

Woodrow Wilson At The University of Virginia

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LATE IN SEPTEMBER, 1879, a slightly built, rather frail young man, about twenty-three years old, made his way across the University Grounds and registered in the Department of Law. He signed his name T. W. Wilson.

Civil strife had taken a heavy toll on the institution which Jefferson had started off so auspiciously. But in 1879, fourteen years after Appomattox, the University of Virginia was recovering, slowly but surely, from the disasters which war had brought. That fall, when the doors opened for classes, the enrollment in the College was 328, with seventy-eight students in the Law School. The young men who entered upon a collegiate career in those days discovered that some of the material aspects of college life were not so pleasant as many would have wished them to be. But, despite the fact that "food was poor, conditions primitive, the rooms sparsely furnished and cold," students could still sing: "all is bright and gay!"¹

An outstanding faculty of learned and sincere men had performed what seemed a miracle in getting the University back on its academic feet. Two important ingredients of their success were plain, hard work and very close student-faculty relationships. To mention any of these men would be to pass over many unjustly, but among the more outstanding professors were John Barbee Minor, Charles Scott Venable, James Lawrence Cabell, William Holmes McGuffey, Stephen Osborne Southall, Basil Lanneau Gildersleeve and John Staige Davis. It is a testimonial to their success that Thomas W. Wilson, a discerning young man who, charting a career in politics and government, chose the University in preference to some other school.

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Entering the University of Virginia was in keeping with young Wilson's manifest desire to enter politics, to be a "Virginia Senator"²; his main interest was in government. He had constantly nourished this interest by long and devoted hours given over to the study of Macaulay, Bright, Burke, Bagehot, and other writers of history and government, and when the time came to study law, long recognized as the best avenue to politics in the South, he headed for the University Law School: "Pre-eminently the best . . . in the South . . . and . . . commonly regarded as a great training school of statesman. Woodrow Wilson, in choosing Virginia from the many great law schools of the country, followed a tradition established by the two preceding generations."³

Woodrow Wilson was born at Staunton, Virginia, December 28, 1856, to the brilliant Joseph Ruggles Wilson, a Presbyterian minister, and his wife, the refined English-born Jesse Woodrow. Before young "Tommy" was a year old, his family moved to Georgia, the state which gave him his elementary education and prepared him for Davidson College in North Carolina, which he entered in 1873. From Davidson, Wilson entered Princeton in 1875.

So in the last week of September, 1879, young Wilson, fresh out of Princeton, where he had graduated forty-first in a class of 122, entered the University of Virginia. He had acquired at Princeton a rich background in extra-curricular activity and academic work, for excellence in both had characterized his stay at Old Nassau. He had served as president of the athletic association and of the baseball association and as an editor and eventually as manager of the *Princetonian*, the college newspaper. He had been a member of the glee club and the American Whig society, an organization founded at Princeton by James Madison. Wilson himself had organized the Liberal Debating Club, fashioning it after the British Parliament,⁴ and had been a contributor to the *Nassau Literary Magazine*. His article, "Cabinet Government in the United States," had merited publishing in the *International Review*, a copy of which, lying on a desk in the library and opened to his article, greeted Wilson upon his arrival at the University.⁵

Within a short time Wilson was once more actively participating in student affairs. He was initiated into a social fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi, on October 25, 1879, a few weeks after he had enrolled. Shortly, he joined the Chapel Choir, for he loved music and had a tenor voice of some quality; and he was soon singing in an octette as a first tenor. Wilson thoroughly enjoyed this type of activity and worked at it unstintingly. Although interested in athletics, he participated in them very infrequently, primarily because of his

frail health, which seemed to be evident to most of his friends and which was finally to cause his departure from the school.

Both Archibald W. Patterson and William Cabell Bruce, school-mates of Wilson, refer in their *Recollections* to his weakness of physique, Patterson claiming that he "was never physically robust, was then rather thin and his reddish complexion, together with a slight cutaneous affection, gave evidence of the dyspeptic trouble which followed him through his life."⁶ But Wilson never missed a ball game when it was possible to see one and "often played catch with his intimate friend, R. H. Dabney . . ."⁷ Judging, however, from student newspaper accounts, one may conclude that athletics at the University in Wilson's time were of no great importance, as "intercollegiate contests rarely ever took place" and about all the students had in the way of games was an "occasional baseball game . . . and a footrace or two in the autumn."⁸

The lighter side of Wilson's nature was not always apparent, but asserted itself humorously at times. On one occasion he was called upon to make a speech in presenting medals to the winners of a certain athletic contest. His speech, supposedly serious, included without warning this verse:

'Twas in the gloaming, by the fair Wyoming,
That I left my darling, many years ago;
And memory tender brings her back in splendor
With her cheeks of roses and her brow of snow.
But where in thunder is she now, I wonder?
Oh, my soul, be quiet, and, my sad heart, hush!
Under the umbrella of another fellow
O! I think I see her, padding through the slush!

Although he received "hearty applause" at the end of his speech, it is hard to imagine that his verse provoked it.⁹

On a more serious occasion Wilson's oratorical prowess was put to test when a group of student got fired up at a circus performer for denouncing them as "ruffians, scoundrels, and blackguards." The visiting showman, apparently, was angry at the enthusiastic reception given to his show girl by the students (who, so the account goes, had "yelled and clapped their hands") and he gave them a sound tongue lashing. When the incensed students wanted to fight, Wilson advised against it. At a mass meeting held to determine whether the showman should be made to apologize, Leroy Percy, later a senator from Mississippi, took the lead in urging the "revenge" policy, but when Wilson summed up his arguments and asked, "Is it worth it?" the agitation ceased. Wilson, however, had declared that he would fight if the majority so decided.¹⁰

Patterson says that Wilson "did not dance, smoke, drink, or play cards" but that "his attitude towards those who thought fit to indulge in such things had in it nothing of intolerance or censoriousness."¹¹ Bruce ascribes this lack of "pleasure-loving propensities" to a certain measure of stunted growth as well as moral rectitude."¹²

Wilson seems to have exhibited more interest in girls after he left the University for Wilmington, North Carolina. Soon after his withdrawal he wrote Richard Heath Dabney, a close friend at the University, that he was "spending some of his time in the company of fair damsels who . . . are generally well enough disposed to submit themselves to be entertained by a well-meaning young man who exerts himself to sustain a much larger reputation for intelligence than he has any right to."¹³ No references to his having had any love affairs at the University can be found.

By far the most significant of the future president's activities were those connected with the Jefferson Literary Society and the *University Magazine*. The "Jeff" as it was then and still is called, was "in its glory" during Wilson's stay at the University. It was an organization in which membership was regarded as a high honor and it fulfilled one of the most important functions of University life. "Jeff" was "never better than at the time in question," according to Patterson, and the debates were "of a uniformly high order."¹⁴ Organized and conducted for the purpose of improving debate and thought, "Jeff" had strong appeal for Woodrow Wilson, who moved on to its presidency in 1880 and did much to improve its prestige by revising the constitution, guiding discussions, giving speeches and participating in debate. Its importance to Wilson can best be demonstrated from a letter to Dabney written after he left school:

I miss you and the other boys of Phi Psi more than you would believe, Heath; and when Saturday night comes, I find myself wishing that I could drop in at the Jeff. again. Whom have you elected G. P. [*sic*] in my stead? and what was the ultimate fate of the new Constitution in the Jeff? . . . Tell me about the frat. and about the Jeff. when you write.¹⁵

This and other references by Wilson to the "Jeff" indicate that it was probably his most important extracurricular activity at the University.

To the *University Magazine*, Wilson also devoted much time—a continuation of his undergraduate practice of contributing to the *Nassau Literary Magazine* while at Princeton. His most important contributions to the *Virginia Magazine* were the essays, "John Bright" and "Mr. Gladstone: A Character Sketch"—both

published in the spring of 1880. Less important but interesting was a debate between Wilson and J. M. Horner (later a bishop of the Episcopal Church in North Carolina) on the negative, and William Cabell Bruce (later senator from Maryland) and Benjamin Abney (later an eminent South Carolina attorney) on the affirmative of the question: Resolved that the Roman Catholic element in the United States is a menace to the United States. Wilson took the Orator's medal, which was considered second place to the Debater's medal presented to Bruce at the conclusion of the debate.

His articles on John Bright and William Gladstone are to some degree portents of his future role as a national and world leader and of his views and uniqueness in American history. Of John Bright, he wrote:

We find every truly great man identified with some special cause. His purposes are steadfastly set in some definite direction. The career which he works out for himself constitutes so intimate a part of the history of his times that to dissociate him from his surroundings were as impossible as it would be undesirable.¹⁶

Eventually Wilson's "special cause" was to become the League of Nations and his "intimate part of the history of his times" the sponsorship of progressivism at home and world peace abroad.

Wilson's lofty purpose and tenacity in behalf of a cause, later to become so characteristic of him, were forecast in his admiring interpretation of Bright: "It was as the expression of his *high impulses and strong purposes and sagacious plans and noble courage* that John Bright's oratory became a tremendous agency in the world of politics" and, Wilson continued, if John Bright was a demagogue and a radical, it was because demagoguery amounted to "constant and consistent support of the policy dictated by a clear-sighted liberalism . . . *a strenuous and unyielding opposition to the encroachments of power and the oppressions of prejudice, and the tyranny of wealth.*"¹⁷ Later translated, this last phrase was to mean among other things the protective tariff and the sins of Big Business.

At the University, Wilson also put himself on record as a nationalist and an advocate of a strong central government:

". . . because I love the South, I rejoice in the failure of the Confederacy . . . conceive of this Union as divided into two separate and independent sovereignties! I see one people, and one language, and one law, and one faith over all that wide continent . . . Have we not abundant reason to thank God that this happy vision has been realized; that union *still* binds us together in strength."¹⁸

By definition he placed statesmanship on high but pragmatic ground resting firmly on a democratic base: It consisted "not in the cultivation and practice of the arts of intrigue, nor in the pursuit of all the crooked intricacies of party management, but in the life-long endeavor to lead first the attention and then the will of the people to the acceptance of truth in its application to the problems of government."¹⁹

Wilson's thoughtful analysis of William Gladstone, the great liberal of nineteenth century English politics, may be considered as a clue to his future capacity for growth and the absorption of inevitable change in society. He pictured Gladstone as not tied down by the ordinary weaknesses and prejudices which bind average men. He defended Gladstone's "inconsistent course": "One can hardly help pitying one who is incapable of changing his opinions . . . It seems to me that right and truth are the proper standards in this matter." It was this "spirit of advance, this emancipation from the narrow views of policy, which have heretofore too often influenced British legislation," that made Gladstone's career outstanding to Wilson.

This "spirit of advance," Wilson was pleased to see, was beginning to have results in Europe, since that continent had "already gone far towards the abandonment of her old despotisms." He mentioned Austria-Hungary, Germany, France and Russia (rumblings of discontent at Tsardom had begun in Russia: the nihilists, terrorists, and anarchists, for instance, had been heard from) as among those countries moving toward more self-government and to new, purified governmental machinery.²⁰ Here is early evidence of his interest in the march of democracy abroad, perhaps a portent of his later crusade "to make the world safe for democracy" in the fateful year 1917.

Wilson's academic record is not so clear. The statements of those who knew him are somewhat contradictory. Yet it is probably safe to say that he was not an outstanding student of law, a subject he found to be dull in comparison to the political treatises which he read avidly. Edwin A. Alderman, president of the University during the period of Wilson's political ascendancy, in a *Memorial Address* to a joint session of Congress on May 15, 1924, soon after Wilson's death, stated frankly that Wilson "did not obtain at any of the colleges in which he studied a high reputation as a technical scholar."²¹ A writer in the *Alumni Bulletin* maintained that he did "not distinguish himself in his studies. He stood among the very best, but not a prize student."²² Patterson, who was in a good position to know, since he attended classes with

Wilson, arrived at this conclusion: "Wilson's class-work was a matter of secondary importance. Though systematic in attendance upon lectures and never quite unprepared, lesson study and recitation seemed to be a sort of tread-mill process, lacking the enthusiasm always exhibited in his forensic and literary endeavors."²³

Arthur S. Link, presently engaged on a multi-volume biography of Wilson, wrote that he studied law in a "desultory manner" and quoted Wilson as writing to his Princeton friend, Charles A. Talcott in December, 1879, that he was "most terribly bored by the noble study of law."²⁴ He was more interested in Stubb's *Constitutional History of England*, Lecky's *England in the Eighteenth Century* and other books on history and government which, Link asserted, he read constantly and avidly while at the University. Bruce viewed the matter somewhat differently: "I . . . can bear witness to the fact that no responses to Mr. Minor's questions [John B. Minor, professor of law] were prompter, more precise, or more satisfactory, in every respect, than his."²⁵ If not a "prize" student in law, he apparently could demonstrate effectively his knowledge and intelligence in the classroom.

Wilson did not forget the University. In a letter to his close friend Dabney, a few months after he had withdrawn, he wrote: "The more news of the University people and University things you can manage to retail in your letters, the surer will be the welcome of the same." Upon his election to the Presidency, thirty-one years later, he could still say: "I wish I could look forward to seeing the old University again."²⁶

That he was respected and admired by the students and faculty who knew him is not to be doubted, though his popularity was probably confined to a few intimates. Dabney observed that "most of his fellow students . . . probably regarded Woodrow Wilson as, all in all, the foremost man among them."²⁷ Alderman described him as a person who "could be gay and charming with the choicest of his fellows and bold and assertive enough in the rough and tumble of college affairs."²⁸ Another account held that he "found little difficulty in winning the esteem of his professors and fellow students. He may be said to have been a typical University student. He was neither a grind nor a loafer."²⁹ If this were the case, then it was natural that "Wilson's University friends [remembered] him more as a fun-loving, rollicking student, than as a promising genius."³⁰ Patterson, on the other hand, recalled that Wilson was not a "mixer", that "his circle of familiar friends was small."³¹ Bruce in part corroborated this view: Wilson did not "share freely in the general social life of the Uni-

versity, and was the centre of only a limited circle of student friends. . . ."32

This "limited circle" of friends was headed by a trio composed of Archibald W. Patterson, Charles W. Kent, and Richard H. Dabney—all three to become noted for their intellectual interests. Patterson, a native of Richmond, received both the B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University, practiced law in Richmond, becoming commissioner of chancery and a well-known member of the Henrico county school board.

Charles W. Kent, born in Louisa County, received an M.A., continued his studies in Germany, and was awarded his Ph.D. from the University of Leipzig in 1887. He was appointed professor of English literature in the University of Virginia in 1893 and became well known as a writer and lecturer. Richard Heath Dabney also attained his M.A. at the University, continued his studies in Germany, earning a Ph.D. at the University of Heidelberg in 1885. He returned to the University after teaching in New York and Indiana, to become professor of history in 1906. He led a scholarly and dignified life at the University, and remained in communication with Wilson until the latter's death.

Another member of Wilson's inner circle of friends was Joseph P. Blair, editor of the *Virginia Magazine*. After graduation in 1881 he read law in the office of Justice Edward D. White of the Supreme Court, later Chief Justice, and became a prominent member of the Louisiana bar and of a well-known law firm in New Orleans. Wilson no doubt had many other friends during his attendance—a period said to be "remarkable in the University's history for the high rank of the men in attendance."³³ Other Wilson schoolmates to become distinguished in their respective professions were numerous, such as: William P. Trent, distinguished author and teacher; Charles Page Bryan, ambassador to Japan; Leroy Percy, United States senator from Mississippi; John Bassett Moore, famous author, international lawyer, and career diplomat who was mentioned during the campaign of 1912 as a possible secretary of state under Wilson; Richard E. Byrd, prominent Virginia politician and speaker of the house of delegates; William Cabell Bruce, Baltimore politician, Maryland senator, and historio-biographer of renown; Colonel J. Hunter Pendleton, professor of chemistry at Virginia Military Institute; and Walter S. Lefevre, professor of philosophy at the University of Texas. Such school-mates must have provided a stimulating atmosphere in which Wilson could revel and indulge his intellectual tastes and interest in the science of politics.

To appraise the influence of the University upon Wilson's

development leads mostly to speculation. Such influences cannot be pinned down; the available material is permeated with vagueness and generalities.

According to President Alderman in an article, "A Tribute to Woodrow Wilson from his Alma Mater," published in the local press on July 2, 1912, Wilson "carried away with him some of the distinctive imprints of the genius of the University of Virginia. Its good taste, its clear thinking, its self-reliance, its moral courage, its straight-forwardness, its self-restraint, are all reflected in the life and genius of the new leader of American Democracy."³⁴

Matthew Josephson, in his *The President Makers*, asserts that ". . . there is an evangelical strain in the Wilson who made political office his pulpit, and there is his heritage of Virginia traditions—absorbed at the law school of the University of Virginia."³⁵

Such statements, though of interest, do not separate the influences of home life, Princeton, and other experiences from those of the University. But one man at least seems to have substantially influenced the future president. This was John Barbee Minor, who for a half century as teacher and dean of law, was himself an institution at the University and a greatly admired scholar whose ability as a lecturer endeared him to his pupils.

Bruce, a legal scholar of some capacity and a pupil under Minor, had this to say of his professor:

His strong searching face, his flawless dignity of bearing, his perfectly organized intellect from which radiance streamed, when he was lecturing, as if from some great luminous orb, all set him apart in my mind, as the most masterful and instructive teacher I have ever known.

Minor's influence on the Southern bar, Bruce goes on, was "difficult to exaggerate."³⁶ Professor Minor indeed,

. . . not only taught the law and the reason thereof, but also grounded his pupils in the fundamental principles of society and government. He was keenly interested in the relations between law and politics . . . Dr. Minor was a man of striking personality, was loved by his students for his personal qualities and respected for his intellectual abilities and practically incarnated the best spirit and traditions of the University of that date.

Wilson's "personal contact with Dr. John B. Minor was possibly the most lasting influence he received at the University."³⁷ This conclusion is accepted by Link, who asserted that Wilson, to the end of his life, thought of Minor as "one of the greatest men he had known and, next to his father, his greatest teacher."³⁸

That Wilson was personally attracted to Minor and respected his ideas and ability can be seen in these words of Wilson himself,

written to Minor from Johns Hopkins where he was studying several years after his departure from the University:

I am increasingly thankful for the opportunities I enjoyed under you at the University. I have in consequence of my studies there a firmer foothold in English Constitutional history than I could have otherwise obtained.³⁹

Earlier, Wilson had written Minor that although his entry into the practice of law had been a "folly", he had not been mistaken in studying ". . . where I would be most thoroughly grounded in the principles of the common law. . . ." ⁴⁰

Minor has been described as a "Unionist, but a true advocate and teacher of States Rights, a disciple of the illustrious Jefferson and Madison. . . He believed in Christian Charity and justice, conservative thought and action, and that the wise counsel of the intelligent would correct prevailing wrongs."⁴¹ Whether such a philosophy influenced Wilson is not known positively, but Wilson later wrote Minor these significant words:

I have studied many of the questions which immediately concern the structure of the Federal Government and its relations to the States with considerable thoroughness, and the more deeply I look into them the more I am inclined to that *middle course which you commend.*⁴²

This sentiment, expressed in 1884, may be indicative of Wilson's future concern for the proper balance between the states and the national government, so often expressed in later years. Wilson intimates in the same letter, in reference to an article on federal legislative methods which he had recently written for the *Overland Monthly* in San Francisco, that Minor might think it contained "too hasty, final conclusions" which, according to Wilson, Minor had warned him against. That Wilson was not a man to draw hasty or unfounded conclusions can be seen in the history of the long-delayed American entry into the First World War. Here, as in other instances, the influence of both Minor and Wilson's father (who, Alderman said, taught his son "the power to proceed straight to the core of a subject,"⁴³) no doubt manifested itself.

Minor's belief in the "wise counsel of the intelligent" to correct wrongs seems to have made some impression on Wilson, who in 1886 wrote Minor that he agreed with him that "Mr. Cleveland's example of courage and public principle will prove to our politicians the value, as a means toward *success* as well as toward a good conscience and good reputation, of virtue and sense . . ." ⁴⁴ This passage evidently referred to Cleveland's stand on the private pension legislation of the 1880's, which culminated in

his veto of the Dependent Pension Act (the "Pauper Pension") in 1887. It indicates again Wilson's strong devotion to principles he thought correct and upright.

Woodrow Wilson was not destined to remain long among the shadows of the Lawn and Ranges. In dead winter, just before Christmas, 1880, he left the University after two and a half semesters, but not of his own choosing. Of his withdrawal he wrote Dabney:

As for my health, I now know that to leave the University was the most prudent step I could have taken. My doctor found my digestive organs seriously out of gear and has confirmed me in the belief that, had I remained at the University and there continued to neglect systematic medical treatment of myself, I might have confirmed myself in dyspepsia and have fixed on myself a very uncomfortable future.⁴⁵

This decision, reluctantly made, did not end his academic career. After a disappointing experience at law practice in Atlanta, Georgia,⁴⁶ he resumed his studies of history and politics at Johns Hopkins University. From there he went on to become a mature scholar, teacher, university president, governor, and finally, President of the United States.

Although, early in the new century, he turned down an offer to return to the University as its first president, feeling that his ties to Princeton were too great to be broken (he became president there in 1902), Wilson often demonstrated his fond regard for the institution which Jefferson built. He praised the selection of Alderman as its first president and predicted the success of the Alderman administration.⁴⁷ While Governor of New Jersey, he spoke at the University to a combined meeting of the Jefferson Society and the Woodrow Wilson Club (November, 1911) and referred in pleasant terms to his old association with the University.⁴⁸

Immediately after the presidential elections of November, 1912, President-elect Wilson wrote Dabney that he would like to see the University again and promised to stop over on his way to Staunton, Virginia: "I love the old place for its memories and simplicities, and not for the trouble that I have subsequently got into."⁴⁹ However, he was unable to stop and telegraphed Dabney of his "ditsress" at not being able to do so.

The University did not forget Wilson either. Before the elections of 1912, the University of Virginia, along with the University of South Carolina, led the "Woodrow Wilson League of College Men" which by November 25, 1911, according to *College Topics*, included "well over 100 [colleges and universities] which

have active and interested clubs."⁵⁰ At Wilson's inaugural in Washington, the University was well represented by students, faculty and alumni.

On February 6, 1924, three days after Wilson's death, memorial services were held in Cabell Hall. Professor Dabney declared in his address that Wilson died for "humanity and world peace."⁵¹ The same year President Alderman, of the University, delivered the memorial address in Wilson's honor before a joint session of Congress. To a memorial banquet held by The Jefferson Society on May 17, 1936, at the Monticello Hotel, Senators Tom Connally of Texas and William H. Dieterich of Illinois, John L. Newcomb, President of the University, Richard H. Dabney and many others came to pay homage to the distinguished alumnus of the University.⁵²

A metal plaque above 31 West Range testifies that Wilson, when a student at the University, lived there, a short distance from Poe's room. But a living memorial to Wilson on the Grounds today is embodied in the Woodrow Wilson School of Foreign Affairs—a fitting memorial to him whose idealism in the field of international relations, although destined for temporary failure, carried his name and his hopes for world peace into the remotest corners of the world.

1. Ruth Cranston, *The Story of Woodrow Wilson* (New York, 1945), 25.
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Alumni Bulletin of the University of Virginia*, V, Number 5 (October, 1912), 566.
4. Josephus Daniels, *The Life of Woodrow Wilson* (New York 1924), 48.
5. Cranston, *Wilson*, 20, 25-26.
6. Archibald W. Patterson, *Personal Recollections of Woodrow Wilson* (Richmond, 1922), 7; William Cabell Bruce, *Recollections* (Baltimore, 1936), 71.
7. *College Topics*, XXXIV (November 24, 1922), 6.
8. *Ibid.*
9. *Ibid.*
10. Daniels, *Wilson*, 56-57.
11. Patterson, *Recollections*, 10.
12. Bruce, *Recollections*, 70.
13. Dabney Papers, Alderman Library, University of Virginia.
14. Patterson, *Recollections*, 14.
15. February 1, 1881, Dabney Papers.
16. Ray S. Baker and William E. Dodd, *College and State, Educational, Literary and Political Papers* (New York and London, 1925), I, 44.
17. *Ibid.*, 43, 48. Italics are the author's.
18. *Ibid.*, 56-58.
19. *Ibid.*, 59.
20. *Ibid.*, 75-76. See Harley Notter, *The Origins of the Foreign Policy of Woodrow Wilson* (Baltimore, 1937), 27-30, for a discussion of the significance of these articles.
21. E. A. Alderman, *Memorial Address* (New York, 1925), 12.
22. *Alumni Bulletin* (October, 1912), 566.
23. Patterson, *Recollections*, 9.
24. Arthur S. Link, *Wilson: The Road to the White House* (Princeton, 1947), 6-7.
25. Bruce, *Recollections*, 69.
26. Wilson to Dabney, March 22, 1881 and November 20, 1912, Dabney Papers.
27. *Corks and Curls* (May, 1913), 7.
28. Alderman, *Memorial Address*, 12.
29. *Alumni Bulletin* (October, 1912), 566.
30. *University Magazine*, XVI (1912-1913), 298. From an article on Wilson by D. Hiden Ramsey.
31. Patterson, *Recollections*, 8-9.
32. Bruce, *Recollections*, 70.
33. *College Topics*, XXIV, Number 4 (March 5, 1913), 3.

34. Unidentified newspaper clippings in the Dabney Papers.
35. Matthew Josephson, *The President Makers* (New York, 1940), 345.
36. Bruce, *Recollections*, 68.
37. *Virginia Magazine* (1912-1913), 295, 296.
38. Link, *Wilson*, 6.
39. December 2, 1886. Minor Papers, Alderman Library, University of Virginia.
40. April 29, 1884, Minor Papers.
41. D. M. R. Culbreth, *The University of Virginia* (New York, 1908), 435. Professor Minor, according to this same source (431, 432), taught a Bible Class on Sunday mornings in his regular lecture room which a good number of his pupils, and others, attended.
42. Wilson to Minor, May 2, 1884, Minor Papers. Italics are the author's.
43. Alderman, *Memorial Address*, 7.
44. Wilson to Minor, December 20, 1886, Minor Papers.
45. Wilson to Dabney, February 1, 1881, Dabney Papers.
46. Upon leaving the University, Wilson proceeded to his home in Wilmington, North Carolina, where his parents were and where he continued to read law. He passed the bar examination in Atlanta in October, 1882. For a few months he practiced law at Chillicothe, Ohio.
47. Patterson, *Recollections*, 32.
48. *College Topics*, XXIII (November 25, 1911), 1.
49. Wilson to Dabney, November 20, 1912, Dabney Papers.
50. *College Topics*, XXIII (November 25, 1911), 1.
51. *College Topics*, XXXV (February 8, 1924), 6.
52. *College Topics*, XLVII (May 18, 1936), 2.