To the New Campus

The Gilded Age was not a Golden Age for Trinity College. Life in this mid-Victorian atmosphere was leisurely, pleasant, and perhaps even urbane. Abner Jackson, Trinity’s eminent Victorian, set the tone, dictated the policies, and served as the pivot about which the College’s rather parochial interests and activities revolved. Jackson had restored the good name of the College and had brought the institution to a firm footing of respectability after three lesser presidents had almost allowed it to expire. His social personality, his love of students, and his interest in their everyday affairs had been most important during the transition from the older, traditional, New England college to the modern, activity-oriented institution which was to change but little during the next half-century. In only one sphere of college administration did Abner Jackson fail to achieve remarkable success. That sphere was college finance.

But Abner Jackson could hardly be blamed for a situation over which he had little direct control. The Trustees, apparently with the advice and consent of the College Treasurer, approved all but the most trivial expenditures and it was they who were responsible, although not always effectively, for providing for the payment of the College’s financial operations. The Trustees, too, had their problems, and not all of them were of their own making. Trinity College was the victim of circumstances, and the financial affairs of the institution reflected a chain of cause and effect, or perhaps, rather, a series of chains of cause and effect. Periods of financial distress were repeatedly followed by briefer periods of relative prosperity. During these better years, the Trustees had been able to discharge the most pressing obligations of the College and even to make reasonable advances in the direction of the progress which was being made by the more prosperous sister colleges. But hardly had Trinity’s financial house been set in order when new, and not always expected, obligations were incurred which demanded immediate attention.

The last of these crises had been met in the mid-1860’s by Professor Mallory’s heroic and successful efforts in raising $100,000 for the College, but much of this new wealth had been dissipated, again in ways which did not necessarily reflect bad financial management. The buildings had been kept in reasonably good repair, and the salaries of the Faculty had been raised to a competitive level—at least with the smaller colleges, if not with the larger and more affluent ones. In 1867, for example, Harvard had just raised the salary of full professors from $3,000 to $4,000 and New York University had doubled academic salaries from $1,500 to $3,000. Although Trinity’s $2,000 must have seemed paltry by comparison, it was considerably above the $1,500 then being paid by the University of Michigan. Trinity, too, was providing what later came to be known as “fringe benefits.” Many of the professors lived in the college buildings in what amounted to “subsidized housing”; and in 1865, the College had set the precedent for free tuition for faculty sons by granting Professor Brocklesby remission for all fees for his son’s attending Trinity. 1

Professor Mallory had been so successful as a fund-raiser that in July, 1867, Treasurer Thomas Belknap resigned in his favor. 2 Mallory was a most devoted alumnus, and his independent

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means enabled him to engage an Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, the Reverend Edwin E. Johnson, to teach most of his classes and, for several years, at no expense to the College. And even Mallory’s services as Treasurer were performed almost gratis. The original arrangement was that he should receive a house rent-free; later, he was paid a mere $500. Not until 1873 did he receive a regular salary, when the Trustees voted him $2,000 per annum.5

There were others on the Faculty who used their private fortunes to pay the salaries of their colleagues. In 1868, Professor Huntington asked that he be relieved of some of his teaching duties and that Samuel Hart ’66 be appointed Tutor in Classical Languages with the Tutor’s salary to be paid by Professor Huntington.6 The arrangement was continued for several years. Although the Trustees in 1868 voted to pay Hart $145 in addition to what he received from Professor Huntington,7 it was not until 1870 that Hart received a regular salary of $1,200 from the College with the understanding that he act as Bursar in addition to his teaching duties.8 Here it might be well to point out that for a full-time Faculty of eight, including the President, the instructional salaries amounted to a mere $11,000 for the academic year 1868–69. The total expenditure for that year came to $27,354.06.9

At the time the college income was sufficient to meet the expenses, and the year 1868–69 had ended with a cash balance of $47,76. The college holdings in real estate were providing an income of $9,645.95, bank stock yielded $5,244.45, donations for 1868–69 amounted to $2,635, and the students had paid $3,702.92 in tuition, much of which had been derived from the many scholarship funds then held by the College. The real estate values were increasing, and even the stocks and bonds were appreciating in value.10

In 1869, the Trustees accepted the gift of what was to be a favorite Trinity landmark – the statue of Bishop Brownell. The colossal statue was the work of Chauncey B. Ives of Rome, Italy, cast at the foundry of Ferdinand von Müller of Munich at a cost, according to one report, of $3,500,11 or

\[10,000\] in gold, according to another,12 and paid for by Bishop Brownell’s son-in-law, Gordon W. Burnham of New York. Although it was originally planned to place the statue at Bishop Brownell’s grave in Cedar Hill Cemetery,13 Burnham later decided that it would be more appropriate to locate it on the Trinity campus. The Trustees were receptive to the idea and accepted the gift, only to learn that Burnham would not provide “a suitable pedestal for the statue.” The pedestal cost the College $5,000,14 but a very grand pedestal it was – of Quincy granite, and sixteen feet high.15 And on Thursday, November 11, 1869, at two o’clock in the afternoon, the statue was unveiled with appropriate ceremonial and addresses by Bishop Williams, Bishop Potter, the President of the College, and the Honorable C. F. Cleveland, former Governor of the state of Connecticut.16

The pedestal for the Bishop’s statue was, at the time, an expensive luxury. Professor Huntington had been delegated by the Trustees to solicit
contributions, but most of the cost was borne by
the College. At this time, too, the Trustees were
expecting an increase in the number of students
and were giving serious consideration to enlarg­ing
the instructional and residential facilities of
the College. At the Diocesan Convention of Sep­
tember, 1869, President Jackson announced that
the College would have to raise $250,000 to erect
income-producing homes on some of the valuable
building lots belonging to the College, a new
chapel, and a fire-proof library. And in late
December Jackson was in Providence, Rhode
Island, not begging, as he reported to his daugh­
ter, but trying to interest people in the work of
the College.

There were no subscriptions pledged to under­
write the building program. There had been sev­
eral bequests between 1869 and 1871—notably
$20,000 from Trustee Isaac Toucey for scholar­
ships and $65,000 from Chester Adams of Hartford
for the general endowment, the largest gift
from an individual up to the time, but nothing
which could be applied to a large-scale academic
building program. With careful management of
the College's investment portfolio, largely
through the judicious buying and selling of real
estate, the College had been able to take in
enough money from rentals, student fees, and in­
terest on investments to balance the budget at
the end of each year. By the summer of 1872,
however, Treasurer George S. Mallory predicted
that the academic year 1872-1873 would end
with a deficit of $3,582. Again it seemed that
the College was to be faced with another of its
almost cyclic crises, and so it might have been,
had not the College become involved in a deal
with the city of Hartford which was to result in
the sale of the Trinity campus for what was re­
garded at the time as a fantastic sum of money
and the re-location of the College on a new site
some two miles to the south.

There was never any question that Trinity
College was located on the most desirable site
in the city of Hartford. The campus was large,
and the adjacent park provided enough perspec­tive to properly set off the buildings when viewed
from the city. During the Civil War there had
been some sentiment for a new state house to be
erected near the College and for a new city hall to be built in the park nearby. In 1870, Hartford became involved in a contest with New Haven as to which of the two cities should become the sole capital of Connecticut. The Charter of 1818 had retained the colonial arrangement whereby alternate sessions of the state legislature were held in the two "capitals"—New Haven and Hartford—but in the late 1860's there was con­siderable agitation for a single capital. The two
state houses in Hartford and New Haven were
both very much in need of repair, and in 1870 Hartford seized the initiative and offered the
state of Connecticut $500,000 toward the erection
of a new capitol building. The Hartford officials
proceeded at once to take steps to acquire the
most desirable site in the city—the Trinity cam­
pus.

When the matter was presented to the College
Trustees, the college officials made clear that
they could not even consider abandoning the
property which they had held for almost half-a­
century. Time had hallowed the ground and, al­
though Trinity was not an old college so far as
colleges go, plans were already being made for
the institution's semi-centennial observance.

Both students and Alumni were distressed to
learn that their campus was being sought for
public purposes. The students were well-pleased
with the College's location, and the Alumni had
sentimental attachments to the old grounds and
buildings. The Tablet perhaps spoke for many
when it declared that it would have been better
had New Haven been selected as the Capital
City. The Faculty, too, preferred not to be
moved and in February, 1872, they petitioned
the Trustees not to sell the campus.

The original offer, based on an impartial ap­
praisal, was for $374,375, but the Trustees de­
cided that not even $500,000 would be adequate
compensation for the loss of grounds, buildings,
and the advantages of the site. And even when
the offer was increased to $550,000, the Trustees
still refused to part with their property. But
the city fathers persisted and on March 11, 1872,
a public meeting was held in Hartford to sound
out public opinion as to how high a price might be offered. Although there was some opposition—largely based on Hartford’s already staggering municipal debt of $3,000,000—the sense of the meeting seemed to be in favor of purchase even if the figure to be offered should reach $600,000. The Board of Aldermen, consequently, voted to purchase the Trinity campus for $600,000. The action was approved at a citizens’ meeting held in Central Hall on March 16, and on March 19 the matter was put to referendum, when the Hartford voters declared three-to-one in favor of the purchase.

On March 21, 1872, the Trustees voted twelve-to-four in favor of accepting the city’s offer. Those opposed to the sale were Bishop Williams, E. E. Beardsley, James E. English, and James Goodwin. For a while President Jackson, too, had been opposed to disposing of the college property, but finally he was won over to the side of those who could vote for the sale. Indeed, Jackson’s reversal of position came so late that he felt obliged to justify his new attitude on grounds of the College’s having need for expansion and for new buildings worthy of the institution’s growing reputation.

On April 15, 1872, the deed was signed and the city of Hartford gave the Trustees of Trinity College $100,000 in cash and a bond for the remaining $500,000. Although the College was in need of funds for immediate operating expenses, the Trustees unanimously voted that all proceeds from the sale of the Old Campus be kept “for the securing of other grounds and buildings and, if practicable, for a future endowment” and that none of the new wealth be used for the current expenses of the College.

Hardly anyone connected with the College was pleased with the decision to move. The students had already had their say, and they were to have it again. The Tablet added a sarcastic note in the suggestion that the buildings to be erected on a new site be named for the grounds and janitorial staff—Franklin, Adams, Hollingsworth, and Professor Jim. And even before the sale had been completed, there was something of a movement to take the College from Hartford.

President Jackson boldly asserted that a rumor that the College would move to New Haven had been “started by some evil-disposed person,” but there were those among the College’s well-wishers who sincerely thought that it would be to the advantage of both the College and the Episcopal Church to move to New Haven and affiliate with Yale as “Trinity College of Yale University.” Nothing, of course, came of this effort, as neither the Yale Corporation nor the Trinity Trustees even considered the proposal. But this was not the end of the efforts to move the College from Hartford, for hardly had the New Haven rumor subsided than some of the New York Alumni urged that the College be removed to “a site on the banks of the Hudson.”

In spite of these pressures, the Trustees proceeded to look for a new site within the city limits of Hartford. Five locations were immediately offered for sale, and each was carefully considered by the Trustees at their meeting of July 11, 1872. The “Penfield Place” on the north side of Park Street was the location closest to the Old Campus. A site had also been offered on Summit Street, just south of Vernon Street, and close to the Zion Hill Cemetery. Another possibility was on Farmington Avenue, “north of the Avenue and west of the bridge.” Judge Barbour had offered a tract of land “on the Windsor Road.” And a fifth site was on Blue Hills Road, “one mile north of the Trotting Park.” Each had its virtues, and the Trustees were much divided as to which might be chosen. To help resolve the problem, the Trustees sought the expert advice of Frederick Law Olmstead, the landscape architect who had achieved fame as the designer of Central Park in New York City. Olmstead decided in favor of the Blue Hills site, but the Trustees were unwilling to accept Olmstead’s suggestion and postponed the selection until October.

Although uncertain as to where the new buildings would be located, the Trustees sent President Jackson to England to engage an architect for a complete, new campus and authorized him to commission a preliminary plan from any architect whom he might select. On July 13, 1872, Jackson left New York on the steamship Atlantic,
accompanied by Mrs. Jackson, his brother-in-law, Charles K. Cobb, and his nephew, Charles K. Cobb, Jr. 44

Immediately upon his arrival in England, Jackson set out on a tour of the educational and ecclesiastical centers of that country. Within a matter of days he had visited Eton College, Oxford, Stratford-on-Avon, the monastery of the Cowley Fathers, the Parliament House at Westminster, and the British Museum. At Oxford he met John Henry Parker, the celebrated architectural historian, 45 to whom he had a letter of introduction from their mutual friend, Bishop Coxe. 46

When Jackson explained his mission, Parker recommended two architects, Scott and Burges. Sir George Gilbert Scott was a celebrated ecclesiastical architect who had been employed widely in restoring numerous English cathedrals and who was regarded as one of the most competent figures in the English Gothic revival. 47 William Burges was a younger man and, although he had not yet made his mark as a first-rate architect, he had attracted considerable attention as the designer of St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland. Of the two, Parker felt that Burges might better be able to accommodate President Jackson. 48

So, on Parker's advice, Jackson presented himself at Burges' office in London. Burges and Jackson “hit it off” from the beginning, and the architect agreed to provide a plan for a new Trinity College campus. Jackson was vague as to exactly what he had in mind, but the fact that he had first consulted Parker and Parker had recommended Burges, suggests that Jackson had been thinking in terms of some sort of Gothic. At any rate, Burges suggested that the two visit Oxford “to examine the Colleges,” and the President and his newly-engaged architect set out for Oxford together. 49

For a week Jackson wandered about Oxford taking notes on all that he saw. He was particularly interested in Brasenose (Jackson spelled it "Braez Noze"), Pembroke, All Souls, and Keble Colleges, the Bodleian Library, and the Sheldonian Theatre. When he returned to London, he gave Burges (who had not remained in Oxford with Jackson) his impressions, and Burges immediately began to block out a general plan for a college to include residence quarters, dining hall, chapel, library, and theatre. 50

While Burges was thus busily employed, Jackson set out for a visit to Scotland. After a brief stay in Glasgow, where he found the University a most depressing sight, he touched briefly at the tourist points of Oban, Iona, Glencoe, and Inverness. On his way back to London, he stopped at Trinity College, Glenalmond, a Scottish Episcopal secondary school for boys some twelve or fifteen miles from Perth. Jackson was much impressed by the architecture of the school which was arranged in a closed quadrangle with the principal façade comprising a “long walk” of two three-storied Victorian Gothic buildings connected by a large central tower. 51 Jackson wrote of Trinity College, Glenalmond, in his notebook: “I make my notes in my notebook on what I saw here. It is a most noble pile of buildings.” 52 It was from these notes that the general outline of the new Trinity College, Hartford, campus doubtless took form.

When Jackson got back to London, he and Burges set to work on the Trinity plan in earnest.

Trinity College, Glenalmond, Scotland
For some time, they spent five hours together each day. And when Burges needed time to work out details, or when Jackson could not decide how a particular element should be executed, Burges would send Jackson out on another visit. Once he suggested that Jackson go to see St. Augustine's Missionary College at Canterbury. And when Jackson was unable to make any concrete suggestions as to how the dormitory entries should be arranged, Burges suggested that he visit Jesus College, Cambridge.53

By the end of September, 1872, Burges and Jackson had agreed upon the general plan of the new campus, and Jackson returned to Hartford.

On October 16, 1872, the Trustees met in special session to select the site for the New Campus. The Penfield Farm on Park Street was selected, and a committee consisting of President Jackson, Thomas Belknap, and George Beach was authorized to make the purchase at a price not to exceed $2,000.54 This was a ridiculously low figure, especially considering that the Old Campus had been sold for $600,000, but the Trustees were perhaps paying heed to the suggestion of the New York Alumni (in formal expression by Bishop Potter) that the new wealth of the College not be dissipated on grounds and buildings.55

As they might have expected, the Trustees' offer for the Penfield Place was rejected. But if on October 12, 1872, the Trustees were "pennywise," on February 16, 1873, they proved to be
"pound-foolish," for on that date they decided in favor of the Vernon Street site, and agreed to pay $225,000 for it—almost half of what they had received for the Old Campus. The site selected by the Trustees had little to commend itself but the view. On the north was the Zion Hill Cemetery, a spot which had frequently been visited by the Grand Tribunal, Mu Mu Mu, and Po Pai Paig. To the west was the gravel pit or trap-rock quarry. To the east, although at a considerable distance, was the Hartford Retreat, later known as the Institute of Living. And to the south, along New Britain Avenue, was a row of cheap boarding houses. The students were particularly unhappy that a location so far from the center of town had been decided upon. The Tablet was again outspoken. "The Trustees," said the Tablet, "have seen fit, in their wisdom (?) to purchase property adjoining the stone pits... in the immediate proximity of two cemeteries and the Insane Asylum." The neighborhood was a bad one—a second "Pigville"—and the city would not move southward, but would spread out toward the north and west, leaving the College in an isolated position, perhaps without even horse-car transportation to the center of town. Had they thought of it, the Tablet staff might have added that the location which the Trustees had selected was known as "Gallows Hill," from the fact that during the eighteenth century it had been the place for public executions.

The Trustees were doubtless aware of these arguments, but it was a strange sort of reasoning which had dictated the final choice. Despite the disreputable character of the neighborhood, the Trustees felt that the very presence of the College on Zion Hill would raise real estate values, and that in time it would become a most desirable section of town. Several persons had offered to buy building lots from the Summit Street side of the College tract, and the Trustees were certain that at least ten lots could be sold for $10,000 each.

Whether wisely or foolishly, the Trustees had not acted a day too soon. The agreement with the city of Hartford called for the College's leaving the Old Campus within a five-year period, and in February, 1873, work was begun on the excavation for the new state capitol. By March, the west-end of the Old Campus was one large hole and by May the north section of Brownell Hall had been vacated in anticipation of its destruction. The students who had occupied rooms in the building either moved into Jarvis Hall or took rooms in town.

After Commencement of 1873, President Jackson went to England to complete the plans with Burges and when he returned to the College the following September he brought with him the most elaborate plan which had ever been designed for an American college campus.

The original Burges plan called for four spacious quadrangles, with a chapel, 140' x 45'; a library, museum, dining hall, and art building, each 130' x 45'; a theatre, 130' x 80'; a tower 45' x 45' with a spire 240' high; two smaller towers, 45' x 45' each; an astronomical observatory, 35' x 35' and 95' high; a block of professors' apartments on the south line, 265' x 30'; two blocks of student quarters, each 260' x 30'; and two additional rows of student rooms, each 200' x 30'. The plan was for the largest and most elaborate group of academic buildings yet to be erected in America and had the plan been completed it would have been, as one newspaper boasted, "next to the Capitol at Washington, the most imposing edifice in the United States."

In both spirit and detail, the Burges plan was executed in what would now be called "Victorian Gothic." To be sure, the final result was rather eclectic—a central quadrangle façade in the style of Trinity College, Glenalmond, a tower to resemble the Victoria Tower of the new House of Parliament in London, dormitories patterned after the living quarters at Jesus College, Cambridge, and a theatre on the model of the Sheldonian at Oxford. When the plans were first shown in Hartford, the architectural style was described as "Early English." Later it was called "early French Gothic," and at the end of the century the college Catalogue and other college literature employed the term "English Secular Gothic." The Trustees were most enthusiastic about the
new campus plan, and they voted to begin construction in April, 1874. Wisely, they did not see fit to begin the whole campus at once. To be completed in the first stage of development were to be a portion of the Chapel sufficient to accommodate the current student body, the Library, the Dining Hall, one block of lecture rooms, and two sections of dormitories. And even this small section of the total plan was estimated by the Trustees to cost $334,000, not including the installation of plumbing and heating.

To superintend the actual building, the Trustees engaged the eminent Hartford architect, F. H. Kimball, who had recently been in charge of the construction of the Connecticut Mutual and the Charter Oak Life Insurance Company buildings. In December, 1873, Kimball was sent to London to prepare the working drawings required for the execution of the Burges plan. And although Kimball was expected to return to Hartford by May, 1874, events and decisions in Hartford kept the plans in such a state of flux that he was obliged to remain in London until October.

The Trustees had, in their enthusiasm, underestimated the probable cost of actual construction, and the first “cut-back” from the original plan was to decide on a “three-quadrangle” campus rather than one of four quadrangles which Burges had first suggested, and this radical change called for a complete re-working of the master plan.

But the event which brought near-tragedy to Trinity College was the death of President Jack-
son on Sunday, April 19, 1874, just as plans were being made for the groundbreaking ceremonies for the New Campus. Actually, Jackson had planned to go to England that spring, presumably to work with Burges and Kimball in bringing the working drawings for the new buildings to completion.

Jackson's death was an unexpected blow. Although he had never been in robust health, his passing after a brief illness with pneumonia, was unexpected.80

Once more, the Trustees designated John Brocklesby as Acting-President of the College, this for the fourth and last time. And under an "Acting" President it was hardly to be expected that the plans for the move to the New Campus could be advanced very rapidly. Indeed, the Trustees postponed the groundbreaking ceremony, and once more the whole Burges plan was to be subjected to a reconsideration. And perhaps a reconsideration was in order.

Thirty years later, a Trinity Professor (Winfred R. Martin)82 remarked that at the time of the sale of the Old Campus, President Jackson and the Trustees were bewildered by their new wealth and that "they forgot that a million is only a thousand thousand."83 But then, almost everybody thought that the College was "rich." The students thought so, and the New York Alumni thought so, too. The New York Daily Graphic, unofficial spokesman for the New York Alumni, said, incorrectly of course, that the College had resources of $2,000,000 which should be spent on buildings which would "compare with the best buildings at Oxford University" and which would place Trinity as the rival of Yale and Harvard, thus providing the Episcopal Church with a "University that will be at least as great as those of the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches."85 And it was thinking such as this which caused Professor Martin to write that President Jackson "died the victim of too high a hope and disappointed trust."86

The students, or at least many of them, were, by this time, becoming impatient regarding the construction of the new buildings. Although they had at first strongly opposed the move, it was the plan for a huge dining hall which was to be one of the first buildings to be erected that conjured up "visions of frothing tankards of ale, 'home-brewed,' like those at which Tom Brown quafted while at Oxford."87 And in this spirit, the undergraduates accepted the move. From time to time, the Tablet offered suggestions. Hope was expressed that the class ivies could be transplanted and that the class stones would be built into the walls of the new buildings as a sentimental connection between the Old Campus and the New.88

The students were unhappy, too, that the Trustees were so long in selecting a new President, especially since little was to be expected by way of furthering the new campus plans until a President was elected.88 But despite undergraduate impatience, the Trustees were attempting to secure a successor to Abner Jackson. The difficulty, however, was that a suitable candidate could not be agreed upon. On July 1, 1874, the Trustees had taken two informal ballots but could come to no conclusion.89 Although the names of the candidates were not made public, the students assumed that only clergymen had been considered. The Tablet urged that the new President not be a clergyman on grounds that the tradition of a clergyman President had caused the College to be too often thought of as "a mere divinity school." And as a strange alternative to a layman as President, the Tablet suggested that it might be "better for the reputation of the College, if it were allowable by the charter, to choose a clergyman from some of the sects rather than a Church one."91

Although there was no announced candidate for the Presidency, the name of one Professor, Thomas Ruggles Pynchon, was increasingly appearing in the public press. During the summer of 1874, he had been elected to the Board of Trustees of St. Mark's School in Southborough, Massachusetts, delivered the commencement address at Cheshire Academy, and had attended the meeting of the Society of American Chemists at Northumberland, Pennsylvania. And no little stir had been created when he presented to the College "the old gun-barrel" with which Joseph
Priestly had performed his first experiments. 92

On November 7, 1874, the Trustees elected Thomas Ruggles Pynchon the ninth President of Trinity College 93 and on Friday, November 13, Pynchon announced at the evening chapel service that he had been elected to the position. Perhaps realizing that there might be no great enthusiasm from the student body, Pynchon carefully pointed out that he had not sought the appointment and that he would have preferred to follow his literary and scientific pursuits. And his remark that he regarded the appointment as a personal honor and an expression of confidence in the Faculty more than suggested that the Trustees had complied with a faculty request that one of their own number be chosen to head the College. In this regard, the Tablet quoted one professor as saying that the Faculty “didn’t want any stranger coming here to wake them up.” But if the Faculty were pleased, the students were not; and although they dutifully gave “three cheers” for Professor Pynchon as he left the Chapel, the students were generally disappointed with the choice. 94

But perhaps the choice was a wiser one than any one then realized. Pynchon was, of course, pedestrian and unimaginative to the extreme, but of those directing the interests of Trinity College, he was the one most in touch with reality. Pynchon alone sensed the folly of beginning even the minimum number of buildings which had been decided upon just a year before. Pynchon urged that only two buildings (the present Seabury and Jarvis Halls) be started as the west side of the Great Quadrangle and that the other buildings be erected as the generosity of a later time might provide. This was the retreat from Burges’ original plan which nobody had even thought possible. But the Trustees, in their acceptance of Pynchon’s recommendation, probably saved the College from bankruptcy and possible extinction. 95

Upon this decision by the Trustees, ground-breaking was scheduled for July 1, 1875, and Commencement Day of 1877 was set as the date for completion of the two buildings. Frederick Law Olmstead was commissioned to landscape the grounds, and Mr. Kimball was ensconced in an office at Number 15, Connecticut Mutual Building, fourth floor, where the revised model of the buildings was to be on public display. 96

As the modified plans called for the elimination of the dining hall, the students were disappointed to see their visions of tankards of ale vanishing into thin air. Gloomily, they resigned themselves to the miserable fare of such Hartford “eateries” as Mother Bacon’s, the Clinton Lunch, and Merrill’s – places which had long been accepted as part of the Trinity way of life. 97

Throughout the winter, Kimball worked away at the plans. By December, he had moved his office into one of the rooms of Old Seabury Hall, 98 and soon he was to be assisted in the work by “a corps of able draughtsmen.” 99 Early in February, President Pynchon took a quick trip to Philadelphia to inspect the buildings which had recently been erected at the University of Pennsylvania. 100 On April 2, the Trustees voted to place $300,000 at the disposal of the Building Committee to insure immediate bidding
for the actual construction.\textsuperscript{101}

On Commencement Day, July 1, 1875, after the annual Alumni Dinner at the United States Hotel, those present formed into a procession, and headed by Colt's Band, marched to the site of the New Campus. At the spot where Jarvis Hall now stands, Bishop Williams read the Lord's Prayer and a collect and then the President, the Chancellor, and Professor Jim turned the first sod. After the singing of the 138th Hymn and a Benediction by Bishop Williams, the college flag was unfurled on a new flagpole. After the students had saluted the flag, the students raised the Bishop, the President, and Professor Jim on their shoulders and carried them about the grounds. The entire company returned to the Old Campus where President Pynchon held a reception. The day was concluded with dancing in the Cabinet.\textsuperscript{102}

Excavation began immediately after Commencement.\textsuperscript{103} The work progressed rapidly during the summer, and by October the foundations for the two buildings were nearly completed. And as the buildings began to take shape, the College became the object of local interest and, indeed, of considerable interest throughout the country. Brown and Gross, a local stationer, sold letterheads with a cut of the new college buildings—not of just the two buildings under construction, but the whole Burges plan.\textsuperscript{104} And before the stonework had reached the second floor, William Clairborne Brocklesby '69 had published an illustrated article on Trinity College in \textit{Scribner's Monthly} in which many of the Burges details were emphasized. The College purchased the woodcuts (some of the elements in the buildings were never actually executed) and issued the article in pamphlet form.\textsuperscript{105}

There were several unfortunate delays during the course of construction, but these were to be expected in the carrying out of a project as large as this.\textsuperscript{106} The Class of 1876 planted the class ivy as usual on the south end of Jarvis Hall, even though the building was soon to be taken down.\textsuperscript{107} And during the spring of 1877, Brownell Hall was completely vacated. The students who had still kept their rooms in the south-end of the hall were moved across Trinity Street to several homes which the College had rented for temporary dormitories. The Faculty, too, were moved out of Brownell Hall. Professor Brocklesby moved his study to his home on Washington Street and Professor Hart, a bachelor, moved in with the students across from the College.\textsuperscript{108}
The New Campus

Brownell Hall was demolished during the summer. During the winter of 1877-1878, the final touches were put on the new buildings. The northern building, which the Trustees named Jarvis Hall, turned out to be a dormitory of even greater comfort and splendor than anyone had ever imagined. Seabury Hall, the southern building, contained classrooms, laboratory, cabinet, faculty offices, commons, and chapel. And these quarters were splendidly executed.

The Library occupied the basement and ground floor of the southern end of Seabury. The book rooms on the two floors were arranged in alcoves and the librarian's office, with an interesting circular bay window, was formed by the exterior of the entry. The "Chemical Apartments," consisting of office, laboratory, and lecture room, were located on the ground floor of Middle Seabury. The Chapel, although intended to be for temporary use until the one called for by the Burges plan could be erected, was splendid with a handsome altar and reredos. Located on the second floor of Seabury, its exposed beams and trefoil windows with colored glass added a "churchly" touch that had been lacking in the old Chapel. And the chapel pews, arranged in choir (or collegiate) form were as Anglican as anything that Abner Jackson had seen at Oxford or Cambridge. The Commons, which the Trustees had reluctantly provided, was located in the basement of the north-end of Seabury. The Commons was also designated as the "Picture Gallery" where were hung the portraits of the college presidents, and as the Picture Gallery the room was usually known. J. H. Bolton, Jr., was engaged as the College's first steward, and colored waiters were employed to wait on table.

Somewhat in contrast to the splendor of New Jarvis and New Seabury were several unsightly wooden structures. The large building which had been used as a carpenter shop was retained as a laundry. Between Jarvis and Seabury, where the tower gateway was to be placed, was a wooden structure to contain the kitchen and rooms for the steward and servants. Also a small gas plant to provide lighting for the college buildings and, last but not least, the old gymnasium had been removed from the Old Campus and located north of New Jarvis Hall near Vernon Street.

If one could close his eyes to the temporary structures, the two permanent buildings would have presented an imposing appearance. Hattie Howard, the Hartford poetess upon whom the mantle of Lydia Huntley Sigourney had fallen as the "Sweet Singer of Hartford," found them so and shortly after their completion she wrote:

O Trinity! thy turrets gleam
In proximate suburban space
Like vast cathedral towers, and seem
Suggestive of some holy place;
Some quiet, quaint, monastic spot,
Within whose deep reclusive shade
Benignant priors might have taught,
And strangely solemn friars prayed.

Grand metamorphosis of rocks!
A blemish once on nature's face,
By sudden expedited shocks
Of man's designing, rent apace;
The work of master-architect
Amorphous mass who shaped anew,
That magic-like, without defect,
Into thy storied structure grew.

O symbol of a golden age
That typifies, in solid stone,
A progress neither seer nor sage
Of ancient time had ever known!
For in symmetric, stately walls
Is dignified an honored name
That Athens' classic haunts recalls,
And rivals Alexandria's claim.

Here Xenophon's delightful maze
Allures the philologic mind,
Or Plato's facile, honeyed phrase
Ambitious youth their model find;
While Homer's bold hexameters,
And Virgil's matchless epic lines,
To Poesy's wild worshipers
Are sacred as their altar-shrines.

Thy bounds encircle forum-ground
Where embryonic Presidents
The key to statesmanship have found,
Or latent gift of eloquence;

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While, promised guerdon of his dreams,  
More radiant than kingly crown,  
To many a bright aspirant, seems  
The ermined robe, or surplice-gown.

Proud alma mater thou hast been  
Of scores of earth's successful sons  
Who, in life's broad arena, win  
The plaudits of less favored ones;  
Who toy with fame, and are beset  
By honor and prosperity –  
But never, never quite forget  
Their love and reverence for thee.

Within thy portals year by year,  
From every clime beneath the sun,  
May those assemble who revere  
The majesty of "Three in One";  
Thus, o'er the daisied fields around  
Where student-feet shall press the sod,  
With nature's worship shall resound  
The voice of praise to nature's God.  

In the spring of 1878, the move of the college equipment to the New Campus was begun. The books from the Library—all 18,000 of them—were brought safely to the new Library in April. The moving of the scientific equipment was not carried off so successfully. The "electrical machine," the College's most prized piece of scientific apparatus, was dropped by the movers and shattered beyond repair.

On Friday, May 17, 1878, the first instruction was given on the New Campus by Dr. H. Carrington Bolton, the newly engaged Professor of Chemistry and Natural Science, who gave a lecture on Chemistry to the Seniors in the new Chemistry Room, and by Bishop Williams, who lectured on History to the Juniors. In June, the class ivies were transplanted in positions along the new structures, and on the twenty-seventh of that month, the last Commencement which centered about the Old Campus ended with the President's Reception being held in the Portrait Gallery in New Seabury Hall.

Commencement of 1878 was a sad day for many of those who were unhappy to see the College moved from its old location. Robert H. Coleman '77 promised a new organ to be installed in the new Chapel by the opening of the next Christmas term. Thinking that the old chapel organ would be of no further use to the College, one Alumnus, "in his eager desire to carry home a relic of the old sanctuary," removed a small gilt cross from the top of the organ. The undergraduates, following the example of this worthy Alumnus, too, began to remove "souvenirs" from the organ, taking the ivory keys, the gilded pipes in front, and finally, after overturning the organ, the pipes from within. Only after the instrument had been completely wrecked did they learn that the organ had been sold.

During the summer of 1878, the old buildings were quickly demolished. No stones from the old buildings were sentimentally incorporated into the new Seabury and Jarvis, but one of the large Portland stone bases of the chapel columns was rescued by the Alumni to be made into a tombstone for Professor Jim, who had died in May, 1878. As the buildings were being destroyed, "relic hunters" gathered bits of wood, stone, and metal, and canes made from the spindles of the bannisters of Jarvis Hall were especially prized. After the buildings had been removed the ground was ploughed over, and the grading of the Old Campus as part of the State Capitol grounds was begun, leaving no trace of the institution which had occupied the site for over half a century.