

ding aspect—with a poor library and poorer accommodation for it—with a few articles, which should have been displayed in a museum, hidden away in cellars and garrets—without laboratories, and possibly without students ready to work in them if we had had them—without any apparatus worthy of the name—our students in Arts numbering not over 25 all told—our calendar reduced to the dimensions of an insignificant pamphlet in order to save expenses—what was there cheering in the prospect?

These were dark days for Queen's, and the outlook was sombre and discouraging. And yet we did not lose hope. Nor did the few students who graduated, from out such gloomy surroundings, lose their respect and love for the College, for there is not one of them living who would not heartily join to day with our present students in singing—

"Here's to good old Queen's, drink her down!"

In those days we had no system of options as now, and each student was compelled to take every subject in the course, these being sandwiched in so as to close all class-work at one o'clock. In the first year of my incumbency there were but two students in the graduating class, and very few in any of the others. To-day I have a single class, which practically means a single year, containing about 60.

To me was allotted the complex and non-germane subjects of Chemistry and Natural Science, subjects which now occupy the time of two professors, and which properly should be distributed amongst three. Having to teach an experimental subject I, of course, required both laboratory and apparatus. As for laboratory, I had none, except a sort of dark hole partitioned off from the class room, and intended for the storing of such chemical specimens, apparatus, &c., as I might by some dexterity of hand acquire. My store of apparatus may be properly described as a few fragments left from the stock of my predecessor, and from better times. Nor were any funds available from which to supply more, and for years afterwards, I know not now how many, there was not a single dollar, except what could be raised by public lecturing, applied to the expenses of the chemical laboratory. It was in those days that a stranger in search of the Principal found him digging in the garden, now a part of the College green, and asked him if he was the Principal's man.

Fortunately for me, and possibly for the College at that time, I am a mechanic. Whatever my hands find to do, in the literal sense they can do it. My inventive powers and mechanical abilities were constantly taxed to remedy defects or supply wants in the original apparatus of that day, and I have no doubt that years after I have passed over to the majority, mementos of those times will still remain in the chemical laboratory in the form of pieces of apparatus of my construction.

But the construction of apparatus, however interesting to the ingenious, takes time, and as time given to this work could not be profitably taken from that devoted to

classes, it had to be taken from that devoted to recreation. Thus, you can form some idea of the work which had to be done by a successful teacher of an experimental subject in Queen's in those days.

Although the peculiarities of my position probably made me feel most keenly our all pervading difficulties, yet I was not alone in striving against obverse circumstances, and in endeavoring to keep life in the institution the burden was laid upon others also, and we stood shoulder to shoulder. Our revered friend whose hair is not yet silvered, and whose eyes light up with enthusiasm at the name of Queen's, did the work of two men, although the meridian of his day was even then fully past. The rest of us were younger men, and after all what is work to the young and strong and willing, and especially when that for which one works is an object of confidence and love?

I do not know how it may be with my colleagues of that day who are still living, but I believe it must be that to them, as to me, remembrances are fraught with both pain and pleasure; pain, that we were compelled by the force of circumstances beyond our control to do work so inferior in kind to what we might have done under a more auspicious star; and pleasure, that to us was committed the care and nurture and infant life of a mighty potentiality, and that we have been enabled to prove ourselves true men by preserving that life, and passing it on in a more vigorous and developed stage to a succeeding generation.

But times have changed. The College did not die, nor is there at present any appearance of death or decay about it. On the other hand, everything points to a continuous progress and a brightening future. Our home is now this beautiful and commodious building in which we are met together, and which stands second to none in Canada—I might say in America—in its adaptation to the purposes for which it was built. Our students in Arts alone have risen from 25 to about 200, with a fairly commensurate increase in both Theology and Medicine. Our laboratories are stocked with a goodly supply of modern apparatus and appliances, and are thronged with workers in the field of nature. Our teachers have risen in numbers from 6 to 14, and even these are overworked by the continually increasing size of the classes. It may be as easy to lecture to 200 as to 50 students, but I will venture the assertion that no man can teach 200 students as well as he can teach 50. Besides, options and honor students mean more work for the teacher. So, progress in one line of academic expansion begets the necessity of progress in another. And like the child which must develop in due proportion in every part to become the perfect man, so a college must grow along all its lines if it is ever to reach that true and symmetric form which can give it the greatest power for usefulness.

That Queen's has progressed and is progressing is undeniable. Our hope is that she may take "Excelsior" for her watchword and that her progress may never cease.