

The Initial Alumni Day.

(Continued from page 3.)

"Here in the South, on the campus of this University through which they oftentimes strolled with their comrades and friends, beneath the great trees under whose shade they lingered long years ago, should be erected a monument to the memory of Major John T. Jones and Capt. T. C. Holliday. It should be built by the alumni and students of this institution which has been honored by the heroism of their death, by the gift of the maimed soldier who stood beside them amidst the tangled thickets of the Wilderness, and with them carried the Confederate flag to renown, by the mite of the widow whose son sleeps by the banks of the Rapidan, by the contributions of all who admire moral and personal heroism as exemplified by two of its bravest, best and most glorious exponents.

THE MANLINESS OF LEE.

"Let us view the monuments which mark the landscape and fill the capitals of our Southland—the monuments of Washington, Jefferson, Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. When you look upon a statue of Robert E. Lee are you satisfied to think that his countrymen have done their duty by perpetuating his image in marble? Are you satisfied alone with the exquisite charm and manly beauty of his face? Not at all. His whole character comes in review before you and fastens itself indelibly upon your mind. The panorama of the civil war passes before you as you look at his statue, and then you ask what manner of man was this great captain in his private life, in the early days of his manhood and when he was in the walks of civil life? And you will recollect that in peace and in war a sense of duty was the cardinal feature of his character, that he loved truth and scorned the desire for money, that he was a man of simple habits, a sincere and devout Christian, an exemplar for all the world. What a story of self-denial, of duty, of valor, of gentleness, of all the virtues which adorn and beautify humanity, his life declares unto you! Your heart and mind both tell you that the world in no age has furnished a more splendid model of true greatness and genuine success.

"The genuine success of a nation is to be found in the possession of those qualities which constitute success in the individuals who inhabit and control it. No republic can survive for a great period of time when its wealth and exclusive privileges are granted to a few to the detriment of the great mass of its citizens. Such a system of government creates multiplication of selfish desires, artificial wants, and indolent habits by those in possession of these privileges and emoluments and who really control the State; all tending to luxury and vice and destruction of virtue, morality, and self-denial, without which no free republic can long exist. A commonwealth surrendered to such a sway is traveling fast upon the road trod by cities and states remembered only for their vices, their follies, and their crimes. All history illustrates the truth of this statement. In Athens and Sparta a certain portion of their inhabitants were granted exclusive privileges and emoluments, whilst the great body of their brethren were kept in servitude. Hence the liberty of these Grecian republics was short-lived. The republics of Italy fell from the same causes which destroyed the Grecian commonwealths. In Florence, Venice, Genoa, and Pisa a few belonging to the privileged class exercised the power of government and mercantile monopoly, destroyed the fortunes

of the great mass of the people. Upon such a structure can be erected and maintained no permanent foundation for a republic.

ROME'S WISE POLICY.

"Rome pursued a different policy. The privileges of its citizenship were extended to all and its marvelous growth, vast dominion, and long duration attest the wisdom of its system. The victories of Hannibal only urged the Senate to still greater exertion. Trebia, Thrasymene, and Cannae failed to shake the foundation of its mighty structure sustained by the fidelity of its citizens. Its destruction was finally due to the evil of domestic slavery and the vices and luxury which destroyed the manhood of its nobles and rendered them powerless to stem the tide of decay and decline of that great and mighty empire.

"What constitutes the greatness of our own republic? Not alone its unparalleled wealth. Not its mines of gold and silver, of iron and copper. Not its ships which float upon every sea, and whose white sails are fanned by the breezes of every ocean. Not the palaces of the rich and powerful which adorn and beautify our great cities. Not its boundless western plains where is garnered food for the world's consumption. Not its Southern fields white with cotton. Not its mighty rivers, nor its great lakes. Not its favored climate which delights the traveler from other lands and invites him to health and repose. Not its mountains in their solemnity and grandeur. Great and wonderful as are its natural and material resources. Its chiefest glory will not be discovered in them. It will be found in the constitution of our common country, and its legal institutions, which maintain and enforce justice for all with no discrimination and which give an equal chance to each in the battle of life. This is the supreme essence of its greatness, the most radiant jewel in its crown of glory.

DANGERS THAT THREATEN.

"No citizen of this country who loves its prosperity and renown and who values the blessings which as rights belong to all its people alike can fail to discern that the institutions which protect him are threatened by the same dangers which destroyed the republics in ancient days, and that the very existence of a constitutional form of government, as devised by our fathers, is in jeopardy. The vast accumulation of wealth by the few, at the expense of the many, the brutal tyranny of money, the insatiate greed of corporate power, the inordinate desire of gain to be used for personal luxury, all tending to debauchery and crime, are seen by all men, and foreshadow, unless checked, the commencement of the decline of the republic whilst yet in its infancy and before its work has been accomplished. No race of great men can be bred in the atmosphere of commercial fraud and corporate theft when once the body politic is fully tainted and polluted by the noxious miasma in which they flourish. Against this spectre of evil I place the manifest destiny of our great republic and the fortitude and virtue of its people in the hour of peril and disaster. Long may it survive and may its greatness in ages to come be recognized in the blessings it has afforded all its people, who have the wish and desire to enjoy them, by its justice in dealing with weaker nationalities, in the good it has wrought and in the happiness it has brought to all humanity."

CLASS REUNIONS.

At the conclusion of Major Stedman's splendid address Col. Thomas S. Kenau, president of the State Alumni Association, announced reunions of the classes of 1857, 1882, and 1897. The class of 1857, he said, contained 79 graduates, of whom about 15 survive. Of these latter those present were; Messrs. Benjamin F. Grady, of Clinton; Rev. John H. Tillinghast, of Fayetteville; William B. Whitfield, of Lenoir; John W. Graham, of Orange County, and Robert Bingham, the youngest survivor.

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(Continued on page 6.)

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