

"The Ottawa Campus" - Sept. 1904

Three Glimpses of Ottawa University

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THREE GLIMPSES OF OTTAWA UNIVERSITY.

BY PROF. M. L. WARD.

1869.

Ottawa was then a small hamlet with seventh street as its southern limit. Science Hall was a new building, but surrounded by grass and weeds. Most of the present campus was a nursery of apple, peach, and pear trees, from which several thousand dollars worth of stock had been sold that year.

School had first opened in the spring. For the next fall term three teachers had been secured. On the first day of school, some fifteen or twenty young people and children, late in the morning, came slowly up the road; for their were few sidewalks then in Ottawa.

Only two rooms were furnished, and that scantily. There was no library, no apparatus, no tables, and not even stoves, until late in the fall. The college had no money to spend, for the land endowment was in litigation. The spirit of the motto over the entrance was surely needed to keep things moving.

Perhaps fifty students of various grades and ages were enrolled during the year.

1883.

Ottawa is now a thriving city with its southern boundry at ninth street.

In 1874 fire had consumed the wood work of Ottawa's only building. The walls had been strengthened by rods, and the basement and the story above had been restored. The attic was still unfinished. There was a small library of perhaps 100 volumes, the gifts of individuals. There was also a small case of apparatus for physics. What is now the campus was a field, poorly cultivated. A part of the college section was being farmed. The rough land on both sides of Rock creek was a wilderness.

On opening day about twenty students appeared. There had been an enrollment of from fourty to sixty for the two years previous. Three or four were advanced as far as

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Freshmen ; the majority, however, were in the common branches.

Nothing was very encouraging. But litigation had ended, and the College could, by meeting some conditions, secure a patent to 640 acres of land. This, with the one building partially rebuilt, was the sole property of the University.

The Institution had been in existence for twenty years. It had made little progress. Its very existence was scarcely recognized in the state.

"Fit Via Vi."

1904.

Men have labored and we have entered into their labors. There is no debt, but a productive endowment of \$117,000. We are two years from the disastrous fire, and have four buildings well equipped. Ottawa has hundreds of loyal students, and back of us is a large denomination of Christian workers. Why should not O. U. be hopeful?

"Ad Astra per Aspera."