

# Hart House, University of Toronto

An explanation of the purpose of the building taken from an address by Mr. Vincent Massey, M.A., at the Opening Ceremony.

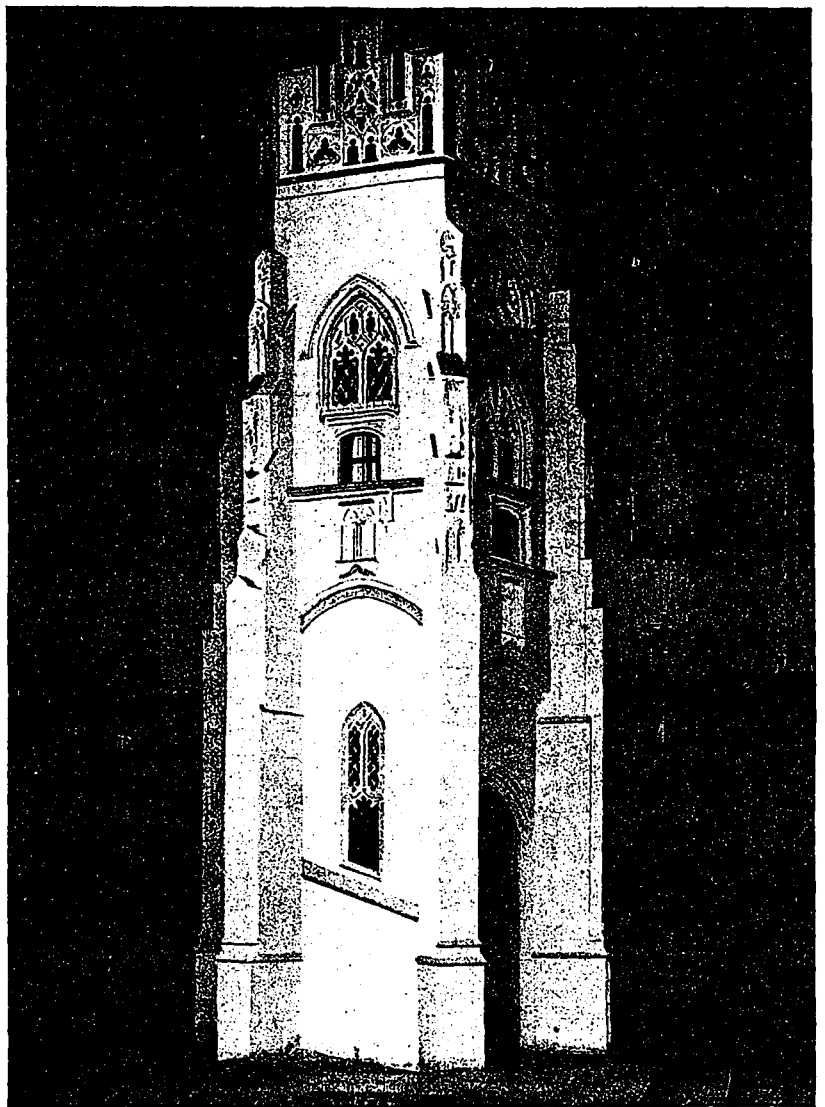
THE project of Hart House was conceived in 1910, when it became evident that the Young men's Christian Association stood in need of better rooms and that the Under-graduate body required quarters in the nature of a club. To meet these needs the Executors of the Estate of Mr. Hart Massey, of Toronto, offered to give to the University a building which would serve as a memorial to the founder of the trust, and bear his name. This offer was accepted and construction commenced in 1911.

Owing to the war, Hart House developed slowly, but the pause in its erection gave an opportunity to widen its scope. It is perhaps not incorrect to say that the House as it now stands is intended to represent the sum of those activities of the student, which lie outside the curriculum. These activities are not unimportant; indeed, I would submit that the truest education requires that the discipline of the class-room should be generously supplemented by the enjoyment, in the fullest measure, of a common life. A common life, of course, presupposes common ground. At this University it happens that but a very small proportion of the students can enjoy the advantages of the community life provided by a college. It is perhaps unlikely that we shall ever see in Toronto a completely developed collegiate system. But even if this were the outcome, there would still be the need, indeed the greater need, for the unifying force which it is one purpose of this institution to introduce into the University.

Hart House, in one sense, may be described as a Students' Club, but the purpose of the House is wider. It is greatly to be hoped that this place from the many angles at which it touches the life of the student, will exert an influence of the most positive nature, in giving him a real sense of membership in an academic family, and in making him conscious of a very noble tradition, which it is his duty and his privilege to maintain.

Furthermore, let us hope that not only will the House serve the interests of the active members of the University of Toronto, teach-

ers as well as undergraduates, but that it may help to bridge the gulf of time and space which too often separates the graduate from his University. Here will be a place where the present and the past generations may meet, and here, let us hope, may be fostered the lasting loyalty



STAIR ENCLOSURE: GREAT HALL.

and the *esprit de corps* which are essential to the welfare of any seat of learning.

This House has been built for the men of the University, and save for special occasions will be reserved for their use. May I explain here, lest misunderstandings arise, that this condition was due in no sense to a lack of appreciation of the benefits of the co-educational system—a system which is so firmly established and vindicated as to require no defence—but entirely to the fact, quite as little in need of explanation,