

KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY.

Kentucky University is the name under which Bacon College, the earliest institution of learning of collegiate grade established by the Disciples of Christ, was rechartered in 1858 and reopened in 1859, after a suspension of nine years.

Bacon College had its origin at Georgetown, Ky., beginning its first session Nov. 14, 1836. The enrollment of students during the first year reached the splendid number of 203. Walter Scott was elected first president: he, however, soon resigned and David S. Burnett was elected to that office, with John T. Johnson as vice-president, and with a corps of five professors, one assistant professor, and a principal of the preparatory department. The course offered in Civil Engineering was especially strong, which fact brought Henry H. White from New Haven, Conn., to this college. He matriculated in May, 1838, and continued his connection the institution, serving in various capacities, until his death on Dec. 9, 1903.

Because of special inducements offered by the people of the county of Mercer, the Board of Trustees voted on May 2, 1839, to remove Bacon College

to the town of Harrodsburg; the first session in its new home began Sept. 2, 1839. David S. Burnett declining to follow the college to Harrodsburg, Dr. Samuel Hatch was elected acting president for the session of 1839-40. On Nov. 13, 1840, James Shannon, an honorary Master of Arts of Transylvania University, was inaugurated president of Bacon College.

The operation of Bacon College ceased in 1850. In 1855, John B. Bowman, of Mercer County, conceived the idea of reviving his alma mater as a university rather than as a college. The work of soliciting funds with which to endow the new institution, which was begun by Major James Taylor, was prosecuted by Mr. Bowman until a fund of \$150,000 was raised in good pledges from solvent persons. At this time it was generally agreed that the name of the institution should be changed. Kentucky University was the emergency name given the institution by Capt. Philip B. Thompson, when the charter of Bacon College was amended by the State Legislature. This amended charter was accepted Feb. 2, 1859, by the Board of Trustees of Bacon College and the Board of Curators of Kentucky University. The doors of the Collegiate department were opened to receive students on Sept. 19, 1859.

Kentucky University was removed to Lexington and consolidated with Transylvania University, under the name and charter of Kentucky University which was authorized by legislative act approved, Feb. 28, 1865.

Transylvania University enjoyed the distinction of being the first institution of its class west of the Alleghany mountains, having been opened on Jan. 1, 1799. The Rev. James Moore was the first president

ident. The University enjoyed its first real prosperity under the administration of the Rev. Horace Holley, LL. D., who was inaugurated president in 1818. It was about this time that Lexington began to be styled the Athens of the West.

The splendid Doric edifice known as Morrison College was dedicated on Monday, Nov. 4, 1833.

Kentucky University began its first session in Lexington on Oct. 2, 1865, with three colleges in operation, the College of Science, Literature and the Arts, the College of the Bible and the College of Law. Each college was under the direction of its own presiding officer and faculty. The office of president of the university which had been filled since 1859 by Robert Milligan, was replaced in 1865 by that of regent, of which the founder of the institution, John B. Bowman, was the only incumbent. On the abolition of the regency in 1878, Henry H. White, was elected president of the university. This office has since been held by Charles Louis Loos (1880-1897), R. Lin Cave (1897-1900), Alexander R. Milligan (acting president, 1900-1), and Burris A. Jenkins (1901-6). Until the election of a new president, Thos. B. McCartney, Jr., is serving as dean of the University.

The College of the Bible, conducted under the charter of Kentucky University, was abandoned with the closing of the session June 13, 1878. The present College of the Bible, which was chartered Feb. 19, 1878, was opened in Lexington, Sept. 10, 1877, with Robt. Graham as president and John W. McGarvey and I. B. Grubbs as professors. This college occupied rooms in Morrison College until its own present commodious building was erected in 1896. In June, 1895, John W. McGarvey succeeded to the

presidency, President Robert Graham having resigned. The College of the Bible now enjoys the services of six competent men in its own faculty, besides sharing all the privileges of the class room instruction afforded by the College of Liberal Arts, desired by its students.

On Nov. 15, 1898, the Medical Department of Kentucky University was revived and began a most successful career under the presidency of Jos. B. Marvin, LL. D., M. D., at Louisville, Ky.

In 1902, Hamilton College became a part of Kentucky University, with Mrs. Luella W. St. Clair as president. Under its present management this college is enjoying an era of unprecedented prosperity.

In 1905, the College of Law was reopened, with Lyman Chalkley, LL. B., as dean. This college is also meeting the most sanguine expectations of its promoters.