To John A. S. Inge of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1814
(or, if deceased, to the friend or relative who knew him best:)

Sir,—

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

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

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

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

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

JONATHAN PEARSON, Librarian.

UNION COLLEGE, SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

SPECIMENS OF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES FOR THE PROPOSED CATALOGUE.

John Gidden Brown was born in Quimpeck, N. Y., May 2, 1800; parents, James and Elizabeth (Gidden) Brown, who moved to Epson, N. Y., in 1806. He was prepared for College at Helderberg High School, under the instruction of Rev. Moses Johnson, and entered Union College Jan. 1817. He studied law with Hon. Septimus H. Smith, of Great Falls; was admitted to the bar in 1821; and commenced the practice of law in Albany, with James S. Van Hoeven, Esq. In 1830 he moved to New-York City, which, thereafter, became his residence. He was Member of N. Y. Assembly 1822–5; State Senator 1836–8; Member of Congress 1839–41; and Judge of the Superior Court 1842–6. He died June 30, 1849, of cholera, aged 49 years. Besides occasional speeches, orations and opinions, he wrote a work on constitutional law, and edited the N. Y. State Papers. He received the Degree of L. L. D. from Hamilton College in 1846.

Joseph Henshaw Luther was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1, 1798; parents, Joseph and Madeline (Henshaw) Luther; prepared for College at Yorkville Academy, John Almy, Esq., Principal; and entered Union College Sept. 1814. He taught, 1818–20, in East Philadelphia, (Penn.) High School; graduated at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1823; and was ordained Sept. 25, 1823, at Marbletown, N. Y.; and was Pastor of the Presbyterian Church till 1826. He was Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church of Hasbrouck, Conn., 1825–30; Professor of Rhetoric in Erie College 1831–40; retired on account of ill health, and now resides in Philadelphia, Pa. He has published six sermons on various occasions; a series of lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, and the "Communicator's Companion." He received the Degree of D. D. from the Hudson University in 1842.

Thomas Pennington Radway was born Feb. 23, 1778, in Benton, N. Y.; parents, John Harmony and Mary (Pennington) Radway; was prepared for College at High Holms School, Rev. Hanover Kelton, Principal; entered Union College Sept. 1796; taught a few months in Sumcoak, Mass., in 1796; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Physic and Dr. Abram Poteace, of Camborne; attended medical lectures at the College of Surgeons and Physicians, and was admitted to, and commenced the practice of medicine in La Rhine, in 1806. He was Surgeon in the Army 1813–15, and returned to practice at Oldbury in 1815, where he has since resided. He lectured in the Fairhaven Medical School on Anatomy and Physiology, 1830–5, and has published several articles in the New-York Medical Review, and two larger works on the "Functions of the Brain," and on "Gunshot Wounds."
Information Required for the Forgoing Sketches.

I. Name.
   John Algernon Sydney Cole.

II. Names of both Parents; when and where.
    [John and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson.]

III. Birth Place.
    Charleston, South Carolina.
    Birth Day and Year: 23rd Sep., 1796.

IV. Various residences and dates; thus:
    [Athens, Ohio, 1814-15; Albany, N.Y., 1814-17; New York, N.Y., 1814-16.]
    [Died, Charleston, South Carolina, 1826-1844.]

V. At what Academy or Academy prepared for College; with Principals and dates; thus:
    [Athens Academy, Athens, Ohio, 1817-18.]
    [Charleston Academy, Charleston, S.C., 1818-19.]

VI. At what College he graduated; and when.
    Union College, Schenectady, 1814.

VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus:
    [Schooner.]

VIII. When he commenced the study of law; with whom; when; thus:
    [Died, Athens, Ohio, 1817-18.]
    [Theodore Nelson, Attorney at Law, New Haven, Conn., 1818-19.]

IX. Where he has practiced his profession; with dates; and if not be a clergyman, mention the denomination to which he belongs; thus:

X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:
    [Rates.]

XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:
    [Representative from St. Paul, Minn., 1826-1828; Senator from St. Paul, Minn., 1826-1828.]
    [Senator from Charleston, 1834-1839.]

XII. The literary or scientific Works he has written or edited.
    [Copies are circulated for the "Graduation Album" in College Library.]

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College.
    [None.]

XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received; from whence, with dates; thus:
    [L. D. from Albany Academy, 1818; L. E. D., Union College, 1821.]

XV. Is there an engraved portrait of him?
    [None.]

XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death.
    [Died 23rd Sep., 1870, at the age of 74.]
    [Walter, son, age 6, and Ann, aged 9, survived.]
XVII. General information respecting character, services, success, interesting passages and events in his life, &c.

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

On the maternal side from the family of , of Wiltshire, England, he a direct line from Algernon Sydney. On the maternal side from the Devereaux, a Huguenot family.

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


John M. S. Ashe

Chalmerton, 21st Aug., 1875

Mrs. He was a dear friend and one

The honored Copy, J.M.S. Ashe.
Mrs. C. J. Van Loan, Jr.
Alumni Office
Union College
Schenectady, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Van Loan:

The list of South Carolina students at Union College, prior to 1860, has been given to us by Professor Chalmers Davidson, whose research project overlaps ours. We are engaged in compiling a Biographical Directory of the S. C. State Senate, 1776 to date, and have our material nearly ready for the printer.

We are, however, continuing to follow any leads that come up. On your list of students, there are three Senators -- John Algernon Sidney Ashe (1814), John Chesnutt (1819), and Thomas F. Lide (1830). We did not have the fact that Ashe and Chesnutt attended Union, so are very glad to learn this.

The information we have on John A. S. Ashe has been gathered from the many sources which have consulted, including official records of all sorts and family histories, both printed and manuscript. We have not located any member of the Ashe family who could provide data on the Senator, however.

I am enclosing a carbon of our sketch, with the hope that you might be able to add to it. Please keep this for your files. Do you have biographical data on your alumni? We should be glad to send you anything we have on John Chesnutt and Thomas F. Lide, of course.

Thank you so much for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Emily B. Reynolds
State Librarian
JOHN S. ASHE, A.M., 1814, a resident of Charleston, S.C., was a member of the Philomathean Society. (Died: 1865)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830.