

MEMORIES OF MARS HILL COLLEGE.

By W. P. JERVIS,

The claims of this institution as a college instead of a High School or Preparatory School formerly rested on the fact that it was from the first chartered by the Legislature as a college. It no doubt now has other claims.

The history of the school as written has generally been taught in three periods as follows: 1st 1856-1858 in charge of W. A. G. Brown, 2nd 1890-1893 in charge of T. M. Hathorn, 3rd 1897 to present time in charge of R. L. Moore. The history of the school during these periods has perhaps been accurate enough. All other periods of the school have largely been scrapped.

One indispensable request to history is that it should always be true to facts, both in general and particular while the large things must be told, the smaller ones should not be ignored.

It is hoped that some informed and unbiased writer of local history will some day give to our people the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth of the many ordeals through which this old school has passed, not only the trials and anxieties of any one man, but of all those who have contributed to its growth and usefulness through all its trying vicissitudes.

It is human to forget little things but divine to remember them. The little incident at Bethany placed Mary on as high christian ground as was ever occupied by any of the prophets or apostles who subdued kingdoms wrought righteousness and did many wonderful works; yet she did a small thing despise not little things, perhaps the period, which the various historians who have presumed to write the history of the school, have treated most as a parentheses is the one from 1858 to 1861 in care of J. B. Marsh. The historian has for some cause sidetracked this whole period and to correct this error I write this article.

On retirement of Prof Brown the trustees met and advertised for a teacher to fill the vacancy among the many who responded was one who inclosed a postage stamp for reply. The chairman of the board of trustees at that time once told the writer that was why they selected Mr. Marsh.

Prof. Marsh came from Binghamton New York. He was about 25 years old was a minister of the gospel and was an accomplished English Scholar, thorough in his teaching to the class and a splendid organizer and a perfect disciplinarian. In short he was a great teacher. Without disparaging the claims of others, I doubt if the school ever had his superior. Mr. Marsh was a man of high spiritual character and the church and Sunday School felt the interest of his life on them at that time. Rev. T. J. Rollins was pastor of the church Mr. Rollins was a great Sunday School organizer all over the country and two years before the coming of Mr. Marsh had organized a Sunday School which was under the management of Rev. J. B. McMahon, a venerable white headed Methodist preacher. This was the first Sunday School ever taught at Mars Hill and the first one this scholar ever attended. On coming to Mars Hill

Mr. Marsh immediately took charge of the Sunday School and changed it from an old field school to a spiritual Bible school. At the early age of 13 well do I remember the earnest devotion that was manifested in the S. S. class exercises. If there is one period in my life where religious impressions were strongest it was in that Sunday School every student in the school was required to attend Sunday School unless excused and if any one failed he was required to prepare and recite the Sunday School lesson the first thing on Monday morning. I distinctly remember that two young men failed to attend one Sunday. Their names were Jas. I. Mathews and T. W. Keith. The lesson subject was Gideon and the Fleece. The boys were real mad but they learned more about Gideon than they ever knew before.

The school at that time was the only one of its grade in W. N. C. that was under the auspices of the Baptist denomination and hence was largely attended from different parts of that section. While the local patronage was fine indeed, almost every family was represented. Mr. Marsh taught in the lower east room and his school room was a marvel of neatness, order and industry. Every student either studied in the school room or at their private rooms, no loitering on the school grounds during school hours. The room was seated with desks eight feet long so that five or six students sat on each seat, each having his own apartment. These were the first desks ever used in the school or in the country. I do not know what kind of seats the previous school used.

Mr. Marsh was a first class scribe and writing was taught in 30 minute periods, just before noon each day. The primary department was under the care of Miss Matilda Porter of Swannano N. C. It was in this department I first entered Mars Hill college in 1859. Miss Porter was an accomplished young lady and made a fine impression on her pupils. About this time an intermediate department was established with Mr. Pinky Rollins as teacher. I have often been asked for the names of the pupils who attended the school during this period. Of course, writing from memory I can only give a partial list and that only of non-resident students, viz:

W. W. Rollins, Pinky Rollins, Jeff Clark, of Buncombe Co. T. J. Martin, of Macon County. George Wilson, of Yancey County. Moses Honeycut, an elder brother of the beloved T. M. H. and D. M. May both of Yancey. R. F. Whiteside, and W. B. Whiteside of Rutherford County, John McLurry of Cleveland County. R. A. Freeman of Henderson County, James I. Mathews, a one arm man of Ga. D. S. Ball and W. J. Roberts, of Madison County. Mr. Roberts is father of Guy V. and is still living. Of the ladies from abroad I recall only a few; Misses Beam, Champion and the two Misses McCurry all of Cleveland. Mrs. W. J. Roberts, nee Miss Kate Freeman; Miss Roxie Lavinier of Guilford Co and Miss Hattie Porter of Buncombe County. To these must be added a host of local young men and young women as well as some of our families.



Of the last named class I will mention Rev. J. W. Hooker, David Fisher of Haywood County and John Ammons. The latter and his small son L. J. Ammons were in school at the same time.

This was a student body, in fact as a rule, and call them to mind, expressed with the fact that at least one half of them have made creditable members of the State Legislature.

They maintained a strong and well organized society and the debates were stirring and animated. The president of the school allowed boys of my size and age to remain and hear the discussions provided we behaved ourselves which gave us a good start in our society days later on.

The moral tone of the school was just what you would expect from a student body where the higher ideal of life prevailed.

As I think of the young ladies of that school at this later day they impress me as being more mature and settled than the majority of girls in the schools of today, but perhaps at this distance I may misjudge. The closing out periods of the school were not called as now, commencements but simply the close of school and consisted of two days public examinations always open to the public and then a day for general exercises always held in the then beautiful grove between the present residence of Mr. L. J. Carter and Mr. J. J. Gibbs. A stand was always erected from which a select number of young men delivered original orations. The young ladies read written compositions instead of recitations as now.

These were great days and full of inspiration, but were saddened by the partings and good-bys that followed them. They were always arranged so as to come on the 4th of July and the student body would march from the old college building to the stand in the grove, the stars and stripes being carried at the head of the procession and unfurled on the stage during the day.

There were not many preachers among the students of that period like there are today but they had better preaching opportunities. Like other things I have mentioned they seemed to be ripier in years and more mature in judgement. To three of the young men I want briefly to call attention, viz. George Wilson, Jere Clark and T. J. Martin. Mr. Wilson was a fine looking young man, as I take it about 22 years old of a splendid family of Yancey County. He

was not a preacher when he came to Mars Hill but began to talk in the prayer meetings here and subsequently became a strong man in the ministry. As a speaker he was impressive and emotional nearly always melting his audience to tears. I think his promising life was cut short by the war.

Mr. Clark was a tall young man presumably about the same age of Mr. Wilson but lacking in his robustness. He was from Hominy in Buncombe County and of an excellent family. As a preacher he was accurate, in language, a little dry, but strongly logical. I remember hearing him preach a sermon at the Forks of Ivy; from John 19-5 "Behold the Man." His handling of the subject in all its bearings was masterly. I think he too died in early life.

Mr. Martin was from Macon County and possessed some peculiarities that sometimes makes a man interesting and popular with the masses. He must have been two years the senior of either Wilson of Clark. He mixed among all classes, knew every student by name and was specially gifted in the fulsome use of the title Professor, so much overridden at the present day. He called everyone who was a member of the church professor whether in public or private. He was a strong preacher for a young man. He held the crowded house that attended services when he preached as in a vice. He was fluent in speech and conclusive in presenting the deductions of his text. His hearers instead of being worried with his sermons regretted to have him close. He preached a good deal in adjoining churches, especially Big Ivy. Some of those brethren had heard Rev. J. R. Graves of Nashville, Tenn., and they declared Martin was the ablest preacher of the two. I know nothing more of his life after leaving Mars Hill only that he went from Macon County to Georgia. Is probably living yet.

With a man of Prof. Marsh's ability and aggressiveness as a teacher and such an array of young men and young women as students no wonder that the history of the school from 1858 to 1861 will stand as an adamant in the memory of those who still live to think of those days and in the treasures of him who never forgets the faithful service of his servants.

In the midst of this success the fearful days of 1861 burst like a thunder clap on the nation. The lightning clouds of war

came over it. Reason was submerged in the turbulent sea of madness. The days of construction were changed for those of destruction. Education was lost sight of, schools went headlong (with every thing else) to destruction. Young men went from them to fields of carnage and ruin.

But such is war. The history of the school during this period was written. Its scroll was folded together to await the dawling of a better day. Amid this gloom Mr. Marsh left Mars Hill and went to Little River in Henderson County where during the war he taught a school for young women. Later he went to Caldwell County and still later engaged in the pastoral work in South Carolina.

His wife who was Miss Rachel Lanier of High Point, N. C., preceded him to the grave. He died in 1904, a servant whose work had been well done.

Savings Certificates.

More than one half-million dollars has been saved and invested in United States Treasury Savings Certificates in the Fifth Federal Reserve District during the month of January, according to a statement made by Postmaster Wm. C. Pope of the Marshall Post Office. The postmaster has just received a letter from Howard T. Cree, Government Director of Savings at Richmond, Virginia, in which he states that sales for January have far surpassed expectations. From 226 post offices reporting and mail orders received at the Federal Reserve Bank in Richmond, the sales total \$562,650.

This new offering of certificates has proved very popular in that they are issued in denominations of \$25, \$100 and \$1,000 and may be purchased at a flat discount price of twenty per cent off their maturity value. People seeking a safe investment, with a guarantee as to both principal and interest, have been quick to take advantage of this attractive issue of "baby bonds" and have bought them in large numbers. Postmaster Pope says, "For those seeking investment of funds, nothing is more attractive than these new savings certificates which yield four and one-half per cent interest on purchase price, compounded semi-annually, if held to maturity, five years from the date of issue."

We are now in our new home all the machinery is set. So we are now looking for your JOB PRINTING that YOU have been

Income Tax Extension.

Commissioner of Revenue Watts said today that the law permits him to grant extensions of time to taxpayers for filing income tax returns from March 15th in case of sickness, absence, or other disability, or whenever in his judgement good cause exists for such extension. The law requires interest at the rate of six per cent per annum from March 15th to the time of payment to be paid where extensions are granted. Extensions will be granted upon application where lawful cause is shown, but in all cases the interest required by law will be collected.

Where no extensions have been granted, taxpayers failing to make income tax returns and pay the taxes due on or before March 15th, without intention to evade the law, may voluntarily file a return and pay the tax due on or before May 15th, 1922, together with five per cent penalty, which penalty in no case shall be less than one dollar or one per cent for each month or fraction of a month during which the tax remains unpaid from March 15, 1922. These penalties will be collected in every case.

All penalties may easily be avoided by taxpayers making their income tax returns and paying the taxes due on or before March 15, 1922, or by securing extensions, where lawful reasons exist for extensions, when only simple interest will be collected in addition to the tax.

Attention is again called to the fact that the income taxes paid to sheriffs and county tax collectors during the fall of 1921 and the first part of this year are taxes levied on the incomes of taxpayers for the calendar year of 1920, and not for 1921.

Returns are required from all single persons and married persons not living with husband or wife whose net income is \$1,000 or more, and from all married persons living together whose net incomes are \$2,000 or more. Net income is the gross income less the deductions allowed by law, but personal exemptions are not included in these deductions. For this reason a very large number of persons are liable to make returns who will not pay taxes.

Will Use German Police Dogs to Hunt Blockaders.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 13—Prohibition Commissioner Haynes is going to try an experiment on North Carolina moonshiners. He will instruct dry Director Kobloss to use German police dogs to locate distillers.

The dog theory comes from Colorado where it works and was announced today after a conference at the office of the prohibition enforcement forces. Director Enmett H. McClenahan of Colorado has tried the man-hunting dog after the illicit liquor makers of his state.

"With such a dog," said Mr. McClenahan, "stills may be scented half a mile away, and will not only lead to capture but will serve to secure search warrants."

The Colorado dry officers have recently captured 188 stills and 50,000 gallons of mash.

It takes only nine days to make moonshine out of the necessary ingredients, and the cost is only 97 cents a gallon," declared