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character.” And if Boswell had been Butler’s biographer as well as Johnson’s, he would have repeated emphatically his truism that “politics are now nothing more than a means of rising in the world.”

PRESIDENT PEPPER’S SCRAPBOOK

By John R. McKenna

One of the functions of a college library is to collect and preserve materials that are related to the history of the institution and its members. Over the years, the Colby Library has built up a substantial documentary history of the college in its Colbiana Collection which now consists of more than 6000 items including books, pamphlets, letters, pictures, and other memorabilia. Among the notable recent acquisitions is a two-volume scrapbook that belonged to Colby’s ninth president, George Dana Boardman Pepper. It was given to the library by his daughter, Mrs. Frederick Morgan Padelford of Seattle, Washington, a member of the class of 1896. The two fragile folio volumes that make up the scrapbook contain numerous clippings, letters, memoranda and other documents that reflect the interests and important events in the life of its compiler.

George Dana Boardman Pepper was born in Ware, Massachusetts, in 1833.1 He prepared for college at Williston Academy and entered Amherst as a member of the class of 1857. During his college years, he distinguished himself as a student and was chosen as a speaker at his graduation exercises. One of the earliest items in the scrapbook is the program of these proceedings, upon which is listed the fact that young Pepper delivered a philosophical oration entitled “The Formation of National Character.”

In the fall of 1857 he entered Newton Theological Seminary to study for the ministry. Upon graduation from this institution

1. Most of the biographical details appearing in this article were taken from Frederick Morgan Padelford’s George Dana Boardman Pepper (Boston, 1914).
he accepted a call to the First Baptist Church in 1860. A full account of his ordination in September of that year is to be found in a newspaper clipping pasted in Volume One of the scrapbook. It reads in part, “An Ecclesiastical council was held in Waterville the 6th inst. pursuant to an invitation of the Baptist Church to examine brother George D. B. Pepper with a view to his ordination. Rev. A. Drinkwater was chosen moderator and Rev. George Bullen, clerk. The examination having proved entirely satisfactory, the services of ordination proceeded . . .” There is no indication of the source of this clipping; it could have been taken from *Zion’s Advocate*.

During his five years as a pastor in Waterville, Dr. Pepper endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact. In the *Centennial History of the First Baptist Church of Waterville, Maine*, the following tribute appears: “Dr. Pepper was a man of rare ability, of friendliness that was irresistible, and a delicate humor and wit that made him a welcome visitor wherever he went.” The keen interest that Dr. Pepper had in the affairs of Colby College is attested to by the numerous entries he made in his scrapbook. These included clippings describing the commencement proceedings, lists of men who had left college to take part in the Civil War, and accounts of athletic contests.

Issues of the Civil War stirred him deeply and, although he was not physically qualified for combat, he served for six weeks under the Christian Commission in Alexandria, Virginia, doing pastoral work among the soldiers during the winter of 1863-64. A newspaper clipping dated Alexandria, January 4, 1864, and signed “Delegate,” describes the work of the Christian Commission. Although there is no definite proof, the author of the article could easily have been Dr. Pepper.

On August 27, 1865, Dr. Pepper resigned to accept an appointment to the professorship of Ecclesiastical History at Newton Theological Seminary. He remained here for two years before accepting the chair of Systematic Theology in the New Crozer Theological Seminary at Upland, Pennsylvania. He held this position for fifteen years during which he played an important part in directing the current of Baptist thought. Clippings of many of the articles he contributed to the Baptist press

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are included in the pages of the first volume of the scrapbook. Publications to which he contributed include The National Baptist, The Canadian Baptist, Bible Society Record, Temple Center, The Baptist Visitor, Philosophical Review, and many others.

In 1882 Dr. Pepper was called to Colby University as its ninth president since its founding in 1813 as the Maine Literary and Theological Institution and its third president since it was re-named Colby University in 1867. The items contained in the second volume of the scrapbook concern in large part the years he spent at Colby. A group of letters relating to his appointment as president are especially interesting. The first is a letter written by Prof. S. K. Smith to Prof. C. E. Hamlin, a member of the Board of Trustees. It indicates strong faculty support for Dr. Pepper’s appointment to the presidency.

Waterville, Feb 17, 1882

Dear Sir:

I am requested by the members of the faculty here to ask you to convey to Dr. Pepper their earnest desire that he would accept the Presidency of Colby, which it is understood your Committee are authorized to tender him, and also the assurance of their cordial support in the administration of its affairs, and in all efforts to extend the sphere of its usefulness. We should have addressed a note to this effect directly to Dr. Pepper, but did not know what stage your negotiations with him had reached. The faculty are entirely united in their desire that Dr. Pepper should come here & if he should conclude to do so he will meet with a hearty and cordial reception.

Very truly yours,
S. K. Smith

The following is a letter from Percival Bonney, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, giving Dr. Pepper official notification of his appointment as President of Colby:

Superior Court — Judges Chambers
Portland, Me., March 28, 1882

My Dear Sir:

At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Colby University held in this city last evening, you were elected President of the University, receiving the vote of every member in attendance.

In sending this official notification I beg to tender my personal congratulations and we express the hope that the new relation may be full
of pleasure to you & conducive to the prosperity of the institution over which you are so cordially invited to preside.

Very truly,

Percival Bonney
Secretary

Another letter from Percival Bonney discusses salary and other financial matters relating to the office of president.

Superior Court — Judges Chambers
Portland, Me., April 10, 1882

My Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of 3rd inst. and will make a statement covering the three points named.

On the 2nd day of July 1873, the salary of the President was fixed at "$2500 per annum and use of a house". At that time a house had not been purchased but one was bought subsequently, the house occupied by Dr. Champlin when you were in Waterville.

Dr. Robins has received this compensation during his period of service & in the absence of further action by the Board the Treasurer will continue to pay his successor the same.

No special action having been taken by the Board, the salary will commence from the time of your entrance upon the duties of the Presidency.

Messrs. Robins, Ricker, & Prof. Smith were appointed a committee to make suitable arrangements for your inauguration, who I presume, will wish the services to occur at Commencement — the last week in June — from which time the salary will begin.

No action was taken as to an allowance for the expenses of moving.

The special meeting continued in session until nearly eleven o'clock, and many members were anxious to go East by train leaving here at 11:15. The Chairman Gov. Coburn was sick & impatient to go to his hotel. The matter was reached only at that late hour, and it was suggested that it could be attended to at the annual meeting at Commencement. The members scattered, those going East having barely time to catch the train.

I have no doubt the allowance will be made at Commencement.

By referring to the recorder, I find that the sum of $500 was allowed Dr. Robins to defray expenses of removal.

Very truly,

Percival Bonney

Among letters of congratulation is this one from Gardner R. Colby, son of Gardner Colby, the man for whom the college was named.
My Dear Sir:

I find your card upon my desk and presume you have called at some time when I was absent. It is a great pleasure for me to know that you have decided to take hold of Colby University. It needs just such a man as you are, and I have no question whatever that you will make a success in your relation. There has good work been done there, but much remains to be done. I know had my father lived there is no man he would have succeed Dr. Robins as yourself. I shall personally be glad to do all I can to aid you in promoting your work there and I am sure with God's blessing there is a grand future for the college under your administration.

Very truly yours,

Gardner R. Colby

Another interesting letter appearing in the second volume of the scrapbook is from Maine's great Civil War hero, General Joshua L. Chamberlain, then President of Bowdoin College. It was written just before he left Brunswick to undergo further treatment for serious wounds sustained in the Battle of Petersburg in 1864.3

Brunswick, March 10, '83

My Dear President:

Don't fear if you see that I am to go away for surgical treatment of my wounds, that I am forgetful of my promise to be with you in April.

I find myself worked down to rather a critical edge, & my wounds, both as cause and object of a good deal of wear & tear of the nervous system, have taken a form which requires immediate attention. The result may be to make me better than before. So I hope for the best.

The knife, you know is turned from its deadly uses to a great deliverer. The swords beaten into the pruning-hook. If it shall turn out not so well for any further work in the world, I shall have to content myself with leaving all my best work undone and my best thought unknown & rejoice to see others carrying forward all worthy enterprises in which I have ever felt so deep a sympathy.

Your coming to Maine and to the college has been a bright and hopeful thought for me. I still trust to enjoying your companionship. If spared, I will be with you in April.

Sincerely yours,

J. L. Chamberlain

General Chamberlain was unable to keep his April appoint-
ment to address the Colby students because of his weakened
physical condition which ultimately led to his resignation as
President of Bowdoin in September 1883.

The following letters are worthy of note because they concern
Governor Long's commencement oration that is discussed in
the first article of this issue:

March 3, 1883

My dear Mr. President:

I owe you an apology for not sooner replying to your invitation
of Dec. last to give the annual oration at Commencement at Waterville next
summer. But it was handed me by Mr. Fitz just at the close of my official
tour in the confusion of inauguration day and was laid aside and not till
this week on my return from six weeks absence and on receiving a letter
from Mr. Drummond has it again been called to my attention. I regret
very much that you have been put to this neglect, tho' I trust meantime
that you have found some other and more capable orator. If so will you
please advise me. I should be glad to serve you; but there is some un-
certainty about my whereabouts next summer, and if you have secured
someone else you will have suffered no loss, and I shall congratulate
you.

Very truly yours,

John D. Long

And five days later, on March 8:

My Dear Sir:

Your kind reply at hand and I shall endeavor to comply with your re-
qust. I take it a short oration is better than a long one and shall be
glad to receive from you any suggestions concerning the time and ar-
rangements. I make no charge.

Very truly yours,

John D. Long

The foregoing is a sampling of the important documents con-
tained in the scrapbook relating to the history of the college and
President Pepper's career. Colby prospered during the seven
years that he held office. The scope and efficiency of the aca-
demic departments increased and the endowment was aug-
mented by the large bequest of Abner Coburn, former Gover-
nor of Maine.⁴ Renewed interest in the sciences came with the
building of the Shannon Observatory and Physical Laboratory
in 1889, and the appointment to the faculty of a scientist of na-
tional reputation in the person of William A. Rogers.

⁴ Edwin Carey Whittemore, Colby College 1820-1925 (Waterville, 1927), 116.
When ill health forced Dr. Pepper to resign the presidency in 1889, he did not sever his ties with Colby. Three years later, he returned to the college and resumed active work as Professor of Biblical Literature. He held this position until 1900, when he retired from teaching in order to devote his full time to writing for religious magazines and newspapers.

THE CHRONICLE AND THE CHEERFUL PIRATE

By Donald H. Williams

There is a curious little sequel to the history of Colby's Liber Chronicarum, as related by Morris Schertz in Colby Library Quarterly of March 1960. Recent correspondence from Miss Ellen Shaffer (author of The Nuremburg Chronicle, Los Angeles, 1950) has unwittingly suggested a brief commentary which may be of some interest to readers of this periodical.

In his splendid account of Colby's incunabula, Mr. Schertz described the Nuremburg Chronicle of 1493. The ubiquitous Chronicle must have been a "best seller" in the last decade of the 15th century. In referring to the first (Latin) edition of the 1493 Chronicle, Winship has said, "it must fairly claim to be the most widely known edition of a book of all time."¹ He considered it, even in 1940, to be the most common 15th century publication we have in America.

The Chronicle most familiar to us is the first edition of 1493, a copy of which is in Colby's Edwin Arlington Robinson Room, but the book was reprinted — both with and without authorization. After the two 1493 Nuremburg printings, in Latin and German, respectively, the Chronicle was pirated in three separate editions by Johann Schonsperger of Augsburg. According to Miss Shaffer, "Schonsperger was a cheerful pirate who was rather good at this activity — he also pirated the Hortus Sanitatis."² Stillwell is authority for citing Schonsperger's pirated

¹ George Winship, Printing in the 15th Century (Philadelphia, 1940), 64.
² Ellen Shaffer in a personal letter, October 1960.