

The graduates are a great and increasing element in the constitution of the university. Individually the success in life of every graduate is a recommendation of his university, and he has much power to advance its interests both by commending it to others and by giving it, as many have done, substantial aid. Collectively the graduates can do much as a society, by aiding in our struggles against the obstacles which meet us in this province, by promoting all improvements and movements in advance, by placing us in better relations with the non-academical world; and in general by lending their countenance and support in every way to the cause of higher education. Much of this legitimately belongs to the Graduates' society; and it would seem that the time has arrived when this might enlarge itself by having, as is the case with the large American universities, branches in various parts of the country. Above all, under the constitution, the graduates enjoy a large share of influence in the corporation. Sometimes this is measured by their number of direct representatives, but that is a mistake. Eight members in a body of forty-four may seem to be a small representation, but in our corporation there are at present nine other graduates who 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 elements 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 opinion 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 growth continues in a natural manner we may hope that when the present sapling becomes a stately tree it will preserve its regularity and symmetry, and will be so adjusted and proportioned in its parts that no storm will uproot it or break it down, and that it will stand as a thing of beauty and of perennial fruitfulness, as "a tree planted by the streams of water that bringeth forth its fruit in its season." Let us bear in mind that its growth is to be promoted and its safety secured, not by continual attempts to bend it hither and thither, to lop off a branch here and there, or to cut it into some shape that pleases present fancies, but by giving its roots due nourishment and allowing it freedom to develop itself in the air and in the sunlight. The three great enemies it has to dread are the borers and caterpillars that nestle in the wood and foliage, the ruthless woodman who would girdle its trunk or cut down its branches, and the lack of due nourishment from the soil which supports it. To drop the figure, we have to dread in our circumstances: First, a selfish or reckless spirit growing up among ourselves, and a want of that enlightened devotion to the cause of education and the common good which characterized the founders and early friends of the university; Secondly, the effects of such unwise legislation as that which has recently consigned