

Athens, since 1801, had grown into a village of perhaps five hundred inhabitants.

In these early days of the existence of the University, the students roomed in the college building, and took their meals at a Steward's hall kept for their benefit on the campus. As an instance of the close attention paid the students by the Trustees and faculty, we find in the old records of their meetings numerous rules laid down by them for the government of students in their rooms and at the table. Some member of the faculty always roomed in the college building to preserve order among the students. We even find regulations as to what articles of food should be furnished them at each meal.

In 1809 President Meigs resigned the presidency of the University. It was quite fortunate for the institution that in its infancy it was guided by one in every way so capable as President Meigs. Naturally intelligent, and possessing that cultivation which accompanies a thorough education, he displayed in his every action those characteristics which belong to a true gentleman.

The presidency remained unfilled until 1811, when the Rev. John Brown was unanimously elected president, and immediately entered upon the discharge of his duties. During the same year John Golding was elected to the professorship of Ancient Languages, and Henry Jackson to that of Natural Philosophy. The college community then consisted of the president, two professors, a tutor and from seventy-five to one hundred students.

In 1813, we note the establishment of a chair of Mathematics, and the election of William Green to perform the duties of the chair. The instruction in this department had previously been given by the president, but since 1813 it has remained a separate chair.

It will be remembered that the funds for the support of the University were at this time drawn mostly from the rent of the College grounds. The Trustees were not allowed to dispose of these lands by sale. The funds

arising from the rent of these lands not being adequate to the support of the College, the Trustees presented their financial condition to the Legislature, together with a request for aid, either in the shape of cash or of some more effectual law with reference to the management of the College lands. The result was the passage of an Act in 1815, authorizing the Trustees to sell the lands belonging to the College, receiving in payment therefor either cash or the notes of the purchasers, provided they were accompanied by good securities. The Act forbade the use of the principal arising from this sale for the payment of the expenses. After the sale had been effected, the State proposed to advance to the University a sum not exceeding two-thirds of the amount called for by the notes, and to receive these notes in return for the advancement. The amount settled on as two-thirds of the amount called for by the notes was \$100,000. The State, instead of paying the cash, turned over to the University one thousand shares in the Bank of the State. In doing this, the State necessarily took the risk of these shares becoming valueless. When this stock subsequently become valueless, the State immediately recognized the fact that the \$100,000 virtually remained unpaid and was still due the University. This sum has however never been paid, but every year since the failure of the Bank, interest, at eight per cent., amounting to \$8,000 a year, has been paid the University by the State.

This transaction with the State placed the finances of the University upon a firm basis, and enabled her to commence that career of usefulness and progress which has lasted for over sixty years.

Since, after this period of rapid growth, the history becomes much more uniform, and consequently less interesting, we will only notice those events which either changed or enlarged the plan of the institution.

No mention has yet been made of the two Literary

Societies now carried on in connection with the University. It seems that as early as 1801, a society for literary and moral improvement, known as the Demosthenian Society, existed among the students. In 1820 a similar society, known as the Phi Kappa, was founded. In 1827, at the request of these Societies, the Trustees recognized them as an integral part of the College, and since that time both Faculty and Trustees have done all in their power to encourage them.

In 1830, one of the buildings which contained the Library and Philosophical apparatus was destroyed by fire. To repair the damage thus done, the Legislature donated \$6,000 a year until 1841, after which nothing was done for the College by the Legislature until 1875, when a donation of \$15,000 was made.

In 1854, Dr. William Terrell of Hancock County donated \$20,000 to the University. This occasioned the establishment of the Terrell Chair of Agriculture. It has however not been very regularly filled owing to the limited number of students in that department of the college. The late Governor G. R. Gilmore left \$15,000 to the Trustees, for the purpose of improving the school masters of the State. The Trustees have turned this over to the University as a part of the general funds.

In 1862, an Act was passed by Congress giving to each State, provided they used it for educational purposes, an amount of land equal in quantity to 30,000 acres for each Senator and Representative. In 1866 the State of Georgia accepted the land on the condition specified, and authorized the Governor to receive and sell the scrip representing the land. In 1872, Governor Jas. M. Smith transferred the fund thus obtained to the Trustees of the University. On May the first of the same year the Trustees opened at Athens the Georgia State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. The establishment of this school amounted to nothing more than a considerable increase in the educational facilities afforded by the

University. Since its establishment the University has conferred certain degrees which before it did not, and considerable addition has been made to the Philosophical equipment.

Since 1872 four branch Colleges, located at Milledgeville, Dahlonega, Cuthbert and Thomasville, have been established, which draw their support mainly from the land scrip fund. They are under the control of the Trustees of the University, and are considered as a part of it. The establishment of these Colleges is the last event of any importance connected with the history of the University.

Taking all the circumstances into consideration, we must say that the University has been remarkably successful as an educational institution. If the mark which her alumni have made in the intellectual world is any indication of the character of the College, she can compare favorably with any in the South. From the present prospect it seems that her future history will be one of usefulness and progress.

A. L. F.