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THE staff, to whom have been entrusted the fortunes of Vol. XXII. of THE JOURNAL, present to their readers the result of their first efforts. As we understand it, the function of the JOURNAL is to express, in some measure, the life of the University. As this is ever widening and becoming more diversified, any hopes we may have had of accomplishing our object with unusual success have been already rudely shattered, and we fully appreciate the difficulty and responsibility of maintaining the high standard of excellence attained by our predecessors. Though unskilled in journalism ourselves, and conscious of many defects and immaturities, we hope to profit by their experience and our modest aim will be to do our work with what fidelity we can and prove worthy of the confidence placed in us by our fellow-students.

Our columns will always be open for literary contributions, and for the notice and discussion of important College affairs, and in our editorial utterances we shall endeavor to be fair-minded and impartial, and avoid as far as possible immoderate and extravagant statements. We ask for consideration, for help and for criticism. These we consider essential to the highest success of the JOURNAL and are confident that the students and graduates of Queen's, ever loyal to their Alma Mater's best interests, will give them to us in a true spirit.

We cannot refrain from noticing, in this our first issue, the *Students' Handbook*, prepared by a committee of the Y.M.C.A. and designed especially for the use of the Freshman Class. It was an agreeable surprise to all, and its neatness and convenience and the variety of its information reflect great credit on the taste and energy of the committee. It is a decided improvement on anything of the kind we have seen. Its hints and suggestions to new comers regarding conduct and study in College are very valuable and have our hearty approval.

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The JOURNAL esteems it a high privilege to extend a cordial welcome to the Class of '98, the largest we have yet had. They have already given evidence that their quality is not of a low order, so that we are expecting great things of them in the future. There are many things for them to unlearn as well as to learn in a College course, and we might very profitably enumerate some of them, but this is not an advice-grinding machine, and we content ourselves with emphasizing one point. Do not at first attempt too much. This is done by many every year at the expense of thoroughness, and we believe that they could study with salutary effect Browning's lines:

" Oh, if we draw a circle premature,
Heedless of far gain,
Greedy for quick returns of profit, sure
Bad is our bargain!"

* * *

In a young country like Canada, the semi-centennial of any public institution is a notable event—a kind of coming of age, for great things grow slowly. Four years ago Queen's celebrated her jubilee amid great rejoicing, and now her younger (we might almost say twin) sister, Knox, has a similar good fortune. On this, our first opportunity, we hasten to extend our hearty congratulations. *Floreat Knoxonia.*

For months preparations were going on that it might pass off "decently and in order," as becomes a College bearing such a name. Its success is most gratifying to all Knoxonians, but doubly so to its worthy Principal, Dr. Caven. To him, no doubt, much of the success is due, though his name hardly appears. But this is his way. Modest worth lives on in Dr. Caven, in a time, too, when great men are forced into self-assertion. But in fact most of the