

actual history and facts of the Mexican war do not furnish the name of another person entering the war without position or office, who attained the high rank of major in the brief campaign and series of battles from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico.

At the close of the Mexican war, Jackson served for a brief period in Florida, and then resigned his position in the army because of impaired health, and in 1851 received the unanimous appointment from the Board of Visitors, of Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy and Instructor of Artillery in the Virginia Military Institute, at Lexington. Some very curious circumstances were connected with his appointment to this chair. When the vacancy occurred which Jackson was destined to fill, Gen. Smith, the superintendent, was instructed by the Board of Visitors to seek, by private inquiries, some one suitable for the position. Among those to whom he first applied was Gen. D. H. Hill, then a professor in Washington College, we believe. Hill warmly recommended T. J. Jackson, then serving in the army in Florida. Hill at that time had no family connection with Jackson, but he knew him well; and, with a penetration and sagacity that did him much credit, declared that he was not only a competent, faithful, reliable man, but had a great deal of "outcome" in him.

Repairing subsequently to West Point, Gen. Smith addressed his inquiries to the faculty there. They recommended as eligible for the position, McClellan, Rosencrauz, Foster, Peck, and Gustavus W. Smith; the first four now noted Federal Generals, and the last an officer of high rank in our own service, until his late resignation. Upon Gen. Smith's stating that Jackson had been recommended, they said of him that he was an indefatigable man, and would do well; but he had come to the academy badly prepared. Inquiries at New York and Fortress Monroe further developed the fact, that the persons recommended at West Point were considered better *book-men* than Jackson, but all bore testimony to Jackson's great personal worth and energy, and his sterling qualities.

When the Board of Visitors met, General Smith reported the name of Jackson to the Board, together with a statement of the recommendations and encomiums already referred to.

It happened that there was on the Board a member who ap-