

**ADDRESSES AT THE INAUGURATION
OF MERRILL EDWARDS GATES, PH.
D., LL. D., AS PRESIDENT OF RUTGERS
COLLEGE, NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.;
TUESDAY, JUNE 20TH, 1882**

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Addresses at the Inauguration of Merrill Edwards Gates, Ph. D., LL. D., As President of Rutgers college, New Brunswick, N. J.; Tuesday, June 20th, 1882 by Various

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MERRILL EDWARDS GATES, PH.D., LL.D.,

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NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

Tuesday, June 20th, 1882.

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1883.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

PRESIDENTS OF RUTGERS COLLEGE.

RUTGERS COLLEGE was chartered as "Queens College" in 1770. In 1825 its name was changed to "Rutgers," in honor of Col. Henry Rutgers, a revolutionary patriot, who contributed to its funds five thousand dollars, considered at that time a large amount. Previous to the inauguration of Dr. Merrill Edwards Gates, June 20, 1882, the institution had had six regular and two temporary Presidents, of whom biographical sketches are herewith given.

THE FIRST PRESIDENT WAS JACOB RUTSEN HARDENBERGH, D. D., FROM 1785 to 1791.

HE was born at Rosendale, N. Y., 1738. His father was Johannes Hardenbergh, a Colonel in the N. Y. State militia. Young Hardenbergh studied under Rev. John Frelinghuysen, and was licensed by the American Classis, 1758. He succeeded his instructor in the pastoral charge of the congregations at Raritan, Bedminster, North Branch (now Readington), Neshanic and Millstone (now Harlingen), where he labored for three years. After spending two years in Holland he returned to his churches, in which he continued until 1781, when he went to Rosendale, in order to minister over the neighboring congregations of Marletown, Rochester and Warwarsing. He married the widow of Rev. John Frelinghuysen. She was the grandmother of Theodore Frelinghuysen, and was a remarkable woman, thoroughly public spirited, as much interested in the establishment of the college as her husband himself, and capable of exercising a stimulating, intellectual and religious influence upon the minds of all with whom she came in contact. Dr. Hardenbergh, says Hon. Joseph Bradley in his admirable Centennial Oration, "having himself experienced the want of that thorough preliminary training which a university or college alone can give, took a leading part in the application for the Charter of Queens College, and may be pre-eminently regarded as its founder. This is virtually assumed in the letter from the Trustees, inviting him to the Presidency in 1785; a copy of which, with his answer thereto, is preserved in the archives of the College. He left Raritan and removed to Rosendale, his native place, in 1781, and served in the ministry over a neighboring charge. In 1785 he received a double

call, from the church at New Brunswick as pastor, and from the Trustees of the College as President, and removed hither in April, 1786. Here he remained until his death, October 30th, 1790. The accumulated labors required of him as pastor of the church, which then included a large surrounding country, and as President and principal Professor of the College, broke down his slender frame at the premature age of fifty-two years. But he had performed a good life work. What is life but its work. By that it is measured. By that it is judged."

WILLIAM LINN, D.D., WAS PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE FROM 1791 TO 1794.

HE was born in Pennsylvania, Feb. 22, 1752, and was graduated from the College of New Jersey in 1772. Three years later he was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Donegal Presbytery, and in 1776 he served as a chaplain in the American Army. In 1777 he was called to the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church at Big Spring, Pa., where he labored during a period of seven years. He then took charge of an Academy in Somerset County, Md., but after an experience of two years in teaching settled again over a church in Elizabethtown, N. J. From 1787 to 1805 he preached in the Collegiate Church, New York, and while here he acted also as the President of Rutgers college, of which he had been elected a Trustee in 1787. His interest and wisdom in matters of education are also reflected in the fact that for twenty-one years previous to his death, in 1808, he served as one of the Regents of the University of the State of New York. Dr. Linn was "an ardent and impassioned preacher. On special occasions his performances were masterpieces." Of large and earnest sympathies, he became deeply interested in politics as well as in the cause of education, and extended his influence in many directions.

IRA CONDUCT, D.D., WAS PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE FROM 1794 to 1810.

HE was born at Orange, N. J., Feb. 21, 1764. After his graduation from the College of New Jersey, in 1784, he studied theology under Dr. John Woodhull, of Monmouth, and was licensed by the Presbytery of New Brunswick in 1786. The Presbyterian churches of Hardwick, Newtown and Shapenock enjoyed his services as pastor for six years until 1794, when he was installed over the Reformed Dutch Church at New Brunswick. Though actively engaged in his church work, Dr. Conduct found time and energy to originate a new movement for the revival, in 1807, of the College which, owing to financial embarrassments, had been obliged to suspend exercises twelve years previously. Under

his leadership the Trustees determined to raise, by the help of the Reformed churches, twelve thousand dollars for the erection of a substantial and spacious building and to open the College immediately. Dr. Condict assumed the duties of President *pro tempore*, and instructed the highest class, which entered Junior. In 1809 he was regularly appointed Professor of Moral Philosophy and Vice-President. Dr. Condict was indefatigable in soliciting subscriptions for the new building, and when \$10,000 had been raised it was begun. This edifice, noble and beautiful in its proportions, now stands in the centre of the campus which it adorns. Dr. Condict laid its corner-stone with his left hand, in consequence of suffering a temporary lameness in his right. Dying in 1810, he did not live to see the full fruit of his beneficent energies and sacrifices. Honored by being elected to the Presidency, he, however, declined it, deeming "the office," says Justice Bradley, "incompatible with the duties he owed to his church, which he continued to perform in their fullest extent. The amount of strain on the mind and body of this eminent and faithful man must, at this period, have been immense. He had the pastoral care of one of the largest churches in the denomination. He taught the College classes, the Junior class in 1807-8, and the Junior and Senior classes in 1808-9 and 1809-10. He also, as a leading member of the Board of Trustees, was actively engaged in all the concerns of the College, especially in the efforts to collect funds for erecting the new building, and causing the work duly to progress. He procured by his own exertions subscriptions, in the City of New Brunswick and its vicinity, to the amount of \$6,370, during the year 1807, and continued his efforts in that direction during the time the College was building. Such an accumulation of labors and responsibilities was more than human nature could bear. Like his predecessor, Dr. Hardenbergh, he was destined to spend and be spent in the cause of the College. No wonder that his face, as it looks down upon us from yonder frame in the chapel, has a sad and wearied look. No wonder that the cord of life snapped under the tension, when he was yet in the very prime of his years and usefulness. Which of us has done what he did before reaching his forty-eighth year? Here again we see exemplified the great truth that 'life is measured by its work.'"

JOHN H. LIVINGSTON, D.D., WAS THE SECOND REGULAR PRESIDENT FROM 1810 TO 1825.

DR. LIVINGSTON was a man of noble character, of extensive and accurate learning, and of large and commanding influence. He was, however, mainly interested in his Theological Professorship, which he held in connection with the Presidency; and indeed he did little more

in the College than "to preside on public occasions and sign diplomas." It was during his period of office that the literary exercises of the College were, in 1816, again suspended, and not resumed until 1825. The causes of this were financial distress and divided counsels. He was the son of Henry Livingston and Sarah Conklin, born at Poughkeepsie, May 30, 1746. He was graduated at Yale College, in July, 1762. In May, 1766, he sailed for Holland, and studied theology at Utrecht, and was licensed by the Classis of Amsterdam, June 5, 1769; made Doctor of Theology by the University of Utrecht in May, 1770; returned to New York September, 1770, having been ordained a pastor of the Church in that city by the Classis of Amsterdam; preached there until New York was occupied by the British, in September, 1776; preached at Kingston, Albany, Poughkeepsie and neighboring places during the Revolution; returned to New York soon after the evacuation, November 25, 1783; was appointed Professor of Theology by General Synod, October, 1784; was inaugurated in the City of New York, May 19, 1785; taught in New York and Flatbush, L. I., until 1810, when he removed to New Brunswick, N. J., having been appointed President of Queens College. He died in New Brunswick, 20th January, 1825.

PHILIP MILLEDOLER, D.D., LL.D., WAS PRESIDENT FROM 1825 TO 1840.

HE was born at Rhinebeck, N. Y., September 22, 1775. The only son of John and Anna Milledoler, who had emigrated from Geneva, Switzerland, some years before; was graduated at Columbia College in 1793; ordained by the Synod of the German Reformed Church, May 17, 1794; called to the German Reformed Church in Nassau street, the same year; became pastor of the Third Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, in 1800; called to the Presbyterian Collegiate Church in New York, with special care of the Rutgers Street Church, in 1805; in 1813 called to the Collegiate Reformed Dutch Church in New York, where he remained until he was appointed Professor of Didactic Theology, and President of Rutgers College in 1825. He died on Staten Island in 1852, on his seventy-seventh birthday. His wife died on the day following. Undivided in death as in life, they were buried together.

Dr. Milledoler was distinguished for his early and fervent piety, for catholic sympathies which led him to take an active part in many of the benevolent enterprises of his day, and above all for an unction in prayer that seemed akin to inspiration.

HON. ABRAHAM ⁸BRUYN HASBROUCK, LL.D., WAS PRESIDENT FROM 1840 TO 1850.

BY his Lectures on Constitutional Law, his genial manners and generous hospitality, he contributed greatly to the prosperity of the institution. Mr. Hasbrouck was born of Huguenot descent, from the New Paltz Settlement at Kingston, N. Y., Nov., 1791. He pursued his legal studies at Hudson, N. Y., in the office of Elisha Williams, and at the Law School of Judge Reeves, at Litchfield, Conn. Was admitted to the bar in 1813; elected to Congress in 1821; practiced his profession at Kingston until 1840, when he was appointed President of Rutgers College. He received the degree of LL.D. from Columbia College in 1828, and from Union College, 1845. He was made Vice-President of the American Bible Society in 1851, and President of the Ulster County Historical Society in 1856. Mr. Hasbrouck will long be remembered as a fine example of the dignified and scholarly gentleman. Exceedingly urbane in his address, considerate always of the feelings of others, with an instinctive sense of propriety and carrying the atmosphere of familiarity with the sources of literary culture, he easily won the friendship of students, and discharged the duties of his position with universal satisfaction. His regard for the Christian religion, of which he was a devout follower, was one day incidentally indicated to the writer of this note by the remark that, of all the honors he had ever received, he felt the proudest of his appointment as Vice-President of the Bible Society. He died at Kingston, N. Y., Feb. 23, 1879.

It is worthy of mention that the college is indebted to Mr. Hasbrouck for many of the noble trees that now adorn the Campus. He was at much pains in having them planted and cared for; and to day they stand the beautiful monuments of his forethought for coming generations. "Whoso planteth a tree, laboreth for posterity."

HON. THEODORE FRELINGHUYSEN, LL.D., WAS PRESIDENT FROM 1850 TO 1862.

MR. Frelinghuysen was born in Millstone, N. J., March 28, 1787. He was the son of Frederick Frelinghuysen, a Member of the Continental Congress, who in 1777 resigned his seat to join the army, and served as captain of a volunteer company of artillery at Monmouth and Trenton, and during the remainder of the war as a captain of militia. In 1793 he was chosen a Senator of the United States.

Theodore, his son, after his graduation from Princeton, 1804, studied law with an elder brother. Meeting with great success in his profession, he was appointed, in 1817, Attorney-General of the State. This office he held until his election as United States Senator in 1826. He remained

in the Senate until 1835. In 1838 he was chosen Chancellor of the University of the city of New York. In May, 1844, he was nominated by the Baltimore Convention as the Whig candidate for the Vice-Presidency. The cry of Clay and Frelinghuysen will be long remembered in the history of the country, as that of a great party in one of the greatest contests which has ever preceded a presidential election. In 1850 Mr. Frelinghuysen resigned the Chancellorship of the University in favor of the Presidency of Rutgers College. He was also President of the Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions; of the Bible Society; of the American Tract Society; of the New Jersey Sunday-School Union, and was prominently engaged in the Colonization Society and other philanthropic and religious movements.

Mr. Frelinghuysen was a man of universal wisdom and guilelessness. His disposition was naturally gentle, and always pervaded by a Christian spirit; his manners were conciliatory, and his intellect as discerning as his heart was upright. His influence, therefore, over the Reformed Church, as well as over individuals nearly related to the controversy, that had for many years involved the college, was strong and of the happiest nature. "It is not too much," declares Mr. Bradley, "to say that no person was ever more universally respected and beloved. His influence on the institution, and on the young men who resorted to it for instruction, was of the most genial and beneficent kind. * * * In 1862, this great and good man died, as he had lived, a Christian gentleman."

WILLIAM HENRY CAMPBELL, D.D., LL.D., BECAME PRESIDENT IN 1863 AND RESIGNED JUNE, 1881, BUT CONTINUED TO ACT AS PRESIDENT UNTIL HIS SUCCESSOR WAS INAUGURATED, JUNE 20, 1882.

DR. CAMPBELL has been known many years in the States of New York and New Jersey as a thorough-going Biblical preacher—remarkable for his use of strong, terse, Saxon English, and intense earnestness in presenting Divine truth. Nor has he been less distinguished as a clear, vigorous, and successful educator. He was born in Baltimore, 1808, and was graduated from Dickenson College in 1828, and three years later from the Theological Seminary at Princeton. His first settlement was at Chittenango, from 1831 to '33, after which he labored for six years as Principal of Erasmus Hall, at Flatbush, Long Island. From 1839 to 1841 he preached at East New York, whence he removed to Albany and assumed charge of the Third Reformed Church. In 1848 he returned to educational pursuits by accepting the Principalship of the Albany Academy. Three years later, in 1851, he was called to the Professorship of Oriental Literature in the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick, and