

The Period of Growth

Shortly after the opening of the fall term of 1873, the Rev. John W. Bissell, A.M., D.D., was made acting president, and in June 1874, was elected president. He served Upper Iowa in this capacity for 26 years. Early catalogues said of him:

His Christ-like life and character inspired and molded the moral and intellectual lives of thousands of young men and women. He ever held before the students the highest ideals, both of scholarship and of character. His self sacrificing labors . . . resulted in great increases.

Only 23 persons had been graduated before Dr. Bissell's administration. During his term of service there were 304 graduates from the College of Liberal Arts. In addition, the number of students during the academic year was doubled; and five new buildings were erected.

During this period the town of Fayette also grew. The coming of the railroad, on September 16, 1873, was an advantage to both the town and the University.

Of great assistance to President Bissell in rebuilding the institution was the Ladies' Professorship Association, which was formed on November 27, 1873. For many years this Association

served the University, adding to its endowment and providing a part of the salary for a lady professorship and preceptress. It also administered South Hall (a women's dormitory) in later years and provided Upper Iowa with professional and cultural entertainment.

During the early part of President Bissell's tenure the huge boulder which lies west of the main college building entrance was put into place by the young men of the Class of 1875. With much labor, the stone was hauled to the campus to serve as a memorial to the class. During the night, the Junior class dug a hole and buried the boulder deeper than the Ages had done. The Seniors dug up the stone again, however, and placed it where it now rests. After their class day exercises were over members of the class marched out to the stone and buried their textbooks beneath it.

At their meeting in June 1877, the Board placed all the business of the institution in the hands of the faculty for a term of three years. In accordance with the action of the Board, President Bissell and Professor Hurd of the Business Department entered into Articles of Agreement by which "the University buildings and campus, together with all its furniture and apparatus, shall be held by the said Bissell and Hurd."

As the college neared the end of its first quarter century of service, the many codified rules were modified somewhat, but a strong emphasis was

still placed upon the students' religious life. To carry out the aim of the institution the work was distributed to the College proper, a Preparatory Academic School, a Normal Course, a Business College, a Conservatory of Music, and an Art School. For the work of the College, three courses of study were marked out — the Classical, the Latin-Scientific, and the Scientific. The campus, as well as the curriculum, was also overhauled. The pine trees which now grace the campus were planted in the early 1880's by Dr. Parker and various classes.

The first issue of the campus newspaper, the *Collegian*, appeared in May 1883. It was a 12-page publication, published monthly, roughly 8 x 10 inches in size, and divided into two columns per page. The content was mostly the printing of literary works by the students. It did, however, contain some campus news in the reports of the four literary societies, and two pages of "locals" regarding student and faculty visitations.

C. P. Colegrove, Class of 1881, was editor-in-chief of the faculty-sponsored publication. In January 1884, the *Collegian* recorded: "J. R. Mott handles the currency at the club [Philomatheans] and records any deliberations of that body." Another entry read: "J. W. Dickman enjoyed a turkey with the folks at Christmas." J. R. Mott later became world famous for his work in the Y. M. C. A. and other youth and church organi-

zations, while Dickman served the University in many capacities for 50 years, including three years as president.

The second building to be erected on the campus was South Hall, a women's dormitory, which was built in 1885. The building had accommodations for 45 young ladies. The catalogue for 1886 carried the following description of the furnishings:

The rooms are 12 x 14 feet, the closets 3 x 7. The rooms on the first and second floors are carpeted and all the rooms are thoroughly ventilated and heated by hot air. Each room is furnished with bedstead, sanitary mattress, two pillows, commode, toilet set, chairs, and table. Each of the two occupants should bring one pair of sheets, one pair of pillow cases, one comfort, one blanket, towels, napkins, and toilet soap.

The rent was 50 cents a week. The rooms on the third floor were uncarpeted but otherwise were of the same size and furnishing as the first and second floors. The upper rooms, however, cost each girl only 37 cents a week. Heating was 25 cents extra during the fall and spring terms, and 50 cents extra during the winter term.

In 1885 an Observatory was erected just north of Old Sem, "sufficiently elevated to give a good view of the Heavens." It was equipped with a 5-inch Alvin Clark telescope. This building was moved in 1887, when North Hall was constructed, to a position east of Old Sem.

North Hall, a residence for men, was erected just north and a little west of the main building. It had accommodations on the first floor for 75 table boarders. The second floor was occupied by the Business College and the third floor provided rooms for 20 young men. Furnishings were roughly equivalent to those in South Hall, but cost the men students only 37 cents a week. Heat for the men was 25 cents in the fall and spring terms and $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents in the winter.

Since the college now boasted of two dormitories, the old partition on the third floor of the main building "yielded to the skill of the workmen and now the two halls were united." The third floor was then turned over entirely to the literary societies for meeting halls.

A Military Department was added to the catalogue listings in 1885. In its first roster of cadets, Wilbur F. Albright was shown as the lieutenant, and John R. Mott was first sergeant. One of the privates was John W. Dickman. Lieutenant Albright later became a missionary to Chili and was the father of William F. Albright, Class of 1912, world-famed archeologist.

The correlation between the use of tobacco and a person's health was under consideration on the campus even before the turn of the century. An editorial comment in the March 1885 issue of the *Collegian* pointed out that "the pernicious effects of the excessive use of tobacco cannot be too vig-

orously portrayed, and it is well for every man to reflect that the best physicians are unanimous in the opinion that not to smoke or chew is the best rule." In November 1888, a student editor wrote:

Last Sunday two students stood in front of the post office with cigars in their mouths and hats tipped over one ear, looking as if they were the center of attraction. It is really an imposition on those coming in and out of the office to be compelled to inhale the filthy smoke and have their clothes more or less perfumed with the ash congesting odor of tobacco. If young men wish to attract attention, they had better dance a clog or stand on their hands, as it would be more attractive and not as disagreeable.

The campus chapter of the Young Men's Christian Association was organized on March 25, 1885, with 19 charter members. The fourth man to sign the original constitution was John R. Mott. It was while he was a student at Upper Iowa that Mott made his decision to go into "Y" work as a career and to take the movement overseas.

This organization was followed in September 1885, with the institution of the Y. W. C. A. These two groups were legally incorporated in the fall of 1887. They remained a potent force in campus life until 1934 when they were combined into a new organization known as the Christian Forum.

A series of post-graduate courses leading to the degree of Doctor of Physiology was instituted under the catalogue of 1888-1889. The first doc-

torates awarded under this program were in 1894 when degrees were conferred on the Reverend W. W. Carlton and the Reverend M. Edward Fawcett.

The first honorary degrees were awarded in 1862 upon the "Honorable Oran Faville and the Honorable D. N. Cooley," who received the A.M. degree. The first honorary doctorate was awarded in 1867 to the Reverend P. E. Brown.

The race problem, which has long caused so much discussion and tension in American colleges, was never a real concern at Upper Iowa. It became in effect an integrated college in 1879 when Susan Angeline Collins, who was born to a Negro slave, was admitted to the Upper Iowa University Preparatory School, which she attended for four terms. In 1887 she accompanied Bishop Taylor to Africa where she began a long and successful career as a deaconess and missionary. The school has remained integrated ever since.

In 1873 an "Old Students Association" was formed with Jason L. Paine as its president. This group functioned as an alumni club. The group was reorganized in 1890 under the name of the "Alumni Association" with the object of "creating and maintaining a sentiment of union and fellowship" among its members and to endow a professorship at the college.

The fourth new building under Bissell's rule was erected in 1890 when a 600-seat Chapel was

constructed where the current Chemistry Hall now stands. The Chapel auditorium was on the ground floor and was also used for various entertainments. The basement of the building was first used as a boarding hall. Later the Business College was moved over from North Hall.

Through a cooperative effort the members of the "Y" groups erected the first gymnasium on the campus in 1892. It was a large wooden structure used for sports, roller skating, and general activities, and "amply provided for the physical needs of the students." The gym was open three days a week for ladies and three for gentlemen. Physical education received a new emphasis.

The increased interest in this area led to the first football team being organized on November 9, 1893. Charles E. Salisbury was elected captain; Frank Bement, manager; and L. H. Taylor, secretary-treasurer. A total of 14 men reported for the squad.

The team played its first game on November 23 when it hosted Lenox College of Hopkinton. The game began at 2:30, and Upper Iowa finally scored after 33 minutes of play but failed to make its extra point "due to the wind." In the second half Lenox crossed the Upper Iowa goal line once, but Upper Iowa scored two more touchdowns. The final score: U.I.U. 14, Lenox 4. Total playing time for the game was one hour and 26 minutes.

Upper Iowa was defeated by the Coe "pork packers" 8 to 4 in the second game and tied Luther College 6-6 in the third and last game of the season.

W. C. Mabry, the right end for the squad, was going to Chicago for the Christmas holidays in 1890, and was instructed to look for some appropriate school colors. He returned with ribbons of peacock blue and white. Henry Dickman and Will Baker, of the Class of 1893, decided that as long as peacock blue was to be the college color, then the bird should represent the school as mascot. Thus, the colors were adopted first, and the peacock itself as an emblem later.

When the students returned to the campus in the fall of 1895 they found a number of improvements around Old Sem. New hardwood floors had been laid in the hallways, along with new wallpaper, new windows, and the addition of a recitation room. "What we prize more than all," the *Collegian* reported, ". . . it is being lighted by electricity!" Modern times had come to the campus in the form of a privately owned electric light system, which was operated until midnight daily.

Other significant changes took place during this period. The catalogue of 1897-1898 relates that the boys had been moved out of North Hall and the University Museum moved into their third floor quarters. After that date, the building was no longer used as a dormitory. The structure ac-

cordingly was renamed Science Hall and provided quarters for the Business College, and the Departments of Chemistry, Physics, and Biology.

Slowly, but surely, confidence in Upper Iowa University had been restored under President Bissell's hands. The first 10 years had been a decade of internal growth, solidifying, health-gaining. Then came a substantial increase in endowment and absolute freedom from debt. After more than a quarter-century of service — more than any other president has ever given to Upper Iowa — Dr. Bissell retired and handed over the reins to Guy Potter Benton, A.M., D.D., LL.D. The year was 1899.

A new century and a new era were just around the corner.