THE SKETCH OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE

By Rev. E. O. Watson, D. D., President Board of Trustees. Read at the Cornerstone Laying.

As the laying of this cornerstone to-day marks with outward ceremony the growth of Columbia college, it is not improper that we present some sketch of the college and its work in the past, with some outline of the plans now perfected for its future.

In 1823 the South Carolina conference took the first definite step toward the establishment of a female college by appointing a committee to "receive any offers that may be made on the subject of founding a female college in some central or suitable place." Several small female colleges already established in North Carolina, it appears, made propost to the conference to receive endorsement. In addition to these general endorsements, two years later, 1825, the conference adopted plans for the establishment of two female colleges, one to be located at Spartanburg and the other in the lower Pee Dee, in both of which places lots had already been secured. On the projection of these two institutions in 1826, it was determined not to begin building in Columbia until $20,000 had been subscribed. Dr. J. W. B. Cram was appointed agent for the Columbia Female college, and at the succeeding session of the conference, 1826, it was reported that the required $20,000 had been subscribed and that building was to begin in January, 1827. Beginning as announced, the work of building in Columbia progressed rapidly, and by the fall of 1828 it was completed. In September, when it was discontinued for lack of funds. The reports to the annual conference in 1827 and 1828 showed progress in the matter of building in Columbia. At last, in October, 1829, the Female college was opened under the presidency of Dr. Whitting-ham and taught on land worth $18,000 and had a debt of $16,000. The new institution was then in the infancy of life. The second year 183 pupils matriculated, and the third year the institution numbered 35.

With the third year of prosperity and growth for the college came the discovery of a plot of land that was purchased successively by Rev. Wm. Martin and Rev. H. Mullen in Columbia, for $3,000. This land was nearly void of buildings. Then came the burning of Columbia, in which all that it contained was destroyed. Again, the property was greatly damaged and much of the equipment of the college lost. Discouraged and torn by ravages of war, burdened with debt, and with all its external beauty wasted, there appeared to be no possibility of the college continuing independently after the war. In this crisis the Rev. W. C. Power was appointed agent to try to raise money to save the college. He reported a debt of $16,683, with assets amounting to $2,000. The report into the hands of Dr. W. C. Power, the son of Mr. F. H. Hyatt, whose generosity and devoted interest in the college were making possible the realization of the long cherished plans for the enlargement and improvement of the college plant. The breaking of ground in December last to the present week, with the rapid progress toward the completion which is assured by September next, at which time Columbia college will be opened in its new building. The new building, when completed, will contain about six thousand feet of floor space and will cost not less than $50,000. They combine beauty and economy of construction and are fitted to meet every purpose every dollar needed. It is not necessary in this paper to enter into a detailed description of the building. It is enough to say that we have all that we have long desired in a college ideally located with every advantage sought for the training of a young man for the ministry.
took the first definite step toward the establishment of a female college by introducing proposals and receiving offers that may be made on the subject of establishing a female college in some central or suitable place. Several small female colleges already existed in the State, and the plan received the support of the conference and the endorsement of the community. In addition to these general endorsements, several years later, 1854, the conference adopted plans for the establishment of a college building to be located at Sparta and the other at Columbia, at both of which places lots had already been secured. On the projection of these two institutions for 1854, it was determined to start rebuilding in Columbia until 1860, and 1860 had been secured for that institution.

Rev. C. R. March, a president for the Columbus Female college, and at the same time the president of the conference, reported that the sum of $27,000 had been subscribed, and work was announced to begin January 30, 1856. By March 15, 1856, the work of building was well advanced, and of the sum of $27,000, $18,000 had been subscribed, and the balance paid in. By May 15, 1856, the work of building was well advanced, and of the sum of $27,000, $18,000 had been subscribed, and the balance paid in. By May 15, 1856, the work of building was well advanced, and of the sum of $27,000, $18,000 had been subscribed, and the balance paid in.

The second year of the college period saw the completion of the building, and the college was opened for business in the fall of 1856. The first year of the college period was prosperous, and the college had a large attendance, with an enrollment of 200 students. The second year of the college period saw the completion of the building, and the college was opened for business in the fall of 1856. The first year of the college period was prosperous, and the college had a large attendance, with an enrollment of 200 students.

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Dismantles and torn by ravages of war, the college was reduced to a small fraction of its former size. The work of reconstructing the building was not begun until 1865, when it was completed and opened for business in the fall of 1866. The first year of the college period was prosperous, and the college had a large attendance, with an enrollment of 200 students. The second year of the college period saw the completion of the building, and the college was opened for business in the fall of 1866. The first year of the college period was prosperous, and the college had a large attendance, with an enrollment of 200 students.

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Colin Marshall was appointed agent for the Columbia Female college, and at the succeeding session of the confer-
ence, 1865, it was reported that the required $9,000 had been subscribed, and work was announced to begin Jan-
uary 1, 1866. The committee on the work of building in Columbia pro-
gressed favorably until the following Session, when the Committee was discharged for lack of funds. The reports to the annual conference in 1866 and 1867 showed a decrease in the master of building in Columbia, and at last, in Octo-
ber, 1867, the board of trustees was organized. The college was opened under the presidency of Dr. Whitefoord M. Smith. The plant of the college was purchased in 1868 for $19,000, and it had a debt of $16,000. The new institution received at once a liberal par-
tial appropriation. The college was matriculated, and the third year the students numbered 12.

With the third year of prosperity and growth for the college came the ruin of all her enterprises. An unfortu-
nately, the laborious work of Rev. Wm. Martin and Rev. H. M. Mood, the institution struggled bravely against the ravages of war, to keep the college open. The work of building was reduced to the minimum and added little by little to the encumberance of debt. In 1872, the college was sold for $9,566, with assets amounting to $7,000. The president announced a new and
prosperous, the college building was rented as a hotel first to Mr. H. W. G. Power was appointed agent to look into and arrange the af-
fares of the college. In January, 1873, a debt of $17,500 was due, and in January, 1873, after eight-years of suspension, the Columbia Female college opened its doors to the daughters of Carolina. Dr. S. B. Jones pres-
dided over the college, and it had a debt amounting to $12,000.

It went on, however, successfully under the capable super-
vision of Mr. W. H. Riggs, who was succeeded by Dr. J. L. Jones, and later by Dr. C. O. Durlach. During this period, the college was greatly reduced, and various improvements were made to the equip-
ment of the college, the library, and the hall. In 1882, the college was sold for $15,000 to the trustees and the equipment, and the college was reopened. The college was re-

It is not necessary in this paper to go into the details of the history of the college buildings. It is enough to say that we have had, when complete, a beautiful and commodious college buildings. These new buildings, with their equipment, are of the highest order, and the new buildings are substantially superior to any in our country.

But more buildings, however, do not make a college. There must be forces that make for culture and that give the college a real and lasting value. The education of women must be in the hands of trained and experienced teachers. The work of the college is not only to educate, but to train young women for positions in society. The college must prepare them for the world of work, and give them the education that will enable them to make a good living.
In the year of prosperity and peace, the growth of the institution was rapid. However, when the war came, the finances of the institution were severely affected. The enrollment dropped from 1200 in 1865 to 500 in 1867. The trustees, H. M. Wood, decided that the institution must continue to operate as an educational institution, even if it meant that the property would be mortgaged.

In 1870, the trustees sold the furniture and equipment to the minimum and added to each department. This reduced the enrollment further. In 1873, the college was forced to close. The trustees of the college, in which, while the property was mortgaged, the property was greatly damaged, due to the negligence of the equipment and furniture kept.

Dissatisfied and torn by the ravages of war, the trustees sought a solution. A new site was chosen and the college was reopened. In 1874, the Rev. W. C. Power was appointed the new president and he set about the task of rebuilding the college. He reported a debt of $50,000, with assets amounting to $50,000. With the prospect of reopening, the college building was rented as a hotel, first to Mr. H. M. Wood and then to Mr. W. W. Wright. Various efforts were made over the next few years to secure the reopening of the college, and in January, 1876, at eight years after the closure of the college, it was again open to the daughters of Carolina. Dr. S. B. Jones presided, and the college had a debt amounting to $12,000.

It went on, however, securely under the able leadership of the president needed by Dr. J. L. Jones, and later by Dr. C. A. Darby. During this period, expenses were greatly reduced, and various improvements were made to the college. In 1874, Dr. S. B. Jones again served as president, steadily building the college and its prospects.

Dr. John A. Rice was elected president, and was a man of great energy and ability to build up the interests committed to him. During his four years, the college was made in the standard of the college, the buildings were overcrowded and the curricula were expanded. A text book and a newspaper, a helping hand (now used as the president’s residence) was built, and the college had a debt of some $18,000. Dr. W. W. Daniel, the present president of the college, has shown faithful and efficient administration. The college has not only maintained its standards, but has also grown in favor and influence. For nearly two years there has been sufficient room to receive the students that have been admitted.

A glance at the report of the board of trustees shows a persistent purpose and effort to raise the standard of education and improve the capacity and equipment of the institution.

In the past, the college has struggled under financial limitations and has not been able to make the outlay that was needed for the maintenance of the college for thorough work, and we believe there is no institution in this State that can meet the problem of education for all that is best in the education and ideals of womanhood.

Columbia college, during its long history, besides many others who have been blessed by its influence on them, have also been a support of the institution. What these women, trained and educated in Columbia college, and the world there, is no arithmetic to calculate. The institution, however, has been a benefit to the institution. It has its merit is shown by the fact that it has been constantly full, and that the enrollment is growing. The trust of new institutions with large resources and great facilities.

We believe the college is taking all who are admitted for entrance. Great as has been the work of the college, and the college never reached the point of being overcrowded. It has appeared in the narrow limits of 1875, and the future of the college is full of work for any young woman who is anxious to grow and work. It shall, in its enlarged sphere, be greater than any other institution in the State and for the betterment of the culture of women.

We are planning larger buildings, and we must be prepared to admit more students in the next few years. We must ensure that the college can accommodate all students who wish to continue their education.

We have faith in Columbia as a location without a rival to any other college in the State, and we are working hard to make it the best in faculty, discipline, standards of scholarships, and all those fine things that contribute to the education of the ideal woman.

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