

Page one.

Literary Societies of Ottawa University

On the afternoon of Dec 17th 1869 the students of Ottawa University meet to take action concerning the organization of the first Literary Society of this institution. The result of this meeting and one held Dec 21 was the organization of the Euphemian society, which held its first regular meeting Jan 4th 1870 with L. St. Holt, (now editor of the "Western Baptist") in the chair. The members of this society numbered 38 and among this number we notice the names of some who are now prominent businessmen in this city. The society continued to prosper during that

Page two.

year, but the next year, owing to the fact that only a few of its members returned to school they found it impracticable to continue their meetings and so in connection with the public school organized a new society with its headquarters at the old Brick S. H.

The next society of which we find any mention is the Calliopean.

The records state that on Oct 29 1877 a meeting was called by Prof. Williams who stated the object of the meeting to be the organization of a Literary Society. Prof Williams was elected president and for the first year or so the society was under the personal supervision of the faculty. Among the leading workers we find the names of Messrs Bass & Whitney and ^{three of the} modern triumvirate White Cotton, Dicklow & Fred Holt.

Page three

Everything went along smoothly until the autumn of 1882 when the Young Ladies headed by the preceptress, Miss Varnum, succeeded and in the room across the hall around one dimly lighted lamp met and took the first steps toward organizing a society of their own Sept 15-1882. The name chosen was "Ladies Athenian". The Athenian society started out under the most promising circumstances with 19 charter members and during the first year ^{the} society ~~was~~ very prosperous. But the same ^{as much} can not be said of the Calliopean society. It never recovered from ~~its~~ loss. It lingered along for a few months but on the night of March 30th 1883 it passed away. An attempt ~~was~~ was made at the beginning of the next school year

Page four

to resurrect it but in vain, The Calhiopean society was a thing of the past. The young men ^{were} with-
out a society until Dec 1st 883
when they met and formed the
Kappa Nu Kappa. This society
was short lived but it should
ever be remembered that it was
through its efforts that the
Olympian was formed. The young
men believing that the last part
of the proverb, "United we stand,
divided we fall," had been
satisfactorily proven by the societies
determined, if possible, to ascertain
the truth of the first part, "United
we stand". With this object in
view they appointed a committee
to visit the Ladies society and to
use all honorable means to effect
a union between the two. The
Young Ladies though struggling with

Page five

many difficulties for an existence decided that they could not join the Happa society ^{but} that the societies should hold their meetings together for two months. Under this arrangement things went along smoothly and at the end of that time the ties that bound them were so strong that neither could bear to think of separating. But when the young gentlemen were informed that they ~~lacked~~ "lacked sand" they determined to show their grit by going it alone once more. But once was enough and at the close of their first meeting adjourned "sine die". The young ladies at a sad & solemn session decided to disband and left as a monument over the Athenian grave our organ. The following week the students met and from the ruins of these societies the

Page six.

Olympian was formed and has continued from that time to this an honor, to its founders and to its members. In it was combined all that was good in both and it stood without a rival until the beginning of the present term. It then became apparent that another literary society was needed by the students and this need was fully met by the organization of the Philalethian society the last but not the least of the societies that have been connected with this institution. Though younger than its sister, the Olympian, yet ^{it is, not her inferior} (in many respects it is not far behind her) and the time is not far distant when "the last shall be first, and the first, last." Long may these societies live in friendly competition, to be an honor to our University and a ^{through their influence} blessing its students. a blessing to the nation.