

1939

Caroliniana Society Annual Gifts Report - 1939

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UNIVERSITY
SOUTH CAROLINIANA SOCIETY



REPORT
OF THE
SECRETARY AND TREASURER
FOR
1939

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

- M. L. BonhamPresident
Chief Justice of South Carolina, Anderson
- W. S. HendleyVice-President
State Manager, The Mutual Life of New York, Columbia
- R. L. MeriwetherSecretary and Treasurer
Professor of History, University of South Carolina

REPORT

To the Members of the Society:

I submit herewith my Report as Secretary and Treasurer for the year 1939. This Report and the Minutes of the 1939 meeting were read and approved at the fourth meeting of the Society, April 17, 1940.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING, 1939

The third annual meeting of the Society was held in the Columbia Hotel, February 28, 1939, Associate Justice M. L. Bonham, President of the Society, presiding. Two hundred and ten members and guests attended. Dr. J. Rion McKissick, President of the University, the host of the occasion, welcomed the members and their guests.

The Report of the Secretary and Treasurer was read; this report was later (perhaps I should say eventually) printed and sent to the members. There were two good reasons for this delay—lack of time and lack of money. All expenses of the Society, as you recall, are paid from University funds, assigned to Caroliniana in order that every contribution of members may go intact to purchases.

The annual address to the Society was made by Dr. Charles A. Beard of New Milford, Connecticut, and was printed in the 1938 Report. On motion of Mr. E. G. Seibels, the incumbent officers were re-elected by acclamation. On motion President Bonham invited the guests present to become members of the Society, and the Secretary sent a letter of invitation to each guest not already represented in the Society by some member of his or her family.

REPORT FOR 1939

During the year 1939 the Society lost four members by death—Miss Martha A. Bonham, Miss Ruth McLees, Mrs. Yates Snowden and Mr. Waddy Thompson, but the total membership has increased from 203 to 221. Receipts from dues were \$628.50, \$70.85 more than for 1938. This money contribution has brought into our library books and papers that otherwise would have been dispersed through other states, for when our records come upon the market the only alternatives are to buy them or lose them. When these papers deal primarily with the history of other states or of the country as a whole there need be no great regret at the loss, but when they are part and parcel of the past of South Carolina, we must realize that we are losing a vital and irreplaceable part of our heritage. Were the membership of this Society so increased that this annual income amounted to five

times the present sum, we could go far towards arresting this export of our records. As it is, however, thanks to our present membership much of value has been saved.

Direct gifts of books, newspapers, manuscripts and other South Caroliniana were about 6,500 pieces. A mere counting of papers in this fashion is a poor way to indicate the contribution which these direct gifts constitute. They range from the full and beautifully kept journal of a Charleston girl of 1862-1865, to a file of recorded telephone messages of a country neighborhood between 1896 and 1899. One is in itself an extremely valuable historical record; the value of the other lies in the fact that, with a thousand others, it fills out the record of our economic and social life. In accepting some of these gifts our library has conferred a boon, for we have relieved housekeepers of dusty piles of old papers that have again and again barely escaped those periodic furies called housecleanings. Others are letters so long treasured, so intimately personal in their nature, that they are like members of the family itself. To place a money value on all these papers is, in a sense, a graceless and useless act, yet it is only fair to the members of our Society who have parted with treasures that could demand centennial and sesquicentennial celebrations of their own, to point out, that if we were buying all the 6,500 items directly given us we would have to pay at least \$1,400.

CHIEF ITEMS AMONG THE ACQUISITIONS

MANUSCRIPTS:

- Confederate Scrapbooks, 2, 1863-1866,
By Miss Maud C. Solomons, Sumter (through Herbert
A. Moses, Sumter). [1]
(See also [16]).
- Gaillard, S. P., 4 plantation journals, 1843-1860, and elec-
tion returns for Greenville District, October, 1862.
By Mrs. Walter C. White, Sumter. [2]
- Hammond, additions to the Hammond Collection, 4 letters
and 5 volumes of manuscripts, 1844-1891,
By James H. Hammond, Columbia. [3]
(See also [21]).
- Hare, W. H., 68 manuscript volumes and 4,826 single man-
uscripts, 1863-1935,
By the family of W. H. Hare, Leesville. [4]
(See also [18], [19], [20]).

- Heyward, Nathaniel, Charles, E. Barnwell and D. C., the original manuscript of *Seed From Madagascar* together with letters, articles and notes used in preparation of the book; 54 legal, land and business papers, 1717-1930; 223 letters, 1795-1939; 9 account books, 1837-1911; 24 speeches and campaign papers by D. C. Heyward; plat of Combahee lands; 64 miscellaneous pieces,
By former Governor D. C. Heyward, Columbia. [5]
- Holmes, Miss Emma E., Charleston, journals, 3 volumes, 1861-1865 (3 typed copies, 1861-1865; 1 volume, original, 1862-1865),
By her nephew, Calvin Holmes, Knoxville, Tennessee. [6]
- Huntsville Temperance Society, records, 1842-1846; Huntsville Baptist Church, minutes, 1838-1871,
By Dr. T. L. W. Bailey, Clinton. [7]
- Johnson, David and family, 51 letters and papers, 1810-1855,
By his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Florence Johnson Scott, Rio Grande City, Texas. [8]
- Johnson, David, manuscript original of sketch printed in J. B. O'Neill's *Bench and Bar of South Carolina* and two miscellaneous papers,
By Mrs. William Wallace Johnson, Union. [9]
- Literary Society, 2 papers, 1860, 1861, and Records of Company "D", 16th Regiment, 1863,
By Hugh C. Haynsworth, Sumter. [10]
- McDuffie, George, 2 manuscript drafts of his life, 197 letters about McDuffie, 5 copies of letters by McDuffie and 100 clippings and notes on McDuffie,
By Dr. E. L. Green, Columbia. [11]
- Porcher, O. T., diary, 1851-1894, and records of Abbeville and Winnsboro schools of which he was master,
By his son, Dr. O. T. Porcher, Bennettsville. [12]
- Simms, William Gilmore, 38 letters, 1864-1877,
By his granddaughter, Mrs. A. D. Oliphant, Greenville. [13]
- South Carolina, 18 volumes (including copies of articles, memoirs and diaries of up-country South Carolina),
By the Writer's Project, WPA, through Miss Mabel Montgomery, Columbia. [14]
- Trenholm, George A., 50 letters and papers, 1865-1875, and a diary of Mrs. Trenholm, 1865,
By his granddaughter, Mrs. Irene A. Scott, Columbia. [15]

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

- Banner of Freedom*, Sumter, April 10, 1865 (published by Federal Regiment),
By Miss Maud C. Solomons, Sumter (through Herbert A. Moses, Sumter). [16]
(See also [1]).
- Keowee Courier*, Walhalla, 100 issues, 1887-1930,
By Miss Fannie Belle White, Columbia. [17]
- Leesville News*, 1906-1909, and a partial file of *Leesville Sun*, 1905-1906,
By the family of W. H. Hare, Leesville. [18]
(See also [4], [19], [20]).
- Our News Letter*, Summit, 1894-1906,
By the family of W. H. Hare, Leesville. [19]
See also [4], [18], [20]).
- Saluda Sentinel and Advocate*, 1895-1901, and the *Saluda Standard*, 1902-1935,
By the family of W. H. Hare, Leesville. [20]
(See also [4], [18], [19]).

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS:

- Hammond, additions to the Hammond Collection, 7 pamphlets, 1846-1914,
By James H. Hammond, Columbia. [21]
(See also [3]).
- Huguenot Society of South Carolina, 14 *Transactions of*, 1921-1934,
By John A. Chase, Columbia. [22]
- J. Kilpatrick's Reply to Dr. Thomas Dale, Charleston, 1739* (reprint, Ann Arbor, 1938),
By J. T. Gittman, Columbia. [23]
- Presbyterian Church, 3 pamphlets, 1864,
By F. H. McMaster, Columbia. [24]

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:

- Calhoun, John C., miniature bust,
By Mrs. W. C. Rion, Columbia. [25]
- Scarborough, William H., 132 copies of Scarborough portraits,
By Mrs. Helen K. Hennig, Columbia. [26]

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S ACQUISITIONS

Books and Pamphlets: 1829-1939	595
Newspapers (volumes of): 1890-1935	51
Newspapers (single issues): 1834-1935	925
Manuscripts (volumes of): 1837-1925	129
Manuscripts (single): 1755-1938	9,199
Miscellaneous Papers and Items: 1883	4
Total	10,902

The rapid growth of the South Carolina Collection and the increase in the correspondence of the Secretary's office have taxed to the utmost the resources and staff which the University has been able to assign. At the close of the year 1938 one of the stack rooms of the east wing of the library was given over to South Carolina manuscripts and newspapers. The books, pamphlets and part of the newspaper files remain in the west wing, in charge of Miss Elizabeth Porcher, Assistant Librarian. The University is indebted to Dr. Anne King Gregorie, Supervisor of the Historical Records Survey, for the assignment of a unit of her force to this division of the South Carolina Collection. This unit, composed of a trained cataloger, Miss Elizabeth G. Lowndes, and three typists, cataloged approximately 1,480 items besides sorting and arranging 7,500 pamphlets.

Attack upon the accumulated manuscripts and newspapers in the manuscripts room and in other fireproof storage space on the campus has absorbed a third or more of the time of my assistant, Miss Reid, and much of my own time. The WPA project under direction of Mrs. Mary E. Scott has, despite a period of three months' suspension, bound 230 volumes of county and local newspapers which otherwise the University could not have bound. Another project began work in May, 1939 on the manuscripts; thanks to the skill and untiring efforts of Miss Madeline Holmes, Supervisor of this project, two-thirds of the manuscripts which the library possessed a year ago are already sorted, classified and filed in our manuscript boxes, and properly shelved, ready for use.

In February, 1939 the local WPA Thrift Shop under the direction of Mrs. F. P. Stubbart began the construction of three types of cardboard manuscript boxes designed by my assistant, Miss Reid, and myself. Over six thousand of these have been made.

Professor G. F. Lipscomb, head of the University Chemistry Department, furnished a paste made especially for these boxes. Professor A. C. Carson, head of the University Physics Department, made for the Manuscripts Division a controlled-humidity cabinet which makes it possible to eliminate the folds and creases of old letters and documents—an essential step in mending and restoration. In many other ways Professors Car-

son and Lipscomb aided our manuscripts work by advice and information about paper, paste, mending materials and processes.

Books and other printed records are written for the public; their preservation in fireproof, properly ventilated and theft-proof quarters where they can be readily used, answers the requirements of donor and student. But a great part of our manuscripts were written for the eye of only one person or for a very small circle. These personal papers, whether letters, diaries or expense books, are an absolutely essential record for the scholar who seeks to understand and rebuild the record of the past, but no library or organization is dealing fairly by its patrons which does not safeguard the personal feelings and interests of the persons concerned. Our manuscript shelves are open only to specified members of the staff, and we stand ready to make agreements which shall close papers given to the library for a proper number of years, or to make them accessible under special conditions. Sooner or later the personal element in a record—the danger that it may cause misunderstanding or embarrassment—fades out, and the time comes when the paper may be used for historical purposes without harm to anyone. It is in this spirit, as trustee for the donor as well as the scholar, that we offer the services of this old library, now beginning its second hundred years of service to the state.

R. L. MERIWETHER,
Secretary and Treasurer,
University South Caroliniana Society.

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

- | | |
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| <p>Abel, Miss C. Marguerite,
Columbia.</p> <p>Ames, J. S.,
Baltimore, Md.</p> <p>Appelt, Mrs. Clara H.,
Manning.</p> <p>Babcock, Mrs. J. W.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Bailey, T. L. W.,
Clinton.</p> <p>Baker, L. T.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Ball, W. W.,
Charleston.</p> <p>Barnwell, R. W.,
Florence.</p> <p>Baruch, B. M.,
New York City.</p> <p>Bateman, J. M.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Benet, Christie,
Columbia.</p> <p>Black, E. O.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Blake, E. H.,
Greenwood.</p> <p>Blue, Miss Kate Lilly,
Marion.</p> <p>*Bonham, Miss Martha Anne,
Columbia.</p> <p>Bonham, M. L.,
Anderson.</p> <p>Bonham, M. L., Jr.,
Clinton, N. Y.</p> <p>Bostick, Mrs. Hagood,
Columbia.</p> <p>Boyd, J. F.,
Fort Mill.</p> <p>Boyd, Dr. W. A.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Bradley, F. W.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Branson, Lanier,
Augusta, Ga.</p> <p>Britton, E. R.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Burney, Mrs. W. B.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Callcott, W. H.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Carothers, Mrs. Charles,
Citronelle, Ala.</p> <p>Cauthen, C. E.,
College Place.</p> <p>Chase, J. A.,
Columbia.</p> | <p>Childs, Mrs. Arney R.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Clippard, E. B.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Coker, C. W., Jr.,
Hartsville.</p> <p>Coker, Mrs. C. W., Sr.,
Hartsville.</p> <p>Coker, E. C.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Coker, J. L.,
Hartsville.</p> <p>Collins, Mrs. Effie W.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Cooper, R. M.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Copeland, Mrs. M. L.,
Laurens.</p> <p>Covington, F. H.,
Bennettsville.</p> <p>Craig, T. M.,
Charlotte, N. C.</p> <p>Crews, W. T.,
Laurens.</p> <p>Crow, O. F.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Culbertson, J. B.,
Greenville.</p> <p>Dalton, H. L.,
Charlotte, N. C.</p> <p>Daniel, J. McT.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Dargan, G. E.,
Darlington.</p> <p>Davies, Mrs. Margaret D.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Davis, H. C.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Davis, Miss Nora M.,
Columbia.</p> <p>DePass, S. C.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Derrick, S. M.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Doty, Miss Annie,
Columbia.</p> <p>DuBose, Mrs. Louise J.,
Columbia.</p> <p>Dudley, J. S.,
New York City.</p> <p>Easterby, J. H.,
Charleston.</p> <p>Elliott, William,
Columbia.</p> <p>Epting, C. L.,
Clemson.</p> <p>Evans, J. G.,
Spartanburg.</p> |
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*Deceased.

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY—Continued

- Ferrell, C. M.,
Columbia.
- Finley, D. E.,
Washington, D. C.
- Fitch, Mrs. F. B.,
Columbia.
- Gambrell, C. G.,
New York City.
- Gambrell, E. S.,
Atlanta, Ga.
- Gambrell, W. H.,
New York City.
- Gibbes, Dr. R. W.,
Columbia.
- Gibbes, Mrs. R. W.,
Columbia.
- Gilland, Flinn,
Columbia.
- Gilland, Mrs. Nell F.,
Columbia.
- Gittman, J. T.,
Columbia.
- Glenn, L. C.,
Nashville, Tenn.
- Goodwin, Mrs. G. M.,
New York City.
- Green, E. L.,
Columbia.
- Gregorie, Miss Anne K.,
Columbia.
- Guignard, Miss Caroline,
Columbia.
- Hall, W. E.,
Anderson.
- Hammond, H. C.,
Augusta, Ga.
- Hammond, J. H.,
Columbia.
- Hanahan, J. R.,
Charleston.
- Haynsworth, H. C.,
Sumter.
- Hazel, W. G.,
Bennettsville.
- Hendley, W. S.,
Columbia.
- Hendley, Mrs. W. S.,
Columbia.
- Hennig, Mrs. Helen K.,
Columbia.
- Hennig, H. W.,
Darlington.
- Heyward, D. C.,
Columbia.
- Heyward, Miss Katherine B.,
Columbia.
- Holman, Mrs. A. E.,
Anderson.
- Holmes, A. G.,
Clemson.
- Holmes, Calvin,
Nashville, Tennessee.
- Holmes, J. G.,
Columbia.
- Holmes, Mrs. J. G.,
Columbia.
- Hughes, J. G.,
Union.
- Jackson, J. B.,
Columbia.
- Jervey, Dr. J. W.,
Greenville.
- Jeter, E. R.,
Rock Hill.
- Johnson, Miss Leila G.,
Columbia.
- Johnson, Mrs. W. W.,
Union.
- Jones, F. D.,
Clinton.
- Jordan, A. B.,
Dillon.
- Julien, C. T.,
Greenwood.
- Kendall, H. P.,
Camden.
- Kennedy, R. M.,
Columbia.
- LaGrone, T. E.,
Columbia.
- Latimer, S. L., Jr.,
Columbia.
- Lesesne, J. M.,
Greenville.
- Lieber, Miss Mary,
Newport, R. I.
- Lipscomb, G. F.,
Columbia.
- Long, Miss Alves,
Columbia.
- Lowrance, W. B.,
Columbia.
- Lucas, Dr. S. R.,
Florence.
- Lumpkin, A. M.,
Columbia.
- Lyles, Miss Mary E.,
Columbia.
- Macaulay, A. H.,
Chester.
- Manning, Mrs. R. I.,
Columbia.
- Manning, W. M.,
Stateburg.
- Marshall, Miss May C.,
Columbia.
- Marshall, M. C.,
Montgomery, Ala.
- Mason, G. H.,
Society Hill.

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY—Continued

- Mays, C. A.,
Greenwood.
- McColl, Mrs. D. D.,
Bennettsville.
- McGowan, Frank,
Columbia.
- McKay, Douglas,
Columbia.
- McKissick, Mrs. A. F.,
Greenville.
- McKissick, Ellison,
Greenville.
- McKissick, J. R.,
Columbia.
- McLean, H. B.,
Blythewood.
- *McLees, Miss Ruth,
Mystic, Conn.
- McMaster, F. H.,
Columbia.
- McMaster, the family of Col.
Fitz William,
Columbia.
- Means, Mrs. Albert,
Anderson.
- Meriwether, R. L.,
Columbia.
- Meriwether, Mrs. R. L.,
Columbia.
- Mikell, Miss Janie,
Sumter.
- Mills, J. E.,
Hartsville.
- Mims, Mrs. J. L.,
Edgefield.
- Moise, Harold,
Sumter.
- Moise, L. C.,
Sumter.
- Montgomery, Miss Mabel,
Columbia.
- Moore, W. B., Jr.,
Columbia.
- Moore, Mrs. W. B., Jr.,
Columbia.
- Morgan, Miss Katherine G.,
Georgetown.
- Morris, J. B.,
St. Matthews.
- Moses, H. A.,
Sumter.
- Murchison, Rev. H. R.,
Columbia.
- Murphy, J. B.,
Columbia.
- Nicholson, Allan,
Union.
- Oliphant, Mrs. A. D.,
Greenville.
- Pardue, Miss Carolyn,
Aiken.
- Parker, Frank,
Washington, D. C.
- Parler, Mrs. M. L.,
Wedgefield.
- Pegram, W. W.,
Chester.
- Poplar Springs Baptist
Church,
Ware Shoals.
- Porcher, Miss Elizabeth L.,
Columbia.
- Porcher, O. T.,
Bennettsville.
- Prince, S. L.,
Anderson.
- Ravenel, Miss Mary H.,
Aiken.
- Rawl, F. B.,
Columbia.
- Reed, Mrs. Mary Swaffield,
Columbia.
- Reid, Miss Thelma M.,
Columbia.
- Reynolds, Mark, Jr.,
Sumter.
- Rion, Mrs. W. C.,
Columbia.
- Robertson, Ben, Jr.,
Clemson.
- Robinson, D. W.,
Columbia.
- Robinson, F. C.,
Columbia.
- Salley, A. S.,
Columbia.
- Scott, Mrs. Florence J.,
Rio Grande City, Texas.
- Scott, Mrs. Irene A.,
Columbia.
- Seibels, E. G.,
Columbia.
- Seibels, Mrs. E. G.,
Columbia.
- Shand, William,
Columbia.
- Sheppard, J. O.,
Edgefield.
- Sherrill, G. R.,
Columbia.
- Shockley, C. G.,
Columbia.
- Simons, A. St. J.,
Columbia.

*Deceased.

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY—Continued

- *Snowden, Mrs. Yates,
Columbia.
- Spann, J. H.,
Summerville.
- Spivey, D. A.,
Conway.
- Stackhouse, Mrs. T. B.,
Columbia.
- Stanley, V. B.,
Centenary.
- Sumter, J. B.,
Sumter.
- Sumwalt, R. L.,
Columbia.
- Surles, Miss Flora B.,
Columbia.
- Taylor, G. L.,
Georgetown.
- Taylor, J. P.,
Columbia.
- Taylor, W. F.,
Columbia.
- Thomas, Rt. Rev. A. S.,
Charleston.
- Thomas, J. P., Jr.,
Columbia.
- Thomas, Miss Martha E.,
Columbia.
- *Thompson, Waddy,
Atlanta, Ga.
- Thorne, J. C.,
New York City.
- Thornley, Fant,
Columbia.
- Tillman, B. R.,
Washington, D. C.
- Tillman, Mrs. Mamie N.,
Edgefield.
- Tobias, A. C., Jr.,
Columbia.
- Todd, M. A.,
Charleston.
- Townsend, Miss Leah,
Florence.
- Verner, Miss Mary,
Columbia.
- Walker, Mrs. J. Frost,
Union.
- Want, Samuel,
Darlington.
- Ward, W. H.,
Columbia.
- Wardlaw, F. H.,
Columbia.
- Wardlaw, Patterson,
Columbia.
- Wasdin, Mrs. Agnes M.,
Georgetown.
- Watkins, H. H.,
Anderson.
- Watkins, T. F.,
Anderson.
- Watson, H. L.,
Greenwood.
- Wauchope, G. A.,
Columbia.
- Welbourne, F. F.,
Columbia.
- Weston, Mrs. A. D.,
Columbia.
- Wheeler, Miss Mary P.,
Columbia.
- White, Miss Fannie Belle,
Columbia.
- White, Mrs. Walter C.,
Stateburg.
- Wienefeld, R. H.,
Columbia.
- Wilds, J. L.,
Chicago, Ill.
- Williams, G. C.,
Columbia.
- Wilson, J. I.,
Manning.
- Wilson, J. M.,
Columbia.
- Wingard, Miss Mary C.,
Lexington.
- Woods, W. S.,
Columbia.
- Woodson, Miss Hortense,
Edgefield.
- Wright, M. A.,
Conway.
- Wyeth, Dr. M. S.,
Palm Beach, Fla.
- Yeargin, Mrs. W. W.,
Laurens.

*Deceased.

ANNUAL ADDRESS*

FRANCIS P. GAINES
President, Washington and Lee University
Lexington, Virginia

Certainly I can think of no significant advice to offer this distinguished society as to procedures or appraisals. But I should have come, if for no other reason, to express my sense of happiness and my pride in a notable development made by my native State.

To what shall we liken this development? It is as though we have established and made operative a bank of our cultural economy. In it the deposits and the treasures are not primarily the benefactions or philanthropies of the richly generous spirits of other countries, invaluable as such contributions would be. In this bank there will be stored in safety the hard-won accumulations of our own people, their legacies of courage and enterprise and achieved wisdom, bequeathed to us for our enjoyment and for our enriching utilization. For these assets are not to be hoarded, not to be frozen. On the contrary they are to be available as loans, on the most attractive terms, to all who have aptitudes and energies for their use and for the steadfast enlargement of the values suggested. The medium of exchange with which this expanding prosperity of the spirit is to be effected, this medium is more precious than gold; it is composed of the experiences and the faith and the ideals of our own history.

For this medium there is really no substitute. Without it we are permanently and hopelessly impoverished. Oliver Wendell Holmes, much of a scientist as well as literary man, emphasized in memorable phrase the fact that the individual is inevitably a product of something that has preceded him. "Every man," he said, "is an omnibus in which his ancestors ride." And again he said, speaking to pedagogues: "The proper education of a boy should begin with his grandfather."

Those of us who are teachers know the truth of these implications. We know, for example, that the routines of comprehension may be mastered with equal facility by two students but the value of the work will vary widely according to a sensitiveness of receptivity and interpretation, a sensitiveness that seems a thing transmitted and not acquired, a matter of the instincts and not of the conscious volitions. In my years of struggle as an English instructor, I was often impressed and de-

*On the occasion of the fourth annual meeting of the University South Caroliniana Society, University Library, Columbia, April 17, 1940.

pressed by the spectacle of a boy who could pass triumphantly any given test on the structure or even the subtleties of speech but who could not then get out of the class-room without murdering that same speech in horrible tortures of articulation.

I choose this illustration not because I think rectitude of grammar is a matter of prime importance but because it suggests that the acquisition and application of a phase of culture involve factors of background that alone give to an individual fitness to receive and command such experience. In the far more significant domain of personal character and civic character, the principle has essential validity.

If we should attempt to give negative expression to this basic truth, we may call to mind a couplet from Shakespeare, adequate as a text for more philosophy than this paper dare attempt. It is Albany's remark to his wife when he has learned how brutally disloyal she has been to her father, Lear:

"That nature which condemns its origin
Cannot be border'd certain in itself."

It is not easy to reduce to prosaic formula the immense ethical scope of this sweeping implication, but it is, among other things, a warning that to despise or even to neglect the influences of our past, to scorn our obligation to the forces that have made us, is in effect to remove the certain boundaries of our own security or, to change the metaphor, to cut the cable that anchors us within the harbor of our decent acceptances and to send us adrift upon chartless, unpredictable seas.

In our nation, still reckoned a young nation, this thought, it seems to me, needs elaboration and heroic proclamation. We like to fancy ourselves as moving yet in the resistless momentum of adventure and discovery. We trumpet forth the opportunity, as well as the history, of America as departure from precedent, as scorning the established procedures, as breaking with the ancient tradition. We boast that we shall complete what we fondly believe we have begun, the creation of a shining novelty. The equivalent of today for yesterday's pioneering, we are told, is bold social experimentation. The psychological compulsion of the new engulfs us, sweeps upon the coastal borders of our life, the rare, the unconventional, the symbol of today's victory over all the yesterdays that have ever been. On our table must be the newest novel and if we maintain our social superiority we must ride in the newest model of automobile; it is enough to sell a mechanical gadget or a finger-nail polish merely to say, "It's the newest thing out." In education we seek a new curriculum, in politics a New Freedom or a New Deal, in religion a new Gospel.

Surely it must be admitted that "New occasions teach new duties", and all of that; that any individual or any civilization that faces the past, that fails to live in the present, or fails to

live for the future, is already in a state of tragic senility, if not in the corruption of the grave. We cannot stand still; we make progress or we lose ground. Inertia is defeat and complacency is death.

But once and forever, "that nature which condemns its origin" is doomed. There is no safe progress except that which is made under the guidance of our own dearly purchased wisdom, that which is built upon foundation adequately and severely tested. Moving, pray God, forward with steadfast confidence, we still know our task to keep inviolate the subterranean continuities of our enduring purpose, to keep unclouded the high hills of our own achievement to which we may lift our eyes for strength.

For while the external environment and the external social circumstance may change from decade to decade, nay, from day to day, human nature doesn't change, and the ideals that afford the only worthy government for human nature do not change, and the capacity of a soul to respond to ideals does not change. We shall not lie down tonight, as once did the inhabitants of this town, wondering whether the midnight air will be made hideous by the clamor of murderous savages. We shall not rise by the early light wondering, as once did the inhabitants of this town, where the food for that day's need may be obtained. The huge peril, the huge emergency, the huge desolation does not now threaten us. We have entered, certainly in a comparable sense, upon the fat and comfortably lazy years.

But we may be threatened with things that are worse, far worse. We may be threatened with a fatal stupidity of neglect because we are lazy, with indifference to the want of others because we are fat, with the arrogance that makes men intolerant because we have asserted successfully our right to free thought and free modes of life. We need to go back patiently over the long story, as it can be told only in the authentic records, and fight the new threat of the old world that did not have the things we take for granted.

I presume that behind all the simple stories of our mythology there is an underlying truth. Take the story of Antaeus. Hercules was swaggering through the earth, champion heavy-weight wrestler, all comers welcome and no holds barred. He met Antaeus and after much struggle threw him down, but Antaeus bounced up twice as strong. Hercules strained terribly and downed his opponent again, only to find that he rose with double strength. Hercules exerted prodigious effort and again rolled Antaeus on the sod. But again Antaeus rose with miraculously increased power. Hercules became suspicious, seized his great adversary, swung him off the ground in a mighty stranglehold; and slowly the strength of Antaeus evaporated, and finally he was limp, helpless and conquered.

It is to tell us, I think, that as Antaeus was the son of Mother Earth who renewed for him his vigor, so all of us have the ele-

mental sources of strength, the primitive renewals of our vigor and our faith. To them we must return, with conscious pilgrimage or when hurled by adversity, to them we must return, or we shall lose our fortitude and our endurance; we shall die.

Here in this building, marvelously adapted to your purposes and almost providentially made available for your purposes, here is the place of renewal. Here men and women shall come again to the source of the immemorial might that has made our past; and here shall our future be made secure.

A Presbyterian church in my county owns a manuscript that I regard as one of the most impressive documents I have ever seen. I do not think it has ever been published in full. It is the episodic autobiography of a woman, covering more than fifty years in the telling, of a woman who, when young in Scotland, fled for her life, with husband and two or three children, came to America, lived a life full of joy and sorrow. The final notes are written when she is old, while the War for our Independence raged. I read two or three paragraphs:

I wonder if it be not a token of my death that today, wiping my spectacles and putting them on, I have taken up this book after so long laying of it aside. I feel indeed as one whose way has lain along some devious, up-hill road, and now in some peaceful sweet day, when there are no clouds in the sky, turns to survey the way he has come . . .

I see my children here and there settled around me. Dear Andrew, who is known as General, still follows the fortunes of his great chief, Washington. Thomas is in the honorable house of Burgesses. My Alice—the Indians called her the White Dove—bears her matronly honors well and sometimes tells her children how Omayah, the dying Indian boy, did wildly crave the wings of the White Dove to bear him to the home of the Great Spirit.

There is a grave by Kanawha's side which tells where Charles, my blue-eyed American boy, fell bravely fighting in the affray at Point Pleasant. God rest him, the gentle at home are the bravest in war. A little hillock on the prairie with its white mound of stones is not overlooked, though an insignificant object in the landscape in any but a mother's eyes.

William's wife—has sent her three boys, the youngest but thirteen, to repel the British at Rockfish Gap.—Men with such mothers are the men to form a nation. But the wrangle of wars and the rumors of war sound faint to me now; and I say to one who standeth hand in hand with me on this height, who hath been a helpmeet every step of the way, "Only a little longer, John Lewis, and the Lord of the Mountains will open to us, and we enter His door together."

Just a yellowed manuscript, in a woman's faded hand-writing, now nearly two hundred years old! Sometimes I think it is worth more than all the landed estates that are comparably old, all the fortunes builded in the intervening centuries, all the tur-

bulent rise and fall of politics in our provincial empire which is Virginia's green Valley.

Not merely because Margaret Lewis was herself a person of importance, nor merely because her sons and daughters came to distinction, nor merely because the whole document is one of the most authentic records of an exciting epoch. Chiefly because she tells with unconscious mastery her story of the courage and the sacrifice upon which this nation was founded. From such stories we draw our faith, from such stories we draw most of our faith; and for the yet unforeseen future we need this faith, more than anything else we need this faith. As in this present troubled day, when the foundations of our economic and political stability seem to give way beneath us, when the universe of our conventions seems dropping away from under us, we shall survive only by such faith.

Like as a bird that pauses in his flight
Upon a bough too slight,
Feels it give way beneath him, yet he sings,
Knowing that he hath wings.

