

Rear Admiral William V. Pratt

PRESIDENT, 5 SEPTEMBER 1925 - 17 SEPTEMBER 1927

Oil on Canvas

C. A. Slade, 1933

Gift of William Veazie Pratt, Jr.



William V. Pratt (1869 - 1957) had served as a member of the Naval War College staff in 1911 - 1912. On becoming the eighteenth College president in 1925, he instituted reforms that changed the focus of student education significantly for the future. Most important, he believed that naval officers should be made to view the totality of modern warfare, and he expanded course requirements to include much more than tactics and strategy. Pratt eventually rose to the rank of admiral and was the first president of the Naval War College to hold the office of Chief of Naval Operations. He served in that capacity from September 1930 through June 1933, during the administration of President Herbert Hoover.

The artist, Caleb Arnold Slade (1882 - 1961), was born in Massachusetts, attended Brown University, and studied art at the Académie Julian in Paris. At the beginning of World War One, he was in a studio in France and joined a U.S. Army camouflage unit. After the war, he did a series of works on Tunis, published in *Scribner's Magazine* in 1921. He became well-known for his portraiture as well as for his landscapes and biblical scenes.