

THE TROUBLES AT WILLIAM AND MARY IN 1688

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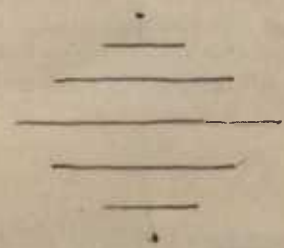
with
Lyon & Taylor

THE TABLES AT WINDHAM
BY MARY COLLEGE IN 1848.

These tables were prepared
at the request of the Faculty
of the College of Windham
and are intended to show
the progress of the students
in their several courses.

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THE TROUBLES AT WILLIAM
AND MARY COLLEGE IN 1848.



THESE TROUBLES GREW OUT OF THE
APPOINTMENT OF A.C. PEACHY AS
A PROFESSOR IN THE COLLEGE.
BUT THEY APPEAR TO HAVE HAD
THEIR REAL CAUSE IN PRIVATE FEUDS.

WILLIAM AND MARY COLLEGE.

DEDICATION.

To the generous souls who take an interest in the weal or wo of William and Mary College; more particularly to those Alumni who have imbibed instruction within her venerable walls, and, by the fond associations of earlier years, are tenderly attached to their time-honored Parent, these pages are dedicated with every affectionate consideration.

WILLIAM AND MARY COLLEGE.—No. I.

WORDS are inadequate to express the gratified feelings with which I contemplate the deep interest taken in the affairs of our College. The friends of the institution no longer confine themselves to verbal denunciations of reproach, but are now enlisted the potent agency of the Press, that the community at large may be aroused, before it is too late, to the critical situation in which she is now involved by the infatuated counsels of her Visitorial Board. Indeed a prophetic gloom, next to the darkness of night, lowers over the whole region! The College, it is true, retains her name, but the essential elements of her existence as a literary institution are fast withdrawing their vivifying influence, and she may become, unless a better order of things succeed and establish its imperial reign, a by-word and a reproach to future generations! Did ever such folly and madness preside over a deliberative body convened and solemnly sworn to consult alone its welfare and its prosperity? The Visitors had it in their power to fill the vacant Chairs with men eminent for their intellectual superiority! they had it in their power to associate together, in enviable concord, men who would have reflected additional lustre by the delightful harmony of their movements, and the happiness which each enjoyed in the refined society of each! But what a picture unrolls itself before the eye of the observer! Her Professors are hastening to abandon with disgust the stations to which they have been appointed, and which some of them have held so long. Two of them, conspicuous for their talents, popularity and felicity of manners, have already announced their resignation; and it is bruited, with every indicative appearance of truth, that two more, equally distinguished, will, in a short space of time, move in the footsteps of their example. And what, it may be asked by a distant public, what has produced this deplorable condition of affairs? What evil genius *has been made to wind his stealthy way* into a terrestrial paradise, teeming, throughout its amplitude, with the variegated blossoms

and multiplied fruits of science; where all was sunshine, not a cloud or vapor floating to disturb the blissful tranquility and mellowed beauty of the scene? "Hoc fonte derivata clades." The Visitors, in the plenitude of their wisdom, have appointed a young man unknown to fame; who, whatever may be his *concealed* qualifications, or however thick his *unseen* blushing honors rest upon him, had been lately rejected at a previous and *less exceptionable* Visitorial meeting; a person who was known to be not only on terms of bristling hostility to the distinguished President, but, with a *solitary exception*, to be not the choice of the Faculty; offensive, superlatively offensive, to the students, and who, too, was no less unacceptable to the city, having its prosperity so intimately affiliated and interwoven with the welfare of the College. To this ill-starred appointment may be attributed the prostrate condition of fainting William and Mary. Nor can she be raised from the "slough of despond," from the adhesive mud and mire of her degradation, but by a magnanimous determination, on the part of her Visitors, to undo what they have already done, and act with a single, unwinking eye to the welfare of the institution.

A Board of Visitors should be composed of men distinguished for their *Fabrician* integrity; men, whose conduct cannot be influenced by the intrusive agency of any improper bias; whose pure ermine of character no tint of words can spot, nor can circumstances change its snowy whiteness. Such men, it is true, from the frailty of poor, lapsed human nature, are with difficulty to be found; but that is no argument *why* efforts, and strenuous efforts, should not be made to attain, as *nearly as possible*, the object of solicitude. In voting for a candidate to a Professorship, the Visitors should establish a rule not to be infringed, that no member, either directly or remotely *connected* with the individual presenting himself for office, be permitted to have a voice in his agitated appointment. This rule, it is true, seems unnecessary in its application to a *gentleman of delicate feelings*; but sad experience teaches the admonitory lesson, that all possess not such delicate feelings, and that its establishment is just, important, indispensable. No young or antiquated Lothario, "sporting with Amrayllis in the shade," breathing amorous nothings in a fair one's ear, or, in soft dalliance, playing with the tangled ringlets of Aminta's hair, could, from the moral constitution of his nature, ever be a member of so pure, and grave, and deliberative a body. Nor could that unworthy man be appointed, who would immolate, on the altar of *affinity* or *consanguinity*, the sacred obligations of his official oath, and the pleading interests of the College.

These are hypothetical cases, it is true, which *may* occur in the progressive march of time; but although imaginary, they ought strictly to be forefended, with a view to their possible occurrence.

But it may be asked, ought the Constitution of the Visitorial Board to remain as it is? Most emphatically do I answer—No. The affirmative would be an insult to the College, and evince consummate ignorance. The tide-water country must be wooed and won for its support, or she can never, never flourish. The Board, therefore, should be composed of men representing each individual religious denomination, and not restricted to any one particular sect. To substantiate the importance of this idea, behold what Howison, in his late History of Virginia, vol. 2, has recorded in reference to the numerical strength of the different reli-

gious sects, for the year 1847, throughout the State:—"Baptist communicants, 85,143; Methodists, 26,808; Presbyterians, 13,048; New School, 3,509; *Episcopalians*, 4,305." The Journal of the Episcopal Convention for 1847, which is the last published, shews that in the *tide-water district* this sect enumerates merely 1,258 communicants! The attempt, then, to episcopalize such an institution as William and Mary, with a view to its future prosperity, is utterly preposterous. He must be a dolt, a most egregious dolt, who can think otherwise;—the distilled *essential* product of many a well-known simpleton, extracted, *secundum artem*, from the alembic of stupidity itself!

According to the above exposition, it will be seen that *Episcopal* influence is a mere feather's levity, a negation of all gravitating power, when placed in the ponderating balance for examination.

The true policy, then, to be pursued by the Board of Visitors, is very plain—so plain, that "whoso runs may read it" in most legible characters. They have nought more to do than to let the whole tide-water country, *so long neglected by their infatuated counsels*, see at once that sectarianism, in no shape whatsoever, shall impress its signet on the parchment of their proceedings; that they are anxiously solicitous, not only to obtain, but deserve, the full confidence and patronage of its inhabitants, by the wisdom of their measures, and their ardent devotion to the mental illumination of its rising offspring; that their Professors, when appointed, shall be men eminent for their scientific attainments—such as will cast a solar radiance over the institution to which they have been called; that the evil spirit of *dark intrigue*, which has already wrought such *direful mischief*, shall no longer find an abiding place to exert a baleful *mystic* influence in establishing *New Professorships*, only calculated, by their unnecessary, voracious demands on the pecuniary resources of the institution, to eat up the amount of its available funds, and thus to confine, within a very narrow orbit, the circling sphere of that wide-spread usefulness, for which it was intended by the voice and spirit of its charter;—a usefulness which the community at large so loudly demands, and ought so confidently to expect.

What inexplicable directive power could have swayed the minds of Visitors, when they instituted, but a few months past, a *New Professorship*, comprising duties thoroughly performed by those already in commission—a Professorship altogether unnecessary, and unwarranted by the financial condition of the College? In what guise or shape shall conjecture, ever restless against the bars of confinement, imagine the occult agency to have appeared? Did Woman, born to beguile, as well as to attract, with the fascination of her magic spells, did Woman, soft Persuasion's child, lend her insinuating influence to effect the purpose, and was Man her obedient, humble servitor? Did the oft-repeated Welcome, bestowed in all primeval innocence, with nectared sweets unknown to that which Judas to his Master gave, instil its delicious poison, and magnetise any one or two of them to betray their trust? Did the magnetised afterwards, by transference of the same effused aerial *virtue*, become themselves *the magnetisers*, and operate, in their turn, with the necessary "means and appliances?" When this influence, whatever it may be, was stealing along its unseen way, could no Uriel be found, "gliding through the even on a sunbeam," to discern the *latent evil*, as

it entered the council-chamber in a mist? Where was Ithuriel's spear,
whose lightest tact will all suffice,

" ————— for no falsehood can endure
Touch of celestial temper, but returns
Of force to its own likeness?"—MILTON.

Here our enquiries must cease, and be at rest! "Thus far can we go,
and no farther!"

However distressing and appalling may be the present condition of our beloved College, I do not despair of a redeeming spirit—a galvanic irritability, capable of resuscitation to its former vital energy. The city of Williamsburg is deeply interested in the destinies of her College. Time was when her population, to a solitary man, felt, with the keenest sensibility, the attempt once made by a *traitorous Faculty, and no less criminal band of Visitors*, to remove her from the classic associations by which she is so picturesquely surrounded! Time has been when they memorialized the Legislature, in the strongest terms, and her cause was advocated by the thrilling eloquence of an Upshur and a Tyler, argumentatively supported by a Jones! Those days are past and gone, but they can never, never be forgotten! The attachment of Williamsburg still clings, with unabated ardor, to the College of her love, and popular feeling is springing to exert its might and its power. Her citizens, at the trumpet-blast of danger, should assemble in full meeting, their resolutions should be spirited, and strongly expressive of their sentiments; every order of society, the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the young and the old, animated by one common impulse, should speed to the rescue; and flinging to the winds every unkind and discordant feeling towards each other, as a band of brothers linked together, fraternize with heart and soul, in this most important crisis of affairs. No matter how formidable the array of opposition; no matter how extended their line of column; no matter what deep laid schemes of strategy may be employed by her enemies to succeed; no matter if lurking *traitors and conspirators* be found concealed within the *Grecian horse* admitted in her walls;—the pealing thunder of a *people's call* will hush to silence even the reverberating roar of ten thousand cannon, and the unquailing, determined will to act, supported by conscience and by moral right, flaunts defiance at embattled hosts!

Feb'y 15th, 1848.

JUNIUS.

NOTE.—Since the above was written and prepared for the press, a meeting of the Visitors has taken place, *suddenly called for the express purpose, as was alleged, of providing an effectual remedy* for the desolating mischief which they themselves had so wantonly engendered. Public expectation with confidence anticipated a speedy restoration of all things to their primitive condition. And what has been effected? "Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph!" Instead of *abolishing* a Professorship, so disgracefully hatched in the foul nest of nauseating intrigue, and filled by a gentleman obnoxious to the Faculty, obnoxious, pre-eminently obnoxious, to the students, as their published proceedings fully proclaimed, obnoxious to the public

at large, and the cause, the sole cause of the awfully distracted condition of the College, they permit him and his Professorship to continue until the termination of the session; although, *by his resignation previous to that of the other Professors*, they might with perfect facility, without the slightest wound to the feelings of the Professor himself, *have placed the College on its original footing*, and, like the leaves of the Sybil, have scattered to the winds the discordant, chaotic elements, of which it was composed;—a discord and confusion for which they alone were accountable! What the Visitors design to accomplish at their approaching convocation, the God of heaven only can tell. Public expectation contemplates with fearful solicitude the advent of that eventful day! I repeat, "*with fearful solicitude*;" because the *same intriguing cabal* have added to their strength, as they fondly anticipate, *by a recent Visitorial appointment, originally proposed by one of the party*. But from the well known independence of the appointed gentleman, and his rectitude of mind, I entertain no apprehensions; the dignity and welfare of the institution being always present to his consideration, and, when regarded by a character of his expanded intellect, paramount to everything else. His pure intelligence will take a calm, unbiassed review of past transactions, cause to be *undone*, as far as in him lies, *what has been already done*; reject with abhorrence the idea of re-admitting into the institution, *however solicitous of the honor, any plotting Professor*, whose incendiary torch was extinguished only by the want of proper materials to support the ignition; and who, in consequence of the ill success attendant on his insidious efforts, now wears a diadem or coronet on his brow, set with brilliants of such sparkling distinction, that few men, breathing in the atmosphere of my acquaintance, would envy as an ornament, or aspire to attain! He too, the newly appointed Visitor,* I doubt not, will accord with me in sentiment, that *delicacy* imperatively called upon the *unrighteous Jonahs of the Visitorial Board*, who had so perfidiously discharged their trust, to resign their places, *to cast themselves overboard*, that they might appease the angry spirit of the waters they had excited!

JUNIUS.

Flwanna, June 22, 1848.

WILLIAM AND MARY COLLEGE.—No. II.

In the first number, which I addressed to the consideration of the public, when speaking of the *new Professorship*, it was characterized as "unnecessary, and unwarranted by the financial condition of the College!" In this, my second and final number, I propose to establish the verity of the declaration; and although my nature is far, very far, from being presumptuous, I have the vanity to think that the facts and arguments, which are intended to be arrayed, will prove to the most prejudiced mind, if reason be permitted to exert her influence, that this new Professorship is needless, unwarranted, and incapable of support from the funds of the institution.

That the College cannot maintain *six* Professors, may be established

* Judge Scarburgh, of the Eastern Shore, who has since declined the honor of his appointment.

by a consideration of the following incontrovertible facts, as they present themselves:—Her actual yearly income is about \$7,800. If there be *six* Professors, their salaries will amount to \$6,000. The Burser's commissions, insurance, printing, and other contingent expenses, are about \$1,100. This would leave merely about \$700 to keep in repair the extensive buildings and enclosures; a sum, proved by experience, scarcely sufficient to keep such old buildings in what may be termed *tenantable* order. The idea of any *ornamental* improvement must, of course, be altogether abandoned. Besides, not a dollar will remain for appropriation to the renewal and reparation of philosophical and chemical apparatus; the purchase of such new apparatus as may become necessary in the almost daily progressive movement of the physical sciences, and the establishment of something like an *Astronomical Observatory*, the want of which is really an opprobrium to the institution, and ought to be immediately supplied. For the last twenty-five years at least, in consequence of the *need* of funds, not \$100 have been expended by the College for apparatus, during a *portion only* of which time, it is to be remarked, *six* Professors were in office. For the last thirteen years, until now, there have been only *five* Professors. As long as the *six* Professors continued in office, they never received *their full* annual salaries, but arrears were accumulated, which were not fully paid off to them until *six years* after the number was reduced to *five*. *Since this reduction*, the salaries have been regularly paid.

When the present distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy entered upon the duties of his office, rather more than twelve years ago, he found the philosophical and chemical apparatus so antiquated, so defective, so utterly inefficient, that seeing the College funds inadequate to meet the necessary expenditure, he, with all the characteristic zeal of a man of science, in order to do justice to his pupils, to uphold the reputation of the institution, and to support his own public character, *actually supplied* the requisite apparatus from his own resources, and this he continued to do for several years, until it became complete, and efficient for his purposes as a lecturer.* His individual expenditure on that account exceeds \$3,000, as is proved by a detailed statement, accurately kept. For this original outlay, so large, and for the use of more than \$3,000 worth of his property, injured of course in the using, he has, even to this day, received from the College *not one dollar* of compensation!

Experience, then, together with a contemplation of the pecuniary requirements of the College, proves to demonstration, the absolute impossibility of maintaining *six Professors* out of the College funds.

Let us now examine the question, are *six Professors* necessary to teach the branches at present taught in the College?

During the ten years of the lamented Dew's Presidency, the most prosperous era of the College, there were but *five* Professors, and al-

* Our College is now deprived of this valuable apparatus, by the removal of it to the Mississippi University, at Oxford, to which Mr. Millington has been lately appointed—a loss much to be deplored, and will be severely felt by our institution. Indeed, I know not how Natural Philosophy and Chemistry can be taught with any kind of advantage without it; and sure I am, that the present condition of the College funds, now that the *sixth Professorship* is so *preposterously retained*, is inadequate to the purchase of necessary instruments.

though it is true that the course was then considered too contracted, especially in what are termed the moral sciences, in which department the additional Professorship has been established, yet it is to be recollected also, that during this period just mentioned, the course for attaining the degree of Bachelor of Arts, extended only over *two College years*. By the new organization, which took place after Mr. Dew's death, this was protracted to *three years*, which would have rendered the system amply sufficient for a full course of instruction, *without an additional Professorship*. Time alone was required to mature the harvest, and *not an additional laborer* to sow the grain.

Indeed when we closely examine the consequences resulting from the appointment of the additional Professorship of Moral Philosophy, it will be found to disturb and derange the whole scholastic system of the Institution, and cannot fail to be productive of other harm, besides a forced, a violently strained extension of the finances, beyond their ability to endure.

The Professorship held by President Dew, is now divided into two Professorships—one of Political Economy, History and National Law, and the other of Moral Philosophy, including Metaphysics, Rhetoric and Logic. Now this arrangement might adapt itself to a *six years' course*, which in the first place, the condition of this country, the habits and limited fortunes of our citizens would not admit, and which in the next place, would require *at least* one additional Professor of Mathematics, if not another Professor of Languages, and another Professor of Law. Two Professorships in the Moral Sciences do not harmonize with the established system; they give an undue preponderance to those subjects over the others taught here, of equal importance. Moreover, they require so many classes to be attended by each student, as to render the attainment of a degree in the proposed period of three years, so laborious, as to deter many from the undertaking. This, of course, would tend to diminish the number of students; it would, besides, operate seriously to the detriment of those Professors, whose branches from their nature, happen not to be so attractive as those of others; these latter are apt to be preferred by students, who despairing of a degree, would consult and indulge their fancy in selecting their subjects—thus too, contracting the scope of their education.

Now, it may be replied, that if a student does not deserve a degree, he ought not to have it; that a degree empirically obtained, is of no value; and that in truth, the course ought to be thorough. But this argument does not apply, when the difficulty of obtaining a degree results not from the difficulty of the subjects, but from the undue amount of labor; of actual expenditure of time on the part of the student, produced by the injudicious diluting of the subjects, and the consequent expanse of them over too extended a surface. It is true, the course ought to be thorough, but it is not necessary for this end, that some of the subjects should be so subdivided and attenuated, as positively to puzzle the Professor to eke out his matter into a three years course. It may be safely asserted, that three classes cannot be constructed out of the materials apportioned to the Professor of Moral Philosophy, without a preposterous, gold-leaf hammering into extreme tenuity; into filmy, into laminated nothing, or a projection of the whole course upon a plan too extensive for the present system; whilst the acting Professor of History, Political

Economy, &c., has been heard to declare, that in pursuing a plan consistent with the rest of the three years system, he cannot spin out, or wire-draw his subjects, so as to consume the allotted time. To all this may be added, that the additional Professorship extracts, or rather *filches*, an additional fee from the pocket of the student, for which, in consequence of the considerations just urged, he cannot receive adequate remuneration. The argument then, against a subdivision of the Moral branches, seems to me unanswerable—conclusive.

Having now brought my reasoning to a close, I ask any candid, intelligent, person, or one capable of the slightest reflection, whether the declaration is not perfectly vindicated, that a *sixth Professorship* is totally unnecessary, and unwarranted by the financial condition of the College? Whether, after a careful examination of the subject, with a view to the welfare of the Institution, it would not argue the very extreme of folly—the utmost point of madness, any longer to retain a sixth Professorship, when it is as clear as the sun in his meridian splendor, that William and Mary is unable to support this *sinecure office*, and no earthly necessity exists for its continuance, or did exist for its original establishment? The Visitors I hope, will ever bear in mind, what the immortal Jefferson has said in the fourth volume of his Published Works, page 387: “You know we have all from the beginning, considered the high qualifications of our Professors as the only means by which we can give to our Institution splendor and pre-eminence over all its sister seminaries. The only question therefore, we can ever ask ourselves, as to any candidate, will be—*Is he the most highly qualified?* The College of Philadelphia, has lost its character of primacy by indulging motives of *favoritism and nepotism*, and by conferring the appointments, as if the Professorships were entrusted to them as provisions for their friends.”

The ill-disposed, and the unreflecting, may accuse me of being actuated by motives of malevolence, in addressing the public so much at large on the present occasion. If they can entertain, and suffer to abide a sentiment of this kind, I pity them for their want of generosity, and fervently pray to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, so to change their hearts, as that they may see in the noon-tide light of its injustice, the uncharitable nature of what they have permitted themselves to feel. Most cordially do I pardon them, and with equal sincerity do I hope, that in after time they will have it in their power to forgive themselves, as they have been forgiven. My conscience fully acquits me of any illiberal—any improper feelings; and to every sublunary consideration, do I prefer the approving testimony of that “still small voice”—that secret monitor implanted by the benevolence of Deity in the human breast. Too many revolving suns have passed over my head not to know, what holy contentment is imparted to the soul under the soothing influence of virtuous emotions. Too long have I been permitted to walk this earth not to appreciate, according to its intrinsic worth, the puny value of private and even public opinion, when placed in opposition to the dictates of justice, of conscience, and of moral right.

“Virtus, repulsæ nescia sordidæ,
Intaminatis fulget honoribus,
Nec sumit, aut ponit secures,
Arbitrio popularis auræ.”—HOR.

Fluvanna, June 22, 1848.

JUNIUS.

[Communicated for the Whig.]

WILLIAM AND MARY COLLEGE.

I perceive from the public prints of the day, that the Visitors of this celebrated Institution will assemble on the 11th of July next, for the purpose of filling the Chairs of six Professorships, rendered vacant by the resignation of the late incumbents, four of whom beyond all question, are gentlemen of distinguished abilities. Rumor with her hundred tongues, has already announced the probability, that either Judge Halyburton or Judge Scarborough, well known for the wide space they occupy in the public estimation, will be appointed to its *legal* department. The preferment of either will prove most judicious, and eminently calculated to resuscitate the fainting energies of an Institution, covered with the venerable hoar of antiquity, and suffering so severely from the recent ill-starred measures of its delegated guardians. It is to be hoped that no *foul intrigue, no nepotism, no favoritism*, will be permitted to exert a baleful influence at the approaching convocation; that a calm, unbiassed review of former transactions, still shaking the Institution to its deepest foundations, will be taken by each and every Visitor; and that all the appointments will be conferred with a single, unwinking eye, to its permanent prosperity, and to the glory of its by-gone days. Oblivion then will cast her charitable mantle of amnesty over the enacted scenes of the past, and the Visitors will be hailed with gratitude and joy, by the generous acclamations of an indulgent community, too magnanimous to regard them any longer as leaden weights, serving with their incumbent pressure, to retard, but as well-plumed wings, gloriously accelerating its onward career.

Their deliberations, it is ardently anticipated, will take into serious consideration the imbecile, the disastrous policy of retaining a *sixth Professorship*, lately ushered into being for purposes my mind wishes not to scan—altogether superfluous—unwarranted by the financial condition of the Institution, and tending only to augment, in an injurious degree, the expenses of the collegiate course, with not even the undefined shadow of an equivalent—thus verifying, in this instance at least, that “the laborer is not worthy of his hire.”

DECIUS.

York County, June 11, 1848.

[To the Editors of the Richmond Whig.]

GENTLEMEN,—In your paper of the 16th, there is a short article upon the subject of William and Mary College, signed “Decius.” This article contains a gross libel upon the Visitors of William and Mary College—a body of gentlemen as pure, as honorable and high-minded, as can be found in this or any other community. How far it was proper in you to have published such an article, by an anonymous writer, was of course, for yourselves to decide. I think, however, to say the least of it, it was unjust and indiscreet. I know well, that when the public know who these gentlemen are, this idle and unjust assault of “Decius,” will

fall harmless and unheeded; but the public generally, may not know who they are, who have been thus wantonly assailed by this anonymous writer. I will therefore state who they are. I understand they are Ex-President Tyler, Gen. Corbin Braxton, Gen. Wilson, Colonel Robert McCandlish, Col. George Blow, Judge John B. Christian, Dr. John C. Mercer and John E. Shell, Esq. These are the gentlemen, who I learn by their *unanimous* vote, created that *sixth Professorship*, which "Decius" says, "was ushered into being for purposes my (his) mind does not wish to scan." "Decius" of course intends the public to draw the conclusion, that there was something damning in this act; but I ask, are not the characters of these gentlemen a sufficient guarantee to the public that the charge of "Decius" here insinuated, is unfounded. I feel confident they will so decide. And if "Decius" has left within his bosom a remnant even of shame, I am sure he must pale, in reviewing this act of his temerity and injustice. "Decius" says "this Professorship is superfluous, unwarranted by the financial condition of the Institution, and tending only to augment in an injurious degree, the expenses of the collegiate course, with not even the *undefined shadow of an equivalent*." "Decius" seems to speak *by authority*; but will the public believe this wholesale declaration of "Decius?" Will they believe that these gentlemen are both ignorant and vicious? Or will they believe that "Decius" is himself either profoundly ignorant, or else that he but echoes the sentiments of some one who is *interested*? I should suppose that the Visitors knew *at least as well as "Decius"*, whether this Professorship was superfluous, and they ought certainly to know *better* than he, whether the financial condition of the College would warrant it. From whence does he receive his information as to the finances? Whether the additional expense incurred, is "with not even the *undefined shadow of an equivalent*," the public may judge, when they are informed that three *half courses* have been extended into three *FULL COURSES*, and that now, the student is among other advantages, taught a *FULL COURSE* of history, both *ANCIENT* and *MODERN*, whereas before he was taught a *HALF COURSE OF ONE ONLY*. How "Decius" made his statement in *IGNORANCE* of these facts, or in *DESPITE* of them? Either the one or the other certainly; and either, renders him unworthy of credit in this matter.

"Decius" says "four of the Professors beyond all question, are gentlemen of distinguished abilities." He does not tell you, in plain terms, which four they are, yet by implication, he has told you that they are Messrs. MINNEGERODE, Millington, Saunders and Holmes. He does not say in terms, that the other two Professors, to wit: Judge Tucker and Mr. Peachy are *NOT* "beyond all question gentlemen of distinguished abilities;" but he intends you to draw the conclusion, that he does not think they are. Fortunate it is for these two gentlemen, that they have earned for themselves reputations which will not in the least degree suffer by the unfavorable opinion entertained of them by this *UNKNOWN*.

I do not mean in any degree to detract from the reputation of the other four gentlemen, but I will venture so far as to say, that justly high as they may stand, Messrs. Tucker and Peachy will not suffer by a comparison with them, either *INTELLECTUALLY* OR *MORALLY*. Judge Tucker has been too long and favorably known to the *PUBLIC*, to require

any defence at my hands, against this unjust and unmanly insinuation of "Decius." With regard to Mr. Peachy, enough is said, when it is told that his worst enemies award to him ability of a high order, and a moral character pure and untarnished. The Visitors now know Mr. Peachy, and I am satisfied will render him full justice; maugre they should differ in opinion from "Decius," their *INSULTER*.

I am sorry Messrs. Editors, to have seen published any article in regard to the College, calculated to wound the feelings of any connected with it. There has already been a great deal of unpleasant excitement, growing I believe very much, if not mainly, out of the unfortunate communication made just preceding the last meeting of the Board of Visitors. The excitement thus occasioned, has passed off, and the College has been going on, as far as I understand, quietly and well. He who would seek to revive that excitement, is no true friend of the Institution or of society. I sincerely trust, that the Visitors may be left to assemble *QUIETLY*, and to deliberate, free from any excitement; and the public have in the characters of the Visitors, a sure guarantee that they will do what *JUSTICE* and the *WELFARE* of the Institution demand.

ALUMNUS.

Copy of a Letter by Decius, to the Editors of the Richmond Whig, enclosing answer to Alumnus.

YORK COUNTY, JULY 18, 1848.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—When I obtained the favor a few days ago of Messrs. G. & W., to procure from your office the manuscripts in relation to William and Mary college, which manuscripts ought to have been published before the late meeting of the Visitors, according to my request—a circumstance confidently expected, as no intimation was given to me of non-compliance on your part, I did not wish this answer to Alumnus to be returned, concluding that you could not with the faintest shadow of propriety refuse its insertion, after the admission of such an unprovoked and offensive a piece as that of Alumnus. I now hasten to return it for immediate publication, as the public at large have been enquiring for the answer of Decius, and appear to be waiting with impatient curiosity for its appearance. So far as respects the other pieces, I cannot refrain from passing a sentence of condemnation for not informing me in time, that they would not be published. By this procedure on your part, I have been precluded most effectually from making that impression on the Visitorial Board, which the communications were designed to make, and which I doubt *not*, would have been attended with the desired effect.

Report is whispering that a *certain component entity* of the Judiciary Establishment—the unwearied advocate of Mr. Peachy for a Professorship, has caused them to be suppressed. Could he dare to undertake such an *enterprise*, and can it be possible that the sacred seal of confidence has been broken, and that man permitted to exert such an influ-

ence? I hope for your own sakes that no unguarded hour has left you in a condition to be deceived by this wily serpent, whose life will only escape censure, when it passes without observation.

I am, very respectfully,

DECIUS.

Copy of a Letter from the Editors of the Richmond Whig, in answer to Decius.

WHIG OFFICE, JULY 22, 1848.

SIR,—Your last communication has been received. It is impossible, compatible with the other engagements pressing upon our columns, to give it an insertion. If we were to give one fourth of the space asked by you to be discussed, of a local question, we should do injustice to ninety-nine hundredths of the subscribers to the paper.

As to the rumors you speak of, we can only say that ——— did not see in this office your articles, which were returned, nor did he hear of them.

According to the usage of this office, a second demand being made for your name, with the declaration that it was not made from "*idle curiosity*," it was sent to ———.

Yours very respectfully,

MOSELEY & ELLIOTT.

Addressed to the Editors of the Richmond Whig.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—You are perfectly right when you say, that you "see nothing very heinous in the article of Decius after all." Surely if an individual be deeply impressed with the conviction, that a body of public men have acted wrong, he has a right, an indisputable right, to give utterance to his mind, and to arraign them before the tribunal of public opinion for the mal-administration the affairs committed to their charge. Abolish this right, and no abuses in society could ever be corrected, however flagrant in their character, or mischievous in their consequences. The unshackled independence of the press, is our only guarantee—our only resource. It will command an audience, even when every virtuous man in the community is excluded from the presence chamber. They who conceive that the papers of the day impose no restraint on evil-doers, or present no impediment to the execution of bad measures, know nothing of their power—nothing of their policy. By this consideration have I been actuated, and not by any motives of rank malevolence, as an interested scribbler signed *Alumnus* has, in no equivocal terms, ventured to avow. To my astonishment, you proceed farther to remark, that "had you seen the article beforehand, it would not have been published." And why? Are you not blowing hot and cold at the same time, and with the same breath? Compare this with your first generous declaration, and is it not lamentably antagonistical? "We foresee a protracted controversy."

From this apprehension I take pleasure in the administration of relief, because it is my design to notice Mr. Alumnus—the decent, the courteous Mr. Alumnus, but this once, and that too, with all the dignity that self-respect will dictate, and with the decency that is due to an enlightened and liberal public. Should a strong concatenation of circumstances guide me aright in my path to a conjecture of the author, I would advise him to consult the tranquility of his hours by not provoking the unmerited forbearance of my disposition. If from the profoundest depth of contempt, I should ever be roused into the kindled outbursts of justly ignited ire, the tortures inflicted by the envenomed adder tongue of an extensive surrounding country, and the non-intercourse edict of a faithful Shepherd guarding his flock, will be tenderness and mercy. That man who "sows the wind," must always expect to "reap the whirlwind."

My friend Alumnus seeks to array the whole Visitorial Board against me, when every intelligent reader must perceive, that I have no reference but to the majority of that Board. Indeed, only three of them do I particularly condemn—two on account of their active exertions, aided by a venerable plotting Professor, in pulling down the College to its present abasement, and the other because he was formerly a strenuous advocate for its translation to Richmond, and he ought, after that memorable act of his, to have fled from the Institution forever, with tears and repentance. The other gentlemen of the majority, I consider as being deluded by their unsuspecting confidence in the representations and influence of those just mentioned, and therefore are entitled to the clemency of the Court.

"If Decius has left within his bosom a remnant even of shame, I am sure he must pale in reviewing this act of his temerity and injustice." And what is this act of temerity and injustice which is ascribed to Decius? Why, forsooth, the sixth Professorship was ushered into being for purposes which his mind wishes not to scan. "*Risum teneatis amici!*" Here the qualifying adjective *active* (active being) was omitted, shewing at once that he could allude to nothing but the appointment of the Professor himself, so obnoxious to all parties, and the *primum mobile* of all the confusion and discord, and almost irreparable mischief! Was this appointment made by unanimous vote? "Decius of course intends the public to draw the conclusion, that there was something damning in this act." Mark how the *galled jade winces!*

"Suspicion haunts the guilty mind;
The thief doth fear each bush an officer."

What my friend Alumnus covertly hints at by the expression, "He but echoes the sentiments of some one who is interested," I am at a loss to divine. The allusion is too recondite and abstruse for my limited faculties to unravel from its tangled web. *Davus sum, non Œdipus.*

But I am charged, it seems, with intimating, because of my humble tribute to four of the Faculty, which they so richly merit, that Judge Tucker and Mr. Professor Peachy are "not men of distinguished abilities." Of Judge Tucker I have always thought most favorably as an *intellectual man*, and if the concession is not too late to be received, and Alumnus will be pleased to place it among his hoarded valuable *reposita*, I now present him with the donation, that I admire in Judge Tucker the

polished writer, to whose long drawn diction and varnished verbosity, it is shrewdly suspected, Alumnus is not a little indebted. *Ex pede Herculem*. As to the other gentleman, whom Alumnus has tricked out in such a splendidly embroidered robe, almost too flashy even for the vanity of the Judge to wear, although an attire destined for him too; if the apparel suits him not, he must feel awkward and ridiculous, when his menial friend Alumnus places him before a mirror for the contemplation of his figure. All I have to say on the subject is this, that his fame has never reached the retirement of such an humble individual as myself. In common parlance, it is said that a man may be his own enemy; and, from its oft occurrence, the expression is perfectly intelligible; but that a man should make a jest—a butt of his own dear friend, with a view to promote that beloved friend's interest, implies a contradiction which cannot be conceived, without an indistinct combination of ideas, or uttered, without a solecism, in our native tongue. Such is the unfortunate dilemma in which Alumnus locates his friend; if the garment with which he is clothed, is not properly adapted to his person, or is not what nature intended him to wear. With regard to Mr. Peachy, I certainly never heard any harm of him, and I am only sorry, for his own sake, that he thus continues, I am persuaded, by the injudicious counsel of his friends, knocking, or rather waiting, at the door for a Professorship. "I would rather be a toad, and live upon the vapor of a dungeon," or the beetle, rolling with his fellow-laborer a fecal ball for future sustenance, than

"Purchase pleasure at another's pain."

If my bosom cherished any personal enmity to Mr. Peachy, I might expatiate with malignant pleasure, on the ingratitude of the son in reference to Mr. Saunders, who had heaped pecuniary favors on the father, and the almost widowed mother; who had gratuitously dealt out collegiate lore, if I mistake not, for three years, to himself and his younger brothers in succession. I might dwell with the same malicious gratification, on the gross indelicacy, not to say obtuseness of feeling, evinced by the gentleman in awaiting and accepting an appointment productive of such disastrous consequences to the institution, for which he professes so much attachment. But having no individual animosity to gratify; sensible how profound must be his mortification from the published effusion of his friend Alumnus, who has proved, by the imbecility of his head, and not the malevolence of his heart, to be his bitterest enemy; bearing in mind too the generous acknowledgment on my part, that I never heard any harm of him, I deem what has been said on the subject almost sufficient, and scorn to retract any charitable donation emanating from the bounty of my nature! How warm, then, ought to be the acknowledgments of the gentleman to that singularly industrious, but fatal friend, for making him the prominent figure in a piece, wherein, but for his amicable interference, he might have been visible without any particular notice or distinction!

But says Alumnus, "the Visitors now know Mr. Peachy, and I am satisfied will render him full justice, maugre they should differ from Decius their insulter." How admirably does the father seek to provide for a future addition to the number of his family circle! How unwearied his efforts, how ardent his zeal! In plain English, gentlemen Visitors, you are to re-appoint my future relative, Mr. Peachy, who now waits

anxiously at your door for admittance, without respect to the solemn obligation of an official oath to consult alone the welfare of the College, because Decius has insulted you; and in this manner should you avenge yourselves for his unpardonable audacity!

But my considerate friend Alumnus concludes with the important information, to me altogether new, that "the College is going on quietly and well." "He," he continues, "who would seek to revive that excitement, is no true friend to the institution, or of society." Ask any inhabitant of Williamsburg, I care not who he be, whether all things in reference to the College are in a state of settled repose; whether the horizon all around is not still lurid, murky and portentous; *luctus, ubique pavor, et plurima mortis imago!* Do the Faculty harmonize with each other? Are the students pleased with the condition of affairs? Does not the same opposition still continue in all its primitive activity and life? Does the city of Williamsburg, so deeply interested in the destinies of her College, does she, can she, expect her beloved institution to flourish under the *Upas shade* of a discordant Faculty, discontented pupils, and alienated surrounding country? I pause for a reply and look to the approaching convocation of the Board, with tremulous solicitude.

DECIUS.

York county, June 30th, 1848.

P. S. A distant friend informs me that a piece signed "Junius," in two numbers, has been sent on for publication, which, in his opinion, will prove to the most prejudiced mind, that the College is unable to support, from its funds, a sixth Professorship; that it is unnecessary and greatly augmentative of the Collegiate expences, without adequate remuneration. As these subjects are canvassed with more ability than I can command, I decline their consideration, with full confidence that no doubt can possibly linger in the mind, after the perusal of "Junius," as to the absolute necessity of its immediate abolition by the Visitorial Board.

DECIUS.

WILLIAM AND MARY COLLEGE.

I have perused, with no ordinary gratification, the resolutions of the citizens of Williamsburg, published in the last Richmond Whig, having reference to the conduct of the Visitorial Board respecting their late Professor, the Rev. Charles Minnigerode.

The expressed sentiments of so respectable a meeting are highly honorable, not only to the distinguished gentleman himself, but also to the generous individuals composing and giving to that meeting their full assent. They display at once a faithful record, how well, how justly, they can appreciate public and private worth, and how prompt they are to advocate the cause of oppression and moral rectitude, when circumstances impel them to its standard of support.

This amiable gentleman has been most wantonly persecuted. First, he was iniquitously arraigned before the Visitorial Board by a member of the Faculty, whose venerable years would have been far better occupied in supplicating pardon at the throne of Infinite Mercy for his probable

past sins of commission and omission, than in charging, maliciously charging, his highly esteemed colleague with "seeking to undermine and destroy the College, by the removal of its funds to Richmond;" and, when called upon to substantiate the infamous accusation, was forced to abandon the theatre of his memorable exhibition, by declaring, with his *accustomed anility of verbiage*: "He was satisfied that the opinion which he had expressed in respect to Prof. Minnigerode was founded in error, caused by inaccurate information, and that he therefore retracted that opinion, and exculpated Professor Minnigerode." Magnanimous soul! Even the pen of "Camillus" shall contribute to thy fame!

Next appears in *propria persona*, before the audience, our newly inducted Professor, of no little celebrity from the violent opposition to his appointment, and the indefatigable efforts of *favoritism* and *intrigue* to strangle that opposition, and make the *drug* more palatable! This superlatively courteous individual, in his letter addressed to the Board of Visitors on the 1st of March, 1848, uses the following language:—"I had enjoyed sufficient experience of Professor Minnigerode's treachery, intrigue and falsehood, to know that he would not withhold his contribution from the mighty array of terrible consequences with which I was to have been forced to resign the Professorship!"*

The third actor assigned to play a part on this *ever memorable scenic stage*, is the Visitorial Board *itself*, capping the climax of injustice and oppression, by an unexpected decision not to re-appoint the Rev. Mr. Minnigerode Professor, although, at the same time, they publish to the world the highest testimonial of his "*conduct as a gentleman, and his ability as a Professor!*" A member of the Board residing in Gloucester county was asked, why, inasmuch as the Board subsequently gave such a commendatory testimonial, the Rev. gentleman was not re-appointed? His reply was, *because he would not live on terms of amity with Mr. Peachy!* Will not the public start back with astonishment when they hear that Professor Minnigerode stated to the Board he had done every thing man could do to restore the amicable relations between Professor Peachy and himself, *but* his conciliatory efforts had been repudiated with scorn? This was confirmed by the remark of Mr. Peachy, before the same Board, that the matter was incapable of reconciliation. Yet the Rev. Mr. Minnigerode is to be discarded from the Professorship, after the avowal of his earnest endeavors to be at peace with Mr. Peachy, and this latter is retained in defiance of his declaration that the breach

*It is true that the words *treachery, intrigue and falsehood*, are erased by Mr. Peachy in his manuscript addressed to the Visitors; but the erasure is so faintly done, that the characters are just as legible as if no pen had passed over them,—evidently shewing that the writer intended them to be read, as they originally appeared. In confirmation of this intention, I beg leave to quote the language of his recent note to the chivalric John F. Carter, Esq'r, Minnigerode's brother-in-law:—

"Williamsburg, Aug't 14, 1848.—Sir: I desire to make it known to all whom it may concern, that I have said that the Rev. C. Minnigerode's gown alone protected him from that chastisement which his base, false and treacherous conduct towards me deserved, and that the whole responsibility of the charge rests upon me. A. C. PEACHY."

This extract evinces the true spirit of knight-errantry. We shall see hereafter his gallant bearing, as the dignity of the Professorship, being cast aside, cannot serve as a pedestal of refuge on which to plant the official security of his person.

was irreconcilable. No other reason has ever been assigned for the gross injustice inflicted by the Board of Visitors.

Highly indignant at such conduct of the Visitors, both in regard to Mr. Minnigerode, and the abominable, but, unfortunately, successful efforts to obtrude on the institution a most unacceptable Professor, the accomplished Lyons, Col. Blow and Dr. Mercer have all resigned with disgust their official seats; and Ex-President Tyler has avowed his intention to follow their example! The community at large have a right to know why such estimable characters, such zealous patrons, such noble-spirited advocates, have abandoned our College as a *derelect*, and left it to its miserable fate! Can they for a moment refuse to obey the urgent call, when a warm friend of the institution, prompted by the purest motives, ardently entreats them to explain their reasons for this lamentable desertion; and the public, clad in the habiliments of wo, waits tremulously in anxious expectation? Such men possess too much philanthropy, too much sympathy for general mortification and distress, to remain any longer silent on the present occasion!

If the Board of Visitors had a right, which cannot be questioned, not to re-admit the Rev. Charles Minnigerode, however great the injustice of the act, I ask—Is Mr. Peachy *de jure* appointed Professor by the same Board; and can he be considered *de facto* a Professor of our institution? The Board consisted of eleven members, the majority of whom is six: Now, it appears that Ex-President Tyler and Col. McCandlish refused to vote in the appointment of Mr. Peachy. Ex-President Tyler withdrew his presence from the Board, but Col. McCandlish, who had previously declared, before several most respectable gentlemen of our city, that he would earnestly advise Mr. Peachy not to be a candidate, and, if a candidate, that he would vote against him, remained, by his presence, as a member! The whole number of Visitors, by the withdrawal of Ex-President Tyler, was reduced to ten. Now, Mr. Peachy received five votes, which surely is not the majority of ten. But suppose I am mistaken in the position that Ex-President Tyler withdrew his presence from the Board, the number then will be eleven, and surely five is not the majority of eleven. If Mr. Peachy received not the majority of votes, can he be regarded as legally appointed? How is it in the election of magistrates on the civil bench? Must not the elected justice of the peace obtain the majority of the *whole present*, to constitute a valid election? I pause for a reply, and submit this, as I think, irrefragable objection, or argument, to the grave consideration of the public; more particularly to those who are animated by a lively interest in the prosperity of our beloved institution.

With whatever persisting tenacity the affections of my soul cling to the institution of my early years; however thrilling the associations of tender endearment evoked from the solemn, silent grave of by-gone reminiscences; I would rather see—so help me, God!—I would rather see the funds of the institution snatched by the Legislature, and distributed among other seminaries of learning, or given *in full measure* to the University of Virginia; every brick composing the venerable pile, reduced by the arm of destructive violence to its original formless mass; the fox and the different wild creatures of the echoing forest, roam at fearless discretion over the melancholy site of its former grandeur; with the thistle "rearing its lonely head," the rank weeds whistling to the morning and

evening breeze, and the night-wind, accompanied by its mournful minstrelsy, chanting a funereal dirge, the requiem of a fallen state, without even the faintest gleam of hope, pointing to a future resurrection; I would rather contemplate the appalling reality of this frightful picture, than for such an order of things to continue its execrable reign, such an association of men to bear any longer their most pernicious and intolerable sway!

“They may from *lae*, but not from *scorn* escape;
The pointed finger, -cold, averted eye,
Insulted Virtue's hiss—they cannot fly.”

CAMILLUS.

York County, July 24th, 1848.

