

Gent<sup>l</sup>n of the Board of Trustees  
of Washington College

Owing to the impracticability of completing the repairs to the College buildings and of restoring the furniture, apparatus destroyed by Gen<sup>l</sup> Hunters Army in 1863(4), the exercises of the session did not commence till the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Oct; 1865.

Three regular Classes were organized, the Freshman, Sophomore, & Junior; and a preparatory class; composed of young men whose studies had been interrupted by the war, & who were unable to proceed with the regular classes. It was expected that this class by extra exertion on the part of the members, & additional attention on the part of their instructors, would be enabled to join the Freshman class at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Session, and such in some instances was the case.

The preparatory class consists of 59 pupils

“	Freshman	“	“	57	“
“	Sophomore	“	“	29	“
“	Junior	“	“	7	“

As many of the students were obliged to recite in one subject with one class, & in an other with a different class, owing to the interruptions in their education...

...occasioned by hostilities, their names were on the different class rolls, and cause a discrepancy between the number of pupils & the number of matriculates.

The whole number of students during the session amounts to 146, viz.

87 from Virginia	4 from W. Virginia
17 “ Tennessee	3 “ Mississippi
7 “ Georgia	3 “ Louisiana
6 “ Kentucky	3 “ Florida
6 “ Texas	1 “ Alabama
4 “ Maryland	1 “ S. Carolina
4 “ N. Carolina	

The courses of studies have been continued uninterruptedly during the session; the regular Semiannual examination of the classes having been made on the first of February. The students generally have been attentive to their studies, & many have exhibited uncommon application, & an earnest desire for the acquisition of knowledge. Only a few have underestimated the opportunities afforded them to attain an education, & Have not fully improved their time. There has been no case requiring suspension or dismissal, nor has the application of any for admission been rejected.

The Preparatory & Freshman classes becoming to large to be advantageously instructed in their class organization, each was divided into sections & taught at different hours. This arrangement so beneficial to the progress of the students...

...imposed additional labour on the Professors and assistants, & required their whole time & attention which has been cheerfully & satisfactorily given.

Religious service has been performed every morning in the College chapel, which the students & Faculty have regularly attended. The exercises were conducted alternatively by the Clergymen of the different denominations in Lexington, who kindly offered their aid ~~with~~ to render them more interesting & impressive. The Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr. W<sup>m</sup>. N. Pendleton in addition, volunteered to take charge of the class in declamation, composed of all the students at the College, & has conducted the exercises with judgement & advantage.

A larger Chapel is much needed. The room used is too small, & badly adapted to the purpose. It is moreover required for additional lecture rooms into which it could be conveniently converted.

Philosophical & chemical instruments were pursued at the opening of the session, sufficient to illustrate the common principles of science, which has enabled the Professor of those branches to conduct his courses for the year. They are insufficient for the presentation of the subjects in the higher classes, & for the extended courses projected.

The Professors of Applied Mathematics, of Natural Philosophy, of Chemistry, & of Practical Chemistry, should each have a suitable lecture room & laboratory, furnished with appropriate models & apparatus...

...to enable them to render their lectures as interesting and inspiring as possible, and I recommend that measures be taken to provide them as far as practicable.

The Library has been moved to the best adapted rooms in the College for the purpose; & through the industry of the librarian, Mr. John W. Fuller, about one thousand volumes of the books which had been scattered through the county by soldiers of Gen<sup>l</sup> Hunter's army, have been returned to the College & its two literary societies.

Mr. Rathmell Wilson of Philadelphia, actuated by the most benevolent motives, has presented to the College, a part of the scientific library of his brother, the late Dr. Thos. B. Wilson, consisting of nearly one thousand volumes. Nearly four hundred vols; are yet to arrive, & the donation is even more valuable for the rarity of the books, than for the number of the works. The only condition attached to their presentation, is that the books be properly cared for & that they be styled in honour of his brother's memory, "The Wilson Contribution to the library of Washington College". Mr. C.B. Richardson of New York has also given to the College one thousand dollars worth of classical & scientific works. Some smaller contributions have also been received. Mr. John Carrol Walsh of Md; has sent to the library Singard's history of England in 13 Vols; & The Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr. Plummer of Penn<sup>a</sup> some books on theology.

## 5.

I need not enlarge upon the importance of a good library to the advancement & prosperity of the College. A useful literary institution can not be maintained without it, and the first step to its acquirement is to provide a suitable building for the preservation & convenient arrangement of the books. It should be well lighted & ventilated, and secure at least externally, against fire; and should contain rooms for securing the records of the College. A brick building occupying the site of the South dormitories, with its gable to the point, & extending as far back as the central building of the College, with no ornament than that resulting from usefulness, warmed by steam or air, would fulfill three requisites.

Additional accommodation for students & teachers is also much needed. Regular & systematic instruction, I fear cannot properly be given without it. A building corresponding in size & architecture, to that proposed for the Library, occupying the site of the North dormitories, would furnish lodging rooms for 150 students. The former residence of the President of the College can be fitted up temporarily for one Professor, & if a suitable house was erected on the lot north of that occupied by the Professor of Mathematics or another, sufficient accommodation might be furnished for the next session.

I recommend that some measures be adopted to establish gymnastic exercises; so as to furnish a means of recreation; & to promote the health of the students; and that the College grounds be embellished with walks & trees to encourage out door exercise.

The appointment of a Proctor to take charge of the buildings & grounds; of a clerk of the Faculty to relieve them of clerical labour; and the establishment of a woodyard, where fuel could be collected during the Summer; & sold during the session to the students at cost; would save expense & promote the interests of the College.

I have the honour to present a report from each of the Professors, showing the courses of studies & condition of their respective classes, & ask your consideration of their suggestions & recommendations.

I submit herewith a catalogue of the students of the current session prepared by the Faculty. Under the present laws of the College, it cannot be published until received by the Board of Trustees at their stated meeting. This will prevent its being made public until after the catalogues of other institutions have been distributed some months. I would suggest that some modification of the law in this request be made. In the present instance the local board of Trustees ordered it to be printed, in order that it might be distributed as early as possible.

I beg leave in conclusion to suggest for the consideration of the Board, the propriety of appointing some person, not of the Faculty, to take charge of the funds of the Students, whose parents or guardians desire to avail themselves of the arrangement; whose duty it shall be to inform the parent or guardian of the amount of funds necessary to defray the annual expenses of his son or ward, to have the conduct of, & to account for the same.

In compliance with the requirements of the laws, I have to state that Mess<sup>rs</sup> Barclay, McLaughlin, Leyburn & Anderson of the board of Trustees, attended some days of the semi-annual examination in February; & that Mr. Barclay attended the annual examination on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 22 & 25 of June; Mr. Anderson, on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, & 21<sup>st</sup>, & Col, Christian, on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

The annual examination commenced on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, & was continued every day, except Sundays, to the 25 inclusive.

I have the honour to be  
very resp<sup>t</sup> your obt servt

R E Lee