AMERICAN COLLEGES

Our Principal Institutions of Learning.

Sketches of Hamilton College, University of Virginia, Amherst College, *Kenyon Cellege, Wesleyan University, and University of the City of New York.

We again resume the subject of our leading Colleges, with sketches of the following promiment institutions:-

Hamilton College, located at Clinton, in the State of New York. dates back to the year 1812, when its charter was obtained. Its origin was due to the generosity of the Rev. Samuel Kirkland, a native of Connecticut and a graduate of Princeton, who labored for more than forty years as a missionary among the Oneida Indians. Through his influence the "Hamilton Oneida Academy" was incorporated in 1793, the institotion receiving from him a grant of several hundred acres of land. For eighteen years this academy was in a very flourishing condition, and then the people of the neighborhood demanding the establishment of an institution of a higher grade, it was erected into a college. The first President was the Rev. Azel Backus, D.D., who held the position from 1812 to 1816. An interesting anecdete is related of him. On one occasion, in a thanksgiving sermon, preached at Bethlehem, Conn., during the Administration of Jefferson, he reviewed the political tendencies of the day with such severity that he was subjected to a civil prosecution. While being escorted to Hartford for trial, the horse which he drove took such rapid strides that the Sheriff, who was riding behind and scarcely able to keep his prisoner within sight, exclaimed, "Why, Doctor Backus,

turning his head. The first class, consisting of only two members, graduated in 1814. In 1816 the number had increased to 17. The Rev. Henry Davis, D. D., was President from 1817 to 1833, during which period the fortunes of the College were very fluctuating. The class of 1823 contained 33 members; but in 1829 and 1830 there were no graduates, owing to a long and bitter quarrel between the President and a portion of the trustees, arising from a case of discipline. In 1829 there were but nine students in all the classes, and the treasury was entirely

you ride as if the very devil were after you.'

"And so he is !" responded the Doctor, without

From 1833 to 1835 the Rev. Sereno Edwards Dwight, D. D., occupied the presidency, his administration being distinguished for a successful effort at increasing the endowment of the institution by a subscription of \$50,000. The succeeding Presidents have been the Rev. Joseph Penney, D. D., a distinguished Irish scholar, from 1835 to 1839; the Rev. Simeon North, D. D., LL.D., from 1839 to 1858; and the Rev. Samuel Ware Fisher, D. D., from 1858 to 1866. The presidential chair of the institution is now unoccupied.

In 1837 a Law Department was founded, through the liberality of the Hon. William Hale Maynard, who bequeathed \$20,000 for that purpose. This was very flourishing at one time, under the instruction of Professor Theodore W. Dwight, now of the Columbia Begg Law School, who held the professor ship from 1846 to 1858, but at present it is not in a very prosperous condition. About the time of this bequest the College received a further endowment of \$15,000 from the Hon, S. Newton Dexter, of Whitesboro, and within a few years past it has received over \$100,000 from various sources. The College and Society libraries contain 12,000 volumes, in addition to which the late William Curtis Noyes, of New York city, bequeathed it his valuable Law Library of 5000 volumes. There is also connected with the institution one of the finest and best furnished Astronomical Observatories in the United States, at which six new asteriods have been discovered within the past six years, the last one only a few weeks since.

The largest graduating classes of the College have been those of 1848, with 47 members, and 1851, with 40 members. The general catalogue issued in 1859 contained the names of 992 regular graduates, of whom all but 117 were then living. The Law Department had up to that time graduated 36 students. During the past two years the number of students in

attendance has been as follows:-1866-67. 1865-66 Juniors Freshmen.....

The Annual Commencement took place on Thursday, July 18.

The University of Virginia is located in the county of Albemarle, about a mile and a half west of the mountain village of Charlottesville, and only four miles from the tomb of Jefferson, at Monticello. The surroundings of the institution are exceedingly romantic and beautiful. The plan of the University was devised by Thomas Jefferson, who

devoted all his energies towards forwarding its best interests up to the time of his death. His last years were devoted to this task with much enthusiasm, and as an evidence of the fact that he considered it one of his chief claims on the gratitude of posterity, he left among his papers an epitaph, prepared by himself, in the follow-

"Here lies buried Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, and Father of the University of Virginia."

Desiring to escape the abuses of the old college system of the country, and the merely artificial routine which embarrassed its use falness, Jefferson modelled the new University on an entirely different plan; and that his pro ject might have a fair opportunity for achiev. ing success on its merits, five of the eight original professors were called from abroad.

The act of the Legislature establishing the University was passed on the 25th of January, 1819, and the institution went into operation en the 7th of March, 1825. Among the original corps of Professors were one of Anatom and Medicine, and another of Law. The Medical Department proper was organized in 1827, with three Professors, the number having since then been increased to five. The degree of "Bachelor of Laws" was conferred as early as 1829; but in 1851 the Law Department was reorganized by the appointment of an adjunct Professor, who was raised to a full Profes-

sership in 1854. The University is a Government institution, under the control and patronage of the State, by which its buildings were erected, and from which it has been in the receipt of an annuity ef \$15,000. This annuity has of late years been subject to a charge of \$4000 or \$5000 for pi5,000. This annuity has of late years and subject to a charge of \$4000 or \$5000 for gratuitous education, boarding, and lodg-gratuitous education, boarding, and lodg-its old location in Williamstown; but in 1821

hotels, the matriculation fees, and the surplus fees received by the Professors, after deducting a maximum allowance of \$2000 to each. In addition to this the Professors are in the receipt of an annual salary of \$1000 each. The institution is under the special govern-ment of a Rector and Board of Visitors, to whom are confided the enactment of its statutes and the regulation of its finances. Thomas Jefferson held the position of Rector from 1819 to his death, in 1826, when he was succeeded by James Madison, who retained the office till 1834. The present incumbent is the Hon. B. Johnson Barbour. Contrary to the usual custom of the country, there is no permanent President of the University, the duties of this office being performed by the Chairman of the Faculty, who was elected annually by the Faculty, until 1828, since which time the selection has been made by the Board of Visitors. The Hon. George Tucker, for some time a member of Congress from Virginia, and first Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University, was Chairman of the Faculty from 1825 to 1826, when he was succeeded by Robley Dunglison, M. D., a distinguished English physician, who was the first Professor of Medicine in the University. He retained the position only one year at that time, but at a subsequent period held it for two years in succession. Professor Tucker was also twice reëlected, and up to the present time the position has been filled by twelve different Professors. S. Maupin, M. D., who was appointed to the chair of Chemistry in 1853, was elected Chairman in 1854, and still retains

Another peculiarity of the institution is the entire abrogation of the regular college curriculum. Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors are unknown. On the establishment of the University it was divided into eight different schools, to each of which was assigned a particular branch of learning and one Proessor. The number of schools has since been largely increased, there being at present nine in the Academic Department, two in the Law Department, and five in the Medical Department. In addition to the regular Professors, most of whom have one or more assistants at present, a system similar to that of the private tutorships of the English Universities has been introduced, the Faculty having authority to license persons, of suitable attainments, character, and habits, to give private instruction in aid of the public teachings in any of the Schools of the University. These Licentiates are not at liberty, without special leave of the Faculty, to receive pupils who are not members of the school or schools for which they are licensed, nor to give instruction on subjects not embraced in the plan of the same; and their employment is at the option of the student, the compensation being a matter of private arrangement. The number of Licentiates at present is four.

the position.

The regular four years' course having been discarded, the student is at liberty to make his own choice of studies, by entering such schools as he may select. He is required to belong to three schools at the same time, unless he has the special permission of the Faculty to enter a less number. In the early days of the University the degree of "Bachelor of Arts' was unknown. When a student had acquired an accurate and extensive knowledge of the subjects taught in any particular school, he was declared a "Graduate" of that school, the degree being conferred in the name of the whole Faculty, and by a majority vote. The first occasion on which this novel honor was conferred was in 1828, when six students were declared graduates, one of the number being the Hon. Robert M. T. Hunter. In 1828 the degree of "Master of Arts" was established, and was thereafter conferred on such of the students as had become graduates of all the schools. In 1848 the degree of "Bachelor of Arts" was established, and is now conferred on such students as have become graduates of any two of the literary schools and any two of the scientific schools, and have, moreover, attained distinction in the junior classes of the remaining schools. The degrees of "Bachelor of Laws" and "Doctor of Medicine" have been regularly conferred since the establishment of the departments.

In consequence of the peculiar organization of the institution, and the rigidity of its examinations, its graduates have been fewer in number, in proportion to the number of students in attendance, than in any college in the country. The last general catalogue published contained the names of those graduating previous to and including 1858. The degree of "Master of Arts" was first conferred in 1832, there being but one candidate for the honor. In 1833 the number increased to five, and since then has fluctuated between one and ten. The total number up to 1858 was 117. In 1849 two students were declared 'Bachelors of Arts,' of whom there were 31 previous to 1858. The first graduates of the Law School were in 1829, and 2 in number. In 1830 there were 10. The number has since fluctuated between 1 and 26, the largest class being that of 1841, when the latter number were graduated. The whole number previous to 1858 was 247. In 1828 there were three graduates in the Medical Department. The graduating class of 1850 contained 28 members, the number before and since fluctuating below that point, and attaining a total

The outbreak of the Rebellion found the University of Virginia one of the most prosperous and popular institutions of learning in the country. During the progress of the war its prosperity was greatly checked, although, as we believe, its exercises were at no time entirely suspended. In the following statement the number of students in attendance on the various departments during the past six years is shown:-

Students, Year. ..50 1866-67,

From this it will be seen that its former prosperity is again returning. Of the students in attendance during the past year 219 were from Virginia, 39 from Maryland, 36 from Tennessee, 33 from Alabama, 31 from Georgia, 24 from North Carolina, 18 from Mississippi, 15 from West Virginia, 67 from other Southern States, from New York, 2 from the District of Columbia, and I from Pennsylvania, Illinois, and

Nevada, each. The library of the University, which was originally selected and arranged by Thomas Jefferson; and has since been enlarged by purchases and donations, now contains about 35,000 volumes. The Annual Commencement, called "Public Day," occurred on the 27th of June.

Amherst College, located at Amherst, Mass., originated in an academy which was established there in the year 1812, and of which the great lexicographer, Noah Webster, was a prominent pro-moter. Better facilities for the education of young men for the Presbyterian ministry being required, the institution was erected into a College in 1821, although the charter was not obtained until 1825. At this time, it was proposed to remove Williams College to the banks of the Connecticut river, and a union between,

resources are the rents of the dormitories and | the Rev. Zepheniah Swift Moore, D. D., renew institution at Amherst, which he had greatly favored from the first. On Dr. Moore's death, in 1823, the Rev. Herman Humphrey was elected President. He was succeeded, in 1845, by the Rev. Edward Hitchcock, D. D., LL. D., who retained the position until 1854, imparting much celebrity to the College by his great acquirements and national reputa-Since 1854 the Presidency has filled by the Rev. William A. Stearns, D. D. LL, D.

The first class, 3 in number, graduated in 1822. In 1824 there were 20 graduates; in 1825, 25; and 1826, 30. The class of 1831 contained 60 members, and that of 1865 had 62. During the interval between these dates, the number of graduates fluctuated between 25 and 57. The degree of "Bachelor of Science" was first conferred in 1854. The whole number of graduates, including those of 1867, has been 1730, of whom 331 are deceased and 1399 still living. The number of students in attendance during the past two years has been

as follows:-Juniors ... Freshmen.... .225 203

The annual commencement occurred on Thursday, July 11th. Three members of the graduating class were Pennsylvanians, two of whom, Frederick William March and Daniel S. Smart, are residents of Philadelphia.

Sixteen members of the graduating class of this year will devote themselves to the Christian ministry, and four to the foreign missionary work. The College has a large charitable fund, from the proceeds of which the expenses of a large number of students preparing for the ministry are paid. Amherst has always been celebrated for the number of clergymen educated within its walls. Of the 1730 students which have been graduated since its foundation, 771 have gone into the pulpit at home and abroad.

Since the connection of Dr. Hitchcock with Amherst, it has also been noted as a seat of natural science, and the Cabinet of Meteorites belonging to Professor Charles U. Sheppard is equalled in size and value only by the Imperial Cabinet of Vienna. The libraries connected with the College contain about 30,000 volumes. During the past few years the endowment of the institution has been increased by over \$100,000.

Kenyon College, located at Gambier, Ohio, originated in 1826, in the exertions of the Rt. Rev. Philander Chase, the celebrated Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio, and one of the foremost promoters of education in the United States. In 1823, five years after his election to the episcopacy, he proceeded to Europe to solicit funds for the establishment of a theological school in the West. He met with much opposition from the friends of the General Theological Seminary of the denomination in the city of New York, and was greatly discouraged by his brother bishops. His success in England, at first, was poor; but being provided with letters from Henry Clay, he finally obtained influential friends in Lord Gambier and Lord Kenyon, and after a few months' absence returned to this country with about \$20,000. The seminary was soon started, the Bishop receiving the first students in his own house at Worthington. A domain of eight thousand acres was then purchased, and a small cabin erected on the hill where the college now stands. The buildings were commenced, the necessary money being raised by the Bishop, on a tour to the East. A difficulty afterwards arose between the Bishop and the Professors, concerning the the former, as ex-officio President. which was carried into the Diocesan Convention of 1831, when a report endorsing the Professors passed unanimously. Bishop Chase thereupon resigned, removed to Michigan, and subsequently to Illinois, of which he became the first Episcopal Bishop, as he had previously been first Bishop of Ohio. In 1839 he

lee College, first visiting England to obtain the necessary funds for the undertaking. By the exertions of Bishop Chase, the College and Seminary were placed on a firm basis, and although the number of students in attendance has not been very large, the institution has always held a prominent place in the denomination to which it belongs. During the past few years its endowment has been ncreased by the addition of over \$100,000, which was raised through the exertions of Assistant Bishop Bedell. The buildings occupied by the College are large and handsome, and the libraries contain over 15,000 volumes. The number of students in attendance last year was 95, of whom 14 were Theological students, 10 Seniors, 18 Juniors, 26 Sophomores, 25 Freshmen, and 2 pursuing a partial course. The last annual commencement occurred on Thursday, July 18. The Rev. James Kent Stone, who had held the Professorship of Latin for four years previously, has recently accepted the Presidency of the College, succeeding in that capacity the Rev. Charles Short.

established another institution known as Jubi-

one of the leading colleges of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is located at Middletown, Connecticut. The principal buildings now occupied by it had been in use since 1824 by Captain Alden Partridge's "American Lite rary, Scientific, and Military Academy," which was removed to Norwich, Vermont, in 1829. The Methodists were at that time projecting the establishment of a college in one of the Eastern States, several towns contesting for its location by offers of land and money. The free gift of the buildings at Middletown was accepted, coupled with the condition that \$40,000 in addition should be raised by the friends of the project, as an endowment. The required amount was soon secured, and the institution having been chartered in May, 1831, was opened for the reception of students the same year, under the

Wesleyan University,

Presidency of the Rev. Wilbur Fisk, D. D., a popular divine, who retained the position until his death in 1839. Dr. Fisk's successors, who were among the most eminent Methodist clergymen and scholars in the country, have been as follows:-Rev. Stephen Olin, D. D., LL. D., from 1839 to 1841; Rev. Nathan Bangs, D. D. from 1841 to 1842; Rev. Stephen Olin, D. P. LL. D., again, from 1842 until his death in 1851; Augustus W. Smith, LL. D., from 1852 till his resignation in 1857, when he was succeeded by the present incumbent, the Rev.

Joseph Cummings, D. D.
The first class, which numbered 6 members, graduated in 1833. The class of 1838 centained 30 members; that of 1841, 33; and that of 1842, 37. Since then the classes have averaged about 30 members, the largest, those of 1860 and 1863, containing 39 each. The whole number of regular graduates, including those of 1867, has been 857, of whom all but about 100 are still living. The number of students in attendance during the past two years has

been as follows:-1565-66. 16 27 36 43 Sophomores. Freahmen....

The annual commencement took place on Thursday last, July 18.

During the Presidency of Dr. Olin, the endowment was considerably increased, and by 1862 it had amounted to \$150,000. This was increased by the centenary offerings of last year to \$250,000, and during the present year a still further increase has been received, as well as the donation of funds for the erection of a new chapel and library building, and the increase of the cabinets and libraries. The latter contain about 14,000 volumes. Among the most generous benefactors of the institution is Mr. Rich, of Boston, whose contributiens for all purposes have amounted to about \$100,000.

When the University was first organized, Dr. Fisk endeavored to abandon the timehonored system of college classes, by introducing a system somewhat similar to that prevailing in the University of Virginia, Washington College, and other Southern institutions. Without reference to the time spent in the college, as soon as the student could pass the required examination he was admitted to his degree. This system was gradually abandoned, and the four regular college classes restored; but the student who prefers to omit the classics can still do so, receiving on his graduation the degree of "Bachelor of Science." Wesleyan University has been noted for the great number of teachers which it has educated, and of the 824 students who had graduated previous to 1867, at least 453 had entered the ministry, a larger number in proportion than even Amherst can boast of. Among its graduates are numbered nineteen Presidents of Colleges.

The University of the City of New York originated in the exertions of a few gentlemen of the metropolis, prominent among whom were the Rev. J. M. Mathews, afterwards Chancellor of the institution, and the Rev. Jonathan M. Wainwright. A pamphlet embodying an outline of the projected University was read at a meeting of the friends of education, held on the 6th of January, 1830. In 1831 the charter was obtained, by which it was provided that the government of the institution should be confided to a council of thirty-two members, chosen by the steck-holders, with the addition of the Mayor of New York, and four members of the Common Council. In 1832 the institution was opened in rooms in Clinton Hall, with 7 professors and 42 students. In 1833 the first class of 3 members was graduated. In the same year the permanent College building was commenced, on Washington square, and a portion of it was ready for occupancy in 1836. The first Chancellor of the University was

the Rev. James M. Mathews, D. D., for many years one of the most prominent ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church of New York city. He had been one of the original projectors of the institution, and devoted all his energies to building it up. Dr. Mathews was succeeded in 1839 by the Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen, LL.D., who held the position till 1850, when he resigned, to accept the Presidency of Rutgers College, at New Brunswick, N. J. The Chancellorship remained vacant until 1852, when the present incumbent, the Rev. Isaac Ferris, D. D., LL.D., was elected to the position. Among the early Professors of the University were the Rev. Charles P. McIlvaine, D. D., the present Episcopal Bishop of Ohio; the Rev. Henry Vethake, LL. D., subsequently Provost of the University of Pennsylvania; the Rev. Henry P. Tappan, D. D., LL. D., the late Chancellor of the University of Michigan; Samuel F. B. Morse, LL. D., who made his celebrated experiments with the electric telegraph during his connection with that institution; Taylor Lewis, LL. D., now of Union College; and the celebrated physician, Dr. Valentine Mott; while at present it numbers among its corps of instructors the eminent chemist and metaphysician, Dr. John W. Draper. In addition to these, several of the most popular and scholarly instructors in other colleges commenced their career in connection with this institution.

The first class in the Academic Department, as already stated, graduated in 1833, and consisted of only 3 members. In 1834 the number had increased to 9, and in 1836 to 26. Since then the classes have averaged about 25, although several have risen above 30, and one, that of 1844, to 39. Since 1843, diplomas have been granted to students in special courses. The degree of "Bachelor of Science" was first conferred in 1857, and that of "Civil Engineer" in 1862. The general catalogue of 1863 gives the names of 661 graduates of the Academic Department, all of whom were then living except 65.

The Medical Department of the University now ranks as one of the first in the United States. The first class, consisting of 51 members, was graduated in 1842. In 1843 there were 65 graduates; in 1844, 92; and in 1845, In 1846 there were 131 graduates; in 1848, 133; in 1849, 147; in 1858, 127; in 1859, 128; in 1860, 138; and in 1861, 129-the largest classes which have ever been graduated in this country. The general catalogue of 1863 gives the names of 2363 graduates from the Medical School.

The first class in the Law School graduated in 1859, and numbered 8 members. In 1861 there were 34 graduates; and previous to 1863, the whole number was 111. From the first establishment of the University until 1863, the whole number of its graduates, therefore, amounted to 3135. During the past two years, the attendance upon the Academic Department

has been as follows:-1865-66. 1866-67. Juniors Sophomores..... Freshmen Civil Engineering... 29 16-85 11 Chemistry .. 9 - 45-44.105 Totals. 130.

The medical students of 1865-66 numbered 292, and of 1866-67, 260. In 1865-66 there were 25 law students, but the number for the past year we have not ascertained. The total number in attendance on the institution in 1865-66 was therefore 447, and in 1866-67 about 400. The annual commencement was held on Thursday, June 20.

[In a few days we shall resume this subject, with sketches of the prominent colleges which followed the above in the order of their establishment.]

-Of what wood ought a ship's rudder to be made? (h)Elm.



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