

11-1897

The Normal Record, Volume II, Number 1, November 1897

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The
Normal Record.

NOVEMBER, 1897.

State Female Normal School,
Farmville, Va.



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STATE FEMALE NORMAL SCHOOL, FARMVILLE, VA.

THE NORMAL RECORD.

. . . PUBLISHED QUARTERLY. . . .

VOL. II., No. 1.

NOVEMBER, 1897.

PER YEAR 50 CTS.
SINGLE COPY 15 CTS.

Editor-in-Chief:
NELLY PRESTON,

Editor:
JULIA VAUGHAN June, '97.

Business Manager:
CORA SPAIN, Feb., '98.

AWAY.

I CANNOT say, and will not say,
That he is dead. He is just away!

With a cheery smile, and a wave of the hand,
He has wandered into an unknown land,

And left us dreaming how very fair
It needs must be, since he lingers there.

And you—O you, who the wildest yearn
For the old-time step and the glad return—

Think of him faring on, as dear
In the love of There as the love of Here:

And loyal still, as he gave the blows
Of his warrior-strength to his country's foes.

Mild and gentle as he was brave,
When the sweetest love of his life he gave

To simple things: Where the violets grew
Pure as the eyes they were liked to,

Think of him still as the same, I say;
He is not dead—he is just away!

—JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

On Saturday, October 9, Dr. John A. Cunningham, Principal of the State Female Normal School, died at Farmville.

Dr. Cunningham was born in the city of Richmond in 1845. He was the brother of the late Dr. Frank Cunningham, a distinguished physician of that city, and of Col. Richard Cunningham, who was killed in the late war.

For a number of years he was Principal of Madison School in Richmond, where he was greatly loved and is kindly remembered.

There is no more important work than that in which he was engaged: of sending out thoroughly-prepared and well-equipped teachers to take upon themselves the duty of the education of youth.

Dr. Cunningham's genial disposition and enthusiastic nature peculiarly fitted him for the position which he filled so acceptably. His death came as a sudden break in this noble work.

—*Virginia School Journal.*

PROFESSOR JOHN CUNNINGHAM.

EIGHT years ago, coming to Farmville to live, I made the acquaintance of Professor Cunningham. For these eight years I enjoyed with him close, unbroken intimacy, hardly a day passing in which we were not together. I have seen him with the lady teachers of the School, in his home, in his office, under a variety of circumstances, and in various places, and have never known a more genial and kind-hearted gentleman, cultured and refined in mind and body. The kindness with which his pupils, his teachers, and friends everywhere cherish his memory is the strongest testimony to his sterling qualities of head and heart.

He united business characteristics with habits of a student in a most remarkable manner. I had so much in common with him in thought, in the love of literature, in studies extending in almost every direction, that we were continually exchanging books and discussing their contents together. We were so much with each other that I have a constant painful sense of his loss. He took interest in almost all questions pertaining to society, politics, science, letters, government and theology, and these studies hereafter will constantly bring up memories of many happy walks and conversations in which hearts mingled in close friendship are now, alas! separated. I can say that with the stricken David mourning over his dear friend, "I am distressed for thee, very pleasant hast thou been unto me."

I lament his death, I cherish his memory, I deplore my loss :

"The high and lonely hills
Endure the darkening year,
And in my heart endure
A memory and a tear."

E. H. HARDING.

MEMORIAL.

THE Board of the State Female Normal School, at a meeting held in the city of Richmond, July 20, 1887, selected, from among a large number of applicants, Mr. John A. Cunningham, then the Principal of Madison Public School, of Richmond, to succeed Hon. William H. Ruffner, LL. D., as Principal of the State Female Normal School, at Farmville.

The School was then an experiment, and upon its subsequent management depended whether it should deserve the continued fostering care of the State. Before that time Virginia had done much for the education of her sons, and was then awakened to the necessity and importance of providing similar facilities for the intellectual training of her daughters, and their preparation for the responsible duties of teachers in her public schools.

Time has demonstrated that the Board made no mistake in the selection then made. Prof. Cunningham seemed from the first to fully understand and appreciate the condition of public education in Virginia, and to foresee that to the women of the State should be committed, in the main, the trust of teaching her children in the public schools, and to have formed an idea of what the Normal School should be in which those teachers should be trained for the work, and each subsequent year has shown that this School under his management, by gradual development, has been modeled according to that idea.

The reports, which year by year he has made of the work done and the methods pursued in its accomplishment, and the recommendations each report contained, of steps to be taken in advance of what had already been done, show that profound thought, correct and discriminating

judgment, combined with thorough knowledge of methods of instruction, and an accurate acquaintance with each branch of learning taught in the School, regulated by strong common sense, were the characteristics of his mind.

He was proficient in each and every department taught in the School, and he could, and whenever necessity required he would, enter some one of the lecture-rooms, wherein a class was being instructed by a teacher of a particular department, and taking that teacher's place throw new life and light into and upon the subject under consideration. This he would do not with ostentation, nor to show any assumed superiority to her whom he thus temporarily displaced, but to inspire her and her pupils with enthusiasm and love for their work.

As year by year the members of the Board came hither to discharge the duties entrusted to them, they found that he had outlined all which it was advisable or necessary to do to enlarge and perfect the course of study to make this School what it was intended to be, and they have been impressed with the fitness of the man for the place he filled. This work he did, not with ostentation, nor desire, nor intent to exalt himself, for there was little of self, and of self-exaltation in his character, but from love of his calling, and devotion to the cause of education. To make this School worthy of the patronage of the people of Virginia, and the School in which their daughters could be best educated as teachers, was the desire and aim of his life.

The future historian for education in Virginia will accord to him a place of honor among those who, fully understanding the needs, adapted to those needs the best means by which the public-school system has been developed and made most efficient, and will enroll his name among those of the illustrious educators of the State.

As an executive officer and man of business, he was no less distinguished. As the School has grown in favor with the people, and the number of matriculates has increased, and the Board has been called to make provision for this accommodation, either by enlarging or remodeling the buildings, to him was committed the duty of planning and seeing to the execution of the work. He undertook and performed that work as if engaged in work for himself, and watched its execution with the same care, and economized the expenditure of the money provided for the purpose, as if the property were his own.

He was a good and faithful servant of the Commonwealth. In her defence he volunteered his service in his early youth, and on many battle-fields risked his life for her. With no less love and devotion he gave ten years of his mature manhood to the education of her daughters and the training of teachers for the children of her people.

He has been called away from the noble work in which he was engaged, and to which he was so peculiarly fitted, and which he so much loved, when it seemed that a field of still greater usefulness lay before him, and the work most needed him.

With sorrow we submit to the will of God. That he was permitted to do so much for this School, we enter for record this, our testimonial to his worth, our appreciation of what he did for the cause of female education in the State, and testify that he was worthy of the confidence and love of his fellowmen, which confidence and love those who knew him best most willingly bestowed.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT TO HIS MEMORY ADOPTED.

THE Faculty and household of the State Female Normal School at Farmville have adopted the following resolutions upon the death of Dr. John A. Cunningham:

"1. *Resolved*, That in the death of our much-loved President we have sustained an irreparable loss.

"2. That his influence was the most helpful, pointing us always to the highest and best.

"3 That as an educator he was unsurpassed, combining the most varied and thorough knowledge with a sympathy with the pupil and a power of stimulating the intellect which is unparalleled in our experience.

"4 That we learned of him lessons which will last with our lives, of patience, gentleness, sympathy, forbearance, charity.

"5. That looked at in any relation of life, in his home, in the School, in the community, in the church, whose real interests he was ever anxious to further—as a friend, as a helper to all in need, his life was without reproach.

"6 That without displaying it to the world, he seemed to strive more humbly to follow the Master than almost any other with whom we have been thrown.

"7. That we bow in submission to this dispensation of an all-wise Providence, but find it hard to say, 'Thy will be done.'

(Signed),

"PORTIA L. MORRISON,

S. J. HARDY,

"M. F. STONE,

ESTELLE SMITHEY,

"SARAH B. SPENCER,

"Committee of Faculty and Household."

ACTION OF THE STUDENTS.

In a late meeting the students of the School decided by unanimous vote to adopt as an expression of their great admiration, love and reverence for their deceased President, the following resolutions:

"1. *Resolved*, That whereas it has pleased God in his divine providence to call to himself our beloved friend and guide, we, in acknowledgment of his supreme judgment, bow submissively to the great head of the universe.

"2. That we take this occasion to tell of the faithfulness of his discharge of duty, of his wonderful reverence for everything pure and holy, of his readiness to help each one of us in every little trouble as well as in great ones, of his bright and genial nature, of his untiring efforts to impress upon us the true place of woman and the scope of her influence, and of the exemplary Christian character shown in his every action.

"3. That the nobleness of his intellectual and spiritual life has been a great inspiration to us in choosing our life-work and in the development of our characters; that he has instilled into us the sacredness of a teacher's position in that we may minister to the bodies, minds and souls of those under our charge, even as he has ministered unto us, and that we hereby return thanks to our heavenly Father for bringing such an influence into our lives.

"4. That we, in appreciation of his influence, shall endeavor to redouble our energies in order to lead a useful life in the intellectual and spiritual world.

"5. That we extend to each of the bereaved family our heart felt sympathy and united prayers, that they may be strengthened to bear their loss.

"6. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family, and also that a copy be furnished to our School paper, THE NORMAL RECORD, for publication.

(Signed),

"MARTHA TURNER,

O DELLE WARREN,

"JULIA VAUGHAN,

ANNIE CUNNINGHAM,

"CORA SPAIN,

"Committee."

DEATH OF DR. CUNNINGHAM.

[From The Farmville Herald.]

ALL Farmville mourns the death of Dr. John A. Cunningham, one of its most useful and distinguished citizens. He breathed his last at 8:05 o'clock Saturday night, after an illness of only five days. He was taken sick the Saturday night before, but his indisposition was apparently temporary. Monday he was confined to the house, and that evening went to bed, being unable to sit up any longer. On Tuesday morning he was seized with a severe spasm, and Dr. J. L. White, the family physician, and Dr. Peter Winston, the physician to the Normal School were summoned. They at once diagnosed the case to be meningitis and effusion. During Tuesday the sufferings of Dr. Cunningham were intense. That evening he lost all consciousness, and never again was he in his right mind. He lingered thus until Friday morning, when there were apparently more favorable symptoms, which gave some encouragement to the physicians as well as to the family. At the request of Mrs. Cunningham, Dr. George Ben. Johnston, a relative and friend of Dr. Cunningham, was summoned from Richmond. Dr. Johnston arrived here Friday night, and on seeing the patient, quickly pronounced him beyond cure, and returned to Richmond Saturday morning.

At a late hour Friday night Dr. Cunningham suffered a stroke of paralysis, which made it only a matter of time when there would be dissolution. A few weeks ago Dr. Cunningham was called to Lexington, Va., to attend the death-bed of his half-brother, Colonel Edward Dillon. The loss of this brother, to whom he was greatly attached, seemed to make a profound impression upon him, and is thought, perhaps, to have been one of the causes of his sudden illness, which ended so unexpectedly and fatally.

To those who remember the condition of the Normal School and the appearance of the buildings when he took them in hand, and compare them with their present condition, it is a matter of wonder that such progress has been made, even by his matchless management. Virginia will sincerely lament the loss of this one of her distinguished sons, whose life was devoted to the education of her daughters.

Dr. Richard McIlwaine, President of Hampden-Sidney College, speaking in behalf of that institution, said: "The Faculty of Hampden-Sidney College entertained the highest opinion of President John A. Cunningham, and deeply lament his death. As a man, a gentleman, and an educator, he had our unstinted admiration, and we regard his removal from his present position as an irreparable loss to the State of Virginia. His success in the conduct of the Normal School at Farmville has been phenomenal, and the impress he has made on the young ladies committed to his charge will prove a lasting blessing. Dr. Cunningham delivered the address to the students of Hampden-Sidney College at the opening of the session of 1896-'97, and won the admiration of a large and cultured audience by his scholarly, genial, and Christian utterances. All who heard him were delighted."

Governor McKinney said: "The death of Dr. Cunningham is a shock to the State Female Normal School, and a sad loss to female education in Virginia. It will be difficult to find another so well rounded in all the essential qualifications to take his place as president of the institution. He was doing a work for the school not excelled by any other educator in Virginia, and the blow will fall heaviest on that class which is the least able to bear it. I have never known a man more beloved of those around him and so idolized by the young ladies who were under his

charge. Nor have I ever known a teacher more devoted to his work, or one who was so untiring in his efforts for their improvement, and watchful of their every interest."

At a called meeting of the town council, held Monday afternoon, the following preamble and resolutions were passed in respect to Dr. Cunningham:

"WHEREAS, An all-wise Providence has taken from our midst by death Dr. John A. Cunningham, President of the State Female Normal School, of Virginia, to which dispensation we humbly and reverently submit:

"Resolved, 1. That we, recognizing the great loss sustained by the State of Virginia, equally recognize in his death a loss which is specially great to the town of Farmville.

"2. That Professor Cunningham, being a man of great ability, not only as a teacher, but as a business man, was always ready and most willing to aid in the advancement of the material welfare of the town.

"3. That during his stay with us, no man could have become more thoroughly identified with our people, and by his high character commanded the respect of his fellow-citizens and endeared himself to all.

"4. That the sympathy of the town is extended to his bereaved family.

"5. That Mayor Burton and Councilman Bugg do attend the remains of Dr. Cunningham to their burial in the city of Richmond, and that a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family and be published in the *Farmville Herald* and *Richmond Dispatch*, and also spread upon the minutes of the council."

The remains were taken to Richmond Tuesday morning, where they were laid to rest by the side of those of his first wife, in Hollywood. They were accompanied by a delegation of citizens from this place, and all the teachers of the Normal School.

John A. Cunningham was born in the city of Richmond June 24, 1845. He was the brother of the late Dr. Frank Cunningham, a distinguished physician of that city, and of Col. Richard Cunningham, who, at the head of the Twenty-first Virginia Regiment, lost his life at the battle of Cedar Run in 1862.

Young Cunningham entered the Confederate service and served with distinction and fidelity as private in the battery commanded by the late Captain Willis K. Dance, of Powhatan county. At the close of the war he entered the University of Virginia to complete an education thus interrupted by war, and there stood among the first of those who, knowing the experiences of life, had set to work to prepare themselves to figure in a state of society heretofore unknown in Virginia. He won there the warm affections of his fellow-students and the respect and confidence of the professors, who saw in him one destined to take high rank in the profession which he had chosen for himself.

Leaving the University, he was associated with General E. Kirby Smith in the conduct of a school of the highest grade in Nashville, Tenn.

After several years of successful life as teacher in Nashville, Mr. Cunningham returned to Virginia, to whose interest he was ever devoted, and was elected to a high position in connection with the public schools in the city of Richmond, which he filled with great ability until 1887, when, a vacancy having occurred in the principalship of the State Female Normal School, he was elected to that position, and entered upon the discharge of the duties of that office.

He seemed to realize from the first that this was the work of his life, and from the very beginning in every department it has been evident that a master-mind was in control.

Affable and pleasant with all with whom he came in contact, learned without ostentation, pos-

sessing an executive ability rarely found, combined with erudition and strong common sense, he has, year by year, impressed upon those to whom Virginia committed the management of this School the fact that he had few, if any, equals in the conduct of such institutions, and that under his management the State Female Normal School was destined to become the equal of any institution founded for the purpose of giving practical and useful education to the women, and to train them as teachers of public schools.

He has sent out scores of ladies who to day are filling high positions in schools of this and other States, who cherish for him the warmest affections, and who with gratitude acknowledge their indebtedness to his guiding hand, and whose hearts will be filled with grief and sorrow at the announcement of his death.

At the close of the session of 1896-'97 Hampden-Sidney College honored him with the degree of LL. D.

Coming to Farmville, he became at once identified with the community, and in all things which conduced to the upbuilding, moral, social and material development of the town, he was a leading spirit. The announcement of his serious illness cast a gloom upon the community, and his death has caused a vacancy which it will be difficult to fill.

Mr. Cunningham was twice married. First, to Miss Florence Boyd, of Nashville, Tenn., who died, leaving him one son, now a student at Blacksburg. His second wife was Miss Martha Eggleston, the stepdaughter of his uncle, Mr. Richard Cunningham, of Culpeper, who, with three children, survives him.

Appropriate resolutions were adopted by the Faculty and members of the School household—resolutions of grief and condolence.

The Richmond *State* of Tuesday afternoon says: "The body of the late Dr. John A. Cunningham, who died in Farmville on Saturday night, arrived here this morning at 8 o'clock. The casket was met at the station by the members of the Wight family, the nearest relatives of the deceased in this city, members of the Eggleston family, with which the deceased was connected, and a number of friends.

"The following gentlemen acted as pall bearers: Messrs. Preston Cocke, William L. Wight, Samuel G. Wallace, James Harvey, Sandy Gray, Dr. George Ben. Johnston, Dr. Lewis H. Boshier and Dr. Paulus A. Irving.

"The funeral procession was formed at the depot and the casket was removed direct to Hollywood cemetery, where it was buried in the Cunningham section. The members of the State Educational Board, and delegations representing the teachers and pupils of Madison School, with which Dr. Cunningham was so long affiliated, attended the burial."

LOVABLE AND GIFTED TEACHER.

[From the Richmond Dispatch.]

NONE of the eulogies of Dr. John A. Cunningham that we have seen have exaggerated his merits. He was an uncommonly lovable man and gifted teacher. Thousands of his old pupils live to testify to the fidelity of his work and to the purity of his character. He served Virginia well in all the positions he was called upon to fill, but his opportunities for usefulness were greatest at the Farmville Normal School. There he was a teacher of teachers, and there he sowed seeds of instruction and example which we cannot but believe will spring up and bear good fruit in all sections of this old State which he loved so dearly. Peaceful be his sleep in Hollywood beside his numerous kindred and comrades.

DR. JOHN A. CUNNINGHAM.

[From the *Richmond Times*.]

VIRGINIA never lost a truer or more loyal son than John A. Cunningham, late Principal of the State Female Normal School, who will be buried to-day in Hollywood.

Bred and born a gentleman, he was as a mere boy a faithful young private soldier on the field of battle. He was then an earnest and successful student at the University of Virginia, and distinguished himself in the most difficult schools of that institution.

He developed into one of the most accomplished and efficient principals the State had in her higher course of education. He discharged every duty with fidelity and simplicity, and died as he had lived, a Christian gentleman admired and beloved. He has left an example which the rising generation of Virginia may well strive to imitate.

RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, it has pleased Almighty God, who never willingly afflicts or grieves the children of men, to remove from our midst by the hand of death two of our beloved members, Horace G. Taliaferro, senior warden of the vestry, and John A. Cunningham, registrar, be it resolved by this vestry of Johns Memorial Church in special called meeting assembled,

That we express our deep sense of loss and appreciation of their worth and Christian integrity, not only to the church they loved, but to the town at large and our whole Commonwealth. Faithful unto death they have entered into life. They have fought a good fight; they have finished their earthly course, henceforth there is laid up for them a crown of righteousness. Be it further

Resolved, That an enlarged and fuller copy of these resolutions be tendered the bereaved families.

That these minutes be spread upon the minutes of the vestry of this parish and be published in the local paper and *Southern Churchman*.

(Signed),

BAKER P. LEE, *Rector*,

CHARLES BUGG,

CHARLES F. BUGG,

MONROE JONES,

G. M. ROBESON, *Registrar pro tem*.

BISHOP RANDOLPH, in the service held at Farmville November 20th, said at the close of his sermon:

"I cannot close the services of this visitation without an allusion to the losses by death that have come to you as a church and a congregation. Among them is the name of a personal friend, and the impulses of friendship are too strong for words when we stand to speak for the public. Ten years ago the man of whom I speak was called by his State to this place, to the charge of an educational work, which, in the growth of popular intelligence, has come to be regarded as almost of supreme importance to our civilization, our religion, and our social life as a people, the higher education of woman—the training of teachers to teach the children of the people. He brought to that work a trained intellect, a pure manhood, and a genius for education. He loved his church, and with generous sacrifice contributed to its support; he loved his Bible and its teachings; he loved the Lord and Master, and learned from him the sympathy and the insight, the broad humanity, the patience and the love that gave him such

remarkable success in training the minds which the Commonwealth of Virginia intrusted to his care. He believed in the education of woman, its possibilities and its hopes. Along with a conservative wisdom, he had the courage and the original force of mind to discard dull traditions, conventionalities, surface methods, and unrealities that have reigned in the past in the realm of woman's education. He knew that woman could do the best and highest work in the fields of knowledge, and he taught her how to do it. He sowed seeds that are already bearing fruit in the more intelligent training of thousands of children all over the villages and cities and hills and valleys of his native State. They will bear more fruit in the generations to come than they are bearing in the generation that is present for they are the true principles of education, and truth goes on widening through all the years. A reformer turns over a new leaf in the history of progress, and the future reads its meaning with greater distinctness than the present can. He loved the people, and therefore to him to train the beautiful minds of earnest women to teach the children of the people was a joy and an honor which commanded all his powers, and for which no sacrifice was too great, and to which he gave an unwaning enthusiasm. A noble, manly life has passed across our horizon. You all who knew him, who have been taught by him, will feel the inspiration from his memory and realize the truth which he led you to see all along your life. The educators who were capable of appreciating him will remember him with pride and tenderness as a brother-worker. God will bless his memory and keep it green, and his works will follow him."

IN MEMORIAM.

LEAVES have their time to fall,
 And flowers to wither at the north wind's breath,
 And stars to set—but all,
 Thou hast all seasons for thine own, O Death!

How real and true these lines and their sentiment are to us at this time. Our companion and co-worker, the genial gentleman, the upright and honest man, the beacon of our hopes, the scholarly President of the School, Dr. John A. Cunningham, has gone from our midst. Just in the prime of life and at a time when the plans of nine or ten years' work were almost complete, and the future seemed to be full of rich rewards, his summons, sudden and unexpected, came. May his memory remain with us fresh and green, as will the grass that will wave in the spring over his grave in beautiful Hollywood.

Weep not for him! His memory is the shrine of pleasant thoughts.

JAMES L. WHITE, M. D.

LETTERS.

Not only do I grieve for his family. I do not know when a death has so depressed me. I was greatly attached to Mr. Cunningham. He was always a friend to me. His acts of kindness were all characterized by cordiality and delicacy. I do not think I ever leaned on any one's judgment as I did on his. It was a sad satisfaction to read our church's comforting words over our departed "brother." Such I esteemed him. Unlike many, his life was far above his professions. Knowing his views as few did, I rejoice to believe that all is well with

him. I know that it does not fall to the lot of many men to do as much good in life as Mr. Cunningham did. His work will live long after him. I will not attempt to speak of the loss sustained by the cause of education throughout the State, nor by his community, nor his church.

REV. J. W. WARE.

. . . .

There are hundreds scattered over the State and elsewhere who feel they have lost a friend they loved most sincerely. I am one of this multitude.

O. LITTLETON.

. . . .

John A. Cunningham was a man of the strictest integrity, and, candidly, I do not know his peer among the living. He was as loving and affectionate as a woman, intelligent to an eminent degree, and a man of wonderful executive ability; as an educator, unequalled in the State. The affectionate love of his pupils, and the tender regard of his corps of teachers attest the one, while the great advance of the Normal School as an educational institution proclaims the other.

I have known him for years; as boys, we were schoolmates at Macon; there we were as intimate as brothers. We were also together in the army, in battle, and surrendered together, among Lee's last followers at Appomattox. No braver soldier ever followed that illustrious commander than this playmate of my youth. Though he was then but a boy in his teens, officers and men recognized his courage and often commented upon it. He was unusually popular in his old company, Dance's Battery. We all loved him for his good nature, kindness of heart, and generosity. His loss is a public calamity. His place cannot soon be filled; such men are scarce.

JUDGE THOMAS M. MILLER, *Pocharatan C. H.*

. . . .

Just thirty years ago we met at the University of Virginia. The friendship which commenced between us as college-mates has during that interval ripened, on my side at least, into brotherly love.

But not only did I love him; I also admired and respected him for his strong mental qualities, his scholarly attainments, and his spotless character.

PRESTON COCKE, *Richmond, Va.*

. . . .

I always esteemed it a privilege to have him as a friend, and felt I was always improved by coming in contact with him. His loss to his native State, which he had served so ably and so faithfully, his loss to education, is an irreparable one. I shrink from the responsibility of electing a successor to such a noble man.

J. S. WARE, *Member of Board of Trustees.*

. . . .

My acquaintance with Dr. Cunningham was brief; but brief as it was, I could readily see in him those qualities of mind and heart that win the esteem, and affection, and love of all who come in contact with him. The cause of education in Virginia has suffered a very great loss, for his services and influence as President of the State Female Normal School have been great and widespread, and will long be felt.

M. GLENNAN, *Member of Board.*

. . . .

He is a loss to the cause of education and true manhood.

WM. TAYLOR THOM, *Johns Hopkins University.*

He was a true, good man, actuated by pure, high motives. He did not see things on some lines as many others do, but it was not because he would be disobedient or rebellious, not because he wanted to indulge in evil, without fear of punishment, but because he could not see and believe as many of his friends did, and he was honest enough to stand by his convictions and to express them. He who called himself the Truth will see much to admire and to love in him, and I feel that we have great comfort in his departing to stand before the Saviour who was so compassionate to the true-hearted Thomas.

REV. JOHN MCGILL.

. . . .

I cannot tell you how much his thoughtfulness and consideration were to me, how often he advised me in my hours of worry, how constant was his sympathy. I am selfish enough to be proud to have been associated with him professionally, selfish enough to be glad that my last interviews showed me the man in his most unselfish aspect.

It looks to me as if he had been of so much value in this world. Every girl who came in contact with him, with his truly reverent soul, was helped intellectually and spiritually by him. I suppose his soul was needed for higher purposes elsewhere.

When I think of how his thoughts for the School have been carried out, of the School itself, its buildings, its organization, and the girls it has quickened, I wonder if many people can have such a lasting monument. He lives in the loving remembrance of all his pupils and of all his teachers.

CLARA E. VICKROY.

. . . .

I cannot think with any pleasure of teaching again without his sympathy and help. As I look back on those four happy years in Farmville, I see him in everything. I am thankful I learned to know him, to love him, and to appreciate him as one of the truest, sincerest, noblest men I have ever known; that the lessons I learned from him in honesty, in true kindness, and in broad Christian charity have helped to make me a better woman. I thank God for his influence, that has reached so many others as well as myself, and that has always tended to elevate, to ennoble, to lift up to better things. As a pupil, as a teacher, as a friend, I owed him debts that nothing can repay.

FANNIE T. LITTLETON.

. . . .

I feel that I have lost a personal friend, and I shall never cease to remember his kindness.

MIRA B. ROSS.

. . . .

I have so often looked forward to meeting Mr. Cunningham again, for I know I am a better woman and a better teacher for having been associated with him in the school he loved so much. His true manliness and staunch character, combined with his great heart of love, endeared him to all.

ELIZABETH E. HEWLETT.

. . . .

When I remember the unflinching kindness and consideration which I received at Mr. Cunningham's hands through five sessions, I cannot refrain from expressing my grateful appreciation. And how many others have lost, in losing him, a warm-hearted, sympathetic friend and helper.

MADELINE L. MAPP.

. . . .

His sympathy and confidence have so often spurred me on to greater efforts. I feel proud and happy to count myself among the great number who have sat under him as pupils, and listened to his words of wisdom.

MAMIE EUBANK SINCLAIR.

Among the hundreds of girls to whom he was a faithful and beloved friend, I mourn the loss of this noble man.

MARTHA M. KENNERLY.

. . . .

My heart is bound to my Alma Mater with thousands of dear ties, but the greatest and the dearest is the memory of the great and good man whose advice and wise teaching have done most to lifting me to a higher plane of living

ELIZABETH IVY.

. . . .

You don't know what he has been to me, nor how I loved him; how I have fought in my small way to defend him; but, thank God, he is above and beyond the petty spite of those who chose to revile him. He never retorted, taking it all calmly, and holding his true heart but the firmer and his just tongue but the purer. To us all he was a wise and just friend, tender and sympathetic.

MARY P. BLACKMORE.

. . . .

I do thank God that I knew such a life as dear Mr. Cunningham's; surely, "to live in hearts we leave behind, is not to die," and how blessedly his life speaks to so many loving hearts.

Who can take his place! He combined so much: a splendid teacher, a personal friend to each girl, a great financier, a good, pure man! We shall never look upon his like again. But who can write or say what he was! To me it seems something like desecration of his modest, humble greatness.

MARY RATCLIFFE.

. . . .

Wherever in Virginia, or throughout the country, "an old girl" hears of how our head rests forever, she feels with the acutest pain her great bereavement, and pours her tears—a woman's tribute—over the grave in her heart. He has a living monument in his girls, and on the warm fleshy tablets of their hearts his epitaph is written.

We honored him, we respected him, we loved him, for blended with his guidance was that friendship and sympathy we seldom find in such abundant quantity.

LUCY BOSWELL.

. . . .

I have lost a friend whose place can never be filled. He influenced my way of thinking more than any other man, and since I left school I have often found myself wondering what he would think of what I was doing. I often quote from what he said in the class-room and out of it. I believe his influence will pervade my whole life. I never before knew what death means to those who have had their loved ones taken from them, but when I saw them lower his body into the grave, I felt that death had entered into my life.

ANNE MAUD POLLARD.

. . . .

I have felt so grieved over the death of Mr. Cunningham. He was a great and good man, and did so much for the good of the girls intrusted to his care. God moves in a mysterious way. We cannot understand why so useful a person should be taken.

VIRGINIA HOLMES GREEVER.

. . . .

All yesterday and to-day pictures of the sorrowful scenes in Farmville drove everything else from my mind, and my heart has been with you all who have to bear the hardest part of the trial. It is almost impossible to think of death in connection with him. His was such a full, useful life, and his work seemed only just begun. A braver, kinder soul never joined the choir invisible.

I feel a deep personal loss in his death, for I loved him as a friend, and I believe he loved every girl who ever came under his helpful influence.

DAISY CONWAY.

I feel, as many who knew and loved Mr. Cunningham, that my grief is hard to bear. I can say, with all of our Normal girls to-night, that our best friend has passed away, one who gave his life for the School. I feel I owe him a debt of gratitude I can never pay. I well know that, though he is dead, he still lives and carries on his work in the hearts of his Virginia people. I trust one as great as he will be raised up to carry on his noble work. But the old Normal will never be the same to me.

EDNA SPENCER.

. . . .

Whatever may be written or said of Mr. Cunningham, the greatest honor paid him, the eulogy he would like most to hear, will be the unspoken gratitude in the hearts of hundreds of girls who grieve for "our Mr. Cunningham."

The last morning I was in the Assembly Hall as a student, Mr. Cunningham read the psalm beginning, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. . . Behold, he that keepeth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps." We feel now in the death of the great man that his place can never be filled. "Shall not the Lord of all the earth do right?" And if he needed our friend "elsewhere in his kingdom vast," surely "he that keepeth Israel" will not let the work so faithfully worked for, and productive of so much good, come to naught.

MARY HIPKINS GODWIN.

. . . .

Yesterday I learned of Mr. Cunningham's death, and I felt that I must write you, for you, I know, will feel his loss as much as any one outside of his immediate family. I little thought a month ago that such a sad event would mark the beginning of the Normal session, which then promised so much. Last evening when reading the notice of Mr. Cunningham's death, many instances of his kindness of heart and magnanimity came before me, and I realized how his influence for good had been with me constantly since I left the Normal. It will, I am sure, be impossible to fill his place, either as Principal of the School or in the hearts of hundreds of girls all over the country, who will ever cherish his memory with love and gratitude, and be better for having come in contact with such a character.

JULIETTE FORD.

. . . .

To me death does not take him away utterly. The influence of his truly noble character which nothing can destroy, will ever live in the minds of all who knew him as I did. He is bound tenderly to life by the unchangeable love of his pupils and teachers.

NETTIE DUNNINGTON MORTON.

. . . .

Had I loved Mr. Cunningham less, the sad news of his death would have made me break down, but with the love I bear him I could not act in a way he would rather I should not, were he living to tell me. How often he used to talk to us about will power rightly cultivated, and I thought of this then, as I so often in my hours of need think of things he said to us.

ZILLAH MAPP.

. . . .

"There is none like him, no, not one." Teachers do not often find a ready listener and a wise adviser. He was both. His interest did not flag after June good-byes were said. Though separated from us, he knew what we were doing. We have tried his advice and felt his influence grow stronger with the years. My memory of him is cheerful and happy, for I was not near him in his terrible illness. In school days who can recall passing him without a merry jest?

KATE HARMON STONE.

A man of fifty is almost in his youth in this exacting age, and to see such a man swept away like a spider's web, although, having done a great and good work, he might have lived years to perfect it, and to see its development and its influence, is stunning. This particular death seems sadder to me than the death of any young person could. When a young person dies it is all conjecture. Ten to one he has no ideas to develop, and even if he has there is no telling what he will make of them. It is a strange freak that the men whose heads are full of ideas, and who have the ability to make them fruitful, should not be let to live at least their three-score years. Mr. Cunningham had just got the skein untwisted, as it were, he had just got the clay plastic, and ready to take what shape he pleased to give it, when his life was required of him. But there is no use of marvelling and protesting over the mystery of death. All men cannot have the luck of a Goethe, nor can many leave behind them such a work and such an influence as Mr. Cunningham. His work did not make a great stir, and his influence will be a silent one. I should like to go through every county in Virginia and see the marks that he has left. But although the visible effects he has had upon many would be found great, it is his intangible influence that is the greatest. The sort of tonic method he made use of has worked marvels, I am sure, where the person affected has hardly been conscious that any influence has been exerted. I am sincerely thankful that I have been thrown in his way. He was a man who had something to give always, and never minded giving it, and his advice and sympathy was of such a vital, stimulating sort - it being his purpose of making those about him do for themselves. When Canovas died in Spain a few weeks ago, everything fell to pieces in his party because he had concentrated everything in himself. Mr. Cunningham never did this, although he was concerned in everything about the School. He has furnished a great many people with a morsel of leaven that will never cease to work to good effect.

ALFRED MORRISON.

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The picture of the School contained in this number of the RECORD is of peculiar interest. Not only does it show the recent improvements made by Mr. Cunningham, but it was the last picture he took of the Normal. How natural it was to see him out on the lawn with his camera taking a picture of the School and a group of girls. Many a girl has left here with a picture of the Normal given her by Mr. Cunningham as a reward for excellent work. This picture was taken only a few days before Mr. Cunningham left school. He acted in a singular way about it. When our photographers offered to assist him, he refused, saying, "No, I want to do it." To Mr. Cox, urging him not to take it then, because all of the debris had not been removed, he replied, "Cox, I haven't time to wait, for my ten years are about up."

M. V. RICE.

