GEORGE MYERS STEPHENS, ---, author, and publisher, native of Asheville, A.B. of the University of North Carolina, member of Phi Beta Kappa, has, since his graduation in 1926, maintained a deep and abiding interest in his native section and in his <u>alma mater</u>. A true lover of nature, he has, through his speaking, writing, and publishing, fired others with his enthusiasm for the natural beauties of Western North Carolina, its music, its folk-lore, and its history.

Former trustee of this University, former President of the Friends of the University of North Carolina Library, member of the Advisory Board of the North Carolina Botanical Garden here in Chapel Hill, Mr. Stephens has ever kept foremost among his varied interests the welfare of this University. His contributions to the conservation and preservation of the natural beauties of our State, to the study of the flora of the Southern Highlands, to the development of the North Carolina Botanical Garden, must be measured, not in time and money, but in the good accomplished.

It is therefore eminently fitting that this distinguished amateur botanist, who has made us aware of the beauty around us, this loyal alumnus, who has constantly striven for the improvement of this University, should be honored by his alma mater, with the degree of Doctor of Laws.

University of North Carolina Commencement, June 1964