

THE

Inaugural Address,

DELIVERED IN BRUNSWICK,

SEPTEMBER ²³~~24~~, 1802,

BY THE REV. JOSEPH M'KEEN, A. M. & A. A. S.

AT HIS ENTRANCE ON

THE DUTIES OF PRESIDENT OF BOWDOIN COLLEGE:

WITH

AN EULOGY,

PRONOUNCED AT HIS FUNERAL,

BY THE REVEREND WILLIAM JENKS.

PORTLAND:

PRINTED BY THOMAS B. WAIT & CO.

1807.

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

THE candor I have experienced from the reverend and honorable gentlemen who compose the boards of trustees and overseers of Bowdoin College, will not, I trust, be withholden on this occasion. It is this confidence alone, which enables me to rise and address you, at a moment when the weight of the charge I have consented to undertake, bears with peculiar force upon my mind.

The organization of a literary institution in the district of Maine, which is rapidly increasing in population, is an interesting event, and will form an important epoch in its history. The disadvantages with which the district has contended from the days of its early settlement, have been numerous and discouraging. The scattered inhabitants were long in a weak and defenceless state: for more than a century the

sword of the wilderness was a terror to them ; and they were frequently constrained to lay aside the peaceful instruments of the husbandman, and to seize the weapons of defence. Planted in detached settlements along an extensive coast, and depending on precarious supplies of subsistence from abroad, it was long before they could enjoy the means of education with which some other parts of New England were early favored. Add to this, that deep and strong prejudices prevailed against the soil and climate, by which immigrations were discouraged, and the population of the district long retarded. These mistakes have yielded to the correcting hand of time ; and Maine is rapidly advancing to that state of maturity, in which, without being forcibly plucked, she will drop from her parent stock.

While the wilderness is literally blossoming like the rose, and the late howling desert by the patient hand of industry is becoming a fruitful field, it is pleasing to the friends of science, religion, and good order, to observe a growing disposition in the inhabitants to promote education ; without which, the prospect of the future state of society must be painful to the reflecting and feeling mind.

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In this assembly it cannot be necessary to expatiate on its importance to mankind; whether we consider them as inhabitants of this world, or as destined for an immortal existence in a state of retribution beyond the grave. The page of inspiration teaches, that for the soul to be without knowledge, it is not good; without the knowledge of the duties of his station in life, no man can act his part with honor to himself, or advantage to the community. Without knowledge, a man must be a stranger to rational enjoyment; time will often be a heavy burden to him; and to rid himself of such an incumbrance, he will be strongly tempted to abandon himself to sensual gratifications, which will incapacitate him for manly and worthy pursuits, and render him an object of pity to some, and of contempt to others.

A man, who intends to practise any mechanic art, must make himself acquainted with it, or he cannot expect to succeed. Instruction is surely not less necessary to one who contemplates the profession of law, physic, or divinity; without it, he can have the confidence of none but the ignorant, and he cannot depend even on that. As they have no fixed principles, by which to form their judgment,

they easily fall a prey to the delusive arts of any new pretender to superior knowledge, especially in medicine and theology. When the title to a man's estate is disputed, he generally endeavours to employ an able advocate; when the health of his body only is concerned, he can trust the prescriptions of an empiric: but, if undisturbed in the possession of his estate, and enjoying sound health, he is too often contented with such instructions on the subject of his eternal interests as he can obtain from the most illiterate vagrants, who understand neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

I would not be understood to assert, nor even intimate, that human learning is alone sufficient to make a man a good teacher of religion. I believe that he must have so felt the power of divine truth upon his heart, as to be brought under its governing influence. But since the days of inspiration were over, an acquaintance with the force of language, with the rules of legitimate reasoning, and especially with the sacred scriptures, which can be acquired only by reading, study, and meditation, is necessary to qualify one for the office of a teacher in the church.

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That the inhabitants of this district may have of their own sons to fill the liberal professions among them, and particularly to instruct them in the principles and practice of our holy religion, is doubtless the object of this institution; and an object it is, worthy the liberal patronage of the enlightened and patriotic legislature, which laid its foundation, and of the aid its funds have received from several gentlemen, especially that friend of science whose name it bears. That their generous intentions may not be frustrated, it becomes all to take heed, who are, or may be, concerned in its government or instruction.

It ought always to be remembered, that literary institutions are founded and endowed for the common good, and not for the private advantage of those who resort to them for education. It is not that they may be enabled to pass through life in an easy or reputable manner, but that their mental powers may be cultivated and improved for the benefit of society. If it be true, that no man should live to himself, we may safely assert, that every man who has been aided by a public institution to acquire an education, and to qualify

himself for usefulness, is under peculiar obligations to exert his talents for the public good.

The governors and instructors of a literary institution owe to God and society the sacred duty of guarding the morals of the youth committed to their care. A young man of talents, who gains an acquaintance with literature and science, but at the same time imbibes irreligious and immoral principles, and contracts vicious habits at college, is likely to become a dangerous member of society. It had been better for him, and for the community, that he had lived in ignorance; in which case, he would have had less guilt, and possessed fewer mischievous accomplishments. He is more dangerous than a madman, armed with instruments of death, and let loose among the defenceless inhabitants of a village. In one case the danger is seen, and an alarm is instantly given to all to be on their guard; in the other it is concealed, and the destroyer is embraced and cherished by those who are soon to be his victims.

Let it never be imagined then, that the sole object of education is to make youth acquainted with languages, sciences, and arts. It is of

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incalculable importance, that, as education increases their mental energies, these energies should be rightly directed. It is confessed, that to give them this direction exceeds the greatest human skill. A Paul might plant, and an Apollos water; to command increase is the prerogative of Deity. But as the husbandman is not discouraged from cultivating and sowing his land, by the consideration, that without the genial warmth of the sun and the rain of heaven, his labor will be all in vain, neither should we despair of success in forming the minds of youth to virtue and usefulness in life, because we cannot command it.

Though the principal labor and responsibility will fall to the share of the immediate instructors, these honorable boards will give me leave to remind them, that, without their prompt and steady support, the instructors will be able to accomplish much less than is probably expected of them.

The volatility of a youthful mind frequently gives rise to eccentricities, and an impatience of the most wholesome restraint; the mildest government is thought oppressive, and the indulgent parent's ear is easily opened to the

voice of complaint; imaginary fears are excited, that the genius of a darling son will be cramped, his spirits broken, the fire of his ambition quenched, and that he will be doomed to drudge through life in a sphere far below that for which nature had destined him. His youthful genius must be permitted to expand by its native and uncontrolled energies; and no doubt is entertained, that, in manhood, his virtues will hang in clusters upon him. I confess, that I am not so much of a modern philosopher, as to subscribe implicitly to this doctrine. In the natural world we find, that without culture, weeds outgrow more useful plants, and choke them; and reasoning from analogy will lead us to suppose, that without restraint or discipline, the mind of a youth will resemble the field of the slothful, and the vineyard of the man void of understanding.

It is admitted, that, as excessive pruning may injure a tree, so may discipline, too severe, an ingenuous youth. It is proper to consult his genius, and assist its expansion, rather than to force it into an unnatural direction. But an attention to order, and the early formation of habits of industry and investigation, are conceived to be objects of vast importance in the

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education of youth. I may venture to assert, that such habits are of more importance than mere knowledge. It is doubtless a desirable thing to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge; but, in aiming at this, there is a serious danger to be avoided, that of inducing an impatience of application, and an aversion to every thing that requires labor. Could we fill the mind of a youth with science by as easy a process as a modern chymist fills a vial with factitious air, it may be doubted whether his education would be of much use to him. In this connexion, it may not be improper to suggest an advantage arising from the study of what are called the learned languages; it inures a youthful mind to application, and is, in this respect, useful; even if no advantage arose from the knowledge of them. The mind acquires strength and vigor from exercise, as well as the body. We should think a parent guilty of a gross error in the education of his son, if he never allowed him to use his limbs, and appointed a servant to carry him in his arms, or convey him in a carriage. We should be guilty of a similar error in education, if we aimed at making a youth learned without study. It is important, that he should have full employment for the

exercise of his mental powers, rather than be carried in the arms of his tutor to the temple of science. Perhaps I have said more than was necessary, on the utility of acquiring habits of industry and application, while youth are in the course of their education. If the importance of the subject will not justify me, I have no apology to offer; and must transgress a little longer upon your patience, while I declare, that, in my opinion, a youth had better be four years employed "*nihil operose agendo*," in diligently doing what would be utterly useless to him in life, than in light reading, which requires no thinking.

If habits of application be of so much importance, it is desirable, that all concerned in the government and instruction of the college should concur in enforcing subordination, regular conduct, and a diligent improvement of time.

Give me leave then, gentlemen, to invite your zealous co-operation with the immediate instructors in ordaining, and executing, such laws and regulations as will be likely to keep our students, during their residence in college, as fully employed as will be consistent with their health. Employment will contribute not

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a little to the preservation of their morals, the prevention of unnecessary expense, and the preclusion of pernicious customs, which, once introduced, cannot be easily abolished. The importance of uniting our efforts to effect these salutary purposes cannot escape the notice of a reflecting mind. Should we be so happy as to succeed in forming a number for usefulness in church and state, we may expect our numbers to increase, when more ample accommodations and means of instruction will be necessary.

And now let me entreat all good men here present, who wish to see their fellow citizens enlightened, virtuous, free, and happy, to exert the portion of influence which they possess, in favor of this infant institution; and to unite in fervent supplications to the great Father of light, knowledge, and all good, that his blessing may descend upon this seminary; that it may eminently contribute to the advancement of useful knowledge, the religion of Jesus Christ, the best interests of man, and the glory of God.

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EULOGY

PRONOUNCED IN BRUNSWICK, (MAINE)

JULY 18th, 1807,

AT THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE

REV. JOSEPH M'KEEN, D. D. A. A. S.

AND PRESIDENT OF BOWDOIN COLLEGE.

BY WILLIAM JENKS, A. M.

ONE OF THE MINISTERS OF BATH.

*"Finis vitæ ejus nobis luctuosus, amicis tristis, extraneis etiam
ignotisque non sine curâ fuit."*

TACITUS, DE VIT. AGE.

PORTLAND:

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THOUGH we well know, that no distinction of reputation or merit can claim for its possessor an exemption from the last, common lot of humanity, yet we cannot withhold the expression of regret and grief whenever the good, the learned and the great are summoned from the world. At such periods we forget, for a time, our accustomed pursuits, and with deepfelt sympathy mingle our sorrows. We value our pleasures less, and regard the various objects of former cares with diminished ardour. Every thing wears to us, while under these impressions, a gloomy aspect; and in the mortality of him, whom we lament, we read with presaging melancholy the prophecy of our own departure.

Such too are our feelings on the death of a friend. But the intimacy of acquaintance softens the impression of great talents and distinguished worth. Hence more tender emotions occupy the mind; and while others mourn a philosopher, a statesman, or divine, those, who were placed nearer to him in life, and enjoyed his society and friendship, will lament the MAN.

In our regrets for the person, whose death now causes a general sorrow, and to whose honoured memory we are paying a sad, final tribute, the sensations both of affectionate esteem and love, and of heartfelt veneration and respect, are intimately blended. Our feelings comprise the sad products of public, private and domestic grief. We mourn the loss of a man remarkably qualified for presiding with becoming dignity in a literary institution like that in this place; we mourn the sound divine, the studious scholar, the prudent, upright citizen; we mourn the sagacious, intelligent and affectionate friend; and let me add, with deep and respectful sympathy, we share in the sorrows of the bereaved family, deprived at one stroke of the husband long beloved, and the father most tenderly endeared.

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I am sensible that, since the merit and well earned reputation of the deceased might be best illustrated by some one, who had progressed with him in the journey of life, my own appearance in this place may require an apology. But the avocations of literary and collegiate cares, rendered peculiarly pressing by the late President's long confinement, and the tender interest, which, as an intimate friend, he could not but feel in the sorrows of an afflicted family, have effectually precluded from this office the gentleman, whom I conceive best qualified to sustain it, who, from having been united with the deceased in official duties,* could have given this audience a better estimate of his important services. If, however, a genuine regard to the interests of science, and a sincere and affectionate respect for the late President of this College, can authorize my own compliance with the wish of those, who placed me here, I may then presume on your favourable attention, and with warm, yet trembling emotions, will endeavour to trace the features and footsteps of departed worth.

* JOHN ABBOT, A. M. professor of languages in Bowdoin College, was inaugurated into that office on the day of President M'KEEN's inauguration, and had before this been in habits of acquaintance with him.

PRESIDENT M'KEEN was born at Londonderry, in the state of New Hampshire, on the 15th of October, 1757; and had therefore scarcely reached the period of half a century when he was removed, by a long and distressing malady, from a life of laborious usefulness, and from the enjoyment of undiminished public confidence and an increasing reputation, to that state, in which knowledge is procured at its fountain, and in which alone the animating hopes of the Christian can receive their full accomplishment.

His immediate ancestors were from the north of Ireland, whence the family migrated at the period of settling his native town, about the year 1718. They were however of Scotch descent,* and his father, who was brought to this country but a child, enjoyed the common privilege of its first settlers, health and longevity.† He died in his 80th year, in 1793.

* See an account of this settlement in Dr. BELKNAP's History of New Hampshire, vol. II. p. 35, &c. JAMES M'KEEN, Esq. there mentioned as the first justice of the peace among these immigrants, was the parent of twenty one children, and grandfather of the President. The name of his father was John.

† In vol. III. Hist. N. Hamp. p. 251, it is said, "In Londonderry the first planters lived on an average to 80 years; some to 90, and others to 100."

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The President inherited an admirable constitution of body. From his early years he was strong and athletic, able to support fatigue and endure hardship; and at the juvenile age excelled in all those manly exercises, to which the active and hardy yeomanry of our country are then accustomed. But his mind was not suffered to remain uncultivated; for at the tender age of thirteen, after having completed the preparatory course of study with the Reverend Mr. WILLIAMS, of Windham, in his native state, he was entered a member of Dartmouth College.

A collegiate life admits but little diversity in its incidents; it is not therefore necessary to pause at them, except only to remark, that Mr. M'KEEN evinced a taste and capacity for the abstruser and more solid branches of science, and, after exhibiting a decided predilection for mathematical pursuits, received the first honours of the College in 1774, with the character of a good classical scholar. Immediately after this he returned to his native town, and there, among the friends and companions of his youth, commenced his duties as an instructor, refreshing his own mind with the principles of science while he was imparting them to others,

and increasing his acquaintance with literature at large in the intervals of duty. As an evidence of the esteem of his townsmen, let it be remarked, that for eight successive years this employment was continued. Feeling then the same attachment to mathematicks and astronomy, which he had cultivated while at College, he left Londonderry, in the summer of 1780, for a temporary residence at Cambridge, where he pursued a course of studies in natural and experimental philosophy, mathematicks and astronomy, under Professor WILLIAMS, who, the year before, had succeeded the learned and venerable WINTHROP in the chair of that highly useful and most interesting department.

It appears that, after this period, Mr. M'KEEN directed his attention principally to theological pursuits, and resumed, for that purpose, his connection with his former tutor, the Reverend Mr. WILLIAMS, of Windham, under whom he laid the foundation of that accurate and discriminating knowledge of sacred subjects, which so eminently qualified him to be an instructor from the pulpit in things of eternal importance. It should not, however, be forgotten, that for a considerable

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time he was an assistant in the respectable Academy at Andover, to Dr. PEARSON, late Professor of the Hebrew and oriental languages in the University of Cambridge; and that his usual reputation for diligence in the discharge of duty, and skill in respect to the mode, accompanied him in that employment.

While a candidate for settlement as a minister of the gospel, his labours were very acceptable. At one period they were exerted among the congregation collected in Boston by the Reverend Mr. MOORHEAD. This was composed principally of "Presbyterian Strangers." It is no wonder, therefore, that Mr. M'KEEN, whose early life had been passed in their discipline, whose connections were of similar sentiments and origin, and who had himself been examined and approved by the Presbytery, of which his tutor was a member, should sympathise with their feelings in such a manner, as to create a warm interest in his favour. But, whether from want of funds, or whatever other cause, their partiality was never matured into an invitation to settle among them. It is worthy of remark, however, that their choice at length fell on one, whom their admired preacher, greatly to his

honour, much resembled in the distinguishing features of his mind, and general character of his manners; I mean the late excellent Dr. BELKNAP, whose productions are an ornament to the literature of our country, and whose name will ever be connected with the memory of our worthies.

The church in Beverly, having been deprived of their pastor, the late Reverend Dr. WILLARD, by his elevation to the Presidency of the University at Cambridge, in the year 1781, had remained for some time destitute. In 1785 they invited Mr. M'KEEN, then in his 28th year, to assume among them the ministerial office. In May of that year, having relinquished his connexion with the Presbytery, he was ordained, and, like his beloved and respected predecessor, enjoyed the full confidence of his people, growing in their esteem and affection, and becoming more and more endeared by the innumerable kind and friendly attentions, which his natural goodness of heart prompted him to render, and to which his sacred station afforded continual opportunities.

In the year succeeding his settlement in the ministry, Mr. M'KEEN became a husband. To characterise him in this relation, as the

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tender and faithful companion, the prudent head of a family, the firm guardian of domestick peace and honour, would be common praise. But common as it is, it is praise of the first importance, and the tears and sorrows of a widowed consort too forcibly proclaim how richly he deserved it. Sacred be those sorrows! Unimpeded, as they are unbidden, be those tears.....'till the kind Parent of all, in his rich mercy, and by his effectual consolations, shall graciously wipe them away!

It was a peculiar happiness, that the lady, with whom he formed this connexion, was descended from ancestors of the same pious company, as his own, and had been educated in similar habits, having been brought up among the most familiar scenes of his youth.

Mr. M^r K^{ean} continued for seventeen years pastor of the church at Beverly, during which time his reputation as a sound divine and solid scholar is well known. In 1800 he was appointed to preach the election sermon; and at its delivery, if the pleasing recollection may in this place be indulged me for a moment, I became for the first time personally acquainted with the perspicuity of style, the strength and appropriateness of reasoning, and the plain

and impressive manner, which ever distinguished his public performances. There I first learned to imbibe respect for that acuteness of discernment, and felicity of illustration, which, at a subsequent period, when enjoying the privilege of his friendship, I found no less conspicuous in the private man, than in the religious instructor.*

* The author of this eulogy is unwilling to deny himself the pleasure of inserting here an extract from a well drawn character of the reverend President, which appeared in the *Eastern Repository* of July 21st, and for which the public is indebted to the pen of ALDEN BRADFORD, Esq. "Few," says he, "are so well qualified for an instructor and governor of youth. For, with great attainments in science, he united a mild, though firm and decided spirit, those conciliating yet dignified manners which inspired respect, and secured him the esteem of all who knew him. As a Christian minister he was prudent, zealous and faithful. While pastor of the large and respectable society in *Beverly*, he enjoyed the affection of his people, and was highly esteemed by the reverend gentlemen of the clergy in that part of the country. In theological knowledge and biblical criticism he was a great proficient. His sermons discovered solidity of judgment and strength of intellect, which were equalled by few divines. That pronounced by him on the anniversary of election is not inferior to any delivered on a similar occasion within our recollection.

"In private and social circles Dr. M'KEEN was pleasant, affectionate and exemplary; not too reserved for familiar conversation; nor did his usual gravity of deportment partake in the least degree of ungracious austerity. None had the privilege of his acquaintance, who did not imbibe sentiments of affection as of respect for his amiable virtues. In him were eminently exemplified the estimable qualities requisite to constitute the Christian character. His piety was without ostentation; his love of evangelical truth untinctured by bigotry or superstition. Such was President M'KEEN. We mourn the loss of a scholar, a gentleman, a Christian."

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About this time he was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, among whose publications will be found discussions and deductions of a mathematical nature, to which his name is affixed.* He was also a member of the society for propagating the gospel.

But a wider sphere of public usefulness awaited him. When it became expedient to carry into operation this important seminary of literature, which now deeply mourns his loss, the trustees and overseers, directed by public sentiment and private knowledge to the consideration of his eminent qualifications for the station, made choice of him as President of Bowdoin College,† and invited him to the

* See Transactions of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, vol. II. part 2. pages 62 and 66. Dr. M'KEEN's other publications were, beside his election sermon, a sermon at the ordination of Rev. RUFUS ANDERSON, at North Yarmouth, one at the ordination of Rev. Mr. MOORE, at Newbury, Old Town, and three sermons on occasions of public fasting and prayer.

† The Charter of Incorporation of this College is dated June 24th, 1794; but the unproductive nature of its endowments, they being chiefly lands in the unsettled parts of the District, together with the necessary preparation of buildings, &c. deferred the operation of the institution eight years from its foundation. At length, in September 1802, students were admitted, there being then a president and professor of languages. The number of the first class was eight, one of whom died in the beginning of his second year. The other seven were graduated in their course.

duties of the office on the 9th of July, 1801. His answer, which graces their records, will remain a valuable monument of his characteristic modesty, cool judgment, and prompt

At the admission of the third class, in 1804, another executive officer was found necessary, and SAMUEL WILLARD, A. B. from the university at Cambridge, was chosen tutor. He entered on his office in October, 1804, and quitted it the year after. In 1805 it became necessary to add another instructor to the number; and as the Hon. JAMES BOWDOIN, Esq. had bestowed 1000 acres of land toward founding a professorship of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, it was thought expedient, although this bequest was not yet productive, to establish the professorship from the general funds, which indeed support all the present offices of instruction. Accordingly PARKER CLEVELAND, A. M. being elected to the office, was invited from the University at Cambridge, where he was tutor in that branch, and installed in the new professorship, October 23d, 1805. At the same time the vacancy, occasioned by Mr. WILLARD's resignation, was supplied by the choice of NATHAN PARKER, A. B. from Cambridge. Such was the state of the College at the late President's death; at which time 44 young gentlemen had been admitted as students.

The library of the College, which has received several additions from private benefactions, beside those of the family, whose name the institution bears, contains between fourteen and fifteen hundred volumes. Of these a number, to the value of 100*l*. sterling, are selected, and were the donation of Madam BOWDOIN, relict of the late governor. The philosophical apparatus is perhaps exceeded by none in New England, except that at Cambridge. It is new, and sufficient for a complete course of experimental lectures. A chymical apparatus has also been lately presented, and that useful science is now a part of the collegiate course of study.

The buildings consist of the president's house, and a chapel, which contains in its second story the library and philosophical apparatus, beside the brick building for the students, in dimension fifty feet by forty. This has three stories and a belfry, and bears the name of MASSACHUSETTS HALL. Another building of brick for the further accommodation of the students, 100 feet long and 40 wide, is in great forwardness. It will have four stories, and will render a residence at this College as commodious as at any in our country.

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decision. Having signified his acceptance of the appointment, in July of the following year he prepared, with his accustomed wisdom, for the best establishment of the institution, by visiting personally, in conjunction with the Professor of languages elect, the University at Cambridge, and the Colleges at Providence, New Haven, and Williamstown. It was the important object of this journey to ascertain, from actual inspection, the modes of government and instruction, and qualifications for admission usual in the New England Colleges; and one of the valuable effects, which followed, was, the requirement of such qualifications for entrance to this institution, as immediately ranked the infant College, in this respect,* second in the Eastern States. On the 2d of September following this journey, the installation of the President and Senior Professor took place, with what emotions of satisfaction and joy many of the present audience well

* It may not be amiss to observe, that the laws require for admission, an ability in the candidate to sustain a strict examination in the principles of the Latin and Greek languages, the select orations of Cicero, the *Æneid* of Virgil, Arithmetic as far as the rule of three, and also to translate English into Latin; being the same qualifications as were required at Cambridge before the regulations of 1805.

remember, and my reverend father,* to whose sacred monitions we have been listening, and who bore so large a part in that day's grateful solemnities, can best declare. Sad indeed is this reverse! There lie the remains of the man, whom you then delighted to honour, and from whose eminent services, services already prejudged from his past character, you doubtless anticipated a long train of public benefits. Alas, that so short a career should follow a beginning so auspicious!

The ability and faithfulness, with which he discharged the arduous duties of his highly responsible station, in the government and instruction of the students, you, gentlemen, who were associated with him in those labours, can easily appreciate, and those, who enjoyed the happiness of experiencing his truly parental kindness, and of imbibing from him the lessons of Divine and human knowledge, will never forget. But such an estimation of his labours was not confined to this society; for in 1804 his "Alma Mater," the College at Hanover,

* REV. SAMUEL DEANE, D. D. A. A. S. who delivered a discourse on this occasion from Job iii. 19. and who, as Vice President of the College, presided at the inauguration of Mr. M'KEEN.

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conferred on him the title of Doctor in Divinity, an assignment as honorary to those who made, as to him who received it.

In the midst of these honours and labours, the President, who had always enjoyed remarkable health, uninterrupted even by occasional illness, began to feel, about September 1805, the access of that disease, which at length proved fatal.* Whether it were, that his mode of life was too sedentary and required too constant attention, or that the exercise, which he now used, did not equal that, to which he had been accustomed in the discharge of his parochial duties,† or whatever else were the cause, medical men best know. The symptoms however appeared to decrease with the approach of summer; and in the autumn of 1806 he attempted a journey to Beverly, where his former complaint recurred with alarming appearances. Still he was encouraged to hope a removal of it, but it

* The first attack appeared to be an inflammation of the liver.

† The president has been heard to say, that often in visiting the sick, when, if it were good weather, he seldom rode, he has continued his walk for six or eight miles. As he feared a tendency to grow corpulent, he was exact in his habits, and generally caused himself to be weighed yearly, preserving for a series of years the same weight with but trifling variation.

continued obstinate. Every attention, which friendship and professional skill could bestow, was afforded, and his situation, though remote from his family, made as comfortable, as under such circumstances, it could possibly be. He was in the bosom of a society long attached to him, and earnest to express their affection. But why should I enlarge on these circumstances, of which an anxious public have been minutely informed? Yes, we have watched the progress of his disorder, trembling, and have listened with fond credulity to every favourable report, in the hope, which himself had in a degree indulged, that an excellent constitution might be assisted by change of weather to shake off the disease. Vain have been our hopes, unavailing our wishes! Could the prayers of his personal friends, of the friends of religion and science, of the friends of our rising country and of this literary institution have prevailed, long would he have continued to be the light of our Eastern Churches, the ornament of our society, the head of our literature, and the fostering father of our noble-minded youth.

The President returned to his family much enfeebled. The original disorder had assumed

another form. He was accompanied by a medical attendant, and attended with the most scrupulous attentions to his health, and the most judicious of professional advice. He was highly respected, and every assistance was afforded him, as the melancholy state of his mind, and the power of his intellect, were to his relief.

I have now obtained permission to visit my loved friend, the President, through the kindness of the friends who are filled with duty and ingenuity, and the Divine Providence has moved, a calm and persevering disposition, and excellence early obtained. Education as well as religion bore the title of amiable example.

* Dr. LINCOLN of Toronto, who gave the medical care of Dr. FARR.

another form, and now threatened a dropsy. He was accompanied in the journey homeward by a medical gentleman,* whose assiduous attentions to him since, the effects not only of professional industry and concern, but of high respectful friendship, secured to him every assistance of the healing art, and left us the melancholy consolation of reflecting, that the powers of medicine were inadequate to his relief. Alas, that they were fruitless!

I have now, as far as the information I have obtained permitted me, followed our late beloved friend, and revered and honoured President, through the several stages of a life filled with duties. If it were barren of striking incidents, let it be imputed, under the Divine Providence, to a temper not easily moved, a calm, dispassionate mind, a regular, persevering diligence, and habits of moral excellence early acquired and stedfastly maintained. Educated in industry and sobriety as well as religion, of which his father, who bore the title of deacon in the church, was an amiable example, he had from his youth a

* DR. LINCOLN of Topsham. While at Beverly he was under the medical care of Dr. FISHER.

respect for the genuine simplicity and unassuming worth, that distinguished other times. A puritan in heart, he was however the gentleman in manners. His knowledge of the world, and the peculiar sweetness of his disposition rendered him accommodating to all. Though naturally reserved perhaps, he was yet communicative in confidential intercourse, and in the exercise of his office. A stranger to deceit, his language was ever the expression of his feelings, sincere though guarded, warm and animated, but never extravagant.

If I have been able to estimate justly the character of the late Reverend Dr. M'KEEN, and surely it is expected of me here that I speak the undisguised sentiments of my heart, since flattery, as it could be no benefit to the dead, and but an injury to the living, would at the same time be equally abhorrent from my duty and habits, I may say, that his peculiar excellency seemed to be a sound, discriminating judgment. This indeed is by many considered as but the perfection of all the faculties. Notwithstanding however the justness of the remark, it is yet true, that men of equal merit may yet excel in very distinct departments. Some have excited astonish-

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ment by the brilliancy of their talents; others have won esteem by the lasting nature of their powers and acquirements. Of the latter description was, if I mistake not, the man, whose loss we deplore; a loss the more deplorable, because it is rarely the case, that all those talents, which he possessed, and which admirably fitted him for presiding with dignity and usefulness over an institution like this, are found united in the same person.

You, Gentlemen, who were his associates in the government and instruction of the College, have reason to mourn the removal of one, whom to know intimately was but to admire and love. You were witnesses to his indefatigable zeal for the interests of science, morality and religion; to his fatherly tenderness toward your pupils; to his patience and firmness in the arduous employments of the presidency; and, since the duties of a classical instructor were combined with those cares,* to his

* We hope it may not be long before some liberal friend of science, among the opulent individuals of the District or elsewhere, will enlarge the plan of instruction, either by the foundation of a new professorship, or the support of an assistant tutor, that so the time of the principal of the institution may not be necessarily devoted to hearing the ordinary recitations of a class. Certainly no appropriations of wealth can be of greater service to our country, than those, which have for their object the interests of literature and religion.

ability in tempering his instructions to the capacity and need of the individuals who received them. But your deepfelt grief is more expressive than any other testimony of esteem and veneration.

To the members of the several classes of students gladly would I offer consolation. But the loss of such a friend and father is almost irreparable. You will ever reflect with the strongest emotion on his kindness, condescension, affability and love. You will lament him, as a second parent. But I conjure you, by the affection with which you cherish his memory, and by your wish to enjoy through life, and especially at its close, the secret satisfactions, which he experienced, let his instructions be faithfully regarded.....let them not be merely treasured in your memory, but exhibit them in your conduct. One class alone the President had the pleasure of ushering into the manly duties of life. But you will all remember with me the impressive exclamation, which he uttered to them in his parting address; "God forbid that you should ever be ashamed to be governed by the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ." These were the ruling principles of his own

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life, and these alone, he well knew, could ensure the usefulness and happiness of your's. Yes, respected youth, your late loved President was a man of piety, a Christian, as well as a scholar. He was himself a humble pupil of the Redeemer, and his life will rank among the most consistent, simple and impressive examples of its efficacy. Be ye followers then of him, even as he followed Christ.

The intimate connexion of the President in his official character with the boards of Trustees and Overseers of the College, will cause their members deeply to regret the loss we now sustain. May God, who in his wise and holy providence has deprived us of the man, who seemed to unite all hearts, point out one, qualified by his peculiar excellencies, to occupy his station, and bless him with equal success.

But while a successor in these public duties is an attainment within our power, what consolatory hope shall we offer to the bereaved family of the deceased? We can but offer our sympathy. We can but commend you to God. We can but implore for you the Divine consolations, and express our hearty wish that you may experience them sensibly. He, who now

wounds, is able to heal. The hope and expectation of a future state of bliss, and the assurance of a resurrection to eternal life, which we have the firmest grounds to entertain for all who sleep in Jesus; these are your best treasure. Let me add, you have long had before you one of the most interesting and best examples of the Christian graces. May it teach you resignation, patience, piety and virtue. Then will the separation, which is now so painful, be but transitory, and you will hereafter meet to separate no more!

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