

**CENTENNIAL GENERAL
CATALOGUE OF THE TRUSTEES,
OFFICERS, PROFESSORS AND
ALUMNI OF UNION THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY IN VIRGINIA, 1807-1907**

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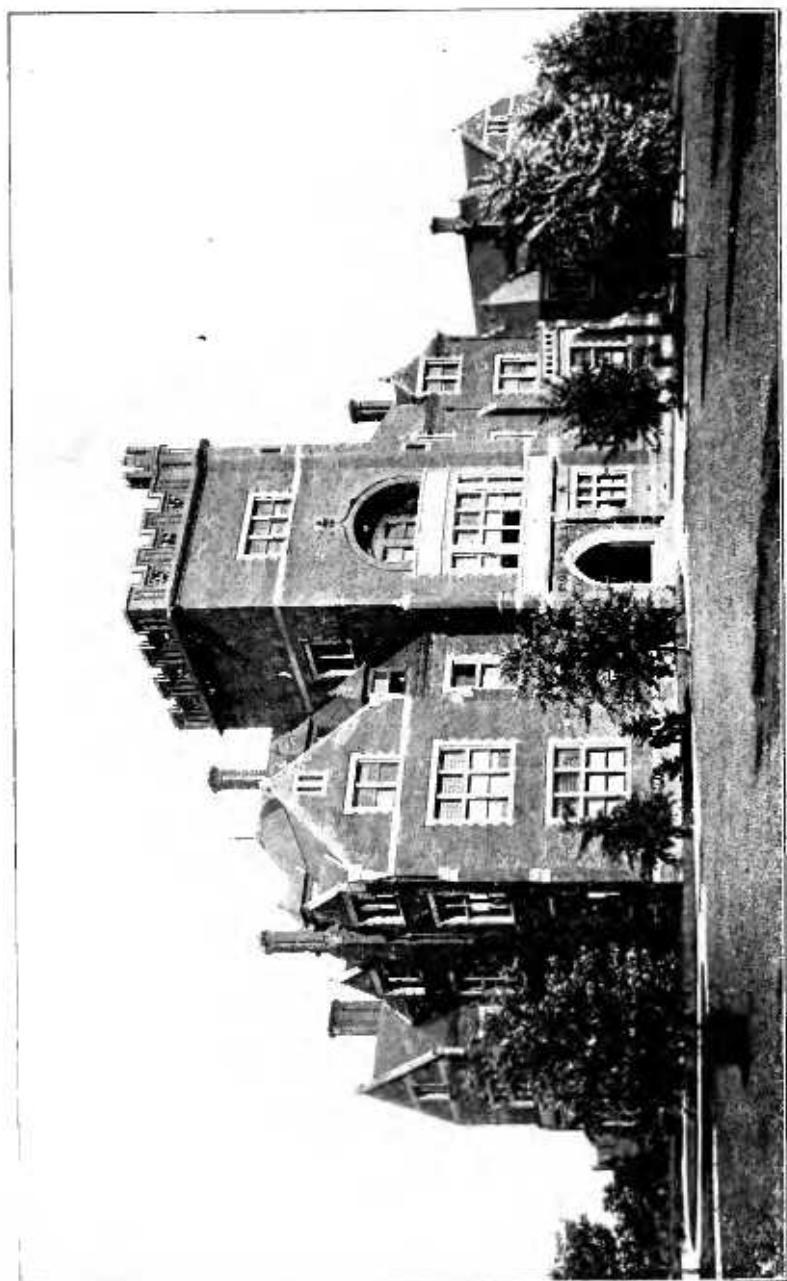
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WALTER W. MOORE & TILDEN SCHERER

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WATTS HALL

CENTENNIAL
GENERAL CATALOGUE

OF

The Trustees, Officers, Professors
and Alumni

OF

✓ Union Theological Seminary
In Virginia.

1807—1907.

EDITED BY
WALTER W. MOORE
AND
TILDEN SCHERER.

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PREFACE

A General Catalogue of the Seminary, compiled by the late Rev. Prof. Benjamin M. Smith, D. D., was published in 1884. Deterred, perhaps, by the scantiness and confusion of the records in regard to the thirty or more students to whom he alludes as having attended the classes of Dr. Moses Hoge from 1812 to 1820, Dr. Smith attempted no sketches of these, but confined his work to the period beginning in 1824, when the Seminary was re-organized by Dr. John Holt Rice. In the present edition, which is based on Dr. Smith's and is more indebted to that, perhaps, than to all other sources, the attempt is made to give the names of all persons who have been connected with the Seminary from its foundation by the Synod of Virginia, in 1812, to the present time, whether as trustees or professors or students. Further, for the sake of completeness and because of the peculiar value of the labors of some of them to the church, we have even included five persons whose names we find in the classes taught by Dr. Hoge from 1807 to 1812, while the Seminary was still under the care of Hanover Presbytery, and before its formal adoption by the Synod. There were probably others in this earliest period whose names we cannot now recover, and the same thing, no doubt, is true of the period from 1812 to 1823.

Since the materials are so scanty and the dates of matriculation so uncertain, it has seemed best to group these forty-four earliest students under one heading, "1807-1823," instead of giving a separate numbered sketch of each, as in the case of all students matriculating after 1823.

Moreover, it is not certain that all of these forty-four first-named men were students in the Synod's School of Theology. Some of them may have been merely candidates for the ministry in Hampden-Sidney College. There was no catalogue of the Seminary in those days, and the facts given in regard to

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

The Presbyterian Church in America was composed originally of emigrants from Great Britain and Ireland, and for many years the ministers of their various congregations were drawn from beyond the seas. As the Church grew, however, and the population of the country increased, the supply thus obtained proved to be inadequate and the necessity for a native ministry became more and more apparent. Academies and colleges were accordingly established from time to time during the 18th century at various places, such as Princeton, Lexington and Hampden-Sidney; and the candidates educated in these institutions received their theological training by serving a sort of apprenticeship under approved divines here and there throughout the country. But this plan, also, was presently seen to be inadequate, especially after the great revivals of 1799-1804, and it became apparent that the only way in which the demand could be met was to organize regular institutions for theological education.

I. THE BEGINNING, 1806-1823.

In April, 1806, "The Presbytery of Hanover taking into consideration the deplorable state of our country in regard to religious instruction, the very small number of ministers possessing the qualifications required by the Scriptures and the prevalence of ignorance and error, on motion, resolved:

1. That an attempt be made to establish at Hampden-Sidney College a complete theological library for the benefit of students in divinity.
2. That an attempt be also made to establish a fund for the educating of poor and pious youth for the ministry of the gospel.
3. That the Rev. Messrs. Archibald Alexander, Matthew

Lyle, Conrad Speece, John H. Rice, Major James Morton, Major Robert Quarles and Mr. James Daniel be a Standing Committee to manage this business and make report to Presbytery at its usual meetings.

4. That whatever funds are raised by the Committee shall be vested in the trustees of Hampden-Sidney College. The appropriation of all such funds, however, shall forever remain with the Presbytery."

On the 30th of April, 1806, this Committee met and appointed Mr. Rice a special agent to solicit donations in books and money for the objects proposed throughout the whole State; upon which he repaired to Richmond and afterwards proceeded to Norfolk to secure the desired aid in behalf of the infant institution, and by the spring of 1807, funds to the amount of \$2,500 were raised for this purpose. In the same year, the presidency of Hampden-Sidney College becoming vacant by the removal of Rev. Archibald Alexander to Philadelphia, Rev. Moses Hoge, of Shepherdstown, Va., was unanimously chosen to fill the vacant office. The vote of the trustees was accompanied by pressing letters from the brethren of the Presbytery, one of whom, himself a trustee of the College, says: "What I wish to present to you for your serious consideration is the importance of our theological school. For some years to come the head of the theological school must be the president of Hampden-Sidney College. Now, the eyes of all who are, at the same time, friends of this institution and acquaintances of yours, are directed to you as the fittest person in the compass of their knowledge for a professor of divinity." His biographer states that "The prospect of usefulness which seemed to be extended before him by the projected establishment of a theological seminary at Hampden-Sidney was, as he repeatedly informed his friends, the reason why he decided to remove thither." In a letter, dated January, 1810, Dr. Hoge says: "It was chiefly from a regard to a theological seminary lately established at this place that I was induced to accept the presidency of Hampden-Sidney College. Of that seminary you have probably seen some account in the public prints. It has already been useful, and will, there is reason to expect, con-

tinue to be so for ages to come." In August, 1812, he writes: "We have now nine or ten who intend to preach the gospel, and about the same number of my alumni are now preaching." It is clear, therefore, that the Seminary was already in existence and doing good work even before the formal action of the Synod of Virginia in 1812. But in that year the Synod "Unanimously resolved on the establishment of a theological seminary and unanimously concurred in the appointment of Dr. Hoge as their professor," and thus, as his biographer states it, "The seminary instituted by the Synod embodied the project of the Presbytery of Hanover."² Satisfactory arrangements were made with the trustees of the College, by which Dr. Hoge could perform the duties of both the presidency and the professorship of theology, and for the remaining eight years of his life he prosecuted the work with signal ability and success, sending more than thirty young men from his classes into the ministry.

Dr. Hoge died in the summer of 1820, and at the following meeting of Synod, Dr. Archibald Alexander was appointed to succeed him as professor of theology. Dr. Alexander declined the appointment, and the Synod, after trying in vain for two years to fill the place (a task rendered the more difficult, doubtless, by the fact that Dr. Hoge's successor in the presidency of the College, was a layman), transferred the Seminary, with the funds which had been collected, to the Presbytery of Hanover, in trust, to hold the same for the object of its founders under its own management, but subject to the supervision and control of the Synod, and in obedience to the call of the Moderator, the Presbytery now met at Prince Edward on the 16th of November, 1822, to accept the trust and make the necessary arrangements for carrying it into execution. That Presbytery, which then included nearly all of eastern Virginia, had, as we have seen, projected a theological school even before the Synod had taken the steps above described, and had collected a small sum for the support of it. This was now added to the funds transferred to them by the Synod, and the Presbytery, having resolved to re-organize the Seminary,

*Ms. "Life of Moses Hoge, D. D.," by his son, Rev. John Blair Hoge.



Charles Hoyle