

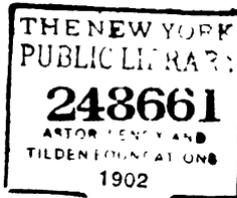
A
HISTORY
OF
WILLIAMS COLLEGE.

BY
REV. CALVIN DURFEE.

"Ask now of the days that are past." — DAVID. iv. 32.



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TO
DAVID DUDLEY FIELD, LL.D.,
NEW YORK,

This Volume,

PREPARED AND PUBLISHED

TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF OUR ALMA MATER,
TO PERPETUATE THE MEMORY OF GOOD MEN,
TO EXHIBIT THE DEALINGS OF PROVIDENCE, AND EXALT THE RICHES
OF DIVINE GRACE,

Is Dedicated,

WITH VERY PLEASANT REMEMBRANCES,

BY HIS FRIEND AND CLASSMATE,

CALVIN DURFEE.

CHAPTER VI.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PRESIDENT MOORE.

THE Rev. Zephaniah Swift Moore, D.D., the second President of Williams College, was the son of Judah and Mary Moore, and was born at Palmer, Mass., November 20, 1770. When he was seven or eight years old he removed with his father's family to Wilmington, Vt., where he worked upon a farm till he was about eighteen. From early childhood he evinced great inquisitiveness of mind, and a thirst for knowledge; in consequence of which his parents, who were in humble circumstances, consented to aid him in acquiring an education. Having prosecuted his preparatory studies at the Academy in Bennington, Vt., he entered Dartmouth College, in his nineteenth year; and was graduated in 1793, when he delivered the philosophical oration, "On the Causes and General Phenomena of Earthquakes."

On leaving College, he took charge for one year of an Academy at Londonderry, N. H. He studied theology under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Charles Backus, of Somers, Conn., and was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Association of Tolland

County, February 3, 1796. After preaching to acceptance in different places, especially in Tolland, Conn. and Peterborough, N. H., he finally accepted a call from the church and congregation in Leicester, Mass., and was ordained there January 10, 1798. Here his labors were acceptable and useful. During a portion of the time that he resided here, he joined to his duties as a minister those of Principal of Leicester Academy.

In October, 1811, he accepted the chair of Languages in Dartmouth College. Here he was respected as a man, as a teacher and preacher; and if his attainments were not of the highest order in his department, they were at least such as to secure his respectability and usefulness.

In 1815, he was elected President of Williams College, then vacant by the resignation of Dr. Fitch. He accepted the appointment, and was regularly inducted into office at the Commencement in September of that year. Shortly after his removal to Williamstown he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from his Alma Mater. His connection with Williams College was attended with circumstances of peculiar embarrassment, in consequence of the efforts which were made about this time to remove the College to Northampton, or some other town in Hampshire County; and in these efforts Dr. Moore took a prominent part. The measure failed in consequence of the refusal of the Legislature to sanction it.

In the spring of 1821, the Collegiate Institution

at Amherst having been founded, he was invited to become its first President. He accepted the invitation, taking a large number of students with him, and was inaugurated in September following. The institution, then in its infancy, and contending with a powerful public opinion for its existence, put in requisition all his energies; and the ultimate success of the enterprise was no doubt to be referred in no small degree to his earnest and untiring efforts. In addition to his appropriate duties as President, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, he heard the recitations of the Senior class, and a part of the recitations of the Sophomore class; besides all his personal efforts to increase the funds of the institution. His constitution, naturally strong, was overtaxed by these unremitting efforts, and had begun perceptibly to yield, before the last violent attack of disease, which terminated his life.

On Wednesday, June 25, 1823, he was seized with a bilious colic, which reached a fatal termination on the Monday following, — not two years after he left Williamstown. During the brief period of his illness, the greatest anxiety prevailed in College, and unceasing prayers were offered on his behalf. His own mind appeared to be tranquil, and he anticipated the closing scene, and passed through it, with apparent Christian composure. He was fifty-two years seven months and five days old. His funeral solemnities were attended on the Wednesday following, when an appropriate dis-

course was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Snell, of North Brookfield.

Shortly after his settlement at Leicester he was married to Miss Phebe Drury, of Ward, Mass. They had no children. Mrs. Moore died November 10, 1857.

In personal appearance, Dr. Moore was above the middling stature; was corpulent, was rather prepossessing, modest, and retiring in his appearance. "The turn of his mind was metaphysical, and the duties of his vocation led him to cultivate this branch of study."

"As a College officer," says one who knew him well, "he had few superiors. He knew men and students almost instinctively, and had great skill in moulding and managing them. Mild and persuasive in his manners, never flurried, and rarely severe, he was as firm and immovable in what he thought was right and duty as Greylock itself, and every student understood it, and rarely ventured to set up his own will against his." As a director of the studies of the Senior class, Dr. Moore always appeared to good advantage. "As a preacher he had many high and excellent qualities. He was a clear thinker, and his style was remarkably neat and pure. His elocution was good, though not what might be called eloquent. He was earnest, sincere, and winning, rather than rousing and hortatory in his sermons."

In the spring of 1819, Dr. Moore preached a sermon in the Court-House at Lenox, before the

Berkshire County Education Society, for aiding pious young men in their preparation for the ministry. It was the only time I ever heard him preach. His text was the glowing vision of the prophet Isaiah xl. 6-9: "*The lion and the Lamb shall lie down together,*" &c. In that discourse he adduced "some Scriptural evidence that the kingdom of righteousness and peace will, at some future period, be extended through the whole world; and then showed by what means it would be thus extended; and particularly the place which the preaching of the Gospel holds among those means." In preaching, he had but very little action. His voice was not loud, but clear and pleasant. His manner was dignified and impressive; adapted to arrest and fix the attention of the hearers. He used but little figurative language, and there was no aim at rhetorical effect. He left a deep impression of his sincerity on the minds of his hearers, and his manner indicated that he felt the importance of the truths he uttered.

Dr. Moore published a Thanksgiving sermon, delivered at Peterborough, N. H., November 17, 1796; two sermons preached at Leicester, January 23, 1798,—the second Sabbath after his ordination; an oration delivered at Worcester, July 5, 1802; a sermon at the funeral of Ensign Winthrop Earle, October 20, 1807; a sermon at the ordination of the Rev. Simeon Colton, at Palmer, June 19, 1811; a sermon at the ordination of the Rev. Jacob Allen, at Tunbridge, Vt., October 6, 1813;

Massachusetts Election Sermon, May, 1818; a sermon at the ordination of the Rev. Dorus Clark, at Blanford, Mass., February 5, 1823; and an address to the public in respect to Amherst College, in 1823.

There is at Williams College a bound volume, containing fifteen of Dr. Moore's manuscript sermons, — a present from Mrs. Moore. They are written in a full and fair hand.

The following letter from Rev. Dr. J. C. Brigham may fitly close this biographical sketch of Dr. Moore.

“BIBLE-HOUSE, New York, February 22, 1859.

“DEAR SIR: —

“You ask for my impressions as to the character and course of Williams College, under the Presidency of Dr. Moore. I will give you some of them briefly. When he came to the institution in 1815, it was, as you are aware, in a reduced condition as to Faculty. Rev. Dr. Chester Dewey was there as Professor, exerting a decided and happy influence on learning and religion, as he has done in other positions to this day. Rev. E. Kellogg, who proved to be a ripe scholar and thorough teacher, came at the same time with the President as Professor of Languages. My class also entered at this juncture.

“As to the President, his whole figure and manners are still distinctly before me. He was then in middle life, of more than ordinary height, rather fleshy, a little stooping, hair smoothly combed down in front, small clothes and knee-buckles, after the old Puritan style. In manners he was gentle, affectionate, yet decided where there was any infraction of College rules. As an instructor in mental and moral philosophy he was thorough, adhering perhaps a little too much to the *letter* of the text-book.

“As a preacher he was clear, earnest, and evangelical, though

with no great compass of voice, and little of action. At evening prayers in the chapel, he was always present and conducted the exercises. Occasionally the students were convened, as on fast days, when he took decided pains to impress religious truth on their minds. And though there was no special revival of religion in College during his presidency, there was at times much seriousness among the professing students, which he warmly encouraged, as did the other members of the Faculty. During my Sophomore year he was seriously ill for several weeks with fever. Individuals were called to spend the night in watching with him, in which service I twice participated. From the tone of his conversation, he impressed me with a belief that he was truly a man of God,—submissive to His will, yet desirous, if so ordered, to live and labor for the welfare of his new charge. He recovered, and everything in relation to the College seemed for nearly three years to be prosperous. Near the close of this period a topic came up which afterwards produced great and wide-spread agitation. I refer to the removal of the College to Hampshire County. In my Senior year this was the absorbing theme. The President and the students who resided east of the mountains were for removal. I, as a Berkshire man, was of course averse to the measure. But while many censured the President for the leading part which he took, I was never inclined to question the goodness of his intentions. He evidently felt that the College would not long live where it was, but would flourish on the banks of the Connecticut. Other great and good men, ministers, and laymen, thought it would flourish where it now stood. That question was never decided. Divine Providence, infinitely wiser than both parties together, interposed, and has proved that at each place a college of high rank can be sustained and made widely useful.

“ You have thus some of my impressions of the College and its Faculty while I was a member. You will infer that in my judgment the President commenced his career auspiciously, and might have succeeded well had his *heart* been with his body west of the mountains.

“ I will add, that if all the Faculty, students, and their friends

had been with the President in favoring removal, it might probably have done well in Hampshire County. Let us then praise the Lord for ordering two colleges in place of one, neither of which could be spared without great detriment to the cause of education and of the Gospel.

“Yours most truly, &c.,

“J. C. BRIGHAM.

“TO REV. C. DURFEE.”

CHAPTER VII.

ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT MOORE. 1815-1821.

ON the 2d day of May, 1815, the Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of President Fitch ; and on the same day elected the Rev. Leonard Woods, D. D., of Andover, President and Professor of Divinity. The Rev. Dr. Hyde was appointed a committee to notify Dr. Woods of his appointment. At the same meeting, the Rev. Zephaniah Swift Moore, Professor of Languages in Dartmouth College, was chosen to the same office ; and Dr. Packard was authorized to inform him of it, in case Dr. Woods did not accept. It was likewise voted to raise the President's salary from \$ 1,000 to \$ 1,400 per annum. Dr. Woods declined the appointment ; and Dr. Packard then notified Professor Moore of his election, who accepted the appointment.

At the same meeting of the Board at which Professor Moore was elected President, Dr. Packard of Shelburne introduced the following motion, which was adopted : " That a committee of six persons be appointed to take into consideration the removal of the College to some other part of the Commonwealth ; to make all necessary inquiries

which have a bearing on the subject, and report at the next meeting." The committee consisted of the Hon. Joseph Lyman, the Rev. Samuel Shepard, the Rev. Theophilus Packard, Joseph Woodbridge, Esq., Theodore Pomeroy, Esq., and the Hon. Daniel Noble; and they reported at the next meeting of the Board, in September, that "a removal of Williams College from Williamstown is inexpedient at the present time, and under existing circumstances."

At the time of this decision it was understood by the Board "that a full and fair experiment should be made to revive and build up the College in its present location;" and as any further agitation of the question of removal would directly tend to blast all efforts which might be made for its success, and frustrate the experiment about to be made, it was very properly agreed that the question of removal should be considered as at rest during this experiment.

Dr. Moore (for he had just received that degree from Dartmouth) was inaugurated President of the College, with appropriate ceremonies, September 3, 1815. His inaugural discourse has been described as an able and finished production. It was not published, but it is said to have contained an expression of his views in favor of the removal of the College.

Still, though such an expression of personal opinion had been intimated, it was reasonably expected that the President and Faculty of the Col-

lege would heartily unite their influence and efforts to give success to the experiment now to be made. Indeed, there seemed to be an implied understanding among the friends of literature and religion in this section of the State, that an experiment should be fairly made for the College in its present location.

When this experiment (if so short a period can be called one) had been in operation three years, it became very apparent that nothing was wanting but the united and hearty co-operation of the Trustees, Faculty, and friends of the College to crown the experiment with all reasonable success. If any entertained doubts respecting the future growth and prosperity of the College when the Presidency of Dr. Moore commenced, those doubts were soon seen to be groundless. The pleasing assurance soon began to be cherished, that the College would flourish again in its present location.

Such were the animating hopes and prospects of the College, at the Commencement in 1818, when a sad scene was suddenly opened in the history of this institution. Amidst the most cheering prospects, for the College, and while its early and long-tried friends were congratulating each other on the bright prospects which were dawning on the College, — while they were speaking its praise and predicting its success, — just as the Board were about to adjourn, a petition was presented by one of their own members, the Rev. Dr. Packard, as an agent for Amherst Academy, “requesting the Board to

unite this College with a proposed literary institution, which they contemplated locating in the town of Amherst." And Dr. Moore now declared himself to be favorable to such a project. This proposition met with a decided negative from the Trustees of Williams College, their only action upon it being a vote, "That the said Trustees of Amherst Academy have leave to withdraw the communication which they have submitted to this Board." Dr. Packard now predicted that the Board would be summoned to attend an extra meeting in less than three months; and his prediction was verified.

When the Trustees were assembled, November 10, 1818, the President immediately submitted to them a proposition for the removal of the College, connected with an expression of his purpose to resign the office of President, unless the proposition should be sustained. He now stated, that, at the time he accepted the Presidency of the institution, he had no idea that the College was to remain at Williamstown, but had all the while supposed it was to be removed to Hampshire County. The following action, says a competent witness, "was principally owing to the influence exerted on that occasion by Dr. Moore." In view of all the circumstances which presented themselves, the Trustees finally concluded, on certain conditions, to submit a petition to the Legislature for a removal of the College, in order that the question might, by the highest authority in the Commonwealth, be put to rest. And that the Legislature might act in

this matter with all proper information as to the *place* of removal, provided it should be judged expedient to change the location, a most respectable committee was appointed by them, to determine, upon actual view, in what town in Hampshire County the College should be located.

At this meeting of the Board the following conditional resolutions were adopted, nine out of twelve voting for them:—

“*Resolved*, That it is expedient to remove Williams College to some more central part of the State, whenever sufficient funds can be obtained to defray the necessary expenses incurred, and the losses sustained by removal, and to secure the prosperity of the College, and when a fair prospect shall be presented of obtaining for the institution the united support and patronage of the friends of literature and religion in the western part of the Commonwealth, and when the General Court shall give their assent to the measure.*

“*Resolved*, That, in order to guide the Trustees in determining to which place the College shall be removed, and to produce harmony and union, the following gentlemen, viz. Hon. James Kent, Chancellor of the State of New York, Hon. Nathaniel Smith, Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, and the Rev. Seth Payson, D. D., of Rindge, N. H., be a committee to visit the towns

* The three individuals who voted against the removal were Israel Jones, Daniel Noble, and Levi Glezen.

in Hampshire County, and determine the place to which the College shall be removed; the Trustees pledging themselves to abide by their decision, provided the requisite sum be raised."

The Board then adjourned to meet at Pittsfield in May next, at which time and place the committee reported that the proper place to remove to was Northampton. An address to the public was also prepared and printed, setting forth the reasons for the intended removal of the College, and requesting donations to increase its funds, and to promote its prosperity at its new location, viz. at Northampton.

The following reasons were set forth in the address, which was extensively circulated: "That, since its establishment in 1793, other colleges have sprung up about it, and had almost wholly withdrawn the patronage it had formerly received from the North and West. That, owing to the want of support, its funds have become so reduced that the income falls short of the expenditures, and the Trustees, for this reason, are unable to maintain the institution in its present state, and enable it to compete with other colleges. These circumstances have induced the Trustees, after mature reflection and deliberation, to think a removal of the College to a situation more central and more convenient of access necessary to its support and continuance in usefulness."

We pause here to record the death of one of the Trustees, and the resignation of another.

In 1815, Elijah Williams, Esq. died at Stockbridge, aged eighty-three. He was born at Newton, November 15, 1732, and was a half-brother of the founder of the College. When a young man he settled in what is now West Stockbridge village, and was an enterprising farmer. The latter part of his life he passed in Stockbridge, in order to enjoy the ministry of his brother-in-law, the Rev. Dr. West. For many years he was Sheriff of the county, was one of the original Trustees of the College, and was a Christian gentleman of the old school. His only child, William Henry Williams, was graduated of Williams College in 1798.

In 1819, the Hon. Stephen Van Rensselaer, another original Trustee, resigned his connection with the College. He was born at Albany, N. Y., November 1, 1764, passed most of his days in his native city, was an elder in the Dutch Reformed Church, was distinguished for his wealth, activity, and beneficence, and died January 26, 1839, aged seventy-four years.

The public agitation and discussion of the question of removing the College to Hampshire County was now commenced in earnest. President Moore, from this time, was untiring in his efforts to effect it, and many were induced to believe that the College would never prosper in its present location. Others, too, were earnestly in favor of a removal, and published many anonymous articles on this subject.

These earnest pleas in favor of removal were ably and triumphantly answered by the friends of

the College. The leading arguments in favor of a change of location were: "That the state of the funds and the number of students were such as to threaten the destruction of the College, and fully to authorize the assertion that it could not continue to go on in its present location with any hopeful prospect." "It was asserted that it was not enough to say that Williamstown is a place where a good education may be obtained. Our country is not so filled with people that it is necessary to go so far to find a place lonely and sequestered enough for purposes of education." "Williamstown may be a good place for retirement from dissipation; but does this advantage compensate for all the disadvantages of its situation? It is not a single difficulty which the College has to encounter. It might, perhaps, overcome any *one*. It is their number and concurrence that produces discouragement." "Besides a bad location, it has great wants, which cannot be supplied, even by the funds which have been raised in consequence of the measures towards a removal." "A chapel is needed." "More permanent officers are requisite." "The library contains only fourteen hundred volumes, and many of these not very valuable." "The College has extensive wants in other departments to be supplied." It was urged, "that students could never be induced to resort to so retired a place as Williamstown to obtain an education." "Nothing can show more decisively than the present low state of the College that the pub-

lic are not, and will not be, satisfied with the present location. It can never regain the ground it has lost."

On the other hand, it was urged, "that the funds of the institution are so considerable, and the number of students is so great, that the income from both exceeds, at this time, the annual expenses of the College." It was claimed, "that it was unnecessary and inexpedient to remove the institution on the ground that it was more likely to prosper elsewhere than here; additions to its number of students may soon be confidently expected, sufficient to insure the respectability and usefulness of the institution. The present diminished number of students may more justly and philosophically be attributed to accidental and transient causes, than to anything connected with its location." The prospect of its removal, it was shown, prevented many from entering the institution. In 1818, the College, its friends claimed, would have contained more than a hundred, instead of eighty-seven, but for the agitation of the question of removal. "And there is good reason to expect that in years to come the number will be much and permanently increased, if this agitating question is put to rest." It was strenuously maintained that Williams College had been greatly useful to those for whom it was principally intended; that it had been a College of the character which the Legislature of 1793 designed it should be; and had thus far, in its present location, answered, and, if suffered qui-

etly to do its work, would continue to answer, the views and intentions of its founders."

The community generally became interested in the subject, and conflicting opinions were entertained, and freely and frequently expressed. Pamphlet succeeded pamphlet, and newspaper article followed newspaper article, on this unwelcome and exciting subject, for more than two years. There was a large convention held at Northampton, August 3, 1819, composed mostly of gentlemen from that vicinity, to take measures to effect the removal of Williams College to Hampshire County. At this meeting Dr. Moore presided. Resolutions were adopted in favor of the removal of the College, and committees were appointed to solicit subscriptions for that purpose.

A large convention was held in Pittsfield, October 6, 1819, for the purpose of expressing the views and feelings of the county in relation to the removal of the College. The Hon. William Walker of Lenox presided. Resolutions against the removal of the College, and an address to the public, were reported and adopted. It was "the deliberate opinion of this meeting that nothing was necessary to preserve for Williams College, in its present location, the character of a highly respectable and useful institution, but the cordial co-operation of the friends of literature, science, and religion, in the western section of the State." In this address to the public they say: "If the removal of the College should result in some pecu-

niary losses, — if some widows and men of wealth were to suffer by it, — these losses might be endured; but we know not what would restore to the community that confidence which sweetens life and binds society together; nor where would be found that balm which would heal the wounds which this measure would inflict.”

On the 2d day of November, 1819, at a meeting of the Trustees in Williamstown, it was voted that it is expedient to petition the Legislature for permission to remove Williams College to Northampton. Fifty thousand dollars had been subscribed in a short time, by the inhabitants of Hampshire and adjoining counties, to defray the expenses which would be incurred, and the losses which would be sustained by the removal. And a committee was chosen to present the petition to the Legislature.

A proposition was also made to the Trustees of Amherst Academy, requesting them to unite their charitable funds with the College, in case it was removed to Northampton; but it was rejected, unless they would change the location to Amherst. The petition of the President and Trustees to the Legislature, on the subject of the removal of Williams College, met with a spirited opposition on the part of the inhabitants of the town and county, and, upon their own responsibility, they raised a subscription of \$ 17,500, which was laid before the Legislature, and which was to be paid to the College, in case it should not be removed.

This subscription, raised against the wishes of a majority of the Trustees, and which they could not refuse without a fraud upon the Legislature, was made payable in ten years. At the expiration of this time, the subscribers were called on, and in some cases payment was refused. So much dependence had been placed on this fund by the College, that it was found impossible to do without it, and legal measures were reluctantly resorted to. One case was carried to the Supreme Court, and the decision being in favor of the Corporation, the remainder was collected without difficulty. It was, however, unjustly made the ground of much ill-feeling, and much odium was thrown on the College on account of the measures pursued. This subscription, it must be remembered, was procured by those not connected with the College, and was one of the reasons that influenced the Legislature to refuse permission for removal; and under these circumstances, the collection of this sum, guaranteed to the College by the subscribers, could not have been otherwise than honorable and just.

The site for the College in Northampton had been mentioned, and the subject of its removal was the principal topic of discussion in the western part of the State.

The prospects of the College in Williamstown were indeed gloomy. It seemed to be on the verge of ruin. Even its warmest friends were in doubt whether it could much longer be retained in its present location.

The number of students began a second time to decline.* The College hardly supported itself, but in some instances drew upon its friends for maintenance. Only a few of the students were in favor of retaining it in Williamstown.

The petition to the Legislature was finally laid before that body in February, 1820, and after a long and anxious discussion and consideration, — in consequence of the subscription of \$17,500, and of the representations and remonstrances from the inhabitants of Berkshire County, and also from a deep conviction that it would be a plain violation of the will of the founder of the institution, and others who had given funds to maintain an institution in Williamstown, — the Legislature refused to grant the Trustees permission to remove the College.

In their report (which was adopted by a large majority in both branches of the Legislature †), the committee say (after reviewing all the proceedings of the Legislature from 1785 up to that time, in relation to the College): “They have supposed it their duty to notice that Woodbridge Little, Esq., of Pittsfield, some persons in Williamstown, some in Vermont, and some in New York, have made donations to Williams College; and the

* The College year commenced in 1815 with fifty-eight students. This number increased in the second term to sixty-four. In three years the number had increased to ninety-one; and then began again to decline, amid the excitement about the removal.

† In the Senate, 31 to 5; in the House, 120 to 25.

committee suppose they ought not to disregard the presumption that the *location* of this seminary constituted some parts of the motive to the bounty. And they cannot, therefore, but doubt the *justice* of removing this seminary to any place not contemplated by such donors, to be the site of the future use of their charities."

The committee further state, that, in their opinion, so important a measure as the removal of Williams College "ought not to take place without a *reasonable and unembarrassed conviction that some great benefit will result therefrom, not attainable in its present location.* The committee are by no means satisfied that mere location determines the degree of estimation and respect in which any literary institution may be held. It is reputation which constitutes attraction; and this is founded on the modes and means of instruction. And although it might be a very interesting question whether fifty or a hundred thousand dollars should be originally expended at Northampton or at Williamstown; yet considering the length of time since the establishment of Williams College in the place where it is; that a considerable part of its funds were given in contemplation of its continuance there; and considering that no change of a very imposing cast is likely to be effected immediately, or before the lapse of some years, in the future usefulness of the institution, if at all, by removal, — the committee have come to the result, that it is *inexpedient* to remove Williams College to Northampton."

In conclusion, the committee state that "they do most highly appreciate, and most profoundly respect, the motives of the petitioners; these are unquestionably founded in a truly honorable and elevated desire to extend the usefulness of this respectable College, in promoting learning, virtue, piety, and religion; and under these impressions, the committee feel the most sincere regret that their perception of duty compels them to submit to the two Houses that it is neither *lawful nor expedient* to grant the prayer of the petition."

And thus Williams College was permitted to remain in its present beautiful, rightful, heaven-blest location. It was a hard-fought battle on both sides, each party taking the ground distinctly that but one College was needed or could be sustained in Western Massachusetts. The question of removal went to the Legislature with this distinct avowal; and hence the general expectation was that the decision of the Legislature would be final. So the friends of Williams thought; so thought the people of Northampton, who have ever since shown a commendable disposition and desire to patronize and sustain Williams College.

But there were those who were not in this way to be defeated in what they had undertaken. Strong expectations had been excited that there would be a college in Hampshire County; and the people of Amherst, taking advantage of this state of things, raised a large subscription, and commenced August 9, 1820, to erect buildings for the

accommodation of students, with the expectation of obtaining a charter, or of establishing a collegiate institution there. They organized a Board of Trustees, and Dr. Moore, instead of following the example of Drs. Hyde, Shepard, and some others, by acquiescing in the decision of the Legislature, and exerting himself to build up Williams College, accepted an invitation, extended to him in May, 1821, to place himself at the head of that institution, and unite himself with the destinies of that enterprise.

Early in the summer term, Dr. Moore announced in the College chapel that he had received an invitation to go to Amherst, and had accepted it, with the understanding that he should perform the duties of his office at Williamstown until Commencement; or he should leave before that time, if the Trustees desired it. From the general respect which the students entertained for the President, and the gloomy prospects which at that time surrounded this institution, it would not have been surprising if they had resolved to follow him in a body. But, instead of this, there soon sprang up a division of feeling among them. There were nearly eighty students in College at this time. Full one half were determined to remain, while most of the rest concluded to go to Amherst. During the summer term there was probably as much debating as studying in College. At the close of the Senior examination, the venerable Dr. Hyde called the students together in the College

chapel, and remarked that the President whom they valued was about to retire; but the guardians of the College would remain, and stand by it; and, by Divine assistance, it would be sustained. That so cautious a man as Dr. Hyde should venture to make such an announcement, at such a time, was truly cheering to that portion of the students who were steadfast in their adherence to the College. Those who were resolved to leave, however, now called a meeting, and, after a protracted discussion, passed a resolution to carry the library belonging to the Philologian and Philotechnian Societies with them to Amherst, and chose a committee to carry this resolution into effect. This undertaking, however, was defeated. The same kind Providence which had watched over Williams College in times past, for good, and prospered the early efforts of its friends, again signally interposed for its deliverance and prosperity. The resignation of Dr. Moore, though much regretted at the time, opened the way for the introduction of a man to the Presidency who was eminently qualified for the office, and who was ardently attached to the College, and to the College *as then located*.

At the meeting of the Board at which Dr. Moore's resignation of the Presidency of the College was received and accepted, the Trustees unanimously elected the Rev. Thomas McAulay, LL.D., Professor of Natural Philosophy in Union College, to the office of President, and Dr. Shepard was appointed to notify him of his election. The Trustees

at this time published a circular, announcing the election of Dr. McAulay, and their determination to stand by the College (now that the question of its location was settled), and restore it to its former respectability and usefulness. Dr. McAulay visited Williamstown, and several other towns in the county, but finally declined the appointment. The Rev. Professor C. A. Goodrich, of New Haven, was then elected, and declined. The condition and prospects of the College were now discouraging. Commencement was at hand. The two men who had been elected did not feel disposed to leave permanent and useful positions elsewhere, and place themselves at the head of an institution whose future existence was so precarious. The students who had nobly stood by the College hitherto, began to be discouraged. The prospects of a Commencement were dark. Some had already asked for dismissions, in order to take their degrees at other colleges; others were now wavering. In these discouraging circumstances, the Senior class called a meeting, to determine what to do, when two individuals, with a noble determination to sustain the reputation and honor of their Alma Mater, addressed the class. They declared their intention to remain, and to have a Commencement; that if left alone they would still graduate in the usual manner, and, if necessary, would perform the several parts which had been allotted to their classmates. The names of these individuals ought to be recorded on these pages,—the Rev. Emerson

Davis, D. D., of Westfield, and the Hon. Erastus C. Benedict, of New York, both of them afterwards Tutors, and now (1859) associate and efficient Trustees of the College. Another member of that class, Hon. Henry L. Sabin, M. D., has for some years been an efficient member of the Board of Trustees.

Influenced by such examples, the remainder concluded to stand by the College. The Commencement was a memorable one. Thirteen took degrees. Dr. Moore presided at the exercises for the last time. They were well attended. At twelve o'clock Dr. Griffin, "a man of most commanding figure and presence," arrived in town, and took his seat on the stage in the afternoon, to the unspeakable joy of the friends of the College. Now it was known, for the first time, that he had been elected to the Presidency, and had come on to settle the question of acceptance. The hopes which his majestic presence inspired caused the exercises of the day, which were commenced in gloom, to pass off with cheerfulness, and even with raised expectations of the future. The Valedictory oration, by Emerson Davis, entitled, "To be Useful, the Duty and Happiness of Man," and the Master's oration, "On Home," by Mr. William A. Porter, were of a high order, and gave great satisfaction to the audience. In a few days Dr. Hyde received a letter from Dr. Griffin, announcing his acceptance of the Presidency; and the cheering intelligence was shortly circulated through the length and breadth of the land.

From the commencement of his Presidency, Dr. Moore had been understood to be in favor of the removal of the College to Hampshire County. During all the latter part of his connection with it, he labored to accomplish this object with distinguished ability and untiring perseverance. In all his efforts, however, to effect its removal, he was undoubtedly influenced by honorable and Christian motives.

It is undeniably true that there was an understanding between Dr. Moore and a portion of the Trustees, when he came to Williamstown, that the College would be removed to the valley of the Connecticut, — to Northampton or Amherst. Some of the Trustees were warmly enlisted in favor of this measure, at the time of Dr. Moore's election. They believed the College could never flourish in its present location. And when their views and purposes on this subject were fully disclosed, an unusual excitement was created in Williamstown, and, indeed, throughout the entire county. Dr. Moore now assigned, as the reason in justification of the part he had taken in the movement, that he came to Williamstown with the confident and honest expectation that the College would be removed. The disaffection towards him, however, was not so great as it was towards a portion of the Trustees. Still he had been free and frequent in the expression of his opinion that the College could never flourish in the valley of the Hoosac, one of the handsomest valleys in the world.

He fully believed that the interests of learning, and especially the cause of Evangelical religion, required the removal of the College to a more central position in the State. Entertaining such views, he never made a vigorous attempt to fasten it in its present location, nor threw the whole of his influence in favor of building it up on this ground. Had he entered with the same energy and zeal into the interests of this College, which he afterwards displayed in behalf of Amherst, there is reason to believe it would have enjoyed a greater degree of prosperity than it did during the latter part of his connection with it. If the *location* of the College was the cause of its previous decline, on what ground shall we account for that uncommon degree of reputation and prosperity, which, notwithstanding all its subsequent embarrassments, it has enjoyed since 1821?