

ATHENS, *Saturday, June 2, 1804.*

ON Wednesday last a Board of the Trustees of the University of the State met in this place, and, at noon, attended, with a large number of citizens, to hear a sermon addressed, by appointment, by the Rev. Robert M. Cunningham, to the candidates for degrees.

In this discourse the most important moral and religious duties were ably pointed out, and the observance and fulfilment of them strongly and firmly recommended and enforced. The Board have ordered this Discourse to be printed and published.

In the evening the board attended the exercises of the junior Students in Public Speaking, and expressed their approbation of their performances.

On Thursday, the day of our first Commencement, a Procession was formed under the direction of the Sheriff of the county, and proceeded from the College to a Stage under a spacious Arbour, in the following order, viz.—The Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Classes, followed by the candidates, the executive authority of the University, the members of the Board of Trustees, consisting of his Excellency Governor Milledge, Gen. Clarke, Rev. Mr. Cunningham, Col. O'Neal, Gen. Stewart, Gen. Mitchell, Rev. Mr. Marshall, Rev. Mr. Hull and Col. Carnes. Several members of the Board of Visitors, and other respectable citizens.

After Sacred Music, with Prayer, by the Rev. Mr. Marshall, the academic exercises

of day were performed in the following order:

1. A Latin Salutatory Oration, by *William H. Jackson*.
2. An English Oration in praise of Freedom, and descriptive of the superior advantages possessed by the United States, over the governments of Europe, by *Jepthab V. Harris*.
3. An Oration in praise of Virtue, and on the necessity of recommending it by example, by *Thomas Irwin*.
4. An English Poetic Oration, descriptive of the ferocity of the original possessors of this country---contrasting its present with its former situation; and predicting its future glory and prosperity, by *Augustin S. Clayton*.
5. A humorous Dialogue by *W. Williamson, W. H. Jackson and J. V. Harris*.
6. An Oration exciting to gratitude for the aid of France during the revolutionary war, and on the advantages to be expected from the cession of Louisiana, by *James W. D. Jackson*.
7. An Oration on the dignity of Man, and recommending the encouragement of agriculture, and of arts and sciences, by *Robert Rutherford*.
8. An Oration in praise of Representative Government, and on the necessity of a general diffusion of knowledge for its establishment and continuance, by *William Williamson*.
9. A humorous Dialogue, by *J. Irwin, J. W. D. Jackson, R. Rutherford and A. S. Clayton*.
10. An English Oration, by *Ebenezer H. Cummings, A. B. of Hamden Sidney College, in Virginia*.
11. The Valedictory English Oration, describing the baneful effects of superstition and religious intolerance, and the prospect of a more happy and improved state of society, from the encouragement of good education and liberal principles, concluding with affectionate and respectful addresses to his class, to the junior classes, to the executive authority of the state and to the Board of Trustees.

The President, with the public consent of the board, conferred, in the usual form, the degree of Bachelor of Arts on the following young Gentlemen, all alumni of this University, viz.

- Gibson Clark, of Elbert county.
- Augustin S. Clayton, of Richmond.
- Jepthab V. Harris, of Greene.
- Thomas Irwin, } of Washington.
- Jared Irwin, }
- William H. Jackson, } of Chatham.
- James W. D. Jackson, }
- Robert Rutherford, of Washington.
- William Williamson, of Wilkes.

Mr. Ebenezer H. Cummings, A. B. of Hamden Sydney, John Forsyth, A. M. of Princeton, and Elijah Clarke, A. B. Henry Meigs, A. M. and William Prince, A. M. of Yale College, were respectively admitted *ad eundem*.

The public exercises of the day were finished with sacred music, and a prayer by the Rev. Mr. Hall.

The Board of Trustees have directed that an order for an elegant Philosophical Apparatus shall be immediately forwarded to London. They have appointed Addison Lewis, A. B. of Yale College, Tutor in the University, with a salary of 800 dollars---they have unanimously resolved that the salary of the President shall be 2000 dollars---they have ordered a spacious building to be erected, for the purpose of a Grammar and English School, and have resolved that the salary of its Master shall be 500 dollars.

A respectable number of the Board of Visitors attended the public exercises. A numerous audience paid the most decent and pointed attention; and scarcely a symptom of riot or disorder appeared during the whole period of the public transactions.

When the difficulties and embarrassments which this institution has encountered are candidly considered, and its present progress compared with that of similar institutions in our country in their early days, we are confident that the minds of all good men, will rejoice in the rational hope, that the patriotic and virtuous intentions of its first patrons and founders, of whom many are now mingled with the dead, will not be lost.