

have seats otherwise than by direct representation, making seventeen in all, and it is absolutely certain that at least half of the available members of corporation, that is of those who can ordinarily attend meetings, will always be graduates of this university, and that the proportion of graduates must tend constantly to increase. But representation in a college corporation does not depend merely on numbers. One leading, influential and popular man, regular in his attendance and zealous for good, is of more value than a dozen who are inert, careless, or unnecessarily aggressive. Careful selection of good representatives and retaining them in office for a number of years, and allowing them to be absolutely free and untrammelled by any previous pledges, will give weight and power to the graduate representation, and will constitute an argument for its further extension. The graduates, I think, are becoming more and more aware of this, and are taking more interest in the election of their representatives.

RELATIONS TO THE PUBLIC.

I have now exhausted the more important element in our constitution. To a careless listener or reader it may seem complex and cumbrous, but, after an experience of many years, I see no reason to doubt its working efficiency, and it is deserving of notice that few jars or conflicts have characterized its action, and while there have no doubt been differences of opinions as to details, there has been practical unanimity as to important methods and principles, while there has been unquestionable progress in every department—progress indeed necessarily intermittent and unequal; for we cannot advance without now and then placing one foot in front of the other; and in a body where there are so many interests represented, and where no one will can be dominant, there must always be occasional delays and detentions, trying to some. I have myself a large packet of “abortive schemes,” containing projects started but nipped in the bud, and which I look over now and then to see if the time is approaching when any of them may have practical effect. Others may have like schemes and projects, but we must be content to wait. No constitution is perfect, but ours has at least the merit of having grown to suit our environment, and if this