

ROBERT L. PARKER, A. M.

Twice in her history has Ottawa University honored her graduates with a position on her faculty of instruction. Equally noteworthy is the fact that both of these favored ones are members of the Class of '91. Immediately subsequent to his graduation, W. H. Isley was elected to the professorship of natural sciences, acceptably filling the position for one year, when he resigned to enter Yale college. The second instance is that of R. L. Parker, who was last year chosen by his *alma mater* to occupy the chair of History and Economics.

Robert L. Parker was born at Carlyle, Iowa, May 10, 1865. In the centennial year his father, Rev. Moses Parker, removed with his family to Clearwater, Sedgwick county, Kansas, where they still reside. Clearwater at that time was on the extreme frontier, and as a consequence, the Professor was early brought into contact with Kansas soil in its virgin state of fertility, before it had been exhausted in producing extensive crops of golden wheat and mammoth corn. This fact no doubt in a measure accounts for the generous proportions of his physique.

Until his nineteenth year the only school advantages enjoyed by Mr. Parker were the few months of district school which could be crowded between the farm operations of a late fall and an early spring. But these were evidently improved to the utmost.

In the spring of 1885 he entered the English Preparatory class of Ottawa University. His course here was broken by a couple of years' teaching in his home school. But even this serious handicap did not

prevent him from graduating with his class, which he did in '91, having completed the work of the last four and two-thirds years in three years' time, and receiving the double degree of B. L. and B. S.

During his college career the Professor took an active part in literary work, being a member of the Olympian Society. He won first prize in the Sophomore contest in oratory, and the following year took first place in the local contest, and represented O. U. in the State Oratorical Contest. During his under-

graduate work Professor Parker was most interested in the natural sciences, but has since given especial attention to history.

In the fall of '91, without solicitation on his part, Mr. Parker was elected to the principalship of the High School of Paola. He occupied this position during two years, resigning at the close of that period to accept a similar but more lucrative position at Marion, Kans. After a year's service at the last named place, he again resigned to take up post-graduate work in Chicago University. In the spring of 1895 he was elected to the chair of History in Grand Island (Neb.) College, which place he filled during the following year. The Professor

was chosen to his present position in the spring of '96, and after another summer spent in special work at Chicago, entered upon a work here, which to his colleagues and students, has been eminently pleasing and profitable.

In 1895 Prof. Parker received from his *alma mater* the well-earned degree of Master of Arts. His abilities as a scholar and an instructor have also received recognition from outside sources. During two sum-



mers he was called as institute instructor to do work in Norton county, and was a third time chosen for the same work, but was hindered by other plans from accepting it.

Mr. Parker was married on January 5, 1895, to Mrs. Pauline Roush, at Evanston, Ill.; but his wedded happiness was limited to one year, his wife having died on February 28th of the year following.

Prof. Parker has three brothers who are graduates of O. U., two of whom were members with him of the class of '91. The third finished in 1892.

The Professor has always been an enthusiast in athletic and field sports, a lover of the rod and gun. To his superior coaching, in a large measure, was due the phenomenal team-work of last year's football eleven, which called forth so much favorable comment wherever they played.
