

OTTAWA UNIVERSITY.



FREDERICK W. COLEGROVE, D. D., President Ottawa University.

Like Hamilton College, Dartmouth and several other institutions for higher education, Ottawa University was founded as an Indian school. The Ottawa Indians gave 20,000 acres of land to establish the University. The Indians were to have fifty scholarships during thirty years and ten perpetual scholarships. These scholarships were to be held by the Indian children who were between the ages of four and fourteen.

The institution was opened in 1865 and was continued until 1868, when it was suspended until the college building should be completed.

The Ottawa Indians, who had in the meantime come into possession of their reservation as individuals, disposed of their property and removed to the Indian

Territory. By the advice of lawyers they began a litigation to recover their land grant to the University. At the close of a long litigation the land reverted to the Ottawas, except a section upon which the University is now located.

In 1869 the building now known as the Laboratory and Society Hall was completed. It cost \$40,000, a large part of which was raised by Rev. Robert Atkinson, in the East.

The University has a beautiful campus and still owns nearly 400 acres south of Ottawa. A portion of this has been laid out into building lots. Friends of the school are urged to purchase these lots and thus to add to the productive endowment.

About two years ago the new college and

the Charlton Cottage were completed. These buildings are well adapted to the school work. They are both heated by steam and attractive in appearance.

Among those who have been worthy leaders of the institution we may mention Professor Philetus Fales of Ottawa and the Rev. P. J. Williams, D. D., of Lawrence. Professor Williams developed the institution along the line of Normal work and impressed his strong personality upon the students. When Dr. Williams was called to the State University, Professor Stewart became president. Under his administration many students were well prepared for eastern colleges. Upon the resignation of Professor Stewart, Professor M. L. Ward, D. D. was called to the presidency of the University. He was well qualified by natural abilities and a long experience for the position. During his administration a portion of the section of land was laid out into lots and from the sale of these lots \$45,000 was realized. Not only was the greatest part of the endowment raised during this time but the college courses were established and "the institution grew more rapidly than any other school in the denomination during these years." Between the administration of Professor Ward and that of President Johnson, Professor Sutherland served as acting president for three years. He was a wise, safe, and cautious leader. His practical common sense and capability for administrative duties kept the University on a sound basis at a critical time of its history.

Dr. Franklin Johnson of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was chosen president in July, 1890. He inspired great confidence in the ultimate triumph of Ottawa University, as testified by the completion of the north wing of the college building and the enlarged endowment; \$10,000 being a gift of the American Education Society, on condition that the Baptists of the state should raise \$25,500, which conditions were promptly met.

When Dr. Johnson was called to the University of Chicago, it was the occasion of much regret and disappointment. But the trustees soon proved the wisdom of their choice in calling Frederick W. Colegrove, D. D., of Colgate University, New York, to fill his place.

Dr. Colegrove is comparatively a young man, and that fact argues strongly in his favor. His years of usefulness will, we hope, be so many more.

Ever since his coming he has impressed the students by his geniality and kindly interest in their welfare. Moreover, they know these qualities to be genuine. Under the first year of his administration, the enrollment of students reached the highest mark yet attained. And although the fall term of '93 opened under most unfavorable circumstances, on account of the money panic, thereby keeping great numbers of young people away who had planned and intended to be in college, yet the enrollment for this year bids fair to go even beyond that of last.

Had we the space we would speak at length of the change in the catalogue indicating the wider range of studies open to the choice of the students. Ottawa University now has a Business Course of superior merit, substantially identical with those of the best business colleges. The Music Department, under a late action of the trustees, is now a part of the University. This is a step in the right direction.

In conclusion are not the prospects bright? The Baptists of the state are beginning to believe in Ottawa University, not that they never did, but because their faith is proved by works as never before. Then as trustees, faculty and students it is incumbent upon us to prove true to the trust reposed in us—to make this college the center of moral and religious influence, Christian refinement and education, from which shall go forth men and women endowed with powers to bless the world.