

gowns and a shuffle of boys' feet, suddenly, mysteriously, but not unexpectedly, there was the class of '97.

What class '97 thought of itself in those first days I do not know. But after-acquaintance with the class justifies the view that its estimate was not too low. The sophomores and juniors said it was the 'cheekiest' freshman class they had ever seen. But it must be remembered that the juniors had had only one previous experience, and the sophomores were naturally somewhat prejudiced in their own favor. The seniors assumed a dignified demeanor and welcomed the class meditatively. Its advent reminded them that they had come a long way since their freshman days, and that their course was nearly run. The thought could not but be saddening. What the professors thought will no doubt appear when their memoirs are published. In the meantime we must be content with a hint dropped at the last collation, when one of the professors said that each class, on entering, seems more backward and hopeless than its predecessor.

Class '97 set to work with great seriousness. As the largest class which had yet entered the university, responsibility weighed heavily on them. Not only did they have to preserve the dignity of the university, and to honor its traditions, but they had to strike out in new directions to prove their own worth. Moreover the unusually large proportion of women in the class put every man on his mettle.

Within a week or two after their entrance on college life, the class, following the example of '95 and '96, organized under an efficient staff of officers, Mr. J. H. Cameron being chosen as first president. The first work of the executive was preparation for a class rally. This innovation in the history of McMaster was made for the purpose of bringing the members of the class into more intimate contact than mere meetings as a class permitted. Dr. and Mrs. Newman most hospitably lent their home for the occasion. The rally was so decided a success that its annual recurrence was a foregone conclusion. Other classes followed the precedent so established, and class rallies are now part of the routine procedure of the college year.

'97's next effort was directed to the formation of a junior literary society wherein the members of first and second years might be free to make their first plunges into oratory, music,