

[p 79] Athens Thursday 31st. May 1804.

The Board met at the College pursuant to adjournment

Present Mr. President Meigs Messrs. Clark, Mitchell, Cunningham, Marshall, Milledge; Hull, O'Neal, Carnes, Stewart, ...

[p 83] ... The President presented a Diploma which he had issued, directed to Addin Lewis and others, authorizing them to examine the Candidates for degrees at the approaching commencement, with their report thereon, whereupon Resolved, That the President shall this day confer the degree of Bachelor of Arts on the young Gentlemen whose names are underwritten viz. Gibson Clarke, Augustine Smith Clayton, Thomas Irwin, Jeptha Vining Harris, Jared Irwin, William Henry Jackson, James Wayne Delton Jackson, Robert Rutherford and William Williamson, alumni of this University, and that Ebenezer Harlow Cumming Bachelor of Arts of the College of Hambden Sydney be admitted at eundem; and that Elijah Clarke, William Prince, John Forsyth, and Henry Meigs be respectfully admitted to the degree of Master of Arts.

The Board then accompanied [Sic] the students in procession to attend the commencement, when the following exercises were performed viz.

Sacred Music

A Prayer by the Revd. Mr. Marshall.

A Salutary Oration by William H. Jackson.

An Oration in favor of liberty, and the superior advantages possessed by the United States over the Governments of Europe by Jeptha Vining Harris

An Oration in praise of virtue and the necessity of enforcing it by example – Thomas Irwin

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A Poem descriptive of the means by which the Lands on the Oconee were obtained – The former possessors described and contrasted with the present, and a prediction of its future greatness by Augustine S. Clayton.

A dialogue between Messrs. Williamson, Mr. Jackson & Harris.

An Oration exciting to gratitude to France for her assistance during the revolutionary war, and the Cession of Louisiana by Jas. W. D. Jackson.

An Oration on the dignity of Man, exhorting to agriculture and a knowledge of the Arts and Sciences by Robert Rutherford.

An Oration in praise of a representative government and the Sciences by William Williamson.

A Dialogue between Messrs. Jared Irwin, James W. D. Jackson Rutherford [Sic] and Clayton.

A disquisition on Taste by Ebenezer Harlow Cumming of Hamden Sydney College.

A Valedictory Oration by Gibson Clarke.

The President in conformity to the preceding resolution conferred the respective degrees on the Gentlemen therein mentioned.

A concluding Prayer by the Revd. Mr. Hull

The Board returned to the college

The Board with pleasure and satisfaction beheld the great and rapid improvement in science of the students at the University, and felicitate themselves on the prospect of the institution becoming conspicuously and eminently useful to the community.

The Board adjourned until six o'Clock tomorrow morning.