To Eliakim Phelps, of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1814.

(or, if deceased, to the friend or relative who knew him best.)

SIR,—

It is the aim of the subscriber, in collecting the information asked for by the following questions, to obtain materials for a concise Biographical Catalogue of the Trustees, Presidents, Professors and Tutors of Union College;—of those who have received Honorary Degrees from it, and of all who have ever entered that Institution, whether Graduates or not.

That such a work would be interesting and useful to the Alumni, will not be denied; but whether it be practicable, will depend chiefly upon the readiness which they shall impart. This circular will be sent to every Graduate whose residence is known, (or, if deceased, to some near connection,) and it is confidently expected that no one will neglect to return it in due time, with as full information as circumstances will allow;—some of the questions, indeed, it may not be possible to answer with certainty; others not at all: still, it is hoped that no important facts will be withheld because of their quaintness.

Death has removed the twenty-four original Trustees, the first three Presidents, the early Professors and Tutors, and from eight hundred to one thousand of the Alumni of the College. Doubtless their friends and descendants will cheerfully contribute such information as may be necessary to illustrate the lives and services of the departed.

The subscriber desires every aid that may help to throw light upon the personal history of those concerned:—Obituary Notices; Biographical Sketches, Epitaphs, General Sermons, Newspaper Notices of election to important offices or stations; Business Cards and Advertisements; also, copies of their Literary Works, Addresses, Sermons, Essays, Newspapers, engraved Portraits, &c. ; all of which will be deposited and preserved in an Alcove of the College Library, to be set apart for “Graduates’ Works.”

He also requests that all future changes affecting the answers which shall be given, be made known to him from time to time;—especially the deaths of Graduates, and that the usual obituary notices or funeral sermons published on such occasions, be sent with the announcements, as it is his purpose to publish these deaths hereafter once a year.

JONATHAN PEARSON, Librarian.

UNION COLLEGE,
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

Specimens of Biographical Sketches for the Proposed Catalogue.

John Giddens Brown was born in Quinapex, N. Y., May 2, 1800; parents, James and Elizabeth (Giddens) Brown, who moved to Epson, N. Y., in 1806. He was prepared for College at Helderbergh High School, under the instruction of Rev. Moses Johnson, and entered Union College Jan. 1817. He studied law with Hon. Septimus H. Smith, of Great Falls; was admitted to the bar in 1821; and commenced the practice of law in Albany, with James S. Van Hoesen, Esq. In 1836 he moved to New-York City, which, thereafter, became his residence. He was Member of N. Y. Assembly 1832-5; State Senator 1833-8; Member of Congress 1839-41; and Judge of the Superior Court 1842-6. He died June 30, 1849, of cholera, aged 49 years. Besides occasional speeches, orations and opinions, he wrote a work on constitutional law, and edited the N. Y. State Papers. He received the Degree of L. L. D. from Hamilton College in 1846.

Joseph Hanshaw Luther was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1, 1798; parents, Joseph and Madeleine (Hanshaw) Luther; prepared for College at Yorkville Academy, John Almy, Esq., Principal; and entered Union College Sept. 1814. He taught, 1818-20, in East Philadelphia, (Penn.) High School; graduated at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1823; and was ordained Sept. 25, 1823, at Marbletown, N. Y.; and was Pastor of the Presbyterian Church till 1825. He was Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church of Hoxieon, 1825-30; Professor of Rhetoric in Erie College 1831-40; retired on account of ill health, and now resides in Philadelphia, Pa. He has published six sermons on various occasions; a series of lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, and the ‘Concordia’s Companion.’

He received the Degree of D. D. from the Kenedi University in 1842.

Thomas Pennington Railey was born Feb. 22, 1778, in Benon, N. Y; parents, John Harrison and Mary (Pennington) Railey; was prepared for College at High Holbeck School, Rev. Hanover Kelton, Principal; entered Union College Sept. 1795; taught a few months in Suncook, Mass., in 1799; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Phycle and Dr. Abram Potescu, of Caneville; attended medical lectures at the College of Surgeons and Physicians; and was admitted to, and commenced the practice of medicine in La Rhina, in 1806. He was Surgeon in the Army 1813-15, and returned to practice at Oldbury in 1815, where he has since resided. He lectured in the Threethaven Medical School on Anatomy and Physiology, 1820-5, and has published several articles in the New-York Medical Review, and two larger works on the ‘Functions of the Brain,’ and on ‘Gunshot Wounds.’

N B. 1. Let the answers to the following questions be as full and authentic as possible; but when doubtful let them be marked thus (?).

2. When the person deceased left some near relative or friend fill up the blank to the best of his knowledge. If he have not one fact, let that be sent.

3. Let as much space be taken as may be found necessary for this purpose, and no more.

4. In case this space be not sufficient to contain all the facts to be sent, add another of the same size, if possible, leaving an inner margin of not less than one half for binding.

5. In cases where no answers to this circular shall be returned, the editor will be obliged to publish such names without any biographical notices, or to rely upon information, gathered from other sources, and, therefore, not always authentic.
X. The important offices he has held, with dates:

[General information respecting character, services, various, interesting passages and events in the life of the individual.]

XI. The Library or Scientific Works he has written or edited.

(Copy of the card for the "Grahame Alumni" or "College Library"

XXI. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College.

XXII. Summa of his life and family.

XXX. Summa of his life and family.

[General information respecting character, services, various, interesting passages and events in the life of the individual.]

[Local information respecting character, services, various, interesting passages and events in the life of the individual.]
XVII. General information respecting character, services, success, interesting passages and events in his life, &c.

In historical circumstances it was chiefly on this occasion in the New England sense of that term. In the Presbyterians Church, belonging to the New England Presbytery, who met with several ministerial connections in this church in Sandwich was namely, added to, in point of numbers during his ministry and considered at the left of about 400 communicants. The church at Sandwich was considerably more than double in six years; and when he left of about 160 communicants. Scant, those were admitted at one time! He resigned the pastoral office on 1835 in consequence of poor health which was probably supplemented by a severe attack of cholian the previous year. He received the Benevolent Society, assisting him about 12 years and in that time received aids of about 270 dollars. He was a man of deep concern for the ministering. He was the late John B. Bliss, now Professor of Sacred Literature and Tablet Elaborator in the Congregational Church at Boston, Mass.

XVIII. Some account of his pedigrees and family; its original seat in this or the old country, &c., &c.

This account was among the many settlers of New England and travelled through various districts such as those of the last century. It was that the name was originally English—a name well-marked out and erected for much of which the settlements were but little occasion to be proud. The family did, and came to this country in order to serve the cause of German language and the present Royal family of England, and some of the name of American origin enjoyed some distinction in the country. And they inhabited the Boston area and one of the family with four sons came to this country in 1630. They came from Sandwich in England, in the ship Liberty which sailed from Boston. In 1636 they removed to Connecticut River, one of the early settlers and one of Northampton, Mass. The subject of this notice is a descendant of the first generation from the one who settled at Boston.

XIX. List of their graduates or any not widely known; their residences, professions, dates of deaths, &c.; the name and residence, also, of such near friends of the deceased, but further information may be sought for; thus:

It was our pleasure recently to meet the Rev. Dr. Eliakin Phelps. He was a student at Brown University for two years, going thence to Union, where he graduated in 1814. He is the oldest living Presbyterian clergyman in America. He is the father of Austin Phelps, D.D., a theological author of repute and professor at Andover Theological Seminary; and grandfather of the popular authoress - Elizabeth Stuart Phelps. During the last years of his active life he was at the head of the American Education Society at Philadelphia. He resides with his son at Hoboken, N. J., where he will probably remain until his death.

Concordiensis Dec. 1879

(J. M. Steele, V. S. P. 14, 1890)
ELIAKIM PHELPS


The Rev. Mr. Phelps graduated at Union College in 1814, studied theology at Andover, and was ordained over the first church in Brookfield, Mass., Oct. 13, 1816.

In 1830 he was installed over the Presbyterian Church of Geneva, New York.

In 1835 he was elected Secretary of the American Educational Society of Philadelphia. In 1840 he had charge of the office in New York City, and was made a D. D., in 1860, and settled in Plainfield, Conn.

He died at Weehawken, New Jersey, December 29, 1880.

CHILDREN: by first wife, born Brookfield, Mass, except 4th:

1. Amelia born Sept. 18, 1817; died 1829.
2. Austin born Jan. 7, 1820; married three times.

CHILD by second wife:

5. Eliakim Sidney born Philadelphia, Pa., April 7, 1847.

FROM The Phelps Family of America Oliver Seymour Phelps & Andrew T. Servin Pittsfield, Mass. 1899
Eagle Publishing Company.
Dr. Eliakim Phelps (father of Austin Phelps) left West Brookfield, Mass., to become principal of the Young Ladies' High School at Pittsfield, Mass.; four years later moved to Geneva, N. Y., where he ministered to the First Presbyterian church, and subsequently was pastor of the Congregational church at Huntington, Conn. By nature a conservative, he again and again took the radical side; for instance, supporting the movements to establish Sunday schools and temperance societies in the days when public opinion favored neither. His wife was admired for her beauty and revered for her spirituality; was fond of retirement and books, and never known—such was he husband's testimony—to do one unkind or unwise thing.
