

about its umbrageous walks, imbibed the spirit of its historic associations, the then mushroom city of Lincoln and the modern architecture of the University building standing in the desolation of a treeless campus, presented neither an impressive nor an inspiring sight. Ninety students registered on the opening day, and the attendance soon increased to one hundred and thirty, which was the maximum during the year; of these but one was admitted to the junior class, two to the sophomore, five to the freshman, twelve to what was designated as the University course, while the rest were placed in the Latin or preparatory school, ninety-two being in the first and eighteen in the second year. In this department the curriculum of the first year consisted of introductory Latin to Caesar's Commentaries, elementary algebra, natural philosophy, English analysis, physical geography and physiology; the second year Cicero's Orations to Virgil, algebra, Greek or German, outlines of history and zoology. The regular college course was similar to that of other institutions of like character, though somewhat abbreviated by reason of the small teaching force.

Most of the students were residents of Lincoln, but there were a number from adjoining counties, six coming from "Old Otoe," four young men, Paul Morton, Wallace Stevenson, Edward P. Holmes and Steptoe Kinney, and two "co-eds," Helen Utley and Ellen McNamara.

The machinery of school work had scarcely been put in motion before the students organized a literary society with the Hellenic name "Palladian." Shortly thereafter appeared the college paper appropriately christened "Hesperian Student." The first election of officers held by the Palladians was a most exciting affair. The rivalry of the different candidates who desired the honor of becoming president was intense, and no professional politicians ever manifested more interest in the result of a national election than did these young men and "co-eds" over the choosing of the first presiding officer of the newly-organized society, and it was after midnight of the evening on which the election was held before the result was determined, and J. Stuart Dale gracefully thanked the members for "the unexpected honor."

There were some famous debates in those early days in which not only the students but state officials, legislators and prominent lawyers of Lincoln often participated. I remember two especially interesting events of this kind; one on the question of protection versus free trade, and the other over the annexation of Cuba. All sorts of subjects were selected for debate and the "boy orator" being much in evidence had no hesitancy in tackling and solving to his entire satisfaction at least, the most abstruse problems of political economy, philosophy or morals, neither was he deterred from taking up the controversial gauntlet when thrown into the forensic arena by judges, lawyers or members of the faculty.

There were neither dormitories nor mess tables in these adolescent days of university life. Paul Morton, Wallace Stevenson and myself boarded with Elder Young who lived in Kinney's O street addition; 'twas a half mile or more to school and the intervening prairie was unoccupied by either fence or building; boy-like we

used to put off the time for setting out for morning chapel to the very last moment, then starting on the jump we raced over the treeless plain, across the "disputed eighty," climbed the five-board fence around the campus, landing in the chapel on time, breathless, but exhilarated by the morning's run. Towards spring, however, for some cause which is not now recalled, we moved into town and took up our quarters with a family who lived near the Clifton Hotel. Here the three of us occupied one room, the two younger boys sleeping together. The eldest of the trio had just begun the cultivation of a mustache, and to hasten the day when he could proudly sport a hirsute covering on his upper lip, shaved frequently; you may believe that he was the envy of his younger room-mates who regarded the possession of "mustachios" as the *sine qua non* of manly adornment; but if the keen-edged raisor was as yet not required upon his face, one of the boys found it invaluable as an instrument for removing troublesome corns, and now after more than a quarter of a century, and at the safe distance of two thousand miles, tenders his apology and thanks for its use, "borrowed during its owner's absence." Bathing facilities in those days were of the most primitive character; a wash bowl of water, soap, sponge and a coarse towel were the means usually employed. Our bedroom was directly over the kitchen and the pipe from the cooking stove had originally come up through the floor, but this had been changed so that it entered the chimney below, leaving an uncovered hole directly over the stove. One Sunday morning, the oldest of us having just finished washing his feet, left the bowl for a moment on the floor dangerously near the aforesaid aperture. We had been a little indolent that particular morning and only the shrill voice of our landlady calling us to breakfast finally caused us to get a "move on;" whether it was in the struggle as to who should first be tumbled out of bed, or whether we were cultivating an appetite for the matutinal meal, which was being kept hot upon the stove, by a rapid firing of pillows at each others heads, is not now remembered, at any rate someone's foot struck the edge of the wash bowl and its contents were upset into the stovepipe hole, and following the natural laws of gravitation, descended upon the hot kitchen stove, flooding the victuals with water from which had just emerged a pair of more or less odoriferous pedal extremities. Result: A furious landlady, a ruined breakfast, a house filled with the odor of steamed food and three young men whose appetites were temporarily abated.

These three young men, as I have said, were "Otoes," two were native Nebraskans, and all were sons of early settlers in the Trans-Missouri region. The father of one had been the pioneer miller of Nebraska City, of another a leading lawyer and jurist of the early days, of the third for many years editor of the first newspaper published in Nebraska, pioneer arboriculturist, originator of "Arbor Day." From no class of citizens did the University receive more hearty support and encouragement than from the pioneer settlers. Its inception and early establishment was due to the persistent and determined efforts of those men who had come to

Nebraska during its territorial days, whose children were born and nurtured within its confines. Through the press and in legislative halls, by pen and voice they urged the speedy endowment, organization and opening of the institution. From the impetus given it by these far seeing men and the thoroughness with which its intellectual foundations were laid by the little band of educators who composed its first faculty, much of the success which has marked its career is due. In the eloquent language of a pioneer lawyer and law maker of Nebraska, the Hon. A. J. Poppleton, taken from an address delivered at the fifth annual commencement of the University is portrayed the sentiments with which these up-builders of the commonwealth regarded the institution: "Let then the University go forward in the noble career to which every voice of the future calls it. * * * Let it do its appointed work faithfully, unflinchingly, completely, and we at least of the citizens of the state who early cast our lot within its borders and have ever looked forward to the everlasting repose beneath its surface, may descend to our final rest assured that however feebly and imperfectly our hands have helped in some measure to rear a commonwealth under whose safe shelter ages hence shall live in peace and virtue a prosperous and happy people."

Of the individual careers of most of the students of the time of which I am writing, I am not familiar. Long absence from my native state has made me a stranger to their records; however I hear of many of those charter pupils who have become more or less prominent in the respective vocations which they adopted after leaving the University. Some have become legislators and judges; Dale, the first president of the Palladians, has for many years been the efficient secretary of the state board of University regents; he and Snell were the first two graduates, the latter is now on the bench of one of the northwestern states. Holmes is judge of the judicial district of Nebraska, Stevenson has occupied the position of county clerk of Otoe county, Paul Morton is second vice-president of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Co, and at the head of the traffic department of that great trans-continental line. In this, which he aptly terms the "Age of Transportation," he has attained a foremost position in the ranks of the brainy men who manage the vast railway interests of this country.

Others who were schoolmates in those days of the early '70's, have achieved more or less success in the vocations which they have since followed. The prophetic words quoted from the University address, delivered on that memorable evening thirty years ago, have been verified; members of the alumni, which now numbers more than fourteen hundred, have left their "impress for the good, the true, and the ennobling on every school district of every county," and the precious advantages of the University have been improved, until the "fruits of this system of education not only cluster richly in the legislative, judicial, and executive departments" of this and other commonwealths, but also along the busy thoroughfares of trade and commerce.

STEPTOE KINNEY.

San Diego, Cal., Oct. 1, 1901.