

**THE HISTORY OF HEIDELBERG  
COLLEGE: INCLUDING  
BACCALAUREATE  
ADDRESSES AND SERMONS**

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The History of Heidelberg College: Including Baccalaureate Addresses and Sermons by Rev.  
Geo. W. Williard

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**REV. GEO. W. WILLIARD**

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THE HISTORY  
OF  
Heidelberg College,

INCLUDING

BACCALAUREATE ADDRESSES AND SERMONS.

BY

REV. GEO. W. WILLIARD, D. D.,

*President of Heidelberg College.*

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1879.

TO

*THE ALUMNI, STUDENTS,*

AND FRIENDS OF HEIDELBERG COLLEGE,

THIS BOOK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

With the Sincere Regards of

THE AUTHOR.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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WHAT Solomon said, centuries ago, that *of making many books there is no end*, is especially true of the age in which we live. There has, perhaps, never been a time of such intellectual activity as at present. Books of every kind, and upon the greatest variety of subjects, are literally flooding the land, so that we are naturally led to ask, Where will the end be?

In the midst of this excess of literature the Reformed Church, and our institutions at Tiffin in particular, have been so quiet and reserved that some may be tempted to ask, Can any thing good come from this source? Be this as it may, we have taken up our pen to write the history of Heidelberg College, which, although of modest pretensions, feels that it has the right to tell the story of its struggles and triumphs. Having been connected with it for nearly fourteen years as its President, and having taken an active part in all that has been done to place it upon a sure and permanent foundation, the desire has been expressed by a number of friends that we should undertake the work.

What has thus far been written, concerning our institutions at Tiffin, has been in a fragmentary form in the reports published from year to year in the Minutes of Synod, and in articles found in the periodicals of the Church. Our object will be to gather and reproduce, in a regular and consecutive form, the facts contained in these documents, and in this way rescue from oblivion many things of special interest, which might otherwise soon be forgotten. How well we may perform this difficult task the reader must judge. Should we, however, fail to meet the expectations that may be formed, our work will not be lost, as what we write will furnish material for some future historian to complete what we have imperfectly begun.

But is there, some one may ask, material sufficient for a history of Heidelberg College? This will be answered in the book herewith presented to the public. It is presumable, however, that if we have histories of families, corporations, banks, towns, cities, and communities, that thirty years' continuous educational work in Hei-

delberg College, in the midst of encouragements and discouragements, ought to furnish something that would possess interest to those at least who have watched its progress and aided in its support.

The Church, under whose fostering care Heidelberg College has maintained itself for more than a quarter of a century, has a right to know what has been done with the funds which it has so generously contributed to its support; and those who have shared in its beneficence ought to take pleasure in showing that the results are commensurate with the outlay.

The book consists of three parts: The *first* gives the history of Heidelberg College; the *second*, contains the Baccalaureate Sermons preached to the graduating classes under our administration; and the *third*, short biographies of the alumni whose names are on the Necrological List

The rapid increase of colleges in America is a matter of astonishment to all who have given it the least attention. There is nothing like it in the history of any other nation. Many in the Old World, where a few universities absorb the higher educational interests, are disposed to think that there must necessarily be great superficiality where there are so many colleges as we have. That we should have, in less than two hundred years, more than this number of colleges, and that Ohio alone should have over thirty, all of which are doing a good work, is wonderful, and affords a striking proof of the energy, enterprise, and liberality of our people, and of the interest taken in the cause of education.

To the Synod of Ohio, at least, the history of Heidelberg College ought to have special interest, as it is the creature of its own hand and the center of its educational work. No other institution may be expected to grow up by its side. To give it the efficiency, therefore, which it ought to have as its main institution, so that it may be a credit and honor to the Church, and subserve, in the highest degree, the purpose of its founders, should be the one great object in view. Much has been done already in this respect. A good foundation has been laid, as will be shown in these pages, so that if we continue to go forward in the line of advancement the outcome will be all that can be reasonably expected.

The Sermons and Addresses which form the Second Part of the book, whilst they have a special interest for the alumni and students of the College, who heard them at the Annual Commencements when they were first delivered, will also, it is hoped, have some interest for those who were not present at the time. The subjects

discussed are of a practical character, and will be found adapted to the young in the varied circumstances of life, whether they have enjoyed the advantage of a collegiate education or not. The object had in view in their preparation was to guard and fortify those to whom they were originally addressed, against the dangers by which they would be beset, and to give them such counsels and helps, starting as they were on the highway of life, as might encourage them to the performance of whatever is right, good and manly, so as to attain the true end of their being.

The age in which we live has peculiar temptations to the young. They come in such a variety of forms, and with so many attractions around them, that not a few of our most promising young men are deceived and ensnared by them and led in the way of the destroyer. It is really sad to see what wrecks lie along the pathway of life—wrecks, not of ships or palaces that have been broken and shattered by the fury of the wind, but wrecks of immortal beings, created only a little lower than the angels—who might, if they had avoided the dangers and perils of the voyage, have attained a life of endless glory and felicity in the kingdom of God. Any one who can say a word to avoid such a catastrophe, and help to keep the youth of the day in the path of virtue, may be regarded as a benefactor of his race.

The Third Part contains short biographical notices of those alumni, whose names are on the Necrological List, of whom there are fifteen. This part has been added at the suggestion of a number of friends, who have thought that such respect to the departed would be a fitting conclusion to the book. In this we heartily concur.

We would also, here, take occasion to return our thanks to those whose names are connected with these *memorials*, for the aid they gave us in their preparation. In a few instances, they are given as they were sent to us, whilst, in others, we have taken the liberty of making such changes and additions, as we felt warranted in doing, from our own personal knowledge of the departed.

Conscious of the imperfections of the book, we have written amid the pressing duties of our position, and indulging the hope that the College, in whose interest we have spent years of hard labor, may, in some degree, be advanced by it, we now send it out upon its mission, with the prayer that the blessing of God may accompany it, so that it may accomplish the end for which it was written.

TIFFIN, OHIO. Oct., 1879.