

**ADDRESSES AND PROCEEDINGS AT THE
CELEBRATION OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING
OF THE AMERICAN WHIG SOCIETY, OF
THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY,
PRINCETON, N. J., JUNE 29TH, 1869**

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Addresses and proceedings at the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the American Whig society, of the College of New Jersey, Princeton, N. J., June 29th, 1869 by Henry Clay Cameron

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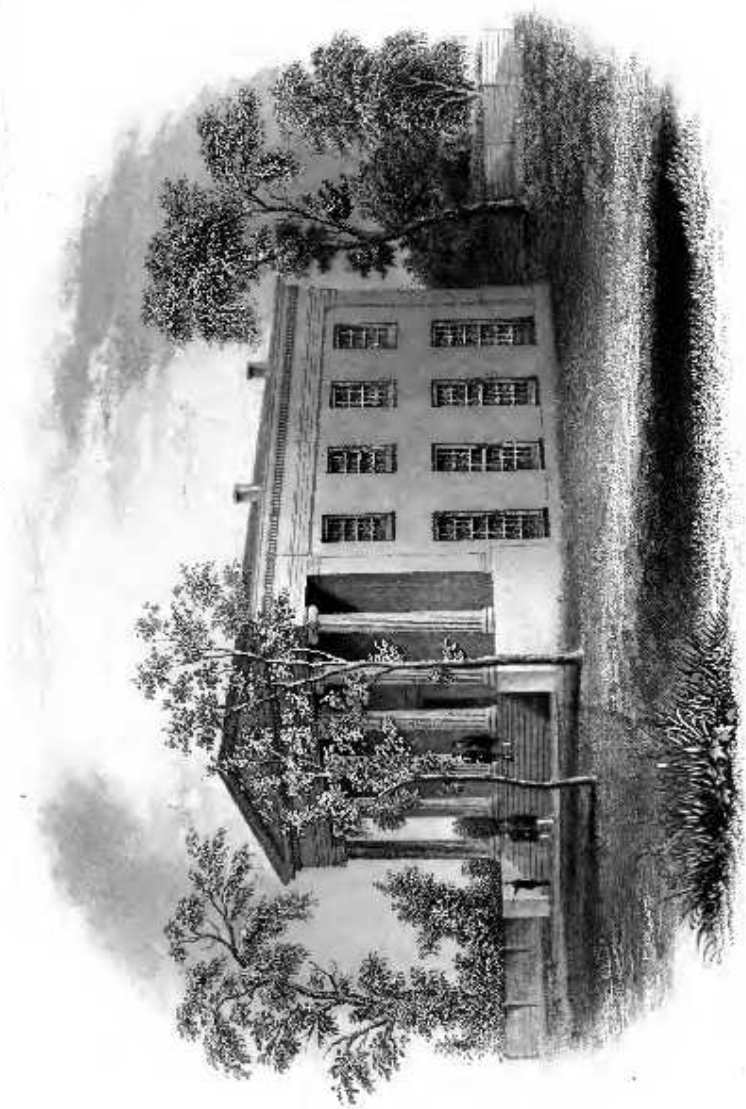
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HENRY CLAY CAMERON

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WELLS HALL.

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June 29th, 1869.

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DEDICATED
TO THE
Members of the American Whig Society
BY
ITS HISTORIAN.

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HISTORY
OF
THE AMERICAN WHIG SOCIETY,

FROM 1769 TO 1869.

PREPARED FOR AND READ AT

The Centennial Celebration,

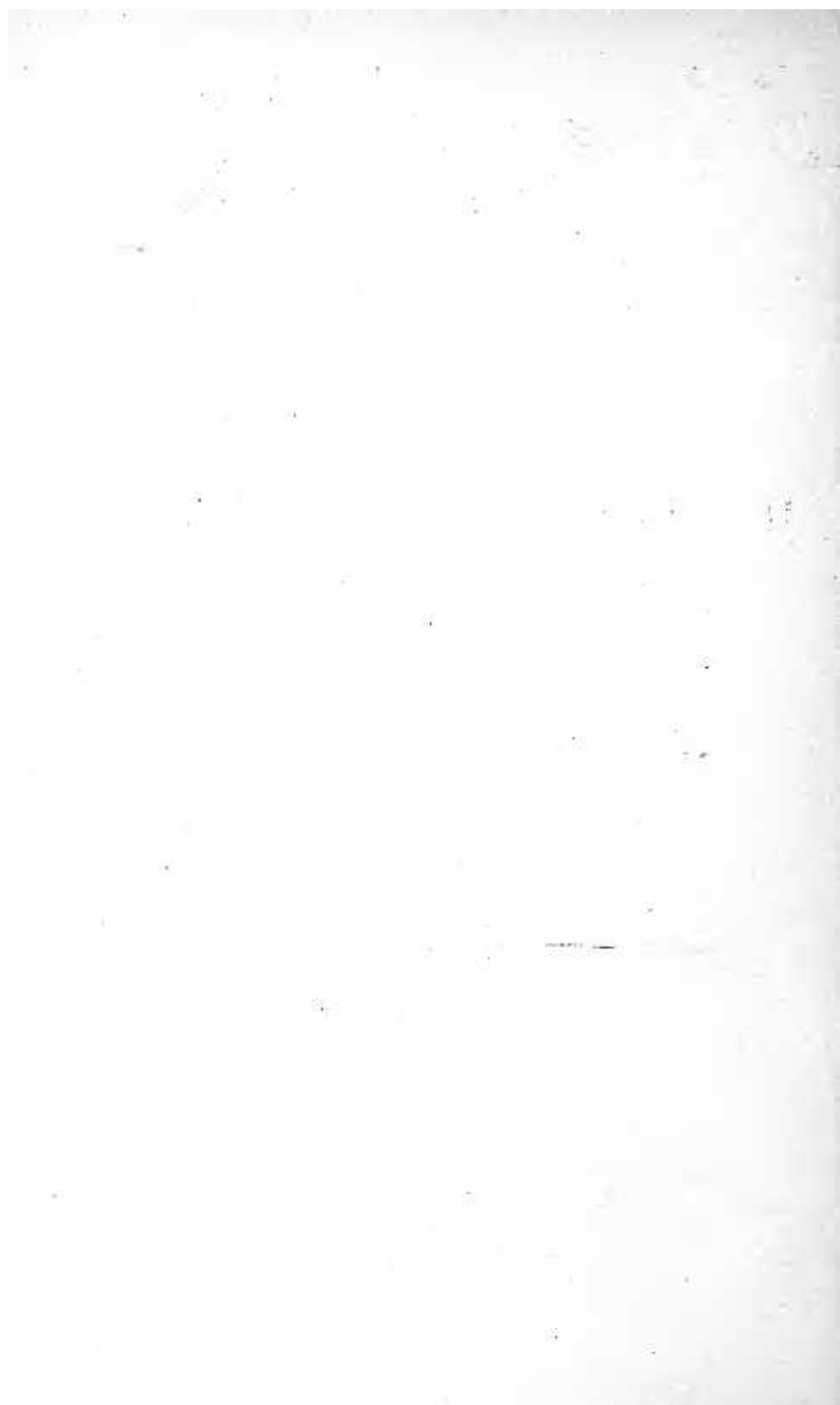
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BY

HENRY CLAY CAMERON,

PROFESSOR IN THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY.

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HISTORY
OF THE
AMERICAN WHIG SOCIETY.

FATHERS AND BRETHREN OF THE AMERICAN WHIG SOCIETY:—Your partiality has assigned to me the pleasing duty of gathering from the past, not the floating traditions that cluster around a venerable institution, but the well authenticated facts known to all who love our Society, or those which may have been hidden in remote corners and thus escaped the attention of men whom the absorbing cares of life render impatient of painful investigation. With unaffected diffidence I say that I wish that it had been assigned to abler hands. I approach the duty, however, with a reverence that increased as the work advanced, and with an affection for the Whig Society that has been augmented with each passing day.

O friends, and ye fair loving gentle folk,
Would I could better tell a tale to-day;
But hark to this.

The origin of the American Whig Society, the time and place of its foundation, the name of its founder

are all well known. In an upper chamber of Nassau Hall, on the 24th day of June, in the year 1769, one of the authors of the *Federalist*, one of the framers of the Constitution of our country, and the only President of the United States whom Nassau Hall has graduated, in connexion with a few others, laid the foundation of the American Whig Society. The time, when the day of popular freedom was just dawning upon the world: the place, Nassau Hall, which had been consecrated to liberty and was to be intimately connected with the struggle for independence; the name, typical of its patriotic principles: were all that we could have desired. And when we remember that the most distinguished graduate of Nassau Hall, who with Hamilton and Jay fashioned our National Constitution, gave form and character to the Institution whose Centennial Anniversary we this day celebrate, we are justified in saying that no Literary Society in our Colleges can point to a nobler origin. The "prentice work" and the finished structure alike reveal traces of their great author.

But James Madison was not alone in founding the Whig Society. Associated with him were others who became distinguished in the various walks of life. Among these were Samuel Stanhope Smith, afterwards President of Nassau Hall, William Bradford, Attorney General of the U. S., John Beatty, a member both of the Continental and of the Federal Congress, John Henry, Governor of Md., a U. S. Representative and Senator, the Rev. Nathaniel Irwin, who showed his affection for the Society by a large lega-