

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

WHEN one had time to consider, after the destruction of University College in February, 1890, what that meant, the one loss uppermost in men's minds was that of the library. The building could be—as, indeed, it has been—restored to its former beauty with interior arrangements much more in keeping with the present needs of the institution; but the treasures of the old library cannot be replaced. Some of the valuable works have been secured; but considered both from the standpoints of utility and economy, it would not be well to attempt to secure many others, much though one might desire to have them.

It was deemed inadvisable to make provision in the restored building for the library, as some of the rooms could be used to greater advantage for other purposes, but mainly because the space occupied by the old library was far from adequate to meet the increasing needs of the University, and there was also the danger of a second calamity. In order, therefore, to avoid these dangers, it was decided to place the library in a separate building, which should be large enough to accommodate the rapidly-increasing number of students, to give fireproof accommodation for at least 100,000 volumes, to allow of the adoption of the more modern system of seminary rooms in the various courses of instruction, with the needed provision for the administrative department, reading and waiting rooms. It was decided to adopt the stack system, by which the whole library would be practically in a huge fireproof vault.

After much careful consideration, a plan was adopted which followed in its main features the library of the University of Michigan. The site chosen was immediately to the east of the lawn, on the bank of the ravine: the material was the gray Credit Valley stone, so as to be in keeping with the main building.

Friends of the University had generously given for building purposes an amount almost sufficient to erect the building, and work was begun in the summer of 1891, and with the end of this year the work will be complete.

The main floor is taken up with the large reading room, seated for more than two hundred readers. The librarian and cataloguers' room is to the east, and near the entrance, the periodical reading-room for the staff. From the delivery desk the entrance to the stack opens on the middle floor, so that the attendants have only to climb one flight of steps to reach the upper floor, or to descend one to reach the lower floor. The only wood in the stack is the shelves, the fittings being iron and glass. The upper portion of the building is devoted to the various seminary rooms; Classics, and Oriental languages occupying the rooms over the periodical room and in