

CHAPTER IV

A Victorian Hold-Over in the Twentieth Century

Three of the men who had built 19th century St. Stephen's (Bard, Fairbairn, and Hoffman) died in the closing years of the century, but the fourth, Professor Hopson, lived on for nearly two more decades, and the College continued for another 20 years with its purpose and program very little changed from the form Fairbairn and his colleagues had given them in the 1860's, a Victorian hold-over in the 20th century.

Lying ahead for St. Stephen's were two decades of strenuous engagement with a contemporary world; an engagement in the twenties, under B. I. Bell, with Anglo-Catholic intellectualism and Christian socialism; and an engagement in the 1930's, launched by Dr. Tewksbury, with progressive and experimental higher education.

But the new college could not be born while the old one yet lived, and for the first two decades of the 20th century St. Stephen's stood monolithic and unchanging. No new figure appeared on the scene to compare with Dr. Hopson. (He was 62 when the new century began.) After the death or resignation of three consecutive Wardens, George Hopson, took over each time as acting Warden, thus serving as the College's head for three-and-a-half of the eleven years which followed Dr. Fairbairn's retirement. And the College's major public statement or apologia in the first two decades of the new century was George Hopson's *Reminiscences of St. Stephen's College*, published in 1910.

Dr. Davidson has left us a memorable picture of St. Stephen's College and its central figure, George Hopson, as he saw them in 1898 when he came as a young applicant for a teaching position:

"... I went to Burlington, Vermont, at the end of August to attend my brother's

wedding and when I returned to my home near Boston I found a telegram summoning me to Annandale, New York for an interview. I had never been in the Hudson valley and when I arrived at Barrytown dusk was coming on. When the train had left me I wondered where Barrytown really was. An ancient carry-all and an old horse appeared and I started up the hill in quest of S.S.C. Overarching trees lined much of the road and the way grew darker and darker as my ancient conveyance moved on. After what seemed long miles, a dark mass appeared which was pointed out as the Chapel and we turned sharply to the left down a dim lane which seemed to plunge into thick woods. Lighted windows appeared at no long distance and my driver drew up at a piazza where the cheerful illumination shone out through an open door and revealed a rather short thick-set man with hair and beard streaked with gray.

"Such was my introduction to S.S.C. and to Dr. Hopson. I well remember the evening meal with the Doctor and his correct tho acute searching questions which I had to answer, all the time hoping I would not incriminate myself, but rather inclined to believe I would. Dr. Hopson's manner was often sternly judicial in those days. Well, the upshot of the matter was that before I went to bed I was told that I had passed the examination, but did not feel too set-up as College was to open in about three days, and I gathered that the need was desperate, and I was the last bet or the last straw in sight. Dr. Hopson had thought that I would come fully prepared to stay, but I had no such optimism and a hasty return to Boston was necessary. Next day was Sunday and the good Doctor gravely told me what he thought of travelling on Sunday (which wasn't much), but the force of mitigating circumstances was on him, and he grudgingly admitted the necessity if he were to have my help in opening the College..."

Irville F. Davidson was to teach Latin and Greek at the College for the next 42 years,—until 1940—except for four years (1900-1904) away teaching at a preparatory school. His was to be the longest teaching record in St. Stephen's history except for that of Dr. Hopson himself. Additionally, he pretty much held the College together in the confused days between the end of World War I and the arrival of B. I. Bell. He served as Dean from 1918 to 1925 and, briefly, as Acting President in 1919.

Davidson was an 1887 magna cum laude graduate of Harvard with a Master's degree from the University of Chicago. (He later received an honorary doctorate from St. Stephen's in 1907.)

One may picture the two classicists at dinner in the little stucco parsonage behind the Chapel on that evening in the fall of 1898. It is interesting to reflect upon how much of the College's history was to flow from that scene. Between them those two men were to serve a total of 91 years at St. Stephen's. Greek and Latin were taught by one or the other (or both) of them uninterruptedly from 1863 to 1940. Fortunately both wrote their memoirs, which between them cover the entire life of the College up to 1940—an eyewitness record of 80 of the College's first 100 years.

For the year 1898-99 following Fairbairn's retirement, Dr. Hopson was in charge of the College as Acting Warden. In this year the picturesque and eccentric personality of Dr. Eliphalet Nott Potter flashed across the St. Stephen's

scene. A "handsome and arrogant" brother of Bishop Henry Potter, he had had long and stormy presidencies at Hobart and Union Colleges. Eliphalet Potter was a friend of Dr. Hoffman, the donor of St. Stephen's Library, and because of this friendship Potter had delivered the third in the series of annual Hoffman Library Lectures. About the time Dr. Fairbairn departed from the College scene, Eliphalet Potter had been appointed professor of philosophy for the year 1898-99. He undoubtedly would have liked the wardenship, and even went so far as to try to edge into the position by trying to move (from his three room suite) in one of the dormitories into Ludlow, which was closed that winter, and (as Dr. Davidson puts it) "to establish his bedroom in the Trustees Hall. Dr. Hopson firmly stepped on this idea." Davidson adds: "Potter was as informal and erratic as Dr. Hopson was formal and precise."¹ Eased out of his candidacy for the wardenship, Potter busied himself with dashing furiously about the country with horse and carriage, taking services in the small neighborhood parishes where the rectorships were vacant. Meanwhile, however, he bulked large enough on the St. Stephen's scene so that the Rev. Charles S. Champlin, '99, in his 1934 lecture on the College's history, erroneously reported that Eliphalet Potter had actually been elected warden and served briefly in that office.

October 1, 1899, just over a year after Dr. Fairbairn's retirement, the Rev. Lawrence Thomas Cole, Ph.D., became the fourth warden of the College. He was 30 years old, unmarried, a graduate of the University of Michigan and General Seminary, with an earned doctorate from Columbia. He had served for a year each as rector of an Indiana parish and as archdeacon of Michigan City, Indiana.

Dr. Cole took the wardenship with what amounted to a four-year contract with the trustees, under which they would attempt to raise \$4,000 to \$5,000 to eliminate the annual deficit which the College had been incurring, and he would give his best efforts to building up the institution. If either party were dissatisfied with the performance of the other, the agreement would terminate at the end of the four years.

Dr. Cole instituted changes: he introduced more elective courses, and a more Anglo-Catholic form of worship in the College chapel.

Increased freedom of choice in course selection was the trend of the times in American higher education, following Dr. Eliot's lead with elective courses at Harvard in the 1880's. The number of courses offered by St. Stephen's increased from 59 listed in 1898 to 94 in 1901. The College's science courses were strengthened, with improved laboratory facilities provided through gifts by John Jacob Astor and other friends. Dr. Cole terminated the

preparatory program for students who needed to fill in deficiencies in their high school education before embarking on the regular college course. However, Dr. Cole's efforts to strengthen the College's main program did not make up for the loss of students due to the termination of the preparatory program, and St. Stephen's total enrollment dropped from 54 at the start of Cole's Wardenship to 42 four years later.

"Dr. Cole lived in Ludlow with his mother and sister," reports Professor Davidson, "a very charming and hospitable family. They brought to the College a degree of social life which was sadly lacking. Dr. Hopson had long been a widower [his wife had died in 1888] and rarely was there a married man on the Faculty. There were no quarters for married people, and we were truly monastic and in mid-winter a rather morbid community. Of course there were no cars, roads were poor, facilities for snow-removal almost non-existent. Two years of such a life were more than enough for me at the time of my first stay."²

Dr. Cole ran into his greatest trouble in changing the style of Chapel worship. The College Chapel had long served as the parish church for many people of the surrounding community who had been devoted to the ministry of Dr. Fairbairn and loved hearing the College choir and the preaching of the Warden and Faculty, which almost certainly was superior to the preaching in the small neighborhood parishes. Dr. Cole attempted to persuade these neighbors to go elsewhere to church, "because he found the discipline of the College difficult to administer with the parish mixed in." He introduced a more High Church ceremonial, with plainsong replacing Anglican chants. There was tension and grumbling among alumni and Faculty.

Dr. Cole was coming to the end of his four years initial appointment and at this point he was offered the headmastership of Trinity School in New York City. Bishop Potter suggested that he try to head both that school and the College, dividing his time between the two institutions, but Cole declined, stating that the College's primary need was for an effective fund raiser, which he was not.³ He resigned the College Wardenship effective July 1, 1903 and went to Trinity School where he served for 34 years, retiring in 1937. He was also simultaneously superintendent for some years of the Society for Promoting Religion and Learning (the organization which John McVickar had headed so effectively a half century before). Dr. Cole continued to be very friendly to the College, as a Trustee (1916-1928, 1933-34, and 1936-38); he returned from time to time to preach in the College Chapel. He died in 1955 at the age of 86.

Dr. Hopson's second stint of acting wardenship, from July, 1903 to

February 1, 1904, was, though short, a time of great uncertainty and frustration. A Rev. Dr. William Prall of Albany was elected Warden in September, 1903 and accepted the position. But when he visited the College in the middle of September he apparently did not like what he saw (a contemporary newspaper account said he did not find Ludlow a suitable residence for his family) and withdrew his acceptance: Dr. Hopson continued to fill in.

On February 1, 1904 the Rev. Thomas Robinson Harris became the College's fifth Warden. He was 62 years old, "a tall, angular and very thin man with a drooping moustache, . . . very lame in one leg as a result of an injury contracted as a young man on active service during the Civil War." He was a graduate of Harvard and a parish minister without previous experience in education. A contemporary described him as "a sincere Christian gentleman" who "with his family added much to the social life of the campus. A daughter married one of our graduates."⁴

Dr. Harris restored the preparatory department, for, as Dr. Hopson noted, "many young men desiring to study for the sacred ministry come to us with little or no preparation in Greek or Latin." The preparatory department "had proved to be an important feeder to the College." This action was apparently effective, for enrollment had increased to 50 students by the end of Harris's three-year Wardenship.

A prominent bishop, an alumnus of the College, wrote to Christopher Magee:

"I never felt that he [Dr. Harris] had any grasp of the position of college president, nor did he have any vision, and I do not think that his relations with the wealthy neighbors were very profitable for the College. My recollection is that he was just a misfit for whom we all had sympathy . . ."⁶

Plagued by continued ill health, Harris resigned, effective September 1, 1907. He died 17 months later.

Dr. Hopson became acting warden for the third time, this time for nearly two years. It was a period of uncertainty with threats and rumors that the College might have to close. "Dr. Hopson kept up his courage and helped with morale, a rock in his faith in the need for the College's existence. I sometimes think that he provided the necessary faith to pull the College through, just as in the earlier days Dr. Fairbairn had done."⁷

Several men were offered the Wardenship and declined. One of these, a Rev. Dr. Edgar Cope of Philadelphia, dallied with the idea for a considerable time. He wanted the wardenship but did not want to live in the tiny and remote village of Annandale. Therefore he proposed that the College be moved to the grounds of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York

City, and become affiliated with Columbia University. Under his plan, the dormitories and eating facilities would be on the cathedral close, and all instruction would be in Columbia buildings and by Columbia professors. This meant in short the end of St. Stephen's as an autonomous institution. "Of course the campus, the trustees, the alumni and friends of the College were all abuzz with talk and comment, mostly unfavorable. There was definitely the threat that the only alternatives were to move or close, and the two-year search for a Warden had not improved the morale." Eventually the Trustees disapproved Mr. Cope's plan and he departed from the scene.

Finally, in 1909, a new warden was found and inducted into office, and the title changed at that time from warden to president to conform to general American college practice. Dr. William Cunningham Rodgers had obviously been chosen with the College's primary need in mind: a leader who was a fund-raiser. Unlike all his predecessors, he was not primarily a teacher or scholar, and also unlike all the rest, he did not teach at St. Stephen's. He had previously served as Rector of Grace Church, Millbrook, New York where his congregation had included a number of wealthy estate owners.

Dr. Rodgers was 53 years old, of English upbringing and education, "a likeable man . . . very hospitable and well-meaning. He was stout, florid and quick tempered . . . with little conception of what American school and college life is like . . . He could not get to really understand American students, nor they to understand him, so there were continual disciplinary troubles, most of them on the prep school level because he visualized the College in the light of an English boarding school . . . His wife and daughter were most agreeable and well-liked and he showed off to best advantage as host in his own house."⁸

Dr. Rodgers promptly turned himself to the money-raising task with a dedication and energy that were new in the College's experience. Ten months after his arrival, the College's 50th anniversary was celebrated in New York "by a grand service in Trinity Church, at 4 p.m. . . . and in the evening by a banquet at the Hotel Astor."⁹ A picture of that great event, still in the College's possession, shows the dining room festooned with St. Stephen's pennants, and 150 or so gentlemen, almost all in clerical dress or evening clothes. Plainly it was a great occasion. At the fiftieth anniversary commencement that June the College celebrated by conferring 16 honorary degrees (almost double the number of regular bachelors' degrees that were being awarded annually in those years). Dr. Hopson's address at the 1910 commencement was published as a book a few months later.

Morale started to improve and enrollment to climb. Money began to come

in, and in the next five years a new President's house was erected, electric lights installed in the College buildings, water and sewage systems improved and a central heating plant installed. The interior of Aspinwall was completely rebuilt.¹⁰ "This represented improvements such as the College had not known since the days of Dr. Hoffman, and there was a visible increase of renewed enthusiasm and optimism. . . . We felt that the investment of so much money was a guarantee against removal, and also an assurance that the College was not about to fold up."¹¹

In 1915, the College moved into the most sophisticated and energetic fundraising program ever seen on the campus with an announced goal of \$250,000. A calculation was made that the College had trained 455 clergy over the 55 years of its life, of whom 380 were still alive and active, and that under their pastoral care were 168,797 Church members, or one-sixth of all the members of the Episcopal Church in America.

With this kind of ammunition the wheels began to turn. The leading Bishops of the Church were persuaded to issue public statements praising the quality of St. Stephen's education and its contribution to the life of the Church. Brochures were printed and circulated, lists were assembled of alumni and clergy by age and by region; meetings, luncheons and dinners held. A series of form letters, individually typed, went to hundreds of prospects. Clergy were besought to secure pledges from their parishes and from women's groups in their Churches, and to make gifts from their discretionary funds. Regional committees were formed and assigned their prospect lists.

In an ingenious step, alumni and friends of the College were each sent a set of four pledge cards, one for a subscription of \$10 per year for five years, one for \$20 per year, one for \$30, and for \$40. Each recipient was asked to put himself down for the largest gift he could afford, and to get three friends to make the remaining three indicated pledges, each signer being reminded that "You become one of a group who give \$500 toward the \$250,000 fund."

Among the themes repeated again and again were these:

One-sixth of all the members of the Episcopal Church are under the care of St. Stephen's-trained clergy.

Young men who feel called to the ministry are seeking in increased numbers to come to the College.

The Church's leading Bishops have the highest respect for the College.

The College offers the environment, educational program and type of worship which will develop sound convictions in our future clergy.

Many prominent persons in the Church are displaying an active interest in this campaign.

The Church needs men, and she needs educated men.

Hundreds of articles announcing the campaign and stressing its goals appeared in the Church periodicals and newspapers all over the eastern half of the country, headed by the *New York Herald* and the *New York Tribune*.

To draw attention to the effort, Dr. Rodgers went on tour, speaking Sunday after Sunday in churches up and down the Atlantic coast and into the midwest. He even shifted his residence to New York City for several months to be near the prospects for the largest gifts, as well as the offices of Mr. Fiske and Mr. Dean, who were giving trustee leadership to the program.¹²

Haley Fiske (1852-1929) had been a trustee of the College since 1905, and was the dominant power on the board. He was a New Jersey lawyer who had risen through the legal department of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to the presidency of that organization. He had vastly increased the company's business by developing an organization of local visiting nurses caring for the health of policyholders. Mr. Fiske was an ardent high-church Episcopalian. "I think it is the exact truth to say," recalls Professor Davidson, "that from 1914 until his death in 1929, Mr. Fiske completely dominated the College. I attended one or two trustee meetings at which Mr. Fiske was present, and the atmosphere was unmistakable. He wasn't even the presiding officer, but there might as well have been no such office." Mr. Fiske played a very important role in the life of the College, including the selection of B. I. Bell as president in 1919, and the securing of major gifts in the 1920's.¹³

Another major event of the Rodgers years was the retirement of George B. Hopson in 1913. He had served as professor for 50 years — all but three years of the College's entire history. As secretary of the faculty he had in his own hand recorded every student's grade in every course for every semester for over 30 years. He continued to live on in the cottage at the foot of the road going down from Bard Hall until his death on August 30, 1916.

Related to Dr. Hopson's retirement from the College scene was an unsuccessful attempt to build a college gymnasium, seen for a time by some as a fine memorial to Professor Hopson.

At the October 5, 1916 Trustee meeting Dr. Rodgers suggested a possible memorial to the late Professor of Latin:

"There is one means by which as it seems to me, a considerable impetus could be given to our moneyraising efforts. The name of the late Dr. Hopson is known and revered all over the country by every student who ever entered St. Stephen's. His memory is also revered by an even larger circle than that, and I am of the opinion that if a Hopson memorial were started in the right way and undertaken with the whole strength of the board of trustees behind it, a considerable sum of money could be raised. In my judgment the memorial should take the form of endowing the Latin professorship, which chair Dr. Hopson held for half a century. . . ."

As often happens when those who are working on an already formulated project see the memorialization of a popular figure as a means to gain added impetus for their undertaking, the students who were passionately desiring a gymnasium enthusiastically launched a campaign for a Hopson Memorial Gymnasium. Stationery was printed with Dr. Hopson's picture in the upper left hand corner, and a heading reading: "Campaign of the Undergraduates of St. Stephen's College for the Hopson Memorial Gymnasium." Each recipient of the letter was asked to give \$200 toward the building of the gymnasium.

Objection was made by those closest to the late venerated professor that he was primarily a teacher and a man of study, and that in this case a gymnasium would not be an appropriate memorial. It was with some embarrassment that the president found it necessary to issue this statement:

"The announcement that appeared in last week's issue as to the raising of funds for a gymnasium at St. Stephen's College as a memorial to the late Dr. Hopson must be withdrawn. This notice appeared before the board of trustees of the College had had an opportunity to consider the matter. While it is the intention of the board to make an effort to build a gymnasium, it is thought best, in accordance with the desires of some of Dr. Hopson's intimate friends and relatives that the memorial to the late professor emeritus of Latin shall not take that particular form."¹⁴

At the next Board meeting, November 9, 1916, the trustees expressed their gratification for the efforts of the students to raise funds for a gymnasium, and wished them success in their enterprise. And Mr. Dean, the treasurer of the College, was instructed to consult with the family and friends of Professor Hopson, as to whether it would be agreeable to them that a memorial endowment of the Latin Professorship be raised.

The next May, Mr. Fiske reported that he had secured gifts of \$5,000 each toward the gymnasium project from Messrs. William B. Thompson, Thomas W. Lamont, and Albert H. Wiggin, and President Rodgers reported that "the boys at the College have collected in small sums \$1,259.80. It is perhaps right to say that this campaign has cost the College in printing and postage \$141, leaving a balance of \$1,118. I think they did very well."¹⁵

But even with Mr. Fiske's help and interest, the fundraising results were disappointing in comparison with the very great effort expended and the very high hopes that had been entertained. Dr. Rodgers told the May 16, 1916, Trustees' meeting:

"The amount collected for the building and endowment fund is, I believe, about \$10,000 in cash and nearly \$8,000 unpaid pledges which will presumably come in during the next four years. This is, as we must realize, only a drop in the bucket. It is about half of what we ought to get in order to pay back the money we have borrowed to pay for these improvements. I am not satisfied with this result, and yet at the same time I can conscientiously say that I have worked very hard and have tried my best, as have also my colleagues and assistants at the College. As you know I have made New

York my headquarters since the first of December, and I expect to carry on an energetic travelling campaign until the College opens again in the fall. . . .

"Various plans for the continuance of the campaign might be possible. First, to make up our minds that this campaign is going to be a long one, although I think increasingly successful as time goes on, and to keep working on it with our office at the College as headquarters. . . . Another possibility is to get a financial manager to conduct a whirlwind campaign on behalf of the College. As to such a plan, I have made some careful inquiries and find that it would be very difficult to get anyone to undertake such a work for us without the expenditure of a very large sum of money. It has occurred to me that there may be some other man whose powers of persuasion are greater than mine and who can by deft sleight of hand conjure the large sums out of the pockets of the multimillionaires. Or that some priest with private means and a real love for those principles for which our College stands might be found who would take the presidency. I should not stand in the way of any scheme for the good of the institution. I do not want you to feel that I am in the slightest degree pessimistic or anxious to lay the task down. I am not discouraged. The thing can be done. But it can be done whether by myself or anybody else, only by constant, unceasing, energetic, enthusiastic determination to leave no stone unturned, no plan untried, in order that our college might be placed once for all beyond the possibility of extinction."¹⁶

The other chief feature of Dr. Rodgers' term was his involvement in a struggle over High Church and Low Church ritual in the College Chapel, a controversy which he and the College could ill afford. Shortly after his coming to the College, Dr. Rodgers secured two gifts of \$10,000 each from Robert L. Gerry and his family. The first gift was used for general campus refurbishment and the second for the erection of a new president's house, the first construction on the campus since the Hoffman library in 1895. Apparently an at least implied condition of the Gerry support was that the ritual in the College chapel should be made more High-Church with, for example, the installation of a tabernacle on the altar for reservation of the sacrament. Such changes were not uncongenial to Dr. Rodgers who was himself of more High-Church persuasion than his colleagues and predecessors. However, opposition to the changes arose on campus, and Dr. Rodgers backed off. The Gerfys, infuriated, withdrew their support and the new president's house, then under construction, had to be cut back in scale, resulting in a building that was unpleasingly vertical in appearance (a deficiency remedied only in the 1960's when major additions were built on the two ends).

In 1916-17 college enrollments were falling everywhere as war hysteria swept the country. Students were eager to enlist. Money was poured into War Bond drives, and the gifts on which colleges had long depended disappeared.¹⁷ Beleaguered from all sides, St. Stephen's rushed from one policy to another in a fight to stay alive, embarking upon a series of ventures from price-cutting to pig-farming.

With enrollment down to 34 students in September, 1917, Ludlow-Willink,

by then a faculty residence, was closed for the current year.

Somehow hoping that more students would come if the price were less, the College reduced its annual fee from \$425 to \$375.

The president proposed that the College consider adding a full preparatory school to its operations. "I believe we could have a preparatory school of young men from 15 to 19 in a very short time," he said. "I think the possibilities of such an institution would be very great. We should start of course in a modest way, but I believe such a school would supply a great want. We have Kent School before us as an example."¹⁸

A committee was appointed to study this proposal.

A new Matron had been secured to oversee housekeeping and the food service. "She has started a chicken farm" it was reported to the Board meeting, "and is already supplying the College with eggs to a large extent. She has pigs and is anxious to add cows. She insists that she has plenty of pasture for three cows, and that that number could supply the College with butter and milk."¹⁹

With somewhat over \$15,000 in hand toward the construction of the gymnasium, students began to press for the start of construction. Consultations with architects and builders indicated a cost of \$20,000 to \$30,000 for the structure, with the impossibility of getting a firm price because of the skyrocketing war economy.

Petitions came from the student body that the College go ahead and build the gymnasium. By the April 1917 Board meeting, the country was at war, students were rushing to volunteer, and no one could predict what lay ahead for a small college. "Mr. Edward A. Sidman, treasurer of the alumni gymnasium fund, was invited to join the meeting, and he stated it to be his opinion that the funds in hand for the purpose of the gymnasium ought not to be used to build it at the present war-inflated prices. The matter having been carefully considered, it was, on motion, resolved . . . that the Board regrets that they find it impossible to build the gymnasium at this time."²⁰

(Construction of the gymnasium had to await the coming of the next president, Dr. Bell, who made it one of his first projects, completing it in 1922).

As early as the summer of 1917, with war looming large on the national horizon, college enrollments everywhere began to diminish as students, eager to escape the draft, rushed to volunteer. With full U.S. participation in World War I, the College for 1917-18 had only 32 students, with the catalog noting that "seventeen undergraduates are serving in the army or navy."

At the April 18, 1918 meeting, President Rodgers was given a leave of absence until January 1919, at his usual salary.²¹ By September, 1918 the student

roster was down to 18. Dr. Davidson, now Dean, conferred with Mr. Fiske in New York, who said, "we can't run the College for that number."

Dr. Rodgers was in poor health and was considering taking a parish in Philadelphia, where he was substituting on a trial basis during the summer. The Government was offering to colleges the Student Army Training Corps program, for the dual purpose of keeping the institutions alive and using their facilities and teachers for the instruction of potential officers.

With authorization of the Trustees, Dean Davidson went to Washington, saw his Congressman and other officials and secured the designation of St. Stephen's for a unit of the Student Army Training Corps.

"At most colleges, I am sure, the personnel of the Corps was largely the civilian students, converted overnight into soldiers. The startling change was that instead of paying for an education, you received free board, room, lodging, uniform, education and thirty dollars a month." But at St. Stephen's, where most of the remaining students were ministerial candidates, only one civilian student joined the SATC unit and so as Dr. Davidson put it:

"We still had to get our students. An army lieutenant presently appeared, we advertised and the candidates began to come. The Regents' entrance requirements had to be met, at least 13 secondary school units. Many were rejected for either educational or physical deficiencies, but our numbers began to grow. We were supposed to have at least 100 recruits, but we never quite reached that figure. Soon an army captain came and we assumed a really military appearance. We had to find some new faculty members to teach map-making, military law, sanitation, and so on, and we had to conduct two sets of courses, one for the soldiers and one for the few civilian students who still remained. It was a busy time of intense activity for everyone, and I am sure the campus had never seen such strenuous days. Dr. Rodgers had very little part in it, as he was making preparations to move and was away a great deal. The Faculty really ran the College. Then came the Armistice and shortly before Christmas the corps was disbanded. The Government promptly settled all claims for maintenance, damages, etc. and we had not closed our doors. Presently Dr. Rodgers made the final definitive move to his new parish in Radnor, Pennsylvania, and some civilian students began to drift back. The rest of the year, from Christmas on, was quiet compared with the exciting fall months, and in the second semester we had 30 or more students."

Dr. Rodgers lived less than two years after leaving St. Stephen's, dying January 5, 1921. He was 65 years old.