contrasts, we must not forget the changes in our rural city. Its population in 1792 did not exceed four or five thousand; now, it is from fourteen to fifteen thousand. Then, a single public hackney-coach, and a few horses and gigs, were the extent of our riding accommodations. A tardy stage-coach consumed a day between this town and Hartford, and similar stages or sailing packets often required two or three days to New York; now, elegant public coaches in great numbers, and saddle horses, barouche wagons, and gigs, almost without number, flit through our city with ceaseless activity. On the wings of steam, we fly in *two hours* to Hartford, in *five hours* to New York, and in *two weeks* to London and Paris. Then, our cemetery was on the central square, and almost unprotected. It had received the remains of many thousands of our predecessors, and the new graves constantly invaded the repose of the old; now, it is in retirement on our confines—the ancient monuments are congregated there—family lots afford sanctity and seclusion—and a high and massy wall of hewn stone, soon to be closed on the front by a strong and beautiful iron railing,* already in part erected, secures the sanctity of the dead. In effecting these improvements, the combined efforts of Christians of every name, have happily concentrated the affections of our citizens upon a spot where none shall part, though many meet. Beautiful trees and shrubs, with numerous evergreens, are growing while we slumber, and will soon

* Cost of wall and railing, being a circuit of three thousand six hundred feet, or seven eighths of a mile, about \$16,000, contributed in nearly equal sums, by the city and by individuals. The wall, which is a little short of three thousand feet, cost \$3 50 the running foot; the iron railing, being somewhat less than seven hundred feet, cost about \$5 the running foot. About four thousand trees and shrubs of great variety and beauty adorn the ground.

cast their pensive shadows over this solemn city of the dead, till the trumpet of the glorious and dreaded morning shall sound.

The same illustrious man to whom we owe our new cemetery, had the courage near the close of the late century, to level the central square, when it was deformed by unsightly knolls and hollows. He removed trees, even of ancient date, when they interfered with his plan, and he literally drove the ploughshare over both the upper and lower Green, until the whole became a ploughed field—a brown fallow ground. But the intrepid projector, nothing dismayed even by the strenuous opposition of some of the citizens, made ample amends by the resulting beauty of an uniform green-sward; and the noble avenues of elms which were planted by his hand, are the admiration of strangers, while by their verdant arches, more truly triumphal than that of Titus, they form a splendid monument to his memory.* He has made New Haven a city of groves—*rus in urbe—urbs in rure*.

His accomplished son,† the favored and the lamented of every muse, (two years ago, in this place, our cherished companion and active friend,) has left a fair edifice of fame, not so much in his splendid mansion as in his pure and elevated social example, and in his finished and beautiful verse, the pride of our literature, and certainly not surpassed in this country, if in this age.‡

We cannot stop to speak of our improved architecture—of our temples and palaces, and the neat and comfortable dwellings of the many—of our beautiful villas and pic-

* He died December, 1832, aged 78 years.

† The late James Abraham Hillhouse, who died January 3, 1841, aged 51 years.

‡ Afflicted as we are by the loss of HILLHOUSE, we are not wholly bereaved, while we have PERCIVAL left.

turesque environs, and suburban villages—of our improved horticulture and our surrounding agriculture—of our sound and intelligent population of artisans—of our young men's institutes and libraries—of our common and Sunday schools, and Lancasterian school, and higher seminaries for both sexes ; and *we will not* speak of our neglected police for preserving the neatness of our capacious streets and squares, nor of the perils of walking *by night*, through these dark and almost lampless avenues. All these topics have a relation, more or less intimate, to our College. But we can add *only*, that our little city, with a moderate but valuable commerce, with many and excellent arts both of utility and ornament, and with a vast and inappreciable interest in its educated youth, has acquired a strongly marked character, which we hope it will retain, even in this age and country of vicissitudes. Should the sobriety which is now happily pervading our country, and which has here obtained so prevailing a sway, be universally established, we may hope under God for a perpetuation and extension of the blessings we enjoy. But let us remember, that there are many flood-gates to vice ; drunkenness is not the only sin, although it is the parent of many. There are vices which are consistent with a sober intellect, and against these, also, under whatever form they may appear, our magistrates and executive officers, our parents and instructors, should anxiously guard.

From this brief notice of our city, the seat of our venerated university, we return again for a short time to our reminiscences and contrasts.

Manners.—In 1792, we found what may be called the feudal laws of colleges in full operation here. They had the firmness of robust antiquity, and, sanctioned by the immemorial prescription of Europe, few questioned their propriety or refused obedience to their mandates.

Subordination was established, not merely in relation to the Faculty, but among the classes themselves. The

common, if not the statute law, of colleges, prescribed marks of distinct reverence from the students towards their officers. It was the custom for the students to raise their hats as a mark of respect for their tutors, when passing them at the distance of the breadth of our streets, and at a proportionate distance, increased of course, for a professor; for the President, almost as far as we could see him, or at least as far as he could see us. Similar marks of respect were exhibited by the younger classes towards the higher, who were made by law their mentors and monitors.

This delicate duty was often discharged, with evident advantage, by the Senior class towards the Freshmen. They were, early after their arrival, formed in line in the long gallery of the old Chapel, the Senior class being arranged parallel and fronting them, when one of their number, a man selected for his gravity and weight of character, explained to the novices the peculiar customs of the College, especially in regard to manners; the lesson was given with dignity and kindness, and received and regarded in a proper spirit. Thus far was very well; but the interference of the inferior classes, and especially of the Sophomore, with the Freshman class, in lecturing, disciplining, and sending of errands, usually vexatious, and often insulting, was only mischievous. The Freshmen were the errand-boys of their superiors, and were not allowed to wear gowns nor to carry canes. On the evening preceding the public commencement they first assumed the toga and the cane, and then ostentatiously paraded the College yard in close phalanx, fencing their way through crowds of people assembled to view the illumination of the College windows, and the dazzling pyrotechnics of mounting rockets and burning wheels, revolving with blazing coruscations, and fiery serpents flying through the air with comet trains, along the front line of the College yard.

On the occasion of the public commencement, the College procession marched to the sound of a band of music,* and the candidates for the baccalaureate often wore the triangular hat, cocked in military style. This was the peculiar badge of the Faculty, and was worn in 1792, and onwards, by the President and most of the Faculty. The President, when he conferred degrees on the stage, always wore this emblem of dignity. President Dwight followed this ancient example for a few years, until he was induced by his wonted kindness to give his three-cornered hat to an ancient clergyman. Thus the triangular cocked hat disappeared, about forty years ago, from the College ceremonial, and has now vanished entirely from the country. A still more imposing personal appendage, the white bush wig, maintained its sway to a later date; the last honored and reverend head which it covered, having retired from the corporation of the College about twenty years ago.

In dismissing this topic of manners we may observe, that in the last fifty years there has been, decidedly, a loss of external reverence, while there has resulted as decidedly, a great increase of personal kindness. The marks of personal recognition between the Faculty and the students, although voluntary, are still generally observed, but with less of marked formality than formerly. This decline is not, however, peculiar to the College, for reverence is not, among our people, the order of the day. It is said, indeed, by the phrenologists, that its organ is dying away in the American cranium, and they even predict its final extinction. Still, however, we believe that *benevolence* maintains its sway in the American *heart*, but

* A custom still sustained in many of the New England colleges; and a very good one, *provided the students and citizens form the band*, excluding the costly theatrical performers.

it is highly desirable, that it should be graced by courteous and respectful manners.

Religion and morals.—In contrasting the beginning with the ending of the half century, we find reason to conclude, that moral and religious influence has not declined in Yale College. The outburst of the French revolution in 1792–3, was tremendous, both in physical and moral effects; and the infidelity and atheism which were then impiously proclaimed, infected even this distant country. To an alarming extent our youth were seduced, and vice followed as the natural harvest from such cultivation. With numbers then not exceeding, for the whole College, the extent of one of the largest classes of the present day, there was much more of open irreligion and consequent immorality. Very few then avowed themselves, decidedly, as Christians, while many were openly scoffers; not a few were vicious, and some gloried in their shame. Immorality, which is found more or less among all great assemblages of *men*, whether young or old, was, in proportion to the number of students in the College, far more prevalent forty five or fifty years ago, than at present; we trust it now forms the exception, rather than the rule. Vice cannot at this day hold up its head as formerly—it must, ordinarily, seek concealment; and we are persuaded that its votaries rarely proceed long in their courses of sin and folly, without reaping bitter fruits in loss of character and in premature excision from the College, while the hearts of parents bleed, with wounds that may never be healed.

The prevalence of religion in the institution, and of course of morality as its proper fruit, is, without question, vastly increased both in extent and efficient energy. Piety no longer sits in solitude, but now walks abroad in honor, and is cheered by many companions. We doubt not, that while we speak, a few venerable friends still

among us, will remember, that fifty years ago they themselves were almost alone in the communion of the College church. God be praised, that now many choose the paths of wisdom and peace, and although in an age when religion is honored, every profession of it may not be genuine, it is fair to judge it by the fruits of purity, peace and love, which generally appear in the lives of those who enroll themselves under the banner of the cross. The exceptions, we trust, are few indeed and far between.

Certain it is, that no youth is safe in whose heart the reverential fear of God does not repose, as a delightful sentiment of filial piety, producing its proper fruits of willing and joyful obedience; while worldly ambition merely, and regard to the moral opinion of mankind, furnish only an external garment, which may indeed conceal a bad heart, and for a time a vicious life, but which, sooner or later, is either thrown off by the wearer, or torn from his person by an indignant community.

Plan of education.—Some persons may perhaps be disposed to enquire as to our opinions, (the results of the experience of fifty years,) regarding the best scheme of education.

After consuming so much time on the topics already discussed, we have little more at our disposal, and we must therefore refer to an excellent view of this question, contained in a document drawn up by two gentlemen of the Faculty, (of whom the speaker was *not* one,) in consequence of a motion made in the corporation of the College, in 1827, to expunge the learned languages from the courses of College study. This document was published separately, and also in the American Journal of Science.*

On the present occasion, we have not space to say much more than that our views are in accordance with

* Vol. xv, p. 297, for 1829.

those contained in that document, and have, since its publication, undergone no material change. We still believe, that a well furnished and a highly cultivated and disciplined mind, is best formed by the combined results of various courses of study.

The Classics.—The ancient classics still furnish the best models of taste, in the finest specimens of eloquence and poetry, and no better method than the study of the classics has been discovered, to form the youthful mind to elegant literature.

It is also the best preparation for the study of the *modern* languages, and our own is written and spoken with the greatest purity, beauty and force, by those who have been trained in the classics. All the studies of literature follow in this train; rhetoric is, of course, an appendage, and logic is an ally, for the powers of discrimination, of analysis and combination, are constantly exercised in the study of language. Languages also form the best map of the history, arts, literature, morals, pursuits, and intellectual cultivation of nations; and so much in common is the philosophy of languages, that the study of one facilitates the study of every other.

Science.—The courses of mathematics and physics, (comprehending all the natural sciences,) are admirably adapted to invigorate and enlarge the mind; and a knowledge of the works of God corresponds happily with his divine revelation, to exalt our moral and religious sentiments. A volume would not be sufficient to explain the practical applications of science, and to illustrate the inestimable service it has rendered to mankind, along with the best moral influences, in raising man from brutism and barbarism, the state of a mere biped animal, to high civilization, virtue, refinement, power, and enjoyment.

Deriders of science.—What then shall we say of those dreamers, who for the sake of exalting literature or some visionary scheme of ethics, deride science? Is there any

warfare between them? Certainly not: literature illustrates and adorns science; science invigorates and enriches literature; there is a literature in science; there is a science in literature; they are allies and friends, and the fairest results are produced upon the youthful mind, by the union of both. The slanderers of science plainly show that they understand not that concerning which they declaim. The multiplied physical comforts which surround them, the vast physical machinery of civilization, the very pen, ink and paper with which they write, and the very glasses by which the dull optics of the veteran antagonist are sharpened, while he indites his tirade against science, reproach his obtuseness and his ingratitude. The picture is not one of mere imagination—originals we have seen; but they, again, form the exception and not the rule; for the literature of the age is decidedly, and in Yale College eminently, in harmony with its science.

Transcendentalism.—But, the transcendentalist—shall he be invited to unite with us, in the labors of education? This question we cannot answer, until we can comprehend what transcendentalism is.

As far as we have formed any conceptions of its *imagery*, (for it appears to have no *substance*,) it seems like an illuminated fog—a mist, lighted up by the moon—delicate, glowing and beautiful, but without sufficient intensity of light to give a distinct outline to any object which it envelopes, and still too dense to permit any thing to be seen distinctly through it; a medium of halos and lunar rainbows, among which move ominous phantasms or beautiful spectral illusions, adorned with irised colors, floating about with restless activity, and mutable in form as in position. To those entranced enthusiasts who live and luxuriate in this poetical world of their own, aloof from material things, and in sublime abstraction from the realities of life, we must leave the splendid incomprehensibleness of trans-

cendentalism, for we should be afraid to lead any youth into so magical an atmosphere, lest the exalted enchantment should stagger the reason of both guide and pupil!

Partial courses.—But a more important question arises. Is an education only in particular branches of literature and science desirable, rather than a general course? This must depend upon the views, circumstances, and destination of individuals. After obtaining the primary education of childhood and early youth, it may be the wiser course, in particular cases, to pursue only those branches of learning that relate directly to the object which the pupil has in view. Hence it is very desirable that there should be institutions constructed upon this plan, not only in the form of academies, but even of colleges. But time and experience must solve the problem, how far, in the case of an old institution, whose object has always been to give a thorough general education both in literature and science, it is wise to modify its system so as to admit of partial courses. As our elder sister university is now making this important experiment, we shall probably choose to wait the result, before we admit any other innovation than that of attendance on certain courses of lectures, by persons not otherwise connected with the institution. This system admits of indefinite extension, with the increase in the number of professorships, and will probably meet all the wants of this institution, without invading our great *unity* of a thorough education.

Dangers.—It has been already admitted, that every student is not equal to making the effort to compass the whole, and very hard cases do occur, both from deficiency of physical strength, and of intellectual versatility and energy. In such cases, it is better to retire from the unequal conflict, before the spirits are broken and the health destroyed—too often the precursors of a premature grave.

It admits of no doubt, that not a few aspiring and noble youth are overtasked at an immature period of life, and

that they obtain the treasures of a cultivated mind at the expense of an enfeebled body; the polished sword of exquisite temper is sheathed in too delicate a scabbard, which it soon pierces and wounds.* This is a great and crying evil, and fully justifies a modified course, for those who cannot keep up in the forced marches against time and strenuous competition.

How shall we contrive to preserve the *mens sana in corpore sano*—the vigorous mind in a vigorous frame? Upon this topic, we cannot even enter; it involves the wide field of physical as well as mental law, and we must dismiss it with the single remark, that while there exist great errors and deficiencies on this subject in our higher institutions, there is also inexcusable neglect, since much more might be done to remedy the evil than has been hitherto attempted.

The vigor of the mind must of course sympathize with the vigor or languor of the body, and it is certain that *our* intellectual men are much inferior in corporeal power to men of similar condition in Europe. There is, on this subject, a strong call for the efforts of wisdom and humanity; but after all, the remedy is chiefly in the hands of the sufferers themselves, for the physical laws of God must be obeyed as well as the moral; and he who faithfully obeys *both*, will, ordinarily, live long, obtain and do much good, and die at last happy in Christian hope and joy.

Prospects—wants.—Having rapidly surveyed the origin, progress, and present condition of our university, we cannot close without a hasty glance at its future prospects, although, on account of the time already occupied, we must on this topic be extremely brief.

* The touching biography of young Mason, recently written and published by Prof. Olmsted, affords a painful illustration of the remarks in the text.

In this age of mental activity, and in our country especially, the means of education are multiplying; and Yale College must advance in its endowments, or it will, relatively if not absolutely, fall into the rear. The number of its professorships should be increased until some permanent officer shall be charged with every department of instruction, and with every important branch of human learning, aided in each division of knowledge by auxiliary professors and tutors. Thus, means of instruction will be provided for all tastes and pursuits, and the character of a university will be fully merited.

But, books are hardly less necessary than instructors. Our new and ample accommodations in the permanent library building now erecting, will soon cry out from their empty alcoves. Dr. Lockwood, Gov. Wolcott, Noah Linsley, Esq., Dr. Alfred E. Perkins, and other benefactors, have furnished a fund for the library whose income is \$1200 per annum. This very respectable endowment, equivalent to \$12,000 in ten years, will prevent the library from languishing, but it needs to be greatly reinforced, that the library may approximate to the size of the larger ones in this country, which, however, are still small, compared with those of Europe. The object of a great public library is not so much for the instruction of students in College, as for reference on the part of men of letters, that the authorities may be found which will enable any one successfully to investigate any subject of literature or science. It creates and sustains a literary atmosphere about a university, and makes an illuminated focus of talent and learning.

Augmentation of means in the physical departments is also much needed. The apparatus, especially in the department of natural philosophy, is greatly deficient or obsolete. Several thousand dollars are needed at once in that department, to place it on a footing with even some of our younger institutions. On some important subjects,

it is almost entirely or quite deficient, and very imperfectly furnished in others. There is attached to all the branches of the physical sciences only a fund of \$1000, with an income of \$60, one half of which is appropriated to mechanical science. Only one department of natural history is furnished with a cabinet. That of mineralogy is well endowed, but needs a small annual fund* to supply deficient minerals, especially those which are newly discovered. Geology is still more deficient; a large portion of the most interesting modern discoveries, especially in paleontology, or the science of the remains of fossil plants and animals, is illustrated by specimens which are private property;† and the same is the fact with the numerous geological drawings, so important to the just comprehension of this most useful and magnificent science. In conchology, we have a lecturer who has a good collection of his own, but in the College there is only the beginning of a collection, while in the other departments of natural history there is not even the beginning of a cabinet.

A fund of a few hundred dollars annually, appropriated to these objects, would in a few years effect wonders, and the vacant walls of some of our public rooms might be lined with cases filled with interesting objects, thus adding to our attractions and to our means of instruction, while the rooms would be still available for literary or other purposes.

In painting, in sculpture and the arts of modeling, in perspective and the graphic art, in numismatics, or the science of medals, medallions, and other historical an-

* This fund has been granted by the Corporation since this address was delivered.

† Many of the most interesting specimens have been sent to the professor in this department by his friends in Europe, and especially by Dr. GIDEON A. MANTELL, whose splendid discoveries are here illustrated by specimens selected and presented by himself.

tiques, it is very desirable that the beginnings already made in most of these things, and splendidly advanced in one department, should be augmented, for there is nothing that is adapted to enlighten and adorn mankind, that is out of place in a university.

In fine, those who may be hereafter charged with the care of this venerable institution, should strive to keep it always advancing. *We* have seen its day of small things; *you* are witnesses of its present advancement and prosperity; and our successors may, at the close of this century, behold a still greater contrast with this period, than we have presented in relation to the close of the century that is past.

We cannot terminate this long address without paying our respects to those numerous friends, not alumni, and residing in many other states, who have aided us often and munificently, in our hours of need.

Time will not suffice to glance even at these numerous benefactions. We cannot however omit to mention the fund of one hundred thousand dollars, contributed gratuitously, and completed in 1832. A large portion of this fund was subscribed by those who were not alumni, and to them and to all other benefactors, we tender our grateful thanks for bounty to the community, as represented in this ancient literary institution.

In another place* and on another occasion, we commemorated the munificence of Sheldon Clark, who, himself a working farmer, made the College his heir in the large sum, first and last, of thirty thousand dollars, three times the amount ever given by any other individual, and approaching the largest benefaction of the State. This signal instance of an individual, not educated at any college, and pursuing the quiet labors of agriculture, who, spontaneously, espoused the cause of learning, should remind

* In the American Journal of Science, Vol. xli, p. 217.

us of the strong sense and liberality which may be frequently found among the farmers and artisans of our country, while we too frequently look for them in vain, among those whose elevated position *in office* invests them with a commanding influence, which they either *fail to exert, or employ in treasonable machinations against the interests of literature and science*, which, along with those of morals and religion, form a grand circle of interests that are truly the property of *all the people*.

Connecticut owes in a great measure to Yale College, the moral and intellectual sway, which, 'through the gifted minds trained here, she has long exercised over this nation, and which, by their dispersion in many lands, (especially in the character of Christian missionaries,) she is spreading in wide diffusion over the world. It would be easy to prove, that no institution in our country has effected more good through the influence of her sons, or produced among its alumni, in proportion to the time of its existence, a larger number of valuable original works.

The Theology of President Dwight, which, besides its American editions, has passed through more than forty in Great Britain, in little more than half that number of years; the English Dictionary of Dr. Noah Webster, in its numerous editions, American and British; and the American Journal of Science and Arts,* now in its twenty fifth year and its forty third volume, have produced an influence in religion and morals, in philology and literature, and in the circle of the sciences, which is felt throughout the intellectual and moral world. These works being not ephemeral, but containing, each within itself, a seminal principle of perpetuity, will, we trust, continue to make

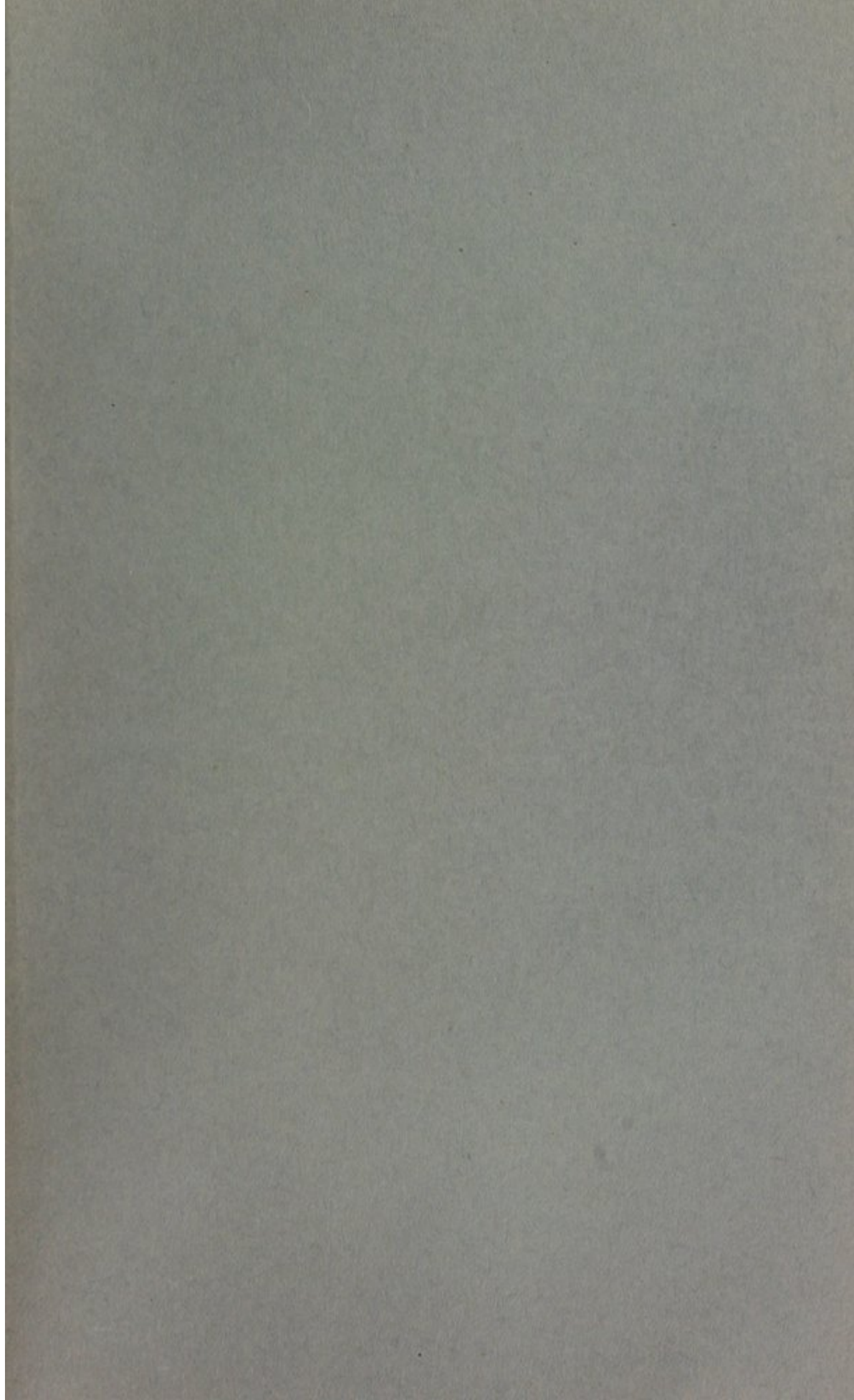
* This commendation belongs to the numerous *authors* of the American Journal, dispersed over our wide country, and in some cases over other countries, and the *editors* of the work ought not from false delicacy, to refrain from doing justice to their noble band of contributors,

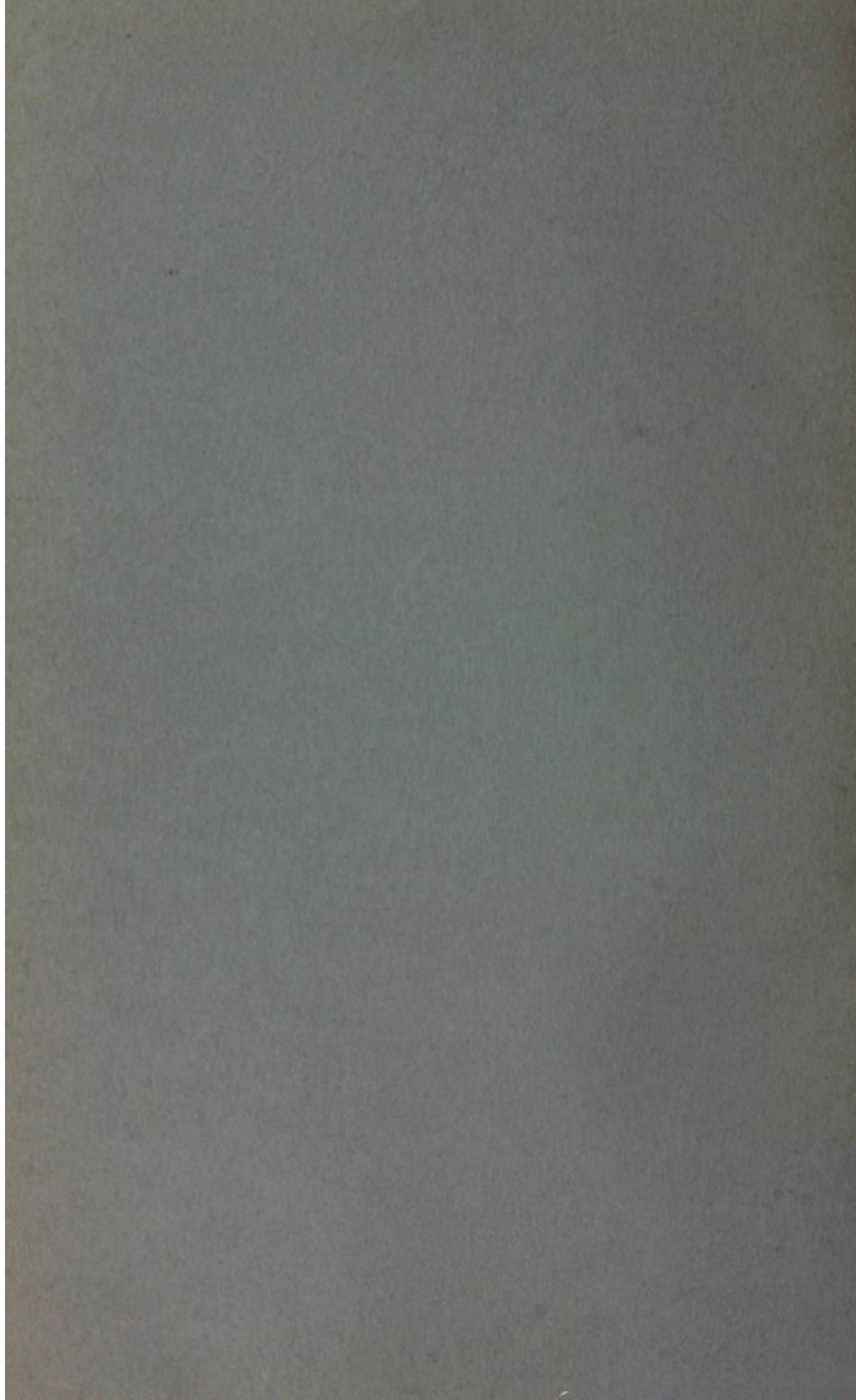
our city a focal and a radiant centre of intellectual and moral light.*

For an extension and increase of this light, we look to our younger colleges in this State. We view them, in common with the other colleges of our country, as friends and coadjutors in our holy cause, and we cordially wish them *good-speed*. Our banners, although they may be emblazoned by different devices of Christian heraldry, bear still a common inscription, and are alike consecrated to religion and morals, to literature and science, to our country, to our fellow men, and to our God. In their honest labors all these institutions may, therefore, hope for the blessing of Heaven.

Brethren of the alumni, and respected auditors and friends—we have now presented to your consideration the case of our College, and have filled out, however imperfectly, the proposed sketch of her origin and progress, her present state and prospects. If we have made our case good, we ask nothing more of you than your good will and kindly influence, in promoting the great interests committed to our charge. They are the interests of the present and of future generations—the interests of our country and of mankind; they have the most intimate relation both to time and eternity, and the consequences of our action may travel onward, with ceaseless vibration and increasing impulse, when our forms shall be laid in the grave, and our names shall be remembered no more among the children of men.

* We do not forget the beautiful works of Story, Sparks, Bowditch, Pickering, Prescott, Bancroft, Audubon, Nuttall, Wilson, Holbrook, and many others, which adorn our literature and science; and we should take much pleasure, were it consistent with our plan and space, in surveying the now rich field of *American* literature and science, avoiding local claims, whose assertion might appear invidious, were we not avowedly, on this occasion, the expounders of only a single chapter in our literary annals.





Accession no. 8874

Author Silliman, B.
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