

THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Our Alma Mater

Rev. L. M. Davis, Executive Secretary

Well do I remember when contemplating attending Central (now Huntington) College. As a young minister of meager means, born of humble parentage, it was a big question to decide: How can I afford to attend this institution and support a family of four, while the finance was and always has been a problem difficult of solution? However the greatest interrogation was, *Can I faithfully and humbly serve my God and the church, without this training?* Although it was a day of weighty decision, and carried with it no less responsibility, we decided in favor of our college.

Our first experience as an inhabitant of College Park was about Dec. 31, 1904, when we arrived on the scene, with our sons, Mrs. Davis and myself. We found kind neighbors, and a friendly faculty and student body. It was a slow process (on our part) as we had to work our way through. It required years of study and toil to complete the Theological Course.

The recitation period is valuable, and should be properly utilized by every student. For the present time we may fail to see the value of such a session, and may congratulate ourselves, if we are absent from class recitation. Nevertheless, the class discussion, explanation, and instruction of the professor are so vital to the success of the student, that he cannot afford to absent himself.

If all who attended our college were to testify, there would be varied expressions respecting this institution. We are confident that there are many who will corroborate our experience, and say, that the instruction received and the blessings conferred from this department are worth while. This school has been, and we trust she shall continue to be, a helping hand. It may be that all who have graced her halls will not speak favorably or kindly of their Alma Mater. Occasionally, there are those who speak unkindly of their neighbors and friends, and sometimes of their church. However, it would be unwise for any to contend, that for the above reason, we should dispense with our neighbors, friends, and the church. May we use the same logic respecting our college.

The following reminiscence may be in harmony with many who hold in sweet memory our college. It required much study, close observation, and proper application to master the various subjects. It appears to me those branches that required more attention than others were Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. This will vary with individuals, for what is difficult for some is comparatively easy for others and *visa versa*. Sometimes the lesson and demands of the instructors were irksome, and it was quite easy for students to complain. After all, we believe the demands were for our good, and personally, we feel we are indebted to the various members of the faculty, from whom we received instruction. Well do we remember, how Prof. Phillips, encouraged and helped us in the study of Latin, also the instruction and inspiration from Prof. Hedges in the Greek class. We had pleasant occasions under the tutor-

ship of Prof. Loew, Miss Binning (now Mrs. C. W. H. Bangs, and Miss M. Ferguson, who became Mrs. Roy Kindel, were very efficient in their departments. F. H. Cremen, who was instructor and pastor in our college, made a worth while contribution, which we shall not forget. James McMurray and T. H. Gragg, who were the presidents of this institution, while we were in attendance, we appreciate and hold in high esteem. It was a privilege and blessing to be under their instruction; we speak from experience. Drs. S. L. Livingstone and Wm. Dillon, who have finished their activities in this probationary state, were our professors in Theology, from whom we received useful instruction. If there were others who instructed us, and it appears to me there were, we purposely leave this space _____, for you to insert your name, as we do not desire to omit anyone. As stated above, we are indebted to all and deeply appreciate the service you rendered. We trust you are succeeding in your respective vocations, and pray that the maximum blessings of the Yuletide may be yours. Our wish would not be less for all who taught in our college, although we were not in your classes.

We observed that it was comparatively easy for some in the class to master the situation, while others found it rather difficult every step of the way. This is not a new discovery, this condition was prevalent in former days and we find a similar situation today. However, the professor or student who failed to recognize this fact, found it quite impossible to do justice to all concerned.

We are happy to report, that we had teachers who properly emphasized this item, which greatly assisted in handling the situation, and perhaps, if I were to repeat some of the distinctions respecting the activities of the mind, some one might recall the occasion. If you are attending Huntington College and it is your experience that other members of the class have a comparatively easy task in preparing and reciting their lesson, while you are laboring at disadvantages to remain in the class, do not be discouraged, your class-mate may have an equal struggle with you respecting other subjects; or if he is brilliant in every topic, we should not envy him, but bid him success, remembering that he has the greater responsibility. We are not all born great or of equal ability; consequently we can not reach the same sphere of service, if all are equally efficient according to their ability. *This one thing we can do, we can prepare and be more efficient in rendering the maximum service, so far as we have ability and opportunity, for Christ and humanity.*

Dear students, we wish for each of you much success, and in my judgment, any one who is failing in this particular, is living beneath his privilege. Do not conclude that Huntington College can give you absolutely new powers and ability, which are not innate. However, if you faithfully apply yourself, a college education properly used, will assist you to be more efficient. It is human to look upon others, enjoying their possessions and position, and from the fact that we can not equal them, become despondent and think

it not worth while. After all, what is more pleasing to Jehovah and of service to humanity, than to do your best, which is the maximum service, previously mentioned in this article. I would pay this tribute to Huntington College, she was faithful in impressing this important fact upon the student body, at least this is my memory.

When a student in our college, we were for the first time forcibly impressed with the importance of repeating a list in the same order if we would assist our memory. There are various items too numerous to mention, which could be credited to this institution. A proper college spirit, if privileged to grip the student body, is a wonderful asset in their lives; we may not immediately sense its value, or fully appreciate the opportunity but in our tomorrows we will cherish pleasant memories, if such has been our privilege properly improved.

The various activities outside the classroom recall many pleasant occasions. The chapel service was a means of grace to all who would properly participate. The members of the faculty, also various students, rendered valuable contributions, and I suspect the pleasantries of such occasions will linger so long as the memory properly functions. The Ministerial Association and the Literary Societies afforded opportunities, if properly improved that were imperative in discovering and developing our various talents. The neighborly spirit and Christian fellowship that gripped many of the community were commendable.

Rev. N. L. Bond, a very dear friend of mine, and I conducted several services at the Huntington County Infirmary. In my memory, I can see how anxious some of the inmates were for these services. Also the manager of this institution appeared to appreciate our coming. Although several years have passed since these activities, it appears as yesterday; thus time is carrying us along.

The ties of college friendship repeatedly revive the scenes of the past and as we occasionally meet those with whom we associated, in the class room, we are reminded of our mortality.

Another oasis while attending school was the prayer service. We enjoyed many precious moments, while engaged in prayer. Thank God, we still enjoy such occasions. It has been our happy privilege to attend a few prayer meetings this autumn at Huntington College. While we enjoyed the service, we notice only a few now in attendance, who attended, when we first came to College Park.

Thus as I think of Huntington College, naturally it gives us a bird's-eye view, not only of our Educational Institution, but also of our church. This is the third time we have resided in this community. First as a student, second to assist our sons as students in our college, and third as the secretary of the Board of Administration.

These facts have a tendency to favorably incline us. Then as I think of the missionaries, ministers, teachers, and the various places occupied by those who were students in our college, we still cherish sweet memories.