

# TO MEMORY OF WASHINGTON DUKE

## Memorial Statue Unveiled at Trinity College

### ADDRESS BY DR. KILGO

Tribute to Mr. Duke's Memory by  
Nearly 200 of His Friends and Ad-  
mirers—Address on Behalf of the  
Donors by Mr. J. H. Southgate,  
Response on Behalf of the College  
by President Kilgo.

(Special to News and Observer.)  
Durham, N. C., June 10.—The  
Washington Duke memorial statue  
which was unveiled at Trinity Park  
today is a tribute to Mr. Duke's mem-  
ory by nearly two hundred of his  
friends and admirers. The leaders in  
the successful movement to erect the  
statue were Messrs. A. T. Itagland and  
T. J. Walker, of Richmond, Va. They  
were especially fortunate in securing  
for this important commission Ed-  
ward Valentine, the distin-  
guished Southern sculptor. Mr. Valen-  
tine has done such notable work as  
the statue of General Hugh Mercer at  
Fredericksburg, Va., a recumbent  
statue of General Robert E. Lee at  
the Washington and Lee University, a  
statue of Stonewall Jackson, and  
numerous statues of other Southern  
soldiers, statesmen and men of let-  
ters. Here he enters another field in  
the statue of one of the vigorous  
leaders in the industrial rebuilding of  
the South—one of the men who with  
undaunted courage after the close of  
the war set about restoring the fabric  
of the material prosperity of his sec-  
tion. Valentine has represented Mr.  
Duke with a bronze figure of more  
than life size seated in a granite chair.  
The sculptor has been especially suc-  
cessful in portraying the fine fore-  
head and strong features of his sub-  
ject. The attitude is one of repose  
and meditation.

The pedestals is made of Vermont  
granite, consisting of three blocks, the  
base being a stone eight by ten feet.  
On the front side of the foundation  
there are the following letters:

WASHINGTON DUKE—1820-1905.

"Animated by lofty principles, he  
ever cherished the welfare of his  
country with the order of a true pa-  
triot. Diligent in business he acquired  
riches, but in the enjoyment of them  
did not forget to share with the less  
fortunate; a patron of learning, he  
fostered an institution which placed  
within the reach of aspiring youth  
the immortal gift of knowledge; and  
when the activities of his early life  
and the stern struggles of his ma-

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feeling they have had constructed by  
a famous American sculptor this  
statue which in their behalf I now  
formally present to Trinity College. To  
the youth of this commonwealth and  
this nation, may it stand through the  
years as a reminder of the splendid  
virtues that adorned the life and char-  
acter of Washington Duke, and may it  
point the generations from age to age  
to the ways of true character and  
genuine excellence that alone lead to  
worthy success and real greatness."

"His boyhood was without special  
interest. He was a typical country lad  
with but little chance for an educa-  
tion. For thirty years before the War  
Washington Duke was a small farm-  
er, struggling against the limitations  
that necessarily prevailed under the  
old regime. By 1860 he had bought  
and paid for his farm of 200 acres;  
but the savings of thirty years of hard  
work and close economy were swept  
away by the war. In 1865 he returned  
from Libby prison to New Bern,  
whence he walked 155 miles to Dur-  
ham, where he arrived with fifty cents

in his pocket. He and his sons began  
immediately to raise tobacco and soon  
to manufacture it on a small scale.  
Without thinking unduly of the past—  
its misfortune and disappointments—  
they gave evidence of constructive  
skill and energy. He had that vision  
which saw new ways, he had that sober  
judgment which measured their  
opportunities, he had that self-poise  
that enabled him to plan wisely, he  
had that courage that made him per-  
sist in the face of large obstacles,  
and he had an unconquerable energy  
that never flagged by day or by night.  
Beginning by peddling tobacco  
through Eastern North Carolina, he  
and his sons established an industry  
which has become world-wide in its  
organization and influence.

"He was not an indiscriminate phil-  
anthropist, however. In his late years  
he came to have such an abiding faith  
in the work and the future at Trinity  
College that he gave his time, his  
abounding sympathy and his fortune  
to the promotion of its high aims.  
Trinity College will remain the most  
monumental witness to the largeness  
of his soul. Before he began giving  
to it it was a poor struggling college  
in Randolph county. His first dona-  
tion caused it to be brought to Dur-  
ham; and thus he became the founder  
of the New Trinity. Finding it wholly  
inadequate to the needs of modern  
education, he left it strong enough to  
rank in equipment and standard of  
work with the better colleges of New  
England and other parts of this coun-  
try. He sympathized heartily with  
the President and Faculty in their ef-  
forts to maintain high standards of  
admission and graduation and to pro-  
cure such equipment in the way of  
library and laboratories as to enable  
them to do adequate work in all de-  
partments of learning, and above all  
in their desire to promote Christian  
character among the students. In the  
face of much unkind criticism and  
public ingratitude he never wavered  
in his purpose to make the college  
serve the great purpose of society and  
church. His comment on the criti-  
cisms of the college was: 'They'll not  
hurt. We will keep at our task. We  
will try to make a great college that  
will do great good.' He bequeathed to  
his family and to the college this con-  
secrated determination to do some  
perpetual good on the earth."

The speech of acceptance on behalf  
of Trinity College was made by Pres-  
ident John C. Kilgo.

### President Kilgo's Remarks.

President Kilgo said in part:

"In the name of the authorities of  
Trinity College I wish, through you,  
sir, to heartily thank the committee  
and the friends who, with a desire to  
perpetuate the memory and celebrate  
the noble virtues of Washington Duke,  
have erected this superb monument. It  
is a fine deed on the part of his  
many friends, and shows how deep  
were his friendships and esteem  
which he inspired in his fellowmen.  
It is not only a monument to him, it  
is equally a monument of those who  
erected it. As an illustration of sin-  
cere friendship and a valuation of the  
virtues of manhood it will always be a  
striking example.

"I wish to congratulate the commit-  
tee that assumed the delicate and dif-  
ficult task of executing the wishes of  
the friends who united in this labor of  
love. Not only have they filled with  
complete success the large responsibil-  
ity upon them, but the enthusiastic  
spirit with which they performed their  
work and the wise care with which  
they watched its progress do them  
rare honor. To them is due most  
largely the success of the sacred un-  
dertaking and for their faithful and  
joyous services all unite in giving  
thanks.

"And, sir, it is eminently appro-  
priate that you who knew Mr. Duke  
so well and duly appraised all of his  
exceptional traits should present this  
gift to Trinity College. You were his  
neighbor, his friend, and his esteem-  
ed fellow citizen. The words you  
have spoken are fitting words and  
rich in all the sincerity of a long  
friendship.

"This is a very unique monument.  
Unique in the heartiness of the con-  
tributors to its erection, out in a more  
marked way it is unique in that it is  
erected in honor of one who never  
held public office or gained fame in  
some startling event. Washington  
Duke was a quiet civilian. He was a  
business man. Yet in the retired  
spheres of a business career he did  
things of such great worth and ex-  
emplified virtues of such a high qual-  
ity that his friends spontaneously rose  
up to celebrate his name. So far as  
I know exceedingly few men in the  
South, if indeed any, have become  
monumental figures in the industrial  
sphere of life. However, this achieve-  
ment stands as a proof that any  
sphere of human activity is large  
enough through which to express the  
greatest genius and to show a love for  
mankind.

"Mr. Duke was a Southerner and it  
seems highly appropriate that the  
expert hand which carved the famous  
recumbent statue of Robert E. Lee  
should have employed its genius in  
shaping the statue of this good man.  
Trinity College is glad to have in its  
possession this specimen of the work  
of the South's great artist. So, sir,  
for every reason we appreciate this  
great gift.

"I need not tell you that this col-  
lege for the most sacred reasons holds  
in everlasting esteem the memory of  
Washington Duke. His name is  
wrought into its every existence, and  
gratitude to him is one of the abid-  
ing feelings of its spirit. To us it  
seems natural that the friends who  
have provided this monument should  
have chosen Trinity College to be the  
custodian of it. We pledge our  
honor to guard it with just apprecia-  
tion, on account of the man whom it  
represents and friends who have com-  
mitted it to our care.

"Neither time nor the occasion  
permits an extended analysis of the  
character of Mr. Duke. However, I  
may be permitted to make reference  
to some of the strong characteristics  
that made him a distinguished man.

"Not the least among the remark-  
able things in his history is that fact  
that he was more than seventy years  
of age when he took upon his benevo-  
lence the cause of making a larger  
Trinity College. He was too far ad-  
vanced in years to have been inspired  
by the ambition which possess youth  
and vigorous middle age. His grip  
upon life was slackening. The wear-  
iness of the years and the toils of life  
were deeply marked upon his brow.  
Yet in the glow of the far descended sun,  
without the inspiration of promised  
years, he rose to the hard task of  
moving a Southern college into a new  
field and building it upon a broader  
and a deeper foundation.

"Mr. Duke was a man whom wealth  
did not hurt. Without intending to  
give the slightest tinge of encourage-  
ment to that insane pretense of vir-  
tue which delights itself in raving at-  
tacks upon the rich, which feels its  
inordinate covetousness upon blind  
jealousies, yet it is obviously true that  
large riches are attended with sore  
temptations. They tempt a man to  
withdraw from the scenes of human  
toil, to indulge himself in a luxurious  
indolence, to assume a new weight of  
authority, to forget the intensity of  
human sufferings, to become less con-  
cerned about doing his fair share to  
relieve humanity, to lose that sense of  
sympathy that should bind man to  
man, and in many other ways to de-  
stroy the high virtues that should  
adorn human character and furnish

the motives of unselfish service. These  
temptations come, but they need not  
conquer. There may be riches of heart  
along with wealth of the purse; there  
may be sanctified interest in mankind  
where no sign of poverty abides; there  
may be the noblest type of simplicity  
amid the splendid scenes of costly  
comforts. Of all this Washington  
Duke was a living example. No tempta-  
tion of wealth ever found in him  
the least response. He illustrated a  
beautiful simplicity of living, he was  
profoundly interested in all the affairs  
of the working world, he carried in  
his heart the problems of all classes  
of men, he prized the industrious as  
the ideal man, he felt that needless  
waste was an evil, he went among all  
classes of men without a sign of as-  
sumed superiority, and he valued  
everything that gave the less fortunate  
an opportunity to improve themselves  
and their condition. His example shall  
teach the sublime lesson of a complete  
mastery of wealth and the highest use  
of money. This lesson, I am sure,  
will be taught as long as the bronze  
and the granite of the monument shall  
endure."

At the close of Dr. Kilgo's address  
the great audience waited in some  
moments of suspense until Mary  
Washington Stagg, great grand-  
daughter and namesake of Washing-  
ton Duke, made a pretty picture as  
she pulled the cord which unveiled  
the statue. Many were the expres-  
sions of admiration as the commence-  
ment visitors were for the first time  
able to get a view of the memorial.  
For some time it was surrounded by  
groups of students and visitors.

The life-like statue and the ad-  
dresses by those who knew him in-  
timately served to bring before the  
vast concourse the striking personality  
and the remarkable career of Mr.  
Washington Duke. There were pres-  
ent citizens of North Carolina in the  
prosperity of which commonwealth  
Mr. Duke had played a commanding  
part; citizens of Durham to whose  
material success had made such  
lasting contributions and the trustees,  
faculty, alumni and students of Trin-  
ity College, which his generosity had  
largely re-created and re-fashioned.  
All alike felt that there has been no  
more striking illustration of energy,  
perseverance and resourcefulness than  
the life of Mr. Duke. From poverty  
and obscurity he arose to wealth and  
enduring fame. Without the advan-  
tages of academic training, he be-  
came the largest contributor to higher  
education that ever lived in the  
South.

ture years had passed he entered  
upon a serene old age, cheered by a  
lowly piety and sustained by an un-  
failing trust in God, who in all vicis-  
situdes of life had kept him single in  
his aims, sincere in his friendships and  
true to himself.

On the west side of it is the word  
Patriot, and on the north side the fol-  
lowing inscription:

"Friends to truth; of soul sincere,  
In action faithful, in honor clear."

On the east side in raised letters is  
the word Philanthropist.

The unveiling today occurred at  
the close of the Trinity College com-  
mencement exercises in the Craven  
Memorial Hall. An academic pro-  
cession was formed, consisting of the  
trustees, faculty, invited guests, alu-  
mni, the class of graduates, relatives and  
friends of Mr. Duke. These, follow-  
ed by the great audience, marched to  
the site of the statue in the Anne  
Honey gardens in front of the Wash-  
ington Duke building. Hon. James H.  
Southgate, who had been selected to  
represent the donors, made an elo-  
quent address of presentation.

### Mr. Southgate's Remarks.

He spoke in part as follows:

"There is no valid reason why the  
good that men do should be buried  
with them. Rather it should be con-  
served as a spiritual asset of the race,  
should be transmitted to succeeding  
generations as a perpetual blessing  
among men, and thus constitute a sort  
of earthly immortality.

"A college is pre-eminently a stor-  
house for this precious heritage of  
personality. At Trinity College Wash-  
ington Duke will always live, not sim-  
ply because of his large contributions  
to the material equipment of the in-  
stitution, but chiefly because he con-  
tributed to it the qualities that made  
his own life a success—energy, cour-  
age, helpfulness and catholicity. To  
the friends of Washington Duke it has  
seemed fitting that this abiding influ-  
ence in this place should be bodied  
forth in visible form. And with this  
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