Terrible is the lesson! "200 victims in less than a month!"

Nov. 1852 Victims of Progress -- Steamboat Captains Crossing Ocean in 9 days. Are we Progressing

The Sabbath & its Observance

Geology and the Bible
Calendar & time reckoning

Creation OK

Article on the census of 1850 with figures Jan. 1854, second art. on Curiosities of the Census

Immensity of the Universe

Nations and their history
Increase in Crime

Dec. 1852 "enormous increase in crime" familiar complaint "the growing contempt for parental authority, the absurd and dangerous spirit of 'Young America-ism' "The insufficiency of courts, the unprincipled quibblings of lawyers, the vile corruption of politics, the delay of justice, etc." yet saw the bright side -- there was progress "flood of noble sentiment" also, less and less polit. corruption (Sept. 1853) speed of America so great that a polit is "run down and run out" in five years instead of 25?!

Jan. 1853 New word "Filibustering" for private war, lawless.

Latest rise of Modern Infidelity

Ghost stories and immortality

Nature of Progress "The Tables Do Move"

Census of 1850 -- 254 daily newspapers 3/5ths are political
(1902 Weekly, 115 triweekly and 31 semweekly: total 2526

"Oregon is blessed with 1 druggist, Utah with one architect, Conn. with 1 actor, most likely some disapp. lone star, retired into voluntary exile, Vermont has one broker. Pawnbrokers appear to exist in only 4 states : Mass. N.Y., N.J. and Penna.

Over 500 telegraph operators, 46 vintners of whom 41 are in N.Y.

4 million school children in 1950 only 1 million adults were found unable to read and right, out of 23, 191,876

Gold State in 1950 "has very few women at all"

4 million horses -- 1 for every 5 inhabitant s
Dec. 1853 Polit. Corruption
"A fixed fact in our history"? -- of all parties "It has grown to such a pitch among us as to arrest the attention even of the most superficial thinkers, and the most careless observers."

Earlier days, "It was not gloried in" or deemed inseparable from polit. action.
"It adds the meanness of theft to the lawlessness of robbery. It is lying; it is perfidy; it is the foulest, the rankest, the most Heaven-daring perjury...."Casts N.Y. legislature even fanatic is better than caucus-spouter ultra-abolitionist

2nd column on Remedy for Polit. Corruption

Jan. 1854 N.Y. in census of 1850 had most public libraries and books therein, outnumber Mass 3 to 1 and Penna, 6 - 1 These 3 states have just about as many as all the rest of the US do"

June 1854 Position of the Clergy
"Xty is to over the earth with railroads and telegraphs, and these again, to diffuse Xty with a speed unknown to apostolic times."
"But is there not some reason to fear that instead of the Church's spiritualizing the world, the world will secularize the Church?"

Shall the Murderer Escapt? No! (harsh)

Union Saving August 1854 Slavery odious but what shall be done with 4 million Africans in our midst, reverse the original wrong--send them back to Africa.

Sept. 1854 Is Human Race / or Many?

True Sources of National Strength "Independently of our own choice--say in spite of ourselves, we are bound together. One we are, and one we must be. No sophistry can evade this cond. No logician can overthrow it. No bad blood can weaken its force. The Truth, E. Pluribus Unum is the moral of our life."

Jan. 1855, What awaits our country and its nearly 3 million sq. miles.

dawn of next century will bring 100 millions of freemen!

Young America and Old England Are there More Worlds than One?

Vol. X p. 690 The Self-Made Man--Who is He?

Conserv. Man is for "holding together all the world has ever learned. Hold to the wise and good of past ages. Not spirit of the age--but more divine spirit of the ages

always gives classical parallels
Tayler Lewis as Publicist

wrote editorials for Harper's New Monthly magazine founded 1850 began in Vol. III. -- often ran to 4 3/4 pages, double columned; several subjects each time. A few months earlier introduced "The Editor's Drawer"--then, in Oct. 1851, 1st "Editor's Table" 1st one was on "growing side by side two of the most singular phenomena of the age, the new State of California and the Mormon Commonwealth or Church."

Second part on poems about night.

Got $400 a year, $33.33 a month

Vol. VIII Tayler Lewis in Harper's Magazine, Feb. 1854 p. 413 "But the great trouble is -- the conservative..."impatience of many of its advocates....(leads to) infusing into it something of an element more properly belonging to its antagonist"--this may give "temporary reinvigoration" but leads to dissolution--becomes radical both parties. now rivals, not antagonists. in same direction

"loses its high and healthful conservative ground"

"conservatism may be caricatured by our superficial, frothy, lecturing progressionists" but no danger from it.

denounces (Mar 1854) "Professors of Political Engineering"

Politics of the Church April 1854, "Too long has the cry been 'measures-measures'...What we most want is men -- if we can get them -- high souled, high principled men, then we can trust their measures."

Anti-Slavery Feb. 1852 "The Value of the Union--Constitution as a work of art

May 1852 The magic word "electricity" is becoming the universal solvent for all scientific difficulties

August 1852 -- Editor's Table is to be "every serious, ever earnest "but avoiding sermonizing" deplored the "moral influence of the stage "exists to amuse and cannot be reformed" "acting" is "inherently vicious"

Much concerned about population

Next issue, Nov. 1851, Ed. Easy Chair begins Table takes up theme of "Westward, Ever Westward"d Calif. land of gold and golden hope

The School Question (not easy) Likes questions: "Relig. Liberty--What is it?" "Time and Space -- What are they?" "What is Education?" He was for good foundation "Who is the Statesman?"
1820

Tayler Lewis
"The Believing Spirit", A discourse delivered before the New Hampshire Alpha of Phi Beta Kappa, at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H., on the 28th July, 1841. By Tayler Lewis, Esq., Professor of Greek in the University of the City of New York.


Copy in a bound volume
in N.Y. State Library
Class Mark-
O 40
A
Vol. 75
Union College, July 30th 1860

Doct. Tayler Lewis

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 28th inst is before me. After due reflections I desire merely to say in reply: that I was personally but slightly acquainted with Prof Peissner, either as a scholar or a man, till it became known to me, that he was expected to become the husband of your daughter Margaret. At that time I was her confidential friend, sympathized in her joys, and sorrows; and felt as I now feel, that interest in her welfare that friendship always inspires. The union had in Contemplation between Prof. Peissner & your daughter was Consummated Ap. 2nd 1856, And in reviewing the past, so far as I can recollect, My conduct towards her, Yourself, and Prof. Peissner has continue[d] to be in keeping with the sentiments of friendship then expressed. Aware however of my present infirmities, and distrustful of the mere evidence of memory in relation to events long since gone by, I have felt it my duty to test the correctness of my own recollections by comparing the same with the existing written, or printed documentary evidence on the points in question, and said evidence having been compiled from the college books, and chronologically arranged; it appears, therefrom,

"That in Aug. 1850, Elias Peissner,
was appointed by the President, at the instance, as he stated, of Professor Foster, "Instructor of German & Latin." For the first three years his title continued the same, and his salary commencing Aug. 1st '50 to Aug. 1st '51 was $250, for the second from Aug. 1st '51 to Aug. 1st '52 it was increased by the President to $325, for the third year, from Aug. 1st '52 to Aug. 1st '53, it was still further increased in like manner to $400. The fourth year, from Aug. 1st '53 to Aug. 1st '54, his title was changed on the catalogue, by order of the President to "Instructor in Modern Languages" and his salary increased by a similar order to $500.

In the fifth year by a resolution of the Board of Trustees adopted July 25, 1854, his title was changed to that of, "Prof. of the German Language & Literature, and Instructor in Latin" with the same salary: during the sixth year from Aug. 1 '55 to Aug. '56, his salary, and title remained the same: during the seventh year from Aug. 1st '56 to Aug. 1st '57 by a resolution of the Board of Trustees adopted in July 24, '56 his salary was advanced to $1000, and his title changed on the catalogue by order of the President to "Prof. of German Languages and Literature & Lecturer on Political Economy."

It was at this time July 20, '56 as appears from the date of Prof. Peissner letter to the Trustees requesting for reasons stated at length, an increase of salary, and when for reasons then
Stated his salary was raised from $500 to $1000, that the pledge in question not to again apply for a farther increase of salary was given and not in July 56 as assumed in your letter to Dr. Nott on that subject (It was at this time, and not in 1855, as assumed by Dr. Lewis in his letter above, that the pledge of Prof. Peissner was given not again to for an increase of salary, the reason for the giving of pledge was, that was made by Members of the Board to the raising of his salary, & the changing title as that time, lest it should be made use of thereafter as an argument for a Still further increase of salary,.) During the Eighth year, from Aug. 1st 57, to Aug 1st '58 his salary, and title remained the same, except $50 was added for extra services by order of the President, The ninth year, from Aug. 1st '58 to Aug, 1st '59 his title, and salary remained the same,

"The above addition of fifty dollars, as well as the preceding additions, of a similar character were made by virtue of Authority vested by the Board on the president to appoint, and determine the salary to be paid the Tutors, and other officers of Instruction except Professors, and also to determine the amount to be paid professors for extra services, and when such payments have been made by Myself, as was the case with Mr Holland, the preceding, Treasurer, they have been made by the direction of the president.

Union College, Aug.1st 1860
(Signed) Jonathan Pearson, Treasurer,"
"Means for the establishment, and maintenance of three additional professors, with an annual salary of $1500, each, having been provided by income from property held by virtue of the Trust Deed of E. Nott & U. E Nott, The Visitors, under said Deed at a meeting held May, 1st 1855, in place of appointing three additional professors, as they had the right to do, appointed three of the exiting professors to be the recipients of the income of the professorships now provided for, to wit, Tayler Lewis, Prof. of Greek Language and Literature. Isaac O. Jackson, Prof. of Mathematics & Charles A Joy, Prof. of Analytical Chemistry.----and thus the Visitors by relieving the Board from the payment of the salaries of these three professors furnished it with the means of adding $500, annually to the salaries of each of the remaining professors, and in accordance with this act of the Visitors, the Board of Trustees awarded at its next Meeting to each remaining professor, an annual addition of $500. to his salary.----and whenever means have since been wanting for the payment of this additional salary, in place of permitting the same to be withheld, as had formerly been done, the president has personally advanced the amount required for paying the same, for which advances, so made by him, the college was on the 1st day of August 1860, and still is indebted to him in the sum of Four thousand, six hundred & seventy three 73/100 dollars ($4,673.73) (Signed)
In 1859, Prof Peissner made application to the Board of Trustees again, for a further increase of salary, which was raised. The tenth year, from Aug. 1st '59 to Aug. 1st '60 to $1250, the action of the "Committee of Five" who were appointed "to consider upon the present condition of the college, in respect to instruction. Salaries etc., and were empowered to convene the Board for the consideration of their report. They never so convened the Board. Either to receive or consider their report, and therefore no record thereof appeared upon the Minutes."

In July 1860, Prof Peissner again made application to the Board of Trustees, for further increase of salary, which application was referred to the Finance Committee who reported "That the application be not complied with for the present."

U.C. Aug. 7, 60 Geo. Gilbert, Registrar

Presuming that the possession of the above compilation I have caused to be made, would be desired by yourself and Prof Peissner, and there being nothing in relation thereto, which I desire to conceal from either of you, I have caused to be inserted above for your joint use, an entire copy, and have only to add that I am

Very truly Yours,

E. Nott
Lewis, Taylor, LL.D. 3/18/1854
-takes a part of pensioned Proudfit's duties, viz., the Prof. of Greek.
"He is intensely conservative in all his opinions, especially in religion
and politics - is a little, active nervous man, apparently of a feeble
constitution and frail". Pearson Diaries V.4, p.456

Lewis, Taylor 10/9/1854
See: notice of his work for Harper's Magazine and his threat to leave
U.C. unless salary is raised. (under Harper's Mag. this date.)

Lewis, Taylor 4/14/1855
Pearson Diaries V.4-a

Lewis, Taylor 7/15/1855 and 11/13/1855 and 12/13/1855
Pearson Diaries V.5

Lewis, Taylor on Nott Trust Fund pledge 8/2/1855
Pearson Diaries V.5 See: 8/17/1855; Lewis "signs"

Lewis, Taylor 11/12/1856
daughter, Keziah dangerously ill at Willard's Female Seminary in
Troy; the whole family go to her; it is feared her brain is
affected. Pearson Diaries V.5
11/25/1856; her death noted. V.5

Lewis, Taylor 1/11/1858 Pearson Diaries V.5
" 1/29/1858 " V.6
" 4/30/1859 " V.6
" 6/17/1859 " V.6 - on Appletons Encyclopaedia
Many -

We're ordering this dissertation for the Union Collection, but perhaps you can add the advertisement to the T. Lewis folder - somebody might write you about published material on T. Lewis.

Rehti Anne
TAYLER LEWIS ON SCRIPTURE: A DEFENSE OF
REVELATION AND CREATION IN NINETEENTH
CENTURY AMERICA

Franklin David Steen, Th.D.
Westminster Theological Seminary, 1971

Reprinted from
DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS INTERNATIONAL

Volume XXXII, Number 6, 1971
TAYLOR LEWIS ON SCRIPTURE: A DEFENSE OF REVELATION AND CREATION IN NINETEENTH CENTURY AMERICA

Franklin David STEEN, Th.D.
Westminster Theological Seminary, 1971

Supervisor: Dr. Cornelius Van Til

Taylor Lewis was a participant in the Bible and Science controversy of the nineteenth century. What were his special contributions and were they of lasting value? This is determined by an evaluation of his writings on the common basis of the orthodox Christian position.

Lewis lived in the area of the Hudson River most of his life. Born near Albany in 1802, he was educated in that region and spent his most productive years as a teacher in New York University and Union College, his Alma Mater, in Schenectady. He was skilled in ancient languages and as an avid student of Scripture published much in its defense and elucidation. He accepted the Bible as a final authority and his books as well as his articles in theological and literary journals illustrate this.

His special interest in the form of revelation is indicated by the title of his work, The Divine Human in the Scriptures. In distinction from those who said that the humanness of Scripture served as a barrier to divine revelation, Lewis said that it was this very quality that made revelation possible and powerful. The Christian doctrines of the Incarnation and Scripture are alike in the basic presumption that man cannot become God, but God can become man. To deny this would deny history and arbitrarily limit God. This humanness of God's Word belongs not only to the final text but also to the very thoughts and feelings which are connected with the production of the words. This process is not simply an accommodation to the primitive recipients of an early revelation. We too had best be accommodated by these anthropopathisms and anthropomorphisms, for God knows that we need their vividness and power, their depth and intensity.

Lewis applied these principles in his interpretation of the Creation account. He held that this account gives the picture of a gradually developing world as seen from an anthropocentric, geocentric point of view. There is no abstract, conceptionless language of origination from nonentity but the representation of God directing and acting upon nature. All reality in its far off causality is not in view but only that which relates to man and his abode. This is God's way of coming down to talk the language of man and the only way which would meet the real needs of man in every age. Lewis assumed that these days were measured by the events rather than by the sun and that there was a definite emphasis on the divinely controlled evolving power of nature.

For these suggestions Lewis was soundly criticized by those who held to the twenty-four hour day of creation and those who were sure that science was at last revealing the truth of creation. He answered his critics with careful exegesis and a warning against depending on fast-changing scientific theories. He also continued to wrestle with the basic question of how divine truth could be adequately conveyed in human concepts. He was content to affirm that those who were faithfully looking in the direction in which the concepts of Scripture pointed, without being swayed by the false pretensions of science or philosophy, would be found to have been looking in the right direction on that day when all was made plain.
Lewis was a scholar who sought the direction of the Spirit of God rather than the spirit of the age. When the doctrines of Scripture and Creation were attacked many rigidly stiffened their positions and others abandoned them. Lewis demonstrated that a real faith in God's revelation produces a willingness to re-examine one's position without forsaking it.

Order No. 71-29,816, 271 pages.

A microfilm or xerographic copy of the complete manuscript is available from the publisher, University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan, at the standard prices: any microfilm copy at $4.00, and any xerographic copy at $10.00 plus shipping and handling and any applicable taxes.
TAYLOR LEWIS, LL. D.
THE FACULTY OF 1856.

PROF. LEWIS.

History has classed Taylor Lewis among the greatest American scholars. The following epitome of his scholarship is from the highest authority.

"In 1838 he became a professor of Greek in the University of New York, in which post he continued eleven years. He acquired an unusually wide acquaintance with the Greek and Latin classics, and a knowledge of the Arabic and Syriac, and read the Koran and other Arabic writings, and the writings of the Hebrew rabbis. His special interest in the system of Plato led him to publish a translation of the 'Theaetetus,' with notes; and in 1854 he published the Greek text of the tenth book of Plato's dialogue, "The Laws", under the title 'Platonic Theology, or Plato Against the Atheists,' with critical and explanatory notes, and illustrative dissertations, showing profound learning." With this preparation, he was called (1849) from the chair of Greek in New York University to the same chair in Union College, where he remained until his death, May 11, 1877; born in Northumberland, Saratoga County, 1802.

It is absolutely safe to say that Prof. Lewis never had a superior as a teacher of the Greek language. The students felt that they were in the presence of a master, and that his opinion was of the highest authority. He had given every root the most thorough microscopic examination, subjected the trunk to the torchlight of all historic knowledge, and carefully studied every branch in all the details of its growth. Every student honored him as a scholar, praised him for his method and work in the classroom, and had the highest respect for him as a man.

Dr. Lewis believed that the scriptures and geology were in complete harmony, and this belief found expression in his best-known publication, "The Six Days of Creation." When criticised he replied with "The Bible and Science." He had bequeathed to the world many other writings of great value.

Prof. Lewis had deep love for Union College, and whatever he could do to advance its interests was cheerfully done. At commencement seasons his house was filled with guests. The corresponding secretary will never forget the "standing" invitation to be his guests, given to him and his wife.
Lewis, Taylor  7/7/1859  Pearson Diaries V.7
"  "  7/12/1859  "  "  V.7
"  "  9/22/1859  "  "  V.7
"  "  11/15/1859  "  "  V.7  See: Backus, this date
(re. attack on college chapel services.)

11/22/1859: attack renewed by Ven Rensselaer  V.7
11/26/1859: see: Nott attacks Lewis
11/28/1859: Lewis prepares answer
12/ 7/1859: Lewis says his answer is not shown to Nott; Mrs. Nott hold
up such letters.
12/ 7/1859: See Princeton, this date
12/3/1859: "Dr. Lewis is put with another letter in the 'Star' tonight
in answer to G.V.R.- all folly-undignified-and wrong for two
such grave Doctors."  Pearson Diaries V.7

Lewis, Taylor, Backus re.,  12/19/1859  Pearson Diaries V.7

Lewis, Taylor, on Nott  12/22/1859
See: Nott: Lewis re., this date

Lewis, Taylor; rebuffed  7/27/1860
See: Peissner salary rebuff, this date

Lewis, Taylor  7/28/1860
See: rebuff of, under Peissner, Prof., 7/27 and 28/1860
--also annoyed because his recommendation of an N.Y. Univ. grad of
standing for an A.M. in course is turned down while a non-graduate is
recommended for such a degree.  V.7
See Peissner, 8/1/1860

Lewis, Taylor  10/27/1860
"Called upon Mrs. Jackson (Prof.) and his sister, Mrs. Chesbro of
Copake... Mrs. J. spoke of the failing health of Prof. Lewis who is
nervous and unhappy in the extreme."  Pearson Diaries V.8,p.19

Lewis, Taylor  3/8/1861
Pearson Diaries V.8, p.86

Lewis, Taylor  2/13/1862
locked in his classroom by a sophomore.  P. describes his rage.
Pearson Diaries V.8,p.223

Lewis, Taylor  3/23/1862
Pearson Diaries V.8,p.240

Lewis, Taylor  5/3/1863
his son, Charles, lieutenant in the 119th Reg., reported wounded and
a prisoner.  Pearson Diaries V.8,p.207

Lewis, Taylor  5/11/1863
trustees decide he is too deaf to continue full-time teaching.
Pearson Diaries V.8,p.309

Lewis, Prof. Taylor  7/20/1863
Senior class exercises ended on the hill in the garden of Prof. Lewis
(south end of south college)
See: Class Day, beginning of, under U.C. this date

Lewis, Taylor  8/4/1863
Pearson Diaries V.8,p.337
April 7, 1962

Mr. Samuel D. Cooper
82 State St.
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Cooper:

I believe you will find in the enclosed photocopies the information you need to establish the family of Taylor Lewis, Union College 1820. Taylor Lewis and Jane Keziah Payne were the parents of three children evidently, but we can give you the birthdate of only one of them, Charles Frederick Lewis, born in New York City June 14, 1844. It appears that he was the youngest of the three.

His wife was Katherine R. Smith, daughter of Otis and Sarah Merselis Smith, and at the time of Charles Frederick's death, two children survived. Their daughter, Jane Keziah Lewis, married John A. Seed. The enclosed newspaper clippings at the time of her death indicate that there were no survivors.

We hope the material will assist you and assure you that a careful search has been made of our records.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs. C. J. Van Loan, Jr.)
Administration Assistant

1 Union Avenue

8. The names and addresses of any fraternities, clubs, lodges, etc. that he may have belonged to.
April 2, 1962

Secretary, Alumni Council
Union College
1 Union Avenue
Schenectady, New York

Dear Sir:

To settle an estate, I am trying to locate descendants of one Taylor Lewis, who attended Union College sometime during the middle or earlier part of the last century. He married a Jane Keziah, and there was at least one child by this marriage named Charles Lewis, who married Jane [blank]. The said Charles Lewis had at least two children, a girl and a boy, both deceased without issue.

Will you kindly make a search of your records for as much of the following information as possible regarding the said Taylor Lewis and his descendants:

1. His educational record showing dates of attendance at Union College and home address.
2. The date and place of his birth and parentage.
3. His religious affiliations, showing the name and address of his church of baptism or confirmation.
4. His business affiliations, showing names and address of employers, if any.
5. The names and addresses of any fraternities, clubs, lodges, etc. that he may have belonged to.
Any information you can give me will be greatly appreciated. If there is any charge for this search, I will be pleased to remit upon receipt of your bill.

Very truly yours,

Samuel D. Cooper

Enc.
TAYLOR LEWIS MEMORIAL FUND

The sum of $10,543.42 having been received by Union College as a bequest from Keziah Lewis Seede, the following fund is hereby established:

THE TAYLOR LEWIS MEMORIAL FUND

* * * * * * *

Fourth: And the rest, residue and remainder of said equal share, I direct my Executor to divide into eighteen (18) equal parts which I give, devise and bequeath as follows: ..... 

3 (b) To Union College of Schenectady, New York, ten (10) parts, in memory of my grandfather, Taylor Lewis.

This fund is hereby established as an endowment fund in the 612 Account. The date of the establishment is September 19, 1956, the date on which the checks were received from Peters, Wemple, Daly & Pritchard, attorneys at law in Schenectady, New York. Schenectady Trust Company was executor of the estate.

This fund may be merged and mingled with and become a part of the general investment assets of said College, and the income thereof shall be used at the discretion of said Trustees in furthering the objects and welfare of said College.

Keziah Lewis Seede died March 27, 1955.
or basis of Memorial Hall, "The Work is great, The Day is short, The Master presses the Workmen."

It was this sage and scholar, who, nearly fifty-eight years ago, on the day after Lincoln's Gettysburg address, anticipated by prophecy, when the average man was blind to Lincoln's merits, the verdict of the world to-day. At the Faculty Meeting, holding up the newspaper print of Everett's oration, he uttered one word, "wind", then dropped the paper on the table. Then showing the small culling that reported the address of Mr. Lincoln, he said, "Gentlemen, those words of Lincoln will live as long as the English language is spoken". *

Brothers of '84, let us have mirth and joy as we tread our pilgrim path of life, yet ever advance "as in (the) Great Taskmaster's eye".

Faithfully in Friendship and Service, in Love and Hope,

June 5, 1922

William Elliot Griffis

To W.N.P. Dailey,
Secretary of the
Class of Eighty-Four.

* This incident was told to Dr. Griffis by Prof. Cady Staley. (W. E. G.)
Jane Keziah Payn, Mrs. Tayler Lewis

Died March 20, 1888 at the age of 77

JF
6/85
Beloved Sons of Union,—the Alumni of 1884:—

Greetings and good wishes from your former instructor, and blessings upon the honored survivors of the most brilliant class that ever graduated from "Old Union".

By this year of grace you must have forgotten more than I ever knew of mental science, political economy, and the various "ologies" into which we have dipped during the thirty-eight years of our flight from Alma Mater's kindly nest; and yet, with unwearied pinions, we still soar into the empyreans of knowledge; and, it may be, even, that we affront the very zenith, determined to win the highest!

And why shouldn't we, when Morse and Edison and Galvani and Marconi, and even Ford are still ambitious to strike the stars? Of such brilliant students and paragons of excellence as I had under me in 1884, many of them in fame and glory far above me now in 1922, I can expect nothing else than perpetual "excelsior", with all common acmes and summits left behind.

In this I am very serious, and I urge you to press on, never get old in mind, live long, enjoy moderation, advance ever without haste and without rest, and die, when you must, with the harness on. Thus will all my hopes of you be fulfilled.

Recall with me the motto from the Talmud that the greatest Hebrew scholar that the United States produced, Tayler Lewis, one of Union's mighty men, had wrought into the red and blue slate at the roof rim
My Dear Waldron,—I came across these items in a recent address on the Centennial of the old Fort Miller Reformed Dutch Church in Washington Co. I did not know these facts tho you may have. The writer of this history promises to put it into shape (it was in the Fort Edward Advertiser) and says he will write more of the Lewis family. W. N. P. 

TAYLER LEWIS

was the son of Captain Samuel and Mrs. Sally Tayler Lewis, the mother being a sister of Governor Tayler of New York. His brother was Samuel Lewis, who is known in Saratoga Co. history as Colonel Sam Lewis.

Tayler Lewis attended school at Fort Miller. The old fort was on the west bank of the river, in Saratoga Co., in the town of Northumberland, in which town Tayler Lewis was born. Lewis graduated at Union College in 1820 and was admitted to the Bar in Saratoga Co., in 1825. He and his brother & father were all three members and officers in the Fort Miller Refd. Church. Mrs. Lewis (mother) died in April 1832. Tayler Lewis practised law in Fort Miller. His wife was Jane Payne, daughter of Daniel Payne of Fort Miller.
The Christian Intelligencer of the 1st inst, contains the following tribute to a distinguished scholar and citizen of this city: "We see it announced that some friends of Prof. Tayler Lewis in this city presented him with a handsome Christmas gift, as a slight expression of their personal regard and of their high appreciation of his learning and labors in the various departments of scholarship of which he is an acknowledged master. This delicate and deserved attention to an eminent theologian, linguist and patriot originated with a worthy professor in Columbia College whose private words in willing ears soon educated a generous and praiseworthy act of Christian fellowship. Few men, if any, have done more in this country to promote the cause of sacred learning and of sound philosophy than Prof. Lewis, and it is little, after all, which personal friendship can do to express the debt of gratitude which the church and country owe that modest and diligent scholar."

Schenectady Republican, p. 1.
February 10, 1866.
and later at Washington, in the vice-president's rooms, by Chief Justice Waite. His administration was not marked by anything unusual, but he was a dignified president, who gave evidence of his loyalty and patriotism throughout. He recommended a better plan of governing the Indian tribes; more stringent laws concerning polygamy in Utah, and opposed extravagance in appropriations, especially the river and harbor bills of 1882, which he vetoed, and for which he was greatly commended. He presided at the dedication of the monument of Yorktown, Virginia, where Lord Cornwallis surrendered. At the Chicago Republican convention in 1884 he received two hundred and seventy-four votes on the first ballot for president, against five hundred and forty for all others, but Mr. Blaine was finally nominated.

Early in his administration as the successor to Mr. Garfield, he said to Mr. Depew, of New York: "My sole ambition is to enjoy the confidence of my countrymen." He will be remembered for both what he did and for what he refrained from doing. Be it said to his lasting credit that he was instrumental in somewhat relieving the anguish of General Grant, who lay dying of a painful disease, and who feared the people would censure him for the financial failure he had just passed through. It was the last official act of Mr. Arthur to sign the bill making Grant general of the army, which news he wired him with a touching message, thus allowing the great chieftain to live a few months, knowing that the people had not lost faith in him as a man of integrity.

Mr. Arthur was married, October 29, 1859, to Ellen Lewis Herndon, daughter of Commodore William Lewis Herndon, of the United States navy, who explored the Amazon river in 1851-52. Mrs. Arthur died January 12, 1880. She had three children, one of whom died in 1863, the others, Chester Alan and Ellen Herndon, surviving her. President Arthur's death occurred suddenly, of apoplexy, at his residence in New York, November 18, 1886.

PROFESSOR TAYLER LEWIS, LL.D.

Professor Tayler Lewis, who graduated from Union College in 1820, was born in Northumberland, Saratoga county, New York, March 27, 1802, son of Samuel and Sarah (Van Valkenberg) Lewis. The father was a captain in the Revolutionary army, took part in many sieges

same time he was made an associate judge in the highest court in the state. The record of his career as a senator covers a period when the abolition of imprisonment for debt, the amelioration of prison discipline, reforms in militia matters, opposition to corporate monopolies, the extension of public franchise, all received his cordial support.

In 1832 he defended the United States Bank in an elaborate speech in the state senate, and two years later denounced the removal of the United States Bank in a speech which was both brilliant and costis...
and battles, and was present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. The mother of Professor Lewis was a niece of John Tayler, lieutenant-governor of New York, and was descended from Johanna Van Valkenburg, a native of Holland, one of the early settlers of Albany, New York. He was prepared for college at Salem, New York, graduated at Union College, 1820, read law in Albany, and then began the practice of law at Fort Miller. He took up the study of Hebrew and soon grew dissatisfied with the law and abandoned it in 1833 to become the principal of the schools at Waterford, New York. From 1835 to 1837 he was principal at Ogdensburg, New York, and a second time in the academy at Waterford, from 1837 to 1839. He delivered the Phi Beta Kappa oration at Union College, his subject being "Faith The Life of Science." This was published and as a result he was offered professorships from various institutions of learning, including that of Greek and Latin Literature in the University of New York city. In 1844 he published a volume on "Plato vs. The Atheist," and this was regarded, both in Europe and America, as a masterly contribution. Partly by reason of this production, the degree of LL.D. was conferred on him by Union College. In 1849 Dr. Lewis accepted the chair of Greek and Latin in Union College, and subsequently that of Oriental Languages and Biblical Literature. Under his teaching the classics, the Scriptures and Current Events seemed to contain new meaning to his pupils. He thus continued until his death, and ranked first in scholarship in his day in this country. He wrote original verse in Hebrew and Greek with readiness. The higher mathematics, astronomy and music he studied with enthusiasm. In 1855 he published "Six Days of Creation," his best known work, maintaining that the Biblical day was not limited by a twenty-four period of time. In 1856 he published his "The Bible in Science;" this was followed in 1860 by "The Divine Human in Scripture." From 1851 to 1856 he wrote for the "Editor's Table" of "Harper's Magazine," and published a series of newspaper articles (later in book form), on "States Rights;" "A Photograph of the Ruins of Ancient Greece." These had great influence among thinking people, and it has been stated that he made an impression deeper in the history of his times than had he been in the field as a soldier for the Union. It was in 1866, after the Civil war had ended, that he published his "Heroic Soldiers of the American Armies." In later life he was afflicted first by partial and later by total deafness, but this did not check his zeal as a writer and public speaker. As late as 1873 he spoke vigorously on the "Bible in The Schools." His last appearance was at the commencement in 1876, when he delivered the address at Union College. Besides those already named, Professor Lewis wrote "Nature and the Ground of Punishment;" "Special Introduction to Genesis;" "The Light by Which We See the Light," (1875); etc. The degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him by the University Convocation of the state of New York, and another highly appreciated was his appointment on the Bible Revision Committee. From boyhood Professor Lewis had been a member of the Dutch Reformed Church. He was married at Fort Miller, New York, in 1833, to Jane Kezia, daughter of Daniel Payn, who bore him three sons and three daughters. He died at Schenectady, New York, May 11, 1877.
with the appointment of Tayler Lewis as professor of Greek, and of Caleb Henry as professor of Philosophy, both elected on October 25, 1838, a more than respectable faculty was provided.

Comment on the new Chancellor, Theodore Frelinghuysen

Tayler Lewis, whose father had served as captain in the American army at Yorktown, was a graduate of Union College in 1820 and a classmate of William H. Seward. For a few years he had practiced as a lawyer in Saratoga County. A growing interest in philology, particularly of the Semitic languages, however, had discontented him with his first profession; and in 1833 he opened a private classical academy at Ogdensburg. His Phi Beta Kappa address on the subject of "Faith, the Light of Science," given at Union College in 1838, brought him much favorable attention; and he was selected as professor of Greek in New York University in the autumn of 1838. Although he had not studied abroad, he was a sound classical scholar, of the type of President Kelton of Harvard, and his edition of Plato's Laws, Book X, published in 1845, was an earnest and honest piece of work. His heart, however, seems ever to have been primarily in Semetic and Biblical studies, as his career after his return to Union in 1850 evidences.

Note: A very sympathetic and personal account of the faculty at this time is found in F. N. Zabriskie's articles in the Christian Intelligencer, May, 7-21, 1884.

Characterization of Ebenezer Johnson and Charles Henry Sprague.

It is unfortunate that men like Lewis and Draper, and a few years later, Elias Loomis, had no opportunity to give advanced instruction to graduate students. For that purpose the University had been founded. But, even if the resources of the University had permitted, it is doubtful whether the United States in 1840 would have supplied such students. In any case, Lewis, Draper and Loomis, and their colleagues spent their efforts on drilling unruly schoolboys in the University college, and wasted their time in the faculty meetings on interminable discussions on discipline.

At the distance of eighty years, the departure at the same time of Professor Tayler Lewis, who returned to Union College in 1849, seems a more serious, although the Council/loss, seems to have taken his resignation with more equanimity than that of Cyrus Mason (Union 1924).
1820  Tayler Lewis

The History of New York University-1832-1932 by Theodore Francis Jones, editor, published in 1933, contains


The letter was dated Union College, Schenectady, September 24, 1862.

History of New York University
1832-1932
Theodore Francis Jones, Editor
N.Y. Un. Press
1933.
"The Monthly says that Tayler Lewis died on the campus. This is a mistake. He died in his hired house which stood on the site where Hank DeForest afterwards built his mansion. Dr. Lewis had lived at the south end of South College, but in those days a professor who occupied a college house was obliged to give compensation by acting as monitor of the adjacent section and when Dr. Lewis became incapacitated for police duty by reason of deafness, he was required to leave. This seems incredible but Mrs. Peissner assured me that it was so."

Extract from letter of Dean B. H. Ripton

May 15, 1930
1820  Tayler Lewis

Letter of Tayler Lewis, September 24, 1862

A letter written to Rev. T. W. Chambers, and printed in the latter's Memoir of the Life and Character of the Late Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen, New York 1863, gives a valuable account of the second Chancellor's character and service.

New York University  pp. 403-410
k832:1932
Theodore Francis Jones, editor
New York University Press
1933.
The giants of yore who are enshrined in alumni memory often shrink in a most discouraging manner when put to the test of real criticism. We have been glad to believe that many unusual scholars have adorned our faculty and we confess to an irritation at the skepticism which has come from some of our friends when we have discussed this matter. It is, therefore, with real pride that we print the following letter received by President Richmond from his friend, Dr. Gulick, Professor of Greek at Harvard University, as it establishes beyond question the eminence of one of the most highly honored of our old professors, Tayler Lewis.

15 February, 1925

Dear President Richmond:

I have lately been studying Tayler Lewis’s “Plato against the Atheists,” and remembering that he was a graduate of Union College, I feel moved to tell you of the profound impression its scholarship has made on me. Paul More (in “The Religion of Plato,” p. 75) speaks of it as “an admirable but now, I fear, little known example of the older American Scholarship.” For myself, I doubt whether there is any one in America today who could write a book which comprehended such a range of learning. Greek, Hebrew, and Latin authors are cited in the original, and interpreted with linguistic accuracy as well as philosophic depth and literary appreciation. Moreover, he shows an acquaintance with English literature, to say nothing of the German and French writers of his time, which is altogether too rare in specialists nowadays.

Very sincerely yours,

Charles Burton Gulick
Taylor Lewis, LL.D. Class 1820-Union College

Professor of Ancient Languages: 1849-1877

Taylor Lewis, scholar, writer, author, instructor, taught at his alma mater for thirty years, nearly. Not only was he versed in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, but he knew Syriac, Samaritan, Koetic, Chaldaic, and Arabic as well, and several of the modern languages were at his command. He was familiar with the Koran and the Rabbinical languages, while as diversions he took to mathematics and astronomy, and music.

His outlook on literature and life was all but boundless. His "Six Days of Creation," and the "Divine-Human in the Scriptures," with their comparisons and results of research, brings to the reader the thought that "never man wrote like this man." Perhaps his most important work was, "Plato Against the Atheists." He was the author of four volumes and published fifty important papers and articles.

He wrote a political work, "State Rights" (1864), which brought the criticism that he had done as much for the Republic in writing this book as any soldier on the field of battle. The volume shows how Taylor Lewis could turn scholarship to practical ends, for his argument for American nationality is based on the records of ancient Greece. It sounds like a far cry to read of graft and civic corruption and political bosses such as the author portrays on these pages.

Dr. Lewis wrote five books of miscellaneous, among them, "The Power and Passions of Euripides", the "Orphic Hymns", and the "Astronomical Views of the Ancients". Not only are they filled with classic lore, but they are masterpieces of English. One may apply to Dr. Lewis what was said of Dr. Whewell of Cambridge, "omnia scientiae est forte!" Dr. Lewis died at Schenectady, N.Y., March 11, 1877. During the erection of the Nott-Fatter Memorial Library Professor Lewis had wrought in Hebrew, in red and blue slate, at the roof rim; the Talmudic motto, "The work is great, the day is short, the Master presses the workman." W.P.O. 54

TAYLOR LEWIS, A.M. Esq., 1820, a resident of Fort Miller, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society.

(Died: 1877)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830
Speaking of Prof. Tayler Lewis and his book on State Rights; Horace Greeley says, in this week's Independent: "Professor Lewis is one of the few among us who will be better appreciated after decease than while they yet live. Abel, acute, and industrious, he devotes not only his hours, but his energies, his heart with his life, to a vindication of the claims of christian faith to the acceptance and reverence of scholars and thinkers. He is one of the precious few who are aiding to revere the word Conservatism from its popular perversion to the foulest ends, and to devote it once more to truth and righteousness. And, among his many successful efforts in the cause, none will exert a wider or more lasting influence than the essay under consideration."

Schenectady Republican
December 17, 1864.
Time Early Measured in Albany Area

By C. R. ROSEBERRY
Times-Union Staff Writer

IN THE year 1867, you might have seen a human figure dangling precariously by a rope on the cliffsides of the Mohawk gorge at Coehoes.

He was not practicing to be the daring young man on the flying trapeze. On the contrary, he was measuring time. The man on the rope was a fellow from Rochester named G. K. Gilbert, later to acquire much scientific prestige. His attention at the moment was centered on the grotesque dwarf cedars rooted in the rock walls.

GILBERT had been sent for to help put together the skeleton of the Coehoes mastodon, which had just been discovered in a Mohawk river pothole and which stands today as one of the show-places of the New York State Museum.

While he was poking around the location of that great fossil discovery, Gilbert, being of an inquiring mind, asked himself how long the dead mastodon had been there. It was then that his eye was caught by the stunted cedars high overhead.

A FUNNY PLACE for trees to be growing, on a vertical rock wall. The roots had fingered in between the rock layers to keep their grip. Then the rock, in many cases, had weathered away, leaving the roots quite naked.

Gilbert figured that by counting the growth rings of the trees to get their age, and setting this off against the weathering of the rock, he might get some idea of the rate of recession of the gorge. In a State bulletin, we reported:

"It seems proper to allow 12 inches per century as a rate of recession, through a long period, of any portion of cliff. From this estimate, he concluded at a figure of 25,000 years as being "a minimum for the time that has elapsed since Coehoes Falls were opposite the mastodon pothole."

THIS WAS the first attempt of which we have any record in the United States to make a systematic estimate of post-glacial time. Despite the crudity of his method, Gilbert wasn't too far off, either.

A few years earlier, a professor of Greek at Union College, in Schenectady, had attracted attention with a book entitled "Six Days of Creation," or "The Scriptural Cosmosology". The author, Prof. Taylor Lewis, was a biblical scholar of some renown, who knew that science was making inroads on the traditional concept of time based on the Book of Genesis. His book was, in essence, an attempt to reconcile Genesis with geology.

LEWIS MADE, out a case for assuming that the "days" referred to in the story of the Creation were in reality epochs, or eras. A biblical day, he wrote, "may be 24 hours, or 24,000 years."

He could not resist some jibes at science, such as this:

"If the Scripture does not press us down to the exact conception of modern solar days, so neither, on the other hand, has the skeptical geologist any inducive warrant for his billions and trillions of years."

A Yale scientist, Prof. James D. Dana, shot back at him, and the two men carried on something of a controversy through the columns of a religious periodical, "Bibliothea Sacra". Dana accused Lewis of "seers at science" and of befailing the "study of nature".

SUCH ACADEMIC bickering seems quaint and trivial to us of the Atomic Age, who can step into the fine mineralogical collection of University and inspect fragments of pillow-blende ore from Finland which have been scientifically appraised at 3,800,000,000 years of age.

It is a far cry from Gilbert's cliff-scrambling to the up-to-date radioactive method of measuring the age of certain igneous—or volcanic—rock. By this means, some rock samples taken from a quarry in St. Lawrence county were found to be 1,094,000,000 years of age. Since the radioactive mineral which gave that measurement was contained in rock that was once lava and had been pushed up through the basic rocks of the Adirondacks, we are justified in concluding that the Adirondack foundation-land is much older.

It is generally conceded today, of course, that our planet is over two billion years old. It might have disturbed Professor Lewis of Union College to little had he been able to foresee that one day geology students on the same campus would be handed a printed "Table of Geologic Chronology" which begins its reckoning at 1,710,000,000 years ago.

Next Sunday: The Ancient Sea.
Funeral Monday
For Mrs. Lewis
Widow of Union College Professor's Son to Be Buried in Honored Plot

Widow of the son of Taylor Lewis, famous professor of Oriental languages at Union College, Mrs. Katherine R. Lewis is to be buried Monday in the Union College plot of Vale Cemetery, Schenectady. She was 60 years old. There she will rest beside the remains of her celebrated father-in-law and other men who gained wide academic note by their association with Union College during its more than a century of history.

The funeral of Mrs. Lewis is to be Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock at her home, 38 Balloon Road, Schenectady, with the Rev. George Bam- bach, rector of St. George's Episcopal Church, officiating.

Mrs. Lewis was the descendant of a pioneer Dutch family. She was born in Jefferson County and lived for 32 years in Washington, D. C., while the wife of the late Major Charles P. Lewis. Death followed a three-year illness. One daughter, Mrs. John A. Seede of Schenectady, survives.

Union to Print Translation of Plato’s Work

“The translation was made by Taylor Lewis, who was graduated from Union in 1839 and taught there from 1849 to 1877. He was considered one of the foremost 19th century American scholars in the classics.

Wayne Somers of the library staff is editing the translation, which never before has been published in its entirety. According to Somers, Lewis probably translated the work in the 1840s and 50s. It was based on Greek texts by Stallbaum and Bekker, two German scholars. Somers doubted that the translation is of great scholarly significance because Stallbaum’s and Bekker’s texts are not considered completely accurate.

The “Theaetetus” is considered one of the best of Plato’s 35 dialogues. It deals with how to define knowledge.

Plato was a Greek philosopher, 427 to 347 BC, although exact dates are not known. He is perhaps best known as the author of the “Republic,” thought by many philosophers to be the first rational treatise on government and society.
No CAUSE for MOANING

Some Facts Concerning a Brilliant Scholar and His Times Which May or May Not Lead to the Conclusion Stated in This Headline.
—Tayler Lewis Served the University as Teacher of the Classics.

"His was the favorite room for incense offerings of assafoetida, red pepper and tobacco, but the students would get the worst of such experiments, for the Doctor seemed to be as little sensitive to olfactory nuisances as a mummy, and would take an almost Quillipish delight in keeping the room closed tight and holding the class to the atmosphere which they had created.

"As may be supposed, he was a wretched disciplinarian. He lacked the vigilance, the poise and the dignity for this part of his duties. He would be long oblivious of the most flagrant disorder and then suddenly explode over some small peccadillo with an indiscriminate and disproportional vehemence, which chiefly served to afford the offender a gratifying assurance that his attempt at annoying the great little man had been successful."

Alumni are greatly indebted to Dr. P. N. Zabriskie, '50, for this delightful bit of intimate description of one of the most brilliant scholars ever connected with New York University—Tayler Lewis.

T. L. was born at Northumberland in Saratoga County, N. Y., March 27, 1802. Preparatory to college he studied under Dr. Proudfit at Salem, N. Y. Of a very impressive and precocious nature, the boy seems to have been greatly influenced by the older man's religious beliefs—a deep and lasting influence which he was to make evident in later years.

Of college days at Union we are given only a few fleeting glimpses. "Although chiefly remarkable for his quiet, earnest and diligent attention to his duties," he did not devote himself exclusively to the pursuit of knowledge. He participated in athletics and is said to have been the best swimmer in his class. A weekly prayer meeting was organized which the young student attended regularly and in which he took an active part. Dr. Nott, then president of Union, seems to have "cast a spell" upon his pupil which never left him. In later years Lewis was to return to teach at his alma mater. In the last days of his life he asked to be buried near Dr. Nott in the College Cemetery. (Incidentally, Lewis was also the Doctor's biographer.)

He was but eighteen years old when he was graduated by Union (1820). Shortly after graduation he entered the office of Judge Samuel A. Foot in Albany as a student of law, continuing there for three years until admitted to the bar. At this period his bent was so purely intellectual that when not poring over law books he spent his hours of recreation in calculating eclipses, but the general belief was that our young friend was certain of a great professional career.

For a short time he did practice law at Fort Miller. Settling in that town he joined the Dutch Reformed Church and was elected a member of its consistory. His brother, who studied in his office, tells us that "when the cholera, small-pox or other contagious diseases prevailed, the young lawyer, unaccompanied by any ministers, would visit the sick and the dying to pray with them and administer spiritual advice and consolation." His professional services were given freely, without pecuniary compensation, in defense of the poor and oppressed.

But doubts as to his final choice of a life work seem to have bothered Lewis, for he very shortly abandoned law to devote himself to classical study.

"I still remember his glowing description of his deepening interest and progress in this study and in the renewal and farther prosecution of his college classes; how the dawn would creep up over the hills, and the rays of the rising sun flood the valley of the Hudson, rousing this eager student to the consciousness that all through the night and far into the morning he had been pursuing those classical and Scriptural studies which he was destined to follow through life over great obstacles and on to great eminence," said E. N. Potter in a commemorative discourse delivered at Lewis's Alma Mater.

Shortly after his marriage in 1833, "influenced by his tastes and circumstances," he became principal of the academy at Waterford, New York. He was a somewhat regular contributor to the columns of The Waterford Atlas, and therein discussed such widely divergent topics as Skepticism, the Stage, Earthly Illusions, the Heavens, Religion, Intemperance, the Sin of Pride and the Relations of Church and State. In 1835 he moved to Ogdensburg to assume the principalship of the academy there, continuing his literary efforts through the medium of The Ogdensburg Times. After two years he returned to his old post at Waterford, where he remained until 1837.

His public life dates from 1838, when, in accordance with the wish of President Nott, he delivered the Phi Beta Kappa oration at Union College on Faith the Life of Science. "His consequent reputation procured for him at once the offer of several collegiate professorships." He accepted that of Greek and Latin Literature at New York University in the same year.

"The change to the metropolis produced a marked effect upon the development of his character and scholarship. He could then measure himself with his peers." He became a constant contributor to the periodicals and newspapers of the period and delivered forcible addresses at various colleges and seminaries. A controversialist by nature he readily took the aggressive and spiritedly opposed friends and foes alike. He was an active defender of the church against skepticism, even while creating alarm by disclosing obvious orthodox fallacies in scriptural interpretations. Combat was his meat. Strong in his convictions, his wit and versatility were more than a match for most adversaries. While realizing that in controversy "he was far from dispassionate," these same qualities made intellectual combat a source of great pleasure.

While he was at New York University (1844, at forty-two years of age), he published the first of his works—Plato Against the Athletes, a contribution which was received with much acclaim by scholars here and abroad.

In 1849 he accepted the professorship of Greek at his Alma Mater, and later occupied the chair of Oriental
Languages and Biblical Literature—a connection which he maintained for the last twenty-seven years of his life. (He died on May 11, 1877.)

"Here too, as from early manhood, he continued his laborious study of the Hebrew and Greek languages, literature and philosophy." He could converse easily in Greek and write original verse in both Greek and Hebrew. He knew Syriac, Samaritan, Koptic, Chaldaic and Arabic, and was familiar with the Rabbinical writings. Besides being a master of his own language, he had some knowledge of Gothic, German and several other modern languages. "He could lay down his Korn in the Arabic, or his Rabbinical folio, or his Plato, and turn with equal zest and aptitude to write an editorial for Harper's Magazine or a popular article for a daily paper."

Perhaps of most interest to college graduates is his paper on Classical Study in which he maintained that the colleges should either concentrate more on the teaching of the classics or abandon them altogether. "One would think from the outcry, that we were in the utmost danger of becoming a nation of bookworms and pedants," he wrote, "or that our colleges, instead of fitting our youth for future Congressman or editors, or railroad managers, were only teaching them to make Latin verses, or to translate Greek choral odes. But how is the fact?"—see paper on Classical Study written by Dr. Tayler Lewis when professor of Ancient and Oriental Languages at Union College.

In 1855 he published Six Days of Creation, a volume dedicated to his successor in the Greek chair at Washington Square—Howard Crosby—a work maintaining that the Biblical day was not limited to twenty-four hours. This set the world of theological and scientific scholars all alog.

Although too old himself to participate in the war between the North and South, he gave his services unstintingly and was unerring in his patriotic appeals and arguments. "He furnished a series of articles on the subject of State Sovereignty which excited great interest among the influential of all parties. He filled columns with disquisitions upon slavery and with similar discussions and appeals. Unable to wield the sword, he yielded untringly a pen as sharp and powerful."

Before the war Dr. Lewis, while not defending the institution of slavery, maintained, on Biblical grounds, that it was not forbidden. Naturally conservative he did not at first jump to the cause of the abolitionists. The war, however, changed his convictions and he became an ardent advocate of freedom for the slaves. President Lincoln's willingness to accept the restoration of the Union without the destruction of slavery aroused his utmost indignation.

Having suffered for many years from extreme deafness, the end of the struggle found his hearing utterly destroyed. The shock resulting from the death of a son, killed in action, and a son-in-law seriously wounded did much toward undermining his health. His literary efforts continued until the very last, however, much of his best work being turned out after he had reached that fateful mile post of three score years and ten. He never lost that keen interest in, shall we say, the foundations of society? Intemperance, evolution, religion and morality, then as now, were something to squabble about—so times haven't changed as much as the older generation is prone to moan.

All of which may or may not be irrelevant. H. B.

New Courses in Aeronautics

Because of the increasing importance of air transport and aviation, the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aeronautics of the College of Engineering, New York University, is rapidly adding courses related to this subject. Two new courses will be added to the curriculum in the new term.

Myron W. Watkins, professor of economics, will offer Economics of Air Transportation which will cover the fundamental basis of air transportation. Captain C. H. Biddlecombe, one of the most competent authorities on air transport in the country, will give a course on Air Transport. This will include a study of lightning, radio, weather service, communications (other than air), operations and maintenance of flying equipment, accountancy and financial analysis, personnel problems, Department of Commerce regulations, engineering aspects of terminals and emergency fields and the tracing of an airway.

Professor Alexander Klemin, director of the Guggenheim School, has announced that the seniors and graduate students will again take part in the Wright Aeronautical Corporation Plane Design Competition. Four hundred dollars in prizes have been offered by the Wright Aeronautical Corporation to the N. Y. U. air students.

Klemin Writes Book on Flying


For the numberless youngsters whose dreams run to trips via the air, Mr. Klemin presents a tale of Peter Jones, typical American boy and an aviator uncle who teaches him to fly. The process of instruction is told in a manner so easily understood that a boy of twelve can appreciate it and yet in a way which will undoubtedly hold the interest of some men. The boy is shown how from the explanation of the science of flight to a chapter wherein he flies alone.

Before bringing his book to a close Professor Klemin introduces Lindbergh and other air celebrities to the story. There is a discussion of the future of aviation, with heartening ideas for the ventilation and heating of passenger planes, and an artist's conception of roof landings for big cities.

Young Winning Honors

Edward Young, '27Ed, who taught in the Music Department of New York University during the 1928 Summer Session at Chautauqua, is gaining notice in the musical world. He is organist and choir master at the Presbyterian Church, Potsdam, New York, and has been studying the organ for some time with Tertius Noble of St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York City. An organ recital given by Young at the Potsdam State Normal School recently met with approbation.

Rose Korn Admitted to Bar

Rose R. Korn, '27L, is going to be a Portia now. She was recently admitted to the bar and is practicing at 38 Park Row, Manhattan. Miss Korn was president of Tau Epsilon Delta Sorority when at N. Y. U.
There was at Union College in Schenectady, a very learned scholar and teacher, Professor Tayler Lewis, deeply versed in the lore and the writ of the Orient, a student of Hebrew, Chaldee and Arabic, and though not a clergyman, a very comprehensive and erudite ecclesiastic. He was a man of much distinction in scholarly circles and his interests naturally predisposed him to a diversion popular at that time—the attempted interpretation of the geological record in the light of Mosaic chronology. So he wrote a book entitled "Six Days of Creation," or Scriptural Cosmology;" and it was honestly intended rather to magnify interpretations of geological science rather than to minimize science in the light of scriptural record. The book elicited a most extraordinary attack from Professor James D. Dana which was printed in the Bibliotheca Sacra. This onset against Professor Lewis seems to writer the most polished and poignant arguments in which Professor Dana ever engaged himself. It was of high literary excellence and handled with such surgical delicacy and exactitude to the amazement of Lewis and his large audience of listening clergy, he found himself pictured as the author of an argument which verged on infidelity, even if it did not bring him close to the dismal abyss of atheism. Horror-struck and astounded, Professor Lewis attempted a reply in the pages of the Bibliotheca Sacra but he found them well nigh closed to him, while Dana returned to the attack in order to make a finished and thorough operation. Professor Lewis finding all outlet for a rejoinder and a justification shut, was forced to resort to private publication and it is while he was in the throes and anguish of this justification, "The Bible and Science, or the World Problem," he writes profuse letters on his own behalf to Professor "all. The appeal to Hall, strong and intimate as it is, was all the more extraordinary because Lewis, known for his orthodoxy, is calling upon Hall, known to be a member of the Roman Catholic Church for his justification. In a letter of eight foolscap pages Professor Lewis divides geologists into two classes, into one of which he puts Dana; and the second class, for whom he hopes, "to be able to manifest in a satisfactory manner his sincere and hearty esteem, namely "the scientific men who mingle reverence with their science, men of some modesty, whose consciousness of very little knowledge (greatest even when least in its own esteem) leads them to an adoration of the revealed, or at least an awe of the unknown," to this class, he very directly intimates Hall belongs. A few months later, as the publication of his book is delayed, he writes nervously as he feels that the attack upon him "has had influence with many timid clergymen, "to know what of geologist Hall considers Dana to be. "Suggestions from you I would receive with perfect confidence both in their weight and their correctness, I could give them in my book in any way you choose, either in your own name or with a distinct statement that they are derived from a high scientific authority." It does not, however, appear that Professor Hall allowed himself to be drawn in to this theologico-geological controversy, and thought it presented the extraordinary phenomenon odium poured out upon theology, it soon evaporated the noise of the battle soon died away and its echoes are today only the strange rumblings of a vanishing thunder cloud.

James Hall of Albany
1811-1898 Geologist and Palaeontologist
John M. Clarke Albany, 1921

pp. 263-266.
Taylor Lewis, Born March 27, 1802 at Northumberland, Saratoga Co., N. Y., son of Samuel and Sarah (Van Valkenberg) Lewis.

Died at Schenectady, N. Y. May 11, 1877.

Was graduated from Union College in 1820

Was admitted to the Bar in Saratoga Co. in 1825

Prof. of Greek at New York University 1838; at Union College, 1849 until his death.

Also was a professor of Oriental languages.

He was a strong anti-slavery man. The main interest of his life was the study of religion, and his main purpose was to show that revelation and scientific knowledge were not merely consistent but interdependent. His early Phi Beta Kappa oration was on "Faith and the Life of Science (1838), his best known work was "The Six Days of Creation" (1855) which he followed by "The Bible and Science, or The World Problem" (1856). He was a representative American student and contributed to Lange's Commentary (1838) and was on the American Board of the Committee for the Revision of the Old Testament. He received the degree of LL.D. from Union College and of L. H. D. from the University of the State of New York.

His published works included twelve books, some half a dozen printed addresses, and more than a hundred articles, varying from short pieces in the Editor's Table of Harpers Magazine, to learned articles in the Biblical Repository and the Bibliotheca Sacra.

After being admitted to the Bar he was dissatisfied with the law and began to teach as principal of the academy at Waterford (1833-35), at Ogdensburg (1835-37), and in 1838 at Waterford again.

He married (1828) Jane Keziah Payne, by whom he had six—children.
Tayler Lewis,
Born
March 27, 1802,
Died,
May 11, 1877.

Professor of Greek in the New York University from 1838 to
1849, and of the Greek and Oriental Languages in Union College
from 1848 to the time of his death.

C. May 1890

Taylor Lewis, '20, began his life by studying law, and that
epoch marked the divergence between his soul and his profession.
Afterwards teaching for five years, he began to discuss freely
the subjects of the times.
He first was called to the N. Y. University and later back to
Union. As scholar, patriot, theologian, Taylor Lewis was a rare
spirit in a fragile form."

Daily Centennial C. June 26, 1895

Perhaps there are alumni who have never noticed the
Hebrew inscription which forms the lower border of the slate
roof on our library. The Rev. Dr. William Elliot Griffis
(Honorary D. D., 1884) tells us that this inscription is taken
from the Talmud and translated reads: "The work is great,
the day is short, the master presses the workmen." This
motto, Dr. Griffis tells us, was chosen by Professor Tayler
Lewis.

T. LEWIS——Professor of the Greek and Latin Languages at the University fo
the City of New York, 1839

From: A clipping from the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser in Prof. Pearson's
Scrap Book.
TAYLOR LEWIS, LL.D., born Northumberland, N. Y., March 27, 1802; died Schenectady, N. Y., May 7, 1877; grad. U. C., 1820; studied law in Albany, practised in Fort Miller but gave most of his time to classical literature; prof. of Greek at New York University, 1838; at U. C., 1849 until his death; author of "Nature and Ground of Punishment" (1844), "Plato contra Atheae" (1845), "Six Days of Creation" (1855) "The Bible and Science" (1856), "The Divine Human in Scripture" (1860), "State Rights, a Photograph from Ancient Greece" (1864), "The People of Africa" (jointly); edited Job and Genesis (ange Commentary), translated Plato's Theataetus, contributor to reviews and magazines; admirable in lecture room, eloquent in public address, conspicuous among American scholars and thinkers in his day, scholar, author, publicist; greatly respected by all students of the college. (Sketch in National Cyclopedia of American Biography, vol. 10; 131-2, also memorial discourse at Commencement, 1877, by ex-Pres. E. Nott Potter containing a full list of his writings.) The motto selected by Dr. Lewis to be placed on the library building is typical of his character, "Vita brevis, opus multum, merces magna. Magister domus uguet."
Mr. Sir,

I feel quite certain the right hand picture is of Prof. Lewis. My class was probably the last which "sat under him." He was deaf as a post and the boys always addressed him as "Zeu"; his make-up recalling the Phidian bust of Jove. He held no regular classes, but a notice would be posted on the bulletin board, occasionally saying that he would be at home and would be glad to meet such students as might care to come at the hour indicated.

Many of us were very glad to go to his house (his daughter, Mrs. Reiner, widow of the distinguished professor who was killed in the Civil War, presided over...
Mr. William C. Roberson,
19-21 East 55th St.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Roberson:

I appreciate the trouble you took to write me about the pictures. What you say about Taylor Lewis' classes in the old days was news to me and very interesting. I shall use it in the Monthly.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary.

June 12, 1928.

CNW-B

His room, where we were received in the dining room.

He would talk on many subjects and we were impressed by the vast range of his knowledge. It was said that he was competent to fill any chair in College.

The picture on the left, I am not quite positive about, I suspect it is of Geo. Clinton, with whom Mr. McPherrost was very intimate.

Dr. Morse was very instructive. During the time when the Erie Canal was being promoted there were two worthies worked together for the success of the project. Yours very truly,

W. C. Roberson
Class of '77.
Hiram J. Mother of Fort Taylor Lewis
was Sally Taylor Van Valkenburg,
a nephew of Gov. Taylor.

From a 1922 letter of Jefferson
DeVoe, Jr. of Fort, Miller, NY.
Founder's Day Exercises Honor
Tayler Lewis, Class of 1820

On February 24, in Memorial Chapel, faculty and students commemorated the 161st anniversary of the granting of a charter to Union College by the Board of Regents of the State of New York in 1795. This year the program of Founder’s Day was dedicated to the memory of the great 19th century scholar and teacher, Tayler Lewis, a graduate of Union in the Class of 1820.

Three distinguished speakers illuminated various aspects of the life and work of Lewis, a notable contributor to the tradition of conservatism in America. Professor Harold W. Blodgett, chairman of the department of English at Union and himself a descendent of Tayler Lewis’ niece, spoke on “Tayler Lewis and Union College”; Professor Joseph L. Blau, of the department of Philosophy, Columbia University, on “Tayler Lewis: True Conservative”; and Professor Clinton Rossiter, of the department of political science, Cornell University, on “The Future of American Conservatism.”

Tayler Lewis was born in the village of Northumberland, Saratoga County, in 1802 and attended school at Fort Miller. After graduating from Union in 1820, he studied law and was admitted to the bar, but then turned to teaching school at the Waterford and Ogdenburg academies. In 1838 he was appointed professor of Greek at New York University, where he taught until his return to Union in 1850, mastering, in addition to Latin and Greek, Hebrew, Syriac, Coptic, Arabic, and Chaldaic, thus becoming also professor of oriental languages and biblical literature.

His chief interest was always in the reconciliation of science and religion, but he also participated actively in political discussion of the anti-slavery issue basing his conservative opinions, according to Professor Blau, upon his belief “that there is a permanent, fixed, and unchanging reality that lies behind the ever changing flow of sensory experience.” He regarded the state as a divinely ordained religious institution and believed that the recognition of God’s ultimate rule is what makes a government free. To Blau, “Lewis’ true conservatism was dedicated to the view that time and gradual improvement, through the advance of science, philosophy and religion, provide the means of progress.”

In direct contrast to Lewis’ view that America lacked a true tradition, Professor Rossiter emphasized that “The most striking feature of American thought and discussion today is the appeal to tradition.” The liberal character of that tradition and the “smashing triumph” of democracy in the Jacksonian era, he indicated “... was a disaster for genuine conservatism, which even today speaks in words and tones that make no sense to the average American.

“Nowhere in the world has the progressive, optimistic, egalitarian mode of thinking invaded so completely the mind of an entire people. Nowhere have the men on the Right, the natural guardians of conservatism, been forced so abruptly into so untenable a position ...

“The long-standing merger of ‘American’ and ‘democracy’ has meant that to profess outspoken conservatism in this country is to be something less than ‘one hundred per cent American’; indeed, it is to question the nation’s destiny. Worse than that, this merger has doomed unyielding conservatives to political failure. The Right, in short, has had to renounce conservatism and accept the ground rules of democracy or be thrown out of the game for disloyalty and perversity ...

”. . . The American mind,” Professor Rossiter said, “has been optimistic, adventurous, egalitarian, individualistic . . . and the conservative half of it has had to be these things too. The tradition has been liberal, and the conservative, a traditionalist, has honored it . . . The man on the Right, the only man who could have been conservative, has had no choice but to repudiate . . . some of the most sacred articles of the great conservative tradition.” Conservatism has, however, sobered the liberal tradition, especially in times of crisis, with healthy doses of realism, prudence, and skepticism.”

Until his death in 1877, Lewis remained one of the most famous and best-loved teachers on the Union faculty. A fine portrait of Lewis was unveiled by Professor Blodgett at the Founder’s Day ceremonies.
Two years ago the NooL was a name familiar to all students of ... psychology, which had appeared to read his Greek Testament accurately. At first, it seemed as if he had really thought, in itself consistent with some of the contemporary psychology, which he adopted. ... In Living Time he sets out this system of psychology as much that has been taught in the higher universities ... to be acceptable at present. He claims to do no more than "assemble a collection of facts" and put forward "observations that refer to the ... an assumption that what is perceptible is also true for the universe as a whole. He examines the mystery of consciousness for evidence of ... states of consciousness for evidence of ... the vast tract, within Man and between Man and the unknown. In dealing with the outer world, he speaks of three dimensions; that it is only one of our present modes of thought to see a single stream passing freely, voluntarily from future into past, and the future into the present. He is, however, possible for Man of changing his habits of thought, and that he is conscious of himself.

This picture of Man as the half-witted being of an infinite universe is revolutionary only so far as it involves a new conception of Man as the author of Man. He is conscious of Man's blank in dealing with the outer world, he speaks of three dimensions; that it is only one of our present modes of thought to see a single stream passing freely, voluntarily from future into past, and the future into the present. He is, however, possible for Man of changing his habits of thought, and that he is conscious of himself.

D. Nicoll's picture of the world is of a six-dimensional continuum, as already stated by P. Osungura. These three dimensions, he says, are really three. There is the third dimension peculiar to every living entity, but even in death there is another dimension, which we call Eternity, existing as a sort of peak and base of the whole life of a being, containing all the conditions of being seen as a whole and as an eternity of a third, most mysterious dimension of Time in which there is something that offers Man one chance of true growth, through the process of the breaking of the vision, that is, to lose the repetitiveness and at the same time to increase his opportunities of breaking free from the conditions of his life, of one's lack of personal identity, in the second place of the infinite possibilities. D. Nicoll's thought is, as near as I can see, to that of Buddhism—"to go beyond the suffering," and the beginning of a changed feeling of the universe, including the swift current of one's illusions that compasses the life of Man. Who am I? Who am I?
My dear Mr. Swanker,

I sent a copy of Mr. Micahel's book to your library simply because I too was referring to Taylor's. References to Taylor East are all of the Lewis books are in the Reading Room of the British Museum. And was able to buy me at an Honorable Book Shop. The book was written before 1939 but not published before 1952.

Sincerely,

F. H. Ray
51 St. John Rd. Buffalo
I am enclosing my book review in *The Times (London)* Lit. Suppl.

Jan 1853
Schenectady, N.Y. May 13.--Dr. Tayler Lewis of Union College died on Friday night, at 11 o'clock, in his 76th year. The funeral will take place on Tuesday, May 15, at 3 o'clock P.M. Memorial services, with a sermon by President Potter, will be held on Sunday, June 24.

Dr. Tayler Lewis was eminent as a philosopher and philologist, and Professor of Greek in Union College. He was born in Northumberland, Saratoga Co., N. Y., in 1802. He was a graduate of Union College (1820), studied law, and began practice at Fort Miller. His natural tastes led him to engage in philological studies; he abandoned the law, and in 1833 established a classical school at Waterford, and afterward took charge of a similar seminary at Ogdensburg. He became Professor of Greek in the University of New York in 1838, leaving that chair in 1849, when he was chosen Professor of Greek in Union College, where he also lectured on ancient philosophy and poetry and taught the Oriental languages.

Dr. Lewis has published a translation of the "Theaetetus," with notes; an edition with the Greek text of the tenth book of Plato's dialogues; "The Laws," under the title, "Platonic Philosophy; or Plato Against the Atheists," with critical and explanatory notes; "The Six Days of Creation" (1855) maintaining the harmony of the Scriptures and geology; "The Bible and Science," (1856); "The Divine Human in the Scriptures," (1860); "State Rights, a Photograph from the Ruins of Ancient Greece" (1864), and "Heroic Periods in a Nation's History" (1866). With the Rev. Dr. G.B. Cheever he published "Defense of Capital Punishment" (1845); and with E.W. Blyden and Theodore Dwight, "The People of Africa, their Character, Condition, and Future Prospects" (1871). From 1851-8 he contributed many articles to Harper's Magazine, under the title of "The Editor's Table." He also translated Lange's "Commentary on Ecclesiastes," and, with Dr. German, that on Genesis. He was made an LL.D. by Union College in 1844. Within the past two years he contributed articles to the Tribune on evolution and "Religion and Morality."

As an instructor and college lecturer, Dr. Lewis attained a great reputation. He charmed his classes by the extent and variety of his attainments and the attractive illustrations which he had always at hand. The loss of a man of Dr. Lewis' erudition is not easily supplied. His studies were of a class for which few Americans have either taste or opportunity, and he brought to them a diligence and ability which are not common. Nor did he permit his studious habits to diminish his interest in questions affecting the welfare of society. These he discussed with a learning and ability only too rare, and which won the respect of those who were unable to accept his conclusions.

New York Daily Tribune
May 14, 1877
p. 5 col. 1.
The following biographical sketch was prepared by Dr. Edward E. Hale for the new edition of the Dictionary of American Biography.

TAYLER LEWIS (March 27, 1802 - May 11, 1877), student and professor of ancient and oriental languages, was born in the village of Northumberland, Saratoga County, New York. His father, Samuel Lewis, had been an officer in the Revolutionary War; his mother, Sarah Van Valkenberg, was of Dutch descent; he was named after his mother's uncle, John Tayler, former lieutenant governor of the state. He went to school in Northumberland and at Fort Miller, where he was deeply impressed, for he used to come back to the school and later to the school site year after year. He was prepared for college by Dr. Proudfit at Salem, N. Y., and entered Union College in 1816 in the class of 1820.

He studied law with Judge S. A. Foote of Albany, and was admitted to the Saratoga bar in 1825, and began to practice at Fort Miller. Here he joined the Dutch Reformed Church, was chosen to the consistory, and began to study Hebrew. Dissatisfied with the law, he began to teach, as principal of the academy at Waterford (1833-35), at Ogdensburg (1835-37), and in 1838 at Waterford again. A Phi Beta Kappa oration on "Faith and the Life of Science" at Union College aroused a good deal of attention and in 1838 he became Professor of Greek at New York University. In New York he wrote and studied much; his "Plato against the Atheists" may still be read with interest by Grecians. In 1849 he became Professor of Greek at Union College, and later Professor of Oriental Languages. He became a great student and an inspiring teacher. His languages included (beside Latin and Greek) Syriac, Vioptic, Arabic, Chaldaic, which he appears to have learned by himself for no reference to any teachers can be found. He also read widely, mathematics, music, astronomy, history, and also was deeply interested in current events at an exciting time in our national history. He was a strong anti-slavery man. The main interest of his life was the study of religion, and his main purpose was to show that revelation and scientific knowledge were not merely consistent but interdependent. His early Phi Beta Kappa oration was an "Faith and the Life of Science" (1833), his best known work was "The Six Days of Creation" (1855) which he followed by
"The Bible and Science, or The World Problem" (1856). He was a representative
American student and contributed to Lange's Commentary (1868) and was on the
American Board of the Committee for the Revision of the Old Testament. He
received the degrees of LL. D. from Union College and of L. H. D. from the
University of the State of New York. He married (1838) Jane Keziah Payn, by
whom he had three children. He was of slight and fragile figure which contrasted
strikingly with the vigor of his controversial energy and the power of his
scholarship. His pictures present a severe countenance, but those who remember
him think of a very fine and gentle expression and beautiful silver hair. His
students had great affection for him, though in later years they took advantage
of his deafness to say dreadful things in his classroom or when they met him on
the campus.

(There is no full biography of Taylor Lewis. The main facts of his life
are stated in the National Cyclopedia of American Biography, X, 131. A Commem-
orative Discourse was pronounced by Eliphalet Nott Potter, President of Union
College, and published in a pamphlet. His published works, a list of which is
appended to the pamphlet mentioned, include twelve books, some half a dozen printed
addresses, and more than a hundred articles, varying from short pieces in the
Editor's Table of Harpers' Magazine, to learned articles in the Biblical Repository
and the Bibliotheca Sacra.)
Lewis Tylor

"Job - Rhythmicall Version"

"Nature and Ground of Punishment"

"Plato Contia Athos"

"Fourth Book of Dialogue on Laws"

"3½ Days of Creation"

"Science and the Bible"

Also many articles to Reviews & Periodicals
Journal Entry Oct 9, 1854

Editor's Table in NM

Now going on 4 yrs for which
he receives about $400 per yr.

$4,000  Taylor Lewis
"Six Days of Creation."—Through a mistake in the "making up" of a recent number of this paper—communication having been inserted inadvertently a editorial—we were made responsible for opinion which we do not hold, respecting Prof. Taylor Lewis' "Six Days of Creation." We feel ourselves incompetent to judge of the philological accuracy of every position assumed in the evolution of the theory advanced by the author of the above named treatise. But of its agreement in the main with demonstrat facts in geological science, and with the best philological exegesis of the Mosaic cosmogony, we have no doubt. Prof. Dana's review, in the last number of the Bibliotheca Sacra, did not really touch the philological structure which Prof. Lewis has so elaborately reared out of the solid materials of the inspired World. This we believe can be conclusively shown—and as we are credibly informed that Prof. Lewis is about to vindicate his own work, in a forthcoming reply to Prof. Dana, we prefer to trust his own pen in this controversy rather than our own.

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book  p. 431

Lewis Dr. Taylor  10/27/1863
See:  S. end 3/College., occupants, under U.C.
Pearson Diaries

Lewis, Taylor  4/27/1875
portrait, painted by Sexton  Pearson Diaries V.9,p.37
NEWS AND COMMENT

Taylor Lewis

We have Louis Oppenheim, '75, to thank for the opportunity of publishing in this issue the interesting reminiscences which Homer Greene, '76, has written of Professor Taylor Lewis. Our older readers are, of course, familiar with this distinguished Union graduate and teacher. Dr. Lewis shares with Dr. Steinmetz a position of eminence among all the men who have served on our faculty, and for younger readers we present this brief biographical sketch of our great oriental scholar.

Taylor Lewis was graduated from Union in the class of 1820. He read law in Albany and practiced at Fort Miller, N. Y. He did not care for law, however, and continued his classical studies alone, mastering Hebrew in this manner. He became principal of the academy at Waterford, N. Y. in 1833. From 1835 to 1837 he was principal of the academy at Ogdensburg; 1837-38 he taught again at Waterford. This same year he delivered a Phi Beta Kappa oration at Union College and as a result was offered a professorship in Latin and Greek literature at the University of the City of New York, where he stayed until 1849 when he came to Union College to take the chair of Greek literature which was expanded later to include the field of Oriental literature, in which he was an authority, having mastered Syriac, Samaritan, Koptic, Chaldaic and Arabic. He also studied enthusiastically higher mathematics, astronomy and music.

Dr. Lewis wrote many books and contributed frequently to the periodicals of his day. His best known book was "The Six Days of Creation;" among his others were: "The Bible and Science; or, The World Problem," "The Divine Human in the Scriptures," "The Heroic Per-
iods in a Nation’s History: An Appeal to the Soldiers of the American Armies,” “Memoirs of President Nott: Contributions to and Revision.”

We published in the Monthly, March 1925, a letter Professor Charles Burton Gulick wrote Dr. Richmond, which will serve as a critical comment on the scholarship of this famous Union man. Dr. Gulick wrote:

February 15, 1925

“Dear President Richmond:

“I have lately been studying Tayler Lewis’s ‘Plato against the Atheists,’ and remembering that he was a graduate of Union College, I feel moved to tell you of the profound impression its scholarship has made on me. Paul More (in ‘The Religion of Plato,’ p. 75) speaks of it as ‘an admirable but now, I fear, little known example of the older American Scholarship.’ For myself, I doubt whether there is any one in America today who could write a book which comprehended such a range of learning. Greek, Hebrew, and Latin authors are cited in the original, and interpreted with linguistic accuracy as well as philosophic depth and literary appreciation. Moreover, he shows an acquaintance with English literature, to say nothing of the German and French writers of his time, which is altogether too rare in specialists nowadays.

Very sincerely yours,

Charles Burton Gulick.”

Dr. Lewis lost his hearing in 1863 and the boys took advantage of this handicap outrageously, but he was nevertheless greatly respected and even beloved by the whole student body. General Amasa J. Parker, ’63, has told us of a body-guard the boys organized to protect Dr. Lewis during the draft riots which spread from New York to other towns in the state and were the occasion of attacks upon abolitionists, among whom Tayler Lewis was a leading figure. General Parker and others took turns mounting guard at the Blue Gate to see that no harm should befall the frail old man who with his pen had fought so valiantly in defense of the slave. Dr. Lewis died on the campus May 11, 1877.

*St. Simeon Stylites*

This Christian worthy perched securely on the top of his column lived again on the Mountebanks’ stage, March 21st and 22nd. His appearance was in the one act play of that name by F. Sladen-Smith, directed by Edward L. Carroll, ’27, with scenery designed by John C. Crary, ’30, and built by Shepard W. Leigh, ’30. We mention these particulars as the stage set, as well as the production as a whole, was unusually good. The part of the recluse was taken by Efrem Niesler, ’32, whose voice and make-up coupled with finished acting gave this nearly motionless role a dramatic quality that made the play close to thrilling. It must be remembered that the action takes place on a five foot
SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF TAYLER LEWIS

BY HOMER GREENE, '76

May 1930

LA M.

One of the picturesque figures on the Union College campus in the early seventies, was that of Professor Tayler Lewis. He was small, slight and thin-faced. His black coat was of clerical cut, and his abundant gray hair, escaping from under his soft, black hat fell to his shoulders. As he walked, his arms were locked around his cane which lay horizontally across his back. Sometimes his daughter, Mrs. Peissner, accompanied him, usually he walked alone. He was entirely deaf, extremely sensitive, and hesitated to burden others with his company. In the spring of 1872 I entered the engineering class of '74. It was late in the spring that I first came into personal contact with Prof. Lewis. He knocked at the door of my room one afternoon, entered and introduced himself. I tried to make him welcome, but, as everything I wished to say to him had to be written out, it was rather an awkward situation.

It seems that he had occupied the room in his college days, he was in the class of 1820. It was a third floor front room in the middle section of North College. He wanted to see how the room looked and who was living in it. He told me that William H. Seward, Lincoln's Secretary of State, had also been an occupant of the room, and the carved initials on the window sill bore out his statement. He did not stay for a long visit, but, before the summer vacation was on he came again. After that, during my entire college course he was not infrequently a welcome and honored guest in my room. I might explain that upon completing my engineering studies, I stayed on to complete an academic course and was graduated with the class of '76.

I think it was in 1872 that The College Spectator was founded, with "Billy" Rudd of '73 as its editor-in-chief. I know that it was in that year that Rudd met me on the campus one day and asked me to contribute to the columns of his journal. I was much set up by this recognition of my supposed literary ability and was very glad to become a rather frequent contributor to, and later on, an editor of the Spectator. I mention this incident because it was the means of cementing the friendship that existed between Dr. Lewis and me. He manifested much interest in the things I wrote and often discussed with me my literary productions, usually before their appearance in print. I greatly appreciated his kindly criticism and helpful suggestions. His literary taste and ability were of a high order. This practice continued when I became a contributor to, and finally an editor of The Union College Magazine, the heavy artillery of college journalism. At one time I voluntarily entered one of Dr. Lewis's classes, in what subject I do not now remember. He taught nothing in my regular sched-
ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

was held at the Cosmos Club, on April 17th. Irving F. Hand, '12, retiring president, called the gathering to order; and the election returned as President, Edgar Brown, '95; Vice-President, Edward S. Cassedy, '19; Secretary and Treasurer, Frederick H. Powell, '03.

C. N. Waldron, '06, represented the college, spoke informally and answered questions, after which the two-reel film of campus views and activities was shown.

SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF TAYLER LEWIS

ule of studies. But I did not stay long in the class as I was displeased by the frivolity of some of the members, who appeared to find pleasure in taking advantage of Prof. Lewis's deafness to create classroom fun. This seemed to me to be a sort of sacrilege in which I did not choose to be a "particeps criminis," and I withdrew from the class.

Tayler Lewis's Friday evening classes in comparative Scripture readings I thoroughly enjoyed. The attendance here was entirely voluntary, and no one came who was not deeply interested in the subject and eager to gather information from so indisputable a source. I do not think the numbers in attendance ever exceeded six or eight. I have often wondered at that. There were at least a score of men in college who expected to enter the Christian ministry as a profession. I expected to become a civil engineer or an architect. It was not until after my graduation that I decided to study law. But the opportunity that was eagerly grasped by me, in those salad days was completely ignored by most of those who should have been first to appreciate its unexampled benefits.

Dr. Lewis had no class-room on the campus in those days. He met all of his classes in the library of his residence which was at the foot of the hill on the south side of Union Street. The custom in the Friday evening class of which I now write was that each member of it should bring with him a version of the scriptures different from that brought by any other member. One man would bring his Old Testament in Hebrew, another would bring his New Testament in Greek, another the Douay version and so on. I took with me either a German bible or a French Testament. In those days, thanks to the assiduous efforts of Billy Wells, I could read both French and German indifferently well. And, of course, there was always the King James bible and so much of the revised version as was then ready. Prof. Lewis, himself a member of the committee of revision, had already translated for the revised version parts of the Old Testament.

I do not remember the entire personnel of this class. I know that "Joe" Davis, of blessed memory, was always there, and Robertson also of '76. We used to call the former "Old Joe Davis". He was so mature and wise, and withal so keenly alive to clean fun. Both he and Robertson entered the ministry. Both of them died young, and we "whose lives are dry as summer dust burn to the socket."

I remember that on one occasion Prof. Lewis warned us, with a twinkle in his eye, against engaging in any controversy with our Baptist brethren over the subject of Immersion. He said that the Baptists, basing their belief on the original text, had the best of the argument.

With all of his profound learning Tayler Lewis was almost childlike in his simplicity of manner and of
speech. He was gentle, kindly and considerate. On only one subject did I ever see him exhibit signs of irascibility. That was on the subject of the reentry of the Southern States into the Union following the end of the Civil War. He could not forgive the South for what he considered its atrocious rebellion and its unwarranted plunging of the nation into a terrible war.

It is difficult to criticise him for this attitude, for it was in the first decade following the close of the Civil War, and the results of that war had been deeply tragic in his own family. His highly esteemed son-in-law, Col. Peissner, had been killed in that war.

I went out of college with the class of ’76. Before my departure I had what I then thought was my final visit with Dr. Lewis. He had failed noticeably in physical strength during the preceding year. His high forehead had grown more prominent, his hair whiter and thinner, his cheeks more sunken, and his frail figure still more frail.

I did see him once again. In the winter following my graduation I entered the Albany Law School to take up my law studies. It was in the spring of 1877 that I learned that Tayler Lewis was seriously ill. So I went up to Schenectady one April evening hoping that I might be permitted to see him. I was met at the door by his daughter, Mrs. Peissner, who told me of the seriousness of his condition, but when he learned that I was in the house he wanted to see me. So I was taken to his room. He lay in bed, pathetically white and wan, suffering the excruciating pains of sciatica. I could not talk to him, and if I had been able to do so, there would have been really nothing for me to say. In my littleness I could not have presumed to try to comfort a great soul like his. He talked to me, feebly and brokenly indeed, but with all of his old-time earnestness. He was glad to see me I know. He asked about my law studies and my literary activity. He told me of some unfinished work that he had been obliged to lay aside. But he dwelt chiefly, and with much bitterness, on his own physical suffering. I was not prepared for this because I had never before heard a word of complaint pass his lips. “I do not know,” he said, “why God should have inflicted on me this unendurable pain. It is unjust. I have done nothing in all my life deserving of punishment like this.” It was the old lament of the sorely afflicted Job. It was the same cry that came from the lips of the agonized Christ as he hung on the cross of Calvary.

A few weeks later Tayler Lewis died.

Who shall answer the question of the ages? Not I! But of this one thing I am well assured, that whatever the mortal sufferings were of this dear old man, his gentle soul went painlessly and peacefully, unstained and unafraid, into that blessed immortality ordained of God for such as he.
UNION COLLEGE LIBRARY HAS THE FOLLOWING WORKS OF LEWIS; also the ones checked on a list which is the back of the commemorative volume.

Publications of Taylor Lewis:

An essay on the ground and reason of punishment, with special reference to the penalty of death.

In memoriam. Eli Peissner. May 2, 1863

Religion and the state.

Genesis, or, The first book of Moses; tr. by Taylor Lewis.

The temperance Bible-Commentary...by Dr. Frederic Lees and Rev. Dawson Burns; with a new preface by Taylor Lewis.

Nott, Eliphalet: Lectures on temperance; with an introduction by Taylor Lewis.

Nott, Eliphalet: Resurrection of Christ, a series of discourses; with an introduction and notes by Taylor Lewis.
CLASS OF 1820

TAYLER LEWIS

In April, 1825, Tayler Lewis of Fort Miller was admitted. (Court of Common Pleas) From the minutes it appears he soon gained a good practice, which, however, he relinquished and became Prof. Lewis of Union College. The law lost an able and eloquent advocate in giving to the field of belles lettres the first American Hebrew scholar of the age.

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Allusion was made in chapter 12, to the fact that Prof. Tayler Lewis of Union College, was in his early manhood an active member of our county bar. He was a son of Captain Samuel Lewis, a revolutionary veteran, who settled in the town of Northumberland. He was named in honor of Gov. John Tayler, and is very strenuous that the right orthography of his Christian name should be used. The following beautiful trait of him was told the author by one of the venerable professor's warmest friends. He makes it a matter of duty to visit Fort Miller once a year, and to carry with him a copy of the old spelling book from which he learned to read. Said he to this friend: "I go over to the site of the old school house and sit down where the front seat used to be placed. I then open my spelling book and get up and commence to read: 'No-man-may-put-off-the-law-of-God.' " It is this reverence for the early associations of youth that has preserved the cheerful temper of the veteran scholar while suffering from the almost total loss of hearing, but which deprivation has not impaired his usefulness as an instructor or author. While seasons roll with continued sunrise and sunset, Christians will bless the name of the author of the "Six Days of Creation," as that of the scholar who interposed an impassable barrier to the inroads of infidel materialistics on the authenticity and consistency of the Mosaic cosmogony. He is a brother of the late Gen. Samuel Lewis of Northumberland, who was better known to the citizens of this county than the distinguished professor, by reason of his long and useful citizenship in our midst.

FROM The Bench and Bar of Saratoga County
Enos R. Mann
Waterbury & Inman
Ballston 1876.
Old Prof's Sedate Essence Creeps Out of Old Trunk

By TIP ROSEBERRY

Prof. Taylor Lewis was a Union College scholar who specialized in Oriental languages and theology, who passed to his reward in 1877, and who is now as forgotten as a last-century bookworm can get. In his latter days, he was stone-deaf and his students used to say bad things out loud in class as a lame kind of joke at his expense.

Some of the sedate essence of Taylor Lewis crept out of an ancient trunk when it was opened the other day. Relics of the brother of a Revolutionary father, and his Civil War son were all stowed away in that trunk, kept in a Washington St. apartment in Schenectady.

The trunk was opened by strangers because its last custodian, Mrs. Keziah Lewis Seede, a granddaughter of Taylor, has died. In settlement of the estate, her belongings came into possession of H. H. Siegel, the Albany antique dealer and auctioneer.

BRINGS VISITS

Fingering through the keepsakes, Siegel picked up the phone and rang the college. The contents of the trunk have since brought visits to Siegel's place, 1025 Central Ave., by William Efinger, Schenectady city historian, and a representative of the State Library, who will share them.

Taylor Lewis was born in Northumberland, Saratoga County, in 1802. His father, Samuel, had been an officer in the Revolution. The trunk contained a leather wallet carried by Samuel all during the Revolution; also the roll-and-mast of the Light Company of New York in April, 1783.

For many years, the Union professor made annual pilgrimages back to the school he attended in Fort Miller. He graduated from Union in 1820 and came over to Albany to read law in the office of Judge Samuel A. Foot. The trunk contained a solemn letter written from Albany in 1821 to his father, also the certificate to practice law granted him in 1824.

Taylor soon turned to teaching, first at Waterford, finally at Union. He mastered Latin, Greek, Syriac, Koptic, Arabic, Chaldaic, and Samaritan. Endowed with a strong religious streak, he wrote a string of books nobody reads now, most noted of which was "The Big Days of Creation; or The Scriptural Cosmology."

In that book, Lewis sought to reconcile Genesis with the science he saw on the rise. He argued that the Biblical "days" might have meant epochs; and a celebrated controversy sprang up between him and Prof. James Dana of Yale who accused him of "sneers at science."

Also in the trunk were two really old newspapers: The Newport Mercury for Dec. 19, 1783, published by James Franklin, brother of Ben; and the Hartford Courant for Oct. 29, 1764, seven years before Albany had a paper.

Mrs. Seede Succumbs

Mrs. Jane Keziah Lewis Seede died yesterday in her home, 49 Washington Ave., after a brief illness. She was the widow of John A. Seede.

Mrs. Seede was a resident of Schenectady most of her life and had been a member of the board of the Old Ladies' Home many years. She also was an active member of the auxiliary of St. George's Episcopal Church at the time of her death.

Mrs. Seede was interested in Union College, where her grandfather, Taylor Lewis, was a professor of Greek and Oriental languages and Biblical literature from 1850 to 1877. He was one of the translators of the American revision of the Bible in 1870.

There are no survivors. Baxter's Funeral Parlors will handle arrangements for services.
Tayler Lewis, educator and author, was born at Northumberland, Saratoga co., N. Y., March 27, 1802, son of Samuel and Sarah (Van Valkenberg) Lewis. His father, as a captain in the revolutionary army, took part in many a siege and battle and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis. His mother was a niece of John Tayler, lieutenant-governor of New York, and was descended from Johannes Van Valkenberg, a native of Holland, and one of the early settlers in Albany. He was prepared for college at Salem, N. Y., was graduated at Union in 1820, read law in Albany and began practice at Fort Miller, near his birthplace. Taking up the study of Hebrew about this time and continuing his acquaintance with the classics, he grew dissatisfied with his profession, and in 1833 left it to become principal of the academy at Waterford, N. Y. In 1835-37 he was principal of the academy at Ogdensburg; in 1837-38 again taught at Waterford; in 1838 delivered the Phi Beta Kappa oration at Union College, his subject being "Faith the Life of Science." This was published, and as a result he was offered professorships in several institutions, including that of Greek and Latin literature in the University of the City of New York. Though he contributed frequently to newspapers and reviews, it was not until 1844 that he published a volume: "Plato Against the Atheists." This was the tenth book of Plato's dialogue, "The Laws," with critical and explanatory notes and illustrative dissertations. It was regarded by scholars in Europe as well as in this country as a masterly contribution to controversial literature, and partly in recognition of this service to religion he received from Union College the degree of LL.D. In 1849 Dr. Lewis accepted the chair of Greek in Union College and later the chair of Oriental languages and biblical literature. "As in his former position, so here he exerted an unusual influence, especially upon the finer minds among his pupils. In the classroom he aimed rather to interest and stimulate than to drill. To those to whom his department of instruction was congenial, contact, with him was like a revelation. The classics, the Scriptures, philology, history, current events seemed filled with new meaning." Here he remained until his death, and here, too he continued those studies which placed him in the front rank of scholars in his own country. To Hebrew, Greek, Latin and several modern European languages he added Syriac, Samaritan, Koptic, Chaldaic and Arabic. He was familiar with the Rabbinical writings and the Koran; he wrote original verse in Hebrew and Greek with readiness. The higher mathematics, astronomy and music were studied by him with enthusiasm. In 1855 he published "The Six Days of Creation," his best known work, maintaining that the Biblical days were not limited to twenty-four hours, and in 1856 a defence of his position, entitled "The Bible and Science; or, The World Problem." These were followed, in 1860, by "The Divine Human in the Scriptures, in the preface to which he promised a work for posthumous publication on the "Figurative Language of the Bible." In 1851-56 he contributed many articles on social and religious questions to the
Tayler Lewis.

2.

"Editor's Table" of "Harper's Magazine." A series of articles on state sover
eignty, contributed to a newspaper and reprinted in pamphlet form in 1864 as
"State Right: A Photograph from the Ruins of Ancient Greece," had great in flu
ence in moulding the opinions of the cultured classes; so great that he was
declared to have done as effective work for the preservation of the Union as
any one in the field. In 1866 he published "The Heroic Periods in a Nation's
History: An Appeal to the Soldiers of the American Armies." In his later
years extreme deafness impaired his usefulness as a teacher, and in 1863 he
utterly lost his hearing; but this calamity in no way checked his influence
as a writer ro as a speaker. In 1871 he read a paper entitled "Classical
Study: There Should Be More of It in Our Colleges or It Should Be Abandoned"
before the University Convocation of the State of New York; and so late as
1872 he conducted vigorous discussions on the question of the Bible in the
public schools. His last public appearance was at commencement in 1876, when
he delivered an address, congratulating Prof. Isaac W. Jackson upon reaching
the semi-centennial anniversary of his connection with the faculty of Union
College. His principal contributions to literature besides those already
mentioned were: "Nature and Ground of Punishment," with George B. Cheever
(1845); "Special Introduction to Genesis, with Commentary on Chapters 1 to 11
and 37 to 50, Inclusive," in "Lange's "Commentary" (1868); "Rhythmical Ver
sion of Ecclesiastes, with Introduction, Dissertations and Annotations," in
Lange's "Commentary" (1870); "Rhythmical Version of Job, with Introduction
and Annotations," in same (1874); "The Light by Which We See Light," Vedder
lectures (1875); "Memoirs of President Nott: Contributions to and Revision"
(1876). The degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him by the University Convo
cation of the State of New York; another honor, probably the most highly ap
preciated, was that of an appointment on the Bible Revision Committee. Prof.
Lewis from boyhood was a member of the Dutch Reformed Church. He was married
at Fort Miller, N. Y., March 18, 1833, to Jane Keziah, daughter of Daniel
Payn, who bore him three sons and three daughters. Prof. Lewis died at
Schenectady, N. Y., May 11, 1877.
