To the President, Board of Trustees of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1816 (or, if deceased, to the friend or relative who knew him best.)

SIR,—

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

That such a work would be interesting and useful to the Alumni, will not be denied; but whether it be practicable, will depend chiefly upon the 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, 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 force.

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 set apart for "Graduates' Works."

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

JONATHAN PEARSON, Librarian.

Schenectady, N. Y.

SPECIMEN OF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES FOR THE PROPOSED CATALOGUE.

John Glidden Brown was born in Quinnepeck, N. Y., May 2, 1800; parents, James and Elizabeth (Glidden) Brown, who moved to Epson, N. Y., in 1800. He was prepared for College at Holderness High School, under the instruction of Rev. Moses Johnson, and entered Union College Jan. 1811. 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 Hoosen, Esq. In 1821 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 29, 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 LL.D. from Hamilton College in 1849.

Joseph Henshaw Luther was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1, 1738; parents, Joseph and Madeline (Henshaw) Luther; prepared for College at Yorkshire 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 Marlton, N. J.; and was Pastor of the Presbyterian Church till 1825. He was Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church of Harlinton, 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 "Commendation Companion." He received the Degree of D. D. from the Hudson University in 1842.

Thomas Pennington Radway was born Feb. 23, 1778, in Boston, N. Y.; parents, John Harmony and Mary (Pennington) Radway; was prepared for College at High School, Rev. Hanover Kelton, Principal; entered Union College Sept. 1795; taught a few months in Suncook, Mass.; in 1799; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Physic and Dr. Abram Poscer, of Cameron; attended medical lectures at the College of Surgeons and Physicians, and was admitted to, and commenced the practice of medicine in La Rhune, 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."

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

2. When the person is deceased let some near relative or friend fill out the blanks to the best of his knowledge; if he have but one fact, let that be sent.

3. Let no time be lost in returning this circular, as necessary for this purpose, and no more.

4. In cases where there is not a sufficient number of facts then to be sent, add mother of the same size, if possible, leaving an inter margin of at least one inch for handwriting.

5. In cases where the answers to this circular shall be returned, the editor will be obliged to publish such names without any biographical notices, or to rely upon information gathered from other sources, and, therefore, not always authentic.
I. Name.

Jacob D. Honda.

II. Names of both Parents; their —

Joseph and Matilda (Ewing) Honda.

III. Birth Place.

Waterford, Albany County, N.Y. Birth Day and Year: October 7th, 1846.

IV. Various residences and dates; thus —

[Pine Hill, N.Y., 1846-47; Albany, N.Y., 1854-55; New York City, 1855-56; Union College, 1856-57; Goshen, 1857-58; Binghamton, 1859-62; Troy, 1862-64; Schaghticoke, 1864-67; Troy, 1867-69; New York City, 1869-72; Troy, 1872-75; Waterford, 1875-77; Albany, N.Y., 1877-78.]

V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thus —

[Albany Academy, Benjamin Allen, 1854-55. Prepared for College with the Rev. Dr. Cadwallader and Rev. Dr. Buxton.]

VI. At what College he graduated, and when.

Union College, 1875.

VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus —

[Teaching, Washington, D.C., 1875-76, or Merchants' Clerk, New York City, 1876-77.]

VIII. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus —

[Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1880-81; Law in Albany, N.Y., with Hon. Barrow, 1881-82.]

Studied at the Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, N.J., 1878-79.

IX. Where he has practiced his profession, with dates; and in case he be a clergyman, mention the denomination to which he belongs; thus —

[Thurmont, N.C., 1887-88; Saratoga Springs, N.Y., 1888-90; New York City, 1890-93; New York, N.Y., 1893-94; Schaghticoke, 1894-95.]

X. The other occupations he has followed, when and where; thus —

[Merchant, 1889-93; or Farmer, Gloucester, N.Y., 1893-94; or Manufacturer, Schaghticoke, N.Y., 1894-95; or President, teacher, &c., &c., &c.]

XI. The important office he has held, with dates; thus —

[Brevet of Jefferson, Co., N.Y., 1870-71 and 1872-73; Member of Congress, 2nd district, N.Y., 1870-71; Member of Assembly, of N.Y., 1872, &c., &c.]

XII. The Literary or Scientific Works he has written or edited.

[Copies are solicited for the "Graduate Album" in College Library.]

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

XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received; from whence, with dates; thus —

[N.D., from Albany Medical College, 1870; or L.L.D., Amherst College, 1875, &c.]

XV. Is there an engraved portrait of him? Answer.

[One or two copies, together with his signature, are solicited for College Library.]

XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death.

[No. Died living, 1875.]

Jacob D. Honda.
XVII. General information respecting character, services, success, interesting passages and events in his life, &c.

Some interesting Remains under his Minisry at Union Ridge, Washington County, N. Y. Sted. Montgomery County. N. Y., and also at Livingston Columbia County, N. Y.

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

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:

CLASS OF 1815

JACOB D. FONDA

Took charge of the society in 1835 (The Reformed Church of Fonda). He held the position for seven years, during which two more churches were formed from the original parish. Several revivals occurred in his pastorate, in one of which thirty-one members were added to the church. No pastor was immediately called to succeed Mr. Fonda on his retirement in 1842, but services were held for about two years by Prof. Andrew Yates, D. D., of Union College.
CLASS OF 1815

JACOB D. FONDA

b. 1793, at Watervliet; U.C. 1815; N.B.S. 19; l. Cl. N.B.; Easton and Union Village, 20-30, Union Village, 30-5, Caughnawaga, 35-42, Linlithgo and Greenport, 42-7, Schaghticoke, 47-56; d. See "Manual" of 1879.

Manual of the Reformed Church in America p. 464
Corwin
1628-1902
REV. J. D. FONDA 1815

On the 9th of March, 1842, the Rev. J. D. Fonda was called to the pastorate of this church in connection with the church of Greenport. He served this congregation till the spring of 1847. During the summer of 1847, the present pastor was called and took charge of this congregation alone, on the first of July.

Brief statement of Facts relating to Linlithgow Church from its origin to 1854 printed in the "Hudson Daily Star" on Dec. 5, 1854. Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 69.
Died, March 3d, at the parsonage, Rev. Jacob D. Fonda, pastor of Reformed Dutch Church of Schaghticoke, N. Y., and brother-in-law of the late Rev. Dr. Scudder.

The deceased was born October 17, 1793, in the town of Water-vliet. He prepared for college under the instruction of Rev. Drs. Bassett and Banks. He graduated at Union College in 1815. He pursued his theological course at New Brunswick, and was licensed to preach in 1819. After his licensure he received a joint call from the churches of Union Village and Easton, N. Y. This call was accepted, and he was ordained and installed pastor of said churches, March 1st, 1820. He labored with both until March, 1830, when he relinquished his charge of Easton Church. Then the church of Union Village made a call upon him for his entire services, and he continued to labor with them until October, 1835, a period of little more than fifteen years. He then removed to Fonda. At Fonda he remained until 1842, when he accepted a call from a church at Livingston; at Livingston until 1847, when the pastoral relation was dissolved. In May, 1848, he entered upon his labors with the people among whom he died.

His death was sudden. It is true that for several years he had been in a feeble state of health, and his brethren in the ministry and the people of his charge thought he might not long labor in the vineyard of his master; yet they did not anticipate so sudden a departure. Like Bro. Hoff, who was licensed one year before him, he died with his armor on. The Sabbath preceding his death, he preached to his people with his usual fidelity from the words, "I have written to him the strange things of my law, but they were counted as a strange things," especially warning, at the close of his discourse, those who neglected God's written law, whether the aged, the middle-aged, or young. On Monday afternoon his companion noticed that his breathing became more oppressive, but as she had often seen him in the same condition, she apprehended no immediate danger; neither thought it necessary to call a physician. During the evening a portion of the scripture was read, after which he knelt and commended his family to the watchful care of Him who never slumbers nor sleeps. While preparing to retire a marked change was observed, and his wife left him in care of his daughter, to call a neighbor; but before she returned his spirit had fled, her husband was a lifeless corpse. How suddenly did he die! How appropriately were spent the last moments of his life! How loud the admonition, "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"

The ministry of Mr. F. was not fruitless. At Union Village, Fonda, and Livingston, there were several interesting revivals of religion. We quote the following: "In the course of Mr. F.'s labors this church (U.V.) enjoyed many precious seasons of the outpouring of God's Spirit. In the summer of 1824, about twenty-eight united with the church; in the spring and summer of 1831, about a hundred; in the spring and summer of 1832, about fifty; in April, 1833, about twenty; in July, 1834, about thirty-eight." There are those elsewhere who regard him as their spiritual father. As a preacher, he was earnest and loved to present the doctrines of the cross; he aimed to glorify God, to edify the church, and save souls.
As a pastor, he was kind and attentive; he had a word of encouragement or warning for all; he loved his flock, and they loved him.

The love of his people was exhibited by various acts of kindness. Their sorrow at his departure was also shown at his funeral. A sermon was preached from the text, "And to die is gain," (in the inability to attend of him whose voice we should have been happy to have heard,) by the writer of this notice, followed by an address from Rev. Dr. Van Santvoord; other brethren assisting in the devotional exercises.

Suddenly, we have said, he was called away from his field of labor, but though his family heard no dying counsel, nor know what were his feelings as he encountered the king of terrors, yet they have reason to hope, from the manner of life he led, that the rod and staff of the Great Shepherd supported him, yea, that he heard the plaudits of "Well done, thou good and faithful servant;" and has already entered upon the service of God in heaven.

Entertaining such a hope, our desire is that the God of grace may sustain the widow and fatherless children; that Jesus may be their sympathizing High Priest; that this affliction may work out for them a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; that the church of which he was a pastor may "remember the words which he spake while he was yet with them," and each who had been so pleasantly associated with him in ecclesiastical relations, the lessons God is teaching in this event, and work more diligently in his vineyard, looking with faith and prayer to Him for a blessing; and that it may be the object of our lives to live to Christ, that thus it may be gain for us to die.

Schuylerville, March 10, 1856, S. T. Searle

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 431