

FOUNDERS' DAY.

LULA HOWARD.

The celebration of Founders' Day, January 28th, was a pleasing deviation from our regular routine of work.

Students, members of the faculty, friends and patrons of the school all gathered in the chapel at ten o'clock and joined in paying tribute to the heroic men and women who did so much to establish our school. President Vann sketched briefly the history of the school, showing how the movement was first inaugurated at the session of the Baptist State Convention held at Union Camp Ground in Rowan County in 1835, and how the project never materialized until 1888, when the Convention at Greensboro appointed a committee of nine to consider the expediency and feasibility of establishing a Baptist Female University in this State. From this time the plans assumed more definite shape and became more tangible until the Legislature of 1891 granted a charter to the Board of Trustees. In the fall of 1899 the school opened with a debt of \$43,000, one building and two hundred and twenty students. At the end of nine years we have six buildings, a library of 2,000 volumes, an equipment of \$15,000, a plant valued at \$200,000, and an endowment of \$37,000. The growth of the institution has been rapid, almost phenomenal.

The speech of the day was delivered by Dr. Henry Louis Smith, President of Davidson College, who held his audience from first to last, as he spoke fluently and feelingly on the "Higher Education as a Field for Christian Philanthropy." Christian benevolence demands the ministry of power rather than the ministry of pity. The complexity and extent of modern college training, the

introduction of elective systems, of the laboratory methods, and of work in libraries and museums has more than quadrupled the cost of a college education. The fees received have remained the same, and they can no longer meet the expenses. The rates of interest on endowment funds is steadily decreasing while the funds going into the State institutions is steadily increasing. It is imperative that the great denominations equal these increasing revenues of the State schools or be left far behind in resources, in popularity and in efficiency.

In the afternoon from four to six the faculty were at Home to all friends of the institution. In the receiving line in the north parlors, which were beautifully decorated with ferns and palms and statuary, stood Dr. Vann, Misses Rosa Paschall, S. E. Young, Ida Poteat and Messrs. Wade R. Brown, J. G. Boomhour, and Gustav Hagedorn. The guests were met at the door by Misses Grace Rogers, Undine Futrell, Hattie Sue Hale, and Lula Howard, and conducted to the receiving line. From the north parlors the guests were conducted by Dr. Delia Dixon-Carroll, Miss Mary S. Smith and Elizabeth Colton to the south parlor, where tea and chocolate were being served by Misses Mary K. Applewhite, Caroline Berry Phelps, Elizabeth Burtt and Elizabeth McCall, assisted by the presidents of the four college classes.

Many guests came and shared the gracious hospitality of the faculty.

But Founders' Day could not pass without something in which the main body of students could participate. The Students' Association gave a reception from eight to ten in the parlors and halls of Main Building, to which many of our girls had invited friends. Guests were met in the hall by the members of the Social Committee of the Students' Association and conducted to the par-

lors. Punch was served in the south hall by Misses Louie Poteat, Sadie Lou Britt, Ruth Ivey, Fay Memory, Helen Hilliard, and Marvel Carter.

Time flies on golden wings when you are happy. Then we must have enjoyed the reception, for the ten o'clock bell rang much too early according to our estimate of time.

On the whole, Founders' Day was a red letter day in the history of the institution, since it served to remind us both of the noble work done by men and women who worked that we might enjoy the fruits of their toil and of the increasing value and demand for a college education. It also brought us into closer contact with the social life of the city and threw the wheels out of the old ruts of routine for one day at least.