

CHAPTER V

THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL AND AN ACCOUNT OF STOCK

THE first half century of Haverford's history has been briefly reviewed and studied as the background of this half century which we are closing in 1933 with the centennial of the college. During the first fifty years the college was from a point of view of numbers a very small college of usually less than a hundred students. The faculty was correspondingly small, but it always contained a few scholars of very high rank and it continually sent out a little group of graduates distinguished for their scholarly culture and for their strongly fashioned characters.

It is obvious from the review already given in the preceding chapters that up to the semi-centennial Haverford was distinctly religious in its atmosphere with the central religious emphasis on Quaker ideals of life and thought. There was, however, a remarkable intellectual breadth in its life and thought. The student was encouraged to live his own life. There was complete freedom from proselytizing so that the non-Friend felt undisturbed and secure. It was never a college composed of saints. Like most places where lives are being trained and developed there were the checkerboard colors of dark and light, and intermediate grays. But it was a notable fact that everybody was "exposed" to the contagious influence of persons who were very rich in the qualities of personal goodness. That was always a great asset.

The Alumni Association at its annual meeting in 1881 launched the project of celebrating in some adequate way the fif-

tieth anniversary of the founding of the college. A Committee of ten was appointed to develop a plan and to have charge of the celebration. At that date there had been approximately one thousand old students and alumni of whom two hundred and twenty-two had died. A cordial and stirring invitation was sent to every living person who had been for any period of time a student at the institution.

The day selected for the great event was October 27th, 1883. More than twelve hundred persons answered the call, for it involved wives and children as well as old students, and there was a good number of distinguished guests who were not in the list of old Haverfordians. The weather was propitious, though not quite perfect, and the playing fields offered a joyous sight. The forenoon was given up to cricket, baseball and tennis, and in the afternoon the cricket continued, paralleled by a famous game of American Rugby football, which was then a comparatively new game. Just before adjourning the games for luncheon a gorgeous scarlet and black flag, inscribed "Haverford," was run up on the old flagpole on the cricket field. This marked the official change from the "Dorian Cricket Club" to the "Haverford College Cricket Club."

It should be said in passing that the two gustatory events of the day, luncheon and dinner, are still memorable for those who were present, across the long intervening years. The entire first floor of old Founders was set apart and properly garlanded for the banquets. The tables in the various rooms were loaded with a vast variety of tempting foods and the guests and the students then in college moved about from room to room in a happy recurrent parade.

The afternoon exercises were held in Alumni Hall which is now turned into the Library, and they were on a high level of excellence. President Chase was in good form and revealed his grace and eloquence in a happy opening speech. John B. Garrett of the class of '54 gave a valuable historical review of the half-century of the life of the college. Dr. Francis B. Gummere of '72

read the poem for the occasion, admirably fitted to the spirit of the day. An excellent portrait of Pliny Earle Chase was appropriately presented by the class of '76. It hangs in the present dining hall and is a satisfactory presentation of the striking face of this beloved teacher. The evening was given over to reminiscences of old Haverfordians and it was a high-tide occasion. One of the most impressive features of the celebration was the reading of a noble letter from the venerable poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, who had in 1860 received the honorary degree of A.M. from Haverford. Among other things of high moment the poet said: "The spirit of its (Haverford) culture has not been a narrow one, nor could it be, if true to the broad and catholic principles of the eminent worthies who founded the state of Pennsylvania,—Penn, Lloyd, Pastorius, Logan and Story,—men who were masters of the scientific knowledge and culture of their age, hospitable to all truth, and open to all light, and who in some instances anticipated the results of modern research and critical inquiry.

"It was Thomas Story, a minister of the Society of Friends, and member of Penn's Council of State, who while on a religious visit to England, wrote to James Logan that he had read on the stratified rocks of Scarborough, as from the finger of God, proofs of the immeasurable age of our planet, and that the 'days' of the letter of Scripture could only mean vast spaces of time.

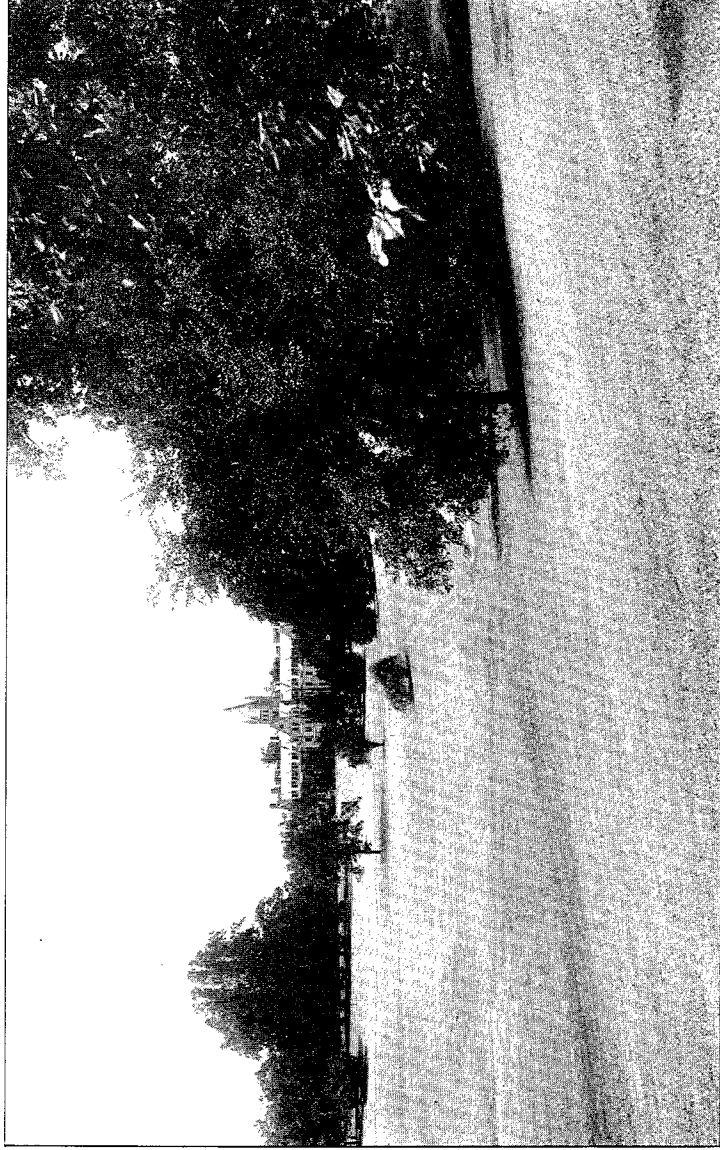
"May Haverford," he concluded, "emulate the example of these brave but reverent men, who, in investigating Nature, never lost sight of the Divine Ideal and who, to use the words of Fénelon, 'silenced themselves to hear in the stillness of their own souls, the inexpressible voice of Christ.' Holding fast the mighty truth of the Divine Immanence, the Inward Light and Word, a Quaker college can have no occasion to renew the disastrous quarrel of religion with science . . . No possible investigation of natural facts in searching criticism of letter and tradition can disturb it, for it has its witness in all human hearts." That vigorous letter of Whittier's put the religious position of Haverford as well as it

could have been put and it was a ringing note on which to end an epoch and begin a new one.

One of the most impressive features of the festal occasion was the evidence of intense loyalty on the part of the old students who came back to celebrate it. There was an enthusiasm and *élan* of spirit which no observer could well miss.

One of the most practical results of this Jubilee was the launching of a movement, the word "campaign" had not yet come into vogue, to raise a fund to pay off the debt of the college which had been slowly accumulating through annual deficits. In a short period of time \$50,000 was contributed and in 1887 for the first time in many years the Managers were able to report that the college was entirely free of debt.

The greatest building event in the first half-century of the college was the construction of Barclay Hall, which was thought at the time to be a "wonderful" architectural creation. The idea which gave birth to it sprang, like Athena, from the head of "Zeus." In his letter accepting the presidency of the college, Thomas Chase had called for an increase in the number of students and for the erection of a new building and he had said: "The attainment of the second end will greatly contribute to the attainment of the first." The letter brought an instant response. One of the Managers had for some time been independently brooding on this same idea. He came at once with enthusiasm to President Chase to discuss with him the development of plans and arrangements for such a building. The interest in the project spread rapidly and soon became general. A building Committee of the Managers was appointed and cooperating Committees both of the Managers and the Alumni were selected to procure "ways and means" for the fulfillment of the dream. It was a period of serious financial depression throughout the country, but, in spite of that, contributions rolled in. The "rolling in" was, however, due to persistent and unremitting labor as well as to the remarkable loyalty and generosity of those who loved Haverford as their mother. The money was secured and the "stately



BARCLAY HALL FROM THE SKATING POND

edifice," as they called it, started. It unfortunately did not come out of the old quarry as the other buildings had done, but was constructed out of Port Deposit granite with trimmings of Nova Scotia stone.

The dimensions were "lordly"—two hundred and eighteen feet in length, forty feet in general width, with the central section sixty-five feet wide. There were three storeys with high ceilings, and the central tower, eighteen feet square, rose one hundred and ten feet. A corridor seven feet wide traversed the building from end to end on each floor. It proved to be valuable for "soap-slides" and for rolling bowling alley balls, but very unsuitable from a point of view of quiet and discipline. The plan of arrangement for the rooms was admirable. For the most part the building was divided up into suites of rooms with a central study room for two students and with a bedroom on each side of the study. There were two bathrooms on each floor. All this sounds antiquated now, perhaps, but it was the last word in grandeur then. Barclay has since been divided by stone partitions into North and South and Centre Barclay, so that the long "soap-slides" are things of the past.

The architect was highly praised for the simple and appropriate beauty of the structure and for its "academic fitness," though the conservatively minded beholders regretted "the unnecessary and elaborate ornamentation" of it. We look on Barclay Hall today no longer as a thing of beauty. We contrast its buttresses and pointed arches and heavy tower and semi-gothic gables and its Port Deposit granite with the beauty and loveliness of our best Colonial buildings in soft gray stone and we wish that the architect of the 'seventies had had the wisdom and insight of the builders of Lloyd Hall and the Union. Every college and university in the country has some building from that era that is a "misfit" with all its other buildings. But whether we like Barclay Hall architecturally or not, we must realize that its erection marks a turning point in the life of the college. It is a revolutionary mile-stone. The old school day feature of Haverford hung

on, with the student always under the eye of an instructor and with petty rules and regulations, until the new dormitory was installed. The grub at length hatched and found its wings. An old historian of the college was right when he said that the building of Barclay Hall was "the dawn of a golden age." They builded worse than they knew from the point of view of architecture, but "better than they knew" for the inward and invisible life of the college.

Before Barclay Hall was built, Alumni Hall had already been added to the little coterie of buildings. Thomas Kimber had in 1863 started the ball rolling for that consummation. He made an initial subscription of \$5,000 towards its cost and when the necessary sum was secured, he helped to raise a further subscription of \$10,000 to endow the Library which was to be housed in one of its "wings." Some called it a "pagan structure" and others called it an "Episcopal chapel," but on the whole it had lines of beauty, and, if there was to be a deviation from the more suitable colonial type, it was a commendable piece of work. The first Commencement to be held in it was that of 1864, and the slowly growing Library was installed in the north wing. I have been told that when the beautiful English ivy on the front of this building was planted by one of the later classes—I know which one—one of the students seized the great roast of meat which lay in the kitchen waiting for the cook to put it in the oven, and buried it under the roots of the newly planted vine. Everybody wondered where the meat vanished to and everybody also wondered why the ivy grew so rapidly and luxuriously!

Already as early as 1853 the new wing to Founders Hall, now parallel to the dining hall, had been built, though it was not finished until 1855. It was 96 feet by 25 feet and two storeys high. The second storey was used for laboratories and the first floor at a later time was furnished as a gymnasium. This building has had many uses and many vicissitudes, and is, for older men, a store house of memories. These buildings, with the old observatory and the carpenter shop, made up the total stock of buildings,

up to a period beyond the semi-centennial when Chase Hall was built in its original form in 1887.

Until 1882 the dining room was in the basement of Founders Hall, a dull, dark and uninteresting place. In the autumn of that year it was changed to the first floor of the same Hall, occupying what is at present the large mathematical room and the wide hall-way which approaches the new dining hall from the south. The deeply worn and hollowed stone step at the middle entrance of Founders was worn down by the hurrying feet obeying the summons of the dinner bell. Not far from the present dining hall stood a laundry. About 1887 this eye-sore structure was somewhat beautified and turned into a senior dining room where the upper class men ate apart in solitary state. This situation lasted on until 1907 when the present spacious Commons Hall was built and joined with Founders' middle entrance, so that the worn stone door-step is being worn still deeper.

Throughout its history the invisible college has always outrun the visible one. The intellectual and spiritual assets have always far overpassed the material assets. In these few buildings great things were all the time being done. "Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces—for this God is our God for ever and ever," is the way an ancient patriot felt about his beloved city. It was what was *in it* rather than what *the eye saw* that made it great. Through all this period of formation the college was the nursery of men and was building the interior lives of its students.

Besides the Loganian Society which was the most visible expression of the higher culture of the college, there were two rival societies which together practically included the entire student body. They were, in order of their birth, the "Athenaeum Society" and the "Everett Society." The former was founded in 1855 and the latter in 1858. They were literary and debating societies, devoted to "sound learning in disciplining the mind and maturing the understanding"—"a correct taste for literature and

a love for scientific pursuits." Each Society had its literary periodical, *The Gem* for the Athenaeum and *The Bud* for the Everett. These two literary journals with an annual content of about 500 pages were the repositories of the literary activity of the college over and above the *crème de la crème* which was supposed to go into *The Collegian*, the organ of the Loganian Society. There was an intense rivalry between them which was revealed in two ways, in the appeal for members, and in the annual size of the periodical. Each Society made a vigorous bid for every entering student who was bombarded with the good points, now of the Everett and now of the Athenaeum, even before he got to Haverford. One student during this period of rivalry entered deficient in his Latin. An Athenaeum member coached him and helped him to wipe off his "condition," hoping by this kindly act to win him for that Society. Alas, the ungrateful man joined the Everett! There was a corresponding rivalry over the total output of pages in *The Gem* and *The Bud*. It is hard to believe that any living student could be induced to sit through the long evenings listening to the interminable reading of article after article, strung out in the desperate hope of beating the other periodical. The morocco-bound volumes of these literary journals fill many "five-foot shelves" in the Library. After 1885 these Societies waned and grew feeble. They were united into the "Everett-Athenaeum" in 1888 but with the element of rivalry gone and with an era of changed interests the Societies which meant so much to a former generation died a natural and easy death.

The birth of *The Haverfordian* was another mile-stone in the literary progress of the college. *The Grasshopper* was its forerunner, though *The Grasshopper* was only an annual publication, and it suffered under faculty disapproval. Walter C. Hadley was more truly, perhaps, than any other single individual, "father" of *The Haverfordian*. He was its first Business Manager. He had had some experience in journalism and he was able to take the lead in the bold adventure. Dr. Clayton W. Townsend, an M.D. when he entered Haverford as a junior in 1878, was the first edi-

tor-in-chief. The third creator of the college paper was William A. Blair '81, of North Carolina. The first issue appeared in the spring of 1879 and from its inception it showed virility and true survival quality. It soon tended to overshadow *The Collegian*, *The Gem* and *The Bud*.

Another important creation was the college Y M C A which like *The Haverfordian* was born in 1879. Jesse H. Moore '81 of North Carolina was "father" of the organization, and Josiah P. Edwards '80 of Indiana was its first president. It became at once a powerful religious influence in college life and for more than half a century was an important factor in the spiritual development of the students.

President Garfield used to say that he had rather go to college to Mark Hopkins sitting on a log in the woods than to the best equipped institution in the world with a lot of second-class teachers. Fortunately Haverford was far beyond the log-stage and it had its full quota of Mark Hopkinses. I have referred already to some of the stars in the Haverford constellation, but there were others also of high magnitude. I shall have much to say in a later chapter of President Isaac Sharpless and his work, but I must refer briefly here to his coming and to his early period at Haverford. He was born in Birmingham, Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1848. He came of a long line of Quaker ancestors and the ideals, principles, customs and manners of the Quakers were an inherent part of his blood and breath. As a little boy he attended a small school near his home and at the age of fourteen he began his work at Westtown School where a life-long attachment to this institution was formed and friendships that were to enrich his life throughout his days. One of the most important shaping influences on his life at Westtown came from a fine Quaker gentleman and scholar, Samuel Alsop, who came to Haverford as Professor and Superintendent in 1875, the same year that Isaac Sharpless joined the faculty. Both this Samuel Alsop and his father Samuel were mathematicians of note, and

they did much to produce a long line of good Quaker mathematical scholars of whom Isaac Sharpless was the most brilliant.

He began his career as teacher at Westtown School in 1867, being told by the Committee, he used humorously to relate, that he was chosen because they were unable to find anyone else to fill the place! In 1872-3 he spent an important year in the Lawrence Scientific School at Harvard, returning to Westtown in the autumn of 1873 where he remained until he was called to Haverford two years later. His success as a teacher and his popularity with the students were evident from the first. He was possessed of rare and unique humor. He was at home in a class room. He knew how to teach. He had manifest qualities of leadership and from the first he shared in all the activities of the college. His promotion was bound to come.

In 1878 another important name was added to the list. This was Allen C. Thomas '65 of Baltimore. He came primarily to fill a business position with the curious title of Prefect, but he soon revealed the broad range of his knowledge and he was to make in later years an indispensable contribution to the college. In 1879 "the John Farnum Professorship of Physics and Chemistry" was established as a result of a gift of the heirs of John Farnum. In 1880 Lyman Beecher Hall, who had studied at Amherst College and Johns Hopkins University and had taken his Doctor's Degree at Göttingen University, was appointed to fill that chair and he then began a great career as teacher in the college. Two years later in 1882, Seth K. Gifford, '76 was called from Friends School, Providence, Rhode Island, to be Assistant Professor of Greek and Latin and promoted to a full professorship in Greek in 1885. He, too, was to become one of the leading and guiding lights in the institution for the next quarter of a century. These scholars and others in their train, have helped to make the college the famous seat of learning which it has now become.

In 1878 the Charter of the Corporation was changed from a stock company with transferable shares to a non-stock corporation. An important by-law, adopted at the time, provided that

the members of the Corporation should be members of the Society of Friends. That limitation of membership continued until 1930 and it prevented the college from being included in the list of institutions which shared in the Carnegie pension fund. Rather than change the by-law in order to secure a financial advantage, the Managers generously provided for the college a pension-system of its own on the same basis as that of the Carnegie plan. The Corporation, and consequently the Board of Managers, was to remain confined to the Society of Friends until the autumn of 1930 when, by a change of the Charter, four non-Friends were elected to membership on the Board.