

## THE ALUMNI ENDOWMENT

The records of the Alumni Association (1884) contain a report by John T. Roberts, '76, committee on the "History of the Alumni Endowment Fund." He says: "The first recorded notice of an action looking to the accumulation of an endowment fund by the alumni is found in the minutes of the annual meeting of 1877. O. A. Houghton and J. J. Brown presented the following, which was adopted: 'Resolved, That C. M. Underhill, J. D. F. Slee, John S. Morgan, J. Dorman Steele and William A. Wood be and the same are hereby constituted a permanent committee to take charge of, push and solicit contributions to the Syracuse University Alumni Endowment Fund.'

"It does not appear that this committee ever did anything. No report was presented by it in 1878. At that meeting, however, the subject of bringing financial aid to the University was made prominent. A committee of five (J. H. Hoose, C. H. Fowler, M. S. Hard, Geo. W. Elliott, J. Alabaster) was appointed to present a plan of work at the evening meeting and to take general charge of the matter during the year. The plan proposed by this committee comprised the following essential features:

"(1) Subscriptions to be contingent upon the securing of the entire amount of \$40,000, but to bear interest from the date of the pledge at 7 per cent.

"(2) Receipts from the interest to be covered into the treasury to be used in defraying current expenses.

"(3) The principal to be placed in the hands of the trustees for investment at their discretion."

At the Literary exercises held in the chapel of the Hall of Languages, Tuesday, 25 June 1878, Rev. Dr. C. H. Fowler, '59 (who also delivered the oration of the evening), moved that "an endowment fund of \$40,000 for an alumni professorship be raised." He worked vigorously to secure subscriptions. It was announced the following day that about \$5,000 (exactly \$4,800), had been subscribed.

Mr. Roberts' report continues: "In 1879 Dr. Hoose reported for the committee. The nature of that report your committee is at present unable to state. It was discussed at great length and finally adopted except the resolutions which it proposed.

"A cash subscription of \$50 for the endowment fund was offered by the board of editors of the *University Herald* and was accepted. What disposition was made of this money the records do not show.

"The committee with some substitutions and additions was continued (J. H. Hoose, W. A. Brownell, M. S. Hard, Geo. W. Elliott, J. Alabaster, E. Nottingham)."

In the *University Herald* of 20 May 1880, appears a communication from

the committee above named dated 8 May 1880, proposing a plan for securing the endowment. William Nottingham presented this plan at the annual meeting in 1880. It is as follows :

"1. Each alumnus shall enter into an agreement with the Board of Trustees of the University, promising to pay to them annually, between the date of the contract and 1890, a certain sum towards an Alumni Endowment Fund of \$40,000.

"2. The board of trustees, on their part, shall agree, on the required amount being paid in, to establish an alumni professorship and to apply to the maintenance of the same the income of the fund so received by them.

"3. In the mean time the money so paid in to the Board shall be invested by them in government securities, or shall be loaned upon approved real estate, secured by bond and mortgage, or shall be deposited at interest in savings banks.

"4. The interest accruing on the sum so paid to them shall go to increase the general alumni fund.

"5. The trustees of the University shall report annually to the alumni the amount of money so received by them, the manner in which it has been invested, and the total sum of the principal and interest on hand.

"6. In case the whole sum of \$40,000 shall not be secured previous to 31 December 1890, then each person contributing shall be entitled to receive back his pro rata share of the moneys so paid in, together with the increase of the same.

"7. Those alumni who have already subscribed could very readily convert those obligations into the form of contract proposed by this plan."

The alumni adopted the plan with a slight amendment. Date 29 June 1880. "A committee of nine gentlemen and five ladies was also named to draft a form of contract in accordance with the plan. Under this revised plan efforts were made at considerable trouble to secure the transfer of the original subscriptions from the simple pledge to the legal contract form. Quite a number of subscriptions were eventually so transferred but representing only a small fraction of the aggregate amount," some of which were subsequently paid.

Dr. Steele, as alumni trustee, presented to the board the plan above stated on this same 29th of June, and after some discussion accepted a substitute offered by Bishop Peck, which was adopted by the trustees and reads as follows : "*Resolved*, That we instruct our treasurer to receive any moneys which the Alumni Association may pay to him on their professorship, with the understanding that said moneys shall be retained subject to the order of said Alumni Association, and if insisted, they shall be the owners and proprietors of the securities ; and should there be any failure in the effort to endow the Alumni Association professorship, we suggest that the Association, and not individuals, be in control of said funds." The consequence was that the alumni, at their next annual meeting, 28 June 1881, abandoned the plan which they had adopted, but in which the trustees had not concurred, and the resolution of Bishop Peck *is the law in the case to this day*.

Mr. Roberts continues: "The contract form has been permitted to lapse, as being too much hedged in by conditions to be of vital use to the University and a subsequent movement, conducted on a simple basis, has supplanted all the old ones."

The first systematic effort to get subscriptions from the members of the graduating class was begun by the writer in 1881. The class of that year pledged \$1,500, the announcement of which fact called forth from the Association a resolution of appreciation in honor of the class. It was then re-resolved to raise \$40,000 and to secure \$10,000 at once. Later (1885) the alumni pledged the trustees to be responsible for the interest on \$10,000 until that part of the \$40,000 should be paid in. This explains the item that figures in the treasurer's report year by year as "Alumni Association Pledge \$10,000." It was pledged at the request of Chancellor Sims as part of \$100,000 he was attempting to secure for endowment. The resolution offered by Mr. William Nottingham reads as follows:

"WHEREAS, We have now pledged to the alumni fund over \$6,000, and a committee is instructed and equipped to go forward in the work of increasing that sum to \$42,000, for the purpose of endowing a professorship in the University; now, therefore,

"Resolved, That the first \$10,000 raised of said \$42,000 may be counted as a portion of the \$100,000 now being sought by the Chancellor, to the end that the income thereof go to the support of the University each year as a current fund."

It has now been paid in full and will figure no more in the reports of the treasurer.

The form of pledge used in 1881 was suggested by Chancellor Sims and reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, agree together in consideration of each other's subscriptions to pay to the Syracuse University for an alumni endowment fund, the sums set opposite our names. The conditions of these subscriptions are that the principal shall be paid in five annual installments, beginning with the 25th day of June, 188-, and annually thereafter, with interest from date. The interest may be used for current expenses of the University, but the principal shall be held for endowment exclusively." This is called the "five year plan" and was by vote adopted by the association.

At the meeting in 1881 "the old committee was continued and a special committee, consisting of Frank Smalley, N. A. Wells and M. C. Dean, was created to solicit contributions from the members of the outgoing Senior class and the other recent graduates. In 1882 the special committee was continued with the following membership: Frank Smalley, chairman; E. S. Osbon, James M. Gilbert, John S. Morgan and M. S. Hard. In May, 1884, this committee issued a circular letter to the alumni urging further subscriptions.

From the minutes of 23 June 1885, contained in a report of the chairman of the committee: "The following is a brief statement of the condition of the subscriptions:

Under original contract form.....	\$1,500 00
Interest due on same.....	728 00
Contracts changed to five year plan.....	450 00
Interest due on same.....	158 00
New subscriptions on five year plan.....	3,870 00
Interest due on same.....	524 00
Entire total subscription since 1878.....	6,200 00
Subscriptions already paid.....	945 00
Interest already paid.....	326 38 "

At this meeting a "ten year plan" was adopted and subscriptions amounting to \$2,300 were taken. The chairman of the committee was authorized by the board of directors to visit various parts of the State to make a personal canvass in the interest of the endowment fund. This was done in the summer and a substantial addition made to the subscriptions. At the meeting of 22 June 1886, twenty minutes were devoted to securing subscriptions and under the leadership of Dr. M. S. Hard, \$3,101 were pledged. This was all on the "ten year plan," the contract for which, drawn by Mr. Edward Nottingham, is still in use and reads as follows :

In consideration that the Alumni Association of Syracuse University shall proceed and undertake through a committee appointed for that purpose, or otherwise, to obtain subscriptions for its Alumni Fund to the amount of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars, and in consideration of other subscriptions made, and which shall be made to said Association for its Alumni Fund, I promise to pay to said Association, to become a part of said Alumni Fund, the sum of \$..... (.....) in ten equal annual payments, commencing on .....189 with interest on all sums unpaid, to be paid at the times said installments of principal fall due; hereby reserving the privilege to pay the whole or any part of said principal at any time earlier than that above named.

.....189

A permanent endowment committee was appointed, the chairman being unchanged, the other members being Professors J. Scott Clark and L. M. Underwood.

Each class since, and including the class of 1881, has a list of subscribers to the endowment fund. The class of 1894 pledged \$2600, and is the banner class.

Raising endowment in this way is necessarily slow work. Syracuse has few alumni as yet of large means and it is therefore doubtful if more could in any way have been secured than by the persistent annual soliciting that is as sure to confront an outgoing class as is the final examinations. Sanguine alumni have proposed more expeditious methods but have found no way to work them. One generous giver proposed at an alumni banquet a few years since that then and there \$50 000 be raised as an endowment, but, as that would average about \$500 apiece for all present able to subscribe, the enthusiasm was not apparent and the matter was dropped by general consent manifested by a dead silence.

The report made to the Association in 1898 is here reproduced, and will give the reader an idea of the progress so far made in the great undertaking.

7 June 1898

Total subscriptions to date (estimated good).....\$28,556 00  
 Total subscriptions for the year 1897-8 (included above).. 1,200 00

ENDOWMENT

Cash received to report of 8 June 1897.....\$10,118 25  
 Cash received since report of 8 June 1897..... 417 50  
 Total.....\$10,535 75

INTEREST

Cash received to report of 8 June 1897.....\$ 2,921 20  
 Cash received since report of 8 June 1897..... 165 50  
 Total.....\$ 3,086 70  
 Total paid by alumni, 1897-8 .....\$ 583 00  
 Total paid by alumni to date.... 13,622 45

It will be observed that the \$10,000 pledge has been fully redeemed as above stated; also that there has been paid to the University in cash nearly \$14,000 since 1880, very little having been paid before that; \$14,000 in eighteen years, varying from \$500 to \$1,200 per year. The endowment funds are intact. Nearly three-fourths of the sum originally aimed at (\$40,000) has been subscribed, more than one-fourth has been collected and paid into the treasury of the University and stands to the credit of the Alumni Association.