

**THE INAUGURATION OF
WILLIAM PRESTON FEW, AS
PRESIDENT OF TRINITY COLLEGE,
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA,
NOVEMBER 9, 1910**

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The inauguration of William Preston Few, as president of Trinity college, Durham, North Carolina, November 9, 1910 by Duke University

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DUKE UNIVERSITY

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OF
WILLIAM PRESTON FEW
A.M., PH.D.

AS PRESIDENT OF
TRINITY COLLEGE



DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA
NOVEMBER 9, 1910

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Trinity College*

INTRODUCTION



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At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees in June, 1910, John Carlisle Kilgo, A.M., D.D., LL.D., President of Trinity College since 1894, tendered his resignation, which was made necessary by his elevation to the office of bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at the general conference which met in Asheville, North Carolina, in May. At the same meeting the Trustees elected as President of the College William Preston Few, A.M., Ph.D., Dean of Trinity College.

The Trustees authorized, at the time of the election of President Few, the appointment of a committee to make all necessary arrangements for the Inauguration, which should take place as early as possible in the following autumn, but not until the Washington Duke Building, West Wing, could be completed. The committee chosen consisted of Professors Flowers, Brown, and Wannamaker.

Many of the citizens of Durham felt that the coming of so many distinguished scholars and educators to the city should, in some fitting way, be recognized. The initiative in this movement was taken by the Merchants' Association. To aid the movement, Mayor Griswold issued a proclamation, urging all citizens to co-operate. After conferences between representatives of the College and the citizens, arrangements were effected for making the day an occasion for both the College and the city. The co-operation of the citizens added greatly to the éclat of the Inauguration, and the hospitality of many of them in welcoming to their homes the guests of the College made the problem of entertainment easy.

Many of the alumni, invited guests, and delegates reached Durham on Tuesday, November 8, but most of the delegates, especially those from the North and East, came on the morning of the ninth. To make it possible for them to reach Durham in time for the exercises at nine o'clock, the College operated, from Greensboro to Durham, a special train (consisting of dining-car and Pullmans), which connected at Greensboro with trains from New York, Washington, and from points in the far South. Professor Brown, of the Committee on Arrangements, met the delegates at Greensboro and accompanied them to Durham. The train, which was stopped near the entrance to the campus, was met by a delegation representing the College and the citizens. The entire party was conveyed in automobiles to the Washington Duke Building, West Wing, where all delegates and guests enrolled and put on academic costume.

The Washington Duke Building, West Wing, which was practically finished, was presented to the Trustees at a quarter to ten o'clock. For the presentation exercises tickets had been issued to the alumni, members of the Faculties and their wives, the Trustees, the guests, and delegates. Mr. Frank L. Fuller presented the building for the donor, Mr. Benjamin N. Duke, and Mr. James H. Southgate, President of the Board of Trustees, accepted it for the Trustees.

Immediately after the presentation of the building the delegates, specially invited guests, members of the Board of Trustees and of the Faculties of the College, and the alumni moved, at the direction of the marshal, in the order of procession, to the Craven Memorial Hall, where the exercises of Induction were held. As the first section of the procession was mounting the steps of the Hall, the chorus, which consisted of over thirty of the city's most talented singers, led by Mr. T. Edgar Cheek, began the processional hymn, "How firm a foundation"; the audience