

which would possess vitality with perennial youth. Let us see in what this strength consists?

The governing body is so constituted that each individual member is always chosen on account of a manifest strong desire on his part *only* to promote the best interests of the institution. The trustees have always acted together in complete harmony, and the Board has always been fortunate in the appointments which it has made. Speaking as a trustee of nearly twenty years' standing, although I can well recall the fact that there have been long and earnest discussions, I cannot remember a single decision arrived at during that period which was not unanimous. The same may be said of the University Council—a body that has many important questions to consider, and has never failed to adjust with judgment and ability every matter on which its decision was required.

The selection of the Principal and Professors by the governing body has been justified to the fullest extent by the results attained. They are unexcelled in their several spheres. It is impossible to speak too highly of their devotion to duty, their attainments, and their untiring labours in promoting the advancement of the University and the well-being of the students.

As I look back to the succession of undergraduates which I have known, I feel a pride in expressing the satisfaction with which I have regarded them, and I may well doubt if their superiors with respect to conduct can anywhere be found. I call to mind with infinite pleasure their submission to wholesome discipline and their personal propriety of manner. I do not forget their prowess on the campus any more than their behaviour in the lecture rooms. Whatever the cause there has grown up amongst them an *esprit de corps*, to lead to the most kindly feelings, the one to the other, and to create the strongest ties of attachment between the teachers and the taught. I do not believe that in this respect any institution could be more highly favoured. And when our students finish their University career and leave as graduates to take their places in the battle of life, they invariably carry with them as a perpetual possession the pleasantest memories of the days passed within these walls. It is not possible for university men in any part of the world to preserve stronger attachments to their Alma Mater.

I trace as the cause which more than any other has contributed to this condition the strength of purpose developed in overcoming the vicissitudes experienced in the history of this seat of learning. It appears to be a law governing mankind that the highest development is not attained when the conditions of existence are the easiest. Great races are not nurtured on luxurious indolence. History and the experiences of humanity sustains the

theory that it is in stern and rugged regions, in unkindly climates, that man attains the highest range of physical and intellectual development. The evolution of character undergoes its most favourable changes, not with those basking in sunny climes, but with men brought into active conflict with adverse circumstances. It is the necessity of persistent effort which best develops energy and those sterling qualities which tend to man's elevation.

The law appears to me to be universal, and in my judgment it is the operation of this law which has influenced and will continue to influence in no limited degree the moral atmosphere which pervades this University. It is the struggles through which this University has passed to maintain its dignity and accomplish its mission that we may trace the secret of its success. Without the settled purpose, which never was lost sight of, it would have resembled a steamer with a broken shaft, or a ship without a rudder, drifting in mid-ocean at the mercy of winds and currents. Our fixed purpose continues to be the attainment of the highest reputation as a seat of learning. We have always felt that this purpose is only attainable by steady resolution and persistent zeal.

Like many other institutions of the same character in this and other lands, we owe our foundation to the public spirit of men of the Presbyterian form of worship. Our Divinity Hall continues to give the teaching of this branch of the Christian Church, and it forms a most important part of our usefulness; but it constitutes only one faculty of the University, and the distinctive character of the teaching is attached to this faculty only. That the other faculties are separate may be implied from the fact that the professors and students are of every form of Christian faith. The number of students in the Faculties of Arts, Law, Medicine and Practical Science, compared with the Divinity students, are as 500 to 33.

The Faculty of Arts must ever be the central Faculty of a University. As elsewhere, it is our most prominent feature, and we here find the preponderating number of students being trained for civil life. It is in this faculty we are doing the most important educational work for the community at large, and moreover we are doing it without cost to the state. We are successfully carrying on a seat of learning in all branches of literature and scientific culture unaided by public money. We are undertaking the higher education of Canadian youth without help or encouragement from the state, and we are performing this exalted duty with perfect efficiency, in the assurance that as the years go by our efforts will more and more be appreciated.

We cherish the conviction that we have an important mission to fulfil in this Dominion, and that