

proper orders and decrees for the purpose.

After the United States Supreme Court rendered the decree annulling the charter and escheating to the United States the property of the Mormon Church, it withheld the decree in the case, through a desire to find the best method of disposing of the confiscated property or finding private owners to whom it might be reverted. The object of Senator Edmunds' bill is to declare by congressional enactment to what use the money and property may be devoted, and to relieve the court of its embarrassment.

ON HISTORICAL GROUND.

Lexington is celebrated as the final resting place of the leading generals of the Confederacy, viz: Lee and Jackson, and also as a seat of learning. Here are situated the Virginia Military Institute and the Washington and Lee University. I recently visited the latter institution and met Professor White, of the faculty, and John L. Campbell, Esq., treasurer of the university. From them I learned the following historical data relative to the university:

The germ of Washington and Lee University was a mathematical and classical school, called the Augusta Academy, established in 1749 by Robert Alexander, near Greenville, Augusta County. It was the first classical school in the Valley of Virginia, and was continued by an uninterrupted succession of principals and assistant instructors, on successive sites, increasing in usefulness and influence, until it gradually developed into Washington and Lee University. Robert Alexander was a master of arts of Trinity College, Dublin University. He was of the "Scotch-Irish" immigration which settled in the Valley of Virginia; he located in Augusta County about 1742. In 1753 Mr. Alexander was succeeded by John Brown, D. D., as principal, and during his administration the academy was removed to Rockbridge County, "shortly before the Revolution."

In 1776 William Graham succeeded Mr. Brown as principal, and under his auspices the academy continued with advancing fortunes. Incited by the patriotic spirit of the day, and on the first meeting after the battle of Lexington, the trustees direct the record for the 6th of May, 1776, to be entitled "Liberty Hall"—as this academy is hereafter to be called, instead of the Augusta Academy." It was again removed in 1785 near to Lexington—where yet stand the picturesque stone ruins of Old Liberty Hall, burned in 1803—and was removed finally, in 1802, to its present site within the limits of Lexington. We visited the old ruins, whose stone walls still stand, in company with their owner, Prof. White. He has had many offers for the ruins, but has refused them all,

hoping to see the university acquire title to them in the near future. The school was sustained by its own tuition fees alone until 1796, when it obtained as its first endowment the sum of fifty thousand dollars from George Washington, to whom the legislature of Virginia in 1785 had presented shares in two canal companies incorporated in Virginia—The Potomac Company and the James River Company. These shares were afterwards retired, and by solemn compact on the part of the legislature of Virginia, in consideration of "retiring" this stock of the "old" James River Company, the treasury of the commonwealth is to pay to Washington College six per cent. interest on the sum of fifty thousand dollars, annually, forever. After its endowment by General Washington special acts were passed, bestowing upon the institution his immortal name. It is not an insignificant coincidence in the mutations of human affairs, that William Graham, the pillar and stay of Washington College in its early days, had for his classmate and most special friend at Princeton, in 1773, Harry Lee, the protegee of Washington, its munificent benefactor—the respected father of Robert E. Lee, its late president, under whom was so auspiciously advanced the work so wisely inaugurated by Graham and Washington, and the patriots of the past. The "Cincinnati Society," composed of the surviving officers of the revolutionary war, decided in 1802 to dissolve the association and assign their funds to some benevolent object, and the result was that the society, influenced, as they declared, by the example of Washington, their leader, and by a desire to promote his patriotic purpose, appointed the residue of their funds to Washington College. This endowment amounts to more than twenty-five thousand dollars. John Robinson, a native of Ireland, a trustee of the college, a soldier under Washington, filled with love and veneration for his virtues, and a laudable zeal to further promote the noble purposes of the father of his country, in 1826 bequeathed to Washington College his whole estate, amounting to \$48,500. There is a neat monument erected to Mr. Robinson's memory just to the left of the main entrance. These funds are still preserved intact and yield a revenue of six per cent.

At the outbreak of the civil war most of the students were organized into a military company, called "The Liberty Hall Volunteers," and entered the Confederate service in June, 1861, under the command of Captain James J. White, one of the professors of the college. The company was assigned to the Fourth Virginia Regiment in the Stonewall brigade. It participated in all the battles of the army of Northern Virginia, winning distinction on every field and sharing in all the glories of that splendid army. In June, 1864, General David Hunter, on his campaign in the Valley of Virginia, occupied Lexington, and the college that bore the name and

was hallowed with the memory of Washington did not escape the fate of war, but was sacked, its chemical and philosophical apparatus destroyed, and its libraries to a great extent scattered and ruined. At the close of the war the endowment, amounting to about \$90,000, chiefly in Virginia State securities, was wholly unproductive. The other property of the college was estimated at \$63,000. The board of trustees met on the 4th of August, 1865, and elected General Robert E. Lee president; at the same meeting the board instructed its finance committee to borrow \$7,000 to repair the buildings, procure necessary apparatus and books and pay arrearages of salaries. The college being without income or credit, the money was borrowed on the private credit of members of the board of trustees. The necessary books and apparatus were provided, and the buildings fitted for occupancy at the coming session. General Lee accepted the position, and in so doing gave a new impulse to the old college of Washington, attracting a large number of students, reassembling its friends and enlisting in its behalf many generous benefactors in all parts of the country. The general arrived in Lexington on the 18th of September, and he was formally inaugurated and the session opened on the 2nd day of October, 1865. The course of instruction was greatly enlarged, new professorships added, and the college placed in the front rank of Southern institutions of learning. A handsome chapel and residence for the president were erected and great improvements made to the buildings, grounds, library, apparatus and appliances of instruction. In October, 1870, Washington College was called to mourn the death of its honored president. His body lies in a mausoleum in the rear of the chapel which he built, and in the chamber above the vault is placed the recumbent figure, by Valentine—a masterpiece that attracts visitors from all parts of the country. In 1871 General G. W. Curtis Lee succeeded his father in the presidential chair (a position which he still holds) and in the same year the legislature of Virginia changed the name of the institution to its present corporate title—The Washington and Lee University. The institution has been repeatedly endowed since the war. Cyrus H. McCormick, the inventor of the reaper which bears his name, was born in Rockbridge County, Va., February 15, 1809. Before his death in 1884 he generously bestowed the sum of twenty thousand dollars on the university, and since he died the trustees under his will have added another twenty thousand dollars, making forty thousand dollars.

George Peabody, of London, the great philanthropist, in September, 1869, donated to the college \$250,000. In 1872, William W. Corcoran, of Washington City, donated \$31,500. Robert H. Bayly, Esq., a prominent citizen of New Orleans, died in 1872, and by his will left \$70,000 to the university. Mr. Lewis Brooks, of Rochester, New York, established