

dently believe, will command the gratitude of future generations; who well appreciate no less heartily than we now do, his timely action at that critical juncture in preventing the squandering of an endowment, all too scanty for one seat of learning, in petty grants to every school and college of Ontario.

But it was the novel experience at that time that a large surplus lay at our credit; though by no means at our disposal. It was, on the contrary, a bait in the hands of rival politicians; and the source of greatest danger to the University. We were in a homeless plight: transferred, like casual paupers, from one temporary lodging to another, in all the exigencies of an institution deserted by its old allies; and awaiting only a concurrent verdict of rival claimants, to pronounce its doom, and administer to its effects. At this crisis Sir Edmund Head once more interposed; and it is largely due to his liberal conception of the scale on which the University of the future ought to be organized, that the building which we anew dedicate to the services of higher education has proved capable of readaptation to the ever increasing needs, and to the growing numbers of the University. Sir Edmund Head's "Hand-book of Painting," embracing a critical review of some of the chief schools of European art, furnishes abundant evidence of the cultured taste which exercised an important influence on the architectural features of the building now in process of restoration to more than its former beauty. In this respect it stands in striking contrast to the greater number of the college buildings of this continent, and constitutes an important factor in the intellectual development of the Canadian student. Its æsthetic influences play their part in the enduring associations which link the graduate with his alma mater; and can scarcely be overestimated, not only as a source of intellectual refinement, but as an element of moral culture. "A thing of beauty is a joy forever;" and here in our young country, still rugged with the traces of recent clearing from the forest, we stand in special need of such refining influences. With those who have yielded to the charm of this building, its preservation from injury will ever be a sacred duty. To you who, to-day, enter on