By the middle of the last century, the great tide of westward immigration had entered St. Louis, and her citizens realized the need of a more comprehensive system of education than had yet existed. The city had been little more than a frontier trading post. Hunters and trappers had frequented her streets, and the prairie schooner on its way to a western claim had halted over night in the outskirts. With the influx of a great number of Germans in 1848, of the California gold seekers in '49, and of the mass of people who followed them, St. Louis became, in size and population, a city. The inhabitants were still pioneers and the commerce was largely barter. The city lacked solid industrial development, and the special knowledge and general culture which alone could make that possible.

With a view to laying the foundation for this knowledge, Mr. Wayman Crow secured the passage through the State Legislature of "An Act to incorporate Eliot Seminary." The bill was approved on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1853. The intention was to provide for an institution of learning which should be free to offer such instruction as might be needed within the sphere of its influence. Seventeen prominent St. Louisans and their associates and successors in
perpetual succession, were created a corporation to be known as "The Eliot Seminary." These men were vested with full corporate rights; and property held by them was declared exempt from taxation. The management of the Seminary was lodged in a Board of Directors, which should have power to fill vacancies among its number and have unrestricted control over the government and instruction in the Seminary.

Under the authority granted by this charter, just one year after its passage, the Board of Directors met to effect an organization. In deference to the wishes of Dr. Eliot, they decided to change the name of the Seminary, and from the prominence which the anniversary of Washington's birth had had in its inception, decided to call it Washington Institute. In the constitution which they drew up, one provision forbade that in the institution there should ever be any instruction partisan in politics, sectarian in religion, or that any test of such a nature should be used for any purpose whatsoever.

Previous to this meeting, it had been thought impossible immediately to begin instruction; but conditions proving very favorable, a school for boys, already conducted for a year by Mr. Nathan D. Tirrell, was made the first department of the Institute. The next winter, 1854-5, an elementary evening school was opened. In the spring of 1855, a number of men connected with the manufacturing and mechanical industries of the city organized, under the seminary charter, the O'Fallon Polytechnic Institute, the immediate purpose of which was, by library and reading rooms, by evening classes such as had been conducted during the winter, by popular scientific lectures, and by expositions and exhibits of various sorts, to do what it could to heighten the grade of work done by apprentices and craftsmen then busy at their trades.
ENTRANCE TO CUPPLES HALL
The needs which these schools were intended to supply were deemed most urgent. And the judgment of the founders was not mistaken, nor their plans faultily laid. Immediately they achieved a large measure of success. The enthusiasm and earnestness, both on the part of patrons and of students, were much greater than had been anticipated. A considerable endowment was readily secured. In 1856 the first building was erected on Seventeenth street and Washington avenue, and occupied by the Academy. Students to the number of several hundred were enrolled in the various classes. During this time, too, the nature and scope of the institution were gradually defining themselves. The founders conceived the idea of establishing a great university. In order to provide for such development, they had the legislature of 1857 amend the charter. The provision of the constitution which prohibited the institution from ever becoming partisan in politics or sectarian in religion, was made effective by inserting a clause, which provided for its enforcement through the courts. Further, the name of the institution was changed to Washington University.

The University now had an exceedingly broad and thorough foundation, and had met with success in its first modest efforts to establish itself. The time had come, as President Eliot said, when it might "without arrogance, claim the right of being inaugurated to take a humble place, which we hope may become in the course of years an exalted place, among the educational institutions of the land." Accordingly, inaugural exercises were held April 23, 1857. They consisted of two parts: in the afternoon in Academic Hall prayer followed by addresses by several men connected with the University, and in the evening, in Mercantile Library Hall, an oration by Edward Everett. Thus was Washington University formally opened.
The University set out to inaugurate a system of higher education. The next few years saw rapid progress in the development of this idea. The first step was the establishment of a Scientific Department, which offered the degree of Bachelor of Science,—the first degree given by the University. An important step was taken a year later, when the office of Chancellor was created. It was made the duty of the Chancellor to plan the policy of the University and to lay out and superintend the instruction offered.

In December of 1858, Joseph Gibson Hoyt was elected to the new post, and under his guidance rapid advancements in the University idea were made. The most important event of his administration was the establishment in 1859 of the Collegiate Department. While the single degree of Bachelor of Arts was offered, it was of especial importance from the fact that it marked the time when the idea of liberal culture was first made prominent, and that a new center was given around which the work of the University should grow.

In 1859, another preparatory department, Mary Institute, was organized. The next year steps were taken towards the formation of a Law School, but the outbreak of the Civil War prevented its opening.

The war did not stop the work already in progress. The various departments were being steadily brought into due coördination, and a system of university education matured, adapted to the conditions of Western life. In 1862 the first class was graduated from the college. But this year of '62 was one of ill fortune to the University, for in it the Chancellor died.

"The death of Chancellor Hoyt," said Dean Snow, "was nothing less than a calamity to the young institution, which
seemed hardly able to survive the trials and hardships into which the State of Missouri and all her institutions were plunged during this early period of the Civil War. The number of students was greatly reduced; fewer instructors could be employed; the various departments were with great difficulty maintained." But William Chauvenet was called to the post in 1863, and he safely piloted the University during the remainder of that troublous time.

After the war, as St. Louis began to take on new life, the University resumed the career of expansion upon which it had previously entered. In the catalogue for 1866-7, the college offered the degree of Master of Arts. The Law School was opened in September, 1867. About the same time a building on Seventh and Chestnut streets for the use of the O'Fallon Polytechnic Institute was completed at a cost of $350,000. This structure was soon found totally unsuited to university purposes; in fact, the whole scheme of the Institute was seen to be, in many points, not in harmony with the university idea. Consequently, in 1868, the building was sold to the Board of Public Schools on condition that they continue the night school; and the Institute was united with the Scientific Department of the University under the name of the O'Fallon Polytechnic Institute. The next year courses of study leading to degrees in civil and mechanical engineering and in chemistry were established in this department, and in 1870 were lengthened from three to four years. In 1871 a course of study in mining and metallurgy was added.

From 1871 the work of the Polytechnic Institute was carried on in the buildings on Seventeenth street and Washington avenue in conjunction with that of the college, and these two departments soon became grouped together as the
CUPPLES HALL No. 1

CUPPLES HALL No. 2
Undergraduate Department. This union gives final form to the general scheme of the University; a department offering work in arts and science, around which center preparatory and professional schools. It was long, however, before this scheme was fully worked out; the history of the remaining years is the story of the strengthening of the Undergraduate Department, of the addition of preparatory and professional schools, and of growth in all departments.

The year 1870 was marked in the annals of the University and of the educational and scientific world, by the death of Chancellor Chauvenet. But while this loss was great, the University was prospering in other respects. During this year and the following, the main building on Washington avenue, begun a dozen years before, was completed. The faculty was gradually strengthened, and the number of students was constantly increasing.

This is the year when the system of coeducation was established. A woman took the entrance examinations, passed them, and was recommended to the faculty for admission with the men who had qualified. Without comment she was admitted. From that time women have stood on equal footing with men, though no formal action ever has been taken on the question of coeducation, either by the Board of Directors, or by the various faculties.

For some years silent growth went on, unmarked by any event of mention, except, in 1872, the appointment of William G. Eliot to the Chancellorship.

Soon, however, quarters became overcrowded and new buildings had to be erected. In 1878 Mary Institute removed to Twenty-seventh and Locust streets, abandoning its old building to the Law School. A year later the Academy removed to
Nineteenth street and Washington avenue, and took the name Smith Academy, from the donors of the new building, James and Persis Smith, and became a preparatory school of the University.

In 1880 a second undergraduate course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy was added in the College. The same year Manual Training School, the third preparatory department, was organized. In 1880 the building of the Museum of Fine Arts was erected for the University, and the Art School established.

In 1885 the Shaw School of Botany was established. In the Polytechnic School the courses of study were lengthened to five years, and in 1886 the course in civil and mechanical engineering was divided.

In 1887 death brought an end to the prosperous administration of Chancellor Eliot. Dr. Eliot had been connected with the University from the very beginning—its first name had been given in his honor; he had been its first President, and its whole life had been woven in with his. This loss was keenly felt.

Following the death of Chancellor Eliot, there was an interregnum of four years, during which Professor Marshall S. Snow, Dean of the College, acted as Chancellor. He was succeeded in 1891 by Winfield S. Chaplin, the present Chancellor.

Under Chancellor Chaplin the University has continued to grow along the same lines as theretofore, but at a much more rapid rate. The first events under his administration were simply in continuation of the growth under the previous Chancellor. In 1892 the Missouri Dental College was made a department of the University. In 1895 the St. Louis Medical College, which, since 1862, had its name in the catalogue
as supplying the place of a medical department, was in reality made the Medical Department of the University. In 1897 the medical course was lengthened to four years, and a year later the Missouri Medical College was united with this department.

It was in the Undergraduate Department, however, that the most significant progress was to be noticed. In 1893 the department was thoroughly reorganized. The "elective system" was adopted in the College, to replace the old system of set courses, and the single undergraduate degree of Bachelor of Arts offered with the usual graduate degrees. The name of the Polytechnic Institute was changed to the School of Engineering, and four-year courses leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Science in the various engineering branches were adopted. The professional degrees were reserved for those who after graduation had proved their fitness as engineers.

Closely following the reorganization, land for a new site was acquired to the north and west of Forest Park. The years necessary for the erection of buildings were to be used in broadening the scope of the University work and in strengthening the faculty. The number of students slowly but constantly increased. Many changes were made among the instructors, and some additions. Everything pointed to the occupation of the new site in the fall of 1902, and the old location was sold.

But the removal was not to take place at that time. It was found advisable to lease the site to the World's Fair Company. The events which followed are those of the past year. Mary Institute removed to its new building on Lake avenue, and the College, with the School of Engineering, enlarged to include a School of Architecture, occupied the old Mary Institute building and a new building adjoining. In order to compensate the students who failed to get to the new site, and to inaugurate
some of the advantages that would be enjoyed, the dormitory system was established, and the Washington University Club organized. This period, while itself one of prosperity unequaled in the history of the University, is essentially one of expectancy and preparation for the future.

In this sketch it has been attempted briefly to narrate the story of Washington University. The beginning was a small elementary school for boys. Successively there were added the industrial, the scientific, the collegiate departments, and girls' preparatory, and law schools; but the academy still remained the strongest branch. Then, some fifteen years after the inauguration, a change began, and in another fifteen years the University had become primarily an Undergraduate Department, consisting of College and School of Engineering, in conjunction with which were conducted the Law School, Smith Academy, Mary Institute, the Manual Training School, and the Art School.

In very much this condition the University remains to-day, except that more departments have been added to the group: the School of Botany, the Dental School, the Medical School, and the School of Architecture. And the time is now at hand when the Undergraduate Department will take its place at the head of all in size, as it had long since in importance. The first great period in the history of the University is drawing to a close.

Throughout, the aim has been primarily to build an institution suited to the educational needs of St. Louis. The policy has uniformly been to encourage the most thorough work possible in any branch taken up. Consequently, as the city has grown, there gradually has evolved a great university. Within the last few years its horizon has been extended to
include the great Southwest, the territory of which St. Louis is metropolis.

When the Undergraduate Department shall have moved to its new site, with its princely endowment and an ever increasing population to foster it, the University will be well on the way, as Chancellor Eliot had prophesied, to "an exalted place among the educational institutions of the land."
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY has been singularly fortunate in having as her supporters able men who were willing to sacrifice themselves in her service. To-day the friend of the University, as he looks back over her history, can well pride himself on the long list of honored names, both in the faculty and among the financial supporters of the institution.

Of the faculty, one need not mention those who still are with us; their work is yet in the doing, and its value it is not necessary to estimate. Of those who are no longer here, there should be noticed, first, the three Chancellors: Doctors Hoyt, Chauvenet and Eliot. Though this is no place for biography, the lives of these men well repay attention. Wholesouled, earnest workers, they gave to Washington the full measure of their devotion. Upon them fell the duty of planning the growth of the young institution, and of shaping its destinies. Nobly indeed did they perform their task. When the average Western college was little more than an academy, they formed the college of Washington University on a level with the best of the East. When the average Western professional school was a "diploma mill," they organized professional schools in the interest of such higher education. In the midst of temptation to a lower course, and with but limited means to aid them in their work, they laid the foundations of a true university.

Ably were they seconded in their efforts by an enthusiastic faculty: Professors Waterhouse, Post, Litton, Englemann,
Jackson, Engler, Pritchett, Johnson, and Sanger, and a number of others in the Undergraduate Department must be remembered, with a host of those who have brought fame to our professional schools. The day has not been when Washington University did not have a band of loyal, earnest, capable men to conduct her work.

But who are the men who have made this work possible? To whom is owing the debt of gratitude for the financial aid and the guiding help which has created the University? First of all, again will be recalled William G. Eliot. He, more than any other man, gave his time and energy to the University. He gave, too, largely of his means; but he was never a wealthy man, so the larger donations have come from other sources. Wayman Crow was one who gave freely and frequently of money and of attention. James Smith was perhaps the largest contributor among the early friends. Hudson E. Bridge, John O'Fallon, and George Partridge were likewise benefactors; and there is in addition a long roll of others who gave as the need arose. In all, by 1889, the property of the University was valued at more than one and a half million dollars; and it would be a difficult matter to determine just how much more had been donated in varying amounts to meet current deficits, and in other like exigencies.

This year, 1889, is to be taken as ending the first period in the financial history of the University, the period of establishment. Then occurred an event which heralded the advent of a new era.

The Board of Directors was memorialized by the faculty of the Undergraduate Department, who addressed to them a plea for more adequate equipment ludicrous in some of its features. The Department of Mathematics, the faculty complained, was barely supplied with chalk. Yet the grade of
work done was remarkably high, because, they facetiously intimated, of the superior mathematical training received through the necessity, brought about by lack of implements, of each student's doing the work in his head. In the Department of Astronomy, it would seem that the workers were compelled to make most of their observations through a pair of opera glasses, and then to make their computation in some sheltered nook by the light of the moon. Yet the results were some of the most satisfactory attained in the country! And so with all the departments. "But," said the memorial, "the strain was too great! Unless more adequate equipment was provided, it would be impossible to continue the same high grade of work as theretofore!"

But while the contrast between the work done and the means for doing it was somewhat sharply drawn, still the facts were true. The Board of Trustees immediately responded by an acknowledgment of the justness of the various demands. All along it had been vaguely felt that the situation was as the faculty had represented it; and indeed for some time before his death, Chancellor Eliot had wished to resign the presidency of the corporation, that a business man might be put in the place. This memorial, however, was the first definite step in the direction of a larger university. Soon Robert S. Brookings was made President, and the new epoch began. The early friends of the University had nearly all passed away and the work fell to a new band of men. Chief among them was Mr. Brookings himself. Mr. Brookings was born in Maryland in 1850, but came to St. Louis in early manhood and secured employment with the Cupples Woodenware Company. He soon became a partner in the firm, and took a prominent place in St. Louis commercial circles, and has been connected with many public
institutions of the city. Since he became its President, the University has received the greater part of his attention. The same enterprising foresight, with the grasp of affairs and indomitable energy, which has always characterized him, has placed its financial condition high.

Closely associated with Mr. Brookings in this work has been Mr. Samuel Cupples. Mr. Cupples is the elder by nearly twenty years, but his career has not been essentially dissimilar. He came west when the country was still young, and with the City of St. Louis has risen to a foremost place in the commercial world.

A number of others have given to the University of both their time and their money. Mr. Adolphus Busch, who has large interests both in this country and in Europe, is one of these. He has for years, in the midst of other affairs, given much attention to the welfare of Washington University and has aided it much, especially in the Departments of Modern Language and Chemistry.

Mrs. Elizabeth J. Liggett also stands high among the friends of the University. Her service has been great, and to her bounty we owe "Liggett Hall."

Not long after Mr. Brookings became President, the land for the new site of the Undergraduate Department was purchased through the generosity of a number of St. Louisans. Plans were then laid for the erection of buildings and for the raising of an endowment sufficient to maintain them. Mr. Brookings donated University Hall; Mr. Cupples two Engineering Buildings; Mr. Busch the Chemistry Building; Mrs. Liggett a Dormitory. Through the efforts of Mr. Brookings, and largely by his personal subscription, an endowment of $500,000 was raised.
The good fortune of the University did not end there. Mr. Brookings and Mr. Cupples gave as endowment the property known as "Cupples Station." This princely gift brought the value of the invested funds up to six millions of dollars, one of the largest free endowments in the land.

There remains to record but one more episode in the financial history. By the agreement with the World’s Fair Company, the rental for the use of the site by them was to be expended in buildings and beautifying the grounds. The value of the site was thus increased to more than two millions of dollars.

Comment on these numerous benefactions is unnecessary. They speak more clearly than tongue can tell. Sound business acumen has been the uniform characteristic of the Board of Trustees. Fortunate indeed has Washington University been in those who have supported her throughout the years.
1902

September 21-24 Entrance Examination to the Undergraduate Department
September 22 Entrance Examination to the Law School
September 21-24 Entrance Examination to the Dental College
September 22 School of Fine Arts opens
September 26 Undergraduate Department opens
September 25 Law School opens
September 25 Medical College opens
September 26 Dental College opens
November 27 Holiday, Thanksgiving Day
December 24 Vacation to January 5, 1903, inclusive

1903

January 31 First Term ends
February 2 Second Term begins
February 22 Holiday, Washington's Birthday
April 10 Holiday, Good Friday
May 9 Medical College closes
April 26 Dental College closes
May 14 Commencement, Medical and Dental Colleges
May 8 University Holiday
June 10-12 Exhibition of Work of School of Fine Arts
June 15-16 Entrance Examination to the Undergraduate Department
June 19 Commencement, Law School and Undergraduate Department
June 19 Vacation to September 24
September 22-23 Entrance Examination to the Undergraduate Department
September 22 Entrance Examination to the Law School
September 22-23 Entrance Examination to the Medical College
September 22-23 Entrance Examination to the Dental College
September 21 School of Fine Arts opens
September 24 Undergraduate Department opens
September 24 Law School opens
September 24 Medical College opens
September 24 Dental College opens
November 26 Holiday, Thanksgiving Day
December 24 Vacation to January 2, 1904, inclusive

1904

January 30 First Term ends
February 1 Second Term begins
President
ROBERT SOMERS BROOKINGS

First Vice-President
ISAAC WYMAN MORTON

Second Vice-President
HENRY WARE ELIOT

Directors
HENRY WARE ELIOT
EDWIN HARRISON
SAMUEL CUPPLES
ROBERT SOMERS BROOKINGS
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ISAAC WYMAN MORTON
ADOLPHUS BUSCH
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Secretary
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Treasurer
WINFIELD SCOTT CHAPLIN
WINFIELD SCOTT CHAPLIN, A.M., LL.D.
Chancellor of Washington University

Born August 22, 1847, in Glenburn, Maine; educated in the Public Schools of Bangor, Maine; entered West Point in 1866; graduated in 1870; was appointed Second Lieutenant, Fifth Artillery, stationed at Fort Adams, Newport, Rhode Island; on leave of absence from January to April, 1872; Civil Engineer on railroad, January, 1872; resigned from army, April, 1872. Professor in Maine State College, 1874 to January, 1877; Professor in Tokio, Japan, 1877-1882. Railroad Engineer, 1882-1883; Professor in Union College, Schenectady, New York, 1883-1885; Professor in Harvard University and Dean of the Lawrence Scientific School, 1885-1891; Chancellor of Washington University, 1891. Honorary A.M., Union College; Honorary LL.D., Harvard University; Order of the Rising Sun of Japan. Phi Beta Kappa.