

LINDSAY HUGHES BLANTON

An Appreciation of

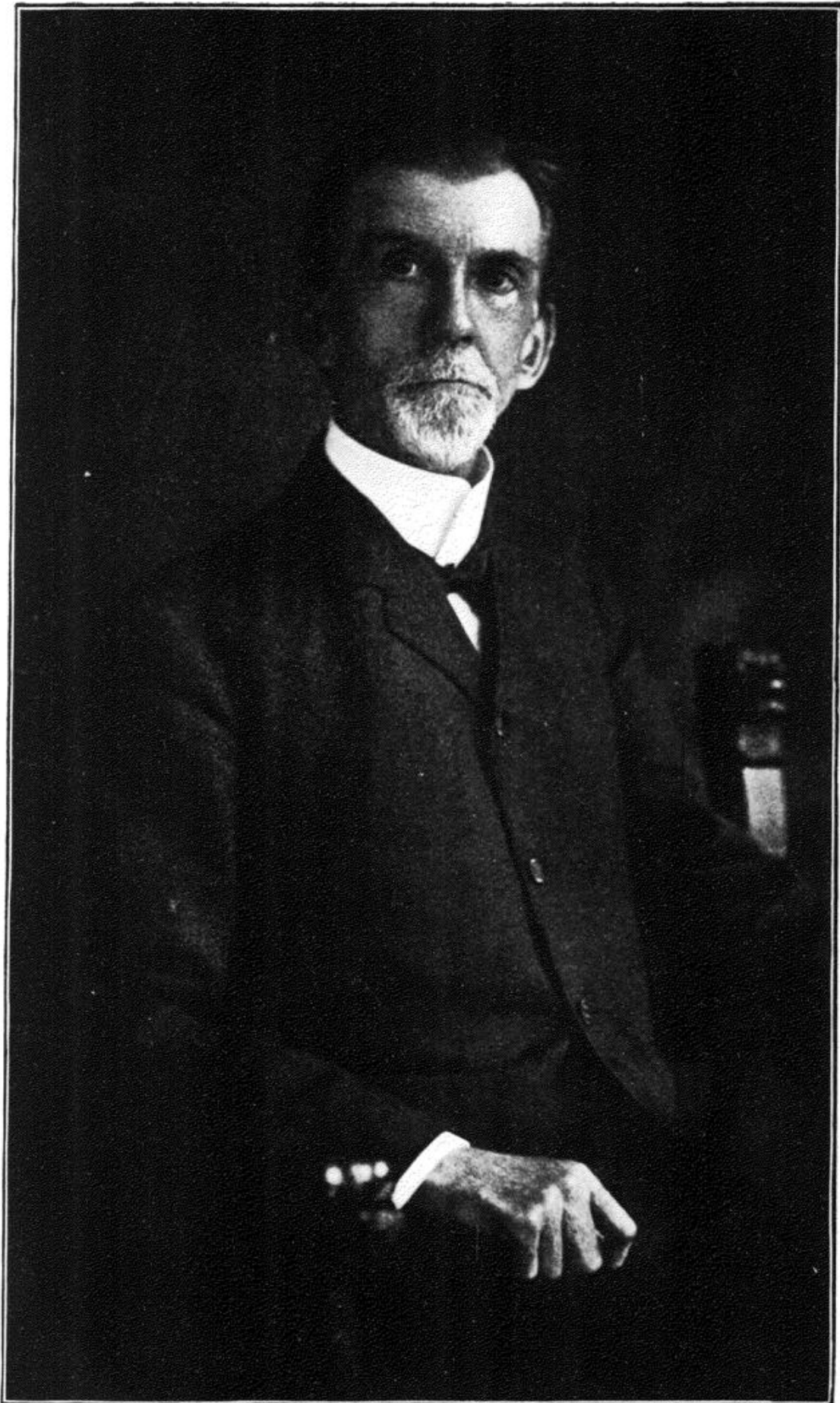
His Life and Work

Edited by
C. T. Thomson, Ph. D.

1908

Transsylvania Press,
Lexington, Ky.

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LINDSAY HUGHES BLANTON

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A FOREWORD



It has been a work of great pleasure to prepare this memorial volume. The letters from so many people of high position, great learning and superior culture, are an eloquent tribute to the one who for a half century has labored abundantly and successfully. The Carnegie Foundation Fund has twice honored Dr. Blanton—first in granting him an annuity of one thousand dollars a year, and then by increasing it to eighteen hundred dollars per annum.

The editor makes only one request of the readers—judge the work as the effort of one who is trying to let others see a great and good man as he appears to him who has had most favorable opportunity to know whereof he speaks—as a member in the Sunday school at Paris, as an elder in the church at Shawhan which Dr. Blanton served and saved, as an elder in Presbytery and Synod, as a member of old Central University's Board of Curators and of the executive committee; as a Trustee of Central University consolidated, and also a member of the executive committee; as a frequent visitor in his home; as a counsellor with him in his great work of maintaining and developing the S. P. Lees Institute and the Matthew T. Scott, Jr., Institute. I have had a manifold vision of the versatile gifts of one whom we delight to honor as Pastor, Preacher, Educator, and Friend.

LINDSAY HUGHES BLANTON.

Born in Cumberland County, Virginia, January 29, 1832. Graduated Hampden-Sidney College, 1853. Same college conferred D. D. 1878; LL. D. 1901. Student in Union Theological Seminary, Virginia. Graduated from Theological Seminary, at Danville, Ky., 1857. Pastor of church at Versailles, Ky., 1857-61; at Salem, Va., 1861-68; at Paris, Ky., 1868-1880. Chancellor of Central University, Richmond, Ky., 1880-1901; Vice President of Central University (Danville) 1901-07. Chaplain in Confederate army 1863-4. Stated Clerk of Synod of Virginia 1866-68; of Synod of Kentucky since 1874. Trustee of the Confederate Home, Pewee Valley, Ky. Four times commissioner to the General Assembly of Presbyterian Church, U. S.

During his twenty-one years' work as Chancellor, 300 young men graduated, many of whom are now filling the highest places of useful service in the church and state. He was also instrumental in building up the Lees Institute (Jackson, Ky.), Hardin Collegiate Institute (Elizabethtown, Ky.), Matthew T. Scott, Jr., Institute (West Liberty, Ky.),

His energy, activity, enterprise, courage, self-sacrifice are emphasized in the letters which are herewith submitted. The kaleidoscopic character and versatility of a life-work are better told by many than expressed in the words of the editor.

He needs no eulogy, for his praise is in the lives of several thousand people whom he served as pastor or helped during their school days. As one who loves him much, may the writer be pardoned if he expresses his opinion of some leading elements that have contributed to his monumental work?

First—He is essentially a man of large view—not contracted or narrow. The man of optimistic hope sees beyond the present into the future, looking at the invisible, reckoning upon the final supremacy of the good, the true, the beautiful, striving ever to attain the ideal of perfection, and not content with the imperfect attainment of the ephemeral present. The man of such view to the ordinary man may seem visionary, impracticable, daring, but every great work always has had its

Columbus, who launched upon the untraveled water to find the America of his hope.

Second—He was patient and uncomplaining. At times the burden of the university was almost crushing, the difficulties seemed to multiply, yet, before synod, presbyteries, churches and the board of trustees, there was never a complaint of too much to do or a request for a vacation or lessened work and service. He spared not himself, and had he fallen it would have been with full armor on.

Third—He was a genius in finding men who would be useful to the causes he supported. He developed the men and women in the churches he served as pastor. He found the people who had money and who gave to the great causes he so heartily supported. He had a keen knowledge of the student life, and gave encouragement not only to the boys in starting upon their college course, but he aided them while they were so engaged. This aid was not merely in advice and counsel, but, when necessary, it took a financial form. Perhaps no greater evidence of his power in this line was seen than in the corps of professors whom he drew to the university and held for years when many of them could have gone elsewhere at larger salaries.

Fourth—His self-sacrifice is known to but few. When he went to the university he was promised a salary equal to what the Paris Church was paying him. After a few years he voluntarily relinquished the larger salary and took the same salary the professors of the university were receiving. It was my duty on the auditing committee to examine his books in the last years before the consolidation. I found that he always paid the others first and took his own last, if there was any money left. At the commencement in 1901, I called his attention to the fact that he had received no salary at all that year, but only the balance due on the previous year. He said that by taking some boys in his family as boarders he had managed to live. Afterward he relinquished the whole year's salary to help close up without debt. During his Chancellorship he spent all he had earned up to that time. He freely gave as he had opportunity.

Fifth—After all, his one greatest talent was fidelity. He did what he could. He sought not high place or power or honor. He bravely assumed his part of responsibility as the church placed it upon him, and did his best. It is to such as he that the Master will say in the last day, "Well done, good and faithful servant." The world is better and brighter because he has done his part.

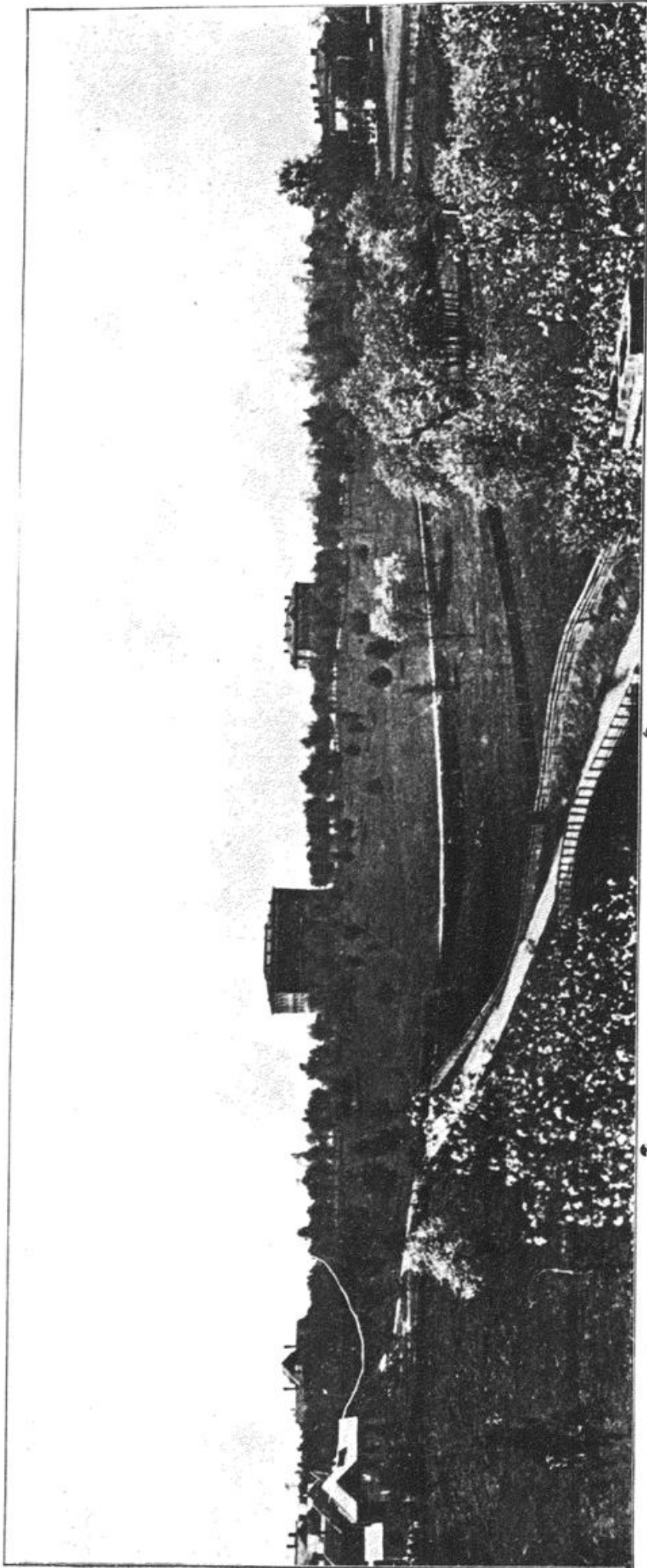
Long years to you've been given,
In faithful service for your Master;
Nobly and well you've striven,
Defying the stroke of disaster,
Still hoping and toiling for more
And larger good put in store,
Yourself heavy burdens you bore.

Heroes are men whom we praise,
Useful the duty they've done.
God wisely measures our days;
His race you've patiently run—
Ever seeking His help in your ways
So loyally rendered the Son.

Blessed years are in the past,
Let the future shine with His love.
All the way His grace shall last
Nor be wanting—till above
The Father says: "Well done, my son—
Over life's race so well run,
Now rejoice—in Heaven begun."

C. T. T.

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BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

On June 11, 1907, in the regular annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of Central University, held in the gymnasium of the College, Dr. Blanton read his report as Vice President. After its reception and adoption, he offered his resignation as Vice President, explaining the step because of his belief that he should have rest from the long and arduous labors of a half century of ministerial service. The resignation was accepted with regret, many members of the Board expressing their appreciation of his unselfish work for the University. A committee to bring in a suitable resolution submitted the following, which was unanimously adopted:

Danville, Ky., June 11, 1907.

To the Board of Trustees of Central University of Kentucky:—

Your committee to which was referred for consideration the resignation of Vice President Blanton now reports:

First—While the voluntary retirement of Dr. Blanton from direct active connection with the affairs of the University as its Vice President and member of the faculty is a matter of serious concern and sincere regret, yet when we recall his fifty years of constant, faithful, able, and consecrated service as pastor and preacher, as Chancellor and Vice President, his devotion to the training and teaching of young men, we feel he well merits the earned right to rest and release from the burdens of his present post.

Second—We congratulate him that his last years will be passed in the shadow of the institution whose history is so large a part of his own life and labors, and among those with whom he has wrought.

We congratulate him on the splendid condition of the institution here and on the status of Lees Collegiate Institute, that school to which his prayers and fostering care have been given in overflowing measure.

We congratulate ourselves that these rest years of Dr. Blanton will still abound in service through his wise counsel and guidance which we will enjoy through his continued membership in this Board.

(Signed) JOHN W. YERKES,
JOHN BARBOUR,
THOS. W. BULLITT,
E. W. C. HUMPHREY,

ADDRESSES

On Commencement Day, June 12, 1907, the large chapel of the University was crowded. After a splendid address on the "Meaning of Education," by Dr. J. W. Cochran, Secretary of Education for the Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.), President F. W. Hinitt delivered diplomas to a large number of graduates in literature and law. Before he announced the prizes and fellowships, he said:

PRESIDENT HINITT'S ADDRESS

"At this point in the program we will pause in order that we may take due note of the retirement from the ranks of educational service in Kentucky and of this institution, one who for fifty years has been prominent in the life of the Church and in the education of the young men of this state. I refer to Dr. Lindsay Hughes Blanton, who lays down the office of Vice President of Central University on this day. Before introducing the speaker who will represent the Alumni of Old Central University, I desire to extend the greetings of the Alumni of the new Central University and to express their appreciation of his personality and service to the college. And for myself, I desire to express my indebtedness to Dr. Blanton since I undertook the duties of the Presidency of Central University. With unfailing kindness and courtesy, he has seconded my efforts in every direction. I could not have asked nor desired a more genuine co-operation in my work than he has given, and it has been a constant pleasure and help to me, in the presence of difficult problems, to consult with him and to find myself reinforced by his wise counsel, enriched by the experience of the years, and proceeding from a heart devoted to the welfare of the University. He retires from this form of active service on this anniversary and bears with him the confidence and affection of those associated in the administration of the University, and from myself, a genuine affection and appreciation that can suffer no change. I congratulate Dr. Blanton on the achievements of his years of service and that this day we are privileged to recognize in him an eminent servant of the Church and of the highest interests of this Commonwealth. Ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor to introduce to you Mr. John H. Chandler, of Louisville, who will now speak in behalf of the Alumni of Old Central University."

ADDRESS OF JOHN H. CHANDLER, ESQ.

Mr. Chandler said:

"Doctor Blanton, it falls to my lot as an old C. U. man, speaking for a multitude of C. U. men, scattered over our broad land today, to lay at your feet a simple tribute of affection which comes straight from

the hearts of those who know you best, and, therefore, who love you best—those whom you have known and loved and served so well.

“Many of the old guard are not here today, but their hearts are with you—in spirit they are with you on the old campus ground, where down the dim aisle of sweet by-gone, happy thoughts of other days come thronging by. Yes, we can hear the old college song, ‘In the good old days we knew, in our classes at C. U.’ Then, too, the old college yell! How it makes the heart beat faster!

“We congratulate you, sir, today on your rounding out a half century of public service, so ably, nobly, and unselfishly rendered in the name of Christian education.

“For fifty long years you have served in the front ranks of college, church, and state, with an industry unflagging, a fidelity unfaltering, and a courage unflinching, bearing the heat and burden of the day, unmindful of self, with a spirit of sacrifice worthy of your great chieftain, John C. Breckinridge, under whom you served in the days of '63.

“For a quarter of a century you breathed the breath of life into a prostrate institution, giving your own life blood that it might live. And that institution, though financially cramped, as it was, became, under the leadership of you and Dr. Logan, one of the best institutions in all our Southland.

“None can know better than I, who lived by your side for ten years, amid the stress and strain of it all, the wonderful spirit of sacrifice with which you labored in your supreme loyalty and devotion to old C. U.

“You were always known as the college boy's best friend, not only while he was in college, but you followed him out in the world, always ready to help and serve.

“Last, but not least, you, Dr. Blanton, more than any other man, helped to bridge the yawning chasm caused by the Civil War, in reuniting the great educational forces of old C. U. and old Centre—in binding up the old wound—in placing above the great system of education, the motto of our Commonwealth, ‘United We Stand, Divided We Fall.’

“‘With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gave you to see the right,’ you labored for the consolidation. But it will take another generation fully to appreciate the magnitude of your noble work.

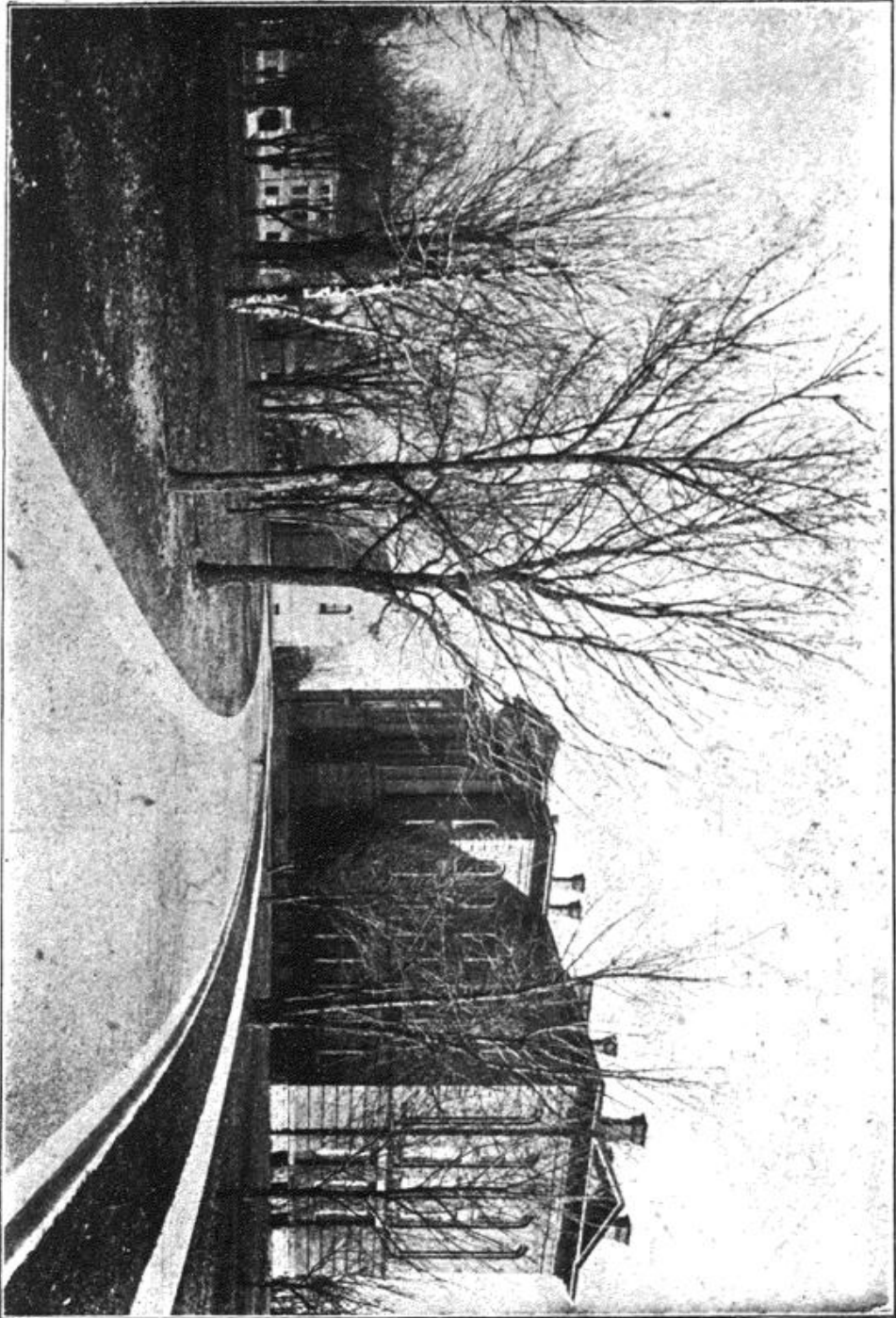
“And now, dear friend, since you have voluntarily laid aside the harness of official life, may you enjoy a well-earned rest from the lifetime of honorable, but arduous, labor. In the days to come, as you walk down the western mountain up which you have climbed so high, may the sunset's glow at eventide be more radiant in the memory of

the great good you have wrought, in the memory of the poor boys, who, but for you and your personal help, would have gone into life bound and shackled without an education.

“And now, as a token of our affection—strong, deep-seated, and abiding—I present this loving cup in the name of the old boys. On it is inscribed, ‘Rev. Lindsay H. Blanton, D. D., LL. D., 1857-1907, Minister, Educator, Friend. In Loving Remembrance of the Students of Old C. U.’

“As the old mariner, taken far away from his native seashore, carried with him a sea shell, which, placed to his ear, whispered to him the sweet sounds of the distant sea; so, in the remaining days of your life—and may God give you many of them—this loving-cup, if it could speak to you, would sound in your ear the heart-throbs of the old boys.”





MAIN BUILDING, CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

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RESPONSE OF DR. L. H. BLANTON.

My Young Friend:-

I am deeply moved, almost overwhelmed, by this expression of your good will and affection; not more by the value, beauty and appropriateness of your gift than by the tenderness and eloquence of your words. I feel unable and shall not attempt to make response to all the complimentary and generous things that you have spoken. The feeling uppermost in my heart today is that of profound gratitude to God, who has carried me safely through this long and eventful period, and to the friends who have stood by me so faithfully and loyally in all the crises of my life.

By the consent of the President, you have made me the central figure of this occasion, and you will bear with me when I tell you of some of the things which have entered most deeply into my life, and which have done most in fitting me for whatever service I have rendered to others.

I have been a fortunate man always; fortunate in my parentage, the son of an honest, faithful, loving couple, who walked in the right way, and taught me to walk in it.

Fortunate in the place of my nativity. I was born on the banks of the Appomatox, in the great Piedmont region of Virginia, of which Dr. Stuart Robinson once said, "The people live one-half of the year on past recollections, and the other on future expectations." Under the wit a great truth is expressed. It is a good thing to cherish recollections of the past, and it is a good thing to have large expectations for the future. It was a region of high ideals, about which Dr. Hinitt spoke last Sunday, and to which the orator of today so eloquently referred. Our grandfathers, soldiers of the Revolution, told us of Washington and his generals, of Bunker Hill and Lexington, of King's Mountain and Yorktown; and our fathers told us of Jefferson and Madison, of Monroe and Rives, of Henry and Randolph. These great seers, philosophers and statesmen still lived and walked through the land. The boys of my day felt their very presence, and it was a great inspiration as we listened to the story of their achievements.

I was fortunate in that I was reared in a church that had been ministered to by such men as Samuel Davies, Archibald Alexander, Stanhope Smith, Moses Hoge and others. During all my early life, I sat under the ministry of a scarcely less distinguished preacher, Doctor Jesse S. Armistead.

I was fortunate in my academic training. At seventeen I was sent

to Hampden-Sidney College, a child of the Revolution; a small college, with five or six professors; a poor college—"poor, yet making many rich." At the head of the faculty stood a great and good man, Lewis Warner Green, a native of this county, and the first graduate of Centre College; a ripe scholar, an inspiring teacher, a man of superb bearing, and of matchless eloquence. Dr. Green got his grip on every man who came under his influence; and I want to confess today, in this presence, that I owe more to him than to any other man who ever lived. Out of a class of forty in the Freshman year, only nine of us graduated in 1853, but each man made his mark in the world, and two, Holliday and McIlwaine, reached great distinction; each in turn becoming president of his alma mater.

I was fortunate in my theological training. Spending one year in Union Theological Seminary, Virginia, I came to Danville in October, 1855, and here I met in the class-room, and in the family circle, three of the greatest men of that day or any other day—Robert J. Breckinridge, Edward P. Humphrey, and Stuart Robinson. They were very different in their physical and mental make-up, but each was a great man. Across the campus, at the head of Centre College, was a man I heard nearly every Sunday, John C. Young, who lives today in the lives of so many of the alumni; a graceful, accomplished and eloquent preacher.

Fortunate, also, in my companionship in the Seminary. There were nearly fifty of us, students drawn from all parts of the country, Young (D. P.), Douglas, Rutherford, Scudder, Pitzer, Hunter, Hibben, Cortelyou, Davies, Muchmore, McMillan, and others. What a blessing these men have proved to be to the church, North and South! The inspiration I received from the great men of the college and seminary and student association has carried me all through these fifty years of service, and I entered upon my work as a young minister, June 1, 1857, hopeful and happy.

I have been a busy man always. Some say that my life was a strenuous one; but I have always been hopeful and happy. Whether at Versailles, where my inexperienced feet first trod ministerial paths, and where I helped to lay the foundation for the splendid work done by my successor, Dr. Rout; or at Salem, Virginia, in the beautiful, matchless Valley of the Roanoke, during the fearful periods of war and carnage; or at Paris, where a maturer manhood was given to the gospel ministry; I was always hopeful and happy. And at Richmond, where, in 1880, I took up heavier burdens still, the head of a college without students or endowment, living from hand to mouth, and adding to the endowment from year to year. Dr. Samuel B. McPheeters, one of the wittiest and saintliest of men, once said, he never knew what

the prophet meant when he said he "saw times, and a time, and a half time," until he became the pastor of a second-rate city church. My young friend, you know that I saw times, and a time, and a half time, and yet I was happy and hopeful; hopeful that a better day was coming, and happy in being supported by a Board of Curators, who stood by me through twenty-one years, and seconded by a band of noble professors, Logan, Barbour, Wilson, Nichols, Akers, Crooks, Kennedy, and others; happy in seeing gathered there, from year to year, a band of splendid young men, the very pick of Kentucky, who gave me always their confidence and affection.

And I have been happy in Danville; first, in the fact of the consolidation—happy in the thought that all the Presbyterians of Kentucky were united once more in the cause of Christian education and in support of two great institutions. Centre College was founded eighty-eight years ago; the Danville Theological Seminary, fifty-four years ago. But a period of division and strife ensued. In 1874 Central University was opened at Richmond, and later the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Louisville. But the brick and mortar of these institutions were scarcely dry when earnest men on both sides thought and talked about getting together in education. And this is not strange. The Presbyterians of Kentucky are one people; they differed about the War, but in all great essentials they have always been one people; one in lineage, one in faith, one in a common history; their traditions, hopes and aspirations were the same. And it is a glorious consummation, that once again all the Presbyterians of the state are standing hand in hand, and shoulder to shoulder in the support of these two great institutions, and have recently joined hands in the establishment of a great college for women at Danville.

You can carry the message, therefore, my young friend, to your comrades and fellow-alumni, that there is no friction or division of councils in the conduct of our great work here; that under the wise leadership of the President, their alma mater has been placed upon a firm foundation and in the very front rank of the best colleges; and that it is now worthy of their fullest confidence and support. Tell them, also, that I am constantly cheered by the good reports that come to me of their well-being and well-doing; that I have kept on the track of nearly every man who has left the old institution, and it is a great satisfaction to know that nearly all of them are doing well in the world; some occupying positions of honor and distinction, one the Chief Executive of the State, another on the bench of the Court of Appeals, another a great professor in the McCormick Theological Seminary, one is the Dean of the Law Department of Vanderbilt, others are professors and teachers, circuit judges, lawyers, doctors, ministers. It is a splendid

contribution—nearly 300 in all—that we have made to the long and illustrious alumni roll of Old Centre.

And now, my young friend, let me thank you again, and those you represent, for this beautiful testimonial of your confidence and affection. To my latest day on earth, I shall carry the recollection of this occasion. This loving-cup will always be treasured by me and by those who love me and whom I love.





BLANTONIA, DANVILLE, KY.

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LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO BLANTON LOVING CUP.

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THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING
542 FIFTH AVENUE,
NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that, at its last meeting, the Executive Committee of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching voted to you a retiring allowance of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) a year, to begin at such time as you may care to give up active work. In making this communication, the Executive Committee desires to express its high appreciation of the work you have done and its best wishes for your continued health and prosperity.

I am, very sincerely yours,

HENRY S. PRITCHETT.

December 20, 1906.

Dr. Lindsay H. Blanton,
Central University of Kentucky,
Danville, Kentucky.



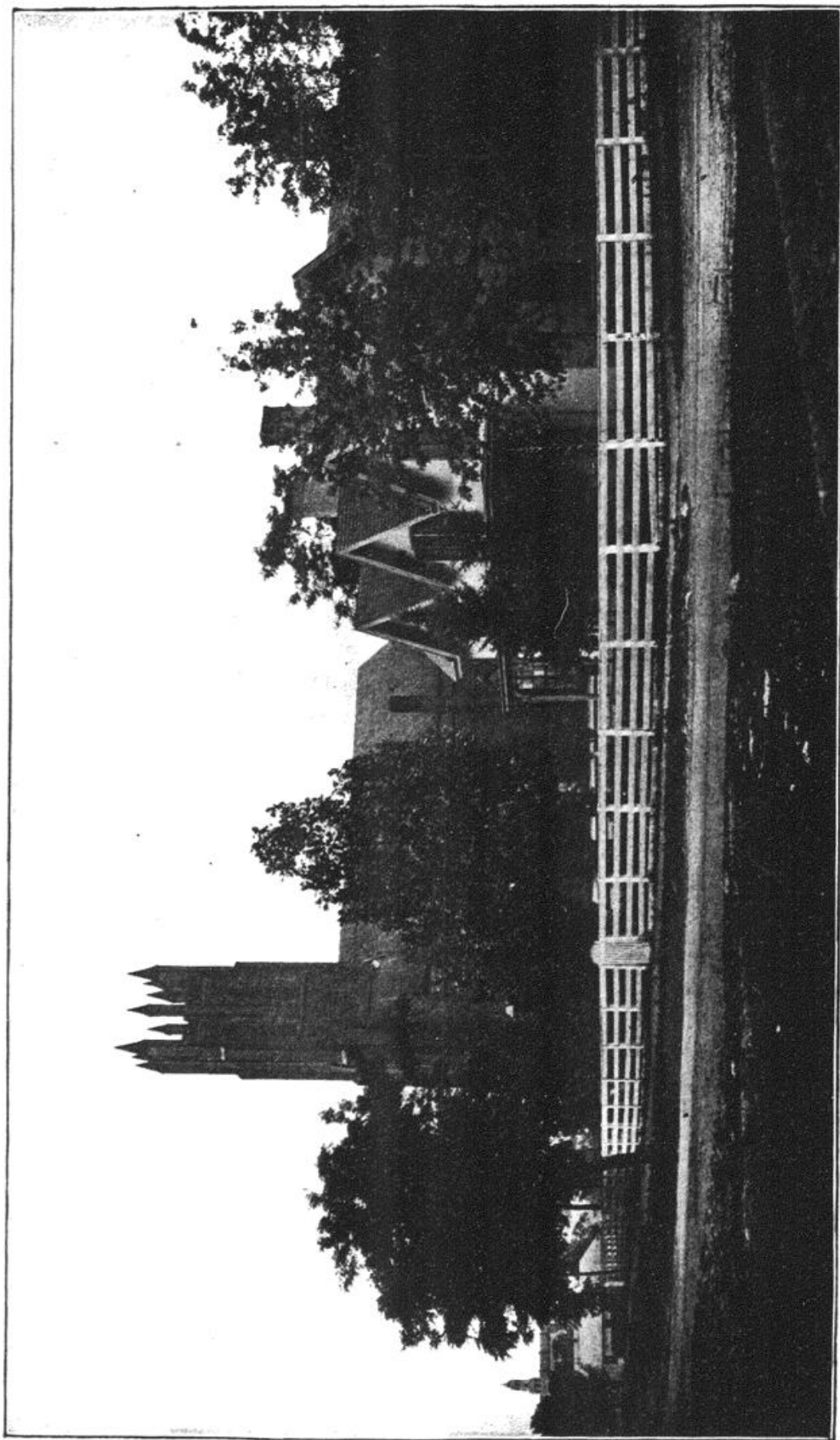
REV. DR. J. McCLUSKY BLAYNEY

Danville, Ky., Aug. 1, 1907.

My Dear Dr. Thomson:—

I had known Dr. Blanton casually for twenty-five years, but had never been brought into close association with him until the time of the discussion of the union of our Presbyterian colleges and theological seminaries in Kentucky. From our official positions we were at that time necessarily brought into close and active co-operation to bring about the proposed consolidation. I then soon came to recognize in Dr. Blanton one of the strong men of the Presbyterian Church—strong in character, strong in intellect, strong in purpose, strong in achievement, strong in his influence over men, strong in self-control, strong in gentleness. Since that time I have been constantly and closely associated with him in various interests concerning the church and higher education, and all that I have seen of him has only served to confirm my original estimate of him as a Christian, a gentleman and a wise doer of things. I have seen Dr. Blanton in trying situations; I have never known him to lose his self-possession or utter a word at which his bit-

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CHURCH AND MANSE, VERSAILLES, KY.

1857—1861.

terest opponent could take offense. I can say the same of but few of the strong men I have met in my life. What a pity it seems that such men must lay down the armor when they are so few and so much needed.

Fraternally yours,

J. McCLUSKY BLAYNEY,

President Board of Directors Ky. Presbyterian Theological Seminary.



UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

East Northfield, Mass., June 29, 1907.

Rev. L. H. Blanton, D. D.

My Dear Dr. Blanton:—Please accept my thanks for the copy of the "Courier-Journal" containing a full and detailed account of the tribute of your old students and the other exercises on the occasion of your retirement from active service in connection with Central University, whose history you have so largely made. Certainly you have abundant reason to thank God for your opportunities since you went to Kentucky, and for the manner in which you have been enabled to improve them for the good of the church and state, and the profound impression which you have put especially upon the minds and hearts of the young men who have, year after year, gone forth to positions of leadership. * * *

I trust that you continue to be as young in appearance and in feelings as you have always seemed to me to be, and that there are many years of honorable satisfaction and repose for you within sight of the great educational monument which you have done so much to rear in the garden spot where providence has cast your lot.

Cordially yours,

W. W. MOORE.



REV. G. H. ROUT, D. D.

PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Versailles, Ky., June 7th, 1907.

My Dear Doctor Blanton:—In view of your announced determination to retire from the position of Vice President of Central University, I congratulate you upon the distinguishing goodness of God in allowing you to complete fifty years of continuous service in the gospel ministry. Of these fifty years, I believe nearly one-half has been devoted to the

pastorate. Although the evidence is abundant of your exceptional success at Paris, Ky., and Salem, Va., the fact that I succeeded you as pastor of the church at Versailles has enabled me to appreciate more thoroughly the value and fruitfulness of your labors in this, your first charge. I feel under personal obligations to you for what the Lord enabled you to accomplish as my predecessor. He honored you by using you to bring the church from apparently the verge of extinction to a self-supporting basis and thus to lay the foundation of all its subsequent prosperity.

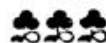
I am somewhat familiar with the difficulties besetting your work in connection with Central University. In spite of the difficulties, the work accomplished was of immense benefit to the church and the country. The work will live in the noble men who were trained by it for useful service to God and humanity and will be transmitted by them to future generations. For this, you and the able men who preceded you and those who co-operated with you in this important and difficult undertaking are entitled to the thanks of your fellowmen.

Not less valuable, in my opinion, was the service you rendered in effecting the consolidation of the two colleges and the two theological seminaries in the bounds of the Synod of Kentucky, and thereby opening to those institutions an opportunity of usefulness otherwise impossible.

With kind regards for Mrs. B. and best wishes for all yours, I am,

Yours sincerely,

G. H. ROUT.



HAMPDEN-SIDNEY COLLEGE

HAMPDEN-SIDNEY
VIRGINIA

Office of the President

June 10th, 1907.

Rev. L. H. Blanton, D. D., LL. D.

Dear Dr. Blanton:—As you are rounding out your half century of successful service, permit me, as the representative of your alma mater, to add another to the many messages you are receiving of greeting and good cheer. This college and your legion of friends in Virginia, your mother State, have watched with pride the large work you have been

accomplishing for education in Kentucky. Accept our sincere wishes for yourself personally and for the institution to which your unremitting labors have been given and with which your name will always be affectionately associated.

Cordially yours,

J. GRAY McALLISTER, President.



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Nashville, Tenn., June 11, 1907.

My Dear Dr.:—I have learned of your intended retirement after a half century of labor in religious and educational work. You have a right to feel proud of the many victories which have crowned your efforts. A less sturdy character, a less inflexible purpose, a less determined consecration would have brought disaster in these years of hill-climbing which have been a part of long struggles. I happen to know something of sacrifices made by you in the interest of a great institution of learning, something of the heroic patience with which you bore the burden, hence I can more easily appreciate the value of this triumphant hour, when you step aside from the active walks of life to the quiet of well-earned retirement.

It is seldom given to one to see the rounding out of life plans and purposes, to observe the fruits of his efforts, and to gather in an abundant harvest of his own sowing. This is vouchsafed to you. I extend congratulations and wish to be among the many who express appreciation of your long career. I desire to thank a kind providence for casting my lot within the radius of your influence.

May the rich blessings of a generous future be showered upon you, and may many years be given you to enjoy yet more fully the results of a purposeful and pious life.

I feel honored to subscribe myself your former pupil and present friend.

ALLEN G. HALL.

DEPARTMENT OF GREEK
REV. DANIEL S. GAGE, Ph. D.

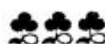
WESTMINSTER COLLEGE
FULTON, MISSOURI

Anastasia, Fla., July 18, 1907.

My Dear Dr. Blanton:—My heartiest congratulations on your completion of a well-rounded, useful, and eminently honorable life-service. May you still be given many years in which to give your wisdom and experience to the church.

My note is belated (due to constant movements and occupation for several weeks), but none the less sincere.

Yours, very cordially,
DANIEL S. GAGE.



CENTRE COLLEGE
OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
DANVILLE, KY.
ALFRED B. NELSON, *Mathematics*

My Dear Doctor Blanton:—It is with sincere regret that I have heard of your resignation of the office of Vice President of Central University. I trust, however, that you will not sever your connection with the board of trustees. Your mature wisdom and long experience in the management of college affairs render your presence in their councils invaluable.

My association with you, since your coming to Danville, has always been exceedingly pleasant, and I thank you most earnestly for the manifold kindnesses I have received at your hands.

With the wish that your future years may be as full of usefulness and honors as your past, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
A. B. NELSON,



THE PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

The twenty-fourth of June,
nineteen hundred and seven.

My Dear Doctor Blanton:—Though not yet old, I am still old enough to sympathize very deeply with you in the change which last

Wednesday brought you. I condole with Central University and Kentucky, but I congratulate you, not only upon the splendid career of service which you have, in a way, concluded, but upon your retirement to private life, where you can enjoy the contemplation of the results of your noble labors and be your own man, working when you please and resting when you please, for I am thoroughly convinced that your work will go on, both indirectly and directly. You will be certain to keep up your personal work as long as you live, and the great educational work you have started in Kentucky will, I believe, go on forever. What a satisfaction it must be to have started so many great and good things for the development of your people.

I do not see you often enough. When I came to Cincinnati, I supposed that you and my other friends would run in to see me occasionally. Let me know the next time you come to our city. Mrs. Dabney is as much interested in this as I am and joins me in affectionate regards and best wishes for your continued peace and happiness.

Very cordially yours,

CHARLES WM. DABNEY.



COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE

Lexington, Ky., June 23, 1907.

Dr. L. H. Blanton.

My Dear Brother:—Your address over the Loving Cup tells a story for your friends and children to rejoice over. God grant you a rich reward. He certainly will.

Your friend and brother,

J. W. McGARVEY.



AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
DECATUR, GA.

Dear Brother:—* * * It was through your influence that I went directly from the Seminary to Kentucky to enter upon my first charge. On my arrival at Paris, I was met by you at the train and taken to your home, where I was given the most cordial welcome by your wife and family. * * * During the two years I remained as pastor of the Hopewell and Clintonville churches, you never once failed me in sympathetic interest and hearty co-operation. * * *

I found you were held in highest esteem, not only in your own church, but you were, in fact, the Bishop of Bourbon County, and that almost every church in the county looked to you for counsel and help. * * * I know of no man in the synod of Kentucky who has done more in the interest of Presbyterianism. * * *

Yours very truly,

F. H. GAINES.



PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF KENTUCKY

1814 Brook St.,

Louisville, Ky., June 6, 1907.

My Dear Dr. Blanton:—I have learned, with deep interest, of your reaching the close of fifty years of active service in the ministry and of your purpose to retire from the honorable office you now hold in Central University. I could wish that your multitude of friends might have some suitable way of recognizing the large and varied service you have rendered the church and your fellow-men. * * * My most vivid sense of appreciation attaches to the large part you had in the founding of Louisville Theological Seminary. Without your power of initiative wisdom, energy and zeal I do not well see how the institution could have been founded. In the consolidation of the educational enterprises of Kentucky Presbyterians you seem to me to have put the crown on your labors. For apart from your leadership in this important step, such a consummation could hardly have been possible in this generation. May the church still have for a long time the benefit of your prayers and counsels. * * *

Faithfully yours,

CHARLES R. HEMPHILL,



CENTRAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

DANVILLE, KY.

Office of A. H. THROCKMORTON, A. M., LL.B., Dean

Dear Doctor Blanton:—In connection with your retirement from the Vice Presidency of the University and the references on the recent Commencement Day to your signal services to the University, I feel impelled to write you at least a word of appreciation. While you were in charge of the affairs of the University in the period that elapsed between the death of the lamented Dr. Roberts and the coming of Dr.

Hinitt, it was my good fortune to be closely associated with you. I was in a position, possibly better than any one else, to know your unselfish devotion to the interests of the University and your indefatigable industry in laboring for its welfare. While I traveled for the University during the summers of 1903, 1904 and 1905, scarcely a day passed that I did not receive from you a letter full of helpful advice and direction. These letters disclosed a breadth of acquaintance, a knowledge of conditions in Kentucky such as I have never known in any other man. At first I marveled at their fullness and frequency. Afterwards when I came to work with you in the office, I learned it was your rule never to retire until every piece of the day's business was dispatched and every letter answered. As I watched you toiling through the sultry summer evenings until a late hour, night after night, I realized that the secret of your power and success lay in your large and comprehensive knowledge, your unflinching thoughtfulness, and your never-tiring industry and perseverance. * * *

I can not refrain from adding a word of appreciation of your wise and kindly co-operation with President Roberts, President Hinitt and every member of the faculty. None of us ever found you indifferent to our requests for assistance or too busy to give us freely of your time and labor. * * *

Most sincerely yours,

A. H. THROCKMORTON.



Paris, Ky., June, 1907.

Dear Doctor Blanton:—Baptized in infancy, I have been identified with the Presbyterian Church in Paris all of my life—80 years—as member, deacon, elder, and trustee. * * * At your coming the church seemed to take on new life and it was a mystery to many how you could induce men of moderate means to build a new \$30,000 church. But it was built and paid for—one of the handsomest in the town or state. The membership increased from 120 to 300. Not satisfied with this, a church was built at Clintonville, nine miles away; the Hopewell Church, seven miles out, was organized and added to the Southern Synod, and the church at Shawhan was revived and new members added. * * * Of the six elders and six deacons in office when you came to Paris, only two are living—J. A. Howerton and myself. * * *

Holding in high esteem all who preach the gospel, I am,

Yours very truly,

GEORGE W. DAVIS.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
FRANKFORT

J. C. W. BECKHAM
GOVERNOR

June 11th, 1907.

Rev. L. H. Blanton.

My Dear Sir:—Learning of your resignation as Vice President of Central University, I want to assure you of my regret at the severance of your relations with the Institution, and at the same time congratulate you upon your long and valuable services to it, and to the cause of higher education in Kentucky. My pleasant associations with you when a student at Richmond, and my subsequent acquaintance with you, lead me to wish you many more years of a peaceful and happy life.

With very kind regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

J. C. W. BECKHAM.



COURT OF APPEALS OF KENTUCKY
FRANKFORT

June 5, 1907.

Rev. L. H. Blanton, D. D.

Dear Doctor:—I learn that you will shortly complete your fiftieth year of active service as a pastor and an educator, and at that time you contemplate withdrawing from all official responsibilities. When I heard this I said that this act was characteristic of your work in life. That you doubtless felt that you had reached an age where it would be best for the cause for which you had labored so unceasingly for years that you should step aside in order that the place might be filled by a younger and more active man.

When you do resign you will be greatly missed. No Presbyterian minister, perhaps, who ever lived in Kentucky was so widely known as yourself. I suppose there is not a prominent Presbyterian home in Kentucky where you are not well and favorably known, but while you will be missed in the family and in the church, the school will feel your loss most keenly. * * * The union of those two colleges will remain a lasting monument to your labor for the cause of higher education.

I regret to see you sever your connection with the college, but if

you feel that you must do so, I want to join with all of the old "C. U." boys in wishing that your latter days in life may be those of peace and happiness.

Your friend,
JOHN M. LASSING.



THE PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
70th STREET AND MADISON AVENUE

November 21, 1907.

Dear Doctor Blanton:—

I am confident that no student of old C. U. glories in your long career of noble sacrifice for the cause of education more than I do. There is no one who has a stronger personal affection for you and gratitude to you than I have. And I feel very much hurt that the alumni association gave me no opportunity of joining as one in the loving cup number. * * * We younger men thank God for men like you. I find myself recalling again and again your patience, long suffering and forbearance under trying circumstances, your hopefulness, optimistic energy and tireless self-giving. I like to think of you along with noble old Paul; the one helps me to understand the other. Paul's was the heroism that burst the fetters of particularism to save the Gentile; yours the heroism that outwears internecine prejudice and delivers the homeland. * * * Mrs. McDonald sends greetings in which I join with love.

JUETT N. McDONALD.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINISTERIAL EDUCATION AND RELIEF
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES
(Incorporated)

HENRY H. SWEETS, Secretary
232 Fourth Avenue

JOHN STITES, Treasurer
210 Fifth Street

Louisville, Ky., May 30, 1907.

Rev. L. H. Blanton, D. D.

Dear Dr. Blanton:—I was very glad indeed to receive your letter of May 28th yesterday.

Please accept my sincere congratulation upon the ripe age to which

you have come under the blessing of God, and the satisfaction of looking back over a half century of useful and successful labor.

In all of the aggressive work in the Synod of Kentucky, you have ever been in the lead. We are accustomed to look to the younger men for progressive thought and activity, but you have left all of us far in the distance.

That He who has prospered you in the past may continue to bestow upon you His richest benediction is the earnest prayer of

Your sincere friend,

HENRY H. SWEETS.



REV. H. GLASS
SOMERSET, KY.

June 20, 1907.

My Dear Dr. Blanton.

I see from press reports that you have terminated your official relation to the C. U. as Vice President.

Inability to attend the Commencement this year makes it impossible to see you in person, and hence I must express by letter some sentiments that press for utterance.

When we took you from a delightful pastorate and put you in charge of an institution that was gasping for life, we all felt that we owed an apology for asking you to accept the responsibility. That was more than a quarter of a century ago.

But today, when I think of the noble men who have filled the chairs of Central University and the many fine young men who graduated there, many of whom now occupy positions of eminence in all vocations, I feel that ordinary terms of commendation are quite inadequate.

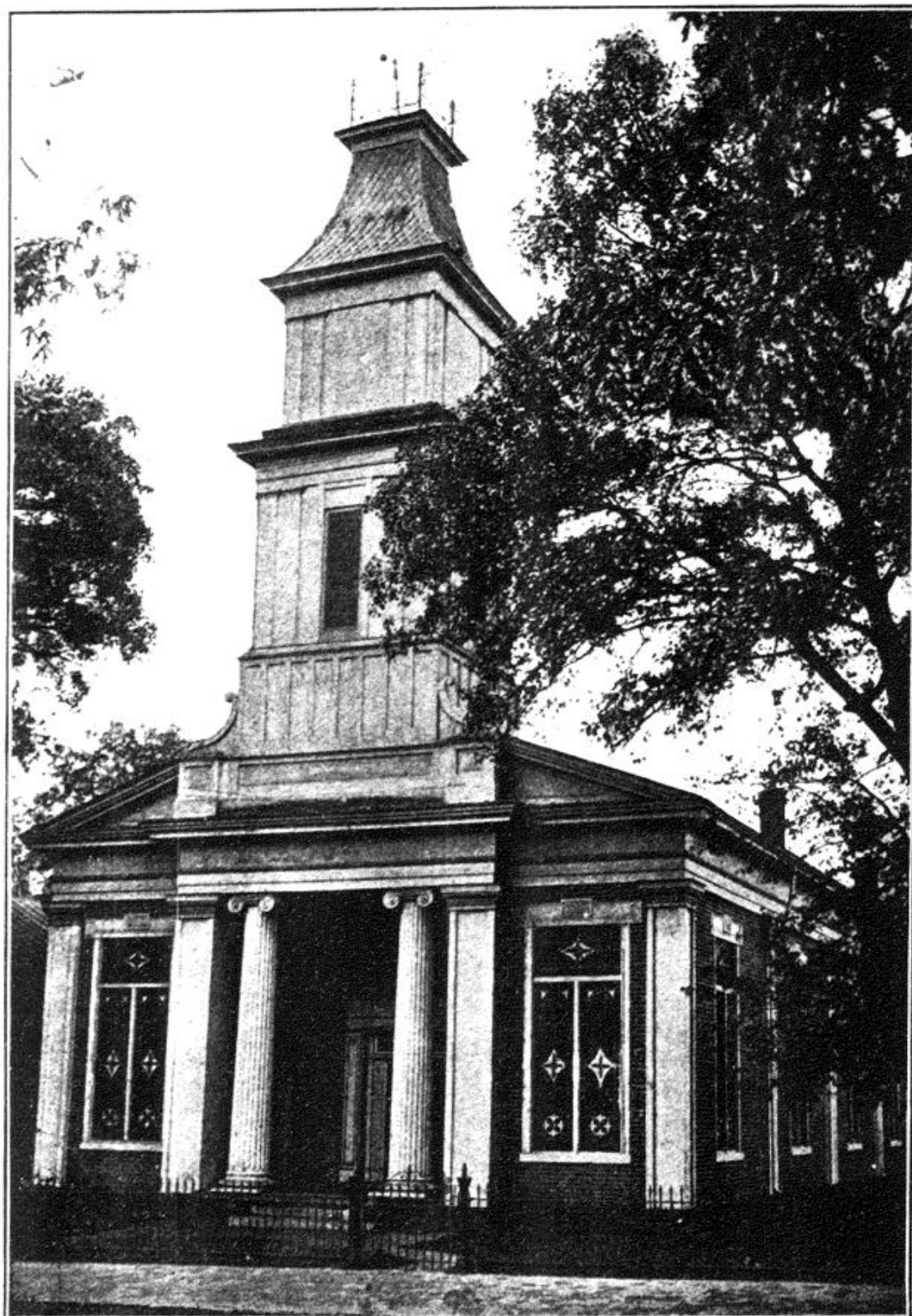
Truly our congratulations are most sincere; and the sundering of this tie occasions feelings of tender and pathetic interest to all who are familiar with the struggles and triumphs of Central University.

We all love and must applaud the history of an enterprise that passed so many dangers and worked such heroic self-surrender, through all of which you were unfaltering in your allegiance and untiring in toil. * * * And now, after the storm and stress of conflict, may you long abide under its shadows, to enjoy the sweet serenity of hopes fulfilled.

Sincerely yours,

HARVEY GLASS.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SALEM, VA.
1862—1868.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Shelbyville, Ky.

REV. DAVID M. SWEETS
Pastor

Shelbyville, Ky., June 4, 1907.

Rev. L. H. Blanton, D. D., LL. D.

Dear Dr. Blanton:—It is with regret that I hear of your determination to retire from the Vice Presidency of Central University, and yet I know that your arduous labors in the past merit a period of peaceful rest and quiet, and no one is more entitled to this than are you. Fifty years of strenuous and trying labors may well earn beyond question the privilege of a voluntary retirement from pressing duties and obligations. Those fifty years have been filled with faithful labors, and have meant much to Presbyterianism in Kentucky and the South.

* * * May your remaining years be years of quietude and peace, in which you will rejoice in the results of your past labors and find pleasure in rendering still to our church such service as your never tiring energy will unquestionably lead you to render.

With heartiest congratulations, I am

Sincerely your friend,

DAVID M. SWEETS.



REV. H. M. WHITE, D. D.
OPEQUON, VA.

Dr. L. H. Blanton was eminently successful as a minister of the gospel in Salem, Roanoke County, Virginia. He found the church in a low state of religious life, caused by the war between the States then raging, and by some discord among the members.

With a quick perception and natural power of administration, he restored harmony and set the members to work. The church grew steadily in numbers, spiritual mindedness, and power so long as he held the pastoral office—from 1862 to 1868.

His influence as a presbyter was felt by all the brethren. His uncommon common sense never failed him. He never spoke without having something to say, and what he said shortened the deliberation. He served as chairman of committees appointed by the Presbytery to visit churches in distress. Not long before his return to Kentucky he was called to the office of Stated Clerk of the Synod of Virginia.

His name is a household word in Salem to this day.

H. M. WHITE, Kernstown, Va.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Atlanta, Ga.

WALTER L. LINGLE, Pastor

June 12, 1907.

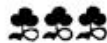
My Dear Dr. Blanton:—

God has given to you what He gives to very few men, a ministry of fifty years. Nor is this ministry to be measured simply by its length. It has been a ministry filled with service to God and man, a fruitful ministry in the truest sense of that word. God has used you abundantly and greatly honored you. For years to come the hearts which you have touched in the pulpit and in the University will rise up and call you blessed. Nor will the church be unmindful of that larger ministry of yours which could be confined to no particular community.

For all of this I am sure that there is a sense of profound gratitude down in your heart. Will you allow one of the younger men in the ministry to rejoice with you? At the same time I am sending up a petition to our Father that He may give you many more years of service, and that He may make these latter days for you the sweetest and best of all. With high regards and sincere Christian affection, I am

Very faithfully yours,

WALTER L. LINGLE.



Law Offices of

J. A. SULLIVAN

RICHMOND, KY.

June 21st, 1907.

Dr. L. H. Blanton.

My Dear Doctor:—At a time when I was absent from the State for several days I noticed in the public press that you had resigned your position as Vice President of Central University, and that the same had been accepted.

I read this with sincere regret, as it means, from an educational standpoint, the close of one of the most useful and important lives of dis-interested service with which Kentucky has ever been blessed.

Madison County was peculiarly fortunate in that you resided for twenty-one years here, and for that length of time it reaped the benefit of your labors and service. The importance of this work, both to the State and this community can be only mentioned in the compass of a letter. Your work has also been important to your church in many ways, and especially in bringing about, not only the consolidation of two

educational institutions, but also in opening the way for the future consolidation of both churches, which seems to us should and will inevitably follow.

Wishing you many more years of life and good health, I am

Your friend,

J. A. SULLIVAN.



Lexington, Ky., June 10, 1907.

Rev. L. H. Blanton, D. D.

Dear Friend:—It seems a long time since the 10th of May, 1864, when your tall form, mounted on a stout brown horse, came for the first time into my visual angle, at the headquarters of the 26th Virginia Battalion, in Monroe Draft, Va, under the command of General John C. Breckinridge. * * * Being a chaplain, you were unarmed, but, nevertheless, you looked the soldier. * * * [The editor regrets that all of the war reminiscences cannot be used.] * * * I recall a war incident of a day when your duties and mine seemed to clash for a time. One bright morning at Waynesboro, the battalion was drawn up in line of battle, behind hastily erected breastworks, awaiting the approach of the enemy. Deeming the time most opportune for directing all minds to God as the source of help, you began a religious service in the trenches, but before you had made much progress, the bullets of the advancing foe fell around us so thick that I sent the adjutant with the message, "Please cut your prayer short, it's time to fight." Well might we have adopted Stonewall Jackson's practice—to fight and pray continually. * * * I beg leave to congratulate you on your well-spent life for the good of others, and would pray that it may prove an inspiration to the hundreds of those whose interests you have so long labored to promote and that your closing years may be made happy by the consciousness of duties nobly done.

Faithfully yours,

GEO. M. EDGAR.



HON. JOHN M. BROOKS
MAYOR OF KNOXVILLE, TENN.

Knoxville, Tenn., July 24, 1907.

My Dear Doctor:—Some days ago I received a paper with a notice of your resignation from Central University. I was filled with conflicting emotions upon reading this. On your account, I was glad you were out of the harness and could take a little rest, but, on the

other hand, I regretted that the church and young men of Kentucky should lose your influence and inspiration, and I hated to think that this action was an indication of the "passing" of one of our most useful men. I can never think of you without a feeling of gratitude for what you did for us in Middlesboro. * * *

JOHN M. BROOKS.



REV. HENRY MARTYN SCUDDER

Carlisle, Ky., July 26, 1907.

Dear Dr. Blanton:—I think you are very much to be congratulated on the apparent "wind-up" of your active life, that is, if it is a wind-up. At any rate, you are advertised as a retired man and you have gone off the stage with drums beating and rockets firing. I hope your future days may be serene and tranquil, with no longing look behind because shadows have gathered about you. If I live long enough, I will one day stand where you do, and if that period shall be crowned with half the honor you have received, I will be thankful and happy. I think that unsolicited and unexpected recognition by the Trustees of the Carnegie Fund was handsomely done, but not half as much as I would have done, if I could. I hope you and Mrs. Blanton are well and that God brings many bright and blessed things into your lives.

Fraternally,

H. M. SCUDDER.



REV. JOHN SPROLE LYONS, D. D.

LOUISVILLE, KY.

Louisville, Ky., June 3, 1907.

My Dear Dr. Blanton:—I want to join with your host of friends in giving expression to the warm appreciation which is felt for your tireless services in behalf of everything which has wrought for righteousness and advancement in the Synod of Kentucky during the past generation. In rounding out your fifty years of active service, you can surely enjoy the luxury of a good conscience that you have devoted every power you possessed to further the Kingdom of God in this State. And your position has often been a most trying one, from which other stout hearts would have recoiled. Permit me to say that the most striking feature of your management of perplexing situations has always

been your resourcefulness. When one plan would fail, you would always appear to have a well-considered alternative ready. * * *

Mrs. Lyons joins me in the wish that every blessing of a kind providence may serve to lengthen and brighten your coming days.

Fraternally yours,

J. S. LYONS.



R. T. IRVINE

A. K. MORISON

IRVINE AND MORISON
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Big Stone Gap, Va., May 31, 1907.

My Dear Doctor Blanton:—As an alumnus of the old Central University, I have heard with the deepest interest, mixed with the keenest regret, that you are to lay down active work at the end of this session. * * *

Education will lose one of its chief pillars in Kentucky and the South when you retire. But you have richly earned a good green rest and in common with your numberless friends everywhere I congratulate you that while still in the full vigor of life you can with ease and dignity pass to other and younger hands the carrying on of the good work you have so earnestly and so well advanced. * * *

I remain, with sincerity and affection always,

R. T. IRVINE.



J. VAN NORMAN, ESQ.

CHANDLER AND NORMAN
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Louisville, Ky., June 11, 1907.

Dear Doctor:—In as much as you are about to retire from active service in the educational field, I wish to give expression to the personal obligation and gratitude that I have long felt. It is more than probable that all of the great benefits and happy memories of Central University would have been lost to me but for you. * * *

With the assurance of the greatest respect,

I am yours gratefully,

J. V. NORMAN.

Presbyterian Manse,
Midway, Ky., June 10, 1907.

My Dear Doctor Blanton:—Personally, I owe much to you in the past, and if I am able to lead a life of usefulness in years to come, I feel that no little part of the preparatory and moulding influences come from the various relationships I have been permitted to sustain to you and your life-work. * * *

Sincerely yours,
J. W. TYLER.



WILLIAM J. STEINERT
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
308 LOUISVILLE TRUST COMPANY BUILDING

Louisville, Ky., June 24, 1907.

My Dear Sir:—* * * We who had the good fortune to attend old Central University at Richmond can best appreciate the fidelity and loyalty of your labor; and the impress of your personality upon the great work done there will never be dimmed in our memory. We shall always feel that Central University occupies its position today largely because of your work. That you may long remain with us and enjoy the rest you have so well earned is the wish of a personal admirer,

And one of the boys of old C. U.,
WM. J. STEINERT (Class of 1900).



REV. ALEXANDER SPRUNT, D. D.

Atlanticville, Sullivan's Is'd., S. C.,
June 29, 1907.

Dear Dr. Blanton:—* * * I trust I am not presuming too much in writing to you on the occasion of your retiring from the active duties of the University and offering you my sincere congratulations on the exceptional record God has suffered you to complete. What a privilege He has accorded you in a life so long, so full of service for Him and the church you love so much. As you look back over it, I trust there are many instances of His marked favor to you which bring to you the anticipation of His "Well done, good and faithful servant." * * *

We shall be most happy to see you in Charleston again next winter

and I shall be quite pleased to have you preach again from the pulpit of the old Scotch Church.

Very sincerely yours,

ALEXANDER SPRUNT.



OFFICE OF
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

F. L. McCHESNEY, Supt.

PARIS, KY.

My Dear Friend:—* * * Your life has been one of sacrifice, of service, of helpfulness. Such a life is the one worth living. You came to Paris in the meridian of life, full of earnestness, zeal, and consecration. You left the impress of your influence upon the community. * *

In the great effort of our people to secure Central University you took the most active and important part, securing a subscription of more than one hundred thousand dollars. Richmond, however, secured the University; but you were afterwards called to the Chancellorship, showing that others recognized you as a man of affairs and resources.

* * * I am glad to know that you are growing old gracefully. May we all realize (we who are growing old) that what we call old age is the youth of immortality. * * *

Your old friend,

F. L. McCHESNEY.



HUGH B. FLEECE, ESQ.

Louisville, Ky., June 7, 1907.

My Dear Doctor Blanton:—As a student and alumnus of both the old and new Central, I have noted and appreciated the interest with which you have watched the student course and career of young men who have entered and gone forth from these institutions. I could give many instances of your material assistance to these young men, before and after graduation, and I wish personally to express my appreciation of your loyalty and to assure you of my lasting regard and best wishes upon this anniversary.

Very sincerely yours,

HUGH B. FLEECE,

Attorney at Law.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
J. P. BLANTON, L. L. D. Superintendent

June 23, 1907.

My Dear Brother:—The papers containing an account of the Commencement have been received and carefully read. I was delighted to note in what esteem and affection you are held. You certainly deserve all the good things that were said. Your reply to the address presenting the loving cup was apt and felicitous. The action of the Carnegie Fund in bestowing on you the pension of \$1,000 for life was a just recognition of your long and useful services to the cause of education.

Affectionately, your brother,

J. P. BLANTON.



REV. L. W. DOOLAN, D. D.

Waco, Texas, June 19, 1907.

Dear Doctor Blanton:—The students have sent me a copy of the "Courier-Journal" with the speeches made on the occasion of your formal leave of your recent work. I have read and reread every word with intensest interest. Had I been there, I suspect I should have disturbed that dignified Presbyterian occasion and somewhat varied from Baptist orthodoxy in turning Methodist for a while to shout—at least, I should have said Amen, audibly. For Chandler told the truth, and nothing else, though he did not tell it all. And your response rings with the same genuine Christian manliness and self-forgetfulness which, to the certain knowledge of many of us, have ever marked your way.

Gratefully yours

L. W. DOOLAN.



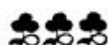
REV. J. M. EVANS

Maysville, Ky., June 19, 1907.

Dear Brother:—I have read with great pleasure the kind things said about you. The beauty of them is, that for those of us who know you best, we realize that you are worthy of them all. * * *

As ever yours,

J. M. EVANS.



REV. W. T. PRICE, D. D.

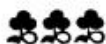
Marlinton, W. Va., June 22, 1907.

Dear Doctor Blanton:—It was so nice in you to think of me and send me a paper with an account of the Commencement. I have re-

ceived and have been reading it the past hour. * * * I purpose to put it among my treasures and to get my four boys to read it as an inspiration for their duties as lawyer, physician, and editor.

Remember me in your intercessions and send me a blessing by way of the throne.

Yours as ever,
WM. T. PRICE.



REV. J. P. McMILLAN, D. D.

Citronelle, Ala., July 5, 1907.

Dear Doctor Blanton:—I do not know that you are quite as happy as George Washington was when he delivered up his sword and retired to private life. I cannot call you a setting sun, for really you seem to have risen a little bit higher than I ever knew you before—though I always considered you exalted. Wishing your light to shine undimmed through many years to come, I am,

Yours with much respect,
JAMES P. McMILLAN.



REV. J. G. HUNTER, D. D.

Harrodsburg, Ky., June 3, 1907.

Dear Doctor Blanton:—* * * With many memories of a long life of service for the church, as a pastor with a successful record, as a member and officer of a Synod of large influence, as one of the chief spirits in the plan for the consolidation of the colleges and the theological seminaries, in addition to the work for higher education—with memories of such services there must be in your heart profound gratitude to God that He counted you faithful by giving you such work to do. * * *

Your sincere friend,
J. G. HUNTER.



PRESIDENT RICHARD McIWAINE

410 E. Main Street,

Richmond, Va., June 6, 1907.

My Dear Lindsay:—Your letter of 31st ult. was duly received and has given me much pleasure and comfort. I have thought of you often since we met and always with affection, and am cheered by cordial remembrance of me. You, Lacy, and I are the only survivors of our graduating class, and you alone represent to me its best features. * *

I am sorry to hear that you are going to quit active work, although

I recognize the fact that you have done a noble and useful work—not inferior, in my opinion, to that of any one in our ministry, and among our educators. But you will have a feeling of “outness” that is not altogether agreeable.

Your old friend and brother in Christ,
RICH'D W. McIWAINE.
(Ex-President of Hampden-Sidney College, Va.—Ed.)



RICHMOND NATIONAL BANK
RICHMOND, KY.

June 22, 1907.

My Dear Sir:—I congratulate you on your long and useful career and think you have more than earned all that has come to you. As nearly all of your family live here, I wish you could see your way clear to come and spend the balance of time with us.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours truly,
J. E. GREENLEAF, Cashier.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
I. S. McElroy, Pastor
COLUMBUS, GA.

June 21, 1907.

My Dear Dr. Blanton:—I have had it in mind to write you a line for several days and since I heard of your retirement from strenuous service.

No words can do justice to a life of self-sacrifice for a noble cause and no reward is an adequate compensation except the words and the rewards of the Great Captain of our Salvation.

Yet it is pleasant to have our fellows show some sympathy with and appreciation of our sacrifices and therefore I am very happy for what was said and done.

You have earned a right to a quiet and peaceful eventide and I hope you will have grace to enjoy it to the full and for many years.

Yours sincerely,
I. S. McELROY.

DOW-HAYDEN GROCERY COMPANY
WHOLESALE GROCERS
PARIS, KY.

Dr. L. H. Blanton.

My Dear Sir:—Having read about the presenting of the loving cup, it brings vividly to my memory the days and years of your ministry in Paris. * * * On looking back at your work from the present time, it seems wonderful to see what judgment you exercised about what different talents you fitted in and united together in building up that congregation of Christian workers. * * * We know it took a mind knowing human nature and the peculiar talents of each to place that one in the position that would bring forth the best interest and harmony. * * * Your next step was in building up the Sunday school, bringing in and filling it with the youth of forty years ago. * * * Many of the officers in the past twenty years have been furnished by that school. * * *

Very sincerely yours,
ROBT. P. DOW.



MRS. JULIA G. SCOTT

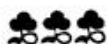
Bloomington, Ill., June 22, 1907.

My Dear Doctor Blanton:—I have been very much touched by accounts in the Louisville and Danville papers of the recent exercises at the Central University, especially the part that referred to you personally. It is certainly a glorious record of a noble life nobly spent in the noblest of services, and I am thankful that my own father had so great a part—so gracefully acknowledged by you—in moulding and influencing a life so fraught with good to church and country.

In the hope that you may long live to enjoy a well-earned rest from your arduous and successful labors, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,
JULIA G. SCOTT.

[Editor—Mrs. Scott is the daughter of Dr. Lewis W. Green, President of Hampden Sidney College when Dr. Blanton was a student.]



MRS. REBECCA K. DODGE

Rev. L. H. Blanton, D. D.

My Dear Sir:—A few days ago I received a Courier-Journal containing an account of the presentation to you of a "Loving Cup"—sent, I suppose, by you—and I thank you very much for remembering me in this time of your triumph, for so it seems to me. It is not the first of

my knowledge of it, for I have read with pride and pleasure everything relating to you at all times, and especially now. I am glad that not only your brethren in the ministry, but men of letters everywhere, praise the great work that you have done for education and Christianity, and though tardy, justice has been done at last.

I hope you have entirely recovered from your injury and can enjoy your long needed and much deserved rest. * * * Jamie joins me in love. We often speak of the days when you were our faithful pastor. May you long be spared to your family, the church, and the cause of education.

Sincerely your friend,

REBECCA K. DODGE.

Paris, Ky., June 24, 1907.



MISS MATTIE O. WALKER

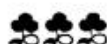
Paint Lick, Ky., June 18th, 1907.

Dear Dr. Blanton:—Papa and I wish to send to you our heartiest congratulations. To not many is it granted to complete fifty years of service, so nobly and successfully done.

I wish I could have been at Danville Wednesday. Without doubt Mr. Chandler voiced the sentiment of all the old C. U. students. I am sure I shall never forget the kindness of Mrs. Blanton and yourself to me.

Yours very sincerely,

MATTIE O. WALKER.



REV. WM. IRVINE; D. D.

Bowling Green, Ky., June, 1907.

Rev. Dr. L. H. Blanton.

My Dear Brother:—The announcement of your purpose to retire from the associate management of Central University at the close of this term fills your friends with mingled feelings of regret and satisfaction. You have been so long and so honorably associated with the cause of education in Kentucky, and so identified with the history of Central University, that it is a matter of profound regret that you feel moved to sever your connection with it as Vice President. It is, on the other hand, a source of supreme satisfaction that you retire, while the sun of prosperity is shining upon the University, and the glory of your own marvelous labors in its behalf are undimmed. To you and your indomitable energy, courage, and perseverance, more than to any other person or influence, are due the position and prestige of our Synod in the work of education.

Some of us know that your labors were arduous and your success

dearly bought, and we therefore the more cheerfully place upon your brow the crown of distinguished service and concede to you the right and privilege of honorable retirement and a well-deserved rest.

With cordial good wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

WM. IRVINE.



Alex. P. Humphrey

Edward P. Humphrey

LAW OFFICES OF
HUMPHREY & HUMPHREY
LOUISVILLE, KY.

Louisville, Ky., June 10, 1907.

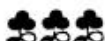
Rev. L. H. Blanton, D. D., LL. D.

Dear Doctor Blanton:—* * * My association with you began on the union of the Presbyterian colleges in Kentucky. I wish to add my testimony to your ardent and unselfish devotion to the best interests of both institutions now made one. We have had many difficulties to encounter. These are now, happily, past. In their solution I have always found you earnest, wise and conservative. I especially remarked your conduct when the vacancy occurred in the Presidency of the united Central University. Although next in succession, you stood aside because you believed that while the personal honor would be great, yet the cause demanded the strength and vigor of a younger man. In this you showed again that your first thought was for the cause; and for this, without hesitation, you set aside all desire for personal advancement.

You have my best wishes in your retirement, which I hope will be full of that peace which comes from duty well performed.

Your friend,

ALEX. P. HUMPHREY.



Paris, Ky., June 23, 1907.

Dr. L. H. Blanton, Danville, Ky.

Dear Sir and Friend:—I noticed in the papers your resignation as Vice President of Central University, and also of your appointment under the Carnegie Fund—* * * I was much pleased to see that your well deserved abilities have been rewarded. * * * Hoping that you have fully recovered your health and that you may live many years to enjoy he Carnegie Fund,

I am truly your friend,

GEORGE R. BELL

AN HONOR WORTHILY CONFERRED.

(From Louisville Courier-Journal)

HON. HENRY WATTERSON

The announcement that the Rev. L. H. Blanton, who recently resigned as Vice President of Central University, Danville, after fifty years of ministerial and educational work, has been granted an annuity of \$1,000 by the Carnegie Commission for Retired Educators, has been received with much gratification throughout Kentucky, where he is held in high estimation by all who know of him and recognize his worth. The compliment is enhanced, not only by the fact that he is the first Kentuckian to be made the beneficiary of this liberal provision of Mr. Carnegie, but also because the Central University was not among the educational institutions first announced by the committee as entitled to recognition in the distribution of the fund. * * * But with all the labor and responsibility resting upon him from his official relation to these institutions, and prior to his connection with either, Dr. Blanton has contributed largely by his unremitting efforts to the general cause of education in Kentucky, and especially in the mountain portion of the state, where such aid has been most needed. And now, being by several years past the allotted span of life, although still erect and vigorous in mind and body for one of his years, it is a comfortable reflection to his many friends to feel that such gratifying provision has been made for his comfort in the decline of a life which has been so beneficent in his services to his fellowmen and to the state of which he is such an honored citizen.



(From Lexington Herald)

HON. DESHA BRECKINRIDGE

Ever since the announcement of the resignation of Rev. Dr. L. H. Blanton from Central University we have wanted to publish some testimonial of our admiration and affection for him, and our appreciation of the debt Kentucky owes to him. We have, however, felt that what we could write would be so inadequate we have hesitated to publish anything at all. Since we were a mere child we have known Dr. Blanton and known of his work. He was a constant visitor at our father's house and they worked together for the cause of education in Kentucky, each doing that part of the work for which he was particularly fitted. We cannot express anything commensurate with the idea

we have of the labors Dr. Blanton performed. It was not at all an unusual occurrence for him to come to our father's home early in the morning, having already traveled from Richmond or Danville, doing before breakfast a full day's work, and leave to do another day's work before sunset. Of tireless energy, infinite patience and a most winning personality, he has given half a century of labor to his church and to education, and we desire simply to make a record of the admiration we have for him, in which every one who has had the privilege of knowing him must join.



(Christian Observer, Louisville, Ky.)

In connection with the commencement exercises at Central University, Danville, last week, when announcement was made of the resignation of Rev. L. H. Blanton, D. D., LL. D., as Vice President, a handsome loving cup was presented to him from the students of the old Central University at Richmond. It was a fitting expression of their love and appreciation. For fifty years Dr. Blanton's life has been devoted to ministerial and educational service in the church. He was in pastoral service for twenty-three years; Chancellor of Central University, at Richmond, Ky., twenty-one years; was active in the promotion of the consolidation of Centre College and Central University in 1901; and held the position of Vice President of the consolidated institution for six years. With hearty congratulations, and yet with genuine regret, the Board of Trustees consented to the severance of the relationship that Dr. Blanton has sustained to the University. Dr. Blanton will receive from the Carnegie Annuity Fund, for retired professors, the sum of \$1,000 a year. He is the first man in Kentucky to be placed on this retired list.



(State Journal, Frankfort, Ky.)

HON. W. P. WALTON

Friends of the gallant old Confederate and distinguished educator, Dr. L. H. Blanton, who recently retired after fifty years' service in connection with Central University, will be glad to know that he will receive an annuity of \$1,000 from the Carnegie fund for retired educators. Dr. Blanton was a man in his day and has made the world better for his sojourn in it. May he enjoy in his declining years that peace and contentment which the knowledge of a well-spent life brings to the virtuous and the good.

A LOVING CUP

(Kentucky Advocate, Danville, Ky.)

The students of the old Central University, in the recognition of the services and long friendship of Dr. L. H. Blanton, presented him with a beautiful silver loving cup on a tray. Mr. John H. Chandler, of Louisville, made the speech of presentation in behalf of the alumni of Old Central University. Dr. Blanton was deeply moved, but thanked the old boys in terms that came straight from the heart. Dr. Hinitt spoke most feelingly of Dr. Blanton's services to the college, and in behalf of the student body and faculty of Centre College, expressed his regret that the Doctor had decided to resign and retire from active service.



THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION FUND

On December 20, 1906, the authorities in control of the above named fund granted Dr. Blanton an allowance for life of \$1,000 per year—to take effect whenever he retired from active work. In October, 1907, the two synods of Kentucky, controlling Central University, voted to change the form of government of the University so that it should not be a sectarian institution. This was done by vesting the control in a self-perpetuating board instead of having the members directly elected by the Synod.

In November, 1907, all the necessary changes were made, and Central University made application to the Trustees of the Carnegie Fund to be accepted as an institution whose professors were entitled to all benefits of said fund. On March 27, 1908, a banquet was given in Louisville, Ky., by the resident alumni. On that occasion, President F. W. Hinitt announced that Central University had been accepted by the Trustees of the Fund. On April 13, 1908, Dr. Hinitt received from the president of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Foundation Fund a notice that the allowance to Dr. Blanton had been increased from \$1,000 to \$1,800 per annum. Dr. Prichett wrote in addition: "In conveying this news to Dr. Blanton, I beg that you will assure him at the same time of the high appreciation in which the executive committee holds his work, and particularly that you will say to him that his action in bringing about the union of the two institutions, no less than his own unselfish attitude with regard to it, seemed to the committee to be acts characteristic of the highest type of scholar and Christian gentleman. We wish for him continued health and prosperity."

CONSOLIDATION OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITY AND CENTRE COLLEGE

In the judgment of many, the crowning act in Dr. Blanton's life was the uniting of the Presbyterian forces for education in Kentucky. Had he opposed it, the executive committee of Central University would not have authorized him to "*make or receive*" propositions for cooperation or consolidation of the rival schools. Had he opposed it, the whole Board of Curators would not have asked for a called meeting of the Synod to conclude the matter.

The Synod met in the First Presbyterian Church, Louisville, Tuesday, April 23, 1901, 2 p. m. There were enrolled 62 ministers and 33 ruling elders—every Presbytery having several representatives. The debate on consolidation continued through the afternoon and to nearly midnight. The vote was *viva voce*. The writer was in the Moderator's chair, owing to Rev. M. B. Porter, Moderator, having been called away. As nearly as his hearing indicated, the vote for consolidation was nearly unanimous—possibly not more than five against it. On page 28 is the following record: "Upon a motion by Rev. Dr. T. A. Bracken, and by a rising vote, the Synod thanked Dr. L. H. Blanton for his long, faithful, and able services in the management of Central University."

In June following, the Curators of Central University held their last meeting at Richmond during the Commencement. Then the following paper was adopted, which is a volume in itself:

RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF CURATORS OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITY CONCERNING DR. BLANTON

In connection with the completion of the plans to consolidate Central University and Centre College into one institution, to be known as the Central University of Kentucky, the Board of Curators of Central University, now soon to pass out of existence, desires at this meeting to place on record an expression of the deep obligation which this Board and the Synod of Kentucky owes to the Rev. L. H. Blanton, D. D., Chancellor of the University for over twenty-one years.

In doing so, it makes mention of the fact that when he took charge of the University it was in every way at a very low ebb, and that by patient, wise, and persevering efforts he soon established it on a basis which enabled it to do good work during the subsequent years, as is

shown by the fact that it trained many men who now hold honored places in all walks of life.

The Board also testifies to Dr. Blanton's unfailing courtesy in all his relations and intercourse with his brethren, and it witnesses to his self-sacrifice in various ways for the welfare of the University.

The Board further makes mention of its deep appreciation of the fidelity and wisdom with which he conducted all the negotiations which led up to the consolidation of the educational institutions in Kentucky, now completed so harmoniously and so full of promise to Presbyterianism within its bounds.

The Board still further expresses the earnest hope that the valuable services of Dr. Blanton may be retained in some important way in connection with the consolidated educational work of the two Synods of Kentucky, and that he may be long spared in its service. * * *

Richmond, Ky., July 3, 1901.

