

1869---CHARTER DAY---1893.

The day on which the University received its charter has always been a red-letter day in the calendar of the institution. It has been observed as a holiday from the beginning; and with more or less formal exercises.

For several years it was almost altogether a student's day; and students only were known upon the program. Perhaps it might not be too much to say that students only were known in the audience, though this is not quite true. The exercises were conducted in the chapel, and consisted of more or less carefully arranged programs, including some literary matter; but for some time, possibly more parodies, mock-programs, and other similar student eccentricities. From the outset, much of this was regarded even by the great mass of students themselves with considerable doubt as to its propriety. As the institution added years and numbers it added also greater dignity; until it was the general sense of the student body and of the faculty that the time had come for a new departure.

Accordingly, in 1884, the program was changed. Chancellor Manatt made a formal address in behalf of the University; Mr. A. G. Warner, then a student but since a man of mark, delivered an oration as representing the student body; and a young woman, whose name cannot now be recalled, read an original poem. There were a large number of citizens in attendance, and general gratification was expressed at the tone of the entire celebration.

The part taken by the students becoming somewhat burdensome to them, and the desire to hear from the outside world increasing year by year, a regular Charter Day orator was chosen; the list including some of the strongest educators in the union. It was not long before the chapel was filled to overflowing, and then a transfer was made to the opera house; remaining with the Fiske as long as that was the best the city afforded, and passing to the Lansing as soon as that

was completed. To the exercises connected with the Charter Day oration were added later the departmental receptions in the lecture rooms and laboratories of the different buildings; the public taking this time for a general inspection of the University.

The list of Charter Day orators includes such names as that of President Angell, of the State University of Michigan; President Peabody, then of the State University of Illinois; Professor Winchell, of Wisconsin; Rev. Dr. Lippincott, then Chancellor of the State University of Kansas; and Washington Gladden, the noted Columbus (Ohio) divine and author. This year the list will be extended by the addition of the name of President Low, of Columbia College, New York.

The recent death of President Low's father makes it seem proper to omit the usual Chancellor's reception, held immediately after the address in honor of the day and of the speaker of the evening. Instead of this reception this year, there will be a reunion of the state officers, the members of the legislature, and the regents, faculty, and alumni of the University, on the evening preceding Charter Day. These will assemble in Grant Memorial Hall promptly at 8 o'clock. Each guest will be assigned an escort; and at 8:30 all will go to the University chapel, where a short musical program will be rendered by the University Chorus and Orchestra. All the buildings will be lighted, and after the program the guests of the evening will be escorted through the different lecture rooms, laboratories and museums by their hosts. An excellent opportunity, and perhaps the only opportunity possible, will thus be afforded the busy members of the State Legislature to see exactly what has been done upon the campus since they last assembled.

On the morning of Charter Day the buildings and grounds will be practically closed to the public; as the members of the faculty and employes will be busy in preparing for the departmental receptions, to be held in the afternoon from two to six. However, in the afternoon all lecture rooms, laboratories and