

# Africo-American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John viii:32.

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## THE 69TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT OF JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY

WITNESSED BY LARGE CROWDS AND MARKED BY BRILLIANT EXERCISES—GRADUATING CLASS PRESENTS FOUNTAIN

BY PROF. R. L. DOUGLASS

A group of seventy-seven seniors, the largest class in the history of the institution, was graduated at Johnson C. Smith University, Tuesday, May 25th, when seventy-one from the School of Liberal Arts and six from the School of Theology were presented diplomas by President H. L. McCrorey. Dean Dwight Oliver Wendell Holmes, of the Graduate School of Howard University, Washington, D. C., delivered the annual address. Thrilling music was furnished by the University choir. The list of graduates follows:

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS:

#### Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude:

Ethel Doris Johnson, Columbia, S. C.  
Castle Cathryn Williams, Cotton Plant, Ark.

#### Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude:

James Julius Abney, Columbia, S. C.  
Eugene Arthur Adair, Chester, S. C.  
Francena Goodwin Clarkson, Columbia, S. C.  
James Andrew Gaulden, Jr., Mansfield, La.  
Mrs. Minnie Walker Johnson, Columbia, S. C.  
Cecilia Mae Toatley, Chesterfield, S. C.  
Eugene Webber Wall, New Castle, Pa.

#### Bachelor of Arts:

James William Barnette, Pineville, N. C.  
Ushry Walter Best, Kinston, N. C.  
Mrs. Ada Octavia Boyden, Charlotte, N. C.  
Ora Inez Brown, Charlotte, N. C.  
Edward Earl Cannady, Oxford, N. C.  
Alfred Daniel Coleman, Cordele, Ga.  
Otis Cullen Davenport, Asheville, N. C.  
Booker Thomas Davis, Lancaster, S. C.  
Mrs. Lelia Mildred McPherson Davis, Charlotte, N. C.  
Charles Philip Dusenbury, Youngstown, Ohio.  
Dorothy Martelle Dusenbury, Greensboro, N. C.  
Roberta Beatrice Ellis, Due West, S. C.  
James Peter George, Sardinia, S. C.  
Paul Lawrence Dunbar Glover, Oxford, N. C.  
Venetta Fannie Grier, Charlotte, N. C.  
Vernon Castle Grigg, Charlotte, N. C.  
Zael Sylvester Hargrave, Charlotte, N. C.  
Corrie Elouise Hart, Charlotte, N. C.  
Otis Hannibal Augustus Hawkins, Franklinton, N. C.  
Mrs. Thelma Harris Hunt, Charlotte, N. C.  
Lanette Jackson, Dalzell, S. C.  
John Nathaniel Ladson, Charleston, S. C.  
James Watkins Lynch, Rutherfordton, N. C.  
John Emanuel McKenzie, Cordele, Ga.  
Alta Mae McKnight, Charlotte, N. C.  
John Henry Moore, Charlotte, N. C.  
Shepard Stephen Moore, Clarkston, N. C.  
Sterleta Ogeechee Perrin, Charlotte, N. C.  
Ollie Barnwell Pratt, Due West, S. C.  
Edward LeRoy Price, Leaksville, N. C.  
Lillian Lucille Rudisill, Charlotte, N. C.  
Vivian Beatrice Shute, Charlotte, N. C.  
Howard Edward Sims, Winston-Salem, N. C.  
Claude Allen Walker, Knoxville, Tenn.  
Odie Greene Walker, Jr., Atlanta, Ga.  
Ethelyn Marie Wilson, Chester, S. C.

Tom English Wilson, Bishopville, S. C.  
Paul Wylie Wright, York, S. C.  
Robert Pharaoh Wyche, Jr., Charlotte, N. C.

#### Bachelor of Science, Cum Laude:

Charles Edwin Greenlee, Marion, N. C.  
Henry Aaron Hill, Chicago, Ill.  
Andrew Rendell Howell, Oxford, N. C.  
Cassius Means Plair, Rock Hill, S. C.  
Mary Helen Stinson, Charlotte, N. C.  
Mrs. Olive Johnson Tate, Charlotte, N. C.

#### Bachelor of Science:

Joseph Charles Belton, Columbia, S. C.  
Minnie Alma Blake, Charlotte, N. C.  
James Thurmos Boyd, Durham, N. C.  
Henry Weldon Brown, Charlotte, N. C.  
Claudia Mae Cathey, Charlotte, N. C.  
Robert Arnett Denson, Birmingham, Ala.  
Henry Coles Dugas, Charlotte, N. C.  
Hubert Arthur Eaton, Winston-Salem, N. C.  
William Horace Gaines, Jr., Seneca, S. C.  
John Knox Hailey, Charlotte, N. C.  
Asbur Louis Holland, Seneca, S. C.  
Joseph Willis Parker, Rocky Mount, N. C.  
Gertrude Geneva Plair, Morganton, N. C.  
Lucinda Rita Russell, Columbia, S. C.  
Claude Eugene Sloan, Asheville, N. C.  
James Howard Smith, Crockett, Texas.  
Clarence DeWitt Turner, Washington, N. C.

#### SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

##### Bachelor of Divinity:

William Frissell Cannon, B.S., South Carolina State A. & M. College, 1928, Laurens, S. C.  
Obra Jeffrey Hawkins, A.B., Knoxville College, 1934, Washington, Texas.  
Elliott Lawrence McAdams, A.B., Johnson C. Smith University, 1934, Anderson, S. C.  
William Tycer Nelson, A. B., Johnson C. Smith University, 1934, Mayesville, S. C.  
David Solomon Pogue, A.B., Johnson C. Smith University, 1934, Sumter, S. C.  
Calvin Monroe Young, B.S., South Carolina State A. & M. College, 1934, Anderson, S. C.

##### HONORIS CAUSA:

###### Doctor of Pedagogy:

Hardy Liston, A. B., '11, Knoxville, Tenn.

###### Doctor of Divinity:

Suder Quilerford Mitchell, A. B., '11, S. T. B., '15, Charlotte, N. C.  
Benjamin Congleton Robeson, A. B., '11, New York, N. Y.

###### Annual Address

Dean Holmes did not announce a subject upon which he would base his remarks, but he discussed educational matters in general and succeeded in giving the graduates some wholesome advice. He paid a fine tribute to old age, saying it was the pathfinder to the world's progress. Old age maps out the route along which youth may attain success. "Success," said he, "is a relative thing. Each individual is responsible for his own success. Four years in college should be a wonderful experience. Most reforms come from those that are down. The well-to-do are too content to make the effort. There is no use for the Negro to attempt to win fame by commercial gain nor can he hope to get all of his rights by force. He must make some contribution to the

world's progress to attract favorable consideration."

The speaker said there are three types of white people—those that just do not like the Negro; those that are philanthropic; and the third class who will do the fair and square thing, but know absolutely nothing at all about the colored man. Again, he said, the race must be optimistic, must have confidence in its own possibilities. Humanity moves forward by climbing each one upon the shoulders of the other. The Dean was intensely interesting throughout his discourse, occasionally dropping into a vein of humor much to the delight of his large audience which applauded vigorously in appreciation of his pleasing address.

##### The Baccalaureate Services

The baccalaureate services were held in the University church Sunday morning, May 23, at 11 o'clock. The sermon was preached by the Reverend C. Marshall Muir, D. D., pastor of the Bellefield Presbyterian church, of Pittsburgh, Pa. He selected as his text Dan. 5:27, his theme being, "Weight Maketh the Man." The speaker said it is but natural that we should desire to count for something in the opinion of our fellowman. Many of life's efforts are directed towards that end, even to the matter of personal appearance. We should endeavor to be one whose personality, whose word, and whose character would mean much among our associates. To succeed we must live the simple life. Most of the great men of our age such as Spinoza, the philosopher, and Shakespeare, the poet, were men of simple tastes. They practiced a simplicity that went down beneath the surface and kept them in touch with the plain people. Let us be men and women, said the speaker, of strong convictions of right and wrong, and who will not lose their sense of honest conduct, and who will not be influenced by political expediency. We should be interested in what the people are thinking, except as it may concern ourselves. Only once did our Saviour make inquiry as to what the people were thinking about him. These are some of the prerequisites necessary for one to have in order to be a person of weight. Daniel had them. Belshazzar did not.

Finally, let God take you by his strong hand. His strength will sustain you. It's God's weight and not yours that will count in the struggle of life. The sermon itself, delivered in its simplicity, was a practical illustration of the truth the minister was trying to teach.

##### The President's Reception to Graduating Classes and Alumni

The annual banquet given by President and Mrs. McCrorey in honor of the alumni and members of the graduating classes, is an event of great social distinction during commencement week. The banquet was held in the University dining hall at 6 P. M. Monday. The menu was all that one needed to wish, there being some fancy dishes that the writer was not acquainted with. The guest speaker was Mr. Newton L. Gregg, '27, of Greensboro. He was listened to with a great deal of interest as he spoke of the reciprocal responsibilities of the University and its alumni. He made some very practical suggestions by which the best interests of both might be conserved.

A very pleasing incident that occurred during the banquet hour was the dedication of a journal to President and Mrs. McCrorey by the Charlotte chapter of the alumni. Dean Hardy Liston, of Knoxville College, President of the General Alumni Association, made the presentation address to which Dr. McCrorey responded; and Mrs. McCrorey was prompt with a "Me, too." Six young women members of the senior class who played on the basketball team were brought forward and awarded bracelets for their

excellent work on the team. Prof. E. L. Jackson, the coach, awarded the prizes and a member of the group responded.

##### Names of the girls receiving awards are:

Francena G. Clarkson, Columbia, S. C.; Cecelia M. Toatley, Chesterfield, S. C.; Ethelyn M. Wilsa, Cheraw, S. C.; Minnie A. Blake, Charlotte, N. C.; Gertrude G. Plair, Morganton, N. C.; Roberta B. Ellis, Due West, S. C.

Dr. J. M. Miller, for the Charleston, S. C., chapter of the Alumni Association and the Rev. D. C. Costner, for the Shelby, N. C., chapter, gave President McCrorey substantial sums for the dormitory fund. A letter accompanying the gift from Charleston said that the women down there had become somewhat disgruntled and had to be taken into their organization. The name now is the Johnson C. Smith University-Barber-Scotia chapter.

The Rev. Dr. W. L. Imes, of New York, and Rev. Dr. Muir, of Pittsburgh, were present and when called upon for remarks responded most happily.

##### Meeting of the Alumni

The alumni met in its annual session Monday morning, May 24, at 10 o'clock. The usual routine of business was transacted. President McCrorey was presented and spoke briefly of the drive for dormitory funds. The members appeared enthusiastic and pledged him their support for the project. Some cash was received and several subscriptions reported. All officers were re-elected for another year, and the Reverend H. L. McCrorey, Jr., of Macon, Ga., was chosen guest speaker for next year.

At a meeting held Tuesday it was agreed that a campaign for reorganize chapters through out the country be begun, and so that a bulletin be published regularly to secure a closer cooperation between the various groups.

##### Class Day Exercise

The commencement finals began Friday afternoon, the 21st, when the Seniors held their class day exercise in Biddle Memorial Hall. The program consisted of the usual variety of numbers common to such occasions, as college songs, speech making, and those fun producing features that always create a bit of merriment at the expense of the professors and of the members of the class.

A part of the exercise took place on the campus near the Carnegie library where a drinking fountain erected by the class was dedicated and presented to the institution. Mr. Clarence DeWitt Turner, class president, made the presentation speech and President McCrorey accepted the gift for the school in a few well prepared remarks. The ceremony was closed with prayer and the benediction.

##### Junior Prize Contest

Immediately following the President's reception, Monday evening, the Junior Prize Contest took place in Biddle Memorial Hall. The contestants were five young men and one young woman who had won out in the preliminaries over their classmates. They were competing for a gold medal given annually by the Alumni Association for the best oration delivered by a member of the Junior Class. In awarding the prize the committee are to take several viewpoints into consideration. The following is a list of the contestants with their subjects:

"The Impending Crisis of the American Negro," John Louie Logan, Marion, N. C.  
"Aspects of International Trade," Norman Morton Patterson, Lenoir, N. C.  
"Farm Tenancy As a Social Factor," Elsie Lucile Grier, Belmont, N. C.  
"How Many Centuries of Progress?" Howard Gaither Wilson, Bristol, Va.  
"The Scholarship of Athens During the Classical Period,"

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## ROCKEFELLER AND ARMSTRONG

By Dr. Kelly Miller

John D. Rockefeller died May 23, 1937, at Ormand Beach, Florida, at the age of ninety-seven. During his lifetime he accumulated a larger personal fortune than had fallen the lot of any other member of the human race in ancient or modern times.

In the domain of business enterprise and material exploitation he stands at the head of his class. After exerting his rugged individuality in accumulation of a fortune beyond the dreams of avarice, he devoted his remaining years to the promotion of charity and philanthropic enterprises. While building up his mammoth fortune he crushed out his rivals with a ruthlessness exceeded only by that which they would have executed upon him had the tide of advantage turned their way. He played the game according to the rule existing at that time, but the laws of the jungle—red in tooth and claw—rather than the Golden Rule by which Christian conduct is supposed to be guided. If the devil took the hindmost, he would never catch John D. Rockefeller. At the cost of success he brought down upon his head curses and maledictions of unmitigated virulence.

Newspapers, magazines and books poured out vials of wrath upon his head, noted authors made their reputations by denouncing him. Proffer of his money was refused by sundry churches and religious organizations because its ill gotten gain was looked upon as filthy lucre and tainted money. This was the reward of that portion of his life devoted to the accumulation of treasures on earth where moth and rust doth corrupt and thieves break through and steal.

But, during his later years, when he translated his corruptible wealth into incorruptible human service, the tide of condemnation was reversed and he was esteemed and extolled as a great benefactor. He donated to charity and philanthropic enterprises more than half a billion dollars, a larger sum than has ever been contributed by any single individual of the human race. If we measure philanthropy by the amount rather than the motive, John D. Rockefeller's name will lead all the rest. The parable of the widow's mite pales into insignificance by comparison with his millions.

It is probably forgotten, if it was ever known by the bulk of the readers of this column, that it was a Negro, Booker T. Washington, by name, who induced John D. Rockefeller to contribute his first million dollars towards the formation of the General Education Board. His first intention was to contribute that amount directly to the education of the Negro, but under Mr. Washington's persuasion the Foundation was established for broader educational purposes. After Mr. Washington's suggestion had been accepted and adopted in the formation of the General Education Board, he was refused a place among the directors because of his race. The late Mr. William H. Baldwin informed me that he intended to see to it that Mr. Washington was placed on the Board, but he died an untimely death before this purpose could be consummated.

Both Armstrong and Rockefeller figured importantly in the life of Booker T. Washington, who embodied and exemplified the spirit and purpose of philanthropy beyond any other member of his race.

Charles Chapman Armstrong and John D. Rockefeller were born the same year, 1839. They sprang from the same social grade and level of society. Rockefeller's father devoted himself to barter and business shrewdness. Armstrong's father became a missionary to the Hawaiian Islands, to minister

to the dying souls of men. The sons followed the lines of their respective fathers; Rockefeller following the God of Mammon and Armstrong the God of love and mercy.

The individuality of Armstrong was as rugged and his life as strenuous as that of Rockefeller. At first the two were motivated by wide apart aims and ideals. They both reached the loftiest peaks in their several fields of endeavor. Armstrong died at fifty-four. Rockefeller survived to nearly twice that age, but he had accumulated his fortune and completed that phase of his life's work about the time of Armstrong's death.

From the beginning, Armstrong devoted himself, without stint or reserve, to the reclamation and uplift of the poor and needy. He never devoted one moment's thought to the accumulation of personal wealth. "He drank deep of the nectar anodyne of selflessness." When he died friends of the cause which he had served, lovingly provided for his family.

The whole Negro race is Armstrong's everlasting debtor. This apostle of industrial education infused the spirit of sanity and sobriety into the emotional philanthropy of his day and taught the Negro that he must work out his own salvation through industry, thrift and economy rather than by reliance upon charity and alms. Hampton Institute stands as the monument to one who may clearly be called America's greatest educator and practical philanthropist. His life fulfills Walt Whitman's definition of true philosophy:

"When I give, I do not give lectures or a little charity,  
But when I give, I give myself."

Which of the twain has chosen the better part? Rockefeller has wrought well, but Armstrong has wrought more excellently. The world praises the billionaire for his good gifts, but loves Armstrong for his work and worth. Solomon tells us a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold.

The name of Rockefeller may go down in history as an exemplar of rugged individuality who accumulated and distributed millions of wealth, but Armstrong will go down as one who loved his fellowmen and was beloved by them.

### STATE SUPREME COURT HEARS ARGUMENT IN CASE OF NEGRO STUDENT

Jefferson City, Mo.—May 21.—The appeal of Lloyd L. Gaines against the decision of the Missouri circuit court refusing him a writ of mandamus against the University of Missouri to compel the university to admit him to its school of law, was argued before the supreme court of Missouri May 18 and taken under advisement.

Gaines filed suit in April, 1936, against the University of Missouri after the board of curators had rejected his application for admission to the school of law solely on the ground of color. The case was tried in Columbia, Missouri, the seat of the university, July 10, 1936, and decided against Gaines. The appeal argued today was from that decision.

Counsel for the university raised the question of social equality and attempted to excuse the University of Missouri for refusing a Negro law student on the ground that the State had appropriated millions of dollars for Lincoln University (colored) and had arranged for scholarship provisions for Negroes to study graduate and professional courses outside the State. The University of Missouri lawyers also contended

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