A SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF JONATHAN MAXCY, D.D.
A Sketch of the Life and Character of

JONATHAN MAXCY, D. D.

—BY—

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The accompanying sketch of the life and character of Dr. Jonathan Maxcy purports to be no more than a collection of facts and opinions about that great man. I have not hesitated to glean, in fact, harvest, from whatever source I could find information; nor have I neglected to use the language that I found, knowing, as I do, that the work would be much better expressed in the language of others than in that of myself. I have not always given the source of the language, but with audacity appropriated sentences and paragraphs and pages bodily whenever it suited my purpose to do so. I say the work is better on that account.

The sketch is not as complete as I wanted to make it. Great contemporaries of Dr. Maxcy have said that they tried to write an adequate description of his life and character, but always felt that they had failed because the subject could not be dealt with justly and with proper credit to Dr. Maxcy. How, therefore, could I dare to hope to do so? Whatever of success I have had is largely due to the numerous helpers in different parts of the country. My thanks are due especially to Dr. W. H. P. Faunce, President of Brown University; to Professor W. B. Bronson, of Brown University; to Mrs. George St. John Sheffield, of Attleborough, Massachusetts; to Professor Yates Snowden, of the University of South Carolina; to Dr. E. L. Green, University of South Carolina; and to numerous others who generously gave their assistance; and altho I do not call them by name, my thanks are nevertheless just as sincere.
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A SKETCH
OF THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF
DR. JONATHAN MAXCY

I.
ANCESTRY, BIRTH AND EDUCATION

The first settlement within the bounds of the town of Attleborough, Massachusetts, which town was divided in 1887 into Attleborough, and North Attleborough, was in the neighborhood of the Baptist meetinghouse, where Hatch's old tavern was standing in 1886, and perhaps still stands. This settlement was commenced by Mr. John Woodcock, his sons and their families, in 1669. Here he built a public house on the "Bay Road," and fortified it as a garrison, and laid out lands to the amount of about three hundred acres, which afterwards made an excellent farm. This "Garrison" was one of the chain of fortifications extending from Boston to Rhode Island. It was a famous place on the "Bay Road"—a convenient public house for travelers as well as a well known station in King Philip's war. It witnessed many a military force on its march to the defence of the colonists, and such often halted and encamped there on their route overnight, and sometimes longer, while waiting for additional forces.

It was this house and the surrounding farm that Alexander Maxcy, who came from Gloucester, Massachusetts,
with his family, about 1721, bought and settled upon. He continued the public house. Alexander Maxcy was a soldier in Gallup’s Company for the sad expedition in 1690 of Phips against Québec. He died September 20, 1723, leaving three daughters and four sons, one of whom was Josiah Maxcy. Josiah was for many years a member of the colonial legislature of Massachusetts, and throughout a long life, enjoyed the esteem and confidence of his community. He died in 1772, leaving eleven children. His second son Levi, whose wife was Ruth, daughter of Jacob Newell, was the father of Jonathan, the subject of this sketch, Milton, Virgil and Levi. Jonathan was the eldest son. His mother was a woman of strong mind and devoted piety, and beautifully exemplified the practical influence of the Christian religion, by the uniform consistency which marked the whole tenor of her life. Upon her devolved the delightful duty of implanting in the mind of her son those seeds of truth and righteousness, which should in after years bud and blossom into usefulness. She had the happiness to see her son eminent for literature, and successively elevated to the presidency of three colleges. This excellent woman died in 1815, aged 72, having been a worthy member of the first Baptist church in Attleborough fifty-two years. His father was one of the most respectable inhabitants of the town in which he lived. He was a man of sound understanding, and occasionally amused himself in writing verses. The following epitaph was written by him on his honest and faithful colored servant, who was an exemplary member of the first Baptist church in Attleborough:

"Here lies the best of slaves
Now turning into dust;
Caesar, the Ethiopian craves
A place among the just."
"His faithful soul has fled
To realms of heavenly light;
And, by the blood of Jesus shed,
Is chang'd from black to white.

"January 15, he quitted the stage,
In the 77th year of his age."

Milton Maxcy graduated at Rhode Island College (now Brown University) in 1802, and afterwards became an eminent lawyer in Beaufort, South Carolina, where he died of yellow fever in 1818. Levi, another son distinguished for his talents, though not liberally educated, died at the South also.

Virgil graduated in 1804, at Rhode Island College, which was changed that same year to Brown University, in consequence of a munificent gift by the Hon. Nicholas Brown, of Providence, who at various times made donations to the institution in excess of $100,000.00. Virgil Maxcy possessed talents and accomplishments of a high order. He was a ripe scholar, a finished gentleman, and a pure statesman. In political life he exhibited a rare union of political firmness, united with candor and moderation. After studying law, he settled in Maryland, and soon rose to professional eminence. He was successively distinguished in both houses of the Maryland Legislature; as solicitor of the United States Treasury; and as Charge d’Affaires from this country to the Court of the King of Belgium. In all the high and responsible stations which he was called to fill, he displayed signal abilities, and received the meed of high praise. He, along with the Hon. Abel P. Upshur, the Secretary of State; the Hon. Thomas Gilmer, the Secretary of the Navy; Capt. Beverly Kennon, chief of the Navy Bureau; and the Hon. David Gardiner, of New York, was killed by a mysterious explosion of a gun on board the United States Steamship Princeton, February 28, 1844.
We shall not be surprised, in view of his noble and sturdy ancestry, and in view of the eminent abilities of his brothers, to find that Jonathan Maxcy was a man in whom flowered out the strength, grace and dignity of character that made him famous not only in the section of his nativity and that of his adoption, but also in all parts of the United States.

Jonathan Maxcy, S. T. D., President of Rhode Island, Union, and the South Carolina colleges, was born in Attleborough (the part now called North Attleborough) September 2, 1768, ninety-nine years after his great-grandfather moved into that vicinity. He began to show his extraordinary talent and maturity of intellect at an early age. Often when a boy he would give his companions in his neighborhood examples of his extemporaneous oratory, which would have done credit to riper years. The proof of his genius and his devotion to books, which he so early demonstrated, warranted his parents in planning to give him a liberal education. He was therefore registered at the Wrentham Academy, Wrentham, Mass., to be prepared for college. This academy was presided over by the Rev. William Williams. It was the most celebrated academy in that part of the state, and the master was a teacher of worth and reputation. Naturally, therefore, this school was the stepping stone to college for a great many young men who desired a liberal education. The Wrentham Academy passed out of existence years ago. The teaching was done in a small building near the master’s house, which is still standing. Among the assistants was Hannah Adams who wrote the "History of the Jews." The Rev. Mr. Williams was a member of the first class that graduated at Rhode Island College, in 1769, and from 1789 to 1818, he was a member of the Board of Fellows of that Institution. He opened his academy for teaching languages, arts and sciences in 1776. He educated more than one hundred students, the majority of whom gradu-
ated at his Alma Mater, and many of them became more distinguished in after life than he in literature and the professions, which is often the case—the fame of the student becoming greater than that of the preceptor. Among his pupils were, besides Dr. Maxcy, the late Hon. David R. Williams, Governor of South Carolina and member of Congress, the Hon. Tristam Burges, LL. D., late Professor of Oratory and Belles Letters in Brown University, and for many years a Representative in Congress from Rhode Island, and Horace Mann, the great educator. Dr. Maxcy was accustomed to speak in the highest respect of his eminent instructor, and became much attached to him in after life.

In 1783, at the age of fifteen, he entered Rhode Island College. His love of study, and his success in his work followed him here. He became a universal favorite with both the faculty and the students on account of his talents, his manners and his deportment. He excelled in whatever task he set himself. Versatility and keenness and vigor of mind, marked his career in college, and he soon became an accomplished scholar. His compositions were held up as models to his classmates. He was now showing that delicacy of taste, clearness of conception, and classic purity which he perfected in later life, and for which he became famous. He graduated in 1787, with the highest honors of his class, on which occasion he delivered the valedictory and a poem entitled, "On the Prospects of America," a theme which he often discussed in later life with apparent prophetic insight, and with good effect. In couplets which have, Professor Bronson says, "much of the smooth eloquence characteristic of the school of Pope, he sketches the great future which awaits the New World, including this picture of the college at Providence:

"There shall bright learning fix her last retreat,
Her joyous sons, a num'rous concourse meet;
Each art shall there to full perfection grow,"
And all be known that man shall ever know;
There shall religion pure from heav'n descend,
Her influence mild thro' all degrees extend;
Each different sect shall then consenting join,
Walk in her domes, and bend before her shrine;
Virtue shall reign, each heart expand with praise,
And hail the prospect of celestial days."

A vacancy in a tutorship occurred immediately after his graduation, and such were his qualifications and such was the impression that he had made on the corporation, that he was at once appointed to fill the vacancy, altho he was only nineteen years old. This fact alone bears sufficient evidence of his accomplishments and ability. This new field served as a stimulus to his already keenly awakened and alert mind, and he filled the vacancy with satisfaction to the corporation and with great credit to himself, so much so that when he resigned his tutorship to take up other work the corporation of the college passed the following resolution, April 13, 1791: "Resolved, That Mr. Maxcy's request for dismission from the office of Tutor be granted, and that the thanks of this Corporation be presented to him for his faithful services therein."

Rev. James Manning, D. D., was first president of Rhode Island College and pastor of the first Baptist church of Providence at the same time. He was born in New Jersey and was graduated from Princeton, with the first honors of his class. He became a minister and served a church in Warren, R. I., in 1763, when he recommended the establishment of a Baptist college. In 1764, a charter for the college was obtained from the Legislature of Rhode Island, and the next year he was appointed President and Professor of Languages, with the college at Warren, R. I.

The college was finally and permanently located in Providence, in 1770, and became the first Baptist college in America. In the same year Dr. Manning assumed the
duties of pastor of the first Baptist church in Providence in addition to performing his duties as President and Professor in the college. Such an arrangement has not always been satisfactory—Dr. William S. Brantley was appointed President of Charleston College while he was pastor of the first Baptist church of that city, and accepted the task—and thereby hangs a tale. But there is no record, as far as I have seen, of any dissatisfaction in this case. Dr. Manning also, in 1786, was unanimously appointed a member of Congress from Rhode Island. He was president of the college for twenty-six years, and performed his duties with distinguished ability and unwearied assiduity. It was with such a character that Dr. Maxcy fell in when he entered college, and the nature and inclination of the young man were such as to respond readily and completely to the inspiration of his advice and counsel.

While Mr. Maxcy was a tutor in Rhode Island College he became deeply impressed by the truths of the Christian religion, and he joined the Baptist church in Providence and was baptized by President Manning in 1789. He was licensed to preach by that church April 1, 1790, and was soon after invited to supply its pulpit for several months after Dr. Manning, now over fifty years old, and seeing the great promise of the young minister, and doubtless feeling sensibly the weight of the burdens of his two offices, had resigned as pastor of the church.

Full of the vigor of young manhood and fired with the zeal of a young convert, he threw himself into his work with great enthusiasm and earnestness. His young and growing mind was continually improved by diligence and application. He shone in his new place with great brilliancy. He filled his station with such satisfaction to the church that he was soon invited to take the pastoral charge. After mature deliberation, he resigned his tutorship and accepted that important and respectable station. He was ordained as pastor of the First Baptist Church in
Providence, September 8, 1791. On the same day he was appointed by the Corporation of the college, Professor of Divinity, and elected a trustee of the college. He was the first and only Professor of Divinity ever appointed in the college.

Mr. Maxcy entered upon the discharge of his duties as a minister “with earnestness, and a deep sense of his responsibility. His sermons were prepared with great care and accuracy, and delivered in a manner so chaste, dignified and impressive that they were always heard with profound attention and delight. In his pulpit addresses and pastoral visitations, he delighted in administering balm to the sorrowful, and in teaching the desponding where to look for consolation.”

He was making good use of his powers of elocution, and was rapidly advancing to the acme of fame as a pulpit orator. He did not long remain pastor of the church, however, for Dr. Manning having died, he was unanimously elected President pro tempore of the college. He resigned his pastoral charge September 7, 1792, one year after assuming it, and on the same day was inducted into the presidential chair. He never again served as regular pastor of a church, and yet his fame as a pulpit orator was as great, if not greater than, his fame as an educator, although he was engaged in the business of teaching more than a score of years.

It is significant that Mr. Maxcy in his later life, expressed convictions just as strong as those of Roger Williams, perhaps, that liberty of conscience is an inalienable right of the individual, and doubtless the heritage of religious freedom that he received from his connection with the State of Rhode Island and with the church established by the founder of that State, had much to do in giving him a breadth of sympathy and a catholicity of views on matters of religion, about which more will be said later.
II.

AS PRESIDENT OF RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

After the death of President Manning, July 29, 1791, there was no formal head of the college until the election of Jonathan Maxcy as President, pro tempore, September, 1792. On September 8, as has been said already, he assumed the duties of president, being only six days over twenty-four years of age, perhaps the youngest college president in the United States at that time. Mr. Maxcy was well qualified to perform the duties of this arduous and honorable position and he threw his whole energies into the performance of the duties of his office. Luckily for him, his popularity helped him in his work, and his career commenced under the most favorable auspices. At the first commencement succeeding his inauguration, the college was illuminated, and a transparency was placed in the attic story displaying his name, with "President 24 Years Old."

Mr. Maxcy was given five years' trial as President pro tempore, and then, in 1797, was made full president. Dr. Romeo Elton, his editor and writer of his Memoir, has the following to say of President Maxcy: "The University over which he presided with distinguished honor to himself and benefit to the public, flourished under his administration, and his fame was extended over every section of the union. The splendor of his genius, and his brilliant talents as an orator and a divine, were seen and admired by all. Between the President and his associates in office, there was an intercourse of mind and feeling the most harmonious and delightful. He had nothing of that dictatorial, imperious and overbearing spirit which persons,
A Sketch of the Life and

who are elevated to power, are too apt to assume. He endeared himself to the students, by his courteous and conciliatory manners, and his paternal solicitude for their welfare, while his various and exact knowledge, sound judgment, refined taste and impressive eloquence, commanded their respect and supported his authority. President Maxcy beautifully exemplified the maxim:

'Ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes
Emollit mores, nec sinit esse feros.'

His government was reasonable, firm and uniform, and marked in its administration by kindness, frankness and dignity. He did not attempt to support his authority, as is sometimes done, by distance, austerity and menace, but his pupils were addressed and treated as young gentlemen. He well knew human nature, and especially the character of young men, and hence his appeals were made to the understanding, the magnanimity and the conscience of his pupils.'

President Maxcy's brother, the honorable Virgil Maxcy in his discourse before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Brown University, delivered September 4, 1833, had this remark to make about President Maxcy's administration over Rhode Island College, that he was one "Whose name and fame are identified with its reputation, and whose mildness, dignity and goodness equalled only by his genius, learning and eloquence, subdued all envy, made all admirers, friends, and gave him an irresistible sway over the minds of those placed under his care."

Professor Walter C. Bronson in his "History of Brown University" says that President Maxcy's chief service to Rhode Island College was his teaching of oratory and belles lettres, and widening the fame of the institution by his personal reputation as an orator and divine. And Dr. Elton has said that under his administration "The college acquired a reputation for belles lettres and eloquence in-
Character of Jonathan Maxcy

The fact that more than half the graduates of Maxcy's time entered the law or the ministry affords striking proof of the great prominence given to rhetoric and oratory under his administration. And "though destitute of funds and of patronage from the legislature of the State, guided by his genius and wisdom, the college flourished and diffused its light over every part of our country. It sent forth a constellation of accomplished scholars, whose eloquence has glowed upon the altar, guarded the rights and privileges of the people, and shone in the halls of Congress."

James Tallmadge, Jr., a student of Rhode Island College, wrote to a classmate in 1798: "I attended the commencement at Newhaven and find it though much celebrated, not equal to ours. The students speak formally and theatrically. Their compositions were very poor, scarcely equal to our Sophomore productions." Professor Bronson says this statement is at least proof that the ideals of speaking, under Maxcy, included simplicity and naturalness. But modern judgment cannot be wholly favorable, says Professor Bronson, judging from the few specimens that have been published and preserved. The faults are inflation, wordiness, profusion of imagery, confusion of thoughts, commonplaceness of thought, and looseness of reasoning. And yet he sees a kind of power and fluency in them, while the defects are chiefly those of youthful exuberance. Some specimens are moderate and sensible throughout, and occasionally the floridity itself held a promise realized in later years, as in the case of Tristam Burges, of the class of 1796, who was his most distinguished pupil in the oratorical art, and who Professor Bronson says, as Congressman from Rhode Island successfully stemmed the tide of John Randolph's sarcastic eloquence.

Whatever the judgment may be on the oratory of commencement at that time, commencement was a time of
growing importance for the college and in the eyes of the surrounding country, and President Maxcy's program was bringing education before the people, and the enrollment of the college was increasing year by year.

During his Presidency of Rhode Island College, Dr. Maxcy published nine sermons, four addresses to graduates, and three orations. They are all written with great beauty and felicity of diction, and exhibit vast attainments and a mind of the first order. Their number and variety, considering his duties as President and his numerous avocations, evince his industry and the extent of his capacity.

"Dr. Maxcy's most celebrated performance while he presided over Brown University, regarded as a specimen of pulpit oratory, was his sermon on the 'Existence and Attributes of God,' delivered at Providence in 1795, which was frequently spoken of at the end of nearly half a century, and produced at the time the most lively and striking effect on the audience," says Mrs. Geo. St. J. Sheffield. Those who heard it never forgot it. The impression it produced was the result in a great degree of the manner of its delivery. Such a brilliant effort of eloquence has seldom been witnessed in any house of public worship. This discourse, tho enlivened by a bold, luxuriant, and brilliant imagination, and a loftiness of conception, is yet characterized by his usual neatness and simplicity of language. Indeed, in his highest flights his style of writing was always remarkable for a pure English idiom and a classical simplicity of language." Dr. Romeo Elton, previously quoted, says of this sermon: "The natural element of his mind was greatness, and on subjects of this nature, his powers were displayed to uncommon advantage. Here he made his hearers feel the grasp of his intellect and subdued them by his logical arguments, his profound reasoning, and his deep pathos. In identifying the sympathies of his hearers with the development and progress
Character of Jonathan Maxcy

of the subject, and, in elevating the best affections of the heart, he was unrivalled. His train of thought in this sermon is luminous and philosophical, and it attracts our attention by its sublime sentiments and beautiful imagery, expressed in classical and forceful language.

He says further of President Maxcy's two "Discourses on the Doctrine of the Atonement," published in 1796. "He possessed, in an eminent degree, the art of explaining the most abstract subjects in an obvious and convincing manner, and his style is as clear as the most limpid stream. These Discourses afford a striking contrast to many of the flimsy and superficial sermons of the present day (1844.) His views on the Atonement are in unison with those of President Edwards, and for acute and powerful reasoning, we think the intelligent reader will rank them among the ablest productions on this subject which our country has produced."

Another quotation from Dr. Elton's Memoir: "As a pulpit orator, Dr. Maxcy, during his Presidency of Brown University, was powerful and fascinating, and wherever he preached, the place of worship was crowded. In the eloquent language of one of his pupils, 'What man who knew him can forget Maxcy, the disciple and successor of Manning? Altho our country abounds in able and learned divines, and the pulpit is everywhere adorned with eloquence, yet who, among them all, does in the enchanting attribute of utterance, approach so near as Maxcy approached to the glorious character of Him 'Who spoke as never man spoke.' The eloquence of Maxcy was mental. You seemed to hear the soul of the man; and each one of the largest assembly, in the most extended place of worship, received the slightest impulse of his silver voice as if he stood at his very ear. So entirely would he enchant attention, that in the most thronged audience, you heard nothing but him, and the pulsations of your own heart. His utterance was not more perfect than his whole discourse was instructive and enchanting."
President Maxcy's reputation as a scholar and divine was established beyond question, and altho he was only thirty-three years of age, the honorary degree of S. T. D., was conferred upon him by Harvard University, in 1801.

His celebrity as a teacher and a thinker spread over the country with the coming years. On April 21, 1802, he was elected President of Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., to succeed the Rev. Jonathan Edwards, the Younger, lately deceased, and in September 1802, after having served Rhode Island College fifteen years as tutor, professor and president, he resigned the Presidency of his Alma Mater to accept the new position.

Dr. Maxcy presided over Union College only two years, and altho he did not enhance his reputation appreciably as a scholar or an orator, in the words of the Rev. Gardiner B. Perry, who was a student of Dr. Maxcy's both at Rhode Island College and at Union, "He was exclusively devoted to the duties of his office and to his studies, and he was remarkable for diligent and persevering labor." He seems to have discharged his duties as President as successfully as he had at Rhode Island College, and he was highly esteemed as an instructor. He had in a marked degree the power of stimulating thought and discussion among the students. Here as at Rhode Island College, he paid great attention to English composition and to extemporaneous speaking. Here also he had associations formed among the students for the purpose of developing their oratorical powers, his instructions to them being "to avoid irrelevant speaking, or attempting to maintain by sophistry an untruth, or giving any plausibility to error, or suggesting any apology for crime."

These were years of declining health, and it was with the hope of regaining his health by a change of climate that he accepted a call to be the first President of the South Carolina College, being elected April 28, 1804.
III.

AS FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE

The political and educational status of South Carolina in the latter half of the eighteenth century was far from what statesmen and patriots wished it to be. It is true that along the coast the English, along the Savannah the Swiss, along the Edisto the German Protestants, along the Santee the French Protestants, and in Williamsburg the Irish—it is true that these differing and distinct nationalities, struggling for a common purpose, the possession of freedom and a home in a free land, had solidified politically, economically and educationally, and had established schools of a character. It is true that their sons were educated in the best universities of Europe and the North. But the upcountry, settled largely after 1750, could not boast of such attainments. And the population was rapidly increasing. They were in South Carolina, and they should be allowed the privileges of government that belong to free citizens. When the capital was removed to Columbia, the geographical center of the State, these upcountry people began to demand and receive their just share of representation. The low country people, cognizant of the benefits of education, nay, the absolute necessity of it in those who make the laws, began to become uneasy lest the government should pass into the hands of those who were incompetent. With true patriotism and statesmanship they began to agitate the question of the establishment of a college at Columbia, that would be the seat of learning for the youth of all sections of the State. There had been efforts made to establish colleges
in various parts of the State, but they had failed for lack of support. Now that the necessity of making this heterogeneous population into a homogeneous citizenship was seen, statesmen put their heads together and brought about the enactment of a law establishing a college at Columbia, believing that the desired effect could be produced by putting together the young men of the various sections to study the same subjects under the same faculty. Association thru the months and years would bring about a community of interests and ideas, and mutual friendships that would cause the State to coalesce. And the representatives of the upcountry, having a liberal education, would be as safe in the halls of legislation as those from the low-country. Thus the act establishing the South Carolina College was passed December 19, 1801.

Incident to the opening of the college there were many and arduous tasks before the Board of Trustees. Not the least of these tasks was the selection of a president. Dr. Richard Furman, the strongest advocate of education, except perhaps a few, in South Carolina, a man who had been instrumental in having young South Carolinians to go to colleges in the North, in the absence of higher institutions of learning in the South, particularly Rhode Island College, became acquainted with the character and power of Dr. Jonathan Maxcy, and in a letter to the Board of Trustees of the South Carolina College, suggested the election of Dr. Maxcy. Meanwhile the president of the Board of Trustees had been instructed "to write to the Principals of the various colleges in America, and to all others to whom he may think fit to apply, requesting them to recommend such persons as they think best qualified to fill the offices of Principal and Professors in the South Carolina College." Dr. Furman and Dr. Maxcy were both Federalists. Dr. McCalla whose candidacy was urged on the grounds that he was a Democrat, was defeated when Col. Wade Hampton, a member of the Board, made the
statement that he saw no necessary connection between politics and literature. Be it said to the everlasting glory of the Board of Trustees that they were broad-minded enough to elect the man who was, in their opinion, most capable of producing the results that they desired and that the State needed, and not to elect according to the promptings of prejudice. Dr. Maxcy, who had already shone so brilliantly in two colleges, was selected to place the infant on its feet and train it to do the work laid out for it. A tremendous task, but a mighty man to perform it! South Carolina was to have a meeting spot for the two sections, and the wild youth of the upcountry were to learn that the restraint of law was not incompatible with freedom. How such an object must have stirred the imagination of Dr. Maxcy!

In narrating the story of Dr. Maxcy’s connection with the South Carolina College, I shall not go into minutest details, but shall tell the main facts only.

On the 5th of December Dr. Maxcy was elected a trustee, in place of H. W. DeSaussure, who had resigned. Dr. La Borde says: “This fact is not unworthy of note, as it established other and not less important relations between that remarkable man and the college, and gave a new field for the display of that genius which impressed itself so signally upon all who came in contact with it.” As a member of the Board of Trustees, he became a member of the very important Standing Committee of the Board.

In this day when the sciences, and numerous other subjects, which have become more or less important because of our more complex civilization, or more or less vehicles to ride upon to the coveted goal of a degree, it is interesting to note the entrance requirements, and the courses of study for the several classes. I copy from the Report of Committee on Rules and Regulations, which report was considered the day after Dr. Maxcy’s election as Trustee.

“Sec. 3. For admission to the Freshman Class, a can-
A Sketch of the Life andCandidate shall be able to render from Latin into English, Cornelius Nepos, Sallust, Caesar's Commentaries and Virgil's Ænide; to make grammatical Latin of the exercises in Mair's Introduction; to translate into English any passage from the Evangelist St. John, in the Greek Testament; to give a grammatical analysis of the words, and have a general knowledge of the English grammar; write a good, legible hand, spell correctly, and be well acquainted with Arithmetic as far as includes the Rule of Proportion.

Sec. 4. The studies of the Freshman year shall be the Greek Testament, Xenophon's Cyropædia, Mair's Introduction, Virgil, Cicero's Orations, Roman Antiquities, Arithmetic, English Grammar, and Sheridan's Lectures on Elocution. A part of every day's Latin lesson shall be written in a fair hand, with an English translation, and correctly spelled.

Sec. 5. The studies of the Sophomore year shall be Homer's Iliad, Horace, Vulgar and Decimal Fractions, with the extractions of Roots, Geography, Watt's Logic, Blair's Lectures, Algebra, the French Language and Roman Antiquities.

Sec. 6. The studies of the Junior year shall be Elements of Criticism, Geometry Theoretical and Practical, Astronomy, Natural and Moral Philosophy, French, Longinus de Sublimitate, and Cicero de Oratore.

Sec. 7. The studies of the Senior year shall be Millots' Elements of History, Demosthenes' Select Orations, and such parts of Locke's Essay as shall be prescribed by the Faculty. The Seniors, also, shall review such parts of the studies of the preceding year, and perform such exercises in the higher branches of the Mathematics as the Faculty may direct.

Sec. 8. From the time of their admission into college, the students shall be exercised in Composition and public speaking, for which purpose such a number as the Faculty
shall direct shall daily, in rotation, deliver orations in the college hall. There shall also be public exhibitions and competition in speaking and other exercises, held at such times and under such regulations as the Faculty shall require; and every member of the Senior class shall, at least once each month, deliver an oration of his own composition, after submitting it to be perused and corrected by the President.

Unmistakable evidence of Dr. Maxcy’s hand can be seen in this outline of the four years’ work. It should be said here that the courses were not inflexible. Some latitude was given in some instances during Dr. Maxcy’s administration. French was not successfully taught and was not taught at all part of the time.

It is perhaps proper to state here that there is in the College of Charleston Library a pamphlet written by Dr. Maxcy in which is given a course of reading in sacred and profane history for the students of the South Carolina College. There are perhaps five hundred books mentioned, covering perhaps every phase and every recorded detail of ancient, medieval and a great deal of modern history. This would have been laborious work for even the most bookish. I suppose hardly ninety-five per cent of them are used now even as references in our colleges. I surmise that Dr. Maxcy did not expect the students to read them in the original. He himself did not believe in an excessive amount of time being put on the study of a foreign or dead language, giving as a reason that there were good translations and that the best in history can be gotten from good translations.

As to the standard of work required to be done with the above listed works in class, despite the statement made by William C. Preston that at the time he was in college there was not a standard required that was calculated to give a man a liberal education, there is abundant evidence that either because of, or in spite of the standard, the college turned out men who made their impress on their times,
and whose records we are proud to claim as the thoughts
and deeds of fellow alumni. Bishop William Capers in his
autobiography says that before he entered the South Caro­
lina College, in December, 1805, he had read, under the
tutelage of Dr. John M. Roberts, who conducted an aca­
demy near Stateburg, Sumter county, the following works:
Corderius, Erasmus, Cornelius Nepos, Caesar, Sallust,
Virgil, Cicero’s Orations and Horace’s Odes. He entered
the Sophomore class altho Dr. Maxcy had advised him to
enter the Freshman class. Dr. Maxcy let the unwise have
his own way to teach him wisdom. After failure and al­
most serious loss of health, Capers took Dr. Maxcy’s ad­
vice, left college in the spring and came back the follow­
ing winter and entered the Freshman class. A standard
of work was required, and the courses for the several
classes are important, for they really mark the standard
of education of the time. Time would fail me, and it is
not necessary here, to tell of the distinguished list of
alumni that went out from the college walls during the
administration of Dr. Maxcy, strongly marked by the in­
fluence of his character and counsel.

The first commencement was held in December, 1807.
The question uppermost in the minds of all thinking men
of the time was: “Has the college failed or succeeded?”
The answer was easy—the college had triumphed. After
the first commencement the enrollment increased. This
was additional evidence of success.

It is recorded in the minutes of the faculty for the period
from 1808 to 1810, that there were many disorders and ir­
regularities. But the President assisted by the Faculty
stood firm and weathered each storm. This was a fact of
no small importance in the early history of the college, for
it would be easy to see how patronage would be withdrawn
from an institution that could not control its students. Dr.
Maxcy and the Faculty were ever mindful of the conduct
of the students, and Dr. Maxcy frequently addressed them
in chapel on questions of decorum.
The meeting of the Trustees for April, 1810 is very important, for at that time a resolution was passed requiring the Secretary in future to record all reports and letters from the President or Professors. We are thus able to give credit for suggestions of improvement to whom it belongs and see the state of the college as well as observe changes made in the curriculum.

The report the President made November 29, 1810, is of interest for the reasons given in the preceding paragraph. The studies of the several classes are given in detail. Two suggestions made by the President were timely. He suggested that an eloquent and learned Professor of Chemistry would be a most valuable acquisition to the college, and adds that a "Professor of Law, who would deliver a course of lectures to the upper classes, would add much to the value and reputation of the college." He further suggested that a tutor be placed in each wing of the college to keep down disorder. The publication of a catalog of the college was recommended, and he expressed the opinion that "it would be of singular service to the college if a small sum of money could be annually appropriated for procuring new and important publications, critical reviews, and the literary journals of various learned Societies in Europe." He was wide awake to the needs of the college, and did not fail to keep pounding at the Board with the suggestions. We find that he repeated them in later reports—such suggestions as had not been put into practice.

The most striking event of the year 1811, was the removal of Professor Paul Perrault, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, for neglect of college duties. He is represented to be well skilled in Mathematical science, but as wanting in "that dignity which a Freshman would expect in a learned Professor," Dr. Maxcy himself was the accuser. He kept his eye not only upon students but also upon the faculty.

The year 1811 saw also the realization of one of Dr. Maxcy's dreams, that a chair of Chemistry should be es-
established in the South Carolina College. Charles Dewar Simons, of Charleston, was elected first Professor of Chemistry in 1811, and altho there had been some instruction in Chemistry given to the Senior class by Professor Perrault, it must not have been of a very wide or satisfactory nature, since it was an appendage to another chair. Its real introduction as a distinct part of the course may properly be dated from the time of the election of Professor Simons, May 1, 1811. Professor Simons met an untimely death by drowning in the attempt to cross along a causeway in the swamp near Granby when there was a freshet in the river. He was drowned Tuesday, Jan. 21, 1812. This deplorable occurrence was the occasion of the delivery of an eloquent and appropriate funeral discourse by Dr. Maxcy, in the college chapel, on Sunday, Jan. 26.

The year of 1813 was full of trials and difficulties. There was much inattention to studies. It was also a year of contrasts—Legare and McDuffie at this time were burning the midnight oil. Typhus fever broke out in the college in May, and the work of the college was suspended until October, in consequence. For some unrecorded reason religious services in the chapel were discontinued, and the students were permitted to attend the church of their choice on Sundays. "Fisticuff," a very unliterary and ungenteel pastime, was very frequent the latter part of the year. But there was another matter that transcended these in its weight and dangers. I give a lengthy copy from Dr. LaBorde's History of the college, for he was close enough to the time to get possibly a just view of the issue. I give the narrative because it seems to show again Dr. Maxcy's fortitude and power. It seemed not to be enough for the students to be disorderly and riotous, but the Trustees themselves turned against Dr. Maxcy and censured him for dereliction of duty. The quotation is from Dr. LaBorde: "No man ever had bestowed upon him a larger measure of confidence than was enjoyed by this
gentleman, from the first day of his connection to the present time. It was really without limit. Having had great experience as the head of two Northern colleges, and being called to aid in organizing the South Carolina College under the Act of Incorporation, it was very natural that the highest value should attach to his suggestions, and that few should be disposed to question his calmly expressed and deliberate convictions. Everything about it, therefore, bore the impress of his hand. It has been stated already, that there was at this period an increase of disorder. What the cause was which provoked it, I cannot tell. Of course the Trustees were mortified and disappointed, and in a short time, still stronger and very different feeling exhibited itself. It was very natural to visit the state of things upon the President; upon the man who had his own way, and who had been clothed with a power amounting almost to despotism. That they were honest; that they labored for the good of the college alone, and that no unworthy motive could possibly determine their conduct, cannot be questioned. It may be that there was some remissness, some neglect of duty, on the part of the Faculty. It would be cruel to suppose otherwise, for that would be to deny to the Trustees either the virtue of common sense, or common honesty. At the same time it is hard to believe, that the charges preferred against the President are true to anything like the extent to which the accusation goes; for that would be to deny to the Trustees either the virtue of common sense, or common honesty. The discipline of the college was, in some material aspects, defective. The Faculty was always prompt to pass sentence against offenders; but in too many instances, it was but a mere farce. They turned too ready an ear to the promises of the culprit, and to petitions of the students. This policy may succeed for a brief period, but all experience proves that, if continued, it is
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Providence, R. I.

Founded by Roger Williams
Character of Jonathan Maxcy

sure to encourage the violation of law, and to engender a
spirit which strikes at the foundations of all authority. In
reading the records, one is struck by the very anomalous
fact that the grossest offences were perpetrated with the
greatest impunity. In these cases the severest penalties
were promptly proclaimed, and these were the cases, of
course, which secured mediation and interference. A
suspension of a month or two passed without notice; but
whenever an offence of a grave character was committed,
which subjected the perpetrator to a suspension of eight
or ten months, or a year, the sympathies of the college
were at once aroused, and steps were taken either to bring
about a mitigation of the punishment, or its removal.
These efforts generally succeeded. But it was not the
Faculty who erred in this particular, the Board of Trus­
tees pursued the same mistaken line of policy. From the
first years of the college, offences of an aggravated char­
ter were committed, and students reported for expulsion.
This is the highest penalty of the law, and there is a press­
ing necessity that it have a place in every code for the
government of a college. I am not aware that up to this
period there had been a case of expulsion; there may have
been one, tho the records of the Board of Trustees furnish
no conclusive evidence of it. (According to the law, the
Trustees alone could expel.) The greatest offences had
been brought to the attention of the Board; students had
been convicted of gross immoralities; the houses of officers
of the college had been assailed; Professors had been pro­
nounced liars to their faces; the entire Faculty, when as­
sembled, had been insulted and abused; for these, and
other offences of like character, students had been sus­
pended and reported for expulsion; and the Board, after
due consultation, ordered their restoration to their classes.
But I do not acquit the Faculty of error in the matter, for
in every instance I believe it was done by the concurrent
action of the two Boards. Such a state of things is wholly
inconsistent with respect for the laws, or the powers charged with their administration. I need not speak of the utter inefficiency of any criminal code, however sanguinary it may be in its provisions, when one can flatter himself with the hope of escape, even after conviction, from its penalties. But what became of the indictment framed against the President! I can give very little information on the subject. A few facts however will be added from the record. At the meeting of the 21st of April, the resolution of censure was passed, and communicated to him, and on the 24th the Board received a letter from him in reply to the resolution. The charges were now drawn out at full length, and committed to the Standing Committee, with instructions to communicate them to Dr. Maxcy. It was with that body, then, that the issue was made, and the battle fought. There is a tradition that he acquitted himself with masterly power, and triumphant eloquence; that all felt the weight of his genius, and were carried away by its resistless and overwhelming influences. How much of truth there is in this, I know not; but I give this fact from the record, and the reader may draw his own inference. The Board had its next meeting on November 24th, and not the slightest allusion is made to any proceeding against him, and the case is abruptly terminated by a nolle prosequi. Relations of perfect harmony subsist between them, and the President is in his former position of power and influence." This narrative, I think, bears strong evidence of the hold Dr. Maxcy's character and genius had upon those who were in authority.

But new riotings broke out the next year. It is hard to make a crowd of young men submit at once, with no reactionary doings. But the Faculty and the Board were vigorous and determined. Expulsions now were made. The authorities seemed to have learned a lesson from the controversy of the preceding year. We may be sure that
Dr. Maxcy’s influence had its effects finally upon the student body, the Faculty and the Board. Disorders did not cease entirely in the next year or two. Dr. Maxcy’s ill health had something to do with the continuance of disorders for he had frequently to be absent from the meetings of the Faculty. This caused interruptions,—and interruptions cause idleness. Again a resolution was submitted in a meeting of the Board on the 29th of November to disconnect Dr. Maxcy with the college, but it was ordered to lie on the table until the next regular meeting in November, 1816. There is no record of its ever being considered again, as far as I have been able to find.

The college was expanding all the time in its usefulness. New chairs were suggested and added as opportunity allowed. The Standing Committee in its report in November, 1815, suggested the establishment of the Chairs of Political Economy and Belles Lettres as soon as circumstances would permit, and suggested the immediate creation of a Professorship of Mineralogy to be united with the Professorship of Chemistry. Dr. Maxcy’s hand can be seen in these forward movements.

Dr. Maxcy, in his report to the Trustees on the 26th of November, 1816, says: “I regret extremely that it has not been convenient for the Trustees to attend the public examinations, that they might have witnessed the proficiency of the classes. Without this, it is impossible to form an accurate estimate of the real state of the college. I have only to say that the Faculty have been highly gratified with the conduct and proficiency of the students. I have spent nearly thirty years in college business, and I can say with truth, that I never knew an instance in which a college was conducted with such order, peace and industry, as this has been during the last year. We have had no difficulty, except in a few cases, the resort of certain individuals to taverns and other places of entertainment.”
A student of the history of the South Carolina College in these early days will notice an alternation of apparent destruction and construction, but he will be forced to the conclusion that the constructive forces were, in the main, on the ascendancy, and we find that at the close of Dr. Maxcy’s administration, the college was firmly established and had become an integral and necessary part of the life of the State. Dr. Maxcy had done what he had been called upon at the beginning to do, namely, to build up an institution in the central part of the State that would advance the learning, promote friendships between young men from the different sections, and advance the political union of the State. I have given this rapid sketch of the facts in the early history of the college for the reason that the history of the college in those days is largely the biography of Dr. Maxcy. His name and influence appear on almost every page of its history.

Altho Dr. Maxcy’s health was declining in his last years, he did not slacken in his interest in the college or fail to perform of his duties as long as he was able to do so. Just four days before his death he attended a meeting of the Faculty, on May 30. He died on the 4th day of June, 1820, lamented by the student body, the Faculty, the Trustees and a host of friends all over South Carolina and the country at large. Although in declining health for a number of years his death was sudden and unexpected, and produced a shock in every bosom. A quotation from Dr. LaBorde may not be inapt here. "His beloved pupils gathered around his venerated body to look upon it for the last time, and the tear which moistened every eye spoke the fervor of their affection. Never shall I forget the scene. It still lives, and will continue in my memory, amid the mighty wreck of the past. I was invited by his son Jonathan, then a student in college, to watch over his body at night. Need I tell the emotions of a boy who was now for the first time in the company of death! I looked
upon his pale face; life was gone. From the brilliant eye, now closed in death, no longer shot forth the light of genius; but his brow was serene, and he slept in peace.... His body was borne to the grave on the shoulders of his pupils, and committed to the dust amid the heartfelt regrets of the vast assembly who were present to do him honor.” It is rather strange that Dr. LaBorde, who seems to have been present at the funeral, fails to say where the interment was made. I have failed to find the place recorded anywhere, but fortunately I got into communication with one of Dr. Maxcy’s grand-sons, Mr. J. G. Maxcy, who now lives at Frostproof, Florida, and he writes me that his venerable grand-father was buried in the yard of the First Presbyterian church in Columbia, S. C. I have made a search for his grave but failed to find it. Doubtless it is unmarked.

The Faculty and the Board of Trustees took proper cognizance of the death of Dr. Maxcy, and appropriate resolutions were passed.

The Clariosophic Literary Society of which Dr. Maxcy was an honorary member demonstrated its respect and confidence by the erection of the monument which now stands in the center of the campus. The funds were raised by the society; the design was made by the architect, Robert Mills; the inscriptions were composed in English by George McDuffie, and turned into Latin by Dr. Henry, a colleague of Dr. Maxcy’s. The monument was unveiled in 1827.
MAXCY MONUMENT

[Image of the Maxcy Monument]

A still, clear, and cool breezy day in the country, with the pillars at the end of the road. It was written by ski

on the evening, that a distant in college, to watch over the

poetry. Near saw the shadow of a boy who was

for the first time in the campus at midnight, looked
A Sketch of the Life and Character of Jonathan Maxcy

The following translation of the inscriptions was made by Vernon Cook of the class of 1907, and published in "The Carolinian," April, 1909.

WEST FACE

Sacred to the Memory of the Very Reverend
Jonathan Maxcy
Professor of Sacred Theology, First President of the South Carolina College.

Endowed with rare and excellent gifts of mind, such as were fit for even the highest offices of honor, he under favorable auspices, was elected president of this institution at the very time when his singular services were especially profitable to the students for fixing their literary standards and setting right their tastes, both by showing them the way by which they might gain favor among men and by inciting their minds to the pursuit of good arts. Such a teacher was he that in him neither strength of mind, nor ornaments of style, nor richness of diction, nor the charms of seemly bearing, even notably suited for arousing man's affections, none of these were lacking. He performed the duties of teacher with such skill, that while he imparted knowledge, he at the same time, by an easy and correct method, taught the art of investigating truth and reasoning well.

EAST FACE

He showed himself such an able director of the college that by shunning severity and at the same time too close investigation, he preserved equally among the students concord and the authority of the laws. Himself an advocate of the Christian Religion, he exemplified the gentle wisdom of the gospel and defended the way of eternal salvation with arguments founded on the most accurate phil-
osophy. Not easily will you find another to whom it has been granted to offer services either greater or more lasting to this our State—certainly no one whom on account of his pious and deserving mind our youth so greatly extols and proclaims a patron of studies and a benefactor of the State. Moved by the loss of so great a man and memory of his services, the Academic family, named after Apollo of the Clarios, of which he was formerly a member, has had this monument erected.

SOUTH FACE

Born in the State of Massachusetts, on September the second, 1768.

NORTH FACE

He breathed his last at this college, on June the fourth, in the year of the Saviour of men, 1820.

Dr. Maxcy was in his fifty-second year when he died. He had spent all but fifteen years of his life connected with colleges, either as student, instructor or president.
IV.

AS A MAN AND A THINKER.

There is no likeness of Dr. Maxcy preserved, only a silhouette. In his person he was of rather small stature, being about five feet eight inches high. "His features were regular and manly, indicating intelligence and benevolence; and, especially, when exercised in conversation or public speaking, they were strongly expressive, and exhibited the energy of the soul that animated them." "His nose was aquiline, his forehead high, his lips a little protruded, his hair rather dark. He had a peculiar majesty in his walk. Dressed in fair-top-boots, cane in hand, and walking through the campus, he was looked at with admiration by the young. When he entered the college chapel for morning or evening prayers, every student was erect in his place, and as still as death to receive him." Dr. La Borde says when he began to speak the light of genius flashed from his eyes; that he was then a man—yes, more than a man; he seemed as if he was the living embodiment of truth and eloquence.

As a scholar, Dr. Elton thinks Dr. Maxcy was one of the most learned men our country has produced. Criticism, metaphysics, politics, morals and theology all occupied his attention. His stores of knowledge were immense, and always at his command. He early acquired a taste for the abstruse inquiries of metaphysical studies, and he thoroughly understood the principles of the various systems of theology. To this circumstance was probably owing the clearness, precision and facility with which he could separate truth from error, and that gave him such powers of argumentation. Dr. Henry, who pronounced a
A Sketch of the Life and eulogy over Dr. Maxcy, had expressed this same idea twenty-four years before Dr. Elton brought out his book. And yet Dr. Maxcy was not a great scholar in the sense of a thorough and critical knowledge of the languages of antiquity. In fact, he believed that all that was most valuable in the remains of ancient literature could be acquired by means of translations. This is perhaps a weakness in Dr. Maxcy's scholarship, yet that clearness of thinking that seems to come best from a minute study of the classical authors was not lacking to him. He always expressed himself with energy, propriety, clearness and simplicity.

Although his dearest subject seemed to be metaphysics, he did not content himself with it. His reading was immense. He had mastered everything in the department of polite literature. He studied eloquence, the fine arts, and the eloquent and profound parts of science.

As an instructor, Dr. Maxcy, although not unexcelled, possessed unusual ability. His influence over his pupils was composed of all that genius, talent, experience and exalted reputation could inspire. He treated his pupils with kindness and consideration. He saw their difficulties, and entered into their concerns with lively interest. He could get on the level with the attainments of his pupils and adopt his instructions to their capacities. He had the power of presenting his subject in an attractive manner because he could see it in all of its bearings. Dr. Henry, in his eulogy, delivered in the chapel, at the request of the faculty, on Wednesday evening, Dec. 6, 1820, and printed at the "State Gazette" office, Columbia, S. -C., in 1822, makes this remark:

"As a teacher, Dr. Maxcy enjoyed a reputation higher, perhaps, than that of any other president of a college in the United States. His pupils all dwell with admiration, on the clearness and comprehension of his ideas; on the precision and aptness of his expressions. Many of these qualifications are, doubtless, to be attributed to his long
Character of Jonathan Maxcy

experience as an instructor, which rendered his contemplation of the most abstract truths little more than a work of memory: they may however, in a much greater degree, be ascribed to his early devotion to such studies and to his unwearyed endeavors to distinguish, between what is essential and what is adscititious in every subject. His retired habits, as well as his mild and unassuming manners, also contributed to render his instructions at once imposing and delightful. The strongest evidences of his success are the gratitude and veneration, which his pupils uniformly, evince for his memory."

His numerous pupils, in every part of the union, spoke of him in terms of the most fervid eulogy, and all united in pronouncing him a teacher of the most perfect model. "They often acknowledge that they acquired a clearer perception of the beauties or subtleties or errors of a writer, by listening to his remarks upon them, than even by a studious perusal of the work itself. But this power was never otherwise employed, than as an instrument of good. Learning, in the hands of Dr. Maxcy, was always the handmaid of virtue and the champion of morals. While he expanded the minds of his pupils and poured large draughts of knowledge from his own capacious stores, he ever steadily attended to their improvement as men, as citizens and as christians; and while he was a perfect master of the works of authors, and at all times capable of demolishing their theories, and erecting others of his own, and therefore held, as it were, the minds of his pupils in his hands, he was ever careful to instill the purest orthodoxy in religion, the most perfect morality, and the most consummate patriotism in all the duties and relations of the citizen."

Thus runs a sketch of the character of Dr. Maxcy in the "Charleston City Gazette."

Dr. La Borde ranks Dr. Maxcy very high as a reader. He says there was something in his reading, of passages from the Bible, for instance, that was lacking in the read-
A Sketch of the Life and ing of other men. He recalled Dr. Maxcy’s reading of the curse against Chorazim, Tyre and Zidon recorded in the 11th chapter of St. Matthew and says he felt that a prophet was standing before him. But this was only an instance of that great power he possessed as an orator, to which we may now direct our attention.

According to all accounts, he seemed to have had no superior in his time as an orator. Judged by the one true test of an orator, the effect, he was unsurpassed. He gave largely of his time to the study of oratory, ancient and modern. He knew that the foundation of all eloquence was laid in nature—that the appeal must be to man as he is; that it has power only as it makes heart answer to heart, and arouses a feeling of common sympathy. The power he had as an orator was not acquired—it was in-born—but it was improved by study and art. Nature’s gifts to the man were a noble intellect, a warm and fervid imagination, a tender and sympathizing heart, a sweet melodious voice, but a voice of great power, and a commanding presence. He added to these gifts the acquirements of industry, knowledge and a pure, chaste, simple and elegant diction. He was no actor—he was not playing apart—but he was tremendously in earnest, and sincerity ran through all his discourses. I know no better way to give an impression of his powers of oratory than by giving quotations from the writings of those who heard him.

"His eloquence was the eloquence of mind fraught with that sublimity and energy which noble thoughts can alone inspire into the orator, or enable him effectually to transfuse into the minds of others. . . . . . When he had fairly entered upon his subject, nothing could resist the fervid impetuosity of his manner."

—Professor ROBERT HENRY.

"Never will the charm of his eloquence be erased from the memory on which its impression has once been made. Elocution was equally winning and peculiar. He spoke in
the most deliberate manner; his voice was clear and gentle; his action composed and quiet; yet no man had such command over the noisy sallies of youth. The most riotous offender shrank from the reproof of that pale brow and intellectual eye.”—Hon. Jas. PETTIGRU.

“He was a wonderful man; and take him altogether, the greatest orator I have ever heard in the pulpit.”—Senator EVANS.

“His addresses to the graduating classes, and his sermons, were the finest specimens of eloquence and truth to which it has been my privilege to listen.”—JUDGE O’NEAL.

The following letter, written on July 9, 1819, was published in the “Charleston City Gazette” July 15:

“Last Sunday we went to hear Dr. Maxcy. It being the 4th of July, it was a discourse appropriate to that eventful period. I had always been led to believe the Doctor an eloquent and impressive preacher; but had no idea, till now, that he possessed such transcendent powers. I never heard such a stream of eloquence—It flowed from his lips, even like the oil from Aaron’s beard. Every ear was delighted, every heart elated, every bosom throbbed with gratitude. . . . . I was sometimes in pain, lest this good old man should outdo himself and become exhausted, but as he advanced in his discourse, he rose in animation, till at length he reached flights the most sublime, and again descended with the same facility with which he soared. . . . . In short, I never heard anything to compare to Dr. Maxcy’s sermon in the course of all my life; and old as I am, I would now walk even twenty miles through the hottest sands to listen to such another discourse. I am persuaded, I shall never hear such another in this life.”

Dr. Romeo Elton’s remarks under the consideration of Dr. Maxcy as a preacher will apply almost equally as well in considering him as an orator. He says that his great excellence consisted in the admirable proportion and har-
mony of all his powers. His conceptions were bold and striking and expressed in a style pure, elegant and sublime. The impression made by his discourses was, undoubtedly, very much deepened by the peculiar unction and fervor with which they were delivered. His manner was emphatically his own. There was no labor ed display, nothing turgid or affected, but every thing was easy, graceful, dignified and natural. Tho his voice was not very powerful, yet it was full and melodious, and his enunciation was so distinct that every syllable he uttered in the largest assembly, fell clearly on the ear of the most distant hearer. His general manner of delivery was rather mild than impetuous; commencing in a moderate tone of voice, but becoming more animated and impassioned as he proceeded he gradually influenced the hearts and feelings of his audience.

"His sermons are imbued with simple evangelical truth, rich in excellent practical remarks to the humble and the pious. His funeral sermons are pathetic and sublime, and excel in instructive trains of thought, and in their application to truths which relate to our highest interest."

—Dr. Romeo Elton.

Edwin J. Scott, "Random Recollections of a Long Life," says:

Dr. Maxcy was one of the greatest orators I ever heard, and I have listened to nearly all the most distinguished among us in the last sixty years. He was a native of Rhode Island, where his reputation for talents and piety was so eminent that he became President of Brown University at the age of twenty-four, and a few years later was promoted to the Presidency of Union College, Schenectady, New York, whence he came to Columbia in 1804. Of short, spare stature, he seemed so weak as to mount the steps of the pulpit with difficulty. With dark eyes and complexion, he had very black hair, cut short in front and combed or brushed straight down around his forehead. His voice was
sweet and feeble, but he spoke so distinctly and deliberately that every syllable reached the farthest corner of the chapel when I heard him. His language was very precise and select, and his sentences generally short, each one being complete in itself. By public request he delivered an address in the Chapel on Sunday, the 4th of July, 1819. This, taken altogether, was a masterpiece, and in some portions of it he rose to a pitch that seemed inspired. When describing the meeting of the first American Congress, after dwelling at some length on the importance of the occasion and the tremendous consequences that might follow from their action, he suddenly departed from his usually smooth and quiet manner, with a burst of enthusiasm that surprised and electrified the audience, as he spoke of "the Virginia Demosthenes, the mighty Henry! who gives the full rein to all his gigantic powers, and pours his own heroic spirit into the minds of his auditors; they become as one man, actuated by one soul, and the universal shout is 'Liberty or Death!'"

One of the refreshing things about Dr. Maxcy was his breadth of view. In a time when sectarianism was rife, he, altho a Baptist, refused to subscribed completely to the tenets of his denomination. His views can best be obtained by reading his own words: "I am not however, disposed to be so rigidly tenacious of my own sentiments, as to imagine I may not be in error. All men have full liberty of opinion, and ought to enjoy it without subject-

NOTE—"Under Milton's instruction I read the ordinary Latin authors, made some progress in Greek, and at the end of eighteen months became a candidate for admission to the Sophomore class in Columbia College. I was examined by the Rev. Doctor Maxcy. The examination was not half so formidable as I had expected. A letter from his brother had smoothed my way. I construed an ode in Horace. The Dr. made a few critical remarks on the exquisite beauty, the curiosa felicitas of the poet's diction, and the work was done." Ms of W. J. Grayson's Autobiography. Grayson graduated in 1809.
ing themselves to the imputation of heresy. For my own part, I can safely say, that I have never been disposed to confine myself to the peculiar tenets of any sect of religionists whatever. Great and good men have appeared among all denominations of christians, and I see not why all do not deserve an equal share of attention and regard. .. An entire coincidence in sentiment, even in important doctrines, is by no means essential to christian society, or the attainment of eternal felicity. How many are there who appear to have been subjects of regeneration, who have scarcely an entire comprehensive view of one doctrine in the Bible? Will the gates of Paradise be barred against these because they did not possess the penetrating sagacity of an Edwards, or Hopkins? Or shall these great theological champions engross heaven, and shout halleluiah from its walls, while a Priestly, a Prince and a Winchester, merely for difference in opinion, tho pre-eminent in virtue, must sink into regions of darkness and pain?"

Again, "The only thing really essential to christian unity is love, or benevolent affection. It is therefore, with me a fixed principle to censure no man, except for immorality."

Dr. Maxcy’s home life seems to have been a happy one. He married Miss Susan Hopkins, daughter of Commodore Ezek Hopkins of Providence, R. I. By her he had several daughters and four sons. In the relation of son, husband, parent and master, he exhibited a commendable example of fidelity, affection and kindness. He took a lively interest in the concerns of his children, and he encouraged them to visit him in his study. In conversation with them, he used the same form of expression as when speaking with persons of maturer age, and his reason for doing so was that he believed that by this means they would become acquainted with the language of books, and they would thus be enabled to advance more rapidly in their studies.
It has been supposed by some that altho Dr. Maxcy smiled often he did not laugh often. A nature so full of the other qualities that make up a noble life, could hardly be lacking in the quality of humor. The two following narratives will illustrate a less serious, and yet delightful side of Dr. Maxcy's nature. I take the first story from Dr. LaBorde's "History of the South Carolina College," and the second from the "History of Attleborough, Massachusetts."

"In the summer of 1819, he (Dr. Maxcy) visited the village of Edgefield, where I resided. At that time a certain Edmund Bacon lived in the place. He was a lawyer by profession, and nature was liberal to him in the gifts of a commanding person, and high intellectual endowments. Superadded to this was a humor rarely possessed by man. . . . He abounded in stories and anecdotes, and dealt them out with marvelously comic effect. He was indeed resistless. He 'would move wild laughter in the throat of death.' He was the prince of hospitality, and no man of note ever visited the village without being invited to his table. Dr. Maxcy was of course invited. After dinner, the guests being yet at the table, Mr. Bacon began with his stories, and his immitable representations. As he had before him an extraordinary man, and a critic of rare acuteness, he put forth his highest powers, and was more than himself. The Doctor was not slow to perceive his wonderful genius, and soon an overwhelming influence was passing over him. Story after story was told in succession; all that is grotesque, all that is ludicrous in human nature, was presented with the force of living reality. The Doctor laughed, and as the great actor continued his representations, the pleasant emotion gradually increased in intensity, until he lost all control. But it did not stop here. He laughed until every muscle was convulsed, and until he produced acute pain in his sides, and a sensation of languor and exhaustion. His health, as the reader knows,
was delicate. Mr. B. was still going on. The company became alarmed; the Doctor's condition was now serious. It was apprehended that like another Philemon, he might die of laughter. Mr. B. was asked to desist. The Doctor was carried from the house to recover from the effect. He was heard afterwards to speak of Mr. Bacon as the most wonderful man he ever met, and far surpassing all the comic actors of ancient or modern times."

The next sketch has to do with a freak of college boys while he was President of the South Carolina College:

"On one occasion several of the students resolved to drag the Doctor's carriage into the woods, and fixed upon a night for the performance of the exploit. One of their number, however, was troubled with some compunctious visitings, and managed to convey to the worthy President a hint that it would be well for him to secure the door of the carriage house. Instead of paying any heed to this suggestion, the Doctor proceeded on the appointed night to the carriage house and ensconced his portly person inside the vehicle. In less than an hour some half dozen young gentlemen came to his retreat and cautiously withdrew the carriage into the road. When they were fairly out of the college precincts they began to joke freely with each other by name.

One of them complained of the weight of the carriage, and another replied by swearing it was heavy enough to have the old fellow himself inside. For nearly a mile they proceeded along the highway, and then struck into the woods to a cover which they concluded would effectually conceal the vehicle. Making themselves infinitely merry at the Doctor's expense, and conjecturing how and where he would find his carriage, they at length reached the spot where they had resolved to leave it. Just as they were about to depart—having once more agreed the 'carriage was heavy enough to have the old Doctor and all his tribe in it'—they were startled by the sudden dropping of the glass panels,
Character of Jonathan Maxcy

and the well-known voice of the Doctor himself thus addressing them. 'So, so, young gentlemen, you are going to leave me in the woods, are you? Surely, as you have brought me hither for your own gratification, you will not refuse to take me back for mine. Come, Mr.—and—and—and, buckle to and let us return; it's getting late.' There was no appeal; for the window was raised, and the Doctor resumed his seat. Almost without a word, the discomfited young gentlemen took their places at the pole and the back of the vehicle, and quite as expeditiously, if with less voice, did they retrace their steps. In silence they dragged the carriage into its wanted place, and then retreated precipitately to their rooms, to dream of the account they must render on the morrow. When they had retired, the Doctor quietly vacated the carriage and went to his house, where he related the story to his family with much glee. He never called the heroes of that nocturnal expedition to an account, nor was the carriage ever afterward dragged at night into the woods.'

As an author, Dr. Maxcy should be given a very high rank, as any reader of intelligence, who reads his sermons, addresses and orations, will doubtless appraise him. His writings are but few, but they are "models of simplicity and beauty, of sublimity and eloquence."

The following is a list of his sermons, addresses and other writings."

1. "A Poem on the Prospects of America." 1787. This poem contains about thirty pages of coarsely printed material, and was delivered at his graduation.
3. An address, delivered to the graduates of the Rhode Island College, at Commencement, Sept. 3, 1794.
4. An Oration, delivered before the Providence Associa-
tion of Mechanics and Manufacturers, at their annual election, Apr. 13, 1795.

5. An Oration, delivered in the Baptist Meeting House in Providence, July 4, 1795, at the Celebration of the Nineteenth Anniversary of American Independence.


7. A sermon preached Sept. 14, 1796, at the dedication of the Meeting House, belonging to the Catholic Baptist Society in Cumberland.

8. A Discourse Designed to Explain the Doctrine of Atonement. In two parts. Delivered in the chapel of Rhode Island College, on the 11th and 25th of November 1796.


10. An address, delivered to the graduates of Rhode Island College, at the anniversary Commencement, in the Baptist Meeting House, in Providence, Sept. 5, 1798.

11. A sermon delivered in the Baptist Meeting House in Providence, on Lord’s Day afternoon, Oct. 14, 1798, occasioned by the death of Welcome Arnold, Esq., one of the Trustees of Rhode Island College, and member of the General Assembly of this State.


13. A sermon delivered in the chapel of Rhode Island College to the senior class, on the Sunday proceeding the anniversary commencement, Sept. 3, 1800.

15. An address delivered to the candidates for the Baccalaureate of Rhode Island College, at the anniversary commencement, Sept. 2, 1801.

16. An address delivered to the graduates of Rhode Island College, at the public commencement, Sept. 1, 1802.

17. A sermon preached in the Baptist Meeting House in Providence, before the Female Charitable Society, Sept. 21, 1802.

18. A sermon preached on Lord's Day, Oct. 1, 1812, at High Hills of Santee, before the Charleston Baptist Association at their annual meeting.

19. A course of reading in Sacred and Profane History for the students of South Carolina College. (Now in the Library of College of Charleston.)

20. An anniversary sermon delivered in the Presbyterian Meeting House in Columbia, on Lord's Day, Dec. 1, 1816, being the day previous to the commencement of the South Carolina College.

21. An address, delivered to the Baccalaureate of the South Carolina College, Dec. 2, 1816.

22. An introductory lecture to a Course on the Philosophical Principles of Rhetoric and Criticism; designed for the senior class of the South Carolina College, and delivered in the public chapel, on Wednesday, Apr. 8, 1817.

23. A funeral sermon, delivered on Lord's Day, Dec. 17, 1817, in the representatives' chamber, before both branches of the legislature of the State of South Carolina. This sermon was not written down as its stands until after its delivery, but Dr. Maxcy says he is confident few and small variations from the original are made.

24. A discourse, delivered in the chapel of South Carolina College, July 4, 1819, at the request of inhabitants of Columbia.

25. A funeral sermon occasioned by the death of Mr. John Sampson Bobo, a member of the junior class, in the South Carolina College, who was unfortunately drowned.

The following note is of interest:

Dr. Elton (collector of writings of Dr. Maxcy and writer of the memoir) resided in England for a number of years, having married there. While in that country he published an edition of "Selections from Dr. Maxcy" which had an extensive circulation there. He presented a copy to Queen Victoria, who highly appreciated it, and, it is said, read one or two of the sermons to her children. I do not know if any of the above list are included in this volume or not.
V.

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