

a champion for the "rights of woman," but as a Christian philanthropist looking to the welfare of society; as a modest, genial woman—seeing clearly that the world needed thoroughly educated, efficient women, whose influence should permeate all the ranks of human society, elevating and enriching it by culture and refinement. She therefore determined to give her life to the founding of an institution, which should in all respects be a college for the higher education of girls. This she accomplished, not by the lifting up of her voice in the streets, or of the discussion of the subject publicly, but in a quiet way, she appealed to the generous and noble-minded of her time to aid her in this work. She had great faith in God, and a calm reliance upon His strong hand to help her. The means for her cherished object were not withheld; in a year she had at her command twenty-five thousand dollars, with which to commence her work; in the following two years the amount was increased to fifty thousand: she selected her grounds, and appointed responsible men to superintend the erection of the buildings; it is said that the very bricks were consecrated by her prayers. As the building rose in fair and comely proportions, she declared it to be for Christ and the world! that no denomination should claim it for theirs, and no sectarianism should engender strife beneath its shadow.

The year 1837 saw the buildings completed, and the school opened with seventy-five pupils.

Men of sound judgment and generous hearts accepted the guardianship of the School, and cordially furnished her the benefit of their counsels and practical skill in finances.

Among the funds donated were the offerings of persons of very moderate means, and they were *all* the *gifts* of the earnest-hearted and benevolent. On surveying the finished buildings, Mary Lyon said, "The stones and bricks speak a language which vibrates through my very soul; the enter-