

other buildings and for an increase in the endowment to a point where it will be sufficient adequately to care for the number of students now on the grounds. The authorities are already at work preparing plans for doing these things. Contractors are preparing bids for the new dormitory and we are seeking counsel on all the other matters. A temporary building designed especially for Physical Laboratory and seven class rooms is ordered to be ready February first. This will splendidly serve until a New Chambers is built.

The College is deeply appreciative of the many kind notes of sympathy and offers of help that have been received daily. It is confidently believed that needed funds can be secured and that out of the ruins of the old and greatly loved Chambers will rise a handsome and more imposing building, a building that in its plan of structure and in its appointments will meet modern needs and requirements far more satisfactorily than the old one could ever have done, no matter what remodelling should have been undertaken had the flames left it unhurt. But if this is to be done, friends of Christian education and of Davidson College in particular must come out of their hiding or rather throw off their reserve and hesitancy at publicity and declare their willingness to rescue the institution from its present danger of being crippled in its usefulness and in its ability to serve the church, a service that under the blessing of God has been most pronounced and far-reaching, and that in quality and character has been distinctively good and beneficent, recognized in the regions about and be-

yond its locality in the home field and in the foreign, a service which there has been every reason to believe would with the passage of the years be multiplied many fold and be fruitful of richer and richer blessings to the Southern Church, the nation and the world.

Rev. C. M. Richards in a recent sermon gave voice to a feeling that is in the minds and hearts of all here when he said that progress and development is plainly the Divine plan, that the old is removed to give place to a new that shall better do the work of the Lord, that it is inconceivable that the Presbyterian Church, that part of it at least interested in Davidson and its work, would let slip or be slow to seize this opportunity to enlarge the endowment fund of the College and to place the institution on a financial basis that will make it stronger by far than ever before to carry forward its work in Christian education. Cowardice and faint-heartedness see lions in the way and obstacles insurmountable, but faith in God and in His power to work mightily for the upbuilding of the Kingdom through the upbuilding of this Christian College can accomplish the impossible. "Let us go forward" should be the watchword. But fine words butter no parsnips, as the proverb says. The College must find friends who will rally to its support and not only keep it from taking an inevitable step-backwards, but will be willing to push it forward into a larger place of power, influence and efficiency in doing the work of the Church of Jesus Christ.

C. R. HARDING.

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The Burning of Chambers

THE BURNING OF CHAMBERS

A stunning, indeed staggering blow squarely in the face was received by the College in the burning on the morning of November 28th of Chambers building, the pride and glory of the campus, providing a home in its dormitory wings for 133 students and R. O. T. C. Headquarters, and containing in its central section five class rooms, Geological and Mineralogical museums, departments of the old Union Library, Physical Laboratories, and the large Commencement Auditorium Hall. The building, an immense one, and most imposing in its three-story height, with cupola still more commanding in elevation, and entrance adorned with four massive Dorian pillars which were the admiration of all visitors to the campus, was completed in 1859 at a cost of nearly \$90,000. This money was a part of the quarter of a million dollars given by Maxwell Chambers to Davidson College, and owing to the ravages of and the losses entailed by the Civil War was the only fraction of this princely gift that the College was still reaping the benefit of, when the destructive fire swept it away also. Its appraised value under present conditions was not less than \$250,000. Sentiment and affection and mathematical figures alike combined to make one see in the building a structure of almost inestimable value, the loss of which constitutes a crisis in the life of Davidson College.

The fire was not discovered until well

under way, and when awakened and frightened students rushed from their rooms in the early morning hour to fight the raging flames, they did not discover for some time that a fire above them was burning more fiercely than that on the third floor against which their attack was being made. But at no time after the alarm was given was there any chance to bring the fire under control. Fortunately, no lives were lost, and most of the students saved their clothing and other effects, though there were some exceptions to this. A few men lost as much as \$200 each. One member of the Senior Class, Harold McKeithen, jumped from the third story but landed in mud and water and thus escaped serious hurt. A few other students received painful but not dangerous burns in their fight against the flames or in their zeal in saving articles of various kinds.

As the entire student body and faculty and citizens of the town stood and watched the great building burn and saw that only the high brick walls, and indeed these only in part, together with the four great sentinel pillars would be left standing, despondency and distress, not to say despair, were written on every face and showed in every voice that spoke. Happily the mood was a fleeting one, for before the flames had died down, President Martin, as the bugle, replacing the destroyed bell, sounded its notes, called the students in assembly around the campus well and in impassioned tones and with ringing words challenged each man to hear the call of the College in its hour of distress, to rally around its standard on

this day of misfortune and disaster, to stand by the colors, to stick to his post, to submit as cheerfully as could be to necessary inconvenience and to resolve that despite any and all obstacles this present year should be made the best that Davidson had ever known. The response was immediate, and the note of optimism sounded here was repeated in a grand rally held a few hours later in Shearer Hall. With the coming of Tuesday, students, now crowded together in the remaining dormitories or placed in homes in the village, and professors, making joint use of old or improvised class rooms, among them the Literary Society halls, took up their work and recitations were resumed on regular schedule just as if no fire had occurred on the preceding day.

Fortunately there was about \$100,000 insurance on Chambers and its apparatus and equipment of various kinds.

The Executive Committee of the College met at Davidson a few days after the fire and decided upon the following order:

- (1) To let the contract at once for the building of a large dormitory that will house 115 students, plans for which building have been on hand for a year or more. (This dormitory will be ready for use in September, 1922).

- (2) To prepare plans for and to erect at once an enlarged heating plant.

- (3) To employ expert advice with reference to the rebuilding or replacement of Chambers.

- (4) To start a campaign at the earliest possible date for raising funds for the above purposes and for the addition of