PRINCETON COLLEGE.

JAMES McCOSH, D.D., LL.D., NOW PRESIDENT OF PRINCETON COLLEGE.

Old Thomas Fuller, in the preface to his "History of the University of Cambridge," writes: "I presume my Aunt Oxford will not be justly offended, if in this book I give my own mother the upper hand, and first begin with her history. Thus desiring God to pour his blessing on both, that neither may want milk for their children, or children for their milk."

Of the many colleges that now exist in the United States, but four had their origin previous to 1750: Harvard, founded in 1636; William and Mary, in 1693; Yale, in 1701; and the College of New Jersey, now more generally known as Princeton College, in 1746. In the agitations preceding the Revolution, and during that memorable struggle, these four colleges, with Kings College in New York and Philadelphia College, were the fountains which supplied the streams of learning which fertilized the colonies. Each of the four named had its own peculiar character which exerted a mighty influence in molding public sentiment in those stirring and formative times.

The colonies of New England were at first intensely English; the men of education and wealth held fast to the traditions of their forefathers, except in church affairs; and we are not surprised to find, in the

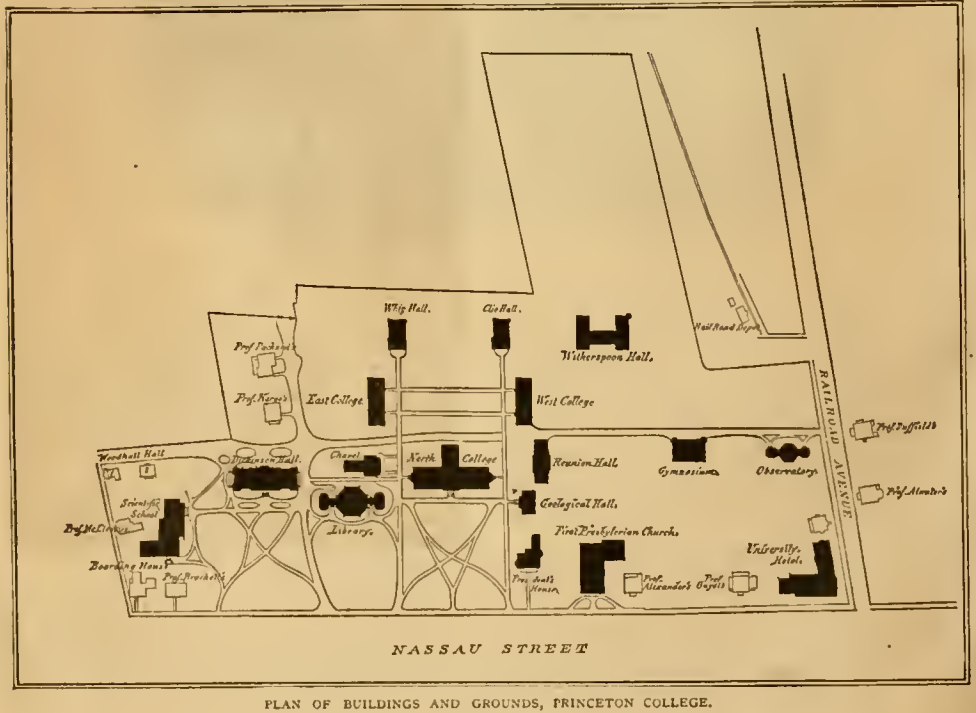
Revolutionary war, so many of the graduates of Harvard taking the side of the crown, and sacrificing lands, homes, and position for their king.

William and Mary, at the other extreme of the country, with almost unanimous consent, took the same side. She was founded by aristocratic and intolerant Church of England men, and up to the days of the Revolution her graduates, the *élite* of the Old Dominion, were great sticklers for an established church and a monarchical form of government. There were noble and most striking exceptions, such as the Pendletons, the Randolphs and the Lees, just as there were noble exceptions (and more of them) at Harvard; but the general drift of public sentiment at both was in the other direction.

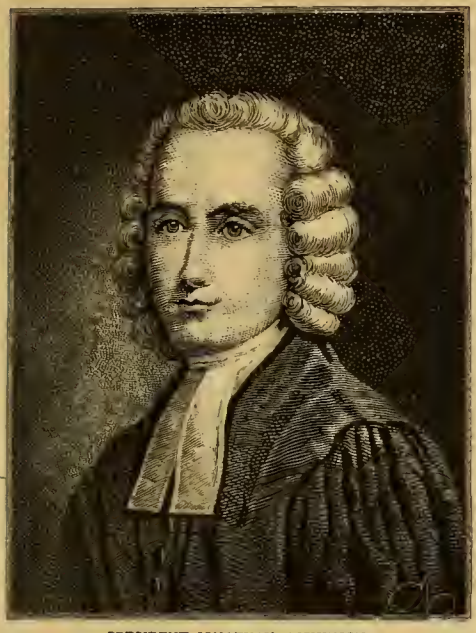
Yale grew out of the religious wants of the times, and her graduates and students were not so homogeneous in sentiment as either of the others, and there was also a higher type of patriotism among them; and yet there were two distinct parties—the friends of the king and the friends of liberty.

Princeton was also founded to meet the religious wants of the period, which had become more pressing as population increased. Her founders and graduates were of a different type from any of the others, although approaching that of Yale. Princeton is the child of that spirit of liberty and evangelical religion which is such a distinguishing trait of Scottish and Irish Protestantism; and from the beginning of the troubles with Great Britain, she was almost a unit in her stanch patriotism; indeed, the exceptions to this are so few, and some of these so doubtful, that they do not affect the estimate given, but rather give force to the statement that to be a Princeton man was to be a patriot.

Princeton College may be considered as the successor of the "Log College" founded by the Rev. William Tennent, Sr., at Neshaminy, Pa., about 1726. Mr. Tennent was an Irishman who had joined the Synod of Philadelphia in 1718. He was a man distinguished both for his ardent piety and his elegant classical scholarship. Soon after settling as pastor of a Presbyterian church at Neshaminy in 1726, he established a school for the purpose of educating young men for the Presbyterian ministry. Until this time, those who sought a training for the ministry were obliged to go to one of the New England colleges or to Europe. From the day of its founding until the retirement of Mr. Tennent on account of age and infirmity, the "Log College," as it was



PLAN OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS, PRINCETON COLLEGE.



PRESIDENT JONATHAN DICKINSON.

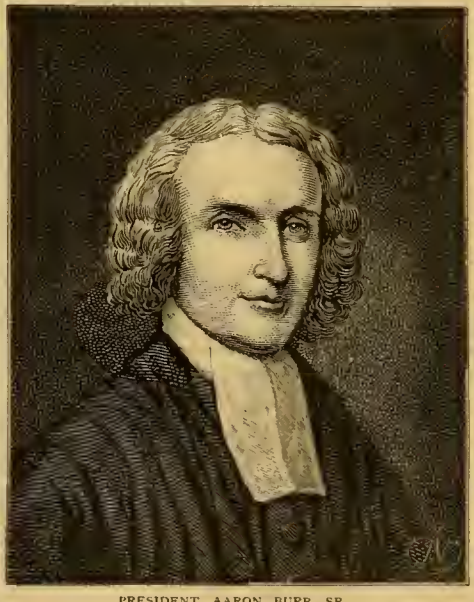
contemptuously called, was sending forth men who were afterward the leaders in the Presbyterian Church, and the founders and patrons of Princeton College. In fact, it was the decline of the Log College, and the pressing demands for an educated and more spiritual ministry, occasioned by the revivals under Whitefield, that led to the founding of Princeton College.

The first charter was obtained with difficulty from John Hamilton, president of his majesty's council in New Jersey, in 1746; and the Rev. Jonathan Dickinson, pastor of the Presbyterian church in Elizabethtown, N. J., was elected president, in the winter of 1747. The college was first opened at Elizabethtown, where it remained until the death of the president, which occurred in the autumn of 1747. There is some obscurity about this first charter, which passed the great seal of the province, but was never recorded; but in 1748, a new charter was obtained from Jonathan Belcher, who had now become the Governor. The question has been raised whether Dickinson was the first president. Certainly not under the present charter, but in fact and in spirit, he will always head that illustrious catalogue of names.

On the death of President Dickinson, the college, now numbering only eight—some accounts say twenty—students, was removed to Newark, and on the 9th of November, the degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred on six young men, by Rev. Aaron Burr, who on that day had been appointed to succeed Jonathan Dickinson as president of the college. This was under the new charter.

The college, at this time, was without adequate funds, and destitute of public buildings, and there was danger of the young institution degenerating into a mere academy, and thus failing to accomplish the great ends designed by its founders. It was therefore resolved to make application to the friends of sound learning and religion in Great Britain for assistance. Accordingly, in 1753, the Rev. Samuel Davies (afterward the president), and the Rev. Gilbert Tennent, one of the earliest and most devoted friends of the college, were appointed by the trustees to visit Europe for this purpose. Sailing in the autumn of the same year, they visited all parts of Great Britain and Ireland, and after an absence of fifteen months they returned, having been successful beyond their expectations.

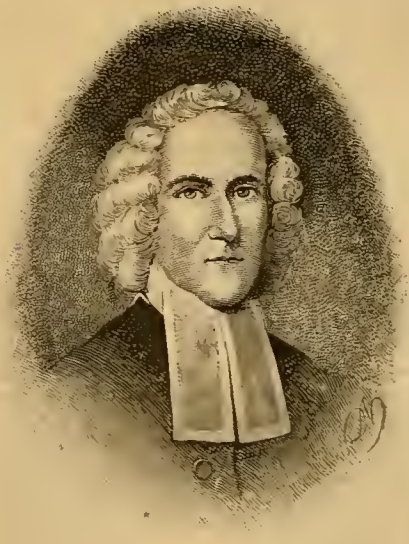
Up to this time there had been no public edifice belonging to the college. During the first year they occupied a small building



PRESIDENT AARON BURR, SR.

in Elizabethtown, adjoining and probably belonging to the Presbyterian church, of which the president was the pastor. After its removal to Newark, the college used the court-house for academic purposes, the

students being scattered through the town, boarding in private families. The success of Messrs. Davies and Tennent in collecting money determined the trustees to secure a permanent home. Perhaps it will be new to most of the friends of the college that Princeton had been decided upon as its site as early as 1747,—before the death of President Dickinson,—it being a compromise between East and West Jersey, each of which desired the new institution to be within its borders. This fact, which is of great historical interest, is derived from a letter of Governor Belcher to the "Committee of



PRESIDENT JONATHAN EDWARDS.

the West Jersey Society," London, dated "Burlington, September 18, 1747." In this letter he writes:

"I find the people of this Province are in a poor situation for educating their children. I am, therefore, promoting the building of a college for the instruction of youth. This affair was in agitation before my arrival, and much contested between the gentlemen of the eastern and those of the western division, where it should be placed, and I have got them to agree to have it built at Princetown in the western division, being, I apprehend, nearest to the centre of the Province; and will add value to all lands that lie anything near it; nor can anything, in my opinion, more promote the interest of the Proprietors, as well as that of the Province and people."

In another letter dated Oct. 2d, to a friend in London, he says that "Princetown has been fixed upon as the site of the college."

It appears from their minutes, that the trustees, in 1752, made overtures to the people of New Brunswick to establish the college in that place; but the citizens failing to meet the requirements, it was voted that the college be "fixed" in Princeton on certain conditions being complied with, thus by authority sanctioning the agreement of 1747. In 1754, the foundations of Nassau Hall were laid. The origin of the name given to the first edifice is learned from a letter of Governor Belcher to the trustees, and read before the Board in September, 1756. He writes:

"I take grateful notice of the respect and honor you are desirous of doing me and my family, in calling the edifice lately erected in Princeton by the name of Belcher Hall; but you will be so good as to excuse me, while I absolutely decline such an honour, for I have always been very fond of the motto of a late great personage: *prodesse quam conspici*. But I must not leave this head without asking the honour of your naming the present building Nassau Hall; and this I hope you will take as a further instance of my real regard to the future welfare and interest of the college, as it will express the honour we retain, in this remote part of the globe, to the immortal memory of the glorious King William the Third, who was a branch of the illustrious house of Nassau, and, who, under God, was the great deliverer of the British Nation, from those two monstrous furies, Popery and Slavery."

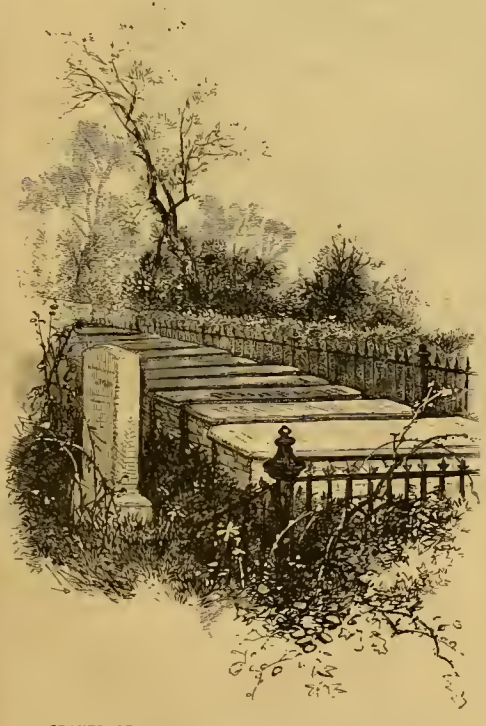
In 1757, the new building was so far completed as to be fit for occupation, and the college, now numbering seventy students, was removed to Princeton, President Burr superintending the removal, but dying two days before the annual commencement of that year. Until this year all the commencements had been held in Newark except the second, which was held in New Brunswick.

A description of Nassau Hall as it appeared at that time is of historical interest. It was a large stone edifice, four stories high (just as its external walls stand now), with accommodation for 147 students, allowing three to each room. These were twenty feet square, and had two light closets cut off from the corners, to serve as bedrooms or studies. In the center of the building on the second floor was a hall forty feet square, with a gallery on one side, in which was a small organ; opposite this gallery there was a pulpit and stage, used for religious services and the rhetorical exercises of the students. On one side of the hall hung a full-length portrait of George II., and on the opposite wall one of the same size of Governor Belcher, both bestowed by him. The library, also on the second floor, contained in 1764, 1,200 volumes, most of which were destroyed when the building was occupied by the British in 1776. On

the first floor was the dining-room, and apartments for the kitchen. Nassau Hall, at the time of its erection, was the largest single building in the colonies. The studies of the institution were conducted by the president and two tutors.

In the light of recent events, it would be a grave omission not to speak of the influence of Princeton College during the Revolutionary war. The first twenty-five years of its existence would be considered remarkable years in the history of any country. Within this quarter of a century, the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty were forever settled for this land, and the influence of Princeton in their settlement is a subject of pride to all connected with the college. She seems to have been planted in almost the center of population in the colonies, to have been a rallying point and an aggressive post for the friends of freedom.

The first four presidents of the college, on account of their brief terms of service, made, perhaps, but little individual impression upon the minds of the young men; but their general influence was incalculable.



GRAVES OF PRESIDENTS OF PRINCETON COLLEGE.

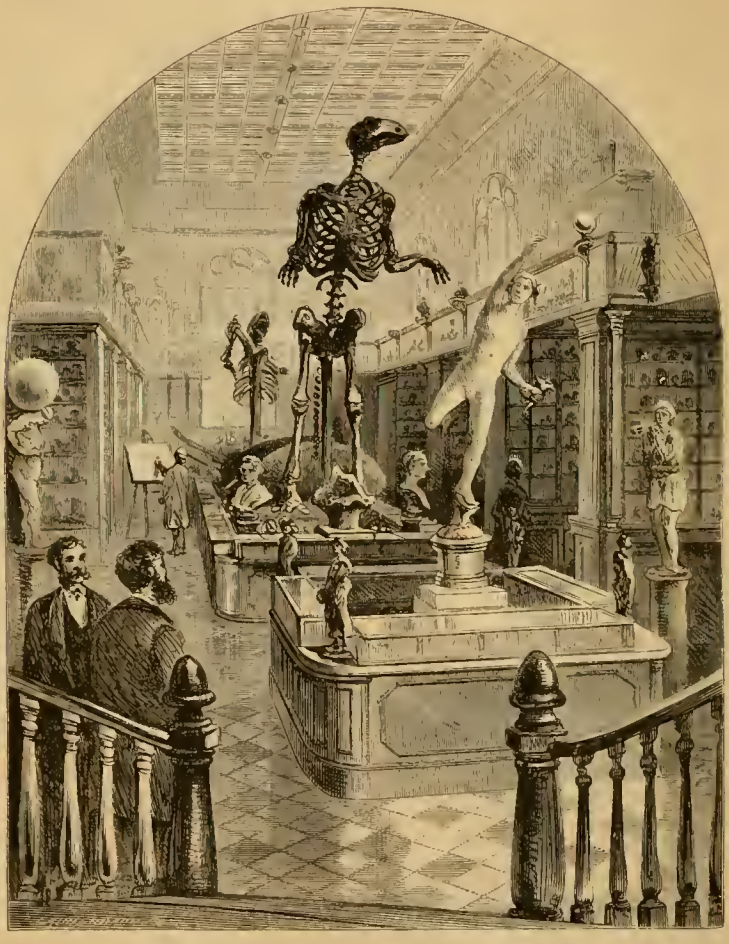
We seldom find men of such mighty power succeeding each other in public station. Dickinson, Burr, Edwards and Davies—and Finley may be added—are living yet in the profound impression they made upon the mind of the nation. Princeton was borne

PRESIDENT JOHN WITHERSPOON.

along on the shoulders of these intellectual and spiritual athletes to the very verge of the Revolution, when Witherspoon, a very Hercules, received the trust. His power in molding the young men who came within his influence was truly marvelous. He reached back and guided and controlled the earlier graduates, exciting in them the same love of liberty which actuated himself.

Princeton College sent out in those days men of action, rather than mere scholars, and they were found in all places that demanded brave and strong men; and it can be said of her,—what is not true of any of the other colleges named,—that in the course of the Revolution, she had as her representatives, leading men in every one of the thirteen original colonies. This goes to show the wide extent of her influence, and the stanch patriotism of her sons. In whatever profession they are found, or whatever their peculiar gifts, the influence of all was brought to bear upon the solution of the great problem of civil and religious liberty. Of these, Richard Stockton, William Paterson, Oliver Ellsworth, James Madison and Luther Martin, the great lawyers of the day, and many like them, cast the weight of their influence on the side of freedom; Benjamin Rush, William Burnet, William Shippen and Charles McKnight, who stood at the head of the medical profession, were superintendents of the medical departments of the Continental army; Benjamin Youngs

Prime, Philip Freneau and Hugh Henry Brackenridge, fired the nation with their war songs and patriotic odes. Nathaniel Scudder, Francis Barbour, Joseph Reed, "Light-Horse Harry" Lee and Frederick Frelinghuysen are a few of the host who were renowned in the Revolutionary army; John Witherspoon, George Duffield, Alexander McWhorter and John Lathrop, all eminent clergymen, were bold and uncompromising in their devotion to the colonies. And it was not the distinguished ministers alone who stood forth in those stormy days, and "pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor" to the cause, for nearly every minister who graduated at Princeton, from New Hampshire to Georgia, was either a chaplain, an officer, or otherwise enlisted during the progress of the war.



INTERIOR OF MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

The following incident will show the wide influence of Princeton in distant colonies. A graduate* of the college was passing through North Carolina in the most excited period of the war, and, night overtaking him, he stopped at a farm-house and asked for shelter. The woman of the house, with some reluctance, her husband being absent, admitted him. In the middle of the night the traveler was rudely aroused from sleep by the owner of the house entering his room, saying: "I allow no man to sleep under my roof but a Whig."

"Let me rest in peace, then," answered the traveler, "for I was graduated at Princeton under Dr. Witherspoon, a signer of the Declaration of Independence."

The explanation was entirely satisfactory. It has already been stated that every one

* Stephen Bloomer Balch.

of the thirteen original colonies had among its leading public men graduates of Princeton. It may be of interest to know who some of these men were, and as New England seems to be the most unlikely place to find them, and as the numbers multiply so fast as we get further south, making a selection difficult, an example or two from each of those colonies must suffice. Beginning at New Hampshire, we find the names of Macclintock, Evans and Livermore, all men of mark in their day. The Rev. Samuel Macclintock was pastor of a church in Greenland. During the Revolution he repeatedly acted as chaplain, and his patriotic exhortations animated the soldiers in more than one conflict. He was known all over New England, and was regarded as pre-eminent for practical wisdom. Nathaniel Evans of Concord was a chaplain from 1777 to the close of the war. His sermons, published at that period (which are now among the rarest American pamphlets), prove him to have been one of the ablest preachers and stanchest Whigs of the day. Mr. Evans was immensely popular with all the leaders of the country. The third New Hampshire man of note was Samuel Livermore, a profound lawyer, and at the breaking out of the war, Judge Advocate of the Admiralty Court. He was a member of the Continental Congress for four years, and a Judge of the Superior Court for eight years. After the war he was United States Senator, and Chief Justice of New Hampshire.

But two names from Massachusetts will be mentioned, Thomas Melville and Nathaniel Niles. The first was the son of a Scotch merchant in Boston. Herman Melville, the well-known author, was his grandson. After graduating, he visited Scotland, but in 1773, the dangers threatening his country induced him to return, and he entered with all his soul into the conflict for liberty which was just beginning. Mr. Melville was one of that famous party that threw the tea overboard in Boston harbor. Some of that tea is still in existence, having been found in the shoes of young Melville the next morning. Another of the sons of Massachusetts was Nathaniel Niles, one of the ablest men New England has produced, and in his day he exerted a mighty power in behalf of liberty in his native colony. He wrote a Sapphic Ode entitled "The American Hero," which was afterward set to music, and was one of the most effective war songs of the Revolution.

Little Rhode Island was not without her representatives. James Manning, the founder and president of Rhode Island College (Brown University), was active in public affairs during the whole war, and represented his colony in the Continental Congress.

PROFESSOR GUYOT'S GARDEN.

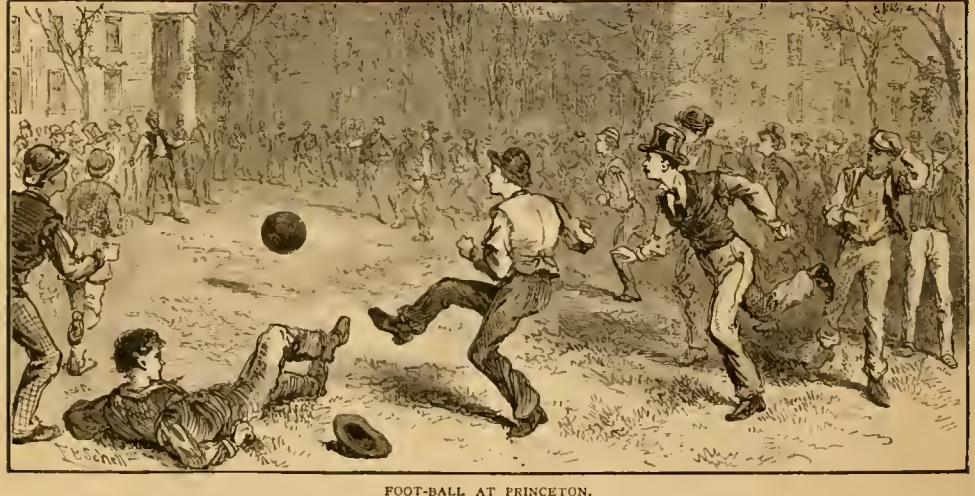
Few men did more to mold public sentiment in New England than President Manning. His friend David Howell of Providence, was also a man of mark. He was one of the first lawyers of the day; and a most accomplished and varied scholar, as well as an ardent patriot. Mr. Howell also represented his colony in the Continental Congress for three years.

ARNOLD GUYOT,—BLAIR PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

Even in Connecticut, the seat of honored old Yale, Princeton men were in the forefront during the Revolution. The name of Oliver Ellsworth will never be forgotten. In Congress and in the councils of his own State he shone as a star of the first magnitude. Jesse Root, a distinguished lawyer, was also from Connecticut. In 1777 he raised a company in Hartford and joined General Washington, by whom he was immediately promoted. But the public councils demanded such men, so that from 1779 till the close of the war he represented Connecticut in the Continental Congress.

The number of statesmen educated at Princeton is truly remarkable. At one period one-sixth of the Senate of the United States were her graduates, and in the Continental Congress ten of the thirteen colonies were represented by Princeton men.

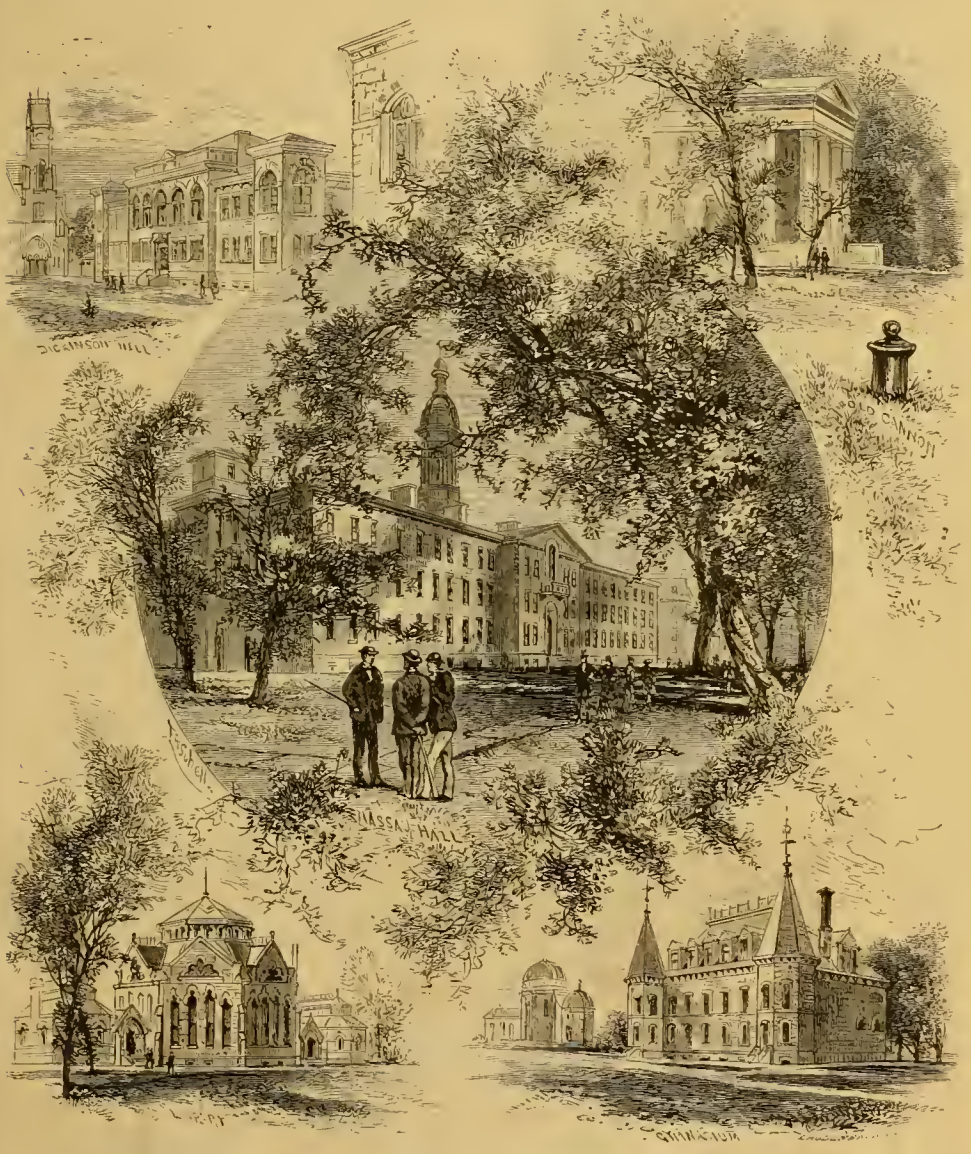
Besides those already mentioned, glance for a moment at some names taken at random from the catalogue. John Bacon, of Massachusetts, the clergyman, judge and United States Senator; William Channing, of Rhode Island, Attorney General of his state, and United States District Attorney, and the ancestor of a distinguished line; Tapping Reeve, of Connecticut, an eminent lawyer and the educator of lawyers; Edward Livingston, the profound jurist and statesman, and his brother Henry Brockholst Livingston, who so long adorned the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States,—both of New York; Charles Ewing, the elegant gentleman and distinguished Chief Justice of New Jersey, and Samuel L. Southard of the same State, Senator, Secretary of the Navy and a brilliant orator; William Bradford, the first Attorney General of the United States, and John Sergeant, pre-eminent both in law and in statesmanship,—both from Pennsylvania; Gunning Bedford and James Ashton Bayard, of Delaware; Robert Goodloe Harper and Benjamin Chew Howard, of Maryland, whose reputations are continental; William B. Giles and Charles Lee, of Virginia, worthy successors of a noble race of statesmen; Alexander Martin and William Gaston, of South Carolina; William H. Crawford and John Forsyth, of Georgia, and



FOOT-BALL AT PRINCETON.

many other eminent men from the various states. To give in one view the number of Princeton graduates who have adorned public offices, we find: one President of the United States; two Vice-Presidents; one Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; four fifty members of Congress, and seventeen Foreign Embassadors.

Princeton cannot compare with the older New England colleges in authorship; her work has been rather in the field than in the study,—wielding the sword and baton



PRINCETON SKETCHES.

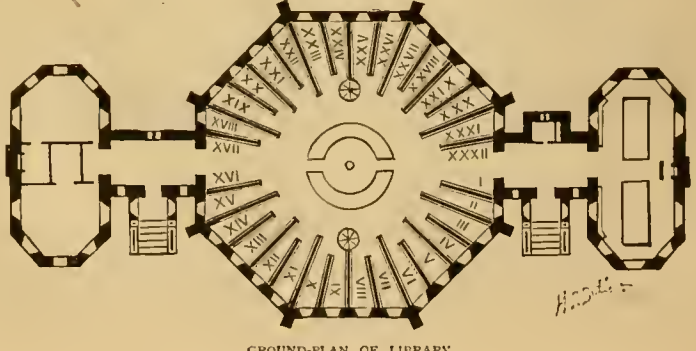
Associate Justices; four Secretaries of State; four of the Treasury; three of War; four of the Navy; five Attorney Generals; one Postmaster General; twenty-five Governors of States; one hundred and seventeen Judges of State Courts; one hundred and rather than the pen. And yet she does not lack able writers. In a collection lately gathered of the publications of her alumni, are found 250 volumes and over 700 pamphlets, comprising, perhaps, one-half of the whole, embracing works on theology, men-

THE NEW DORMITORY, WITHERSPOON HALL.

tal and physical science, mathematics, medicine, law, fiction, *belles-lettres*, and poetry, some of them masterpieces in the various departments; and from present indications, Princeton is advancing in this direction rapidly. Perhaps a comparison of the little Latin Grammar, entitled, "The Newark Grammar," prepared and published by President Burr in 1752, with the admirable Latin Grammar and Reader by Professor Gildersleeve of the Johns Hopkins University, a Princeton graduate of 1849, will indicate the advance made.

The claim of Princeton to the title of "A Mother of Colleges" will be stated in a word:—Brown University, Union and Hamilton Colleges, the University of Pennsylvania (reorganized), Jefferson and Washington Colleges, Pennsylvania; Hampden-Sydney and Washington Colleges, Virginia; Greenville and Washington Colleges, Tennessee; Transylvania University, Kentucky, and the University of North Carolina, were all founded, and all but one presided over, by graduates of Princeton. She has given to the country 42 presidents of colleges, and 110 professors.—Some miscellaneous incidents of the olden times will not be out of place in this connection. In the early days of the college it was a serious business to go from New York to Philadelphia, and the bold adventurer might well ask the prayers of the church for a safe passage, as the good people of New York were said to have done when they took sloop for the voyage up the river to Albany. One starting from New York on Tuesday morning would arrive in Philadelphia, if no accident occurred, on Thursday morning. Wednesday night he would pass in Princeton at the "Sign of the College." Here the travelers found a billiard-table, and the host was celebrated for his hot punch and his fine wines,—a serious temptation to the collegians; but they were kept well under the eye of the authorities, and the tradition is that they very seldom transgressed. The name of this early Princeton innkeeper has never come to the surface in modern times, but some of his successors have been known all over the country, as every traveler between New York and Philadelphia passed a night under this hospitable roof. John Gifford in the last century was succeeded by his brother Archer Gifford, and he by "Lord Joline," as James K. Paulding dubbed him. In 1808 Washington Irving and Paulding were in Princeton, waiting upon a friend who was about to marry one of the village belles, and they doubtless made Joline's their headquarters. A few months after, they published that masterly description of the college in "Salmagundi." Its epigrammatic brevity permits its republication here:

"Princeton College—professors wear boots—students famous for their love of a jest—set the college on fire and burned the professors; an excellent joke but not worth repeating—*Mem.* American students very much addicted to burning down colleges—reminds me of a good story, nothing at



GROUND-PLAN OF LIBRARY.

all to the purpose—two societies in the college—good notion—encourages emulation and makes little boys fight;—students famous for their eating and erudition—saw two at the tavern who had just got their allowance of spending money—laid it all out in a supper, got fuddled and cursed the professors for nincoms."

A few years after this Paulding published his "Lay of a Scotch Fiddle," a parody of "The Lay of the Last Minstrel," which had just appeared. The fiddler arrives at Princeton,—but space will allow the quotation of only a few lines:

"With blistered feet they faltering came,
To where old Princeton's classic fane,
With cupola, and copper vane,
And learning's holy honours crown'd
Looks from her high hill all around,
O'er such a wondrous fairy scene
Of waving woods and meadows green
That sooth to say, a man might swear,
Was never scene so wonderous fair
* * * * * * * * * * * *
Even now he reached the welcome door
That ne'er was shut against the poor
Where *lord Joline* his merry cheer
Deals out to all from far and near."

The voyage from Boston to Princeton in those days was like going to the antipodes in these times of rapid transit. John Bacon, a Boston boy, who afterward became distinguished as a member of the Continental Congress, a United States Senator and the Chief Justice of New Hamsphire, sailed from Boston on his way to college, in the sloop "Lydia" on the 10th of September, 1751. He has left a diary of the voyage, in which he gives us his outfit and the price of each article. Here is his statement:

INTERIOR OF THE LIBRARY.

5 quarts of West Ind. Rum	£1.	17s.	6d.
¼ lb. of tea, @ 48s		12	
Canister		6	
1 doz. fowls	2	10	
2 pounds of loaf Sugar @ 8s		16	
1 doz. and 8 lemons	1	9	
3 pounds butter		12	
Box		5	

His stock of clothes might well suit a collegian of the present day; it consisted of two close coats, one great coat, two jackets, thirteen shirts, seven pairs of stockings, six

caps, four cravats, three handkerchiefs, and one pair of breeches. His library was not so complete as his wardrobe; it contained, Bible, Latin and Greek Testaments and grammar, dictionary and lexicon, Ward's "Introduction to Mathematics," Gordon's "Geology," with Virgil and Tully. He carried letters of introduction to Governor Belcher and President Burr giving him the highest character for sobriety and studiousness. The West India rum and the lemons were probably intended as medicine.

From a little book published in 1764, now exceedingly rare, we catch a glimpse of the student of the day at his meals:

"Tea and Coffee are served up at breakfast. At dinner, they have, in turn, almost all the variety of fish and flesh the country here affords, and sometimes pyes. No luxurious dainties or costly delicacies can be looked for among the viands of a college, where health and economy are alone consulted in the furnishing of the tables. These however are plentifully supplied without weight or measure allowance; and the meals are conducted with regularity and decorum. The general table drink is small beer or cyder; chocolate is sometimes served as a change."

About this time the passage of the Stamp Act created quite a commotion in the little college world, and the students, with one consent, resolved henceforth to wear nothing but homespun clothes—a resolution which was faithfully carried into effect.

James Madison, then a boy at college, writes to his father under date of July 23d, 1770:

"We have no public news but the base conduct of the merchants in New York in breaking through their spirited resolutions not to import; a distinct account of which I suppose will be in the 'Virginia Gazette' before this arrives. The letter to the merchants in Philadelphia requesting their concurrence, was lately burned by the students of this place in the college yard, all of them appearing in their black gowns, and the bell tolling."

How truly was the boy the father of the man!

Just as the Revolutionary war was beginning in 1774, among the young graduates was William Stevens Smith of New York City. Returning home, he commenced the study of law, and had almost completed his studies when the disastrous battle of Long Island determined him to take up arms for his country. But his parents disapproving of this step, he enlisted as a common soldier without making himself known. Being one day on duty at the door of a general officer, he was recognized by a friend of his family, who spoke of him to the commanding officer. He was immediately invited to dinner, but he answered that he could not leave his post of duty. His corporal was directed to relieve him, and after dinner he returned to his post. Charmed with his zeal, the general in a few days appointed

JUDGE ELBERT HERRING.

him an aid-de-camp. In 1780 he commanded a battalion of light infantry under La Fayette, and the next year was made aid-de-camp to General Washington, with whom he remained until the end of the war. Colonel Smith attended John Adams to the court of St. James, as secretary of legation, and married his only daughter.

In 1783 the Continental Congress met at Princeton. As the president of Congress was a trustee of the college, and the president of the college had recently been a distinguished member of Congress, and as that body was holding its sessions in Nassau Hall, as an act of courtesy it adjourned to attend the annual commencement of that year. Upon the stage, besides the trustees and the graduating class, sat the Ministers of France and Holland, and the Commander-in-Chief of the American army. The valedictorian on that occasion was Ashbel Green, afterward president of the college. He concluded his oration with an address to General Washington. Let the orator finish the story: "The General colored as I addressed him, for his modesty

was among the qualities which so highly distinguished him. The next day as he was going to attend on a committee of Congress, he met me in one of the long entries of the college, stopped and took me by the hand, and complimented me on my address in language which I should lack his modesty if I repeated to you."

At the time this paper was written, the oldest college graduate in the United States was the Honorable Elbert Herring of New York City, who took his degree in 1795. He was also probably the oldest living lawyer in the country. At the inauguration of President McCosh in 1868, Judge Herring and his class-mate Joseph Warren Scott, a distinguished lawyer of New Jersey, were present on the stage; and attention was drawn to the singular fact that these two men were graduated the same year in which ex-President Maclean (just retiring from office on account of age and infirmity) was born. Judge Herring died, during 1876, in his one hundredth year. He was the last survivor of those who received instruction from the lips of Witherspoon, and followed his remains to its last resting-place.

THE ANNUAL CANE FIGHT ON THE CAMPUS BETWEEN FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES.

Princeton College of to-day is the fruit of the prayers, the self-denials and the faith of its pious founders. Old Nassau Hall still stands, although it has been purified by fire more than once. Modern improvement has entirely renovated the interior, while the grim old walls stand as they did one hundred and twenty years ago, bearing on their face the marks of hostile cannon-balls. The public hall, before described, has been doubled in size, and under the magic touch of Dr. Guyot, has become a Geological Museum, unsurpassed, for one of its size, in America. The frame which once contained a picture of George II. which was destroyed by a cannon-ball in the Revolutionary war, still hangs on the wall; but instead of the portrait of the king, it has for many years contained a painting by Charles Peale, of the death of General Mercer, who fell at the battle of Princeton. The most prominent figure in the picture is General Washington—a life-sized portrait. This picture was a gift of General Washington in 1783.

After the Revolutionary war, the college, which had descended to the lowest point, began to revive, and under the able administration of Presidents Samuel Stanhope Smith and Ashbel Green, it made great advances, but it was not until the administration of President Carnahan, with a faculty

THE JOHN C. GREEN SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL.

embracing such men as John Maclean, James W. Alexander, Albert B. Dod, Joseph Henry and John Torrey, that it attained a commanding position. And now again, under an efficient board of trustees, with President McCosh and a most able faculty to conduct its internal affairs, it stands the peer of any institution in the land. And it has been advancing with the times. Within the last few years upward of $1,350,000 has been contributed by generous friends for its maintenance and extension. The late Mr. John C. Green gave, in all, about $750,000. The number of buildings has been doubled. Upward of a dozen new branches of study have been added, and half a dozen new professorships; and an entirely new department, the John C. Green School of Science, with a competent staff of professors, has been established. All the students pursue the same course of study for the first two years and then pass the biennial examinations. In the junior and senior years, while required to take certain studies, they have a selection allowed them in others; to a limited extent in the junior year and to a larger extent in the senior year, in which all the recent branches of science and literature have a place. Learning is encouraged by a number of high prizes and fellowships which are gained by competition. There are, commonly, half a dozen Princeton fellows pursuing high research at Princeton or some of the German universities. There is no reason why this system may not call forth as erudite men as proceed from Oxford, Cambridge, Berlin and Edinburgh. By raising the standard the number of students has been largely increased instead of diminished, as some feared. The number under instruction, which was 238 in 1865–6 at the close of the war, has risen steadily and is now 483—not including 46 at the preparatory school.

Nassau Hall is now the center of a cluster of noble buildings which have sprung up as if by magic within the last few years, all of them the gifts of generous friends in New York City, among whom the name of John C. Green must ever stand conspicuous. The number of public edifices is fourteen—all built of stone, and some of them peculiarly beautiful in design, and imposing in general effect.

Nassau Hall has already been mentioned. The interior, since the last fire, has been entirely remodeled, and furnishes admirable accommodation for many students.

East and West Colleges stand at right angles to Nassau Hall on opposite sides of the rear campus. These buildings are alike in size and form,—are four stories and a half high, and are used as sleeping-rooms and studies.

Whig and Clio Halls were built and are used by the two literary societies connected with the college. They are of stone, sixty-two feet long by forty-one wide, and two stories high. The columns of the porticoes are of the Ionic order, copied from those of a temple of Illissus; the model of the buildings in other respects, was the temple of Dionysius in the Ionian city of Teos. They are situated on the eastern side of the rear campus, and face Nassau Hall.

Reunion Hall stands on a line with West College nearer to Nassau Hall. The apartments for students are complete in every respect. This building is four stories and a half high, and was erected during the year of the reunion of the Presbyterian Church, and hence its name.

The Gymnasium is a unique and beau-

tiful structure, standing west of Reunion Hall, facing the south-east. It was the gift of Messrs. Robert Bonner and Henry G. Marquand, of New York City. Its appointments are complete, and it is under the direction of an accomplished master of athletics.

The Halstead Observatory is the gift of N. Morris Halstead, Esq., of Newark, N. J. It stands on a line with and west of the Gymnasium.

Witherspoon Hall is now in the course of erection. When completed it will be one of the most imposing buildings in Princeton.

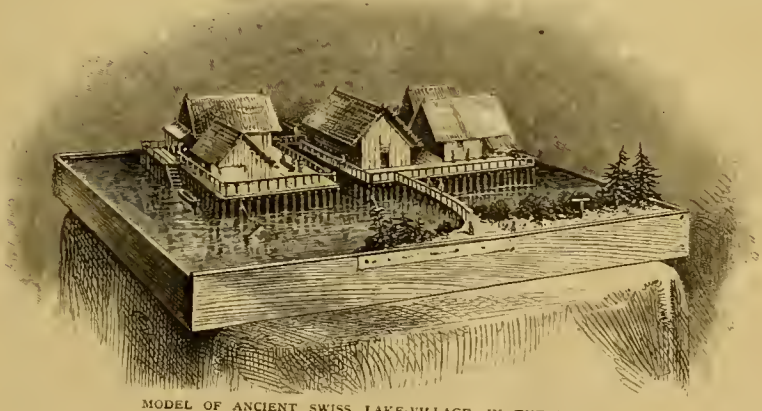
Philadelphian Hall is the oldest building of the group next to Nassau Hall, having been erected in 1805. It formerly contained the library and the halls of the literary societies. It is now occupied by the Philadelphian Society, an organization for religious culture, and contains also two or three lecture-rooms.

The Chancellor Green Library, standing on a line with Nassau Hall, and north-east of it, is a gem of architectural beauty and convenience. Principal Tulloch, of St. Mary's College, St. Andrews, who visited the colleges of this country last spring, in a late number of "Good Words" calls it "the most perfectly adapted and beautiful building for a library I ever saw." It was the gift of John C. Green, Esq., of New York.

Dickinson Hall, on a line with the library, to the north-east, is occupied with lecture and recitation rooms. A more complete and comfortable suite of rooms for the purpose could not be designed. This was also the gift of Mr. Green.

The Chapel, in the rear of Dickinson Hall, is soon to give place to a more commodious and elegant structure.

The John C. Green Scientific Hall is a noble and striking edifice, standing at right angles to Dickinson Hall, and facing the front campus. It contains lecture and recitation rooms, chemical, physical and assay laboratories, drawing and photographing rooms and a Museum of Natural History, besides the private rooms of the professors. The laboratories are supplied with all the apparatus requisite for the study of all the higher branches of science.



MODEL OF ANCIENT SWISS LAKE-VILLAGE, IN THE MUSEUM.

TO HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW,

ON HIS BIRTHDAY, FEB. 27th, 1877.

COULD greetings meet from either hemisphere,
And speak at once what from the heart upthrongs,
How Babel-voiced the praises thou wouldst hear
Since all the nations love and learn thy songs!
What though thy life-clock strike the dusky hour!
With thee it is not that, but brilliant day.
Like Northern skies, thy light still holds its power
To bless both Toil and Travel on their way.
Thy Northern sun not hinting yet of night,
Well may we say, "The hour has not struck right."

JAMES McCOSH, PRESIDENT OF PRINCETON COLLEGE.

WO distinguished Scotchmen have served Princeton College in the office of President. But by a striking paradox they have both been more thoroughly American than if born to the manner. John Witherspoon, chosen in 1768 to the seemingly unimportant office, at first declined; but learning later from Richard Stockton of the potential influence of such a position, accepted. With the blood of John Knox in his veins, he discovered, on his arrival, with the prophetic vision of his ancestor the deep meaning of the contest between the colonies and their infatuated masters, the king and parliament. His record as an ardent American patriot, as the instructor of James Madison in the formative principles of the Constitution, as a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and as a leader in molding public opinion throughout the war of the Revolution, fills a splendid page of American history. His services to the college were scarcely less splendid than those to his adopted country. He reorganized its teaching body, increased its funds, and paid its debts. His great reputation as a statesman and a divine attracted to Princeton sons of many of the most distinguished families in the land. The list of graduates during the twenty-five years of his presidency is not less a matter of pride to the country than to the college. To the names of Ephraim Brevard, Philip Freneau, James Madison, Aaron Burr, Henry Brockholst Livingston, Gunning Bedford, and Jonathan Dayton might be added many others of scarcely inferior fame. Of the fifty-five members of the convention which framed the Constitution, Princeton furnished nine, and five of these had been personally taught by Witherspoon. Of his other pupils, sixteen sat in the Senate, forty in the House, four were cabinet-officers, four governors, nine presidents of colleges, and an equal number occupants of various professional chairs.

Perhaps it was the memory of such achievements, perhaps it was the same instinct with which good society recognizes its own, that led the trustees of the college, a hundred years later, to look over sea for another President. Be that as it may, it was exactly a century after Witherspoon's inauguration that James McCosh entered upon the duties of the same office.

We are having serious contentions about
1746, and settled in Rhode Island.
Stuart (who now was a young man of nine-

the environment of men, and its effect on character. One thing is certain, that many of the foremost Americans have emerged from very un-American surroundings and training. There is a certain type of intellect and mold of character which belongs here. It makes little difference whether it develops by Swiss lakes and mountains, as did that of Agassiz; whether it acquires consistency on the flat marshes of Prussia or amid the thunders of Waterloo, as did that of Francis Lieber; or whether it grows by merchandising on the banks of the Garonne and at the wharves of Bordeaux, as did that of Stephen Girard,—the American world finds place and scope for it in its varied interests and knows it as essentially its own.

This was true in a high degree of the Scotchman from Brechin and Belfast. And he knew it as well as those who called him. In the early days it was no reproach to be a foreigner in a community where the preceding generation had been one of immigrants. Four generations later it was quite different, and no little courage was and is required for one not born on our shores to accept a public position of the first importance. What is said to be a characteristic anecdote is told by some of Doctor McCosh's first American pupils. At the close of his first class-room lecture there was an outburst of somewhat undignified but honest applause. Veteran teacher as he was, he misunderstood it — very probably from the exaggerated accounts of student waywardness which college-bred men are so fond of repeating. But with the fearlessness of his conviction that such demeanor was but an excrescence on American manners, he checked it successfully with the quiet and stern remark, "I am not to come to you, gentlemen; it is you who will come to me." The instinct of his mind was true. The mutual interchange of relationships has brought the college to him in many high senses, and even more certainly has fastened his name and fame in the most enduring bond to those of the institution for which he has labored in season and out of season with abiding devotion for nearly a score of years.

The success of Doctor McCosh's administration as presiding officer of the College of New Jersey is already well known to the public. One is almost tempted to say too well known, for it has happened to him as to other successful organizers that his results have been prematurely judged as complete, and his final

Narragansett. My grandfather's mechanical genius resulted in the construction of a

aims marred by well-meant but cruel exaggerations. At least that is what we seem to read between the lines of his recent pamphlet on education. Like his great predecessor he has strengthened the traditional spirit of his college, rallied to its support its hereditary friends and gathered many new ones, amplified and reënforced the course of study, and brought its system into prominence as a leading candidate for the favor of the great public. It has been the repetition of the old experience that with the Time came the Man. The stream of liberality which was ready to break forth at the sufficient incentive found its release in the confidence of the public in his management and that of the corporation, and in the high purposes which were revealed by his untiring agitation of educational themes.

What is of primary importance is that in this great work the jealous American spirit has not been roused to any opposition or anxiety by the use of foreign methods or the display of any but the most American feelings and tendencies. While the press utters its warnings as to foreign mannerisms and foreign teachings in other prominent colleges, and spares nothing of its watchfulness and advice with regard to Princeton, at least it never has even hinted at foreign invasion, where, under a Scotch executive, it might most be expected. This is perhaps the more interesting because the personality of Doctor McCosh is thoroughly Scotch, and his address very impressive — not to say aggressive. With a massive but spare frame which, when his mind is roused, abandons its scholarly stoop and towers above expectation, is combined an unusual nervous force which often manifests itself in vigorous gestures. His head and brow are even more expressive of power; even to the usual observer the broad forehead and keen eyes bring into prominence his well-known capacity for an impetuous, unyielding, intellectual onset. But in repose the philosopher and the divine stand revealed in the bowed and meditative attitude which is customary, and in the wrapt, abstracted expression of the features, and in the contemplative poise of the head so familiar to all who have paused to observe him in his daily walks.

The streets of Princeton form lovely vistas of deep shade and glancing sunlight. Old and mossy mansions of colonial days still linger among the massive self-asserting structures of modern architecture, and old Nassau itself muses upon the changes of nearly two centuries. An academic air pervades the whole town, and during the hours elsewhere given to the stir of labor and business, the wide avenues and broad lawns wear the same studied repose which in life so often overlies activity and ambition and unrest. The hidden life only appears at midday and in the evening when the streets resound to the tramp of the students' constitutional and the distant shouts of the playing-fields. There is no need to fill in the outlines of the familiar picture. Its colors, like those of the old masters, mellow and soften with age. But it will be somber and dusky enough to some of us when we make our annual pilgrimage and miss the familiar form of the master from among his colleagues and his boys. We will forget his austerity in the faithfulness with which he reproved the *vitium regere non posse impetum*. Our awe will melt with affection, and our respect for his wisdom and knowledge will awaken memories both lasting and beneficent.

The public knows Doctor McCosh as the author of erudite and recondite philosophical treatises. It stands in no little awe of him as a defender of old-fashioned doctrines in the pulpit, in the press, and even in the hostile circles of the "liberal" clubs. It pictures him as an intrepid explorer for benevolence, who traverses the wilderness of worldliness and defies the sultry heats of indifference to reach the hidden fountains of good-will and make known their virtue to the world. Such a reputation is enviable enough, but it is not half of the whole, and an old pupil could not attempt a portrayal of the man without falling into something of the sentiment which his personal traits develop in all who come in contact with him. Even his polemic is imaginative, as will be admitted by all who are familiar with the style of his philosophical writings. When a candidate for the professorship of mental science in Queen's College, Belfast, some friends sent a copy of his first book, "The Method of the Divine Government," to Lord Clarendon. That eminently practical statesman has left on record that he spent the night in reading the book, and gave the appointment to its author on the following day. This was the occasion of those scornful lines of Master Molloy Molony which Thackeray preserved for us:

"As I think of the insult that's done to this nation
Red tears of rivinge from me faytures I wash,
And uphold in this pome to the world's detestaytion
The sleeves that appointed Professor McCosh.

. . . . . .

. . . . Is it thus that you praych me?
I think all your Queen's Universities bosh;
And if you've no neetive professor to taych me
I scawurn to be learned by the Saxon McCosh."

If we have long neglected our Scott, the conception of geniality as a necessary characteristic of the Scotch is not always clear. But James McCosh was born in Ayrshire, the land of Burns. His father was a wealthy farmer, and in the days before the Washing-

JAMES M^cCOSH, PRESIDENT OF PRINCETON COLLEGE.