

stantly surrounds you, it will so restrain you that while being true to yourself you will be loyal to your alma mater.

What is the prevailing tone of 'Varsity? Surely honour in all things and the gentlemanly instinct that is the surest remedy against cowardice, brutality or unfair treatment. Be certain of this that the average man will carry into his profession the standards which he formed for himself in college. I can conceive of no higher function of the University than the production of such a spirit that our graduates in medicine will have a high code of honor; in engineering will be thoroughly trustworthy; in law and politics unselfish and patriotic; in teaching kindly and cultured; in the church true and courageous. In the hands of such men scholarship and research will be safe.

Further, let me remind you that if this academic spirit is to be maintained the finer side of your manhood must assert itself. Should the standard of conduct be low it will not be due to lack of gentlemen in the university to give it the right tone, but it will be because they have allowed things to go by default. And this is a serious factor in our present day conditions. In the state, in municipal affairs, in co-operative schemes of business, in labour combinations the better element has too often been unwilling to do its duty and has capitulated to evil doers. The students have a duty to the university. You may make its good name or allow it to be marred. Begin to do your duty here and you will find your duties as citizens in the future all the easier.

Of the three thousand or more students of this university it will be impossible for me to know more than a comparatively small number. This I regret because in the past my students have been among my teachers. However I wish you to believe that if at any time you think that I am in a position to be of any special help to you, it will give me pleasure to meet you and to do all that my other duties and my judgment will permit.



### ROBERT ELLIS CRINGAN

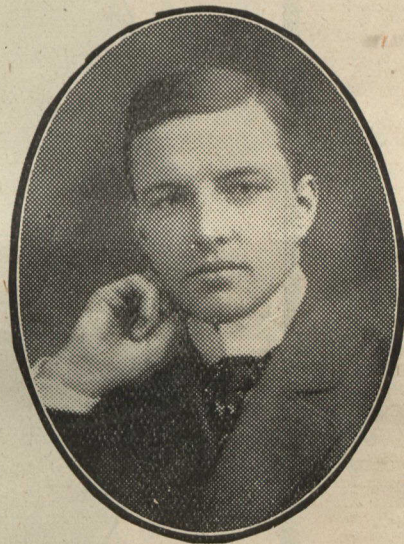
It will be long before the undergraduate body of the University of Toronto can even partially estimate the loss it has sustained by the sudden death of Robert Ellis Cringan. There was hardly a college society of any importance in which he was not an interested and important member. He was President of the Sophomore year at University College, Treasurer of the Literary and Scientific Society, Chairman of the new Song Book Committee, Secretary of the Bible Study Committee of the Y.M.C.A., and Vice-President of the Track Club. His business capacity, musical talents and noble personality will be sorely missed for many days.

From his earliest youth his life was crowded. When only eight years of age he began the study of music, and so steadily did he apply himself in this pursuit that at the time of his death he was reckoned to be among the first amateur violinists of Toronto. Graduating from Harbord Collegiate Institute at the age of seventeen he entered business life, spending five years in clerical work in various city firms. Every spare mo-

ment was utilized in mastering the violin and developing his musical gift.

Then he came to the University for a brief two years. Here he demonstrated his capacity for work and his indefatigable energy. One would have thought that his academic course—Biology and Physics—with its long afternoon hours of laboratory work would have been sufficient to engage his whole time, but not so with him. He soon identified himself with the numerous branches of student life—nor did he confine himself to these alone. Every week through the term he taught six students the violin, and was preparing for eight this year. He conducted an orchestra in one of the city churches and led a choir in another. He was a member of the Mendelssohn Choir and last Easter directed the Festival of the Lilies in Massey Hall. He also made many literary contributions to Canadian papers and magazines. How he made time for this is a question which puzzled all his friends and was the source of their constant admiration.

Above all, however, stood his character. He believed in God and Christ with all his heart but



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never paraded his religion,—simply lived it. He was a clean living fellow, and one of his desires was to help his companions to live clean, honest lives. His faith was simple, an almost child-like trust, combined with the vitality and energy of a true Christian manhood. The evening before he met with the fatal drowning accident, he played his violin very softly and sweetly, "I'm Wearin' Awa', Jean" and then "Nearer My God to Thee." The incident seems prophetic for God called him nearer the very next day. Why a life so promising, in which were crowded business talents, musical skill, literary tastes, scholarship, tact, commonsense, and Christian manliness, should be cut off so early is a question which can only be solved "behind the veil." Meanwhile we thank God for the few full years of upright and noble living.

"Thrice blest whose lives are faithful prayers  
Whose loves in higher love endure."