

From 1880 to 1883 Prof. T. M. Stewart was acting president. Prof. Stewart brought to his work a high ideal and endeavored to give to the institution and literary requisition the standard of an eastern school. He was successful in his efforts. His students were able to enter the best eastern colleges and graduate there the same year in which they would have graduated had they remained here. During the year 1882-1883 the faculty consisted of Prof. Stewart, acting president; T. F. Hamblin, professor of Latin and History; and Miss Varnum, professor of Modern Language and Literature. Total number of students enrolled, fifty-four.

In 1883 M. L. Ward, D. D., was chosen president, which position he held for four years. Under his administration the college section of land was plotted and 100 acres of it sold for \$45,000, the beginning of a productive endowment. During the year 1884 and 1885 the enrollment reached 105. This was the first year that there was a Freshman class in the institution. This class consisted of two members, Misses Alice Boomer and Mary Cloud. The next year the enrollment was 155 and the first collegiate class of one member, Mr. Joseph W. Stocks, of Blackhawk, Colorado was graduated. During the four years of Professor Ward's administration and also the three years following under the direction of Professor George Sutherland, the school grew rapidly and constantly in attendance, more rapidly probably than any other Baptist college in America. Pres. Sutherland, besides having the interests of each individual student at heart, was much interested in the financial condition of the college. The new buildings was begun and practical provisions made for the raising of an additional \$50,000 endowment.

In July 1890, Rev. Franklin Johnson, D. D., of Cambridge, Mass., was chosen president. The fact of his coming secured at once the hearty cooperation of the American Baptist Educational Society which offered to give the institution \$10,000 for future endowment, provided that during the year 1891 the citizens of Ottawa finished the north wing of the college building at a cost of \$18,000 and that the denomination throughout the state raise at least \$25,000 on or before January 1, 1892. These conditions were promptly complied with. Also, Charlton Cottage, a beautiful dormitory accomodating 24 young ladies was erected this year. The cottage is a monument to the labors of Mrs. O. C. Charlton, who raised the funds for its erection among the many friends of the institution. Dr. Johnson remained until June, 1892, and when he went to his broader field of work, he bore with him the interests of Ottawa University and still continued in many ways to assist its progress.

Dr. Johnson was followed by Prof. F. W. Colegrove, D. D., of Collgate University, who perhaps devoted himself more completely to the interests of the college. The curriculum was much improved, the faculty enlarged and the attendance greatly increased under his management. He also inspired a greater confidence in the school among the Baptists of the state. A much needed gymnasium was begun in 1895 principally thru Pres. Colegrove's efforts.

During the four years from 1891 to 1895 the enrollment increased more than fifty per cent, and reached 402. In 1896 the enrollment was 401.

Other Presidents were J. D. Riggs, followed by R. A. Schwegler, and Dr. S. E. Price, who is now President Emeritus, and our aggressive head of Ottawa University at the present time, Dr. Erdmann Smith.

From the very beginning the life of Ottawa University was a struggle against defeat, debt, and disaster. Twice flames practically destroyed the entire physical equipment of the institution. In January, 1875, Tauy Jones Hall, then all there was to the University, was completely gutted by fire. Robert Atkinson, the president