

The reason for my choice of this university was related in the foregoing chapter. Washington and Lee University at Lexington, Virginia was the outgrowth of Washington College, of which Robert E. Lee became President soon after the close of the Civil War, and did not become a university until after Lee's death in 1870. He was succeeded by his son, General Custis Lee, during whose administration I enrolled as freshman in the fall of 1895 at the age of sixteen.

Washington and Lee at that time was an old-fashioned, intensely Southern institution, particularly emphasizing the classics, but guarding against over specialization by the following wise rule. Out of the 66 total credits required for the A.B. degree, at least 16 had to be in each of three different fields, one of which was Mathematics and Science. Having spent most of my first three years in languages—Latin, Greek, French, German and even Anglo-Saxon—I came to my senior year faced with the need of six credits in the science group. Someone advised me that Chemistry would be a good way to gain the necessary six points, and so I was practically forced into the field that was to become my life work.

I found chemistry entrancing from the very beginning, owing to the inspiring teaching of Jas\* Lewis Howe, a graduate of Amherst College (A.B. in 1880), who took his Ph.D. at Goettingen in 1882. He had held the chair of chemistry at the University of Louisville before coming to Washington and Lee. No praise could be too high for the teaching of Howe. His knowledge of the subject, his skill and enthusiasm in unfolding it were superlative. Although I had had a six-weeks course in so-called chemistry in high school, I had forgotten it wholly. Chemistry came as a new, fresh, and delightful subject. Also my three years of college work had developed study habits so that I had no difficulty in the first year's course which attracted me to pursue it further. The development of the Periodic System of the Elements of Mendeleeff had only recently reached a new height through discovery of the inert gas elements by Sir William Ramsay. I thought and still think it the most wonderful of the creations of chemistry, be it a short, compact, or a long, extended type of table. All the tinkering can neither improve it nor spoil it.

Howe at that time taught all the chemistry offered at Washington and Lee—general, qualitative, and quantitative, including laboratory supervision. How he managed research in his favorite theme, *ruthenium*, or to keep up so meticulously his well-known bibliography of that element is beyond my comprehension. His New England vigor and perspicacity must have been the factors. Upon my receiving the A.B. degree he advised me to return to Washington and Lee for a second year of chemistry—all that he gave. This I did without thought of any degree beyond the A.B. which I had received at the end of my fourth year. Washington and Lee did at that time offer

\* Not an abbreviation.

an M.A. degree, but under very severe terms, 24 credits beyond the 66 required for the A.B., and all with grade 90 or above. Needless to say, it was seldom awarded. Even so, I might have qualified in five years had I not in my sophomore year spent too much time at the billiard table.

My five years at Washington and Lee were very pleasant, though some of my time might have been more profitably employed than in four years of Greek, three of Latin, and two of "Old English" (real Anglo-Saxon). My first year was rather Spartan. I lived at the so-called (and well styled) "Blue Hotel" with an older law student from McMinnville, Leslie Hoodenpyl, who later became Mayor of Pasadena, California. The cost of board and room was only \$13 per month at this establishment patronized by students of small means. But in the spring, Hoodenpyl could stand the frugality of a private family, which was much more satisfactory. Strangely I have but little recollection of the Blue Hotel fare, whether good or bad. In my freshman enthusiasm I must have devoured it as well as my studies. Other men with straitened means, like my own, who lived per force in the Blue Hotel, were able students or assistants during their college years. Many of them later occupied high and distinguished posts in academic or official life.

The following year my family's finances had improved so that I was able to have room and board in the home of Professor Humphreys and roomed with his brother-in-law, Ewing Sloan, a student of Engineering, later retired in Jackson, Mississippi. Across the hall were two young law instructors who subsequently distinguished themselves—John W. Davis, Ambassador to England, candidate for the Presidency—Head of one of the foremost law firms in New York City, and William Reynolds Vance who became Dean of the Law School at the University of Minnesota and later of Yale. Davis delighted in identifying me with Tennessee mountaineers and good-naturedly twitted me about vaulting from peak to peak in my native habitat. During my earlier years in college I was very shy toward my elders and superiors. I remember I was embarrassed to approach the professor, my host, to pay my board bill although I received the money monthly from home and had carefully kept it intact. After three months accumulation I mustered courage to present myself with the sum due and was received without reproach, though my roommate afterward told me that the grocer's and butcher's bills had mounted to an alarming extent. Later I paid regularly by the month.

The following year it was no longer convenient for the professor's family to have boarders. I moved to the home of a widow next door to the campus who took students. Here I roomed with a law student from Richmond, Henry W. Anderson, who later was once unsuccessful Republican candidate for the Governorship of Virginia.

I remember Anderson telling me stories about the

straitened finances of some of the old Virginia families soon after the War. One plantation owner said that he had been reduced to herding cattle and driving hogs but he would be damned if he would descend to trimming his cuffs! Times have changed. I do not herd cattle nor drive hogs, but confess to occasionally trimming my cuffs, which become chafed from wearing a wrist watch, a thing then unknown.

In the late nineties Washington and Lee was regarded as the second university of the South, second only to the University of Virginia founded by Thomas Jefferson. Lexington was the citadel of the old Confederacy. Both Generals "Stonewall" Jackson and Robert E. Lee are buried there—Jackson in the city cemetery, Lee in the Memorial Chapel of the University beneath his famous recumbent statue by the sculptor Edward V. Valentine. Also the Washington and Lee Campus adjoins the parade ground of the Virginia Military Institute, the "West Point of the South."

In my time Washington and Lee and Virginia Military Institute, with student bodies of 200-300 each, engaged in athletic contests with each other, football and baseball. There were occasional fights which sometimes involved the spectators; and such terms as "Rats" for the cadets and "Minks" for Washington and Lee students were exchanged. In later years the antipathies became so strong and the fights so serious that games between the two had to be abandoned and, I believe, have not been resumed.

Washington and Lee has grown in numbers to more than 1000 students. With no state support its finances are not adequate and many southern State Universities have far passed it in enrollment and diversity of curricula. Nevertheless, maintaining its unique position based on a noble background of precedent and tradition, it draws a select student body from all over the country and a surprisingly large number from states north of the Mason and Dixon Line.

The Virginia Military Institute has also expanded and developed engineering courses of high quality. Its contribution of high ranking officers in the two European Wars has enhanced its distinguished reputation. It is truly the "West Point of the South." My younger brother, Warner E. Lind attended it for two years after I had left Washington and Lee.

Lexington is the county seat of Rockbridge County, so named for the famous natural stone arch about twelve miles distant. The town is of staunch Scotch-Irish citizenry. In my time it had a population of some five or six thousand. It has since more than doubled. The Tucker family which dominated the Washington and Lee law school for two generations strongly supported secession from the Union and defended it on constitutional grounds.

### CHAPTER 3

#### MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BOSTON

When, after obtaining an A.B. degree, I finished the two years of chemistry offered at Washington and Lee and decided to pursue the subject further, Professor

The State of Virginia was named for the virgin queen of the British Isles, Elizabeth I. It was colonized early in the 17th century by English and Scotch settlers. The first colonies had a hard time becoming firmly fixed but when they did get settled, Virginia rapidly became foremost among the colonies along the eastern sea border. The Virginia settlers tended to divide into two groups due to racial and religious differences. The Scotch-Irish Presbyterians occupied the interior counties along the Alleghany Mountains, and Lexington was from the beginning a strong-hold of Scotch-Irish nationalists. I believe "Irish" did not indicate Irish descent but simply the Scotch driven from home by religious persecution who settled in the eight northern counties of Ireland, which today adhere to British government rather than to that of the Irish republic.

But the "Eastern Shore" of Virginia was settled largely by English stock, with a more worldly and freer outlook than the Scotch-Irish. The Lee family and that of George Washington may be regarded as typical East Virginia families. Dancing, merry-making, an occasional game of chance were not only tolerated but actually encouraged.

How greatly the national position of Virginia was changed by the so-called Civil War (or War of the States) can be appreciated by comparing various segments of its political life before and since the Civil War. Before the War Virginia had had by far the greatest number of national Presidents; since the War not a single one. And the latter is also true of all the other Southern states. The many able public leaders in the South cannot aspire to the highest office of their homeland. Lyndon Johnson, who became President by succession, is the first. The Democratic Party has long ago expanded beyond the South (e.g., President Kennedy from Massachusetts) but it was not strong enough to carry a Southerner to the White House before Johnson.

But did my education and residence in Virginia at the shrine of Robert E. Lee and the home of Jackson leave any permanent impression upon my outlook on life? My prompt transfer to Boston and then to Leipzig seemed to wipe out my prejudices and put me in balance. My loss of race prejudice is discussed in Chapter 4 and 12 and need not be mentioned here.

I am very grateful to Washington and Lee for my years there, especially to Professor Howe for bringing me under the influence of chemistry. If I had foreseen this in my freshman year I would have devoted more time to mathematics and physics with the hope of being a better chemist. But that is water over the dam that cannot be brought back.

Finally I can ask myself if today I would choose Washington and Lee for myself, or more pertinently for my grandson. Well, probably not, with no Meadors to send one there nor Howe to complete the capture.

Howe advised me to enter the Massachusetts Institute of Technology which offered a four year course of required studies leading to the S.B. degree. This desig-