

Our Senior Captain



CAPTAIN WILLIAM HARTMAN KABLE, our beloved Principal, was born in Jefferson County, Virginia, September 25, 1837, thus being in the 69th year of his age. He attended a private school near his father's plantation until he attained to young manhood, when he matriculated at the University of Virginia in the fall of 1857. He left the University about a year before the war between the States and was teaching at Southampton, Virginia, when that gigantic struggle began. Like hundreds of the South's best sons, though doubting the expediency of secession, when the crisis came he responded to the call of his native State and joined the Confederate Army in April, 1861. He enlisted in the Tenth Virginia Cavalry as a private, but won promotion rapidly, being elected lieutenant the next year, and rising to the captaincy of his company the second year. He fought bravely throughout the war, participating in many of the fiercest and bloodiest struggles for Southern independence.

In the Gettysburg campaign he was wounded at Hanover, Pa., where he also had his horse shot under him in battle. He was at Appomattox, Virginia, at "the time that tried men's souls," when a small but invincible army of veterans from a hundred battlefields had to bury their hopes and their flag in the face of a multitudinous enemy that was backed by inexhaustible resources. At the sad and solemn surrender he stood by the side of his great commander, Gen. Robert E. Lee, and received from that peerless chieftain, on a parole for duty well done, the highly merited commendation, "This was a good officer."

After the war Captain Kable began teaching at the same place where he had taught a short while when only seventeen years of age. But, still ambitious to bet-

ter equip himself for his chosen profession, he re-entered the University of Virginia and graduated from that justly famous institution with the degree of Master of Arts in June, 1868. For one year after graduation he taught school at West View, near Staunton, but owing to defective eyesight, which developed just at this time, he had to give up for a while the profession to which he was so devoted, and for three years he was a farmer. It was while thus engaged that he won the heart of the woman who became his first wife, and in October, 1871, he was married to Miss Willie Lobban Gibbs, of Lynchburg, Va. From this union there were seven children—the oldest of whom is Captain William G. Kable, our popular and efficient Commandant of Cadets.

In 1872 the subject of our sketch began teaching—this time to continue until he had to his credit fifty years of work as an instructor and exemplar for hundreds of young men who came from all sections of the Union to be prepared for college and for life. He first took charge of the famous Charles Town Academy, at Charles Town, West Va., an institution founded by Lord Fairfax, of England. He remained here for twelve years, and followed his profession so successfully that the Charles Town Academy became one of the most noted schools for scholarship and thorough work in that section of country. It was while presiding over this school that he was elected by his fellow-citizens to the presidency of the County Court at Charles Town, and from his tenure of office in that honorable position he holds the distinction of never having had one of his decisions reversed by a higher court.

In 1884 Captain Kable gave up his work at Charles Town and moved to Staunton, Va., where he founded the Staunton Military Academy, familiarly known to everyone as the Kable School. After all the vicissitudes that could be incident to an institution of its kind, this school stands to-day grander and stronger because of its age—the largest preparatory school in the Southern States—a sublime commentary on the ability and fidelity of its noble founder, Captain William H. Kable, honored by all his co-workers and loved as a father by every cadet in the corps.