

Gallaudet made no allusion to it in his *Memoirs* even though his 1873 Report showed a deficit of \$10,697.46. He did not feel that it was proper or wise to borrow again a portion of the annual appropriation for the support of the Institution, which the Board had previously advised. And since the real estate of the Institution was vested in the United States, he ventured in his 1873 Report to direct the attention of Congress to this indebtedness, and to ask that an appropriation be made. He also published a full list of the donors to the purchase of Kendall Green.

In 1874 Gallaudet made the purchase of the Baker Library, already referred to, and he published in his Report an estimate of funds he thought would be needed to complete his building program. Including the deficit of \$10,697, the figures showed that between 1864-1874 Congress would have contributed \$115,697. This, he felt, compared favorably with the cost of such government establishments as the Military and Naval Academies, the Insane Hospital of the District, and many of the recently constructed state institutions.

It was also in 1874 that a change was made in the old College custom of having annual public exercises at the end of the academic year, when the weather is almost certain to be hot. Gallaudet conceived the idea of having the anniversary exercises in May and of calling the occasions Presentation Day, a term formerly used at Yale University. The Seniors were presented as candidates for degrees rather than as recipients of degrees, which would come after their final examinations. Such a large gathering often included ambassadors, Government officials, and other dignitaries. Often the President of the United States presided in his role of Patron of the Institution, as when President Grant dedicated the Main Building upon its completion during the winter of 1871, at exercises held January 29 in the hall of the new building. At the proper moment Grant arose and in his usual cryptic manner uttered the words: "Ladies and Gentlemen: I hereby pronounce to be complete the dedication of this institution to the humane purposes to which it has been assigned by the various acts of Congress making appropriations for its erection and support." From President Grant through President Theodore Roosevelt, the only President who failed to visit the College since it had observed public anniversaries was McKinley. Taft promised to appear, but at the last moment was detained by official business.

It was during the winter of 1873-74 that Gallaudet presented his final plans for the completion of the College Building. This was discussed by his Board in the room of the Senate Committee on the