

Woman AT HOME AND

A Glance At the History of Wesleyan College By One of Her Bright Young Alumnae

BELLE ROBINSON BUTLER.

In view of the entertainment given in the New York building at the Piedmont Driving Club Wednesday afternoon, at which Mrs. W. L. Peel, the untiring president of the Alumnae Association acted as hostess, it may be interesting to cast a glance backward, and review this old college, how it came to be and the wonderful success accomplished.

The Wesleyan Female college was incorporated in 1834 under the general law of Georgia under the name of "The Georgia Female college." Two years later the trustees elected a president and faculty and on the 7th day of January, 1839, the doors of the college were open to the public. On the first day ninety young women were enrolled. At the beginning the college was under the full control of the Georgia conference of the Methodist Episcopal church. For many years it was managed under the lease system, but in 1844 this system was abolished and the college is under the immediate control of its board of trustees. Its discipline is in harmony with the law of the church of which it is the property. It is not sectarian in any narrow sense.

The first work of importance directly connected with the founding of a female college was the selection of the site.

Though many objections were urged against Macon as the place to which was to be awarded the honor, yet the practicality of the situation and the advantages the city possessed over other towns then was made apparent to the opposers of this selection, they readily concurred in the choice. Now, as then, it is generally conceded that the choice of the beautiful spot on the hill evinced the good taste and practical minds of the board.

If one of oldest alumnae who has not seen Wesleyan since she left her gates so many years ago, should return now, she would not recognize the place as the same. Now landscape gardening has put its mark of civilization upon what was then wild and picturesque.

From the point upon which the buildings are located the scene is beautiful.

The buildings are located at a convenient distance from each other in spacious grounds, every inch of which is loved and

honored by her daughters.

The 7th day of last January marked the sixtieth anniversary of the opening of the college.

Time flies so rapidly that it will be difficult for many to realize that nearly three-quarters of a century has passed since the opening day of this momentous event in the history of woman's education.

The occasion left such an impression on the minds of the few surviving graduates of Wesleyan's first year that in review the sixty-three years which have elapsed since the graduation event are overlooked, and that day is recalled as vividly by them as the events of yesterday.

Since Wesleyan's organization there have been hundreds of female colleges established throughout the country. Wesleyan serves as a means of comparison, and in many respects these comparisons have been decidedly favorable to Wesleyan. This, too, in view of the fact that Wesleyan was really the pioneer female college on anything like a comprehensive scale. Her organizers were compelled to travel along untrodden paths and to work out the salvation and success of the undertaking on methods which they were obliged to originate. With Wesleyan the educational world awoke to all her possibilities, and thus does Wesleyan assume her proper proportions among the greatest educational factors of the world.

Resting as she does on a Christian foundation the college gives every evidence that education is the only basis of true excellence and happiness, and since the days when her doors were first opened her gift to the world has been but a realization of the good and the beautiful.

When a woman reaches the prime of life something is expected of her. If she hasn't smoothed off the rough edges of her character, if her forces are not matured so that they bend as fine steel to the pressure of affairs, her case suggests a sad failure. Not so is this of a body of women who have attained the best normal development morally and physically that only the machine of life and living can give. Not so is it the case with a vast and glorious number of Wesleyan's daughters.

The graduates of the college being anxious to revive the friendships formed in their girlhood days, to inquire into the history of those with whom they mingled

in the past and to form a nucleus around which many shall unite in the future, as well as to contribute to the prosperity of their alma mater, formed themselves in 1859 into an association known as the Alumnae Association of Wesleyan Female College.

These women never lose sight of the old college or the dear friends far away, no matter what life may mean to them. Some of the sweetest memories are those which carry them back to earlier days, and there is always a tender spot in their hearts for the days left behind. Much more is this true when they pass from time to eternity. Affection is not checked by age nor ended with death. Eternity and time are so mingled we cannot tell where the one ends and the other begins.

Last year the alumnae turned over to the president of the college \$2,000 raised by them for endowment. This amount has been invested by their instructions in W. F. C. bonds, bearing 6 per cent.

The alumnae of the Atlanta chapter, with Mrs. Peel as their president, proposes now to bring into their work a social feature by calling together once or twice a year the members and having them enjoy heart to heart chats of the good old days, reviewing with tenderness and pride the growth of old Wesleyan, her prosperity ever turning our hopes upward and pouring into our lives the beautiful influence of her existence, even as the sun floods the earth and warms it until it smiles with good results.

There are those who have gone from this alumnae to a higher sphere, their unseen hands are leading us, their good cheer chasing away depression and filling us with a larger determination.

This is the work of Wesleyan alumnae. We live in a measure for each other. This is love that can light our way "through the darkness of today" into the beauty and glory of immortality.

"After so long an absence,

At last we meet again;

Does the meeting give us pleasure

Or does it give us pain?

We cordially greet each other

In the old familiar lone,

And we think, though we do not say it

How old and grey she's grown!

We speak of friends and their fortunes

And of what they did and said;

Till the dead alone seem living

And the living alone seem dead!"

—BELLE ROBINSON BUTLER.

Atlanta, May 15, 1901.



MRS. FRANK W. MATTOX, OF

Mr. Frank W. Mattox is well remembered in Atlanta.

He is now a resident of London and holds a position with the great house of Burroughs, Welcome, Louise Lippincott, of London, whose picture is presented.

She is a woman of rare beauty and many accomplishments in Woman's club work in England.