Among the half-dozen scholars in attendance was the writer of these pages. Funds were raised by subscription, and the four squares now occupied by the College and College School were purchased. At this early day, the services rendered by the Rev. S. B. Bell, the Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, were of incalculable importanc, and but for him Mr. Durant would have been unable to have continued in ·the enterprise upon which he had embarked.

The College of California was incorporated in April, 1855. The Trustees entered upon their work with much energy, and frequently gave from their private funds for the support of the institution. In 1856, the Rev. Horace Bushnell was elected President. While having the matter under consideration, he gave a large portion of his time to a careful examination of the country around the Bay of San Francisco, and the site finally chosen was in accordance with his preference. It may, therefore, be stated that the site for the University building, at Berkeley, is the best that can be found anywhere in close proximity to San Francisco, for the opinion of such a man as Dr. Bushnell is of more value than that of any number of commissioners acting under the authority of a legislature, and exposed to the numberless improper influences which would beset them.

The first Freshman Class was admitted in the summer of 1860. A small college building was erected, and a college faculty had been chosen. To meet the increased expenses renewed exertions had been made and sufficient funds were obtained. In March, 1862, the Rev. S. H. Willey was elected Vice-President of the College. A larger building was erected, and a fund was raised for the endowment of the Presidency. Efforts were made to secure the services of some suitable person from the East, to act as President, but without success, and until the present time, Mr. Willey, as Vice-President, has administered the affairs of the College.

The first class admitted graduated in June, 1864, and classes have graduated in course every year since.