

CLEMSON COLLEGE

As a member of the Board of Trustees, under the will of Mr. Clemson, I am thoroughly informed as to the condition and prospects of Clemson College. The original purpose of the Trustees was to build and equip a college for the accommodation of not exceeding 250 students, but the popularity of the idea of industrial training caused such a large number of applications to be made for admission that the Board felt constrained to enlarge the whole plant, and we are preparing room for 600. The claim was made by myself and others, and it was generally understood by the people, that with the privilege tax formerly expended by the Agricultural Department; and with the funds donated by the United States Government, known as the Hatch, the Morrill, and the Land Scrip funds, the College could be built and run without taxation. The expectation of the Board was that this could be done in two years, and I so stated in my last Message; but at the end of the second year we find ourselves constrained to ask the help of the Legislature for money to complete the buildings as give us a partial equipment so as to open the College next Spring. After careful and through investigation into the kind of work remaining to be done, and of the needs of the institution, I am of the opinion that if the Legislature will give us forty thousand dollars the school can be opened by the first of May, and there would be sufficient funds to run it the balance of the year. The Board of Trustees ask for fifty thousand dollars, and I am free to admit that if that sum is appropriated the equipment would be much more commensurate with the requirements of the institution. As an explanation of the failure on the part of the Board to redeem its promise that the school would be completed in two years without taxation, I would direct attention to the fact that this year was a falling off in the amount received from the privilege tax of \$20,000. It was estimated that the sale of Agricultural Hall would add to its revenues, but the property has not been sold. The lowest estimate placed on that property was \$20,000, and the two together make a deficit of \$40,000 in our income. The Board therefore has not deceived the people, for their promises would have been kept had this money been available. In asking the State to make it up to us, we only have at heart the best interest of the institution and of the large number of boys and young men, nearly a thousand, who are awaiting the opening of its portals. The Report of the President of the Board will give full details as to the progress of the work and the scope of the institution.