

Our Alumni.

IF THE purpose of an institution of higher education, under the control of the State, is the training of citizens for that State in all the walks of life, surely the University of Georgia has well fulfilled her mission. Though she has struggled for over a century against abuse and calumny, with slender resources and poor equipment, it has been her proud privilege to give to the State a few of those great names "that were not born to die," and to give, besides, a host of men who, in every calling, have well illustrated her teachings, and repaid a thousand-fold all the benefits conferred on them by the State. It is greatly to be regretted that better statistics of the Alumni of the University have not been collected. One who would write on this subject must rely on the Centennial Catalogue, which is necessarily very incomplete, and even where complete very condensed. But even with these meagre statistics the attempt to confine an article to the limits of this publication becomes almost impossible. Single names occur on which volumes have been written. Many things of interest strike even the cursory reader as he glances over the pages of this modest Catalogue. He sees names ranging from the Vice-President of the Confederate States through all the grades of political honors, Cabinet Officers, United and Confederate States Senators, United and Con-

federate States Representatives, Senators and Representatives of the State of Georgia, Mayors and Councilmen of cities without number. He sees judicial officers ranging all the way from Justices of the Supreme Court down. He sees military officers ranging from Major-General down to the humble but heroic private, and reads again and again the ennobling words "killed in battle." He sees the significant blank under the years 1864 and 1865. He sees the names of great divines, whose godliness and eloquence have made their names famous throughout the church; great teachers, whose fame is bounded not even by this continent; journalists, whose pens and tongues have led public opinion on the great questions that have confronted the nation; and men of administrative ability, who have done much to make good Georgia's boast that she is the Empire State of the South. No mention can be made of the large number who, though they have attained no eminence among their fellows, have yet, in humble but no less important positions, done well the work that lay before them, as industrious and patriotic citizens, to build up the waste places, and disseminate those germs of learning and culture which are here fostered.

From the very first the University has given to the State men of prominence. The second name in this Catalogue is

that of Augustin S. Clayton, Judge of the Superior Court, member of the United States Congress. The same year furnished Williams Rutherford, who, after serving his State so well for so many years, now passes his honored old age quietly on the scene of his old labors, as Professor Emeritus of Mathematics. The record of the first ten years, 1804-1813, containing the names of 61 graduates, shows four Judges of the Superior Court, three members of Congress, one Speaker of the State House of Representatives, eleven members of the Board of Trustees, and four College Professors. And this proportion is well maintained in the records that follow. Merely to call the roll of distinguished names would almost fill the covers of this book, so that this rapid review must notice only a few of the most prominent. In 1821 occurs the name of E. A. Nisbet, Judge of the Supreme Court; in 1822 that of Wiley W. Mason, the distinguished Chancellor of the Supreme Court of Alabama; and in 1823 that of Iverson L. Harris, another Judge of the Supreme Court. In 1826 occur the names of John A. Campbell, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and Assistant Secretary of the Confederate States; Chas. H. DuPont, of the Supreme Court of Florida, and Paul F. Eve, the distinguished surgeon and Professor of Surgery, with Robert Dougherty, Wm. E. Jones and James A. Meriwether, Judges of the Supreme Courts of Alabama, Texas and Georgia, respectively, and the two latter members of Congress. The year 1829 was rich in teachers and preachers, comprising Nathaniel M. Crawford, President of Mercer University; Shaler G. Hillyer,

Professor in the same; Richard D. Moore, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in this University; Geo. F. Pierce, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church; Thomas F. Scott, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church; John N. Waddell, Chancellor of the University of Mississippi, and John B. Trippe, Treasurer of the State. In 1832 graduated James Johnson, Provisional Governor of Georgia, and Alexander H. Stephens, member of Congress, Vice-President of the Confederate States, again member of Congress and Governor, statesman and orator. In 1833 John J. Gresham, the late distinguished President of the Board of Trustees. In 1834 we have again two Governors: Howell Cobb, member of Congress for many years, Secretary of the United States Treasury, President of the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States, who rose from the rank of Colonel to that of Major-General in the Confederate States army; and Herschel V. Johnson, also member of Congress, Judge of the Superior Court, and Governor. In 1835 graduated Crawford W. Long, for whom is claimed, and justly, the distinguished honor of being the discoverer of anæsthesia. In 1836 occurs the name of Benjamin C. Yancey, member of the Legislatures of South Carolina, Alabama and Georgia, and Minister to the Argentine Confederation; in 1837 James Jackson, member of Congress and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; and in 1838 Isaiah T. Irvin, Speaker of the House; John LeConte, the distinguished Professor of Physics, and sometime President of the University of California, and Benj. W. Palmer, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of New Orleans, and one of the

most eloquent, influential and distinguished ministers of that powerful denomination. In 1839 Alexander M. Speer and Robert P. Trippe, Justices of the Supreme Court. In 1841 the gallant T. R. R. Cobb, Brigadier-General C. S. A., and Joseph LeConte, the distinguished Professor of Geology in the University of California.

And so this list might be extended indefinitely. We will mention only Dr. J. L. M. Curry, Trustee of the Peabody Fund; Benjamin H. Hill, the distinguished orator and U. S. Senator; N. J. Hammond, the present distinguished President of the Board of Trustees; James H. Blount, who served his State so well in Congress for many years that friends and political enemies united in an unexampled ovation when he retired; A. O. Bacon and Pope Barrow, the former for many years a member of the Legislature and Speaker of that body, and the latter U. S. Senator; Malcolm Johnston, the well-known litterateur, and Henry W. Grady, journalist and orator, whose untimely death was, and is still, so universally mourned. This list is so far from being exhaustive that great injustice is done to many men whose services have been no less valuable and no less appreciated by their State.

But the claim has been made that the University has outlived her usefulness, and no longer sends out men fitted to become leaders of the people. A single glance will show how untenable this position is: one of her sons is President of the Senate of Georgia; another the Speaker of the House, whose

predecessor was also an Alumnus; four of her largest newspapers, and dozens of her smaller ones, are managed by Alumni—while the names of Blount, Hammond, Bacon, Barrow, Thomas, and a host of others now living, and the rolls of her Representatives in the Legislature, attest her influence in the State. And this is not all. Even her younger Alumni are rapidly pushing to the front, as is attested by the number who are elected to positions of responsibility and honor.

When we contrast the small number of the citizens of Georgia who are trained in the University with the large number of her Alumni who rise to prominence, we must admit that the University has repaid many times the small debt she owes the State.

A most pleasing fact is the interest the Alumni feel in their Alma Mater, as is attested by the number banded together in the Alumni Associations throughout the State. The greatest credit is due Major P. W. Meldrim, of Savannah, for the interest he has taken in these Associations, and if his efforts are seconded as they should be the united body of Alumni will make an impress on the State that will silence all opposition.

The claim is not made that every man who graduates at the University becomes famous, but it may truly be said of her, that while many colleges can claim more Alumni, few can claim more who have risen to high places of honor.