

# **THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF OTTAWA UNIVERSITY.**

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It seems rash to attempt to write on such a subject within the short space of a "Campus" article. We can only touch the question, and leave the discussion proper to be filled in by the minds of the friends of our University who are interested in what may be suggested here.

"Other men labored, and ye have entered into their labors." As we contemplate the small beginnings of our University, and observe

to what she has grown, we must not think we are in the time of fruition, but rather in that of the larger hope, rather in the time of thanking God and taking courage.

As those men of fragrant memory, who were instrumental in establishing our school, anxiously watched its beginnings, wondering whereunto it would grow, who shall say how often discouragements arose, how often apparently insoluble problems were presented for solution, how often the temptation came to abandon the whole enterprise? But no! Pioneers are made of sterner stuff than to be dismayed by difficulties which cause weaklings to waver. These men were pioneers; they accepted their responsibilities, and felt that keen interest in their enterprise which some of us now feel "after many days." They brushed aside the discouragements, they solved the problems, they spurned the temptations, they labored, and we "have entered into their labors."

What is it into which we have entered? A campus of thirty-three acres in a beautiful location; a substantial college building, containing chapel, class-rooms, library, and reading room; an older building, in which are laboratories, museums, and society halls; a pleasant home for a score of young women; between three hundred and four hundred acres of land waiting for a rising market, but meanwhile rented, and in large part cultivated; a productive endowment of over seventy thousand dollars; a board of trustees, shrewd, cautious, consecrated, conservative, yet progressive; a Faculty, able, faithful, devoted; a body of students, earnest, enthusiastic, loyal, promising, whose superiors can be found nowhere in this land; friends by the thousands scattered broadcast over this commonwealth, loyal, confident, and hopeful, friends who have done much to make the foundations broad and deep, who will do more to make the superstructure grand and high.

But what of the future? Does not every man want his business to grow? We want the same for our school. Does not every man wish to prosper from year to year? So do we. Our new college building, which is only a wing of a larger building in contemplation, is already practically outgrown, and the entire structure is needed. Our scientific equipment, laboratories, museums, apparatus, is lamentably insufficient for the work we wish to do; our library ought to be increased ten-fold; our cottage for young women, improved very much during the past summer by the enterprise of our Women's Committee, still lacks some modern improve-

ments and homelike touches; our endowment should be trebled at once.

What of the future? Our trustees can manage only what they have, but more should be put in their hands. Our Faculty can do only to the extent of their ability; their number should be enlarged. Students will come to us in increasingly larger numbers, so long as our reputation for earnest and thorough work is maintained, but we must continually advance; we dare not stand still. Friends of the institution will be raised up here and there, so long as she continues to show herself worthy of their friendship and their aid.

What of the future? Those who are now friends of the institution must answer. Those outside are looking to us, students and others who read these lines, who are more intimately acquainted with the work and the needs of Ottawa University, to make these things known, to act, and to give them an opportunity to act. Those who in the past accepted and nobly discharged responsibilities for the present, are rejoicing in this present, in the measurably large fruition of their hopes and the visible answers to their prayers. They also realize that "to whom much is given, of him shall much be required," and they are watching and wondering if the present, with the same degree of courage, of faith, and of hope which *they* manifested, will undertake responsibilities for the time to come. And we will. We look with gratitude upon the record of the past, and with hope upon the picture of the future. We have seen the bright dawning of the day, and we hope that many of us will live to see her in her full meridian splendor. The labors, tears, and sacrifices of those gone before have not been in vain, and many generations of children yet unborn will rise up and call them blessed.

It has never been the policy of this administration to make promises, and it is not the purpose to do that now. We prefer to act as rapidly and as cautiously as possible, and then from time to time to announce what has been done. It will not, however, be considered premature to say in this connection that the board of trustees of our University have authorized the engagement of a financial secretary. It will be the business of this officer to attempt the increase of our endowment and equipment, to advertise the school and its work in all honorable ways, and to endeavor to enlarge the sphere of her usefulness. There has been considerable delay in the engagement of a gentleman for this important work, simply because men possessing the requisite qualifications are

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very rare. But we hope soon to find a man with the necessary ability, consecration, and knowledge of the needs, who may be placed in charge of this business. Meanwhile, let us all, who are interested in the growth of our loved University, do all we can do to prepare for his coming by interesting our friends, by studying how we may ourselves further the enterprise, and by praying for the continued blessing of God upon the work that is here done in the name of His anointed Son.

*J. D. S. R.*

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