

CONDITIONS, HOPES AND PROSPECTS.

I HAVE been asked to make to the readers of the CAMPUS a statement regarding "the condition" the hopes, and the prospects" of our University. The story of her condition is easy; the recital of her hopes presents a glowing picture, which the statement of her prospects might dampen. And yet, I believe that the actual prospects of Ottawa University are more favorable in this year of grace than they have ever before been in her history.

The statement of the present condition of the University must be briefly made, as it is undoubtedly quite familiar to the readers of the CAMPUS. The first thing to be mentioned should be our location. In this we are especially fortunate. Too much cannot be said in commendation of the city of Ottawa. From the time of its settlement, in 1864, it has had for its citizens a class of people distinguished for culture, sobriety, and high principle. We can safely say that the city of Ottawa does not recognize its superior in morals anywhere in our land. It has repeatedly been my privilege to tell to wondering residents of other states, that we have a city of eight thousand inhabitants, with only one policeman; that his time is chiefly occupied in looking after petty disturbances of the peace; that no saloon was ever in the town; that it has never had a city prison; and that even the county jail, where the occasional city prisoner is entertained, is a building which a mob might easily enter, and from which perhaps only a sort of gratitude for the county's hospitality, or a vague fear of additional punishment upon recapture, prevents the prisoner from escaping.

The material equipment includes a beautiful campus of thirty-three acres, on high ground, in the most desirable part of Ottawa for such an institution; a college building, already outgrown, although in excellent condition; a science building, older than the other, in good repair, but also inadequate to our needs; a home for young women, finely equipped, but too small; a gymnasium, well furnished, but lacking sufficient apparatus; a good working library, constantly growing, but still needing additions; museums, to which valuable accessions are continually received through the generous thoughtfulness of friends; and last, but not least in importance of promise, nearly four hundred acres of land, the proceeds from the sale of which will be welcomed as

an addition to an endowment fund, as yet all too meager.

In connection with the present condition of the University may appropriately be mentioned the men and women who compose its Faculty. This body, with an occasional change in its personnel, has loyally supported the present administration for five years, and contributed largely to any success which it may have achieved. It is my pleasure, as always when I have opportunity, to acknowledge the cordial co-operation of the professors and to proclaim their ability and Christian character.

I may appropriately mention, also, the delightful *esprit de corps* of the students. This is shown by the voluntary maintenance, at considerable sacrifice of time and convenience, of an excellent orchestra, which contributes a much appreciated and unique addition to our chapel exercises, and to the various public and semi-public functions of the University; by the University chorus, which presents on occasions, college songs and other entertaining music; by the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A., which are doing excellent work among the students, the extent of which eternity alone will determine; the seven classes in Bible study; the Ministerial Association; the Oratorical Association; the Athletic Association; the literary societies, and the various class organizations. All these contribute, each in its own way, and each valuable in its own sphere, to the diversified life of our college community.

Now, as to our hopes. It has never been the policy of this administration to speak of what we hope to accomplish, but rather of what we have achieved. I may say, therefore, and briefly and broadly, that we hope to make Ottawa University in a much larger degree a positive force in the building up of the natural, social and moral interests of Ottawa, and of the intellectual and spiritual condition of the Baptist denomination throughout the whole commonwealth of Kansas. To this end we hope that our supporters in Kansas, among whom we are pleased to number our whole constituency, and our prosperous friends in the East, may be induced to make increasingly larger gifts to our resources and equipment. We need additions to our endowment, our buildings, our furniture, our library, our museums, our gymnastic apparatus, our scholarship, and our prizes. And the more thoroughly our friends whom the Lord has prospered understand the importance of this institution to the growth of Christ's Kingdom in this part of our land, and the more largely they contribute to the supply of our

increasing demands, the better our University will be able to fulfill the great mission for which she was placed in this promising field.

I am grateful to a merciful Providence that I can speak more definitely concerning our prospects than ever before. We have about come to a realization of the hope we have long entertained, and are confident that the first of June will see the answer to our prayers and the crowning of our efforts of the past year. The city of Ottawa has nobly responded to our appeal for \$15,000 for addition to our building capacity, and we expect to begin these additions at once. It is probable that ground for our new building operation will be broken soon after commencement, and the addition to our main building will be hastened to completion as rapidly as safety will permit. The members of the Baptist church and congregation in Kansas have nobly responded to our call for \$30,000 for additional endowment, and their money will be made productive as rapidly as it is paid in. This, with the \$15,000 promised by the American Baptist Educational society, upon condition, which will be met by the first of June, will, when it reaches our hands, increase our endowment fund to somewhat more than \$100,000, and will help us to carry on our present work without the unfortunately regular deficit which faces us at the close of every year.

All these facts, thus briefly recited, emphasize our increasingly greater need, and the growing demand for still larger resources, in order that we may more adequately meet the requirements of this very important field. It causes a great longing when we think of the money so carefully hoarded by those who might be our substantial friends, and who might contribute so much to the glory of God. This longing is no less keen when we consider that an additional endowment of \$250,000, and \$30,000 to \$50,000 in added buildings and equipments would help us to greatly to carry on in a manner highly creditable to our denomination the work we are set here to accomplish.

J. D. S. RIGGS.