



Faculty of the University of North Carolina, 1878

(Center) Kemp P. Battle, President

(Left to right beginning at bottom) A. R. Ledoux, State Chemist; F. W. Simonds, Natural History; R. H. Graves, Applied Mathematics; A. W. Mangum, English and Philosophy; Charles Phillips, Mathematics; William H. Battle, Law; J. deB. Hooper, Greek and French; A. F. Redd, Chemistry; George T. Winston, Latin and German; C. D. Grandy, Physics; W. C. Kerr, State Geologist

CHAPTER XI

PRESIDENT KEMP PLUMMER BATTLE

by

WILLIAM JAMES BATTLE¹

Kemp Plummer Battle was the fourth of the ten children of William Horn Battle and Lucy Martin Plummer. On his father's side his people were North Carolinians—Battles, Johnstons, Williamses, Horns; on his mother's side they were Virginians—Plummers, Kemps, Martins, Longs. Most of them were of English descent; the Johnstons were Scotch, the Williamses were Welsh. The family knows no other racial strain.

William Horn Battle was the son of Joel Battle, a substantial planter of Edgecombe County, who had built at the Falls of Tar River one of the first cotton factories of the state. Graduating at the University of North Carolina in 1820, he read law under Judge Leonard Henderson at Williamsborough and began practice at the little town of Louisburg, the county seat of Franklin County. To eke out a painful income he invested in a small farm near Louisburg, going thence for his cases to Louisburg and the neighboring county towns. He had a long struggle but persistence won out and he became one of the most highly respected men in the state. He was a man of great force of character but his long absences from home consequent on the duties of his profession left to his wife to be the strongest formative influence in the life of their children.

Lucy Martin Plummer was one of the large family of Kemp Plummer and Susanna Martin. On one side a Plummer, on the other a Kemp, both distinguished names in Virginia, Kemp Plummer graduated from Hampden-Sydney College, Va., settled at Warrenton, North Carolina, and obtained eminence there as the "Honest Lawyer" and the dispenser of a generous hospitality. Susanna Martin also belonged on both sides to prominent families. Her mother, Nancy Long, was daughter of Colonel Nicholas Long who was commissary general of the North Carolina forces in the Revolution. The Plummers and Martins were Anglican and Cavalier by tradition but enthusiastic nevertheless in support of the Revolution. Lucy Plummer was petite, vivacious, musical, very fond of hearing and telling good stories, but for all that she had a strong mind and will and was an admirable mother of a family and manager of a household of many children and slaves and much company.

Of such parentage Kemp Plummer Battle was born on the farm near Louisburg, December 19, 1831. As a baby he recalled his father's mother, Mary Johnston, and was nicknamed "the Scotchman," but as he grew he became like his mother's people both in looks and in character. His mother would say to him, "Kemp, never be beaten if you can help it." But in truth the boy needed no spur. He was by nature ambitious, industrious, conscientious. He was also quick to learn and remembered what he learned so that he usually stood at the head of his classes. In physique he was slight but healthy and active, good at all sorts of games, and an

¹See Table 59.

enthusiastic sportsman. He was also popular, developing early that genius for friendship which characterized him all through life. The son of such parents could hardly be other than honorable and true but not until he was mature did he become a church member. Naturally the church was the Episcopal, for his father and mother were both earnest Episcopalians. As a churchman he was to follow in his father's footsteps. Genuine in his interest and effective in his work he was destined in the course of time to fill the highest offices that the Church entrusts to laymen—Senior Warden, Lay Reader, Member of the Standing Committee, Deputy to Diocesan and General Convention; to be in constant requisition for special service; and to be the intimate friend and trusted counselor successively of Bishops Atkinson, Lyman, and Cheshire.

When Kemp was eight years old and had been in school for several years in Louisburg, his father in 1839 moved his family to Raleigh. There he went to the Lovejoy Academy until 1843, when his father made another move, this time to Chapel Hill, the seat of the University of North Carolina. The judge could educate his six sons there at less expense than in Raleigh, and could ride his Superior Court circuit as well from there as from Raleigh.

At Chapel Hill by September, 1845, Kemp had made such progress in his studies that he was able to enter the University when not yet fourteen years old. The University in those days did not require so many Carnegie units for admission as it does now, but in the Latin, Greek, and mathematics that it did require Kemp was able to hold his own with anybody. In the four years of his college course Kemp worked hard and when the score was footed up in 1849 he was found, though only seventeen and a half years old, to be one of the three First Mite men of the class and delivered the Valedictory at Commencement like his father before him.

There were no inter-collegiate athletics or dramatics or glee club or band in those days and the main extra-curricular activity was work in one of the two literary societies, Dialectic and Philanthropic. These were nearly as old as the University itself and every student had to belong to one or the other. Their sessions were secret and they had much of the glamor that now belongs to fraternities. As public speaking played a much larger part in life then than it does now, proficiency in it was much more important, though even now it is worth more than some would allow. As giving good training in declamation and debate and composition and incidentally very excellent lessons in parliamentary procedure, the Di and Phi Societies, as they were called, were held in much honor. Many alumni looked back on them with pride and affection and attributed to them no small part of their after-success. Among these was Kemp Battle. Naturally painfully timid, he learned in the Di Society to be a clear, convincing, and ready speaker, though for oratory of the Websterian type he had no taste and acquired no renown therein. The rules he evolved for himself as writer and speaker deserve consideration: "Make up your mind definitely what you want to say. Say it as simply, clearly, and briefly as you can and *stop*."

Young though he was, on Kemp was bestowed the highest honor in the gift of the Di Society, its presidency. In after times he loved to tell how in 1848 he presided at the dedication of a new hall conjointly with James Mebane, the first president of the Society fifty-three years before, and was much pleased when fifty years later he was invited in turn to preside on some festal occasion with the president of that day. It was, he declared, a sort of apostolical succession.

When Kemp graduated at the age of seventeen and a half in 1849, he was certainly not grown and he was still so thin that he seemed small for his years. As a sort of graduation present his father took him for a trip through Western North Carolina—an experience so delightful that he arranged a similar trip for three of his own sons when they graduated. Unlike many tellers of good stories he did not mind jokes on himself and used to tell with gusto how on this trip his comb was cut when he heard the daughter of a certain hotel keeper ask her father's permission to give an apple to "the Judge's little boy."

Despite his small size and lack of years he was honored by the University the year of his graduation with appointment to a tutorship in Latin, a position which involved actual teaching of college Latin classes. Many of his students must have been older than their teacher but so much skill did he show that he was promoted next year to a higher position as tutor in mathematics and reappointed each year thereafter to the summer of 1854. In the latter position he taught not only elementary mathematics but higher branches like calculus and astronomy as well. "His classes," says one of his contemporaries, "were remarkable for their order, attention, and application." Years afterwards without further study he was always ready and able to help his sons over rough places in Latin and in mathematics and to the last was able to read the simpler Latin authors with pleasure. His acquaintance with Greek he kept alive by following the lessons in the church service with Greek Testaments that he kept under the cushion of his pew. In these Testaments he was in the habit of marking the text of the sermon with the preacher's name and the date. Sometimes he discovered that the preacher had preached the same sermon once and even twice before.

As tutor, finding himself cut off from undergraduate games, he took refuge in long walks in Chapel Hill's lovely forests. Often he could find no companion and to make the time more profitable studied the flowers along the path or memorized poetry, astonishing his children later by telling them offhand the names of rare wild flowers and by repeating one poem after another as long as they would listen. The Christmas before his death, at the age of eighty-seven, standing before the fire with his hands behind him, he repeated the greater part of Byron's "Dream". Memorizing noble verse was, he always insisted, the best possible means of acquiring literary appreciation and an unfailing source of comfort and pleasure. You might think you had forgotten a poem entirely, but quite unexpectedly it would return some day with all the charm of a long lost friend. Later on it happened that his wife had the same view and applying it to religion induced her children to learn hymns and the collects of the Prayer Book, not always with their complete approval at the time but much to their subsequent satisfaction.

While tutor in the University, Mr. Battle read law under his father, then Professor of Law. He also received the degree Master of Arts but in those days this meant no work additional to the Bachelor of Arts but only the payment of certain fees. In 1854 he was admitted to the bar and, on the theory that it was better to go where the big cases came, decided to settle in Raleigh, the capital of the state and the seat of the Supreme Court. Anyway, the leading lawyers there were elderly men who might drop off before long. Having saved up about sixteen hundred dollars he bought a partnership with Quentin Busbee then a prominent lawyer and soon entered on a busy practice.

ANDREW JOHNSON,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING;

Whereas, *K. P. Battle,* _____
of *Wake County, North Carolina,* by taking part in the
late rebellion against the Government of the United States, has
made himself liable to heavy pains and penalties: _____

And whereas, the circumstances of his case under him a
proper object of Executive clemency: _____

Now, therefore, be it known, that *A. ANDREW JOHNSON,*
President of the United States of America, in consideration of the premises,
deems other good and sufficient reasons me thereunto moving, do
hereby grant to the said *K. P. Battle,* _____
a full pardon and amnesty for all offenses by him committed,
arising from participation, direct or implied, in the said rebellion,
and intended as follows, viz: this pardon to begin and take
effect from the day on which the said *K. P. Battle*
shall take the oath prescribed in the Proclamation
of the President, dated *May 29, 1865,* and to be void
and of no effect if the said *K. P. Battle* shall here-
after, at any time, acquire any property whatsoever in
slaves, or make use of slave labor _____

Pardon of Kemp P. Battle for taking part in the Confederacy,
June 20, 1865.

And upon the further condition that the said
Kemp P. Battle,
shall notify the Secretary of State, in writing, that he has
received and accepted the foregoing pardon.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and caused
the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this
Twentieth day of June,
A. D. 1865, and of the Independence of the
United States the Eighty-ninth.

By the President: Andrew Johnson
W. C. Hunt,
Acting Secretary of State.

United States of America.
I, Kemp P. Battle of the County of
Wades State of North Carolina do solemnly
swear, or affirm, in presence of Almighty God, that I will honorably faithfully support, pro-
tect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Union of the States thereunder;
and that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully support all Laws and Proclamations
which have been made during the existing rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves.
So HELP ME GOD.
Subscribed and sworn to before me at Raleigh, N. C. this 24th day of
June A. D. 1865. W. W. Holden, Pres. Gov.
The above named has light complexion, light hair, and blue eyes, is
5 feet 1/2 inches high, aged 33 years, and by profession a lawyer

Pardon of Kemp P. Battle for taking part in the Confederacy,
June 20, 1865.
(Below) Kemp P. Battle's Oath of Allegiance

On the twenty-eighth of November, 1855, Mr. Battle was married to a distant cousin, Martha Ann Battle of Cool Spring, Edgecombe County, daughter of James Smith Battle, a prominent planter there, who had died the year before. The story of his courtship he tells his son Thomas in a delightfully quaint and characteristic letter:

"Chapel Hill, N. C., Aug. 4, 1918.

My dear Thomas,

. . . . I have been thinking how it came about that I have such a good and worthy son. The main reason is that I had such a good and worthy wife. And how did that happen? First there was the accident of our listening to Jenny Lind in Tripler Hall, New York. Then we met by accident at West Point. There we talked over our having been in the same theatre, never having met before. Then by accident we met on the train at Albany and I escorted her to the hotel. Then on my return home she was in Warrenton and I stopped there for a day and felt it my duty to call on my cousin. Then I studied law for four years, by advice of Father not thinking of matrimony. He said it would interfere with my law to get tangled up with a girl. Then Cousin Helen married Dr. Ricks and I was asked to be first groom. Uncle Dossey and I called on Cousin James, were invited to dinner. Your mother did the honors so gracefully that I was fascinated. Then Uncle Richard told me he met her at Jones' Springs and that she praised me "to the skies". That pleased me of course and I concluded to renew the acquaintance. I was soon in the toils. We were different but suited one another. She won my heart entirely. A better wife and mother never existed. She made my boys so lovable, high-toned, unselfish. We were sweethearts fifty-seven years and she is alive to me now. I dream about her and I am glad she is always young in my dreams".

The marriage took place at Cool Spring where Miss Battle was still living with her brother Turner. The hostess, Mrs. Turner W. Battle (Lavinia Bassett Daniel), writes about it thus:

"We had forty guests who remained all night, and the following day and night, so you may know I was busy to make them all comfortable such cold weather. I had nineteen or twenty beds, and thus stored them away, two by two. The Misses Somerville, Miss Brownlow, Miss Sue Plummer, Miss Margaret Norfleet, Miss Bettie Parker, Mrs. Austin, Mollie Battle, Mittie and her little ones, were the lady part of the company, who rested here all night, and such a nice clever set of gentlemen! I wish Brother George could have been here to have seen them. Pattie behaved in the most proper manner imaginable. She was a good deal frightened, but evinced her usual self-control. She looked more handsome than I ever saw her, in a dress of white corded silk, worn under an embroidered lisse, with three skirts. Kemp, of course, was all smiles and happiness. Mr. Cheshire remarked that it made him very sad to perform a ceremony which separated from his flock one whom he so highly esteemed and warmly loved. Pat was a great favorite with him, as she is with all who know her. The girls accompanied her to Chapel Hill on Friday, when there was to be a great feasting and merry-making".

Of this marriage and of the life and character of Mrs. Battle the Right Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire, Bishop of North Carolina, son of the clergyman who performed the ceremony, writes as follows:

"On the morning of Palm Sunday, March 16, 1913, at her home in Chapel Hill, Mrs. Martha Ann Battle, wife of the Hon. Kemp P. Battle, departed out of this life into a better. She was born February 14, 1833. . . . It is not necessary to say anything of her ancestry, since to all North Carolinians her family is well known as notable for a succession of men of high character, ability, and public service, in all periods of our history from Colonial times to the present day. She inherited traditions of noble character and unselfish devotion to duty and to the best interests of society, and she has passed them on, refined and invigorated by her own example, to be the most precious heritage of her descendants.

"Her education began at Warrenton, the summer home of her father, in an excellent school established there by the Hon. Daniel Turner and his wife. . . . She afterwards attended a school in Georgetown, D. C., and finished her school days under the Rev. Dr. Aldert Smedes at our own St. Mary's.

"November 28, 1855, she married her kinsman, Mr. Kemp P. Battle, then a young lawyer of Raleigh, whose long life of devoted and eminent service in Church and State she shared and sustained during more than fifty-seven years. From 1857 to 1877 [Seven Oaks] their beautiful home in Raleigh was not only full of peace and comfort and domestic felicity for themselves and their increasing family, but to many others, kinsmen, friends, and strangers visiting Raleigh, it was an open haven of simple, cordial, and delightful hospitality, not to be forgotten by those who had enjoyed it. Seven children were born to them during those happy years. . . . Two were taken from them in childhood. [The names of the five children who reached maturity are Cornelia Viola, who married Dr. Richard H. Lewis of Raleigh; Kemp P. Battle, Jr., a physician of Raleigh; Thomas H. Battle, lawyer, banker, manufacturer, of Rocky Mount; Herbert B. Battle, chemist, of Montgomery, Alabama; and William James Battle, Professor of Classical Languages in the University of Texas, Austin, Texas.]

"In 1877 she was called to give up her home in Raleigh, with its pleasant surroundings, and the tender associations of twenty happy years, that she might accompany her husband to Chapel Hill, where he had been entrusted with the most honorable but heavy task of reviving the University of the State, and establishing it upon new and broader foundations. Here, in the straggling village of dilapidated and (in many cases) empty houses, were gathered a handful of faithful men and women devoted to this great work. Her home in Chapel Hill became at once what it had so long been in Raleigh, but with a wider range of hospitality, and a more potent and far-reaching influence. For more than twenty years, and until failing strength absolutely demanded greater repose for mind and body, her house was the hospitable home of innumerable friends and visitors of the University, both of the humblest and the most eminent, of the State and the country. And here, as time went on, she had the happiness of leading her grandchildren and her nephews, as they came up to the University, in those ways of goodness and truth and domestic affection in which she had so well instructed her

own children. When no longer able to receive with unlimited welcome all who came, there was yet no essential alteration in the spirit and exercise of generous friendship and hospitality. It was seldom that some guest chamber was not occupied, or that one or more friends did not share the comfort and charm of that happy home. Thus passed the years of a useful, godly, and noble life, blessed in itself, and blessing others, until in God's good time He took her to Himself. Her last words, repeated more than once after she seemed otherwise unconscious, were: 'O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord' . . .

"Words of affection and admiration can add little to the eloquence of the facts of such a life. The filial piety which attended with unwearied sympathy and affection the bedside of a dying father developed into the devoted love, patience, and helpfulness of the wife and mother; and yet that rich nature had still treasures of love for a wide circle of kinsfolk and friends, to each in due proportion, who valued their place in her affections as one of their best possessions. To him who pens these lines the memory of her and her good and noble husband is, and ever must be, associated with the earliest recollections of childhood, the happy days of youth, the most fruitful and blessed experiences of domestic happiness and of earnest endeavor in maturer years, and, while memory lasts, must continue to be part of the best that is in him.

"It may seem superfluous to add that she was a woman of intellectual as well as social culture and refinement. She was fond of reading, and she read only the best books, as she chose her friends among the best men and women. And neither in books nor in friends could she enjoy, or willingly tolerate, in word or in thought, any departure from the highest standard of goodness, purity, or truth. She was of a deeply religious nature, and from her youth had cultivated by assiduous devotion and meditation her innate love of that which is high and holy. Without narrowness of thought or of sympathy, she was devotedly attached to the worship, the services, and the sacramental system of the church to which in early youth she had given her allegiance, and whose clergy, from the most venerable Bishop to the youngest and most inexperienced Deacon, ever found in her and her husband the kindest and most generous of friends, and the best and most sympathetic of wise counselors. Her Bible and Prayer Book were her daily companions, and next to them she loved those writers who most truly represent and express the spirit of the Holy Scriptures. Sainly George Herbert especially she read and loved, in a day when he was little known and less appreciated by the laity of the Church. After him she and her husband named their third son, Herbert; and, that there might be no doubt whose name he bore, they added the name of George Herbert's parish—so inseparably associated with the memory of that saintly musician and poet—Herbert Bemerton. And as she so loved and admired that young old poet, so she herself in no small measure merits (to the heart and mind of him who writes these words) that sweet and loving tribute which the poet Donne paid to the mother of George Herbert, surely one of the most tender and delicate sentiments ever addressed by poet to woman—when he wrote:

"No Spring, nor Summer's beauty hath such grace,
As I have seen in one autumnal face."

The young lawyer came rapidly to the front in his profession and in the esteem of the community. Along with some of the ablest men of the state he was in 1857 made a director of the newly re-chartered Bank of North Carolina. About the same time he was appointed a director of the State Asylum for the Insane and a member of the executive committee.

It was not long until he decided to go into politics and ran for the General Assembly from Wake County as a Whig. Of this campaign, in which he was defeated by a narrow margin, he used to tell many stories. One was that on one occasion his opponent Sion H. Rogers, with whom he was making a joint campaign, told him he felt so bad that he could not remember his speech. "Don't worry about that," Mr. Battle replied, "I have heard your speech so often that I know it as well as you do and I will prompt you." Relying on this assurance, Mr. Rogers got through with his speech without missing a word.

Though defeated in his first campaign, Mr. Battle made such a good impression that when Secession was up he ran for the Convention of 1861 as a Whig and Unionist on the same ticket with the Honorable George E. Badger, formerly Secretary of the Navy, and the Honorable W. W. Holden, later Governor of the State, and was elected. With these gentlemen he opposed Secession until Lincoln called for an army to keep the South in the Union by force. Now he could hesitate no longer and signed the Ordinance of Secession with the rest. Henceforth he was earnest in his support of the Confederacy. As a means of supplying the Confederate munitions factories with needed fuel he advocated the construction of a railroad to the coal fields of Chatham County, was made President of the Chatham Railroad Company, and pushed the work with great energy. In politics he took the Conservative side, working for the election of Vance for governor and supporting his measures consistently. On one occasion he was sent by Vance in company with ex-Governor Bragg on a special mission to President Davis to protest against the disregard of North Carolina court process by the military in certain habeas corpus cases. Lee and Jackson were heroes to him as to all of the South but Davis he never admired, though of course he was outraged after the war by the way Davis was treated. Surviving letters show that he was confident of Southern success (or claimed to be so) long after one can see now that there was no real ground for hope.

Accepting the results of the war, he applied for and received a pardon from President Johnson and with a good courage set to work to help rebuild his ruined country. The end of the war found him with his slaves freed, his Confederate bonds and money worthless, his bank stock gone, and divers further losses, but he was luckier than many men in being free from debt, and in still having his wife's two plantations in Edgecombe County, Flag Marsh and Walnut Creek, in good condition. In Allen Battle, one of the former family slaves, he found a faithful and most efficient overseer and enough hands were secured to put in crops. Allen was a man of such unusual character and force that a sketch and picture of him are given in Chapter XII under the heading, Three Colored Friends.

Realizing the need of bringing new capital and new settlers to the South, Mr. Battle was active in forming a company, Battle, Heck, and Company with offices in New York, to promote the sale of Southern lands and land mortgages. For a time the outlook was good but the proposal of Thad Stevens and Sumner and the other radicals in Congress to confiscate the land of the rebels as they called the Confederates caused so much distrust about titles that the sale of land and the borrowing of money on land security were alike impossible and the enterprise was abandoned.

Returning home, Mr. Battle was in 1866 elected State Treasurer by the General Assembly, a member of the Conservative administration of Governor Worth. In this capacity he served with marked ability till the whole State government was thrown out in 1868 under congressional reconstruction.

Always interested in agriculture because his forebears had been farmers and he himself had been born on a farm and had acquired by marriage large farming interests, he was active in reviving the State Agricultural Society and as its President, 1867-1870, engineered with success three State Fairs at Raleigh.

Another enterprise in which he took a most effective interest at this time was the creation of a new Cemetery at Raleigh. The fruit of his labors was the formation of the Oakwood Cemetery Association of which he was the first president, and the development of the cemetery in which he is himself now buried, one of the most beautiful in the South.

The range of his interest is further seen in the organization of the Citizens' National Bank and the North Carolina State Life Insurance Company, both at Raleigh. Of the Bank he was a director and contributed no little to its early success. Of the Insurance Company he was President and as long as he lived in Raleigh and held the office its progress was satisfactory. That the subsequent management found it desirable to sell out never ceased to be to him a source of indignation. About this time also he was Alderman of the City of Raleigh and did much good work in straightening out its finances.

In 1872 James Reed, who had been elected Superintendent of Public Instruction to succeed Alexander McIver, died before taking office. Governor Caldwell held that McIver's tenure ended with the term for which he was elected and appointed Mr. Battle to succeed him. McIver refused to vacate the office, alleging that under the law he held office until his successor was elected, which Mr. Battle had not been. The matter being referred to the courts, Mr. McIver was sustained and Mr. Battle lost the office. How little bitterness he felt was shown after he became President of the University by his appointing McIver a member of the faculty of the first Summer Normal School.

Mr. Battle had long been distressed at the desolate condition of the University. His interest in the University was much more than that of the ordinary citizen or alumnus. In fact it began before he was born. His grandfather, Joel Battle, had been a student in 1798. His father had graduated in 1820 and had been Trustee thirty-five years and Professor of Law twenty-three years. Numerous uncles, brothers, and cousins had been on its rolls. He had himself been taken to Chapel Hill to live when he was eleven years old. He had been a student four years and a tutor five, he had been Trustee from 1862 to 1868 and had been active in this capacity. His feeling toward the institution is shown by his dedication of the first volume of his *History of the University of North Carolina* published in 1907. "To the memory of my father and mother who instilled into my brain and heart from earliest boyhood pride in and affection for my Alma Mater this book is lovingly dedicated."

The University was one of the few Southern institutions that kept its doors open through the war. Not until Kilpatrick's cavalry occupied the Hill did classes cease to be held. They were resumed shortly afterward but the condition of the institution was deplorable. The faculty was depleted and the salaries of the few professors who remained were grievously in arrears. Not only was the endowment all swept away but there was an enormous debt incurred for the purchase of State Bank stock for the endowment fund that was now utterly worthless. It was the general belief that the

whole institution was subject to sale to pay the debt. There was a fair number of students but their tuition fees were insufficient to pay the salaries of the existing professors much less to employ needed new ones. The President was now old and very deaf. The visit of President Johnson to Commencement in 1867 gave a temporary flare of prestige but it was clear to all who knew the facts that something drastic must be done. A committee of investigation was appointed and in the spring of 1868 presented through its chairman, Kemp P. Battle, a carefully studied plan of reorganization. By this time however it was apparent that the radical reconstruction legislation of Congress would shortly throw out the existing state government altogether and with it the present management of the University. The old faculty who had resigned in order to give the trustees a free hand were all reelected and no change was made whatever.

In the summer the blow fell. The old Board of Trustees were removed by the Constitution of 1868 and a wholly new Board created, to be chosen not by the General Assembly but by the Board of Education. This Board vacated all the chairs in the faculty and elected a new body. Classes were held for part of the session of 1868-1869 and for one more year. The effort was a mournful failure. The friends of the old University would have nothing to do with the new one, and no support was forthcoming even from the radical General Assembly. Obviously the fees of thirty-five students would not pay many salaries. In December, 1870, even the pretense of classes was given up and the University was definitely closed.

As long as the radical State government was in control any reopening of the University was out of the question. In 1873, however, a constitutional amendment was adopted restoring the election of Trustees to the General Assembly and in 1874 that body elected a new Board which included Judge William H. Battle and Mr. Kemp P. Battle. The new Board organized at once with Governor Brogden in the chair and Kemp P. Battle as Secretary and Treasurer. The reconstruction President of the University refused to give up possession of the University buildings and the new Board could do nothing till his claim was denied by the Supreme Court in the spring of 1875.

Of the situation of the University at this time and the course of events President George T. Winston gives a vivid account:

"The University had been closed for several years, the Campus was grown up in weeds, the buildings were without proper roofs, and much exposed not only to the weather but to all sorts of depredations; the libraries had been plundered of many valuable books, and the apparatus essential to the proper equipment of the scientific departments was largely ruined or stolen. The institution was without friends and heavy debts hung over it. Its revival seemed almost impossible. Our people had not recovered from the effects of the war and a financial panic was adding distress to poverty.

"Nothing daunted by these evils and inspired by a lifetime love of the University, Mr. Battle set vigorously to work and canvassed the State for funds. No other man would have undertaken the task, and certainly no other man could have accomplished it. He appealed to the alumni and to patriotic men not alumni, through the press, by letter and by personal interview. The result was \$20,000 and the revival of the University.

"But funds were lacking for support of the institution as well as for its equipment. The faculty had to be paid and the laboratories provided with apparatus. The tuition fees were entirely inadequate to meet these ex-

penses. With wise foresight, Mr. Battle had provided for this emergency. Upon his representation of the needs of the University, the General Assembly appropriated for its annual support \$7,500, being the interest on the Land Scrip Fund of \$125,000 donated to the State by the National Government.

"These two funds, both secured by Mr. Battle, enabled the institution to open its doors September 6, 1875. During the hundred years of its existence the University had never received more loving service nor more valuable aid than was rendered in 1875 by the Honorable Kemp P. Battle."

In the light of today, when even a Southern institution has received a gift of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for an ornamental gateway and salaries of more than seventy-five hundred dollars each are known in many Universities, a restoration fund of twenty thousand dollars and a maintenance appropriation of seventy-five hundred dollars seem ridiculous but in sober fact they meant the life of the University of North Carolina in 1875. Small as they were, even these amounts had strings tied to them. Several of the larger contributions to the restoration fund were to be repaid by free tuition for the descendants of the contributors! The conditions attached to the Land Grant Fund were much more serious. The Act of Congress known as the Morrill or Land Grant Act of 1862 donated public land to the several states and territories which might provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts and directed the Secretary of the Interior to issue land scrip to the states in which there was not the required quantity of public land. The act further directed that the money derived from this source should constitute a perpetual fund the principal of which should remain forever undiminished and the interest of which should be inviolably appropriated by each state to the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college, where the leading object should be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the states may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.

To these national restrictions on the use of the Land Grant Fund the General Assembly added another—the University must give free tuition to one poor student from each county.

In soliciting and administering the Land Grant Fund the President and Trustees acted in perfectly good faith. Every cent of the money was spent in teaching subjects plainly included under the act. If the full purpose of the act was not carried out, it was because the amount of money appropriated by Congress was wholly inadequate and except for the Summer Normal the General Assembly added not a cent for six years and then gave only five thousand dollars a year; did not increase that amount for four years; and then voted only fifteen thousand dollars a year more. Tuition fees hardly averaged six thousand dollars a year for the first ten years of the new University. The total average income of the University from all sources for all purposes except the Summer Normal School was therefore from 1875 to 1880 less than thirteen thousand dollars; from 1881 to 1884 about \$18,000; from 1885 to 1886 about \$32,000. Now the President and Trustees could hardly be expected to let the old University die in order that the new College of Agriculture and

the Mechanic Arts might grow. Considering how utterly insufficient the University's income was, the theoretical subjects connected with agriculture and the mechanic arts were well taught but the practical side had to wait.

Nevertheless discontent with the situation gradually arose, fostered mainly by Col. L. L. Polk, a fluent speaker who edited the *Progressive Farmer*. In 1887 it came to a head in a demand on the General Assembly that a separate Agricultural and Mechanical College be established at Raleigh and the Land Grant Fund be transferred to it from the University. The movement was aided by the provision of free tuition for one poor student from each county that the General Assembly had attached to the Land Grant Fund. The denominational colleges cried out mightily against this provision alleging that it tolled students away from them unrighteously. They therefore united enthusiastically with the advocates of the Agricultural and Mechanical College in crippling the University—not that they loved the Agricultural and Mechanical College but that they hated the University.

The combination was successful. The Agricultural and Mechanical College was established and the University lost the Land Grant Fund. The Agricultural and Mechanical College prospered but it was because the General Assembly granted ever more and more liberal appropriations. In time the University also received more liberal appropriations and also prospered. Whether a combined institution such as many states have would have been better also for North Carolina may be doubted. The ideals of the two types of institutions are so different that it may well be that separation leads to a better development of both.

For the first year the head of the new University was Dr. Charles Phillips, Chairman of the Faculty, but his health was bad and it was decided to elect a President. The example of Virginia in electing Lee as President of Washington College led some to wish for a Confederate General but there was no money to pay one an attractive salary. The eyes of the Trustees turned naturally to Kemp P. Battle who had all along been leader in the reopening movement and he was elected President in 1876. He was in the prime of life, being forty-four years of age, a man of recognized standing in law, finance, and politics, of high character, public spirit, broad vision, energy, resourcefulness. Further, he had an unusually wide acquaintance with the people of the state and was on good terms with both Conservatives and Radicals. Yet he accepted the Presidency with misgivings. No man knew better than he the difficulties that lay ahead. As he wrote Mrs. C. P. Spencer, "I have long been trying to engineer Dr. Charles Phillips into the Presidency, but his illness has thwarted me. When the Trustees decided that I was the best man under the circumstances I did not refuse. I have had opportunities. I have been student, Tutor, Trustee before and after, Secretary of the Board, lawyer, politician, member of the Constitutional Convention, president of a railroad, banker, lobbyist, planter. These have trained me for the grandest of all trades perhaps. Time only will show. If I succeed it will be a crown of honor, . . . but my thoughts of the future are very solemn."

But Mrs. Spencer knew him and felt no doubt. "Kemp is surely the right man for his place. He brings an enthusiasm and a love for the University that no money could buy and which is indispensable and inestimable."

Mrs. Hope Summerell Chamberlain in her *Old Days in Chapel Hill* (page 226) makes this comment: "When this same year he was chosen President he knew how to steer the craft without touching anyone's prejudices or self will and was a conciliator. He had a great mission, and fulfilled it by reason of his nature and train-

ing. All through this political turmoil he is said to have been a man whom all parties trusted as being honest and fair. After he came to the University, he continued his course of disarming and conciliating, and he was needed for that very quality. A fighter would have embroiled the feeble institution with interests at enmity with it, and would have very likely wrecked it in the very inception."

The new President bought his father's old place, the home of his boyhood, repaired and enlarged it, and installed his family there in the fall of 1877. The beauty, the charm, the associations of this place were destined to be a source not only of pleasure but of comfort in time of trouble and sorrow.

On his duties as President Mr. Battle entered with characteristic vigor. He recognized that new times demanded new methods.

First of all, he was determined that there should be a spirit of friendliness and helpfulness between faculty and students, that students should be treated like gentlemen, that as far as practicable the students should be entrusted with their own government, that there should be no attempt to secure good behavior by any system of espionage. Personally he sought to gain the friendship of every student. He interviewed every applicant for admission and set down the important facts about his family, life, and training in what came to be known as his Pedigree Book. Frequently he astonished the applicant by knowing more about his family than he did. The Di and Phi Societies had been revived with the reopening of the University and as in the old days every student had to belong to one or the other. Here lay ready to hand instrumentalities for the inauguration of student self government. The societies were entrusted with important functions of discipline in addition to their primary aim of developing the power of public speaking. They had vigilance committees and monitors and censors with clearly defined duties. On the whole these officers took their duties seriously and were supported by the Societies.

The need of more freedom in the choice of studies was met by curricula leading to new degrees parallel to the old Bachelor of Arts but there was not money enough to give much in the direction of new work.

The President's policy outside the class-room was one of conciliation and enlightenment. It was imperative to win friends for the University and to convince the state of her need for the University. To men of all shades of politics and religion he would be friendly, no matter what the provocation to lose his temper. He would make speeches wherever he could find people to listen to him. He would publish articles wherever he could get them printed. He would do more. He would make the University so useful to the state that there could be no denying its claim to popular approval and support. Two of his undertakings deserve special mention.

One was encouragement of public school teaching by a Summer Normal School at the University. For this purpose he secured an appropriation of two thousand dollars annually from the General Assembly and the first Normal School in North Carolina, the first Summer Normal in connection with a university or college in the whole Union, was held in 1877 and repeated each summer through 1884.

The second was the improvement of farming methods and the protection of farmers against bad fertilizers by an Agricultural Experiment Station in connection with the University. Through his representations the Station was established by the General Assembly in 1877, one of the first in the whole country. Under the vigorous control of Dr. A. R. Ledoux, Dr. Charles W. Dabney, Dr. H. B. Battle, and their successors the Station did admirable work and is still in existence.

The difficulties that beset the President were frightful. To begin with, the state was wretchedly poor and discouraged. To the awful losses of the Civil War in men and money had succeeded the period of oppression, corruption, and robbery curiously called Reconstruction. Then came the panic of 1873. All the while went on the drain of payment of northern war debt and northern pensions and tariff tribute to northern manufacturers. No wonder prices kept falling steadily. No wonder people were apathetic towards expenditure for education or anything else that could be postponed. The General Assembly never even in prosperous times had made an annual appropriation for the University. Why should it now?

The same poverty, the same apathy kept back all sorts of schools. There were so few secondary schools, either public or private, that very few boys were well enough prepared to pass even the moderate admission examinations required by the University. The attendance through President Battle's administration seldom rose above two hundred. It is pathetic to see how, if a single belated student entered after the Catalogue for the year was issued, his name was carefully inserted on a slip.

In addition to poverty and public apathy to education there was the positive opposition of several of the religious denominations to any state support of higher education whatever. They were afraid of losing students from their own colleges if the University were made too attractive. Sad to say this opposition did not confine itself to facts. Outrageously false statements were constantly made about the state of morals at the University, about rampant atheism there, about the University as a rich man's school, about favoritism to the Episcopal church in elections to the faculty, about anything else that might create prejudice and stir up enmity.

There were troubles inside the University too. Students would drink and gamble and haze and bedevil the faculty. And occasionally there was an unhappy choice to the faculty that caused friction. In general, however, the faculty were able, enthusiastic, and splendidly loyal.

In the midst of his University difficulties the President was overtaken by personal financial disaster. He had endorsed heavily for a friend and the time came when the friend could hold out no longer. Moreover under the pressure of University duties he could not help neglecting his own affairs and he had become deeply involved in debt. To protect his own creditors an assignment was imperative. He sacrificed everything, even the life-interest that the law gave him in his wife's estate, his beloved Senlac, his very furniture and books. Unhappily values were now so low in North Carolina that the sale of his assets did not equal his personal debts and the residue was paid only by the help of his wife and his son Thomas. His mortification was intense, because he had been proud of his business success and reputation. Yet he refused to be crushed. He would make a new reputation in the field of education. By greater effort than before he would justify his choice as President. In truth it is doubtful if his disaster had any effect at all on his position as President. His associates had entire confidence in his integrity and their support did not waver. By mortgaging one of her two plantations Mrs. Battle recovered their control and saved Senlac and its contents. In the end the mortgage ate up both plantations. The household became dependent on the University salary, but adversity only bound it closer together.

That the President survived his labors is surprising. Besides the usual duties of his office, he regularly taught classes in Political Science and Constitutional and International Law; he gave a short course each year on Business Law; every Sun-

day he delivered a lecture on the Bible; for two years he acted as Professor of Law; he was unwearied in attendance at Chapel and at all public exercises; he was conspicuous in his courtesies to visiting strangers; to save money he would have no secretary but wrote all his letters with his own hand. He was saved only by his strong constitution, his regular habits of sleep and exercise, and his persistent cheerfulness.

Of the achievements of his Presidency probably the most important was the first annual appropriation by the General Assembly in 1881. The amount was only five thousand dollars, but except for the Summer Normal there had never before been a single cent of annual appropriation made to the University. Well might the enthusiastic boys back home give him a gold-headed cane in appreciation of it. Yet even that was twisted into an insult to the denominational colleges. The principle of an annual appropriation once established, the granting of fifteen thousand dollars additional in 1885 came more easily. This time the boys took the horses out of his carriage and pulled him all the mile and a half from the station to his home. It meant several new professors at once. In 1885 also was completed Memorial Hall, the first new building on the Campus since 1860, within the last few months declared unsafe and torn down. The money for this building was in part secured through the President's efforts, some by personal interview, more by individual letters, appealing to family pride to commemorate distinguished relatives by marble tablets.

Another achievement was the building of the University Railroad in 1882 from University Station on the North Carolina Railroad to Chapel Hill. It is said that in the fifties, when the North Carolina Railroad was being laid out from Goldsboro through Raleigh to Greensboro and Charlotte, President Swain of the University protested against its coming by Chapel Hill. In the eighties times had changed and the University no longer wished to be isolated. In our own day nobody rides on the University Railroad any more, but then it was such an improvement over the dreadful road to Durham that it was hailed as the beginning of a new era.

Of benefactions now so common there were in President Battle's time but few. Curiously enough the first four large ones were all made by women and the women were all named Mary.

A great improvement was effected in 1886 by the combination of the two literary society libraries of about seven thousand volumes each with the University Library.

A more doubtful change was the repeal in 1885 of the law against fraternities.

The crowning event of his administration came in 1889 in the Centennial Celebration of the Foundation of the University and the endowment of the Alumni Chair of History at a grand banquet. Not since the Reopening had there been such a display of enthusiasm. But once more it fell to the President to make a campaign for funds—not enough had been raised at the banquet. It was successful and the chair was duly established.

The President had now come to feel that he had fulfilled his mission and he wished to retire and write a history of the University. By common consent he was marked out for the first occupant of the new chair of History and in 1891 he resigned the Presidency to accept it.

The new Professor of History had little technical training for the position but he had personality, he had a sound general education and wide culture, he had the training of a lawyer and twenty years experience in the handling of evidence, he had been since manhood both a student of public affairs and a participant, he knew

men as well as books, he had had wide experience in teaching other subjects, and he had shown by numerous historical addresses that he could write effectively. If history be philosophy teaching by experience, he was likely to be a good teacher of history. And so it turned out. His courses were popular and his students both loved and admired him. He had an unusual power of seizing the essential element in a situation and in pressing it home by clear exposition and apt illustration. President Alderman testifies: "Under his wise and sympathetic direction the department has enriched and invigorated the intellectual life of the University. The historical instinct, the love and aptitude for historical research, the power to collect, arrange, deduce, and vivify historical data are entering into the equipment of University students. History is no longer with us merely informational and conventional in value, but is a department of the great science of sociology. In the days to come, the commonwealth shall not lack for those able to tell the story of its spirit, its genius, and its progress."

Dr. Battle was not only a man of industry in general but he was also an assiduous writer. He had a naturally clear mind and expressed himself pointedly. In his younger days he took much pains to improve his style. In the end he wrote not only well but easily. We are all said to have our pet economies. One of his was the use of old paper, blank on one side. On paper of this sort he wrote with a pencil most of his family letters and the first draft of his work for publication. A complete list of his publications would probably run over seventy. Not all are equally well done, but all show his standards of truth, clearness, simplicity, charm. They may be grouped as follows:

1. Discussions on financial and other public questions. The earliest of these are campaign documents prepared in support of Bell and Everett in 1860. Next come his Reports as State Treasurer. These, Wheeler says, were "considered models of financial ability, conciseness, and accuracy." The rest are mostly short. Several concern themselves with the National Banking System in which he took a deep interest.

2. Reports, addresses, and papers on subjects connected with the University. Naturally these are numerous, early showing a distinct historical trend. They culminate in the most considerable of his publications—*A History of the University of North Carolina*, Volume I, 1907, pp. 860; Volume II, 1912, pp. 875. The first volume is better than the second, but both are full of interest.

3. Addresses on educational questions. Of these the best was delivered at the Commencement of the University of South Carolina in 1886 on *The Head and the Hand*. It is a well reasoned argument for practical as well as liberal training, quite sufficient disproof of the charge at one time made that he was out of sympathy with technical education. With reference to this address the Hon. John Skelton Williams, the well known banker of Richmond, Va., Comptroller of the Currency in Wilson's administration, began an address to the same University in 1910:

"My presence here tonight is a coincidence so strange and so vivid as to be solemn. I am here as an echo . . . of words spoken in these walls in a time which to some of you may seem distant, as confirmation of prophecy and promise which to some of you may seem old. From an occasion like this, from this very place, twenty-four years ago, this same lovely month of June, a message came to me from the University of South Carolina to the University of Virginia, where I was studying law, which im-

pressed me deeply. It has had strong influence in guiding the course of my life and thought.

"In June, 1886, Kemp P. Battle, LL. D., President of the University of North Carolina, was the commencement orator before the students of South Carolina College, as it was called then. His subject, as indicated in the heading was: 'The Head and the Hand; the Practical Side of College Life. Problems of the Day.' It was so clear, so strong, so true, so vibrant with vital suggestion, so thrilling with inspiration, that a score of years later I had it reprinted, feeling that I would do a real service to the young men of the country by aiding in its preservation and circulation. I can not better justify the high honor and compliment bestowed on me by your invitation to address you here than by reiterating to you from actual knowledge the lesson I received as precept."

4. Historical addresses and papers. These are very numerous. Many are biographical: Gen. Jethro Sumner, Capt. Johnston Blakely, Privateer Otway Burns, Gov. Z. B. Vance, Judge R. P. Dick, Hon. John Manning, Augustus A. Lewis, James S. Battle, Francis L. Dancy, and many more. The names of the counties of North Carolina are treated more than once; the early history of Raleigh three times. Several deal with the Episcopal Church—Laymen of the Church of England in North Carolina in Colonial Times; A History of Christ Church, Raleigh; Fifty Years of the Episcopal Church in the United States. Probably the best of all is the History of the Supreme Court of North Carolina published in Volume 101 of the Supreme Court Reports.

The years passed with little diminution in his vigor, none in his cheerful outlook, but when he reached the age of seventy-five he thought it wise to make way for younger blood and accepted in 1907 the Carnegie annuity that his friends secured for him. It was only sixteen hundred and fifty dollars a year but it was enough for a simple household.

For twelve years more he lived his peaceful life at Senlac, reading and writing most of the day in his curious old desk-arm chair in the Upper Office, always taking a walk in the afternoon in the forest that he loved so well, in the evening reading or chatting with family and friends. Gradually he grew deaf but his eyesight and his general health continued excellent till within a few weeks of his death.

Gratifying honors came to him. He was continued in office as Trustee by the General Assembly till he died, having served a total of fifty-one years. He had long ago been made a Doctor of Laws by Davidson College and in 1910 he received the same degree from the University. In 1907 the first volume of his History of the University brought him the award of the Patterson Cup for the best book of the year on a North Carolina subject. On the publication of the second volume in 1912 the General Assembly passed a resolution of thanks. His colleagues of the Department of History gave him a beautiful Loving Cup. A group of nature-lovers gave him a compass set in a gold hatchet in recognition of his woodcraft. Knowing that he had a fancy for canes, friends were constantly bringing new ones from out of the way places or old ones with histories. Better than all else was the extraordinary affection and admiration shown him over and over by students old and new. The appellation of Second Father of the University had long been his. Now he came to be known as the Grand Old Man of North Carolina. Each Commencement for many years he was invited by the Senior Class to a half-hour of fellowship and counsel that came to have almost a sacred character.

The end came on the fourth of February 1919 in his eighty-eighth year. It was expected, for his figure had of late become pathetically stooped and thin. And yet it seemed impossible. Nobody had ever known Chapel Hill without him—how could such a thing be?

There was a beautiful service in the University Chapel and then the body was taken to Raleigh to lie beside his wife with his two little daughters near and parents, sisters, brothers, and grandparents close at hand. A notable company gathered for the funeral at Christ Church which he had attended when he lived in Raleigh. Many of the most distinguished men of the state were there. Both Houses of the General Assembly adjourned in his honor. The Supreme Court came in a body.

Over his grave was erected a cross like that over his wife, on its base the simple inscription:

W. Kemp Plummer Battle,

December 19, 1831—February 4, 1919.

S. Lawyer, Teacher, Historian.

E. President of the University of North Carolina, 1876-1891.

N. A lover of men, he was by men beloved.

Public resolutions, comments of the press, personal letters, were extraordinary, alike for number and for warmth of feeling. As throwing light upon his character and work a few may be given.

The Alumni Review for March, 1919:

"The *Review* but expresses the feeling of every alumnus when it pays loving tribute to the character, services, and rare personality of the late Kemp Plummer Battle, member of the class of 1849, President of the University from 1876 to 1891, Alumni Professor of History from 1891 to 1907, and since then Professor Emeritus, who, on February fourth, died at his home in the village full of labors and held in the tenderest affection and love by all who had known him in his long distinguished career.

"Dr. Battle's services to the state were many and noted. But the one in which he justly took most pride, and for which he was the recipient of the state's enduring gratitude, was the task, inconceivably difficult, of reopening and refounding the University. The University, deprived by the Civil War and Reconstruction of all productive endowment, dependent upon an impoverished people in many instances indifferent to its needs and hostile to its support, tainted with politics, the continuity of its existence violently broken, was in a condition all but hopeless. Confronted with this situation, Dr. Battle set himself to the task of the University's rehabilitation; and with limited funds, against bitter opposition, he refounded it, built by degrees a new sort of faculty, evolved new policies of service, and so wrought that when he retired from the presidency in 1891, he was able to hand over to his successor the new, modern University, state-supported, ready to be developed to meet the requirements of the new day.

"This achievement, at once so difficult and great, was attributable to something more than Dr. Battle's large ability and spotless character—his rare personality. Through this he was able to remove the University from politics, to gain for it the support of all parties when party relations were bitter, and to eliminate political prejudice from the campus. It was his personality, likewise, rather than his learning, that made his teaching of

history inspirational and vital in the life of his students and enabled them to retain the spirit of their revered teacher long after the information imparted in the class room had faded from their memory.

"Of the many qualities blended in Dr. Battle's character the outstanding were devotion to duty, a high sense of responsibility, a driving energy, and a stern courage. These were tempered but in no sense impaired by a constitutional dislike of blind partisanship, a spirit of toleration for the opinions of others, a broad human sympathy which made him instinctively like people and hold in personal affection an extraordinarily large number. Combined with these, and dominating his whole life and thought, was a happy, Christian optimism which made life to him a thing of never-ending joy, and, in turn, made of his living a benediction to his community.

"In characterizing him one instinctively recalls the happy portrayal of him by President Graham in his inaugural address as 'the historian of the University's heroic past, on whose heart each syllable of her story is written—who lived through a period of bitterness without hate, who endured poverty without a regret, achieved honor without pride, and who now so deeply shares the eternal youth about him that age finds him with a heart so young and a life so full of affection and praise that he is the witness of his own immortality.'"

The University Faculty in a Resolution:

"The story of his life will record the efficient administration of offices of trust, but his record does not afford an adequate measure of the esteem in which Dr. Battle was held. He was the object of affection based on his character as a man. In this character the dominant element was the spirit of love. In the solution of his problems he was guided by this spirit. He demanded truth and justice, but for him justice was tempered by mercy. And so he went through life working, helping, and striving always to create an atmosphere of harmony. As his presence was a benediction, his memory will be an inspiration."

The Hon. Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, in a letter from Washington to his paper, the *Raleigh News and Observer*:

"To have known President Battle, to have walked with him and counseled with him on a journey through Battle Park, to have received the cheery word of a life devoted to service and to have known intimately that familiar figure in his declining years as he paused at the postoffice for the noon mail—this would have made a four years sojourn at Chapel Hill a rich heritage. . . .

"He was permitted to live long and in his old age he gave a wealth of needed and wise admonitions to his successors. It takes a man of rare qualities to stand aside in advancing years and take younger men by the hand and rejoice as they carry on his work and be happier when they have enjoyed the fruits of it. This is the surest test of Dr. Battle's noble spirit. He was as proud of all that Winston, Alderman, Venable, and Graham did as if they had been his own boys and they cherished for him an ever-growing affection and gratitude for his unflinching and wise counsel."

Dr. George T. Winston, his successor in the Presidency, in a letter to Dr. K. P. Battle, Jr.:

"Your dear father and I worked together, cordially, unceasingly, and zealously, throughout his administration and mine. He was to me partly as a brother and partly as a father. Though we lived apart in recent years, he was in my mind and in my heart. He was the kindest soul I ever knew; and his entire life was spent for the good of others, as friend, kinsman, neighbor, teacher, public spirited worker, and philanthropist. He was the 'Father of the New University.'"

George Gordon Battle, Esq., of New York:

"I have thought a great deal about Uncle Kemp and Aunt Pattie during the last few days. They are so closely associated with my earliest memories. I remember as a boy how welcome were Uncle Kemp's visits. He used to come down to Dunbar and would frequently stop over to spend the night with us. His good nature, his keen interest in everything, his stories and his jokes always amused and entertained the whole household, and his coming was marked as a white day in our annals. Then when I went to Chapel Hill, their kindness to me I can never forget. As you say, he was a natural democrat—sympathetic with all sorts and conditions of men."

The Rev. W. D. Moss, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Chapel Hill:

"To think happy thoughts, to live simply, to have and to merit the dear affection of friends, to be interested in life and wish the happiness of others, to have a heart for the tender, opening things of springtime and all the splendor of the varied, fourfold year, amidst the jarring forces of our life to cherish the serene confidence that all is well, to love to work, to do one's work as a sacrament and without fretting, to achieve honor without pride, and above all to endure as a child of God—that is the legacy our good comrade has left us. In that legacy we are rich and in it we have encouragement to know ourselves as masters and not slaves and to enjoy support in the hour that tempts to weakness of any kind."

Dr. C. Alphonso Smith, Professor of English at the United States Naval Academy:

"I cannot think of Chapel Hill without him. Its intellectual and spiritual life, its atmosphere of whole-hearted hospitality, its memories of the past, its vision of a greater future, its streams and hills and woodland ways are all compact of him and of his personality.

"My mind has been traversing the years that have passed since I first met him. Every North Carolinian of my generation knew of him from earliest childhood but to meet him was to experience a sort of liberalizing surprise that so much learning and civic achievement, such wealth of garnered observation and experience could company so graciously with such keen responsiveness, such warmth of sympathy, or such genial unaffectedness of manner and speech.

"He was to me not only a reminder of an heroic past but a fore-token of that ampler and happier future which the federated sympathies of society will yet usher in. No bitterness, no narrowness, no inhumanity

dwelt in him, and none could radiate from him. The circle of those who knew him is the circle of those who will always love and reverence him. Please accept for yourself and convey to each member of the family not only my sympathy in his death but my sense of grateful heritage in the benediction of his life."

Five years later, Dr. Robert P. Pell, of the Class of 1881, President of Converse College, Spartanburg, S. C., summed up the administration of President Battle in the following address at the University Commencement:

"It almost staggers me to think of the difficulties that confronted President Battle when he undertook not merely to resuscitate the University, but actually to re-create it and to equip it to become a constructive force in the new era that was just beginning to dawn upon the young manhood of our state as the darkest period of reconstruction days began to wane. To describe in detail the bitter political partisanship, the intense ecclesiastical rivalries, the desperate poverty of the University itself would start again the ignoble animosities that his great heart deplored—animosities that happily disappeared before he passed away and that in a Christ-like spirit he had long ago forgiven. It is my purpose to make a mere reference to them so as to prepare us to do justice to his work and to appreciate the unflagging devotion and the practical wisdom that laid the foundations of the structure of our University today.

"There were two ideas that ran throughout practically every measure that President Battle formed and executed during his term of office—ideas that undertoned his entire administration, and whether or not they were consciously formulated by him, those of us who had a personal insight into his ministrations can look back today and realize how consistently and persistently he clung to them.

"The first was the conviction that whatever policies and plans might be adopted, the very life of the University must have its source in the goodwill of the masses. To entrench this institution in the affections of the ordinary man and woman of North Carolina was indispensable if it could hope to win and justify their support, contribute to their genuine well-being, and become the inspirers of their best aspirations. This was not a mere coldly wrought-out scheme of a calculating brain proposing to use the people as tools to promote a selfish ambition or the interests of a certain social caste, but it was the unaffected expression of a genuine lover of humanity. He longed to build a University of the people, by the people, and for the people.

"Let us trace the steps by which he gradually effected his purpose.

"First of all, soon after his inauguration it began to be whispered throughout the state that no North Carolina boy however poor would be denied the privileges of the University. If he would only write President Battle, state his case and prove his worth, in some way known only to the President himself the boy would soon find himself on this old campus glowingly welcomed by his benefactor. Some of us knew that such cases were frequently financed by the Deems fund, which itself had come to the University largely through the friendship of the donor for President Battle; but beyond this he found employment for many of these needy

ones and thus started the self-support plan which has today reached such proportions. Naturally this alone awakened a friendly feeling for the University among a class who had thought that it was a rich man's institution and that they were forever barred from it.

"But this was a small venture as compared with another one. We might claim that President Battle made an original contribution to the educational forces of our entire southland when he began the summer normal school, the first of its kind known in our section. Its uniqueness, however, consisted not so much in its program and actual work as in its adaptability to a larger purpose of the President. Now at last he had found an instrumentality that could be made the most fruitful in carrying the University right to the hearthstones of all the people. For, if he could instill in the mind and heart of what was then called the common school teacher a love of the University, a pride in its past and a belief in its future, and a confidence in its democratic character and purpose, then the next generation of the children of the state, regardless of wealth or station, would acquire a deep devotion to it. Those of us who attended the early sessions of this summer normal school well remember how ardently the President sought the love and trust of 'these old-field school teachers' as they were frequently termed. He studied and promoted to the smallest detail their social, professional, and religious development, and this tender thoughtfulness coupled with his simple-hearted attitude and kindly eye stamped him forever as their friend. He told them the traditions of the University; he introduced them to its archives; he depicted to them the careers of its great alumni; he took them on tramps through its woodlands and joined with them in their gleeful talk and laughter around the well. The picture of President Battle in those days—you could almost discern from afar his happy smile as he left his door beyond the grove in the morning to spend his day among his teacher friends on the campus—this picture has never left me. . . .

"The other idea that President Battle kept to the front was that the University should be the real head of the public school system, not in the sense that it should dominate its activities and absorb all of its gains, but be a source of unfailing inspiration, guidance, and helpfulness to it. He carried this conception to every part of North Carolina through his speeches and through the press, as well as by drilling it into the teachers during these summer normal schools. But the most effective agency in this propaganda was not his own personal efforts but the vision of it he imparted to a choice group of young men who were students in the University during the early part of his administration and who likewise attended these summer normal schools. If you ask me where Aycock obtained his profound convictions on popular education, where McIver began his thinking that resulted in his notable contributions to it, where Alderman's imagination was so kindled that he became its most eloquent exponent, and where Joyner's sympathetic appreciation of it was formed so that he became such a practical and efficient apostle of it—my answer is that they absorbed it here year by year because it was in the atmosphere, and that atmosphere was charged with it by President Battle. . . ."