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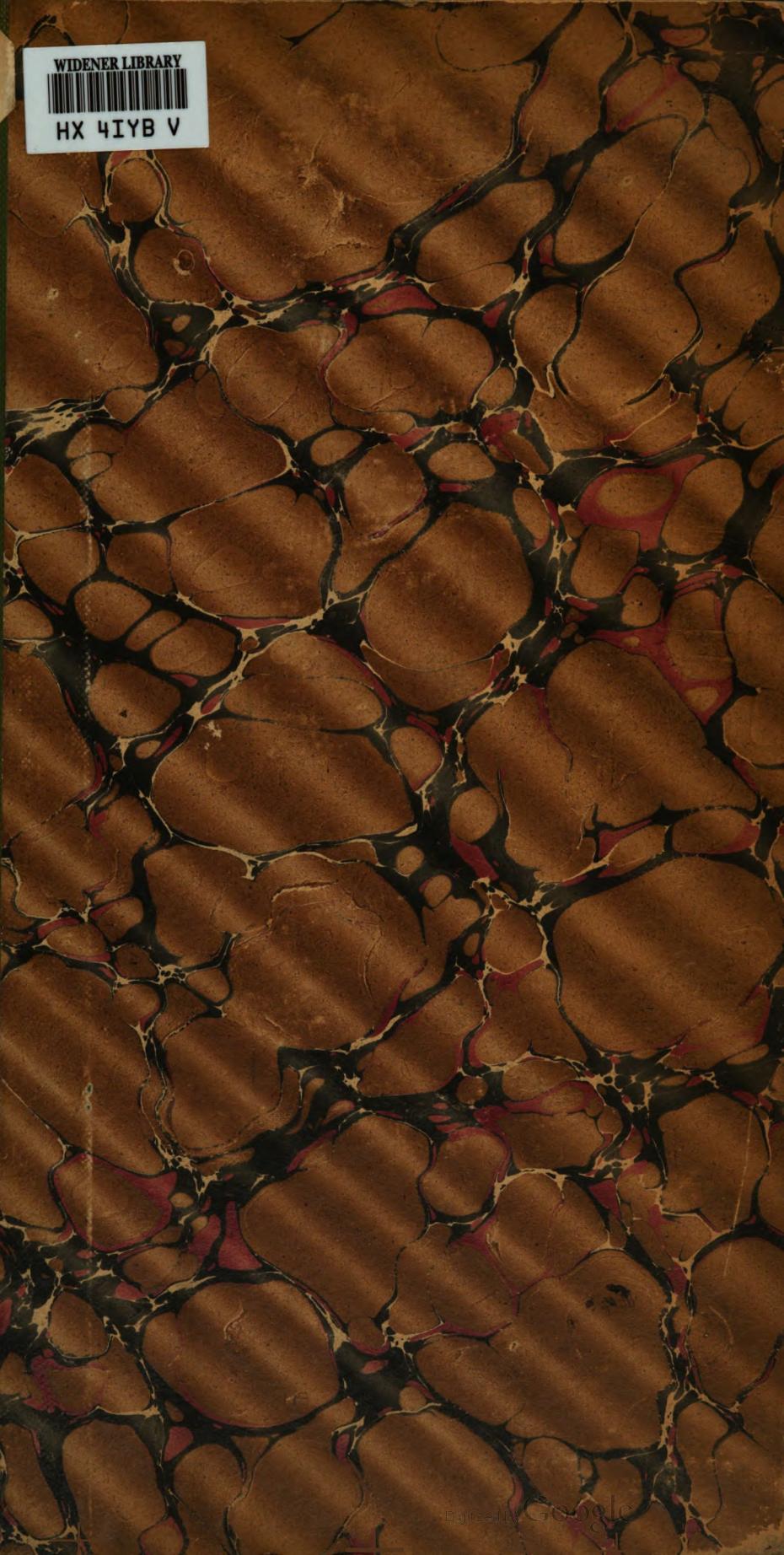
Vanderbilt Benevolent Ass'n - In Remembrance of
Hon. Wm. Aiken - 1887

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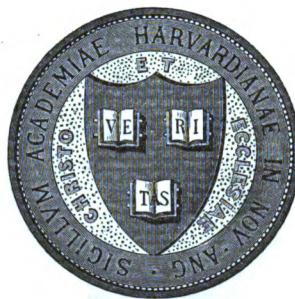
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IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE

OF THE

HONORABLE WILLIAM AIKEN,

THESE TRIBUTES

TO

HIS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE VIRTUES

HAVE BEEN PRESERVED IN THIS ENDURING FORM,

BY THE MEMBERS OF THE

VANDERBILT BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION,

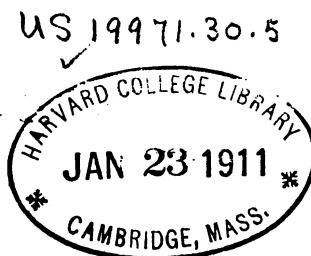
OF

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Charleston

1887

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Dr. C. A. Freeman

CHARLESTON, S. C.:
LUCAS, RICHARDSON & CO., STEAM BOOK PRINTERS.
1887.

A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES
—BY THE—
VANDERBILT BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION
—OF—
CHARLESTON, S. C.

"Sympathy is the tie that binds man to man. It is that touch of nature that makes the whole world kin. This universal kinship of humanity finds its best expression in organizations which teach of a common fatherhood in God, and a common brotherhood in man. Organizations where, at his cry of suffering, a brother can feel the 'touch of the elbow' from every other brother. Then, too, when the 'silver cord be loosed, or the golden bow broken,' when, over the pulseless form of one near and dear, agonized souls pour forth their griefs, 'refusing to be comforted because they are not,' does sympathy, with her soothing offices of gentleness and affection, step in like an angelic visitant, bearing divinity in its face and healing on its wings. To carry on such a work is the object in the formation of THE VANDERBILT BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION. When the Association departs from the straight and narrow path blazed out for it by its projectors its purity will become tarnished and its hope of good destroyed. If, however, the members will continue to be to themselves true, this Association will grow and flourish, dispensing its blessings among the families of the destitute and distressed wherever they may be found. Like water in a thirsty land, refreshing the way-worn traveller, so will this Association, conducted on the principles of its founders, bring comfort and consolation to many an humble home. This is genuine sympathy; this is true benevolence, and these are among the highest duties of man. 'The rich and poor meet together; the Lord is the maker of them all.'"

These are they which
touched the finer feelings
of Governor AIKEN'S nature,
and attracted him to this Associa-
tion, of which he afterwards became so
UNRESERVED A SUPPORTER.



MEMORIAL MEETING.

A meeting of the VANDERBILT BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, called to pay their tribute to the memory of the late Honorable WILLIAM AIKEN, first a Contributing Member, and then elected unanimously an Honorary Member—the only organization with which he had been actively allied for many years—was held at their Hall on Tuesday evening, the 11th of October, 1887, at eight o'clock.

There was a dignified silence observed by the large audience during the delivery of the addresses, thus testifying to the veneration in which Governor AIKEN was held by this Association of his choice.

Among the members in attendance were:

The Honorable JAMES SIMONS, Speaker of the House of Representatives of South Carolina,

The Honorable CHARLES H. SIMONTON, ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives of South Carolina and United States Judge for the District of South Carolina.

The Honorable WILLIAM A. COURTENAY, Mayor of Charleston, and successor to ex-Governor AIKEN as Trustee of the Peabody Fund.

The Honorable LEROY F. YOUMANS, United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina.

The Honorable GEORGE LAMB BUIST, State Senator for Charleston County.

A. S. JOHNSTON, Esq., ex-President of the Bank of Charleston N. B. A.

JOHN S. RIGGS, Esq., President of the Charleston City Railway.

F. W. CLEMENT, Esq., Principal of the Bennett School (Public).

Messrs. JOHN A. MOROSO and E. P. MCKISICK, of *The News and Courier* Staff.

Major HENRY E. YOUNG, Dr. C. W. KOLLOCK, Messrs. JOHN F. WITCOFSKY, JOHN G. GRADICK, BERKELEY GRIMBALL, JOHN T. FORBES, T. W. Sires, H. W. TIENCKEN, J. M. CONNELLEY, H. M. MEYER, A. J. RILEY, JAMES HAMILTON, J. H. W. ZERBST, WILLIAM KRANTZ, J. C. WATSON, and many others.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING.

OPENING REMARKS OF PRESIDENT A. C. KAUFMAN.

Upon calling the meeting to order, President Kaufman said:

Gentlemen of the Association:

Scarcely had the echoes of the meeting held in this hall three months ago in respect to the memory of the Hon. Henry Buist died away, ere the sad intelligence was flashed over the electric wires of the death, at his mountain home, of ex-Governor WILLIAM AIKEN, an honorary member of this body. To-night are we assembled to do honor to the memory of this good man, and to place our chaplet of affection upon his new-made grave.

It is neither my province nor my purpose at this time to descant upon the virtues of Governor AIKEN. Other and eloquent speakers will fittingly unfold these. Yet there is a feature in his character that I cannot leave without a passing allusion.

The first of poets in sublimest thought breathed into verse thus apostrophises the quality of mercy.
* * * "It becomes the throned monarch better than his crown. * * * It is an attribute to God himself." To the honor of him whose death we now deplore, be it said that acts of mercy illuminated and illustrated his life.

Methinks while the shadows of age lengthened and widened around Governor AIKEN, and as perchance in secret contemplation he would take a retrospective glance at his life, these words from the sacred oracle must have come to him like soothing balm: "Never turn thy face on any poor man; and then the face of the Lord shall not be turned away from thee." Adieu! venerable friend. May thine be an immortality of bliss.

HON. CHARLES H. SIMONTON'S TRIBUTE.

Judge Simonton then arose and presented the following Preamble and Resolutions of respect, as expressive of the feelings of the members:

A good man, full of years and of honors, has been called to his reward. This Association, in common with the rest of our community, lament the death of the late the Hon. WILLIAM AIKEN. A native of Charleston, educated in her schools, and passing his whole life among her people, he was devoted to the welfare of this City, and was a loyal son of the State. Placed by inheritance beyond the necessity of following a mercantile or professional career, he sought public employment, and in the Legislature, in the office of Governor, and in the halls of Congress, he gave his best services to the State. After retiring

from public life he still manifested a lively interest in everything which could contribute to the public weal. His high character, attractive manners, and princely hospitality whilst he was in Congress, had obtained for him influence and reputation in Washington. He made important and valuable use of these in aiding the rehabilitation and restoration of government in the State in the anarchy which threatened at the conclusion of the war. At the time of his death he was one of the Trustees charged with the management of the grand charity of George Peabody, selected for that responsible duty by Mr. Peabody himself.

Singularly modest and unobtrusive in his manners, he had hosts of friends in every rank and class of society, enjoying a well deserved and lasting popularity. One of the largest owners of slaves in the South, he illustrated in its highest type the patriarchal character of Southern slavery, and was the friend and indulgent master of his slaves. Up to the end of his life he held the affectionate reverence of his freedmen. Indeed, the feature of his character was benevolence. His heart responded to every object of sympathy. And by the testimony of those who knew best his inner life, no appeal was ever properly made for his charitable aid which did not meet prompt and cheerful response. This attracted him to the Vanderbilt Benevolent Association. It is a matter of congratulation as well as of encouragement

to the workers in this Association, that when the infirmity of approaching age had induced Governor AIKEN to withdraw from every other benevolent and social society, he honored and aided this Society with his name, his influence and his association. It, therefore, becomes not only our duty, but our privilege, to place on record our appreciation of him as a man, a citizen and a friend; to bear witness to his benevolence as broad as it was deep; to his charity, in the bestowal of which he suffered not his right hand to know what his left hand did; to his illustration by his life of those principles which underlie and give character to this Society.

Be it, therefore, Resolved,

That in the death of the late the Hon. WILLIAM AIKEN, the State and our community have lost a citizen eminent for his civic virtues, in full sympathy with every movement looking to its advancement in moral and material prosperity.

That in all the walks of life, public and private, he so conducted himself as to secure the confidence and affection of his fellow-citizens.

That his memory is cherished by this Association, because he himself is an exemplar of the principles to which it owes its existence.

That we unite in the universal comment upon the announcement of his death—"He was a good man." No better epitaph can any one desire.

That a page in our Record Book be dedicated to his memory.

That the President of this Association is instructed to transmit to the venerable widow and the child of our departed friend, a copy of these Resolutions, with the expression of our respectful sympathy with them in their deep affliction.

MR. JOHN S. RIGGS' TRIBUTE.

When Judge Simonton had concluded and taken his seat, after a respectful pause, Mr. John S. Riggs, one of Governor AIKEN'S closest friends, arose and seconded the resolutions, as follows:

Mr. President :

I rise to second the preamble and resolutions presented by our distinguished fellow-member, Judge Simonton, and beg to say a few words out of a heart full of emotion and sorrow on the sad occasion which has called us together at this time.

It was my good fortune, Mr. President, to know Governor AIKEN intimately. For years, almost daily, he spent an hour with me near my desk, and I therefore had an opportunity rarely enjoyed by those not of his household, to study and admire the many excellencies of his character sufficiently to warrant me in saying, that for purity of motive and true nobility of soul, blended with an amiability naturally inherent, few, if any, have surpassed.

Governor AIKEN possessed in a remarkable degree a spirit of kindness and affection for all the world; and his generous acts and utterances were full of human sympathy, and his hand an ever ready almoner in dispensing charity, not with ostentation, for often, unknown to public gaze, has he caused the hearts of many poor and needy to leap with joy for the substantial aid and kindly words of encouragement he so liberally rendered them.

His long and useful life and public services have been so eloquently and truthfully portrayed here to-night, as well as in those tender messages that have come to us from a distant city, at a recent meeting of the Trustees of that great charity of which he was appointed an original member by the donor himself—the world's philanthropist, George Peabody—that but little remains to be added. The loss to this community in which his exemplary life was spent, will be felt as time rolls on and the memory of his good deeds and sterling virtues, cherished as they will be in the hearts of all, as the faithful friend and public benefactor; and on the marble that will mark the place of his sepulchre in Magnolia, no lines more truthful could be engraven than these—

“None knew him but to love him;
None named him but to praise.”

MR. JOHN A. MOROSO'S TRIBUTE.

Mr. John A. Moroso, prominent in journalistic circles, was next in order to second the resolutions. He spoke with emotion. Mr. Moroso said:

Mr. President and Brother Members of the Vanderbilt Benevolent Association:

I thank you for the opportunity that you have given me, to add my humble tribute to the worth of

the noble citizen whose death we mourn to-night. What I shall have to say about WILLIAM AIKEN will not be in the nature of an elaborate and carefully prepared eulogy, but it will come from a heart which is filled with grateful love and honor for the memory of a great philanthropist.

I am one of the "poor boys" of Charleston who have felt his kindness; who owe to him in great part whatever of success they may have achieved in the battle of life. It was to his great love for the poor youth of this City that I am indebted for the chance to complete my education. He knew my father, and he saw a man working hard to educate a family of five or six children. He at once held out his hand to him and to me, and as a result I was placed at the College of Charleston, under a scholarship which Governor AIKEN had at his disposal.

The education of the poor youth of Charleston was one of the dearest desires of his heart. Only a short time before his death I met him on the threshold of the old College, and in a conversation I had with him, he said that he hoped to live to see the day when the dear old institution would be open to the youth of the City absolutely without charge—a free College. Not only free as regards tuition, but with scholarships which would give to deserving poor boys an education as well as the means of supporting themselves during the four years of their collegiate life.

Born to affluence himself, he had a warm place in his heart for those who had to struggle through life. One hundred such men as WILLIAM AIKEN in Charleston to-day would make this fair City a paradise—would abolish poverty, and open the avenues to progress and prosperity to every youth in the City who desired or deserved to succeed.

I am unable, Mr. President, and brother members to say more. The memory of WILLIAM AIKEN has a place in the inmost recesses of my heart. You have lost a valuable, esteemed and honored member; I have lost a benefactor who was my friend at a time when I most needed a friend; the community has lost a citizen of inestimable worth, and the poor of Charleston one of their best friends.

I lay this poor and feeble tribute on his grave with a heart full of tender and grateful sorrow.

His life was gentle; and the Elements
So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, "This was a Man."

President Kaufman asked if there were present at this meeting any besides Mr. Moroso who had felt the gentle touch of Governor AIKEN'S wand of substantial kindness, (and he was sure that he recognized others) if so, he begged that the humblest member would feel no reserve in telling of the "little

deeds of kindness, little words of love" with which this philanthropist of Charleston had ever been accustomed to comfort his suffering and distressed fellow-citizens.

Mr. George Sellers said in reply, that he recognized one gentleman present whom everybody here assembled would be glad to hear from, as in addition to being the faithful Chief Magistrate of Charleston he represented the State of South Carolina on the Board of Trustees for the Peabody Educational Fund as the successor of Governor AIKEN. He alluded to the Hon. William A. Courtenay.

HON. WILLIAM A. COURTEENAY'S TRIBUTE.

Mayor Courtenay then addressed the meeting. He said :

That he had felt it to be his duty, as a member and citizen, to be present at this meeting, called for the purpose of testifying the high esteem of the members of this Association for their late distinguished and philanthropic fellow-citizen and member. He had not expected to take part in the proceedings, other than by his presence, but could not be silent, when asked to speak of his late friend, Governor AIKEN.

As had already been mentioned, Governor AIKEN had inherited large wealth, and all through life, he had used it freely in the interests of the people of this city. All through the records of the last fifty

years, they would find his name as a contributor, to our charitable, educational, and other beneficent institutions.

The late civil war wrought great changes in his fortune, but it did not change the man, who to the end of his life took a deep interest in all which related to the welfare of the city and state—in every relation a model citizen.

His unfailing courtesy to all who approached him, his kind words and gentle manners, were potent influences in accomplishing the worthiest objects of his life. It was such influences as these which made him so useful to his people in the great Peabody educational trust.

In his own quiet way, he accomplished his purposes, and if you will examine the reports of the Peabody trust, you will find that South Carolina is credited with a very full proportion of the annual distribution of this princely fund.

As mention has been made of me, as successor to Governor AIKEN, in this trust, I take this opportunity of saying, that in accepting my election to that Board, I shall go, to the discharge of its duties, hoping and striving to accomplish, even approximately, the successful work of my universally beloved predecessor.

No other speakers following Mayor Courtenay, President Kaufman stated that he had invited the Hon. John L. Manning, a life-long friend of Governor AIKEN to visit Charleston as a guest of the Association, to attend this meeting and to tell, as he could so well, the story of Governor AIKEN'S well-spent life. As the only surviving Governor of South Carolina in her palmiest days before the war his presence would have been grateful to every member. The letter he held in his hand would give the reasons for Governor Manning's absence, and would add another laurel to the precious garland which had been woven around Governor AIKEN'S memory to-night. Solicitor Henry Buist, at his request, would read the letter.

HON. JOHN L. MANNING'S TRIBUTE.

Governor Manning's letter speaks for itself. It is given *ipsissimis verbis*:

MILLFORD, 6th October, 1887.

MY DEAR SIR—The condition of my health utterly forbids my accepting the invitation extended through you, by the Vanderbilt Benevolent Association, to attend their meeting on the 11th instant, and to participate in their demonstrations on that occasion, in honor of the memory of the Hon. WILLIAM AIKEN. I deeply regret that this condition of my health, for which I have been under medical treatment, prevents my accepting their hospitable

and considerate attention, for which I shall ever be grateful.

There is no man in the State for whom I entertained a warmer friendship than for Governor AIKEN. My acquaintance with him commenced quite fifty years ago, and a large portion of that time he and I were in public life together. I never knew one whose actions were more immediately directed by a conscientious sense of duty and integrity. This marked both his private and public life. He had a love of country which was so enlarged as to embrace the whole, while advocating earnestly the maintenance of the rights of each part, however minute. He was earnest in his friendships, pure in his life, and deeply imbued with a love of country. His love for the section of it in which he lived, was one of the dictating sentiments of his whole life.

His love for the City of Charleston was both a warm sentiment and an inheritance. The wealth which his father accumulated there was used to develop its resources and to extend its trade and commerce. When Quincy, in Massachusetts, had six miles of railroad to transfer its granite to the sea, and Stephenson, a famous English engineer, had constructed ten miles for the transportation of coal and iron to a shipping point, the elder William Aiken, in 1828, aided by other intelligent and patriotic minds of Charleston, planned and constructed the Charleston and Augusta Railroad, one hundred

and thirty-six miles in length, which, when completed, was the longest railroad in the world.

I know that your City will not allow the names of such men of enterprise and benefactors to die, but will rather follow their example, and build up the waste places by their capital, enterprise and industry.

It pains me to think that I cannot unite with you and the Association which you represent, in doing honor to Governor AIKEN'S memory. To me it would be a labor of love, beside the pleasure of assimilating with your body in the performance of the offices of friendship and respect.

With grateful sentiments of respect and regard,
I am your friend and fellow-citizen,

JOHN L. MANNING.

A. C. KAUFMAN, Esq.,

President Vanderbilt Benevolent Association.

Upon the call for the adoption of the resolutions, made by Mr. Benjamin Kimball, they were unanimously adopted, each member rising from his chair.

The meeting then adjourned.

Extract from the minutes.

A. C. KAUFMAN,
President.

Attest:

J. E. MEYER,
Secretary.

WILLIAM AIKEN.

BORN JANUARY 28, 1806.

DIED SEPTEMBER 6, 1887.

"CLARUM ET VENERABILE NOMEN."

