

Board of Trustees, we owe the arrangement of an amicable compromise alike creditable to the city and beneficial to the university. Under the conditions now approved of and only awaiting the confirmation of the Legislature, the City Council undertake the permanent endowment of two chairs, with the sum of \$6,000. The special subjects to be thus provided for have been matter of friendly deliberation with his Worship the Mayor and the members of the City Council, and I look forward with sincere gratification to the supply of a long-felt want in the founding of a chair of English language and literature.

The requirements of the ancient and modern languages have been met in some adequate degree by the appointment of lecturers and fellows in Greek, Latin, German, Italian, French and Spanish. But in the all-important department of English language and literature the long-felt need of an adequate equipment still remains unsatisfied. It is no disparagement to the lecturer in that department, to whose painstaking zeal I bear willing testimony, that, with the pass and honour work of four years, more or less incumbent on every student in some part of his course, he cannot overtake the whole. It only requires attention to be directed to the provision now made in other departments to show the necessity for additional instructors in this division of our work. The student cannot be too carefully trained to revert with the spirit of loving appreciation of the author of the "*Faerie Queen*," to "that renowned poet, Dan Chaucer, well of English undefiled," to learn the marvellous compass of Shakespeare, and to sympathize in the feeling with which, in a great crisis of England's history, her poet, Wordsworth, proudly reverting to the language associated no less with her political than her intellectual triumphs, exclaimed :

We must be free or die, who speak the tongue that Shakespeare spoke ; the faith and morals hold that Milton held.

We cannot forget, moreover, how indissolubly the history of the language is identified in all ways with that of the English race. Hence we must aim at a system of study which in its honour work shall embrace the Mæso-Gothic of Ulphilas, the Icelandic, the Anglo Saxon of Alfred and the Saxon Chronicle ; and the middle English of writers from the *Ormulum* and Layamon's "*Brute*," to Langland and Gower, as well as the influences of the Scandinavian and the Romance languages on the English grammar and vocabulary. The student who would fully understand his own language must indeed master the whole process of evolution of the English of Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden and Addison ; of Tennyson, Browning, Ruskin and Arnold, from the rude inflexional dialects of the low German tribes that displaced the Romanized Britons in the fifth and sixth centuries. The comprehensiveness of this work is now so clearly recognized, that, in the best equipped universities, separate chairs are provided for the English language and English literature. If the endowment by the city of a chair specially devoted to this important work, lead to the appointment of a professor of the high character and eminent qualifications we have a right to expect, it cannot fail not only to affect beneficially the work of the university, but will react no less effectively on the public and high schools, and on the whole educational work of the Province. But, apart from the indisputable advantages which must result to the students from the additional chairs thus provided, I rejoice no less in the new and friendly relations established with the Mayor and corporation, and look forward with highest anticipations to the good fruits which cannot fail to result from the active interest they will henceforth be