Richard Hillard, Jr.  
Edenton, N.C.

The applicants then signed the pledge in presence of the Society. The President, Col. Saunders, then appointed Mr. Geo. W. Moss the Pious of the Society until that office can be duly elected according to the constitution. Mr. Moss then took the chair, and Col. Saunders made the following report and remarks:

Mr. President and Fellow members:

Seven years ago, acting under authority from this Society conferred upon me at a meeting held in this Hall on 1 June 1868, I took from the manuscript room the record of its constitution and laws together with other valuable papers and manuscripts. Report was at once made to the Executive officers of the State at Raleigh and a military guard sent up here and quartered in the college buildings. The military avoided nothing; however, the archives remained in my possession, and I have the pleasure of announcing to you that at this moment they are still safe.

Today, acting under the same authority and after having given full notice of the time and the place of this the first meeting held since June 1868, I have called the Society to order. We appointed a President to hold the office until a regular election can be held under the requirements of the constitution. A number of twenty-nine members, students of the University, and have done such other things as seemed necessary to the well-being of the Society.

You are now in a condition to proceed regularly under the constitution in all the noble purposes for which the Society was established, nothing then remains for me to do but to surrender to you from ally the custody of your books which have already been returned to the place from which they were taken. And I do so with the strict injunction that they be well guarded.

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