

WILLIAM HENRY HOYT, great grandson of Archibald Debow Murphey, of the Class of 1799, though a native of New York City, educated at Fordham, the University of Vermont, and the Harvard Law School, has for half a century maintained an affectionate interest in the State of his ancestry. His national reputation in the law as it relates to municipal corporations has led to his serving as counsel for municipalities and counties in this State, and on several occasions for this University. Author of several papers in his field, he is at present Chairman, Taxation Committee, Municipal Section of the American Bar Association. But Mr. Hoyt's avocation, that of historian and book collector, has given him a place of esteem in this University. His monumental edition of the Papers of Archibald D. Murphey, which he discovered in 1904 in a New York autograph dealer's establishment, has earned for him the gratitude of historians; his work on the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence has gained for him their respect; and his great collection of works on French history of the revolutionary period, gathered in an attempt to solve the mystery of Peter Stuart Ney, now generously presented, together with many other treasures from his library, to the University Library, have won for him their affection. Lawyer, historian, research scholar, bringing light into the hidden past by his desire to find the truth and to make justice prevail; benefactor of the State, and particularly of this University, he embodies in the varied activities of his life the true ideal of the humanist, and this University responds to his attainments with the award of an honorary degree as a mark of our appreciation. (For the degree of Doctor of Laws.)

Commencement, 1954.