

(retitled *Elements of mechanics*) went through nine editions, the last in 1914. He also published several articles in scientific journals. Union awarded him an honorary PhD in 1891.

When James L. Patterson resigned as professor of mathematics in 1897, and at the same time HOWARD OPDYKE, assistant professor of mathematics and physics, left for two years of study in Switzerland, the financially-strapped College asked Wright to take responsibility for mathematics as well as physics. On Opdyke's return in 1899, he was appointed to the chair of physics, leaving Wright in charge of mathematics.

Poor health kept him out of work for several months in 1900/1 and continued to trouble him thereafter. When a sabbatical leave in 1904/5 failed to bring the hoped-for improvement, he submitted his resignation in May 1905, aged sixty-two.

Wright's first marriage (1873), to Frances E. Boughton, produced two sons, both of whom graduated from Union. The eldest, William Howard Wright '95, a chemist, founded the Schenectady Varnish Co. (later Schenectady Chemicals and now Schenectady International), and served as a trustee of the College, 1931–59. William's son, Henry Wright, sat on the board from 1965 to 1977. Another of Thomas Wright's grandsons, Thomas Boughton Wright, coached fencing at Union in the 1920s.

Frances B. Wright died in 1877. In 1879, Wright married Margaret Taylor Hood, by whom he had three daughters. In his later years on the faculty, Wright and his family lived in the College house at 628–630 Nott Street.

Writing Board. To monitor and certify courses that make up the "Writing Across the Curriculum" program which began in the fall of 1990, the Academic Affairs Council set up a Writing Board in January 1990. Its first chair was Professor Bradley Lewis.

Writing Center. As a consequence of increasing faculty concern over the quality of student writing, a Writing Center was established in the fall of 1984 on the second floor of Old Chapel. Under the direction of English professor Alan Nelson '46, a corps of trained student tutors counseled students with writing problems. The center moved to the second floor of Whitaker House in the fall of 1987 and Margaret Wadehra became director in 1989.

Yates, Andrew (Jan. 10, 1773–Oct. 13, 1844). Professor of Ancient Languages, 1797–1801; Professor of Moral Philosophy and Logic, 1814–25.

Born in Schenectady, Andrew (originally Andreas) Yates was the seventh child and third son of Col. Christopher P. Yates and Jannetje (Bratt) Yates. From his father, who died when Andrew was twelve, he eventually inherited considerable wealth. His oldest brother,

Joseph, became governor of New York and served as a trustee of the College, 1795–1834; his brother HENRY YATES served the College for many years as treasurer and trustee; their uncle, Abraham Yates Jr., was a trustee of the proposed CLINTON COLLEGE and first chairman of Union's Board of Trustees.

After graduating from Yale in 1794, Andrew Yates, from youth a member of the Dutch Reformed Church, studied theology under the Rev. John H. Livingston on Long Island, where he was licensed to preach in 1796. He then returned to Schenectady to become Union's first professor of Latin and Greek.

Accepting a call in 1801 as assistant to the pastor of the East Hartford Congregational Church, he succeeded the pastor on the latter's death in 1803, serving until 1814. Despite being an unexciting speaker and a strong temperance advocate at a time when most clergymen were not, he became one of the most popular preachers in Connecticut.

Trouble with his voice made preaching difficult in his later years at East Hartford, so he turned most of his attention to conducting a school for classical and theological students. Finally compelled by his health to give up the ministry, he accepted an 1814 offer to return to Union (then just moved to the present campus) as the College's first professor of moral philosophy and logic. Several of his theological pupils followed him to Schenectady. Yates occupied the faculty residence at the south end of North College.

Francis Wayland '13, who joined the faculty in 1816, later characterized Yates at this time as

a most faithful officer, a strict disciplinarian and a singularly simple hearted and pious man. During my connection with the college, its steadfastness of discipline depended more on him than on any other person. Always at his post, always prepared for the discharge of every duty, plain in his appearance and unostentatious in his manners, he was a most valuable example to the younger officers.

Yates was evidently drawn equally to education and to the ministry. In 1818, while still on the Union faculty, he aided in the formation of a Dutch Reformed Church in Ballston, which he served as pastor. He had also a strong interest in missionary work; in 1821, as an agent of the Northern Missionary Society, he made a summer trip to the Indians of the Michigan peninsula to choose a location for a missionary establishment. He took JOEL NOTT '17 along to make a geological survey.

Yates' view of college discipline differed quite markedly from President ELIPHALET NOTT'S; the resulting friction, at least in part, led to Yates's departure in 1825 to become principal of a school that his brother, John B. Yates '02, had founded in Chittenango, New York.

One of the earliest industrial arts schools in the country, the very ambitious Polytechny succeeded in attracting students, yet it required the Yates family's

subsidy. Several recent Union graduates taught at the school, including BENJAMIN JOSLIN '21, Jonathan Ely '21 and Stephen Alexander '24. The Polytechny apparently failed in 1832, but Andrew conducted an academy there for the next few years. He also founded a Dutch Reformed Church in Chittenango and served as its pastor.

In 1837, following his brother's death, he closed the school and returned to Schenectady in ill health. He spent his remaining years aiding feeble churches in the vicinity, especially in the Sacandaga Valley, where he died.

All accounts support his eulogist's view of Yates as a simple man:

There was no intricate complexity either in his principles or conduct. With a well-balanced mind, he possessed the transparent simplicity of a child, joined to a oneness of untiring purpose.

Yates married Mary Austin on October 8, 1797; their three children were Christopher Yates (who died at fourteen), JOHN AUSTIN YATES '21, and Andrew Janeway Yates '22. Mary died of consumption October 31, 1806, and on June 11, 1810, he married the twenty-five-year-old Miss Hannah Allin Hooker of Hartford, Connecticut, who survived him; of their ten children, only three lived beyond infancy.

Middlebury College, whose president, HENRY DAVIS, had been at Yale with Yates, awarded him a DD in 1814. Four of his sermons were published; a large number of his manuscript sermons and lectures are preserved in the Union College archives.

Yates, Henry (bapt. Oct. 7, 1770–March 20, 1854). Mayor of Schenectady, State Senator, trustee and Treasurer of Union College.

Born in Schenectady, the second of the four sons of Col. Christopher Yates and Jannetje Yates (who bore at least eleven surviving children), Henry had many family connections with Union College. His brother Joseph, governor of New York (1823–24) and a member of the Board of Regents (1812–33), was a trustee of the College from 1795 until his death in 1837, serving as chairman in his later years. Henry's brother ANDREW YATES and his nephew JOHN AUSTIN YATES were members of the faculty. He was also great-nephew of first board chairman Abraham Yates and the cousin of trustee John I. Yates.

Henry apparently did not attend college, instead studying law in Albany with Abraham Van Vechten. He practiced law on Front Street in Schenectady with his brother Joseph and was elected a Schenectady County judge. A member of the Democratic-Republican party, he was twice elected to the State Senate (1811–14, 1818–21), and served on the Governor's Council of Appointment; during the second senate term he was also Mayor of Schenectady, 1817–24. He

served as a captain in the New York State militia in the War of 1812.

Chosen as clerk of the board in 1800, Yates was elected TREASURER of the College in 1806, on the resignation of Stephen Bayard. He filled both offices (throughout the years of his legislative and military service) until 1833. Elected to the board in 1827, he served until his final illness.

Yates would have been merely another of the College's fourteen treasurers if Union had not become involved with LOTTERIES. American colleges had been supported by this controversial means of fund-raising since the eighteenth century, and President ELIPHALET NOTT persuaded the state legislature to approve the first lottery for Union College in 1805. By 1822, many problems had developed with the state-run lotteries, and the legislature was willing to allow the College to take charge of its own lottery. The trustees agreed to permit Nott to contract with a newly-formed private lottery-management firm known eventually as "The House of Yates and McIntyre" to run the lottery for Union, and gave Nott full authority to supervise the operation.

The firm's original principals were state senator Archibald McIntyre and John B. Yates. The latter, formerly senior manager of the state's lottery, was Henry Yates's younger brother.

The complex story of the lotteries is told at greater length in the article on that subject. Briefly, the firm and Nott entered into a secret agreement at the outset to deposit a portion of the lottery proceeds in a "President's Fund" kept secret from the public, and also, apparently, from Union's trustees. These payments were justified, Nott's supporters later argued, by Nott's labor and personal financial risk, but he always insisted he intended to use them for the College's benefit.

The lottery authorized in 1822 was to benefit Union and four other New York State institutions, but Nott persuaded the others to sell Union their interests, taking immediate cash in lieu of the possibility of a greater return when all the lotteries had been drawn several years later. To do this, Union had to borrow money from WILLIAM JAMES; both Nott and Henry Yates pledged their personal credit for that purpose.

Yates then in early 1823 had a bill introduced in the state legislature which in effect reversed the 1805 act by which the state Board of Regents had gained control over Union's Board of Trustees. Nott's plans for the lottery would have been difficult to carry out under close scrutiny by the Regents.

Those plans were nearly destroyed, however, when John Yates and Archibald McIntyre used a substantial amount of the income from the sale of lottery tickets to make investments which they erroneously believed would yield a profit before it became necessary to pay the lottery's winners. This imprudence, combined with poor ticket sales, brought the firm's finances to the

point where, shortly before the 1826 drawing, it would have been unable to pay all the winners. To avert both a financial and a public relations disaster, Nott and Henry Yates then borrowed another \$100,000 from William James to restore the firm's solvency, putting up all the College's buildings as collateral.

Shortly after this crisis had been weathered, Nott agreed to allow Henry Yates, still on Union's payroll as treasurer, to take up residence in New York City about July 1, 1826, in order to "see to things" in connection with Union's lotteries. Nott later insisted he did not know that Yates at that time secretly became a full partner in the House of Yates and McIntyre. JONAS HOLLAND took over Yates's Schenectady duties as treasurer.

In circumstances too complex to detail here, relations between Nott and the House of Yates and McIntyre had badly deteriorated by 1832, and although Henry Yates, admitting his partnership in the House, still tried to act as a peacemaker, he necessarily defended his firm. He stepped down as College treasurer in 1833, but continued to serve as a trustee. When the College and the House sued each other in Chancery in 1834, Nott's secret fund became an issue, and so, in response, did the implicit conflict of interest of Henry Yates's secret partnership in the House.

In December 1834, the trustees' Finance Committee demanded a statement from Yates of his relations with the House and of the profits he had made. Yates angrily denied the committee's right to inquire into his private affairs, but by 1835, with the lottery system in disgrace, he was widely known to have grown rich as one of its manipulators. The College's Chancery suit portrayed him as having betrayed the College, while supposedly acting as its confidential agent, by manipulating the lottery accounts to increase the profits of the House at the expense of the College. It also charged him with having left his accounting records as College treasurer in disarray.

The initial finding in Chancery favored the House, but Chancellor Walworth reversed it. John Yates's death on July 10, 1836, then set the stage for an out of court settlement on July 27, 1837.

Henry Yates remained on the board, and, if Nott's attorney John Spencer '06 was correct, he got his revenge about a decade later: according to Spencer, Yates "and his connexions" were behind the calls for an investigation into the College finances. The resulting legislative inquiry, begun in 1849, led eventually to the Nott Trust Deed (see NOTT TRUST FUND). It was apparently at least partially in retaliation for this action that Nott persuaded the trustees to abolish the position of Henry's nephew, Professor John Austin Yates, in 1849.

When Henry Yates died in 1854, a newspaper obituary called him "perhaps the wealthiest man in the State outside of the city of New York." His two million dollar estate, which included most of the Thousand Is-

lands and eighty thousand acres in Louisiana, was said to have been based largely on his share of the lottery profits.

Yates, John Austin (May 31, 1801–Aug. 26, 1849). Class of 1821. Professor of Oriental Literature.

The second son of Professor ANDREW YATES and Mary Austin Yates, John Austin Yates was born in Schenectady but moved almost immediately to Connecticut when his father accepted a call to the Congregationalist church in East Hartford. His father rejoined the Union faculty in 1814; John Austin entered the College in 1817.

Shortly after graduating, he enrolled at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, where he remained until appointed a tutor at Union in 1823; he was licensed the following year and preached often and eloquently in the Dutch Reformed Church, but he never had a church of his own.

In 1827, Union advanced him from tutor to Professor of Oriental Literature; i.e., Hebrew. He also sometimes taught French, German and logic. In the autumn of that year he went to Europe to study, remaining for nearly two years, mostly in Berlin. When he returned in 1829, he married Henrietta Maria Cobb, the adopted daughter of his uncle, John B. Yates '02. They had five children, one of whom died in infancy.

Very fond of horses, Yates was known to students as "Horsey Yates." Undergraduates generally admired him; freshman Jonathan Pearson recorded his impression in his diary for 1832:

Prof. Yates is undoubtedly the greatest gentleman in Coll. He is very urbane & easy towards the students and at the same time retains his official dignity & authority uninjured. His general knowledge is great having travelled some years in Europe and having been conversant with the great men which it now has and visited the most remarkable cities & renowned places on the continent.

Eight years later, as a colleague, Pearson saw him differently:

Prof. John A. Yates is a singular man, a budget of inconsistencies and errors. He is a nervous man, fidgety, and envious. His tongue has unbounded licence, cutting to the right and left and sparing nothing, however sacred by age, by high authority and common consent. He abounds and delights in paradoxes, and prides himself perhaps as much upon saying things heterodox in religion as others do in being orthodox. He has good talents but is inclined to be lazy, and is fickle and wavering in purpose. A politer and kinder man will seldom be found.

Returning to the subject in 1842, Pearson touched on an issue that would lead to a crisis:

It is sad, a sad perversion of precious talents, for a minister especially to be corrupt at heart and show that so much as to lose his influence among his friends, so that they think him a hypocrite—a pious man without morality or a fair honest life and conversation. . . . He is a lazy man—so are most of the set. Literary labor, like other work, is irksome

to the greater number, hence they make the little they do go as far as possible. This is a superficial scholar—a writer of considerable prettiness but not much force or depth.

In his last years Yates became alienated from President ELIPHALET NOTT, partly because Nott had failed to appoint him Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy when Francis Wayland resigned in 1826, but also because his influential family—especially his uncle, HENRY YATES—quarreled with Nott over the LOTTERIES.

The trustees abolished Yates's position at the end of 1848/49, ostensibly because there was too little demand for "Oriental Literature" (though they promptly hired TAYLER LEWIS, with a similar title, to teach Hebrew and Greek). Both the board and Nott insisted that the president, who was ill at the time, did not initiate the action, but he probably did not object. Yates, who held Nott responsible, is said to have responded with a complaint to state assemblyman Robert H. Pruyn which led to the very troublesome legislative investigation of Nott's handling of College funds.

During his final year on the faculty Yates had become involved in a serious personal scandal, which may have influenced the board's action. It became public after his death, as his friends and enemies traded blows in the newspapers, but the details remain obscure.

As nearly as the story can be reconstructed, sometime around the beginning of 1849, Yates, a widower since 1842, announced his intention to remarry. The match itself was seen as so unsuitable that he was said to believe that only the governor (an ex officio trustee) could prevent Union from dismissing him; his chief adversary, James P. Fisher '39, thought the woman would be better off dead than married to Yates. Yates' connection with the woman was, at least for a while, believed even by many of his friends to be a "guilty" one, and charges were made against him in the church where he preached as supply; they were apparently dropped when he requested dismissal from the church. Yates' physician was said to have described his patient as suffering from "an alienation of mind"—a diagnosis in which Nott seems to have concurred.

One suspects that the woman was quite young (Yates was forty-eight) and a member of his household; a servant or possibly a distant relative, but nothing is known about her, and despite rumors, it was never established that Yates had done anything improper; indeed, the funeral address by Dr. Campbell claimed, "There was one statement of his enemies upon which all other evil reports were made to rest as upon a firm foundation; and this statement it was which gave substance to shadows, opened the mouths of the malicious, and silenced friends. But in last February this statement was proved to be utterly false."

Yates accepted a call to the Reformed Church in Jersey City, but he died in a cholera epidemic before

leaving Schenectady. On his deathbed he was reconciled with Nott.

Yudis Prize. Following the death in the fall of 1956 of Eugene I. Yudis, who had graduated from Union the previous year, his friends established the Yudis Prize for creative writing. It was awarded for the first time in 1958.

Zabuesnic, Augustus Philipp (1887–Feb. 1963). Professor of Modern Languages, 1927–44.

Apparently born in Landshut, Bavaria, A.P. Zabuesnic was the son of a Freiherr (Baron) von Zabuesnic, a music correspondent, and his wife, the former Fraulein von Hagel. His grandfather, General Anton von Zabuesnic, commanded a Bavarian army corps during the Franco-Prussian War. After preparatory school in Vienna, Zabuesnic probably attended the Sorbonne and the University of Munich, before emigrating to Canada about 1913 to escape service in the German army.

Even these basic biographical facts are not entirely certain because, throughout his career, Zabuesnic disseminated contradictory information about his origins and education. There is little agreement among the four *curricula vitae* he prepared—two at Union College and two at Lafayette College—as to the details of his education or his teaching experience. He always reduced his age by two or three years, claiming to have been born in 1889 or 1890, and he carefully concealed, even from his closest friends, his German birth (at Union, he claimed to have been born in Prague; at Lafayette, in Vienna). The fact that he gave conflicting information to the same institution suggests a cavalier attitude toward dates and a disinclination or inability to check documents. Concealment of his German origins, however, is probably explained as a reaction to the anti-German feelings generated by the First World War.

After serving as an instructor in French and German at the University of Alberta from 1913 to 1914 or 1915, he came to the United States, probably to avoid internment as an enemy alien. He taught French and Spanish at several preparatory schools until 1927, except for the period 1919–21, when he lived on Capri with a friend and worked for a time in Naples as a Thomas Cook's tourist guide. He became a naturalized American citizen in 1921.

He came to Union as instructor in French and Spanish in 1927, after his friend JAMES GREEN informed him of a vacancy. John C. Davis '37, his student and later a friend, described Zabuesnic in his book *The ordered web*:

He was tall, distinguished, almost skeletally thin, with receding blond hair which he combed and brushed frequently....

[H]e always behaved as someone young, with both the energy and rapid intellectual inconsistencies of youth, and