

## THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TULANE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

The Tulane University of Louisiana is named in honor of Mr. Paul Tulane, its generous benefactor. Born on a farm in Cherry Hill, New Jersey (just outside Princeton), he later resided in New Orleans, where he amassed a great fortune as a merchant and in real estate.

To this man must go the credit for rescuing a University in deep financial trouble - the University of Louisiana - and giving it renewed life in a private, nonsectarian institution of great promise. However, that was not his original intention; he wished only to contribute to a better educational environment for the young men of New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana.

It was characteristic of Paul Tulane to act promptly once he reached a decision. After Tulane decided to make a generous educational contribution, he and General Randall Lee Gibson soon discussed the proposed donation and its possible uses. Upon General Gibson's recommendation, Mr. Tulane set up a self-perpetuating Board of Administrators of the Tulane Educational Fund. The Board was composed of leading citizens of New Orleans and was given the authority to administer the donation.

In a letter to the Board, dated May 2, 1882, Mr. Tulane stated his intention of donating to the Board of Administrators "by an act of donation *intervivos*, all the real estate I own and I am possessed of in the said city of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, for the promotion and encouragement of intellectual, moral and industrial education... to foster such a course of intellectual development as shall be useful and of solid worth, and not be merely ornamental or superficial... conducive to immediate practical benefit rather than theoretical possible advantage..."

Instead of setting up a new institution, the Board desired to take over the failing University of Louisiana and change its name to the Tulane University of Louisiana. This was accomplished by Act 43 of the Louisiana General Assembly in 1884. The University of Louisiana was ceded to the Tulane Board, and the Tulane University of Louisiana was formally established.

A debt of gratitude is due to that outstanding scholar, statesman, General, and alumnus, Randall Lee Gibson; it was he who counseled Mr. Tulane and advised him to set up a self-perpetuating Board of "wise and good men". General Gibson served as the first President of the Board of Administrators of the Tulane Educational Fund.