

BASIL MANLY AND HIS ADMINISTRATION AT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA,  
1837-1855

BY  
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## CHAPTER I

## EARLY YEARS OF BASIL MANLY II

Basil Manly II was born January 29, 1798, in Chatham County, North Carolina, near Pittsboro. His father, a farmer who had settled in Bladen County and had spent most of his early life there, had led a band of homeguards in the Revolutionary War. He held the rank of Captain and did valiant service for the cause of the Colonies. At the end of the war the "Farmer-Soldier" had attained a place of honor and esteem among his fellow citizens and neighbors. After he returned home he was trampled upon by a vicious bull. Thus disabled, he had to turn over the management of his farm to his sons. "Determined to give them . . . a liberal education,"<sup>1</sup> Captain Manly took advantage of the school at Pittsboro, where he could send the boys daily. Later "he sent one after another to the even then celebrated Bingham School in Orange County."<sup>2</sup>

It was during the stay of Charles, the eldest son, at the Bingham School that the father was incapacitated by the

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1. Louise Manly, The Manly Family, p. 75.

2. Ibid.

bull, and it fell the lot of Basil, though a boy of fifteen or sixteen, to assume management of the plantation; therefore he had to suspend his studies in the school at Pittsboro. When Basil took charge, he found it necessary to take a decided stand with the slaves, who, without an overseer, had not been very industrious.<sup>3</sup> He took the front row in the corn field and told the slaves that they must keep up with him or take a thrashing. At first the slaves thought it a laughing matter, but they soon found that young Manly meant every word he said. "His steady strokes and unflagging industry set the tune for the rest, and they had to keep up to that pitch."<sup>4</sup> Even though his hands became blistered and his back sunburned, he did not complain nor fail in carrying out the many duties of the farm. The slaves followed this inspired leader, who never had to carry out his threat to thrash them if they did not "keep up." The energies of Basil in the re-organization of the plantation made it possible not only to keep Charles in school (Charles later became governor of North Carolina) but to send the other children to the school in Pittsboro. "The farm took on new life under his vigorous management."<sup>5</sup>

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3. Ibid., p. 76.

4. Ibid.

5. Ibid.

When Basil was in his sixteenth year, he was sent to the Bingham School.<sup>6</sup> One day while walking in a field near the school he heard a negro man praying aloud. Thinking of his "wretched state as a sinner before God,"<sup>7</sup> which came as a result of a conversation he had had with his mother before her baptism, a desire seized him to ask an interest in the old man's prayer. "They knelt together and . . . engaged in earnest prayer."<sup>8</sup> As a result of this prayer and the prayers of others with whom Basil boarded, he made a decision for Christ, joining the "Rocky Spring (once Old Fork) Church."<sup>9</sup> He was baptized August 20, 1816, in the Haw River, at the Red Field Ford, by Robert T. Daniel.<sup>10</sup> Soon after joining the Church he was sent as a delegate to the Sandy Creek Baptist Association.

While returning from this Associational meeting young Manly made his first attempt at "public exhortation."<sup>11</sup> It was in the home of William Marsh, in the Hickory Mountain region, at an evening prayer meeting. The preacher with whom he was traveling placed a Bible in Manly's hand and

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6. Ibid., p. 77.

7. Ibid., p. 76.

8. Ibid., p. 78.

9. "Basil Manly Letterbook, 1825-1833" (Manly Papers, University of Alabama Library), p. 1.

10. Ibid.

11. Ibid.

said, "Speak to the people."<sup>12</sup> Louise Manly, who compiled a history of the Manly family, wrote of this incident:

I remember hearing him speak of his surprise and confusion at being suddenly summoned by the good old preacher with whom he was traveling, but whose name I forget, to take the Bible and talk to the people. Hesitation and embarrassment were overcome by the brotherly persistence with which it was insisted that he must do the best he could. Presently the youth found himself in tears, and the little congregation were so too. The unexpected success and acceptance of this impromptu address may have had much to do in directing his subsequent course.<sup>13</sup>

Events soon led young Manly to decide to enter the ministry. This decision was not in accordance with the wishes of his father, a Catholic, who had other plans for his son. He offered to finance his son's education provided he would study law, medicine, or any other honorable profession, but he would have no part in educating a Baptist preacher who, he predicted, would "scratch a poor man's back the rest of his days."<sup>14</sup>

Basil's main source of encouragement, however, was his

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12. Louise Manly, op. cit., p. 79.

13. Ibid.

14. Ibid., p. 81.

mother. She, too, was a Baptist, having joined the Rocky Spring Baptist Church when Basil was about thirteen years of age.<sup>15</sup> She admonished him:

Do your duty, Son. I asked the Lord  
for your soul when you were a baby;  
and now that He has given you to me  
in the Gospel, God forbid that I should  
deny you from any service for Him.<sup>16</sup>

The next event of importance in the life of young Manly was the recommendation of his Church for him to exercise his abilities and gifts as a minister:

The Baptist Church at Rocky Spring--  
Chatham County--No. Carolina.

This is to Certify--that Brother Basil Manly is a member of our body--in good standing--and having for some time exercised his gifts among us--we do hereby recommend him to sister churches--and authorize him to exercise his ministerial gifts wherever his lot may be cast.

Signed by order of the Church convened in conference this 26th day of April, 1818.

Robert T. Daniel  
Robert Ward Deacon 17

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15. Ibid., p. 77.

16. Ibid., p. 82.

17. "Manly Letterbook, 1825-1833," p. 1.

Basil's father adhered to his intention not to educate a Baptist preacher, and Basil, although desiring an education, felt that he was duty-bound to obey his father, yet without his father's help financially he could see no hope for an education. His intent to preach, however, was neither dampened nor chilled, and he was "determined to preach without an education, if it must be so."<sup>18</sup> His many friends urged him to remain "as he was, preaching in his native county, where such labors were needed."<sup>19</sup>

An event in the life of young Manly at this time brightened his hopes for the future and paved the way for the greatness which he achieved later in life. William Tomlinson Brantly, a native of Chatham and pastor of the Church at Beaufort, South Carolina, returned to Chatham for a visit with friends and relatives. His interest in Basil was providential,<sup>20</sup> coming at a moment of great decision in the life of the young preacher. The Reverend Brantly encouraged Basil to get an education and offered him the comforts of his own home if he would go with him to Beaufort, where he was not only pastor of the Baptist Church but also president of the college located there. Brantly challenged

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18. Louise Manly, op. cit., p. 82.

19. Ibid.

20. Ibid.

the life of Manly and stirred the greatness in him to meet that challenge. He also offered the use of his own library and all the aid and assistance he possible could give Manly to get the needed education. He appealed to Manly to prepare for a greater life than preaching to local congregations. With the consent of his father and the encouragement of his mother, young Manly accepted Brantly's offer.

Basil's life in Beaufort began eventfully when, on May 17, 1818, he was made beneficiary of a grant by The Southern Education Society.<sup>21</sup> Louise Manly wrote concerning the grant: "So far as I have been able to discover, the appropriation for his aid was simply one hundred dollars."<sup>22</sup> But with this money and the aid of the benevolent Brantly, Basil was able to finish his first year in school.

Eighteen months after Manly entered Beaufort he had advanced enough in his studies to enter the Junior Class of South Carolina College (later known as the University of South Carolina).<sup>23</sup> He entered South Carolina College in December, 1818, and remained there until graduation. Manly wrote in his Letterbook: "I took my degree as a Bachelor of

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21. "Manly Letterbook, 1825-1833," p. 1.

22. Louise Manly, op. cit., p. 83

23. Ibid.

Arts on December 3, 1821, and was appointed to deliver the valedictory oration, then considered the first distinction." <sup>24</sup>

After graduation, Manly was offered \$800.00 a year for his services as minister at Edgefield Village, South Carolina. He wrote in his Letterbook: "I arrived in Edgefield Village at the request of certain citizens of the place, chiefly Matthew Mims and Abner Blockner, on January 23, 1822, under an engagement to preach there one year." <sup>25</sup>

Manly joined the Little Stephen's Creek Baptist Church, near Edgefield Village, and was ordained to the ministry by this Church:

State of South Carolina  
Edgefield Village

To All Whom it may concern:

We the undersign, at the request of the Baptist Church of Christ at the Little Stephen's Creek, have examined our Brother Basil Manly as to his call to the work of an Evangelist, and his principles of faith--and being fully satisfied therewith, we publicly ordain him and set him apart, by fasting and prayer and laying on of the hands of the Presbytery; as a minister of the Gospel--and by the authority invested in us we have clothed him with all the authority and privileges belonging to that office among that denomination to which we belong.

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24. "Manly Letterbook, 1825-1833," p. 1.

25. Ibid., p. 3.

In testimony whereof we have here-  
unto subscribed our names this tenth  
day of March in the year of our Lord,  
one thousand eight hundred and twenty  
two.<sup>26</sup>

Little Stephen's Creek Meeting  
March 10th A.D. 1822

Enoch Breazeale

John Landrum

Manly's ordination, giving him legal authority to perform marriages, funerals, and observe the ordinances of the church impressed upon him the great responsibilities of a minister, and he began his ministry with great vigor and activity. Such was his diligence in the Little Stephen's Creek Church that 146 persons were baptized during the first year.<sup>27</sup> In a letter to Alexander McDonald at Beaufort he wrote: "God has indeed in a most significant manner blessed the church to which I belong, Little Stephen's Creek, during this year."<sup>28</sup> The devotion to his work and to the cause which he represented was given prominence throughout this region "which it has maintained to this day."<sup>29</sup>

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26. Ibid.

27. Louise Manly, op. cit., p. 99.

28. Ibid.

29. Ibid.

He remained the minister at Edgefield Village from January 23, 1822, to March 19, 1826. During these four years two events occurred in the life of Manly that brought him great happiness. He married December 23, 1824, Sarah Murry Rudolph, who was to be his lifelong companion and a great source of strength to him. To this union a son was born on December 19, 1825, Basil Manly, Jr., who was to attain greatness as a professor in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. These two events and continued success in his Church made Basil's years in Edgefield Village happy years, and he often looked back upon his ministry there as his best.

In February, 1826, the Church at Charleston, South Carolina, on the recommendation of their pastor before his death, extended a unanimous call to Manly, even though it was a policy of the church not to call anyone until it was ascertained if he would accept. Manly's first impulse was to refuse, which he did, stating: "I am altogether too young, my brethern, too unfurnished, too much wanting in everything you would desire and expect in a pastor."<sup>30</sup> His mind was made up to remain in Edgefield Village for more experience ". . . to remain with my poor congregation, an humble and limited sphere indeed . . ."<sup>31</sup> Manly simply

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30. "Manly Letterbook, 1825-1833," p. 6.

31. Ibid., p. 7.

stated that it was "self-denial and watchfulness, in an humble station, that I may be qualified for any wider sphere to which the providence of God may call me."<sup>32</sup>

Not only did Manly feel unprepared for the work in Charleston, but he was also grateful to the congregation in Edgefield for all they had done for him. In November, the church unanimously called him to remain as its pastor. The committee in Charleston, however, contrived to put pressure on Manly to come to Charleston as pastor of the First Baptist Church. Finally, Manly asked the Church at Edgefield for an honorable release so that he could feel free to accept the call at Charleston. With great reluctance the Church at Edgefield gave Manly his release. With this release and a glowing recommendation as "a superior preacher"<sup>33</sup> and after much meditation, prayer, and humility, which characterized his life, Manly accepted the call to Charleston and stated, "I preached my last sermon to that church (Edgefield Village) March 19, 1826, and arrived in the city of Charleston with the call of the Baptist Church in that city to be their pastor March, 1826."<sup>34</sup> For eleven years he remained at Charleston, where under his leadership the church grew and flourished as never before

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32. Ibid., p. 6.

33. Louise Manly, op. cit., p. 106.

34. "Manly Letterbook, 1834-1846," p. 2.

in its history. Each year a large number of baptisms were reported, 1830 being a typical year in which 366--122 whites and 244 colored--were baptized. His ministry reached the entire state among both races, producing great results. Many calls came to him to fill places of honor--among them, in 1835, the call to be president of his alma mater, the state university--but he declined them all to remain pastor of the church at Charleston. During his ministry at Charleston many sorrows and heartaches that are a pastor's lot served to increase his "stature." His second son, Tebulon Randolph, born in 1827, died at the age of two. Another son, John Waldo, died in 1830.

Climaxing the work at Charleston was the conferring of the D.D. degree upon him in July of 1837 by the University of North Carolina. His brother Charles conveyed the information to him "that the Faculty and Trustees of the University of N.C. at the last commencement, had un-  
 animously conferred on me (Basil Manly) the honorary title of Doctor of Divinity."<sup>35</sup> He responded to this news in a typical Manly manner: "This has been purely and absolutely unsolicited on my part. I have always considered such things as being of too little consequence to be sought or required."

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35. "Manly Letterbook, 1834-1846," p. 31.

The year 1837 proved to be a monumental one in the life of Dr. Manly, for in this year he was offered the presidency of the University of Alabama, then a young institution of but six years. This offer came without Manly's solicitation or interviews. He stated: "August 22, Tuesday, this day, I received official notification of my appointment as president of the University of Alabama, from M. D. Williams, Secretary of the Board of Trustees."<sup>36</sup>

Manly promptly resigned the church at Charleston on August 22, 1837. In his resignation to the church he stated: "The step I am about to take has been forced upon me under a strong sense of duty to Christ."<sup>37</sup> He offered his services to the church until he departed for Tuscaloosa, Alabama on November 2, 1837. He arrived in Tuscaloosa on November 22, and on Wednesday, December 6, was publicly installed as president of the University of Alabama, by His Excellency Governor Arthur P. Bagby, who presided for the Board of Trustees.<sup>38</sup>

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36. Ibid., p. 34.

37. Ibid., p. 41.

38. Ibid., p. 46.

## CHAPTER II

## CURRICULUM AND SCHOLARSHIP

There were many pressing and immediate needs at the University of Alabama when the newly elected president arrived on the campus. Discipline was bad, physical equipment in need of repair, the library lacking in books, and the Faculty poorly staffed, but the greatest need was evidenced by disorganized curriculum and a deplorable state of scholarship. President Manly immediately set out to elevate the scholastic standing of the University. There was only one professor of Dr. Woods' administration who continued under the leadership of President Manly, and that was Professor R. T. Brumby.

The new faculty gave examinations to the freshman and sophomore classes, and then advancement was made according to attainment. The junior and senior classes were allowed to advance because Professor Brumby had already taught them. The examination of the two lower classes indicated that they were a full year behind in the grade. It was noted that the pupils were of "very unequal age."<sup>1</sup> Some of the freshmen were allowed to advance a class.

The less advanced of the sophomore class were required to go back for another year of study in the freshman class.

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1. "Manly Letterbook, 1834-1846," p. 131.

The faculty was very much pleased with this new arrangement, since it made possible the lifting of one class to a level "almost standard."<sup>2</sup> One student, after having been demoted, revealed such a high scholarship during the semester that he was promoted to the sophomore class and was able to maintain his standing. Israel A. Pickens asked for and obtained his dismissal because he was not satisfied with being demoted to the freshman class.<sup>3</sup>

Candidates for the regular courses were carefully examined before the whole faculty on all the branches necessary for equal standing in the classes to which they aspired. Several were found so deficient that they could not be received at all.<sup>4</sup>

Manly was anxious to build up a large student body, but he was more anxious to provide a state university with a high scholarship, and he never lowered the scholastic requirements for the sake of obtaining more students. Even in 1837, the classes at the University were organized so that a gradual raising of the standard could be attained.

The first graduating class was disappointing to the new president because of the low scholastic standing. The following were members of the first graduating class with

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2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid., pp. 131-132.

the degree of Bachelor of Arts: Alexander B. Forney, J. Collier Foster, John G. Foster, Ezekiel Henry, Oliver James Lawrence, Claudius V. River, Samuel H. River and Andrew B. Stephens.<sup>5</sup> President Manly said, with reference to the first graduating class, "They are much less educated than we could desire them to be, and we hope future classes may be [sic]."<sup>6</sup> Much effort was put forth to raise the scholarship at the University to par with the other colleges, and Manly was able to report later that "the faculty are satisfied that the grade held by the classes of this University is at least equal to that of the classes in most other colleges in this country."<sup>7</sup>

By carefully screening the students and by adding to the required studies, the University was able to reach an all time high in scholarship under Manly's guidance. By 1838 the classes were required to study and pass written as well as oral examinations before the faculty. In the report to the trustees in 1840, Manly listed the requirements for each class as follows:

Senior class: Payne's Elements of Mental Science, Wayland's Moral Philosophy, Wayland's Political Science, Kramer's Elements of Criticism, Porter's Analysis, Astronomy,

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5. Ibid., p. 134.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid., p. 210.

Civil Engineering, Cave's Classifications of the Animal Kingdom, Bakervill's Geology, Hayward's Psychology. Lectures were also given in Mineralogy, Astronomy, Meteorology and in connection with other studies taught by text books.

Junior class: Wateley's Rhetoric, Tyler's Ancient History, Hydrostatics, the Cambridge Course of Pneumatics, Beck's Chemistry, Smillie's Philosophy of Natural History, the Andreas of Perence, one half of the first book of Cicero de Oratore, Tacitu's Life of Agricola, two books of Homer's Iliad, and the Media of Euripides. Composition once a month.

Sophomore class: Wateley's Logic, Kirkham's English Grammer, two books of Homer's Iliad, Fisk's Manual of Ancient Literature, Horace's Second Book of Epistles and his Art of Poetry, Legendre's Geometry, from the beginning of the sixth book, the Application of Algebra to Geometry, Plane and Spherical Trigonometry, Mensuration of Surfaces and Solids, Elements of Surveying, Analytical Geometry to the sixth book, omitting some parts referring to oblique co-ordinate axis, Mensuration of Heights and Distances, Logarithmy under Mr. Sherman, and they read Latin and part of the first book of Epestilus Horace and the third, fourth and part of the fifth book of Homer's Iliad. This class translated English into Latin once a fortnight and exhibited English composition once a month.

Freshman class: Bordon's Algebra, seven books and a part of the eighth book of Legendre's Geometry, the Odes of Horace, with the first part of the second book of Satine, two books of Xenophon's Anabasis, the Extructe from Herodotus Polyanous and Pliences contained in the first volume of Greece Majora and Butler's System of Ancient Geography. They exhibited translations of English into Latin, and English composition each month and attended to declamations once a month.<sup>8</sup>

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8. Ibid., p. 211.

The curriculum was constantly being changed to meet the needs of the time, to provide a high standing in the field of education, and to advance the cultural standing of the student. President Manly reported in 1841 that Tyler's Universal History, from the beginning to the end of the Roman Republic, was added to the courses of the senior class.<sup>9</sup> The junior class delivered original pieces before the public the same year. The two lower classes were required to take a more comprehensive study in each field. The requirements for entrance to the freshman class were made more rigid and one had to be more adequately prepared to enter the University now.

Manly believed that Latin and Greek were essential to education and scholarship. The junior, sophomore, and freshman classes all had Greek in their curriculum in 1842.<sup>10</sup> And during the same year, the sophomore class studied Allurry's Grammar and parsed from the English Bible. President Manly was a theologian as well as an educator, and he believed that in order to improve the mind of a young man, it was necessary to improve his character, and he therefore included classes in the study of the Bible. One gains an insight to the nature of Manly the minister when he observes the presence of so many studies which were both classical and

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9. Ibid., p. 246.

10. Ibid., p. 303.

biblical. He desired to give a well-rounded education and to prepare the mind for development in all the major worth while areas of life.

The young men who received their training at the University of Alabama were prepared to go out and make a priceless contribution toward the early development of the state of Alabama and they did that very thing. They put into practice a science learned in the class rooms of the University.

There were many able men who graduated from the University. One of these was A. B. Teague who graduated in 1842. He filled a good many of the more important pulpits in the state. Teague also organized a school in Talladega that made important contributions toward the educational life in Alabama.

President Manly was constantly searching for ways to promote a high standard of scholarship at the University and throughout the state. The secondary schools began a policy in 1843 that would raise their standards, through the direction of the University and its faculty.

The faculty, at the beginning of the year, publicly announced their intention to award a certificate of honorable mention to the teacher or teachers of those scholars who may come best prepared for admission to the University. This they will do in the formation of the next and all future classes.<sup>11</sup>

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11. Ibid., p. 332.

The University had been successful in raising their standards to such a high degree that it was hard to find prospective students who could qualify for admission. Thus, it was necessary for them to work toward raising the standing of the secondary schools, and this received a great deal of attention from President Manly from 1842 until the end of his administration.

And just as President Manly was successful in bettering the scholastic standing of the University, so he was successful with the secondary schools, public and private. His contribution to education throughout Alabama in raising standards in the high schools deserves notice and credit. Before he came to Alabama, the preparatory schools were little more than boarding schools, providing a place where wealthy parents could send their children for any number of reasons. So there existed a great need for a new emphasis to be placed upon preparing the youth for college and life.

It is significant to note the first certificate to a teacher, giving him honorable mention for sending a child who was adequately prepared was not issued until 1845. The faculty said, "No applicant had come sufficiently well prepared to deserve honorable mention of his teacher."<sup>12</sup> Two certificates were issued in 1845, giving honorable mention to Mr. Richard Herman of Tuscaloosa, and Mr. Francis S.

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12. Ibid., p. 370.

Palmer of Lowndesboro, Lowndes County, Alabama.<sup>13</sup> But conditions gradually improved in the preparatory schools of the state.

Under the constant encouragement of President Manly, the University offered courses for preparing teachers for teaching in the state. A normal department was proposed by President Manly for the University in 1844, for the purpose of training teachers who could raise the educational standards of the teaching profession.<sup>14</sup> This would mean those then coming to the University of Alabama for admission as students would be better prepared. The following recommendation was made to the trustees in 1843 concerning a change in text books and curriculum:

The faculty are convinced that a change in the course of study, in the department of English Literature, would promote the improvement of the students. The particular changes contemplated are to introduce History earlier, and Logic later, in the course; to introduce some of Anglo-Saxon, one of the most interesting and important fountains of our language; also some dozen or more lectures yearly on the history of our Literature; and to substitute instead of Kame's Elements of Criticism, either Blair's Lectures on Rhetoric, or selections from Campbell's Philosophy of Rhetoric. The work of Lord Kame's has been abandoned in most colleges; is too unwieldly to be studied entirely and the abridgement, which we have used for the last few

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13. Ibid., p. 391.

14. Ibid., p. 332.

years, is so unsatisfactory as to give better instruction to the students.<sup>15</sup>

Manly was constantly alert to any changes necessary in order to keep up with the advancement in the field of literature, and thereby he was able to raise the efficiency of the University. Manly did not hesitate to drop a text book or a course or make any changes that would promote a high scholarship. When the students for the University would transfer to other schools, they often found it very easy to maintain the standing of the new school, and many times they would surpass the others in the same class. In one of the reports, Manly stated that:

Two of our students, with but three months advance in their sophomore year have entered the junior class, respectively in the University of North Carolina and in Union College. And that, not only without condition, but in one instance with the acknowledgment of particular excellence.<sup>16</sup>

Such reports were common during the Manly administration. The University of Alabama gained a reputation throughout the South that brought students from other sections to enter the University.

The department of law was established at the University in 1845, Professor B. F. Porter being elected the professor

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15. Ibid., p. 344.

16. Ibid.

in this department for one year.<sup>17</sup> The president sensed the growing need throughout the state for trained men as lawyers, and a program was instituted whereby capable men would be trained in this field. But it lasted only one year as there was not enough demand for it.

In the next year, 1846, agricultural chemistry was introduced to the University, but was deferred until 1847 because of an unfortunate mistake in the text book. Mr. Michael Tuomey was elected Professor Agricultural Chemistry,<sup>18</sup> Geology, and Mineralogy. The president was responsible for bringing Tuomey to Alabama and for establishing his departments, and these have produced far reaching effects. The new professor set out to develop the best in his departments at the University and to disperse his art throughout the Southeast.

Two additional courses were offered in 1848, with Mr. Tuomey teaching a course in botany and Mr. Brumby a course in conchology.<sup>19</sup>

Professor Tuomey did outstanding work in his fields throughout the South. He developed a geological collection at the University that was the talk of the South. He made trips afield for the purpose of gathering natural data on

17. "Manly Letterbook, 1847-1857," p. 24.

18. Ibid., p. 51.

19. Ibid., p. 50.

the state of Alabama, and the South. This information may have been responsible for the coal, iron and lime industries of the state. His lectures were inspiring and greatly liked by the student body. His work had a profound influence in education for all times in the South.

It is, therefore, safe to conclude that the skilful guidance of Basil Manly while president of the University was a great influence in producing a very high standard of education, not only at the University of Alabama, but also throughout the Southland. Willis G. Clark, writing about the work of President Manly said:

During Dr. Manly's administration, the University reached a high condition of prosperity and usefulness. He always insisted that the bachelor's diploma should be to the world a badge of high scholarship. The results of this insistence are shown in the fact that among the graduates of the University of his time are to found today many of the most highly educated men of the South. Statesmen, lawyers, clergymen, bishops, presidents, and professors in college, well-trained scholars, in commercial life men of influence, in short, in every vocation.<sup>20</sup>

There were two hundred and fifty-two graduates of the University from 1837-1855. The University honored five men with the degree of doctor of law, ten with the Doctor of

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20. Willis G. Clark, History of Education in Alabama, p. 78.

Divinity and forty-seven with honorary degrees of Master  
of Arts.<sup>21</sup>

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21. Ibid., p. 79.

## CHAPTER III

## THE FACULTY, THEIR WORK AND RELATIONSHIPS

With characteristic fervor and determination, President Manly faced the problem of obtaining suitable replacements for the faculty members who had resigned before Dr. Alva Woods left the University, which was a difficult task in those days, even under the most favorable conditions. However, in a pioneer nation which had few facilities for training instructors in subjects of college level, President Manly succeeded in organizing a small group of qualified educators who put the University of Alabama on a sound basis as an institution of higher learning.

The University began its session for the year of 1838 with Richard T. Brumby, Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology; Frederick Augustus Porter Barnard, Professor of Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and Astronomy; Samuel M. Stafford, Professor of Ancient Languages; and Horace Southworth Pratt, Professor of English Literature.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Jacob Pearson was the only tutor and that in languages. A tutor was neither a professor nor a student. He might be called an assistant to the professor. Sometimes he was still studying after graduation and at the same time teaching certain studies as well as helping the less prepared

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1. James B. Sellers, History of the University of Alabama, Vol. I, p. 68.

student. However, at other times he was a full time paid employee who was academically prepared to become a full professor and at times that is what happened when there was an opening in his department. The tutor was always paid a salary for his service.

President Manly also taught some classes while performing the duties of President. Because Professor Pratt did not receive notice of his appointment before he had made certain domestic engagements of the year, he appealed to the president of the board of trustees, "Either to accept his resignation or to admit the discharge of the Chair temporarily by means of another officer."<sup>2</sup> The trustees refused to accept his resignation but asked him to come to the University and organize his classes; this he did. After his classes were organized, Professor Pratt left the University to keep his previous appointments. His duties were taken over by other members of the faculty. There is no record of when he returned to the University to assume his duties but he was at the University to begin teaching the following year.

The first term was begun with the organization of classes and the examination of each student to determine how well prepared he might be to continue with his class. Since many of the students were found to be deficient in scholar-

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2. "Manly Letterbook, 1834-1847," p. 130.

ship, President Manly described the student body as "appearing to consist of persons of very unequal age for whose attainment no member of the faculty can vouch."<sup>3</sup> Examination revealed that many students were a full year behind the admission requirements of the University. Classes were organized by the faculty with the understanding that a student who had been demoted, might rejoin his previous class if his scholarship improved sufficiently. However, only one demoted student was restored to his former class on the basis of this agreement.

By the end of the first year of his administration, President Manly had won the confidence of the trustees of the University, the faculty and many influential persons.

The establishment of Civil Engineering as a regular course at the University not only met the need of the day for surveyors but also created a new professorship which became effective in 1839. Later, however, it was decided that Civil Engineering and Mathematics would be merged to function as one department. Natural Philosophy and Astronomy were combined to form another department. Under the reorganization plan each department was to have the assistance of a tutor. The provision for tutors, however, was later to cause trouble in faculty meetings. After J. J. Kuhn of Waynesville, Georgia, declined the appointment of

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3. Ibid.

tutor in the Department of Modern Languages, Mr. D. N. Sheldon, a native of Connecticut was appointed to this office. President Manly described Mr. Sheldon as a man "of superior intellect, liberal college education and estimable character, who has spent the last three or four years in France."<sup>4</sup> Sheldon had led President Manly to believe he would accept the position as tutor if he had assurance of a professorship later. But, when the time came for a positive answer, he rejected the appointment. The failure to engage Mr. Sheldon as tutor was a disappointment to President Manly as well as the trustees. The refusal of Sheldon to accept the position in the Department of Modern Languages and the death of Professor Horace Southworth Pratt left two vacancies on the faculty of the University at the close of the 1840 session.

Mr. James C. Dockery was appointed to the Chair of Modern Languages in 1841. He was a native of North Carolina and a graduate of the University of Paris. The appointment of Professor Dockery proved to be a wise choice. He was described by President Manly as "an American of good family."<sup>5</sup> President Manly was never in a hurry to fill a vacancy on the faculty. He wanted to be sure that he had found the right man, best qualified for a position. He wanted the appointee to be acceptable and cooperative with

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4. Ibid., p. 158.

5. Ibid., p. 240.

the other members of the faculty. The prospective appointee was always considered thoroughly as to his ability, character and disposition before President Manly recommended him to the trustees for election.

The duties of unfilled chairs were discharged by other members of the faculty, for a long period sometimes. And it was not uncommon for a tutor to be appointed temporarily while President Manly sought the man he wanted for a permanent appointment. His caution in screening applicants for faculty positions tended to raise the University's standard. President Manly's report to the trustees in 1844 stated that it "was the aim of the faculty to distribute equally the duties of the University among the officers." There were implications in the report that he had been accused of not distributing the duties as prescribed in the laws of the University. President Manly said, "If any inequalities exist, they are certainly not considerable, and are caused by nature of the department and unavoidable circumstance."<sup>6</sup> He also stated that all officers would take in more "in their several departments, if the time of the classes, and the appropriate distribution of study would allow."<sup>7</sup> He explained that it would be impossible to distribute the same amount of work to each officer because of

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6. Ibid., p. 335.

7. Ibid.

variation in duties already assigned. In order that the trustees might ascertain for themselves the duties of each faculty member, President Manly listed all the assignments in detail:

The President, who is also Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy and Political Economy, takes 159 recitations, attends to all executive duties, to the entrance and dismissal of students, the payment of dues, the receipt and disbursement of the Contingence Fund, the control of the two servants employed about the Dormitories, the revisal of the declamations of the Senior Class, of all which the Senior Class have four and the Junior Class one; and inspect one third of the composition of the Sophomore Class. The President also performs prayer morning and evening, in the Rotunda; and makes an address to the students on Sunday morning, on some subject suited to the young.

The Professor of Ancient Languages and Literature takes 358 recitations, inspects the Latin exercises of the Junior and Sophomore Classes, and one third of the English compositions of the Sophomore Class and attends police duty of one Dormitory half the year.

The Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy has 228 recitations, is secretary of the Faculty, which exempts him from all committees and Police duty and has charge of the Philosophical apparatus and the Observatory. The Professor of English Literature has 291 recitations including the declination of the three lower classes; inspection of the composition of the Senior and Junior Classes; and one third of the Sophomore; and performs police duties in one Dormitory half the year.

The Professor of Modern Languages takes 227 recitations, inspects the English

Composition of the Freshman Class and performs Police duties in one building half the year.

The Tutor in Mathematics has 335 recitations, and attends to the police duties of half the building he resides in for the year.

The Tutor of Ancient Languages has 335 recitations, inspects the Latin Composition of the Freshman Class, and divides with the Tutor the Police duties of the building in which they both reside.

The Tutors alternately call the Roll at morning and evening Prayer.<sup>8</sup>

President Manly was disturbed by the accusation of discrimination and asked the trustees to define clearly certain points in order "to avoid perplexity or doubt on questions of privilege."<sup>9</sup> The President asked for the opinion of the trustees on the following questions:

1. Has the President an original vote on all questions before the faculty, when he chooses to exercise it; as well as casting a vote, in case of a tie?
2. Does this right to an original vote, if possessed at all, extend to the case of making elections by the faculty, such as Bell-man and Librarian?
3. Are the Tutors members of the Faculty and have they the right to vote as

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8. Ibid., p. 336.

9. Ibid., p. 343.

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other members?

The tutors accused Manly of discrimination by placing more duties on them than on the professors and also by refusing them the right to vote in faculty meetings. President Manly pointed out to the trustees that "the Laws of the Trustees clearly conflict with the Charter; which says that the President and the Professors constitute the Faculty of the University."<sup>11</sup> The Board of Trustees voted "for the President of the University . . . (to have an) original vote when the business of the University would otherwise be deranged and interrupted."<sup>12</sup> The vote of the trustees was in favor of the President; however, the question of the tutors' voting was decided against him. The trustees stated: "That the Committee are also of the opinion that it is expedient to allow a Tutor a vote in deliberations of the Faculty and the Government of the University."<sup>13</sup> There was no further trouble among the faculty members until the death of Professor Edward D. Sims on April 13, 1845. When his duties were divided among the professors and tutors, it finally became necessary to call a special meeting of the

10. Ibid.

11. Ibid.

12. "Trustees' Minutes, 1842-1855," p. 16.

13. Ibid., p. 17.

trustees to settle the issue. President Manly called the trustees to meet "at 4 o'clock December 24th (in Professor Stafford's back parlor)."<sup>14</sup> There is no record of what the trustees decided, but the issue was settled to the satisfaction of all the parties involved.

The Department of Law, established in 1845, created another professorship. Mr. B. F. Porter was elected first Professor in that department. In 1845 two new tutors were also added to the growing faculty of the University. Mr. William G. Richardson was elected tutor of Ancient Languages and Robert S. Gould was elected to be tutor of Mathematics.

No material changes affected the faculty until 1847, when the board of trustees created the Chair of Geology, Mineralogy and Agricultural Chemistry. The responsibility of finding a suitable department head was delegated to the faculty. For assistance in making the best selection, President Manly corresponded with "Scientific Gentlemen in the U.S.A."<sup>15</sup> Michael Tuomey, geological surveyor and agricultural commissioner in South Carolina, received the appointment in February, 1847. Professor Tuomey assumed his duties at the University May 3, 1847. He was soon making special trips over the state on geological exploration. He was encouraged to attend scientific meetings throughout

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14. "Manly Letterbook, 1834-1847," p. 347.

15. "Manly Letterbook, 1847-1857," p. 24.

the South, and soon he arose to a place of prominence. While he was absent from the University, his duties were performed by other members of the faculty. The records show that "Professor Tuomey was encouraged by the faculty to attend the meeting of the American Society of Geologist and Naturalist, meeting in Charleston, South Carolina . . . he departed March 6th and returned March 26."<sup>16</sup> He was paid \$81.82 for the expense of the trip to Charleston. Tuomey also left home August 7, 1849, on a geological tour in the state, and he returned to the University October 6, 1849. The results of this trip were published in Tuscaloosa, "under order of the Legislature,"<sup>17</sup> and made available to each member of the trustees. He was invited by a "scientific party of Mobile,"<sup>18</sup> who had chartered a vessel for two months," to make surveys of the bays, rivers, and the coast in Alabama and Florida. Tuomey was encouraged to accept the invitation by the faculty, which he did.<sup>19</sup> Professor Tuomey was advanced \$100.00 for his part of the expenses on this scientific trip. During the year 1853, "Tuomey consented to make a short trip to Mobile,

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16. Ibid., p. 149.

17. Ibid., p. 153.

18. Ibid., pp. 155-156.

19. Ibid.

embracing two weeks in February, also a trip to Montgomery about the first of May, for the purpose of lecturing."<sup>20</sup>

While traveling over the South, he collected many geological specimens which he presented to the University. These covered a wide field, ranging from fossil formation to soil types of the area.

In 1854, the General Assembly of Alabama made provision for a geological and agricultural survey of the state and Professor Tuomey was appointed by the Governor as the logical man to direct the project. He resigned his position at the University and accepted the appointment.<sup>21</sup> However, the University gave him the privilege of using one of the unoccupied buildings on the campus, and, in return for this consideration the state permitted him to continue some of his lectures at the University. It stipulated in the agreement, however, that he would serve without pay from the University since the state would be paying his salary.

Tuomey's appointment to the faculty of the University of Alabama, was a wise choice on the part of President Manly, for his scientific expeditions and lecture tours advertised the University and brought prestige to the faculty.

President Manly's judgment was not infallible in making appointments to the faculty. In 1846, Mr. F. M. Thomas

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20. Ibid., p. 303.

21. Ibid., p. 343.

was selected to fill the Chair of English Literature despite warning from reliable sources that his previous conduct had been "improper." Thomas arrived at the University February 11, 1847. The faculty, however, soon became aware of the fact that the new department head was neglecting his work. Summoned to appear at a special faculty meeting, he was found to be "utterly incapable and under the effect of a deep debauch."<sup>22</sup> The faculty then addressed a note to Thomas expressing unwillingness to associate with him. In strong terms, he was requested to withdraw from the campus, but instead of leaving the University premises, he appeared at the next faculty meeting in open defiance of the administration, refusing to resign or leave the campus.<sup>23</sup> However, on March 16, 1846, the Chair of English Literature was declared vacant, with notation "that Professor Thomas was no longer associated with the University."<sup>24</sup>

Professor Landon Cabell Garland was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the dismissal of Thomas. His appointment compensated for the previous error in President Manly's judgment. Professor Garland arrived on the campus December 5, 1847, and assumed his duties. He became a devoted and efficient faculty member. The resignation of Professor Brumby, 1848, who had a long and honorable record of service with

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22. "Manly Letterbook, 1847-1857," p. 25.

23. Ibid.

24. Ibid.

the University, left a vacancy in the department of Mathematics.

The faculty of the University was hard hit by illness in 1850. Professors Fosters, Fleming and Garland all became incapacitated and were unable to continue their duties until the end of the year. Professor Fleming died June 8, 1850, and Professor Garland left for Virginia on June 11, 1850, for medical attention and rest.<sup>25</sup> The duties of the sick faculty members were divided between the other faculty members.

Professor John Wood Pratt was appointed to fill the Chair of English Literature in 1849. Prior to Pratt's appointment, hard feeling had arisen between President Manly and Professor Barnard. The feud had lasted over a period of two years, "in which I [Manly] have not spoken to him [Barnard] nor suffered him to speak to me." The trouble between them reached the newspapers and became a public issue. Soon after joining the faculty, Professor Pratt sought to bring about a reconciliation. After a long and persistent effort, he succeeded in bringing Barnard and President Manly together as friends.

E. V. Scherb and William Wyman were added to the faculty in 1853. Scherb arrived at the University January

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25. Ibid., p. 149.

17, 1853, but because of his disposition, was dismissed at the end of the year. Wyman arrived July 17, 1853, and was made temporary tutor in the Department of Ancient Languages. The University conferred on Wyman an honorary master's degree in 1853. Professor Scherb was replaced by Professor Andre' Deloffre', who had for many years taught in the University of Paris, in France, but who was a citizen of Selma, Alabama. Professor Deloffre' remained at the University until the institution closed in 1865.<sup>26</sup>

Professor Garland was elected President of the Northeast and Southwest Alabama Railroad. He resigned from the University faculty January 8, 1854. President Manly said of Garland's resignation: "It may be stated upon authority that he (Garland) would not have left us at all had his salary as professor been sufficient for his support."<sup>27</sup>

President Manly recommended that the salary of professors be raised to \$2,000.00 and that tutors should receive \$1,000.00, in that it was becoming almost impossible to obtain capable men under the prevailing pay schedule.

President Manly's administration closed in 1855 with several vacancies on the teaching staff. Barnard and Garland had resigned. Professor Stafford also had left the University because of failing health, "exhausted by long and con-

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26. Ibid., p. 310.

27. "Manly Letterbook, 1847-1857," p. 344.

tinued faithful studies." In his final report to the trustees, President Manly stated that "the chair of mixed mathematics is vacant . . . as well as other chairs of Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology."<sup>28</sup>

Through the years of his administration, President Manly had witnessed the growth of the University in all of its departments. The student body had increased and the faculty had more than doubled. His relationship with the faculty had been cooperative and friendly most of the time. But he was a firm leader, sometimes domineering in carrying out his policies.

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28. Ibid., p. 373.

## CHAPTER IV

## PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT

The need at the University for curriculum adjustment was so urgent that President Manly spent all of his first year attending to this matter. In his first report to the trustees in 1838, he did not mention any improvements made in the physical plant at the University; however, he implied that such would be made. President Manly stated:

Under the blessings of Heaven, and with your wise superintendence, liberal encouragement and strong support, we think we shall ultimately succeed in making a useful and respectable institution, adequate to the wants of this great and growing commonwealth.

The year 1838 was one of general improvement on the campus. A negro man was hired to work all the time on the buildings and grounds. The garden fence of President Manly and the steward was taken down and repaired. The college grounds west of the buildings were cleaned of underbrush, and trimmed and enclosed by a ditch, fence and rails. The corners of the grounds were located by the county surveyor and stones were set deep in the ground to identify them, also the east side of the campus was cleaned of underbrush

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1. "Manly Letterbook, 1834-1846," p. 139.

and the trees were trimmed.<sup>2</sup> The west campus fence was moved several rods, to allow the road to the University, "leading north from the Huntsville road directly up to the portico of the steward's house to be completed."<sup>3</sup> The campus was cleaned of a large amount of rubbish which, President Manly said, "had been accumulating for years," and general repairs were made throughout the University.

Changes were made for new furnishings, such as the instruments for a new observatory, which had been ordered from England but did not arrive for installation until 1844.<sup>4</sup> Rooms were "white washed, painted and finished with stoves, benches, chairs, tables, desks, bookcases, etc."<sup>5</sup> The rostrum in the Rotunda was extended to the back wall so that invited guests, the faculty, the class under performance, high public officers,<sup>6</sup> and strangers of distinction could be seated upon it.

President Manly felt that a great deal had been done his second year at the University, to improve the physical appearance as well as the scholarship at the University. There was even greater improvement made during 1839 than

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2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. Ibid., p. 157.

5. Ibid.

6. Ibid.

had been made the previous year. The graveyard for the University was enclosed by a ditch and a temporary fence, and provisions were made to have a live hedge fence planted, later to replace the ditch and temporary fence.

The location for the President's house was made in 1839. Two hundred and seventy eight trees were planted under contract on the University campus. Chairs were bought, roofs were fixed, concrete was laid around the Rotunda, and the laboratory was trimmed anew.<sup>7</sup> Some of the physical improvements made, such as the graveyard and the President's house, are still in existence at the University. The President's house was begun during 1839 and completed in 1841, the first new building undertaken by President Manly.

The following year a few trees were planted; some rooms were painted but very little general improvement was made. President Manly suggested to the trustees that the improvements might be more efficiently done if the improvements could be turned over to an agency instead of having them done by hired labor. The faculty felt that this would be a more satisfactory arrangement and would hasten the improvement program.

The President only mentioned two minor improvements made during 1841. Some shelves were made for the library

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7. Ibid., p. 216.

and cabinets for the mineral and geological display. Although there is no mention of improvements, two servants, William and Pete, were hired to work on the campus.<sup>8</sup> It can be concluded that more improvements were made than were mentioned in the report.

At the request of Professors Brumby and Barnard, lighting rods were affixed to all the buildings in 1842. The President called the trustees' attention to the "dreary aspect of the buildings and grounds," which implied that the labor had not been sufficient for the needed improvement. President Manly further stated: "If it were private property, it would have had the observing traveller to conclude that its occupants are broke and intend to move shortly."<sup>9</sup>

In 1843 the trustees' attention was called to a smoking chimney in the center of the Jefferson building. President Manly stated that this particular chimney had been a "source of great annoyance every year."<sup>10</sup> The chimney was torn down and rebuilt. A cellar was enclosed under one of the buildings. No other improvements were mentioned during the year. Discouragement is noted during the last three years because of the lack of money and interest in the physical equipment

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8. Ibid., p. 275.

9. Ibid., p. 306.

10. Ibid., p. 343.

at the University. In contrast the buildings were going down while scholastic standards were improving at the University.

One servant was bought and two hired to work on improvements during 1844.<sup>11</sup> The campus was ploughed with a large plough drawn by two horses. Bermuda grass was scattered over the newly ploughed ground and it covered the ground the same year. A number of trees were planted, and general repairs were made throughout the campus. Live hedge was set out on three sides of the campus.

During 1845 greater activity is noted in general repair,<sup>12</sup> especially on the roofs of most of the buildings. Roofs were put on several buildings from shingles that were of select materials and well seasoned. Also, new steps of all heart pine were made to most of the buildings. The structures were beginning to take on a better appearance than at any previous time.

The homes of Professors Garland and Dockery were burned in 1847. Another building was partly destroyed in order to check the fire from further damages. President Manly stated: "It is difficult to say when the conflagration would have ended, had this building taken fire."<sup>13</sup> The faculty members

11. Ibid., p. 370.

12. Ibid., p. 392.

13. Ibid., p. 59.

who were deprived of their homes by fire were "accommodated temporarily in hired buildings."<sup>14</sup>

The damaged building was enclosed for future repair. The loss of this building and crowded conditions of the dormitories induced the President to recommend the abandonment of the dormitory system.<sup>15</sup> He proposed to the trustees that the "buildings lately used as the State Capitol could be procured by the Trustees . . . and the two younger classes be required to recite in apartments."<sup>16</sup> He further suggested that the freshman and sophomore classes be required to find suitable lodging in good private homes. The trustees did not act favorably on President Manly's suggestion but did authorize

B. F. Porter, Esq., to make a contract with the Rev. J. S. Dagg for the purchase of the Athenaeum /sic/ buildings and the grounds attached thereto, provided the same can be done for a sum not exceeding fifteen hundred dollars.<sup>17</sup>

One thousand dollars was also appropriated to repair the damage done to the building partly torn down during the fire of Professors Garland and Dockery's homes. The dormitory system was continued at the University.

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14. Ibid.

15. Ibid.

16. Ibid.

17. "Records of Ordinances and Resolutions passed by the Board of Trustees, University, Alabama," 1848, p. 131.

General repair continued during 1848 but the Washington and Jefferson buildings were in need of major repairs. President Manly stated: "They seem to require braces or hogchains" and proposed to do this work with as little expense as possible by using the large lightning rods attached to the building. The trustees were informed of the need of repairs to the arches at the base of the colonnade of the President's house.<sup>18</sup> President Manly stated that:

The conclusion I came to after having consulted with competent mechanics and Professors Garland and Tuomey, were that in order to make this repair in a satisfactory manner, it would be necessary, in addition to a thorough reconstruction of the arches, themselves, to substitute for the flag stones now used as a pavement edge cased of hard burned brick, laid in cement smoothed down on the top and rubbed to an even surface.<sup>19</sup>

This work began in 1848, and was finished in 1849.<sup>20</sup> Little more was done during 1849 because of the lack of funds.

President Manly pointed out to the trustees that the physical equipment at the University was in need of much repair by 1850. He said:

18. "Manly Letterbook, 1847-1857," p. 105.

19. Ibid.

20. Ibid.

In so large and costly a concern, subject to rough usage and without repair for a long time, it is expected that repair and the prevention of further decay will both cost and require labor, which will not show much; and that these will have to be repeated year by year.<sup>21</sup>

President Manly was so restrained year by year by the lack of needed money for needed repair that it could not all be done. He did manage during the year 1850 some miscellaneous repairs on University property. Also a session room was prepared in the President's house for trustee meeting and reception of visitors at the University. The room was furnished with "articles of furniture, very much out of repair . . . from the State House in Tuscaloosa."<sup>22</sup>

Repairs of miscellaneous nature were continued in 1851, "incapable of innumeration," stated President Manly in his report to the trustees, but some of the more important repairs were mentioned. The floor in the basement of the President's house was repaired, the college well was cleaned out and refitted and the observatory and its enclosure were painted. Iron railings were provided for the

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21. Ibid., p. 218.

22. Ibid., p. 219.

front of the house occupied by Professor Tuomey, also the rotunda was refitted at considerable expense.<sup>23</sup>

By an act of the Legislature in 1851, the old capitol, with all the furnishings, was granted to the University of Alabama.<sup>24</sup> The University lands around and adjacent to the building were surveyed by members of the faculty and assisted by county surveyor, Mr. Thomas B. McGehee.<sup>25</sup> The survey was made from the original field notes, brought to the University by the county surveyor. The boundaries were all satisfactorily fixed; and, according to the plat herewith submitted, the corners are all marked by permanent stones, set firmly in the ground. "The surveyor's plat and description are to be spread on the record of the county; and it is proposed to make a neat copy of it, to be set in a frame that it may hereafter be kept in the session room of the Trustees,"<sup>26</sup> reported Manly to the trustees. The complete survey was the first made by the University after acquiring the State Capitol property and President Manly felt that it was of great

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23. Ibid., p. 269.

24. Ibid., p. 271.

25. Ibid., p. 272.

26. Ibid.

importance to future development of the buildings and grounds.

The following year only miscellaneous repairs were made because of the often repeated reason: "no money." The question of economy was President Manly's greatest handicap. He had great dreams for a great physical plant to match the fine scholarship he had developed through the years at the University. His dreams were not realized during his life but a plan was being developed through this period that was followed by others to achieve through what President Manly dreamed of accomplishing. A new building was authorized by the trustees.

Ordinance 10

Be it ordained:

That the President of the University and James Guild be and are, hereby authorized and requested to procure a suitable plan for a new building on the University grounds, to be situated east of the rotunda and to correspond in position and external appearance to the Franklin Building; the plans to be such as to provide a sufficient number of public rooms for the working of the establishment, also two good rooms for accomodating the meeting of the EROSOPNIC and PHILOMATIC SOCIETIES; and the residue of the rooms to be adapted to the accommodation of the students as dormitory and study rooms.

Be it further ordained: that the President of the University and James Guild, be authorized and requested to contract for the said building, after advertising

for sealed proposals in some journals published in each of the cities, Tuscaloosa and Montgomery for six successive weeks-- provided that a satisfactory bid or offer is made within the limits of the appropriation made for that purpose, and that said contract be made under bond with good security, for the faithful performance of the work in a substantial manner, within twelve months from the date of the contract.

Be it further ordained, that a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars, be and the same is hereby appropriated to defray the expense of the said building, subject to the draft of the President of the University and James Guild, regard being had in its construction to the substantial and permanent quality of the work and not ornament or show.

Provided however, that the President of the University and James Guild may engage in the contract to make a partial payment in advance of the completion of the contract; if by doing so, the contract can be made for a less price.<sup>27</sup>

The new building was not started the following year because after the contracts were advertised for, "the offers made far exceeded the appropriation."<sup>28</sup> President Manly asked Professor Tuomey to supervise the work of construction. But the State Legislature voted in 1854 for a geological survey to be made of the State of Alabama and Professor Tuomey was named to supervise the survey; there-

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27. "Records of Ordinances and Resolutions passed by the Board of Trustees 1854, University, Ala.," p. 216.

28. "Manly Letterbook, 1847-1857," p. 347.

fore, the matter was referred back to the trustees in 1854. There is no record of what disposition was made by the trustees. President Manly resigned at the end of the college year in 1855 without having achieved his dream of building a modern plant to use in teaching the fine students assembled at the University of Alabama.

## CHAPTER V

## LIBRARY

One of the desires of the President was to provide the best in library facilities, and he set out to accomplish this wish. The previous President had accumulated more than three thousand books for the University Library by the end of his administration.<sup>1</sup> This was then considered a sizable collection for reference and research purposes. But Manly wanted it better.

One of the first acts of President Manly was to place the library under the charge of Professor R. T. Brumby, a professor of mathematics. Mr. Brumby devoted much of his time to the work of the library and to planning for a better library. This was over and above his regular duties as a professor, and consequently, Manly recommended that a "sum equal to the price of the Board in Commons"<sup>2</sup> be paid the librarian. The pay would be a supplement to the salary of the professor who served as supervisor of the library.

Many books were being lost from the library because of the custom of permitting the resident graduates of the University to use the library. Thus, in 1838, President

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1. Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the University of Alabama, 1837, p. 8.
  2. "Manly Letterbook, 1834-1846," p. 111.

Manly reported to the trustees that "the faculty have restricted the use of the library to such as reside within the college walls after graduation."<sup>3</sup> This was an effort to preserve some of the more important books for the students. This practice was sustained by the trustees.

President Manly placed much emphasis upon books and scholarship. He desired to place the best available material in the library so that it would be accessible to the students and faculty. But it was hard to do so on the four hundred dollars that had been appropriated when he arrived at the University.

Manly recommended to the trustees that:

It would be more economical to disburse a larger sum at once than \$400.00 and that the present limited number of books might justify an expenditure of \$1,000.00 a year for five years.<sup>4</sup>

This recommendation was one that was far-reaching in making for the greatness that the library was destined to achieve.

Advancement was being made in science and literature and it was apparent that the library would have to keep in step with these advancements if it was to succeed in providing the best material available for the student's use. And President Manly asked the trustees and the public for

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3. Ibid.

4. Ibid., p. 135.

money in equipping and maintaining library facilities. Not only did he raise monies for this purpose, but he was constantly searching for valuable and hard-to-find volumes. He went afield for books wherever they could be found. He made the library a depository for all American, as well as foreign, governmental documents. The library subscribed to all of the leading periodicals of the day, for the President desired not only to have what had been previously written on any subject but also what was being said currently. The students were to be kept abreast of current events and thoughts. Thus, this new enthusiasm was responsible for greatly increasing the number of volumes in the library by the end of 1837.

Mr. Brumby found the library requiring too much of his time, and so Professor S. S. Sherman was placed in charge of the library in 1838. Mr. Sherman had more time to devote to the making of a greater library. He was instrumental in securing from the British government the following works:

Rotuli Chartarum in Treveri Londinensi,  
 1 Volume, folio.  
The Records of Caernarvon, 1 Volume folio.  
Inquisitionum Cancellarid Hibernid  
Repertorum, 2 Volumes, folio.  
General Report of Commissioners of Public  
Records, 1 Volume, folio.  
Kalenders, Inventories and of Exchanges,  
and Proceedings of (Priveys) Council  
 5 Volumes.5

These important works were secured from the British government without any cost to the University.

Because the students had free access to the library and the book shelves many books were constantly being lost and misplaced in the shelves. Some students took advantage of the absence of the librarian while he was looking for another student's book to go to the shelves and secure a book without the knowledge and consent of the librarian. Consequently, the orderly arrangement of the books was badly disrupted. But this was remedied when Manly recommended in 1839 a "semicircular railing; admitting students within the room, but barring access to the book cases,"<sup>6</sup> to all except the librarian. The barring of the students from the stacks proved to be something new to them and it has been continued to the present day, with the exception of the graduate students.

Manly reported to the trustees the following list of leading periodicals obtained for the library in 1838:

Southern Literary Messenger  
Review Journal of the American Institute  
Journal of the Franklin Institute  
North American Review  
American Journal of Science  
New York Review  
London Quarterly  
Edinburg Review  
Farmer's Register  
Rail-Road Journal  
London and Edinburg Philosophical Magazine  
Annals of Electricity and Magnetisms  
Comptes Rendus  
Annales de Chinice Biblio the que Universelle

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6. Ibid., p. 164.

Connasissance de Temps.<sup>7</sup>

Manly said, "these periodicals commanded a wide circulation and embodying a vast amount of intelligence."<sup>8</sup> And then in addition to these current periodicals, a number of the back copies of the Scientific Journal was on order to complete a set of this most important American journal. President Manly requested that the amount of from one to three hundred dollars be used to secure the publications of the astronomical and geological societies of England, for he believed that these royal societies published works of "the highest quality, proper for the library of a state institution."<sup>9</sup>

There were but a few books added to the library in 1839, but Congress gave the Reports of Committees, Documents, and Journals from both the Senate and the House of Representatives to the University library. Also the library was given the American Archives, Series 4, Volume 2.<sup>10</sup> Eight volumes of Stillman's Journal were purchased to complete a partial set that was in the library. In addition to these, two large maps of Alabama and Mississippi were purchased. These were maps by La Tourette. One set of the maps was used in the library and the other set was used in the examination rooms.

7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid., p. 214.

It was with much pleasure that Manly reported to the trustees in 1841 that the "book-cases were now filled."<sup>11</sup> The long-range planning program for the library had brought forth much fruit. There had been a large accumulation of valuable periodicals and pamphlets during those years. And one of the most valuable purchases was the valuable library of the late Dr. Thomas Cooper, of Columbia, South Carolina. Manly was not satisfied with the books now acquired, for he proposed the building of more room for new books, periodicals, and other material in the now fast-growing University library.

Manly's report for 1842 revealed that the library had been furnished with two large book cases during 1841.<sup>12</sup> He also indicated that one hundred and sixteen volumes had been added to the library "either by purchase or by gift."<sup>13</sup> But the 1842 report revealed that little material change had been made during that year. The status of the library in 1837 had been rather low and there was room for great growth. So far a period of four years, the library experienced great growth through the efforts of the new President. But by 1842, it had reached a good maximum and the growth curve leveled off to a plateau. This was indeed fortunate because the demands for

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11. Ibid., p. 250.

12. Ibid., p. 275.

13. Ibid.

appropriations were becoming great, and so President Manly thought it wise not to continue with his great expenditures for the library but instead to channel the monies for physical equipment and for other needs.

Even though more money was being appropriated for other items, the needs of the library did not go unnoticed. The accumulation of the many volumes and periodicals during the years of great growth proved the need for a better system of cataloging. Thus, the efforts were directed toward improving the structural organization of the library. The 1844 report indicated that "the library has this year received extra attention and has been put into a neat and methodical order."<sup>14</sup> A new system of cataloging was installed and it proved to help locate books in the stacks. The new courses provided by the changing curriculum demanded additional reference books and periodicals. President Manly reported that "the library appears to have been kept with fidelity, this year [1845] and certainly with peculiar realness."<sup>15</sup>

One great blow to the library was in 1848 when someone forced his way into the library during the night hours. A great deal of damage was done to many of the books and materials in the library. President Manly and Professor Tuomey made a personal investigation of the incident and learned that the culprits had entered the library by climbing a

14. Ibid., p. 343.

15. Ibid., p. 391.

lightning rod from the ground into the library. The lightning rod was removed and iron bars placed across the windows so that no one could enter the library except through the door. Manly was determined to see that the valuable collection that had been built up was not destroyed. He barred the windows to protect the precious collection of the library.

Three years later, in 1851, the library underwent another change. This time the books in the cases were covered with lattice work of wire, fastened as doors to the several book cases so that the student could read the titles of the books but could not disarrange them or take them down without the cooperation of the librarian.<sup>16</sup> He did this to acquaint the students with the available books and to stimulate their taste for reading.

The new arrangement made it necessary for the librarian to be in the library at all times. Therefore, President Manly recommended to the trustees that a salary for "adequate uniform attention to the library"<sup>17</sup> be paid a librarian. And a full time librarian has served the University since 1852, making for a greater efficiency in the library.

The report in 1852 revealed that valuable donations were made to the library. They came "chiefly from the

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16. "Manly Letterbook, 1847-1857," p. 268.

17. Ibid.

United States government, the Smithsonian Institution, and members of Congress. A few have come from individuals."<sup>18</sup>

It was in the same year, 1852, that a set of rules was submitted to govern the action of both the librarian and the students. The following rules were submitted:

1. The library must be opened one hour during the recess of each Monday and Tuesday in term time; and also from 2 to 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoons.
2. The Librarian shall keep a record of all periodicals subscribed for by the University. Also of all that are at any time taken into the University library by the members of the faculty having charge of this subject. A book is to be ruled and kept for this purpose.
3. Talking in the Library room is prohibited, except with the Librarian; and that be so as not to disturb anyone who may wish to read in the room.
4. Students wishing books must write the title and the library number on a strip of paper, and hand it to the librarian; who, only, shall take down a book.
5. Pamphlets are to be classified and put into the boxes provided for them; and they shall be kept until the Faculty gives orders to have them bound.<sup>19</sup>

It is needless to say that these rules meant much in their day. They proved valuable because they were the beginning of the development of our modern system of library security.

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18. Ibid., p. 307.

19. Ibid.

Manly further recommended that they purchase three large "folio volumes called the Indian Gallery."<sup>20</sup> The folio contained the portraits and biographies of the most noted aborigines of the United States.

The library continued to grow under President Manly's administration, reaching an all time high in volumes of books, periodicals, government records, pamphlets, maps and portraits during 1855, the last year of his administration. He made one of his greatest contributions to education and to the University of Alabama, through his constant and diligent efforts to bring together adequate literature and materials to facilitate up-to-date scholarship.

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20. Ibid.

## CHAPTER VI

## DISCIPLINE

Discipline at the University of Alabama was a major problem in 1837, and the administration encountered serious difficulties in restoring order after assembling the student body for class work. The students engaged in open revolt against regulations, the faculty, and all authority during the last year of Dr. Alva Woods' administration. President Manly, in his first report to the trustees stated that the University had been "exercised almost insensible."<sup>1</sup> He described the lack of discipline among the students as "the straw that broke the camel's back" of the first administration, when order was a "rarity rather than a rule."

In coping with the situation, it is interesting to note that President Manly employed methods not far removed from student government systems of the present day. In his words:

The faculty have sought to establish habits of self-government among the students rather than to rule with rigid supervision and absolute authority; to operate rather by prevention of evils than by their cure.<sup>2</sup>

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1. "Manly Letterbook, 1834-1847," p. 135.

2. Ibid.

These principles of self-government were to be employed later by other universities and colleges throughout the nation and by some of the more progressive secondary schools. At the University of Alabama student response to this new type of discipline was immediate and favorable. President Manly informed the trustees that "we have not enjoined a rule or announced a prohibition or offered a request which has not been immediately complied with."<sup>3</sup>

There were many good features in President Manly's approach to the problem of discipline. For example, if a student should be found "flagging" or "going wrong", his case would be considered by the President personally and later considered in faculty meetings. Often by a friendly conversation with the President the erring student would be corrected "without noise or disgrace" and restored to a "tolerable measure of diligence and regularity."<sup>4</sup> By the method of counseling and personal consideration of the student by President Manly and the faculty, they avoided putting the student to "open shame" and "public humiliation" as practiced before 1837. President Manly's report to the trustees in 1838 indicated that permanent progress could be noted. He stated: "The gratifying fact is still apparent that the students of this University submit carefully and

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3. Ibid.

4. Ibid.

steadily to wholesome discipline."<sup>5</sup>

Results obtained through President Manly's policies were compared with students' reactions to previous methods. He gave to the trustees in his 1838 report what he believed to be concrete evidence of sound procedure. Proudly, he pointed out that "not a single student has been absent from weekly review for any cause . . . and order on the premises is as quiet and uniform as that of a large family."<sup>6</sup>

President Manly further stated:

That none of the individuals of this faculty have ever met, in other institutions, a higher degree of application; or in similiar circumstances, more success in study.<sup>7</sup>

Discipline at the University during the sessions of 1837 and 1838 surpassed all expectation of the faculty and trustees. President Manly's improved methods in dealing with students, his devout religious nature, and his qualities of sound leadership, established order out of chaos--order that was to pay rich dividends in terms of scholarship and general morale. He was also creating a wholesome religious atmosphere at the University and was establishing sound principles of Christian living. Members

5. Ibid., p. 163.

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

of the faculty as well as the students, attended daily prayers and "Sunday Sermons." President Manly's eloquence and personal magnetism were becoming contributing factors to "a better way of life in Tuscaloosa."

There were special cases, however, which forced President Manly to digress from his established policy of mild discipline and self-government. During early spring of 1840, improved discipline suffered a severe relapse. A few students created a general excitement on the campus and planned an open outbreak to start Monday night, March 30th, which the faculty did not think they could prevent. The faculty could find out nothing, by which they could single out the guilty parties. The entire student body was sent home for a short time "in order that wholesome family council might help the students' disposition so he would be in condition for study on his return to the University."<sup>8</sup> The results of the recess "satisfied the faculty that their course was prudent."<sup>9</sup> Six of the students were found guilty of "imprudent and deficient violation of the University regulations." They are identified in the official records as George F. Moore, Robert Goree, James Ramsey and James L. Pen of the sophomore class, Thomas E. Irby and Leonidas N. Walthall of the junior class. The four sophomores were dis-

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8. Ibid., p. 212.

9. Ibid.

missed from the University, but Irby and Walthall were reinstated after "confession and repentance." President Manly stated in his report to the trustees after the incident was closed that:

The faculty are of the opinion that order and discipline are now more firmly seated than they would have been but for the events connected with the disorder in the spring.<sup>10</sup>

The administration had a trying year during 1841. Legrand Capers was ordered to leave the University for not paying his bill, although he had acknowledged that he was fully able. After he was ordered to leave the campus, he went and paid the Steward, but took no receipt and remained on the premises, although he did not attend classes. President Manly refused to recant the order for Capers to leave the University. The following incident was recorded by the President, February 1, 1841:

This afternoon, while standing in the west door of the Rotunda, after praying, Capers came up to me. My first impression was not to recognize him, as his coming on the grounds was contrary to my order. But as he came close in an inquiring attitude, I stood while he asked me, if there was any chance for him to be reinstated. I told him I thought not. He said he should like to know the reason why. I told him I had been sufficiently

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10. Ibid.

explicit before--that he must be aware himself of the utter disregard he had manifested to the laws and authority of the University and surely he could not expect to remain with this conduct unexplained--that the very fact of his coming on the premises without permission was proof how little he regarded the laws. On my uttering this, he struck me in the face, and attempted to take hold of my nose; but it proved too short or some other cause prevented him from getting hold of it. My surprise was so great that I was scarcely conscious of what I did. My first consciousness, however, was of having my fist doubled and drawn back ready to strike. I am thankful I had the presence of mind not to strike . . . I then turned and walked home.

He went to the Steward's Hall, and attempted the same indignity to the Steward.<sup>11</sup>

Capers was forced to leave the campus for the incident. George W. Ashurst and Felen Fitzpatrick were expelled for drunkenness; Aaron Jones and Richburg Gillard for bad habits, vice and disrespect in classes. President Manly felt by dismissing these students a bad influence would be moved from other students and the undesirable students removed from the University. He also wanted to impress upon the other students that with the principle of mild discipline there was a determination to be firm.

From 1843 to 1847, only one serious breach of conduct was reported. This incident occurred while some ladies were

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11. Ibid., p. 221.

visiting the campus in the latter part of February, 1847. The trouble "began in some act of thoughtless indecorum offered ladies visiting the campus." The faculty thought it required some just admonition, and took measures designed to bring the thoughtless actors to confession for their offence. But, to their surprise and regret, further mischief for the purpose of intimidation was detected.<sup>12</sup> President Manly did not report what the "further mischief" was or the penalty that was given the guilty parties, except to say, "We lost some two or three students."

A very unusual occurrence happened during 1847 but no damage was done. A society had formed on the college campus known as "Kori Crucian" for the purpose of making "great noise." On the night of July 13th, the society paraded around the campus shouting and making noise by beating tin pans. President Manly stated that it was an imitation of a club in Mobile called "Cow-bellian."<sup>13</sup> After the parade was over, the students who were out of the buildings were found to be the culprits. The incident was minor and no serious damage was done to the order at the University.

In 1848, discipline at the University was good during a greater part of the year, but three cases were reported to the trustees which demanded attention. During the lat-

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12. Ibid., p. 370.

13. Ibid., p. 167.

ter part of December, and all the month of January, "mischief was perpetrated." An officer of the University was "violently assailed" while performing police duty. When the students returned to the University after the "mid-term recess," the trouble continued for four weeks. The faculty was unable to catch the author of the mischief or to find out the dissatisfaction of the students. President Manly said that the faculty "was happy to find a number of students asking for dismissal voluntarily," which restored<sup>14</sup> quiet on the campus.

In the latter part of October, some member of the junior class began to disturb recitation in one of the class rooms by groans and other noises. The students were warned if it should happen again, serious notice would be taken of the disorder. It happened again and Richard F. Inge was questioned, and he acknowledged that he had done it. Inge was ordered to leave the campus of the University on October 25th, but instead of departing, he continued to occupy his room several days, employing himself "in contriving means of annoyance to the officer who had reported him and disturbing the order of recitations and the peace of the University."<sup>15</sup> President Manly reported to the trustees that Inge is "hereby reported to you, with the recommendation that he be solemnly expelled," which he was.

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14. "Manly Letterbook, 1847-1857," p. 53.

15. Ibid.

In January a quarrel between two students, Edward G. Baptist and J. T. Killough, nearly ended in tragedy. Baptist had challenged Killough to mortal combat. Both were to enter the classroom after dark, naked and "fight unto death with Bowie knives."<sup>16</sup> Baptist, a younger man than Killough, and feebler physically, went to President Manly for advice. He was given an honorable dismissal and advised to go home to his father. Killough was also sent home for his part in this intended duel.

Good order prevailed until 1850, when a group of students got drunk in town. There was no property damage, and President Manly dismissed the incident as the "accomplishment of a college revel."<sup>17</sup> There is some indication here that President Manly's leniency was becoming extreme. In 1841 his reaction to a similiar incident had resulted in an order forbidding students going into nearby Tuscaloosa.

Unrest was caused by officers of the University acting as policemen during 1854. The students resented being watched and regimented all the time. Newspapers throughout the South spoke out editorally for the cause of the students and against the practice of the faculty of the University. The following editorial appeared in the Mobile

16. Ibid.

17. Ibid., p. 215.

Register:

It appears to us that the plan pursued by the Faculty of our University . . . of visiting the rooms of the students at uncertain hours, as a species of police spies, is one that ought to be abandoned. There is nothing so offensive to a high-minded young man or to societies of such, as to be under a constant species of surveillance, to be treated as eye-servants, to have the lean tutor or the fat professor, in his soundless slipper, gliding ghost like through the passage about his door, or popping in like Paul Pry, unaware upon his retiracy or social intercourse.

Such conduct should not be systematically pursued even toward a child, by a parent. There is a sanctity of privacy belonging to every one and nothing can justify its rude invasion. We have known more disturbances in college life, on this account than on any other, and we do not wonder that the students at Tuscaloosa shouted out "Wolf!" when grave professors were playing the part of Dogberries, and attempting stealthily to detect them in peccadilloes.<sup>18</sup>

"The public was aroused over the issue after a large part of the student body was expelled during the "Doby rebellion." Because this was a major factor in prompting President Manly's resignation the following year, it will be discussed in detail in another chapter.

President Manly's methods of discipline were inconsistent at times, but no other educator set his heart to the task of trying new ideas with greater enthusiasm and

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18. Mobile Register, June 6, 1854.

and hope than he. These policies, which combined self-government and a mild form of discipline, have proven that he was living before his day, and that he and others were laying the foundations of student government as they exist in educational institutions of the present day.

## CHAPTER VII

## MANLY'S RESIGNATION

President Manly remained at the University for eighteen years, serving with distinction, before resigning on July 7, 1855.

The University was operating with an inadequate teaching force. There were pressing needs for equipment, library supplies, and dormitory facilities, and no money was available to obtain these needs. Class rooms were in bad condition, and public support for the University was at its lowest ebb since 1837.

Three outstanding professors resigned in 1854, producing a serious situation. Professor Michael Tuomey left the University to make the first geological survey of Alabama, Professor Garland accepted the presidency of the Northeast and Southwest Alabama Railroad Company, and Professor Barnard resigned for a new position. Already there existed vacancies in the faculty. The chairs of mixed mathematics, chemistry, mineralogy, geology and history of ancient language were vacant at the end of 1855. Manly could not find competent men to fill these places.

A spirit of rowdiness, idleness, and destructiveness was present. Dealing with this problem occupied a great deal of his time and took much of his energy. The matter

of discipline grew worse and then became critical before the end of the year.

The suspension of a student, James M. Doby, in 1854 "for making an outcry when officers were visiting in the rooms"<sup>1</sup> caused a situation that stunned the faculty and the public. Doby's fellow sophomores, in sympathy with him, refused to attend recitations. Their action brought immediate suspension to all thirty-four members of the class. The refusal of the suspended students to leave the campus of the University caused a critical situation to develop.

There followed a period of confusion and disorder. The students broke into the laboratory and into the prayer-room. They threw two valuable chemistry books that were used for reference and the Holy Bible out into the rain to be ruined. The stable of one of the officers of the University was forced open, and a horse belonging to him was taken into the prayer-room. The horse was brutally treated, disfigured, and "mutilated."<sup>2</sup>

It became necessary for a circular to be printed explaining the action of the faculty in the "sophomore rebellion." The circular was given to the public and sent to the parents and guardians of the students involved and so ended the "Doby rebellion."

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1. "Manly Letterbook, 1834-1846," p. 347.

2. Ibid., p. 311.

The public was not always kind to President Manly and often made attacks upon him for his actions and policies. Numerous complaints and criticism appeared, such as appeared in the Montgomery Advertiser, which said:

Gentlemen: - I have just read the really able message of Governor Collier. It is truly a state paper, and I concur in nearly everything contained in it. His excellency, however, it seems to me, shows too much solicitude for the State University. That is a very good institution, I dare say - but who knows it. In your paper I have seen prospectuses or advertisements of perhaps fifty good schools in this state, but I never have seen in yours or any other paper any advertisements or terms of our State University. I am disposed to concur with the Governor that it is a good institution - for Tuscaloosa - beyond that it seems not to care to extend its reputation. The annual message of our Governor, who begging the legislator for aid to it, is all that is ever heard, in or out of the state of the much vaunted University of Alabama. It's whole management for ten years back at least, has been characterized by a secretness, a want of public spirit, and a pedantry which will and ought to be a reproach to its founder and patron - The State.

Gentlemen, I write this "more in sorrow than anger," and under the firm conviction that if we wish an institution of learning in our state worthy of the name, we must remodel, reconstruct, rearrange, if not remove the present University. As it is now, it is regarded, by more than two-thirds of the people, a mere private school.

I conclude by stating that the writer is one who has boys to educate, and would

like to do it in their native state but  
CANNOT.<sup>3</sup>

The criticizing of President Manly and his administration was promptly dealt with. He replied to the Montgomery Advertiser by saying: No respectable, well established college in the country advertises "prospectuses" in the newspaper.<sup>4</sup> He further stated that "for the last several years, I have regularly sent to every newspaper in the state, of whose existence I had any knowledge, a copy of our annual catalogues."<sup>5</sup> However, by the end of 1855 Manly was able to say, "every attack on me has subsided . . . and my friends and family can look back on my period and history here without shame."<sup>6</sup> Manly considered it a wise time to resign when the situation was on an honorable footing.

Manly's education and preparation was ministerial in all phases; therefore, he labored under the handicap of inadequate preparation as an educator and administrator of a university. More than once, he mentioned the fact that he was better fitted to preach "than anything else."<sup>7</sup>

3. Montgomery Advertiser, November 15, 1850.

4. "Manly Letterbook, 1847-1857," p. 239.

5. Ibid.

6. Ibid., p. 357.

7. Ibid., p. 356.

Miss Louise Manly, a granddaughter of Basil Manly, in her biography of the Manly family, said, "The darling wish of his heart"<sup>8</sup> was to return to the pastorate.

A call to be the pastor of the Wentstreet Baptist Church in Charleston, South Carolina, was extended by the Church to Manly in the latter part of the academic year of 1855. In this call from a very "pious body,"<sup>9</sup> composed of former members of the First Baptist Church of Charleston, who had been friends of Manly while he was pastor at Charleston, he could see an opportunity to escape the burden that had been his for eighteen years. The call of the Wentstreet Baptist Church gave Manly the opportunity to reenter his chosen field, the ministry. He considered the call of the church in Charleston to be the call of God, which call had a definite meaning to him. Manly mentioned that he had followed the leadership of God to the University, but now he felt that God had called him back to Charleston and to "my Baptist people."<sup>10</sup>

Dr. Manly's health began to fail two and one-half years before he resigned. He attributed confinement, long

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8. Louise Manly, The Manly Family, p. 119.

9. "Manly Letterbook, 1847-1857," p. 365.

10. Ibid., p. 374.

hours, anxiety, and "drudgery of detail"<sup>11</sup> as reasons for his failing health. He believed that his physical condition would improve if he could be relieved of the office of President, with all its confinement.

It is significant to note that Manly came to the University young and ambitious and full of hope but left sick, broken, and hopeless. He resigned from the University of Alabama to begin again a life that he was prepared for and was ready to live.

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11. Ibid., p. 311.

## CHAPTER VIII

## MANLY'S ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE UNIVERSITY

President Manly's activities outside the University were primarily connected with the Church and the Baptist denominational program. He remained closely connected with the Church and Baptist Institutions. Shortly after coming to the University, President Manly and his family affiliated themselves with the Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa. They entered into the local church life with the same vigor which characterized the Manly family. Dr. Manly attended the services of the local church when other duties did not call him away. Soon he was being used frequently to fill the pulpit while the pastor was absent. At times he served as supply pastor when the church was pastorless.<sup>1</sup>

Preaching was the first love of Dr. Manly. He had gained an outstanding reputation as a preacher before coming to the University of Alabama. The first sermon he preached after arriving in Alabama was preached in the Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, November 19, 1837, on the subject "Yield Yourselves to God" using as his text Romans 6:13.<sup>2</sup> The next sermon President Manly preached was in the hall of the House of Representative. The legislature

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1. "Minutes of First Baptist Church 1837-1855," Tuscaloosa, Alabama, passim.
  2. "Manly Letterbook, 1834-1846," p. 122.

invited him to preach before both legislative bodies.<sup>3</sup> He preached from the words "Yea doubtless, I count all things loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord." Dr. Manly said "the intense gaze of the multitude and the new and peculiar circumstance under which I found myself placed rather overcame me; and I had not a very happy time."<sup>4</sup> President Manly accepted all invitations to preach, if he could do so without neglecting his duties at the University. His sermons were usually well attended because of his fame as a great minister. Dr. Eldred Burder Teague described his sermons as:

Simple, fervent and well rounded leaving the impression, however, of rescinded power, closing with one of those delightful spontaneous flights of eloquence, so remarkable, sudden and surprising, that distinguished his preaching throughout life. His style was easy, effortless and marked by a preponderance of Anglo-Saxon words. He usually appeared in the pulpit with elaborate notes, distinguished for thoroughness and ramified analysis from which he often read whole paragraphs connecting the extemporaneous parts without any breaks or modification of style, so that the ear would not note the change.

Those great outbursts of eloquence for which he was so famous, occurred only occasionally, and were constant surprises, sometimes once, twice or thrice in a sermon, once in a while in constant succession from beginning to end. You were always lifted off your seat. A glow from the Throne seemed to come down to him.<sup>5</sup>

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3. Ibid., p. 122.

4. Ibid.

5. Eldred Burder Teague, "Sketch of Basil Manly, Sr.," MS (no date), pp. 1-2, University of Alabama Library.

The fame of Dr. Manly's unusual ability soon spread throughout the state. It is said that "one rarely or never came out of the Church after hearing him without having learned something important that he did not know before."<sup>6</sup>

During the annual session of the Alabama Baptist Convention, assembled in Marion, Alabama, November 14, 1846, President Manly was asked to preach the preparatory sermon. He preached one and one half hours and was listened to with intense interest.<sup>7</sup> So impressed by the abilities and in recognition of the service of Dr. Manly, the Alabama Baptist Convention voted to extend to him a life membership in 1850. Following this, Manly was asked to preach the missionary sermon. So powerful was his message that mission gifts were increased and missionary activities showed great growth.

President Manly preached to small as well as large churches. Sometimes he served some of the small churches as pastor for short times. He served the Grant Creek Church in Tuscaloosa County as pastor in 1842 for one year. He often supplied for churches while the churches were looking for and securing a pastor.

Dr. Manly's preaching was not always universally accepted. He preached a sermon in the Salem church April 18,

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6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

1848, which broke the fellowship of two associations. The trouble arose over doctrinal differences. Salem church was in the North River Association which included churches in North Tuscaloosa County and a part of Jefferson and Fayette Counties. Since Dr. Manly was a member of the Tuscaloosa County Association, the churches in that Association supported him. The difference was so great that neither Association would receive members from the other unless they were willing to be rebaptized. The subject of his sermon was "Divine Efficiency with Human Activity." The doctrinal difference arose over "grace" and "works," or man's human efforts toward salvation. Members of the North River Association assumed that Dr. Manly implied in his sermon that man was saved by works, human in nature. However, the members of Tuscaloosa Association did not take the same position as the North River group. The Tuscaloosa group were in full accord with Dr. Manly, who took the position that "grace" is a gift from God, while work is necessary to be worthy of that gift. Both Associations misunderstood each other. They were so affected that a council had to be called to settle the issue. A council of delegates was assembled from several Baptist Associations in West Alabama and East Mississippi for the purpose of determining the fault and making an effort to settle the differences. The council of delegates assembled in the Pleasant Grove Bap-

tist Church in Fayette County, Alabama, April 27, 1848. Thomas G. Belwett was elected chairman of the council and Basil Manly, Jr., was elected Secretary. Dr. Manly was asked to preach the sermon again before the delegates, and after they had heard his sermon, the council voted that the sermon was doctrinally sound. They urged the two Associations to be reconciled and settle their differences, which they did.

The question of slavery and its profound influence upon Dr. Manly was the cause of his giving a great deal of time and thought in trying to justify the institution. The most far reaching influence in the effort to justify the southern christian was probably made by President Manly. The General Baptist Convention, composing all American Baptist, was formed in 1814 to support missionaries on the foreign mission field. Later the Convention established a department to promote home missions and education. It was in the "Home Mission Society" that trouble was soon to arise. The position of the "American Baptist Home Mission Society" was so strategically located that the North and West were benefited by most in its work. Soon numerous complaints arose in the South over being neglected and many southern churches refused to send money to

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8. From the proceedings of a council at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 1849, Fayette County, Alabama State Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

the "Home Mission Society" because of discrimination in appointments to mission service. The trouble was caused by agitation over the slavery question. The constant agitation of "Free Mission Societies" organized among Baptists, abolitionist in sentiment, strongly influenced the General Convention.<sup>9</sup> It was this influence which caused the Alabama Baptist Convention to consider a query from the Baptist church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.<sup>10</sup>

The Baptist of the South were infuriated by the action of the Boston Board, of the Triennial Convention, in rejecting Rev. J. B. Reaves of Georgia as a missionary in 1843 because he was a slave owner. The Alabama Baptist Convention in 1844 promptly passed suitable resolutions after due consideration of the query from the Baptist church in Tuscaloosa. The resolutions were strongly worded and forceful in southern sentiment. They simply stated:

1. Resolved, by the Convention of the Baptist denomination in Alabama that when one party to a voluntary compact among the brethren is not willing to acknowledge the entire social equality of the other, as all the privileges and benefits of the union, nor even to refrain from impeachment and annoyance, united effort between such parties, even in the sacred cause of Christian benevolence, cease to be agreeable, useful or proper.

9. Ibid., p. 22
10. Minutes of the Alabama Baptist Convention, 1844, p. 16, Montgomery, Alabama.

2. Resolved, that our duty at this crisis require us to demand from the proper authorities in all those bodies to whose funds we have contributed, or with whom we have in any way been connected, the distinct explicit avowal, that slave holders are eligible and entitled, equality with non-slave holders, to all the privileges and immunities of their several union; and especially to receive any agency, mission, or other appointment, which may fall within the scope of their operation or duties.
3. Resolved, that to prevent a gradual departure from the principles of church independence, and the assumption by societies, boards or committees, of the inalienable rights of the churches; as well as to prevent the recurrence of difficulties in future, their conventions do hold, that in all those conventions, societies or boards of which we may be a constitute part, whenever the competency or fulness of an individual to receive an appointment is under discreption, if any question arise affecting his moral or his standing in fellowship as a christian, such questions should not be desproved of the griefs of the party without alternate appeal to the particular church of which such individual is a member; as being the only body on earth authorized by the scriptures, or competent to consider and decide their class of case.
4. Resolved, that the president and secretary of this body be a committee to transmit copies of this preamble and their resolutions to those bodies for whose treasures any of the funds, now in hand or hereafter to be received, may be designed; and to call their attention especially to our second resolution:- That should any response be received, the president of this convention shall call together the officers and directors, by a notice in the Alabama Baptist, inserted at least 30 days previous to the meeting; that a majority of those persons or 8 in number shall be a quorum for business; and the quorum assembled or a majority of them shall decide whether the said moneys, or any part of them, shall be forwarded to the bodies for whom they were designed; held

until the real meeting of this body, subject to the reclaimed or reappropriated by the donor severally.

5. Resolved, that the treasurer of this body be, and he is hereby, instructed not to pay any money, intended to be applied without the limits of this state, except at the written order of the president of this convention, with the concurrence of the board of directors before mentioned; and this body, profoundly sensible the vast issue dependent on the principles herein advanced will now act in prayerful expectation, the response of our non-slave holding brethren.
6. Resolved, that the secretary of this convention, as far as practicable, transmit at least one copy of these minutes, when published, to the presiding officer of each Baptist State Convention or General Association in the slave holding states.<sup>11</sup>

This resolution was sent to the General Convention by a special committee from Alabama. Dr. Manly was a member of that committee. We have no record of what happened other than that the northern and southern baptist divided the following year. There were other issues besides the ones produced by the resolutions, but no doubt the resolutions hastened the ultimate division in the baptist denomination.

As far as the records show, Dr. Manly did not leave a written sermon on the justification of slavery as an institution. However, we have reasons to believe from public addresses he delivered before conventions that he

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11. Manly Papers, Folder 28, University of Alabama Library.

felt that human bondage was against divine ordinances. He delivered a discourse before the Alabama State Convention in 1844 on "Oral Religious Instructions of our Slave Population."<sup>12</sup> He spoke to the Convention with "pathetic earnestness and great power." President Manly, being a slave owner, was laboring under a "divine imperative" to do something for a system that was spiritually repulsive to him; on the other hand he owned property in slaves that he was bound by civil law and moral obligation to defend. The southern ministers of practically all faiths found themselves in the same position as Dr. Manly. Most of them defended slavery because of pressure put upon them by their wealthy members who were slave owners. Others like Manly were owners of one or more slaves and the system demanded defense. Manly's sentiment being southern, he felt that the Northern Baptists were denying the Southern Baptists rights in denominational affairs, using the slavery question as the issue.

President Manly was active in the Tuscaloosa County Baptist Association and the Alabama Baptist State Convention. He also was a regular attendant at the annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention. He entered into the deliberations of each body.

The seventeenth annual session of the Tuscaloosa

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12. Minutes of the Alabama State Baptist Convention, 1844, Montgomery, Alabama.

County Baptist Association meeting with the Moriah Church September 15-18, 1849, elected President Manly as a delegate to the Alabama State Convention and a messenger to the Cahaba Association. He also preached to a large and attentive congregation. In this same session, he was elected to preach the missionary sermon in the next annual session in 1850.<sup>13</sup> During the session, Dr. Manly was requested to "put forth as soon as practicable, such a work as he may deem suitable, to bring together a collection of hymns adapted to the work of our church. During the twenty-first annual session, 1853,<sup>14</sup> meeting with the Hepzibah Church, moderator Ruben Dodson appointed Dr. Manly president of a committee to create a depository of books and other things suitable for Sunday School in connection with the churches.<sup>15</sup> The committee was charged to aid in the circulation of religious books and establish Sunday Schools. Dr. Manly urged the association to maintain worship of some form in every church every Lord's day, "spending its hallowed hours in mutual attempts to provide each other knowledge of the scriptures and Christian identification." He admonished the delegates to provide religious instruction for their children in the churches,

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13. Minutes of the Tuscaloosa County Association, 1850, p. 14, Montgomery, Alabama.

14. Minutes of the Tuscaloosa County Association, 1853, p. 14, Montgomery, Alabama.

15. Ibid., p. 11.

even if the church had no pastor to lead them. Through his constant effort to establish instructions in the churches, Dr. Manly was able to get many churches to establish Sunday Schools in a period when there were few preachers and fewer programs of teaching in the churches. His contribution to Christian education in the churches through the Sunday School was profoundly effective in a period when Alabama was little more than a wilderness with a frontier population. His vision and great spiritual leadership helped make Tuscaloosa County a Baptist stronghold in the early years of Alabama statehood.

He was in the organization of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845 at Augusta, Georgia, one can be sure. Dr. Manly was elected again in 1846 to attend the Convention in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Manly became an influence in the Convention in establishing theological and christian education in the South. He did not realize his dream of a Southern Seminary until he left the University, but in 1857 along with Dr. Jeter and Dr. Poindexter, Dr. Manly was effective in laying the foundation for a theological seminary.<sup>16</sup> Through the years from 1845-1857, Dr. Manly had worked for this purpose in the Southern Baptist Convention.

President Manly worked for christian education and theological training on a state level as well as on a

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16. W. W. Barnes, The Southern Baptist Convention, 1845-1853, Nashville, Tennessee, p. 131.

South-wide basis. In 1842 Howard College was founded in Marion, Alabama, for the purpose of educating young preachers. Dr. Manly gave encouragement to this venture by the Baptists of Alabama. November 11, 1843, Dr. Manly gave the report of the education committee, reporting that there was \$200.00 in an endowment fund for the purpose of a Theological professorship in the newly established Howard College.<sup>17</sup> The committee further reported that "it was desirable to examine candidates for the ministry by a local committee."<sup>18</sup> The local committee was suggested as Reverends Hartwell, Jewett, and De Votee. The purpose of examination of the young preachers was to eliminate those who might be undesirable and unfit for the ministry before they were educated by the Baptists of Alabama. The college was made tuition-free to young ministers.

President Manly was called upon frequently to perform marriage ceremonies and funerals. He read the marriage vows for forty-eight ceremonies from 1837 to 1855. His fees for this service varied from \$5.00 to as much as \$40.00.<sup>19</sup> Those being married came from different parts of the South, although most of them were from the Tuscaloosa Area. Dr.

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17. Minutes of the Alabama State Baptist Convention, 1843, Montgomery, Alabama, p. 22.

18. Ibid., p. 22.

19. Manly Papers, "Register of Marriages, Visits and Farm Expense," pp. 3-4.

Manly preached one hundred and five funerals during his time at the University. The funerals were for men and women of all ages as well as all walks of life. The number of funerals he preached indicated the great popularity of the man. It is to be noted that most of this time he had no church pastorate. One hundred and five funerals in seventeen years would be a large number of funerals for a busy pastor.

President Manly's outside activities, while he was president of the University of Alabama exerted a profound influence on the social, cultural, and religious life of a large part of Alabama.

### CONCLUSION

The Manly years at the University of Alabama were years of advancement. The State of Alabama was little more than a frontier with countless problems facing the planning of an educational program. The pupils were restless and unsettled because of the nature of this period. The problem facing a new institution, as the University of Alabama, in a new and changing environment were tremendous. Dr. Manly was fully aware that the task was great. It is the writer's opinion that Manly wanted to have a part in the making of an educational program in this transition period. He was fully

aware that the "scientific" period was at hand, a period when the classics would give place to science and experiment. His ability to see the evolution of new ideas replacing many of the established courses of the day is clearly seen in the fact that he assembled men to teach who were able to make the transition. Most of the professors brought to the University during this period were capable men, able to maintain the standard of the classics, as well as to inaugurate the new sciences. Manly went to the campus of the leading Colleges and Universities of the day and found men who were capable. He also absorbed new ideas which were brought back to the University of Alabama.

The fact that Dr. Manly gave up a successful pastorate to enter the field of education establishes our assumption that it was a choice he made rather than an escape from the ministry.

For eighteen years there is no evidence that Manly had a desire to escape from the burden of the administration of the University of Alabama. The last two and one half years of Manly's stay at the University he was sick and heavily burdened with the problem of administration. We believe that President Manly would liked to have remained in the field of education and at the University of Alabama. This opinion is substantiated by the fact that he was never able to orientate himself to the pastorate again. He was

found again and again on the campus of Colleges and University of Alabama, <sup>which</sup> was an escape from the burden of the administration of an institution that was too much for a sick and tired man.

Manly's contribution to education in Alabama has been far reaching. His influence on the social and religious life of the state was without question the greatest made by any man of his day.

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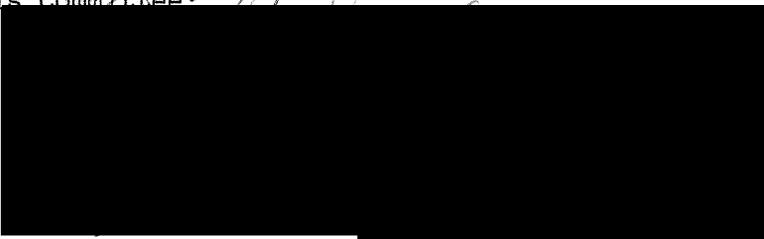
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