

## CHAPTER III

## SUNSHINE AND SHOWERS

We have been considering a period of expansion, expansion perhaps a bit ambitious in view of the resources of the institution. At a meeting of the trustees in 1901 a plan was authorized to seek \$300,000.00 additional endowment. During this period sunshine in general prevailed. In the following period there were showers, which, since this is supposed to be a history, cannot be entirely overlooked. Still there will be sunshine, and ultimately clear skies will emerge.

In 1902 there were in circulation rumors suggesting at least indiscretion on the part of the president in his relations with one of the teachers. To these rumors there were contrasting reactions, some giving them weight and others rejecting them. A distressing situation resulted. Trustees, faculty, church, and community were divided.

A dramatically tragic feature was that this occurred when Dr. Forbes was at the very peak of his achievement and reputation. In this conviction it is interesting to note the references to Dr. Forbes in the Florida Baptist Witness. Through the years of 1900-1903, with increasing frequency the issues of this organ of Florida Baptists fairly teem with appreciative statements regarding his achievements,

such as the following:

The Law School is an advantage. Other things will follow "if the life of Stetson's great president is spared";

The Convention Sermon "was the product of a great and finely trained mind";

There are elaborate plans for the next ten years;

President A. H. Strong of the Rochester Theological Seminary writes "you have done a great work already and there is more to follow";

And an editorial speaks of "the godly and able man who has given seventeen of the best years of his life to the work", and again he is spoken of as one of the greatest and best of American college presidents.

Likewise during the controversies over the rumors the Witness continued its unwavering support.

Let us look at the major stages of the Forbes controversy. At least one committee had been appointed to investigate the rumors and had rejected them, but the agitation continued. Then both Mr. Stetson and Dr. Forbes called for a special meeting of the Board of Trustees to consider the issue. The Board met September 18 and 19, 1902. Copious bodies of evidence, documentary and oral, pro and con were presented, some testifying as to the unreliability of major sources of the rumors. After long hours of detailed consideration a resolution was passed containing the conclusion "that there are no facts to support the charges or suspicions



and that Dr. Forbes is a gentleman of the highest integrity, a Christian whose conduct is and has been above reproach" and "that Dr. John F. Forbes be assured of our confidence in him in all respects, and our desire that he continue as President of the University." The minutes recorded this resolution as having been passed by unanimous vote.

At the regular annual meeting in February 1903, it was moved that the minutes of September 19 be so amended as to state that the resolutions cited above were passed by a large majority. Seven voted for and fourteen against the amendment. These figures may represent the relative members of the two opposing groups of the trustees, the minority however, including some of the most influential members of the Board.

In place of Mr. Stetson, Dr. W. N. Chaudoin was elected President of the Board. Before the next annual meeting, February, 1904 this beloved leader of Florida Baptists passed to his reward. For nineteen years he had been an active and influential member of the Board, which unanimously passed following expression of appreciation:

"Resolved, that in the death of Dr. Chaudoin, this institution has lost one of its finest, best, and most efficient officers. Though hampered by frailty of body, he was at all times untiring in his efforts for the maintenance, prosperity, and success of the University. In season and out of season he labored with those who had at heart the highest

interests of the institution, and by his gentle nature, warm heart, and clear brain, helped to extricate it from its difficulties and promote its progress.

"That while we greatly deplore his separation from us, we bow with submission to Almighty God with feelings of gratitude for the long, useful, and fruitful life of our brother and friend."

Dr. B. F. Camp was elected as his successor as President of the Board.

Meanwhile the unhappy controversy had continued and had entered the stage of litigation. Dr. Forbes had told the Trustees that his continuance as President under these circumstances was likely to be injurious to the interests of the University, but the majority insisted that his resignation would be a disaster for the institution. Nevertheless, in 1903 he wrote a letter to the Committee on Administration stating that in spite of their advice he would on his own authority present his resignation. The Committee instead of accepting it granted him a temporary leave of absence and committed the presidential duties to Dr. C. S. Farriss.

At the annual meeting of the Board, February 1904 the letter of August 1903 was read. In it Dr. Forbes reviewed the entire situation. He had, he said, assumed that the attacks on him would cease, and he would be allowed to go on with his work without molestation, adding: "I shall always have the most intense interest and affection for the University



to which I have given the best service of which I am capable for the best eighteen years of my life and I pray Almighty God that he may give you such wisdom and strength as shall enable you under other leadership to carry on even more successfully the great work committed to your care."

The resolution of acceptance expressed the highest appreciation for the splendid service he had rendered, regret that circumstances prevent "enjoying in the future as in the past his eminent abilities" and best wishes for his success "in any position which he may in the Providence of God be called."

As to controversial issues, the resolutions were sufficiently ambiguous to secure a unanimous vote. A month later a group of fifteen trustees issued a signed statement of appreciation and confidence free from any ambiguity. It has been suggested that the minority, however essentially sincere, may have been influenced by a rift in administrative policy.

Dr. Farriss was requested to continue as Acting President, and Dr. B. F. Camp was elected President of the Board.

Dr. Forbes removed to Rochester, New York and purchased a moderate sized factory producing school and office equipment. With characteristic thoroughness he threw himself into the project, personally practicing every type of handicraft used by his employers. From the start he was successful in the new enterprise.

The primary interest, however, was in education, and

he began teaching evening classes in a Business School that had in the past long been prominent and successful, but which had declined almost to the condition of bankruptcy. Before long he purchased the institution, reorganized it in a new building, and specialized in training men for business in Spanish American countries. When in later life he disposed of the institution, it was said to have become one of the most prominent Business Schools in the United States.

We have noted the loss which the University and Florida Baptists suffered in the death of Dr. Chaudoin. A similar loss occurred in the death of Mr. James S. Turner, a trustee since the organization of the Board. At a special meeting in April 1904 the Board passed resolutions of appreciation, recognizing "his valuable services, sound judgment, high purposes, and conscientious devotion to his trust," while a member of the Board. There was further reference to his exemplary character, his gifts to the University, and his influence as a citizen and as a leader of men.

(Feb 1904)  
At this same meeting a committee was appointed to select and recommend a candidate for President of the University. On July 2, 1904 the committee recommended the election of Dr. Lincoln Hulley, a professor in Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Penn. The recommendation was unanimously approved, and Dr. Hulley was declared elected.

In connection with this historic decision there was an



expression of appreciation for the fine service which Dr. Farriss had rendered as Acting President.

As Dr. Lincoln Hulley was for thirty years to be President of John B. Stetson University, it seems appropriate to note somewhat in detail his previous career.

He was born May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1865, his parents of English and Scotch ancestry, residing in southwestern Pennsylvania in the vicinity of Chester, site of Crozer Theological Seminary. The atmosphere of his home was religious with parents attending the local Methodist Church.

Lincoln's father was an efficient factory foreman; and as was the local custom, the son at the age of ten was put in the factory to learn some of the things which children were there employed to do. For seven years almost continuously he was thus employed.

As he looked back on this period he did not consider them as lost years, but felt that the rigorous discipline of these long days of labor, from six-thirty in the morning, to six-thirty in the evening, was of lasting value; that, to quote from his unpublished autobiography, they "gave the habit of sticking at things." It may also have had something to do with his later estimate of the value of strict discipline.

What he regarded as the turning point of his life occurred when he was fourteen years old. He had attended the local Methodist Sunday School but had not taken the matter of religion seriously. However, one day a boy friend sug-

gested that they go to a revival service at a near-by Baptist chapel. He was profoundly impressed. Experiences followed that led to church membership. His interests and purposes were transformed. He was most fortunate in the personal contacts formed. The Sunday School superintendent was W. C. Bithing, later distinguished pastor of a St. Louis church. John B. Weston, son of the Crozer President, succeeded Mr. Bithing as superintendent. His Sunday School teacher, Miss Hattie Bliss, became interested in the lad, and for years greatly influenced his life. She suggested evening study, and Mr. Weston coached him and advised him in his reading. He began attending a Sunday School in a church closely connected with the Crozer faculty, and formed a friendship with the teacher of the young men's class, Mrs. J. Lewis Crozer who materially assisted him in his educational plans. He came to be primarily interested in religious activities, and even began to consider the possibility of entering the ministry.

It is interesting, in connection with the phenomenal verbal memory which he later manifested, to note that at one time in his Sunday School work he committed to memory the entire Gospel of Mark.

In 1882, when seventeen years old, he, with the advice and assistance of Mrs. Crozer, left the factory and entered the Keystone Academy at Factoryville, Pennsylvania about 120 miles north of Chester. It is consistent with his later



rigorous financial management that out of a meager two dollar a month allowance for incidental expenses, he had in the course of several years accumulated a fund of \$62.00 which he applied on the \$150.00 expenses at the first year in the Academy. Mrs. Crozer supplied \$75.00, and the remainder he earned by work as janitor.

This year, as practically all the remaining years of his scholastic experience, he won the highest grades of any in his class. His first sermon was preached during his second year in the Academy. In two years he had completed all the requirements for admission to the freshman class at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

Entering Bucknell in the fall of 1884, and graduating four years later, he showed the same traits as during the academy period. He regularly led his classes in scholarship rating. He showed glee in manifold contests. This was characteristic throughout his entire career, whether in college athletics and politics, in tennis and golf, or in more serious diplomatic competition. Versatility and concentration enabled him with highest excellence to carry on a wide range of varied activities. In the midst of such activities he could speak of having much time on his hands. While this leisure permitted extensive general reading, he evidently was no "bookworm," for he must have shown capacity for leadership to have been chosen as head of so many organizations.

During these college days he met Miss Harriet Spratt, who

later became the first Mrs. Hulley. He did occasional supply preaching, although he was not licensed to preach until April 1890.

His rank as leader of his class won him a year's scholarship at Harvard. This year in Boston yielded many valuable personal contacts. Of the faculty, he came to know the philosophers James Peabody, and Royce. Other influential personalities were Phillips Brooks, Everett Hale, A. C. Gordon, and David Cook. Cultural opportunities included hearing orchestra and oratorio concerts and the dramatic interpretations of great actors, as well as having access to the museums and libraries of such a city as Boston. Reference to getting lost amid the crooked streets of Boston is interesting to any one who have had a similar experience.

We have earlier referred to the service which the young Harvard student rendered on the campus as pilot for the Stetson group who were attending the 1889 meeting of the Northern Baptist Convention.

Up to this time Lincoln Hulley had intended to enter the Crozer Theological Seminary, but an opportunity to do summer teaching at Bucknell led to further teaching and to a definite conviction that his place was in the classroom rather than in the pulpit. Yet in 1890 he was ordained to the ministry, and repeatedly accepted extended engagements as supply pastor, never, however, accepting a regular pastorate.



In the year of his ordination he was married to Miss Harriet Spratt, who survived but a short time after the birth of their child.

His first contact with Dr. W. R. Harper was in the summer of 1890, when under him and one or two colleagues he studied Hebrew at Chautauqua, New York, "It was the hardest work I had ever done as a student," was his comment, to which your scribe says "amen," for in 1892 he had the same experience. Three hours a day in the class room and any number of available hours for preparation, covering in six weeks a standard year's work in Hebrew was no slight task.

Dr. Hulley's contact with Dr. Harper, repeated in the summer of 1891, had significant consequences for him and for Stetson University. It led to his appointment to a fellowship in the University of Chicago, which in 1892 was just opening, and made possible his graduate work. The fellowship, at first supposed to be in Philosophy, was transferred to Semitic languages, five branches of which were included in the program.

A new major form of his activity began when Dr. Harper arranged for him to take charge of the Biblical work at the Lakeside, Ohio, Summer Assembly. Lecturing at summer assemblies, including Chautauqua, New York, was to be one of Dr. Hulley's occupations the greater part of his life.

At the University of Chicago he became acquainted with

a graduate student, Miss Eloise Mayham, who in 1893 became the present Mrs. Hulley.

In January 1894 the professorship at Bucknell was resumed, beginning what he characterized as "eleven wonderfully happy years at Lewisburg". Final examination for the doctorate was taken in the spring of 1895 and in the following fall the degree was conferred. Although the graduate work was in Semitics, the teaching at Bucknell was chiefly in History.

During the years at Bucknell Dr. Hulley showed the same versatility and capacity for work which we have already seen illustrated. He was an extensive reader. During the four years following 1893 he purchased for his private library over three thousand books.

He was in great demand, as a lecturer. Practically his entire summers as well as other available time he gave to this activity, which he characterized as a "gold mine", for a period of thirty-five years, taking him to nearly all the states east of the Mississippi and some west of it.

We have noted how as a boy he committed to memory the entire Gospel of Mark. This phenomenal capacity for verbal memory continued throughout his life. We were surprised at his ability to recite the authorized version of any of the Psalms upon the suggestion of its number. One of his most popular lectures was his favorite poet, Burns, largely consisting of quotations, given without notes. Similar lec-



tures were given on various other poets.

Another incidental activity which was continued throughout his lifetime was the writing of books, some issued by regular publishers and many privately published.

We have seen how the youthful academy student began supply preaching. This became a major activity for a long period. A striking example was the extended supply engagement with the Temple Church, Philadelphia, during the early Bucknell teaching period. He would leave Bucknell on Friday, conduct the church prayer meeting Friday evening, do pastoral visiting on Saturday, preach two sermons on Sunday and take the midnight train back to Lewisburg. A similar engagement later was that with the Immanuel Baptist Church at Baltimore. In both cases he was urged to accept the pastorate, but persistently declined, convinced that his primary work should be in the field of education.

Such was the man who on July 2, 1904, upon recommendation of a committee consisting of Mr. Theodore Search of Philadelphia, Mr. B. F. Camp, President of the Stetson Trustees, and Rev. W. A. Hobson, prominent Florida Baptist, was unanimously elected President of John B. Stetson University.

Mr. Search had visited Dr. Hulley, and as representative of the Committee had urged him to accept the nomination. His first reaction was for positive refusal. Consultations continued. President Harper of the University of Chicago, with which institution Stetson was affiliated, urged accep-

tance, warning, however, that "there is a terrible fight in there and if you go it will take all you've got." Dr. Hulley thoroughly investigated the situation, and it is in keeping with what we have seen of his enjoyment of contest that the challenge attracted rather than repelled him.

When in the fall of 1904 Dr. Hulley assumed the presidency of the University he found at the opening of the session a registration of 210, mostly below college rank, in striking contrast with the registration of about 600 which he left at Bucknell. He also found a Board of Trustees which had been divided by serious controversies. He girded himself to meet the challenge which had attracted him.

The first task was to secure a majority of trustees in favor of reinstating Mr. Stetson as President of the Board; this was accomplished within the first year of the new administration. Mr. Stetson promptly wiped out the deficit in running expenses which had been accumulating, Dr. Hulley making the characteristic remark that there would never be another deficit while he was in charge of the institution.

Attendance at Stetson during the period of controversy had somewhat declined. The catalog of 1903-1904, the college year prior to the Hulley administration, recorded the following registration:



College of Liberal Arts	47
Department of Law	26
School of Technology	42
Academy	107
Normal and Practice School	27
Grammar School	42
Primary and Kindergarden	42
Business College	70
School of Art	21
School of Music	110

The total number of names after the elimination of duplicates was 360.

During the period included in this chapter closing with the session of 1919-1920, the total number of names registered in each issue of the Catalog, notwithstanding varying conditions, maintained about an even average.

Between 1905 and 1920 a major problem at Stetson concerned the election and term of office of the trustees, particularly as affecting the relations of the University and the Florida Baptist Convention. To understand the situation we need to review the circumstances of the founding of the DeLand institution. There was the fusing of two distinct movements with two distinct backgrounds.

As early as 1882, before the opening of the Academy at DeLand, Dr. F. O. Moodie, who had been connected with a school for girls, was suggesting the founding of a "Female College in Florida". The Florida Baptist Convention was seriously considering the proposition. A provisional board of trustees was selected, plans were made for raising a ten thousand dollar endowment fund, and a committee was appointed to

recommend a favorable location where most liberal cooperation could be secured.

The plan was in keeping with certain Southern institutions. The property was to belong to the Convention, which would elect the trustees, the term of a group of whom would expire each year, their successors to be elected by the Convention.

Mr. DeLand and his immediate associates, on the other hand, thought in the terms of the organization of various Northern colleges with denominational affiliation. In case of the University of Rochester, for instance, the president and a certain majority of the trustees were to be members in good standing in Baptist churches. Members were elected for an indefinite term and any vacancies were filled by the board. The aim was to have a positively and distinctively Christian institution under denominational auspices, yet not so rigorously denominational as to impede support in financial contributions and student attendance from those of other faiths.

We are told that at the meeting of the Florida Convention in 1885 Mr. DeLand through Dr. Griffith made a proposition "that he would give to the denomination for the purposes of education all the property belonging to the DeLand Academy, worth not less than \$12,000.00 and \$10,000.00 for endowment, while all that should be contributed by citizens of DeLand and vicinity should be so much additional,



provided the denomination in the state at large should raise as an endowment fund for the institution the sum of \$10,000."

The proposition is reported to have been enthusiastically accepted. Yet we see that there were already grounds for future misunderstanding; for the Convention proceeded to elect a Board of Trustees to which was entrusted the task of incorporating the institution. At the same time, there seems to be indisputable evidence that there had never occurred to Mr. DeLand the slightest idea of any relation between the school and the denomination different from that with which he was familiar at Rochester. It would seem that Floridians misinterpreted his commitment in terms of their own background.

The misunderstanding seems to have caused little trouble for about twenty years, but in 1904, just before the election of President Hulley, it revived and continued until 1907 when it culminated in a definite break between the Convention and the University and the establishment of a rival college at Lake City.

At the 1904 Convention resolutions were passed suggesting "that the Florida Baptist Convention should have some voice in naming the trustees of John B. Stetson University." and directing that a committee of five be appointed to confer with the Trustees of the University with a view to accomplishing this end." There was accordingly appointed such a committee who were to consult with the Trustees of

the University. The board readily concurred and appointed a similar committee. These two committees met at DeLand, March 15, 1904, and after detailed discussion formulated a series of resolutions which were to be recommended for adoption by the Convention and the Board.

These resolutions provided that the election of Trustees should be by the Board but subject to confirmation by the Convention. The President and Corresponding Secretary of the Convention were to be ex officio members of the Board. Each Trustee should be elected for a term of seven years, unless election was to fill an unexpired term. When necessary changes have been made, the Trustee should divide their membership into seven groups, designating the order in which the term of service of the respective groups should end, one group retiring each of the succeeding seven years. Upon the agreement of the Convention and the Trustees upon these terms, each should appoint a committee of three to arrange for any necessary changes in the charter of the University, such changes, it was believed, could be made by the court without special legislative action.

These resolutions were unanimously adopted at the 1905 meeting of the Convention.

The Board of Trustees met February 16, 1905, Dr. Hulley now being President of the University. When at this meeting the above resolutions were presented, they were, by vote,



Indefinitely postponed without discussion.

This section, which at first impressed the representatives of the convention as discourteously abrupt, was later explained as due to the presence of weightier matters demanding immediate consideration.

For the next two years we find contrasting attitudes of the Convention toward the University. Convention reports included detailed lists of the Stetson Trustees and Faculty, President Hulley is said to be making a fine impression on the people. Report on Education expressed pride in that Baptists possess in Stetson University an educational institution unsurpassed by any in the entire Southland. At one time a seven page optimistic report by President Hulley on the resources and activities of the University was printed in detail. At the same time references to the need of closer relations between the convention and the University continued.

The Trustees of the University met in February 1906. Mr. Stetson, soon restored to his former position, being the presiding officer. A representative of the Convention addressed the Board. In response, Dr. Hulley presented a series of resolutions. The spirit was most conciliatory, and willingness was expressed that trustees be elected for limited terms. Attention was called to the fact that the convention already had a working majority on the Board and that most of its members were Baptists. The wisdom of

giving the Convention legal control of the University was positively denied.

Dr. Hulley then presented Mr. Stetson's generous and self sacrificing offer. In order to serve a united and harmonious board, unaffected by past controversies, he would give to the University for endowment a hundred thousand dollars, on condition that all members of the Board, including himself, voluntarily resign after the election of an entirely new Board. It was voted to accept the offer in case all the members should express willingness to resign.

Mr. Stetson's death occurred only a few days after this meeting. Thus passed from the scene one who for twenty years had been one of the most devoted friends of the institution, and its principal financial supporter--not only contributing funds for buildings and endowment, but again and again meeting annual deficits occasioned by operating expenses. And that in order that the Baptist young people attending the University might have adequate church opportunities, he for years contributed one third of the salary of the local Baptist pastor, and a similar proportion of the estimated cost of a new church building.

On March 15 the Board reassembled. At this meeting a committee was appointed to draft suitable resolutions in appreciation of Mr. Stetson and the splendid service he had rendered the University, resolutions later formulated



and passed.

Mrs. Stetson was reported as confirming Mr. Stetson's one hundred thousand dollars offer, conditions unchanged.

An act of major significance for the history of the institution was the election on March 15, 1906 of Mr. E. L. Hon as member of the Board. Through all the intervening years he has been a prominent member of the body, most of the time on the Committee on Administration, and in recent years Vice-President of the Board.

During this meeting and those of April 19 and May 3 various resolutions concerning the election of Trustees and the relations of the Convention and the University were presented, amended, tabled or passed. One extreme motion was for the transference of the ownership of all the property of the University to the incorporated Florida Baptist Convention. This was lost by a vote of 16 to 7. An entire group claimed for the Convention the right to nominate or even elect the members of the Board. The other, while offering to the Convention the power of veto, consistently and successfully opposed measures looking toward Convention ownership or control.

The outcome of this complicated series of negotiations may be seen from a series of resolutions presented by Dr. Hulley and passed by a vote of 12 to 11. These resolutions provided that in response to the Stetson offer and the Convention's requests a new Board should be elected, none of the present Board to be eligible except the five recently elected

and the President of the University, nor should anyone be eligible against whose election three members of the retiring Board should present "acceptable objections." The present Board was to retire after electing their successors, whose election should be subject to confirmation by the Convention.

It would seem that the required resignations were never offered, as fortunately or unfortunately, the proposition was never carried out.

At the same time with the resolutions in honor of Mr. Stetson, there was presented a similar tribute to the recently deceased Dr. David Moore, a member of the original Board, a winter resident of DeLand, active in the administration of the University. His portrait is on the north wall of our chapel.

During the year of 1907 events moved rapidly. The Convention met in January. The Report on Education contained the statement that early in the 80's "Baptists of Florida through the Convention" founded a college with religious aims which "culminated in the splendid John B. Stetson University at DeLand." Dr. Hulley's report stated in detail the resources and achievements of the University, specifying the contributions of others than Florida Baptists, and appealing for liberal Baptist support. The Committee on Stetson-Convention relations suggested that negotiations be continued along "amicable lines". Yet before the close of



the session a drastic resolution was presented and passed, practically unmodified, affirming that the property of Stetson University rightly belonged to the Florida Baptist Convention and advising that the State Board of Missions under which name the Convention had been chartered, "be empowered and directed to procure, amicably if possible, otherwise through the courts or legislature or both as is found advisable" amendment to the Stetson charter so as to fix the term of office of Trustees, provide for the expiration of the term of the present Trustees, determine method of electing the Trustees by the Florida Baptist Convention, and make the "executive officer" of the University ineligible to the position of trustee.

At this period a new element enters the scene. The State of Florida had operated an educational institution at Lake City. But with the establishment of the University of Florida at Gainesville and the Florida Woman's College at Tallahassee, the Lake City institution was discontinued and the ownership of the plant transferred to the local municipality. A community accustomed to being an educational center found itself with a fine college equipment but without financial support or patronage. Might not Lake City become the home of a denominationally supported institution? Offer was made to the Presbyterians without success and then to the Baptists. To those who had been cherishing the idea of a college "owned and controlled" by the Florida Baptist

Convention, this must have seemed a golden opportunity.

On June 18<sup>th</sup> a conference was held at Lake City, and a provisional arrangement was made whereby the municipality offered the Baptists the entire plant together with the \$15,000.00 in cash returned to Lake City by the Florida Legislature on condition that they would found and maintain a Convention school of college grade or higher. The fifteen thousand was never to be used "except for permanent endowment or permanent improvement".

A special meeting of the Convention at Lake City was called for July 24, 1907. This was said to have been both in attendance and enthusiasm unequalled by any meeting of Florida Baptists ever held. The preliminary agreements were confirmed. Plans for organization recommended by the Committee corresponded to what the Committee on Convention-Stetson relations had been advocating: the institution was to be owned by the Florida Baptist Convention Incorporated. The twenty Trustees were to be members of Florida Baptist Churches, elected by the Convention for limited terms, the President of the College not eligible for board membership. A resolution was passed that all teachers be Baptists, yet the initial announcement characterized the courses as not to be "decisively sectarian" but "to honor the word of God."

Organization was speedily accomplished. The published proceedings of this July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting opened with what was practically the first bulletin of the new institution.



Columbia College, named for its location in Columbia County. The College was to open October 2, 1907, Rev. G. A. Nunnally, President. The origin, ownership and control of the institution were presented.

In the Convention accounts of this enterprise we find various friendly references to Stetson. Columbia is not to be considered a hostile rival but an associate. Stetson was a Baptist institution but Columbia was "owned and controlled" by the Convention.

A new Baptist Weekly, The Gospel Herald, edited by President Hulley, appeared February 7, 1907, and continued a little over a year. While dealing comprehensively with Florida Baptist interests and affairs, its primary aim evidently was to present the cause of Stetson University as seen by Dr. Hulley and his supporters. As we should expect, the general tone and attitude was conciliatory. The fine equipment, scholarly standards, and Christian spirit of Stetson were directly and indirectly presented. As the Columbia College movement took form the Herald urged that it was unwise for Florida Baptists to try to maintain two colleges, and that Columbia could give them nothing that Stetson could not.

The aim was to explain and justify Stetson policy, for example, some had suggested that the incorporation in 1887 was unnecessarily hasty and made without due consultation with Convention leaders. The explanation of the haste

was the existence of an emergency. The title of the property of the Academy was with Mr. DeLand. He had invested heavily in real estate. Decline in values threatened him with bankruptcy. Without incorporation the property of the Academy would become involved with the rest of his estate. There was the further claim, which we have already seen that the terms of the charter were in keeping with what Mr. DeLand had from the beginning regarded as the terms of his offer, and that the majority of prominent Florida Baptists on the Board gave the Convention practical control.

When measures were introduced into both houses of the Florida Legislature so to revise the Stetson charter as to transfer ownership from the Board of Trustees to the Convention, the Herald steadily maintained that a charter was a contract between the State, the donor, and the Trustees, and that the Legislature had no legal right, without the consent of an owner, to transfer the title of property to another; this was the position that was successfully maintained.

The Columbia College is so intimately connected with Stetson history that some further account of it seems relevant. One thinks of Athena who is said to have emerged full grown from the brains of Zeus. Three months after the founding of Columbia College was authorized by the Convention, we find the institution beginning its first session



with an adequate equipment of beautiful buildings, a distinguished president, and a fine faculty and student body.

During the eleven years of its history, the institution had three presidents. Rev. G. A. Nunnally, D. D. served the first two years, and then resigned to accept a professorship to Shorter College. According to an editorial in the Witness, the College under his leadership enjoyed satisfactory prosperity, and in his departure the State lost a staunch friend.

The second president was Dr. Henry Wise Tribble, who came from an eight year's pastorate at Charlottesville. In February 1912, in the latter part of the third year of his presidency, he died from the results of an automobile accident. Glowing tributes from many sources were given to his personality and his devoted and efficient service to the College.

Two of his sons have been prominent in the field of education. Lewis, for years Professor or Dean in the Stetson Law School; and Harold, Professor of Theology in the Louisville Seminary.

From 1912 until the final closing of the College the President was Dr. A. P. Montague, who came from the successful presidency of Howard College. His scholarly edition of SELECTIONS FROM CICERO'S LETTERS, earlier published, has been used as a text book in various universities.

The Columbia enterprise was in many respects highly

successful. It had the loyal support of many Florida Baptists. Attendance by its second year had reached a hundred including fourteen ministerial students. By the fourth year the two hundred line was reached. Larger enrollment, it was claimed, than was ever had by the Lake City State institution, or by Mercer in its first fifty years. In considering total registration after the seventh year, one should note that lower grades were discontinued. As time went on, many optimistic claims were made: standards equal to any in the state; and faculty of about fifteen, the strongest in the history of the college.

On the other hand, through the entire eleven years, the main trouble was financial. Notwithstanding annual Convention approximations from five to ten thousand dollars, there were constant deficits and gradually increasing debt. Campaigns for contributions from the churches were sometimes sufficient to brighten the situation somewhat, but, only temporarily. War conditions, killing frost, and bank failure finally led to such a crisis that it was thought best not to open the College in the fall of 1918, and while temporarily closing, concentrate on clearing away debt. Confident expectations of reopening were expressed.

In connection with the Southern Baptist Convention's seventy-five million dollar campaign, fifteen million was to be devoted to Christian Education. According to the Florida Baptist Witness for February 6, 1919, Florida's share was to be three hundred and fifty thousand, one hundred thousand of which would be contributed by the Educa-



tion Committee provided Florida Baptist should "collect the first fifty thousand, by, on , or before the first of next May." The first forty thousand could be used for payment of debt. Urgent appeals were made for support of the campaign, which presented a life-saving opportunity for the College.

The goal was not reached by the specified time. Negotiations with Stetson University continued. On July 19, 1919, according to the January, 1920 Report of the Florida Baptist Convention, agreements between the University and the Florida Board of Missions were signed. Stetson agreed that a majority of its trustees should ever be resident Florida Baptists, identified with Florida Baptist Churches, that at least three Florida Baptists be added within the following twelve months, and that the candidates be first approved by the Florida Baptist Convention. The Convention agreed, so far as possible, to "throw its whole influence, moral, religious, and financial, to the support, maintenance and development of John B. Stetson University."

President Hulley presented an optimistic and cordial report for the University with the greeting of the Trustees "rejoicing in the happy solution of the most important problem that has puzzled everybody for the past eighteen years."

A resolution of the Columbia Trustees was confirmed by

the Convention providing that the property of the College be deeded back to the Municipality of Lake City, and the Board of Trustees discharged after the dissolution of the incorporation.

Thus the Columbia episode ended, and relations were re-established between the Convention and Stetson University which have through the years become ever more intimate and cordial. Meanwhile what has been happening at Stetson during the period which we have been considering?

President Hulley early in his administration reorganized the faculty. Dr. Farriss became Vice-President instead of Dean. Professor J. Archy Smith became Dean of the University and Professor Carson Dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

We have seen how the scholastic work of the University, as presented in the catalogs varied greatly from time to time, although this involved little change in the courses actually offered. There was a shifting back and forth between two extremes, on the one hand, a multiplication of "Schools" and "Colleges"; and on the other, the presentation of all except subcollegiate as belonging to the various Departments of the College of Liberal Arts.

The practice continued during this period. The catalog of 1908-1909 recorded a change from four "Colleges" and five "Schools" to two "Colleges" and six "Schools." In 1912-1913, practically all work above that of the



Academy was presented under the twenty-six Departments of the College of Liberal Arts. In 1917-1918 we have five Colleges, Liberal Arts, Law, Engineering, Normal and Teachers', and Business; and a Conservatory of Music, Fine Arts, and Elocution.

In comparing the attendance of the various sessions, prior to the introduction of summer and Saturday classes, our most reliable source is the record of the total number of names after the elimination of duplicates, as there were variations in classification and duplication. In the session 1904-1905, President Hulley's first years, 386 were enrolled. There was a gradual increase to the 581 of 1908-1909. In the following session there was a drop to 462, with little change until 1918-1919 when, due at least in part to the presence of the Students' Army Training Corps, there was an increase to 649. The 1919-1920 total was 500, the decrease probably in part due to the inclusion of only two years of the Academy registration.

When in 1904 Dr. Hulley came to Stetson, he found on this faculty several who had rendered long and distinguished service. We have mentioned the administration trio, Professors Carson, Farris, and Smith. Professor William W. Frost was the popular head of the English department, remaining until 1909, when he resigned to accept another position. His friends often mention the tragic circumstances of his death, which occurred soon after. He is said to

have stepped into a bathtub in which the water was being heated by an electric device, and was electrocuted.

Mr. Clifford Rosa had been connected with the University since 1894, having taught various commercial branches. At one time he directed military drill. But his most conspicuous service has been that of Bursar in which for decades he has borne weighty responsibility in connection with the business administration of the institution.

From 1903 for about twenty years until his death Litchfield Colton taught Mechanical Drawing and Engineering. He also served the community as an efficient architect.

In 1904 Mr. Orwin A. Morse came as Director of the School of Music, serving for several years. In the same year Miss Annie N. Holden's name first appeared on the faculty roll as Assistant in Typewriting. Through the decades her work has included the teaching of Latin, German, and English.

From 1905 to 1910 Mr. A. L. L. Suhrie served as Director of the Normal and Practice School. In the catalog of 1905-1906, Daniel J. Blocker, who had graduated from the Academy in the class of 1905, was mentioned as in charge of a boys' dormitory. Here appears in our records one who as the beloved "Uncle Dan" was to occupy a conspicuous place in the life of the institution, serving from 1911 to 1921 as



Professor of Philosophy and Pedagogy.

There were various changes in the supervision of the women's dormitories. Miss Ellen W. Martien in 1906 became Dean of Women serving in this capacity as well as in Bible teaching until 1919 when she resigned to undertake mission work in the Phillippines. She has been characterized as "gifted with sympathy, a Puritan conscience, and the devotion of a Florence Nightingale." Dr. Hulley's daughter Louise took Miss Martien's position for a year to be followed by Mrs. Alzora Bashlin who had in 1916 come to Stetson as Instructor in Art. At this time DeLand Hall was used as a womans' dormitory, and Mrs. Abby D. Allen from 1920-1923 was in charge of it. When she was transferred to Chaudoin Hall, Miss Mary Tribble, later Mrs. Curtis Lowry succeeded her in DeLand Hall.

This has taken us beyond 1920. To return to early additions to the faculty during Dr. Hulley's administration, there came in 1908 one who both for the character and the length of his service was to be a distinguished member of the faculty. Mr. Irving C. Stover came as Instructor in Elocution, later to be designated as Professor of Speech. In addition to his efficiency in the class room, Dr. Stover has shown rare talent as director in play production. With a personnel limited to student amateurs, he directs interpretations of great dramas which attract throngs of discriminating and enthusiastic audiences. The annual Shakes-

pearian play has become an institution. The Stover Little Theater bears his name.

Students of the period will remember Claude S. Tingley first, Instructor, then Professor of Chemistry. From 1908 he served about eight years. Finally, though ill, he persisted in his work, directing the students in the laboratory while lying on a cot. He died during a weekend, having continued his work through Friday. From 1917-1929 Dr. Edward P. Farrell was the Professor of Chemistry.

The name of Harry C. Garwood appears in the catalog of 1909-1910 as an undergraduate assistant in Mathematics. He graduated in the class of 1913, prominent in athletics as well as in scholarship. After graduation from the Theological Seminary and several years of pastoral experience, he in 1921 joined the Stetson faculty as Dean of the Normal and Teacher's College and Professor of Philosophy and Pedagogy. His fine and varied service during succeeding years will be presented later.

The catalog of 1909-1910 mentions the appointment of R. A. Rasco as Professor of Law. This suggests an interesting incident in the history of the Stetson College of Law. Albert J. Farrah had served as Dean since 1900, but in 1909 he had resigned to become Dean of the new Law School of the University of Florida. Professor Trustler followed Dean Farrah, and at least some of the law students were planning to do likewise. It was a question whether it would not



be wise for Stetson to discontinue its College of Law. Dr. Hulley refused, assuming the deanship, engaged R. A. Rasco, Fred Botts, and Egford Ely and continued the work in Law. Besides acting as Dean, Dr. Hulley taught two law classes. Attendance dropped from twenty-eight to eighteen; but by 1925 a hundred and twenty were enrolled. Professor Rasco soon after joining the faculty became Acting Dean, then Dean of the College of Law.

His son Russell, familiarly known as "Bus", was a veteran of the first world war. He is said to have driven the first truck across the Rhine after the armistice, and for some time was cut off from communication with his family. His intimate friend Paul Hon, son of Mr. E. L. Hon, Stetson Trustee since 1905, was in the summer of 1914 one of the earliest American casualties of war. Russell later became Dean of the University of Miami Law School.

Beginning in 1911, Miss Sarah Elizabeth Bangs held various positions including Instructor in German and French and Librarian. During this period the position of Librarian was held by a number of different people. Between 1913 and 1922 Miss Mary E. Denny was efficient instructor in Secretarial Science.

In 1913 W. S. Gordis, Stetson Professor of Latin and Librarian from 1888 to 1898, returned as Professor of English. (During his absence he had completed his graduate

work at the University of Chicago and served for seven years on the faculty of Ottawa University, the institution of Kansas Baptists.)

Upon his return he found that the room in the north wing of Elizabeth Hall which in 1897 had been finely equipped for the library had become the art gallery. On all the four walls were hung paintings by the talented H. D. Fluhart, both original works and copies of great masters. These were reported as the gift of Mr. Fluhart's friend, Mr. Edward B. Solomon of Dayton, Ohio, a trustee of the University. In the fall of 1914 Mr. Fluhart became head of the Department or School of Art, a position which he held until 1935. It is said that it was Mr. Solomon's purpose to provide from his estate means for erecting a Stetson Art Building and the endowment of the School of Art, but that financial reverses wrecked the plan.

We have seen that Miss Martien, Dean of Women, resigned in 1919 to enter foreign mission work. Dr. Hulley's daughter Louise for an interim year was in charge of Chaudoin Hall and was followed by Mrs. Alzora M. Bushlin, who had in 1916 come to Stetson as Instructor in Art. At this time DeLand Hall was used as a women's dormitory, and Mrs. Abby D. Allen, from 1920 to 1923 was in charge of it. When she was transferred to Chaudoin Hall, Miss Mary Tribble, later Mrs. Curtis Lowry succeeded her in DeLand Hall.



Two interesting additions were made to the faculty near the close of this period. Major Wilson G. Lowe and Dr. Ora P. Seward.

Mayor Lowe had been a conductor of Military Academies in the Middle West and came to Florida on account of ill health. Arriving as a wheel chair patient he rapidly improved in health and became a member of the Law faculty in 1917, serving for several years until burdened by physical limitations. Mayor Lowe had some of the characteristics which one might expect in a military officer, somewhat formal but graciously courteous. Even after unable to teach, he continued to be a welcome visitor to the chapel or library, and when confined to his home, however physically helpless, his cheerful courtesy never failed.

Dr. Seward came to Stetson as Professor of Modern Languages in 1920, a college and law graduate of the old University of Chicago, with the Ph. D. degree from the new institution. A tall, rugged, bearded middle westerner, he was kindly and courteous. He loved to hike about the surrounding country, gathering various wild flowers, and sometimes leaving them at the home of a shut-in. He taught until 1933 when age and failing strength prompted resignation.

We have seen many examples of Dr. Hulley's response to the challenge of contest. There were many others. When confronted with a troublesome series of lawsuits over a

matter of discipline, he concentrated on the study of relevant law; and although defeated by local juries, won before the Supreme Court. Then came the game of politics. Nominated and elected State Senator, he is said to have secured the passage of more measures than any one else in either House. His next contest was for the Governorship of the State. Given temporary leave from his duties at Stetson, he threw himself into the campaign, touring the State in his Ford car and personally tacking placards to telephone and telegraph poles, preaching in churches, and visiting schools. This, however, was one case in which he was not victor, an outcome which he jokingly attributed to the handicap of his being a Yankee with the given name Lincoln.

During this period three important buildings were added to the campus: the Carnegie Library Building, the new Conrad Hall, and the Cummings Gymnasium.

Soon after coming to DeLand, Dr. Hulley secured from Mr. Carnegie an offer to give \$40,000.00 for the construction of a library building, provided a similar amount should be raised to endow maintenance. Mrs. Stetson met this condition and the arrangement was announced in detail in the catalog for 1906-1907. Within the next year or two, the beautiful building was completed. The entire first floor of the main building was one great room, one hundred and fifty by fifty feet in size. At first it was arranged as



was the library in Elizabeth Hall, four groups of open stacks at the corners, with reference shelves and ample table space. A small addition at the rear provided office and cataloging space. The upper floor was divided into rooms devoted at various times to various purposes.

The original Conrad Hall was a moderate sized building situated on the Boulevard, and providing inexpensive living for students of limited means. This building was destroyed by fire in September, 1903. Plans for rebuilding were promptly begun, but matured slowly. The aim came to be to construct an ample general dormitory for men. There were various delays, and the building was not completed until about 1910. Mrs. Stetson, or the Countess of Euclalia, agreed to give dollar for dollar for all raised for the project from other sources. Six thousand dollars, the greater part from Mr. J. B. Conrad for whom the building was named, was raised, bringing the fund to twelve thousand dollars. The new building was on the east side of the campus at the corner of Minnesota and Hayden Avenues.

At about the same time the Cummings Gymnasium was erected, named for its largest contributor, Mr. J. H. Cummings of Philadelphia. This is a large attractive two story brick building, situated on the west side of the Boulevard. The second story provides spacious room for athletic contests or practice. Previously the only gymnasium, used by both men and women, was the simple frame

building which now serves as the band hall. The new Cummings Gymnasium was assigned to the men, leaving the original building for the women.

During this period many distinguished guest speakers and artists were heard at Stetson. Presentation Day, or Founder's Day, as later designated, was for years an outstanding occasion of the year. Originally, as we have seen, it celebrated the anniversary of Mr. Stetson's presentation of the central portion of Elizabeth Hall and a fifty thousand dollar fund to endow the president's salary. It was observed in February during the week of the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, and at a season when more winter visitors were present than at Commencement time. It was the time of the annual homecoming, and the most important reception of the year. Usually the principal address, as was the case at Commencement season, was by some prominent guest speaker.

Among our guest speakers were Otis Skinner, Captain Hobson, "Hero of the Merimac", Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Dr. Shailer Matthews, and William Jennings Bryan. Among guest artists was Madam Schuman-Heink. The Stetson Glee Club and the Vesper Choir presented great oratorios, sometimes with distinguished soloists from Chicago. In 1910 was held a Shakespearian festival with eminent specialists to assist; and, as we have seen, Professor Stover's plays attracted large audiences.



We may also note that DeLand was host to two eminent Northern Baptist theologians. Dr. William Newton Clarke of the Colgate Seminary, still internationally recognized as pioneer and leader in modern evangelical theology, after retirement built a beautiful home near the Stetson campus. Here he died, Dr. Hulley conducting the local funeral service. Dr. Augustus Hopkins Strong of the Rochester Seminary, author of the conservative volume on Systematic Theology, colloquially known by his students as "the big blue book," was while a guest at the College Arms Hotel, married to the widow of the Mr. Jones who contributed millions to Baptist Seminaries. The local pastor performed the marriage ceremony, in which Dr. and Mrs. Hulley participated. Another College Arms guest was Dr. Ernest D. Burton, great scholar, teacher, author, administrator, and Christian.

Mr. Stetson's professed purpose in building this hotel was that there might be here a suitable place where distinguished guests of University or town might be suitably entertained.

In 1904 Dr. Hulley found that on Sunday afternoons a group of students were accustomed to meet in the chapel for a religious service. He offered to speak at this service, and thus began what for years was an outstanding feature in the life of the University and even of DeLand and its environs. Each Sunday afternoon at what was known as the Vesper Service, Dr. Hulley addressed an audience which came

to include not only students but the general public. The audiences steadily grew until the chapel which accomodates about a thousand people was filled almost to capacity. Internationally known guest speakers, often had smaller audiences. William Jennings Bryan was one successful competitor. DeLand streets in the vicinity on Sunday afternoons were packed with parked cars from surrounding areas. It is said that finally complaint was made that the Sunday evening service of the local churches suffered in attendance on account of the Stetson Vespers, and the Vespers were discontinued.

The collections taken at the Vesper services yielded a fund with which was purchased what are known as the Eloise Chimes, named in honor of Mrs. Hulley. A man of property had ordered the chimes for a church, but financial reverses hindered this purchase. They therefore became available for Stetson, and in 1915 were installed in the tower of Elizabeth Hall.

Then Dr. Hulley began teaching a Bible Class in the local Baptist Sunday School. Attendance at this class so grew that the church auditorium was practically filled, many at the close of the session dispersing to go elsewhere.

Students were required to attend the daily chapel exercises. Worship so far as practicable was the inclusive feature. Entire books of the Bible were read chapters by



chapters by chapters, several chapters usually at a single session. The service was almost exclusively conducted by the President.

Various departmental clubs and social fraternities were introduced during these years. The College Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. were prominent religious organizations at this time, supplemented by other ministerial and devotional groups.

This chapter has been entitled "Sunshine and Showers." We have not hesitated to tell of the showers, but by 1920 they were practically cleared away. All through the decade and a half there was much sunshine and much substantial progress. The remainder of our story will be one of almost unbroken harmony and steady advancement.