

Dr. McDowell

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ing characteristics: his capacity to execute a purpose with speed and precision. (The fact that he waited until after graduation probably reflected no more than the fact that college authorities frowned heavily upon student marriages.)

The winning of Miss Owen was a determinative event in the life of the young Wake Forest graduate not only because of the character and charm of the young lady he won but because of the influence she was instrumental in bringing to bear on his life affecting his interest in the education of women. Dr. McDowell was not the first nor will he be the last man to find a wife who takes a hand in helping him find his life's work. The story of how Miss Owen became a factor in Mr. McDowell's interest in "female education", as it was known in those days, is told in interesting fashion by Dr. Paschal:

Paschal in his History of Wake Forest College, vol. 1, page 391-393. This is the story as told by

'In this place it may be mentioned that soon after entering on his work at Wake Forest Professor Owen and two of his sisters opened a Female Boarding School and conducted it for several years. He brought with him to Wake Forest his mother, Mrs. Rebecca C. Owen (Mrs. John Owen), and his sisters. They took up their residence in the South Brick House, which is still standing across the street from the church. On the third Monday in January, 1844, they opened a Female Boarding School at Wake Forest. The mother was matron, the sisters, Misses Mary and Sally Owen, were the teachers, while Professor Owen was supervisor. In the advertisements of the school the advantages of the situation are dwelt upon, 'in a neighborhood well known in the State for its healthiness, beauty, intelligence and morality'; it is easily accessible by railroad. Emphasis was also given to 'the opportunity afforded by its vicinity to the College, for the young ladies to be educated in a circle where the scholastic spirit has been generated, as also for attending gratuitously such exercises of the college as may be of public nature.' The charges were moderate, board ten dollars a month and tuition ranging from ten to seventeen dollars for the session, music on piano ten dollars and on the guitar five dollars. Vacations were the same as those of the college."

"The school seems to have been successful," Dr. Paschal continues

"Though little appears about it except the advertisements. There is no intimation of just how it was regarded by those in charge of the college, or what social relations, if any existed between the young ladies and the College students. There were some, however, who were ready to declare that the young ladies were in a position to see too much society."

It is at this point—the point at which there was criticism that the young ladies were in position to see too much society that Archibald McDowell entered the scene on behalf of the young ladies. Dr. Paschal, with the aid of articles by McDowell in the Biblical Recorder of January 20, 1844 and July 10, 1847, continues the story: 'In replying to the criticism, Rev. Archibald McDowell, who married Miss Mary Owen on June 15, 1847, five days after his graduation from the College, Dr. William Hooper officiating, and who for the next year ran the school in his (McDowell's) name, said that he was now convinced that among the candid the impression exists that even in this favorable situation the young ladies had no more social life than desirable, and not more than they would have at village boarding schools. He saw 'numerous advantages of having sons and daughters educated at the same place and to a considerable degree together, and he promised to give the students of the Seminary an education that should resemble in kind and approximate in quality that offered in the College.'

Whatever might have been the influence of Dr. McDowell's wife and his teaching in the girls' school established by the Owens, it must be said that his stand on it is deserving of high praise. It marks him as both courageous and wise. It may give him the honor of being one of the first advocates in the South of co-education. It should be observed that Dr. McDowell said he saw "numerous advantages of having sons and daughters educated at the same place and to a considerable degree together." The phrase "to a considerable degree together" could only be interpreted as referring to a system that would at least bring men and women together in the same classes. Thus we may say with a measure of pride here today that the first principal of Chowan was not only a pioneer in the education of women in the South, but that he was a pioneer in the advocacy of co-education. His picture reveals a character marked by courage.

The school for girls at Wake Forest discontinued after the spring session of 1848. The two moving spirits in its life, Rev. and Mrs. Archibald McDowell, removed to Murfreesboro to take up their

work with the Chowan Female Institute, which opened its doors on October 11, 1848. Dr. McDowell was thirty years of age at this time. James K. Polk was president of the United States. The War between the States was thirteen years away. The following spring the school was temporarily suspended because of a smallpox epidemic in the town. Dr. and Mrs. McDowell moved to Milton, N. C. It is said in his obituary notice that here "he conducted a female school until 1853." Thus was his great interest in the education of women continued. It was during his residence in Milton that he was ordained to the ministry. In 1853 he moved to Raleigh where according to a biographer, "he labored for two years, preaching and teaching with much acceptance." In 1855 Dr. McDowell returned to Chowan to accept the chair of Mathematics and Natural Science. The college was then under the presidency of his friend, Dr. William Hooper, who had been resident of Wake Forest during a portion of the time that McDowell was a student there. It was upon his acceptance of the teaching position at Chowan, according to Dr. McDowell's obituary, that "Then and there opened up his great life work, destined to work out such great and good results for God and humanity." It was in 1862, upon the retirement of Dr. Hooper, that Dr. McDowell became president of Chowan, serving the institution until his death in 1881.

The War Between the States was in progress when Dr. McDowell took up his work as president and

we may be certain that these were trying years for him and the college. We may be certain too that he carried the burdens of administration in this trying period with the fortitude that characterized him throughout his life. The college did not close its doors during the Civil War. At the same time he maintained his devotion to Wake Forest College. He had been instrumental in the organization of an alumni association of the College in 1858. As we have seen, he was a trustee of the college, and was one of those who ardently advocated continuation of the college after the war when there were those who said that Wake Forest should be closed. Dr. Paschal, in Col. II of his History of Wake Forest College (page 15), quotes his wise and brave words as follows:

The College "has the same faculty it has had for years past all Christian men in the prime of life, with minds matured and energies undiminished and with increased incentives to make them faithful and efficient. Dr. McDowell went on to say that Wake Forest had done much for the Baptist of the State; it had equipped and trained three-fourths of the younger men who have come on the field of action in the churches in the past twenty-five years. He then went on to ask, "Shall we, then for a moment, entertain the idea of dispensing with it?" Wake Forest was not closed. It should not be forgotten that Archibald McDowell was among that courageous group that refused to surrender to circumstance and made the con-

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