

late Hon. Ignatius Donnelly entered his son S. J. Donnelly as a student and was induced to address the students and faculty. He spoke in his usual eloquent and fascinating manner of the services the monastic orders had rendered to civilization.

On June 26, before the commencement exercises Father Xavier White, the professor of belles lettres, was given a surprise by the pupils of his class, who presented him with a set of breviaries.

The commencement exercises were simple in comparison to those of former years. Even the debate was omitted and only speeches and music filled the program. Of the musical selections none was applauded more than the productions of the Haydn String Quartette. An original English poem entitled "After the Battle," was read by its author, Mr. Richard P. Heffron, subsequently rector of St. Paul's Seminary. Bishop Seidenbusch presided at the distribution of premiums, and a great number of friends of the institution witnessed the exercises.

The catalogue contains besides the usual information, a statement concerning the Commercial course. Some of the specifications of the prospectus above mentioned were modified. Sixteen professors composed the staff of the entire institution. In this catalogue also occurs the first mention of a Prefect of Studies. [Previously the abbot (president) had assigned the studies.] The first to hold this position was Father Francis Mershman. While the Vice President retained the chief supervision of college work in disciplinary matters, it was the duty of the Prefect of Studies to examine applicants for entrance, to assign them to classes and to superintend the conduct of classes.

The degree of Master of Arts was conferred on Messieurs Joseph Hellrigl and Henry Plaster, and that of Master of Accounts on 23 graduates of the new Commercial Department, the first graduate being John Hoeschen, of Oak Station (Freeport), Minnesota.

The total attendance was 125: 18 secular seminarians, 12 clerics, 95 students in all other courses. Twelve members of the seminary class were ordained during the year.

1878-1879

Even the most modest expectations were defeated by the poor success of this school year. According to the catalogue, only 94 students were enrolled in all departments of these 18 were seminarians. The hard times were still making themselves felt. One cause of the decline in attendance was the establishment of an academy near Sauk Centre, which relied for its patronage on Stearns County. [Grove Lake Academy conducted by Rev. D. J. Logan.]

The authorities at St. John's hoped that a reduction of the rate for tuition and board would improve the situation, but neither that expedient nor assiduous advertising seemed to be of any avail. But where is there a sky without a cloud? Every institution reared by the hand of man has its vicissitudes; the hour of disappointment is the hour for gathering new strength and kindling new hope.

The staff of professors had sixteen members. One of the professors, Father Aloysius Hermanutz, in November 1878 volunteered to serve as a missionary among the Chippewa Indians at White Earth, and has labored in that mission ever since without interruption.

On June 1, 1879, the Right Reverend Abbot conferred on Reverends Bernard Locnikar and Francis Mershman the degree of Doctor of Divinity, and upon Father Peter Engel that of Doctor of Philosophy.

For the final examinations in the several departments boards, each composed of three members of the faculty, were selected; among these the work of examining all the classes was distributed and they finished

their task in three days.

June 24 was exhibition day. According to a report extant, the weather again worried all concerned, but eventually everything was lovely and the great day passed into history and lives in memory like a rosv sunset. On the program were speeches and musical selections: R. P. Heffron delivered an oration on "Materialism and Modern Thought"; there were, moreover, German and Latin orations.

The degree of Master of Accounts was conferred on 12 candidates.

In the course of the summer arrangements were completed for the establishment of Collegeville station on the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba railway line. A passenger and freight station house was built in June 1879 and Mr. Henry Broker, who took up his residence in the large frame house on the north side of the track, was the first station agent. A new wagon road was cut through the woods and thus good old Brother "Taddy's" daily stage trip was shortened five miles. Late in summer Collegeville post office was opened, with station agent Henry Broker as postmaster.

For many years the need of an appropriate, commodious church had been felt, the humble frame chapel was no longer worthy of the great pile in the shadow of which it stood. During the summer of 1879 work on the new church was begun; the masonry of the basement was finished in fall and on September 24, the cornerstone was laid by Abbot Alexius Edelbrock.

1879-1880

"It's a long lane that has no turning." Whatever disappointment was felt during the last year, made way for cheerful and renewed effort as the attendance of the new scholastic term increased.

During the winter a minim department was organized through the efforts of the Prefect of Studies. The defective elementary education of many of the pupils who applied for admission to the collegiate departments, rendered this step necessary. About fifteen students ranging between 10 and 15 years of age formed the first class.

Considerable sickness prevailed during the latter part of 1879 and the beginning of 1880; two of the students, J. Barthle and J. L. Brousseau died at college.

In 1880 all the world was celebrating the fourteen hundredth anniversary of the birth of St. Benedict. The 4th, 5th and 6th of April of that year were red letter days and saw notable gatherings and events at St. John's. A concise account is given in the catalogue of 1880. "Distinguished visitors graced the celebration. Rt. Rev. Bishop Seidenbusch, former superior of the Monastery and College, whose visits are always joyfully greeted, celebrated Pontifical Mass, administered Confirmation and conferred Minor Orders (on the first day), Rt. Rev. Bishop Marty, the zealous Vicar Apostolic of Dakota, officiated on the second day of the Triduum and preached a touching sermon to an appreciative and delighted audience. The laity was ably represented by Honorable, H. C. Waite, a distinguished convert to Catholicity, whose pleasing and instructive lecture was the prominent feature of an afternoon seance." On the last named occasion the college choir sang the jubilee song, the text of which was written by Father Xavier White and the music by Father Ulric Northman. A centennial ode, also written by Father Xavier, was delivered by one of the students. It is one of the few poetic efforts traceable to that estimable and gifted professor and was assigned a place of honor in the catalogue. His dignified diction and power of description are well illustrated in these lines:

'Tis eastern brethren sing the song

That time through distance doth prolong,
That echoes through this western sphere,
And mingles with our matins here.
It bears its onward course amain;
The east will hear the glad refrain,
And then attune their evening prayer
To our exultant matin air;
For ere Cassino chant her evening lays
Back shall resound our songs of praise,
Till brethren with united voice
In one grand harmony rejoice.

After the celebration, the Rt. Rev. Abbot set out for Europe a second time, to attend the festivities at the tomb of St. Benedict at Monte Cassino, and did not return before August. He was accompanied by Father Peter Engel, then professor of Philosophy and Chemistry. This suggests the fact that about this time Father Peter began experimenting in photography. The primitive studio he fitted up, developed into a gallery of respectable dimensions in a short time and became a permanent institution. At first the studio occupied a corner in the chemical laboratory and pictures were taken under Minnesota skylight, with scenery such as only the Author of the universe can paint, as background. For some time the gallery found shelter in a wing of the old frame house (in the sacristy of its chapel), was next transferred to the fourth floor of the new college buildings and finally was given fine quarters in the third floor of the library building.

The school year closed on June 24th with very simple exercises; there was music, a salutatory, a valedictory, several orations and the distribution of premiums. For the first time in the history of the college a gold medal was awarded; it was the gift of Rev. C.V. Gamache and George Doerenkaemper was the fortunate captor.

In all, 145 students were enrolled this year: 14 secular and 15 regular seminarians and 116 students in all the other departments.

The old lithograph picture, in the catalogue of 1880, of the buildings was replaced by a double-page engraving from a sketch by Frater Urban Fisher, then professor of drawing. It was a birdseye view (drawing) from the northeast and comprised a goodly piece of country. In the foreground is the new church, in the distance to the right are the new shops and other buildings, and near the lakeshore, the laundry, which was built in 1878.

1880-1881

Towards the end of August the institution received a visit from the distinguished author and professor, Dr. Herman Zschokke (Dr. Zschokke became acquainted with Abbot Alexius in Vienna in 1880 and accepted an invitation from him to visit Minnesota and particularly the Indian mission at White Earth. He came and was delighted with what he saw) chaplain to the Austrian imperial court and subsequently rector of the University of Vienna. He perpetuated the memory of that visit in a series of sketches entitled

"Nach Nord Amerika und Canada." How deeply he was impressed with the scenery here, is revealed by the following paragraph (translated): "On the other shore of the lake there stands surrounded by trees a small chapel – Stella Maris – built by the students in honor of the Mother of God. It was a sunset picture so exquisite, that one could not imagine anything more perfect. The sun, which had just disappeared below the horizon, poured a flood of orange-hued light over the western sky; the placid lake caught and mirrored the glorious light which transfigured the thick foliage of the forest; from its height the abbey looked calmly upon the scene; and when finally the bell sounded the *Ave Maria* and its voice was wafted over the quiet, peaceful landscape, finding many an echo in the woods, I found myself transported in spirit back into the early centuries, when the sons of Saint Benedict penetrated with holy zeal into the wilderness, cut down forests, founded monasteries, enkindled everywhere the light of faith and gave Europe civilization." (p. 501)

Up to this time the public prints has little to say of the college: several times a year they were furnished with elaborate reports of festivities, but of the doings in student circles in the classroom and on the campus, scant reports found their way into publicity. Father Xavier White was the first to venture to supply the press, particularly that in the immediate neighborhood (St. Cloud), with college news. His reports enable the chronicler to present in closer detail the events of the time.

The winter of 1880-81 was severe; for three day in February the college was effectually cut off from the rest of the world, trains were snow-bound for three days and no mail could be delivered.

A list of pupils was merited first or second class honors at the first term examinations was inserted in the *St. Cloud Daily Times* and *Der Wanderer*. From this time forward such lists appeared regularly and served to stimulate the ambition of the students. The attendance was very gratifying and the reporter notes that in January "a lot of new furniture, desks, chairs, bedsteads, etc., were brought up from the depot. The institution is filling to its utmost capacity and the voice is 'still they come'." Shortly after he observes: "Among the students we find the following nationalities: Russian, Dutch, French, Irish, German and American. 'Wise men from every nation'." The Commercial graduates generally received a word of commendation and encouragement and the efforts of the orators were rewarded by the insertion of their papers in the *St. Cloud Daily Times*. Thus the late Rev. Henry McGolrick's discourse on "The Existence of God," was printed in full, occupying about three columns of the paper; and about the same time appeared Father Urban's excellent essay, "Physiological Proofs of the Unite of the Human Species." When the class in civil engineering had spent a day in the field ascertaining the height of a certain hill and grading a road through it, they found this humorous write-up about themselves: "They worked more lively than older hands and with wondrous exactitude. After three hours outdoor work they returned very civil engineers, and with remarkable dexterity found the level of a heap of edibles in a very practical way." On another occasion "Messieurs Lawler and Doerenkaemper gave an exemplification of the old proverb—*errare humanum est*. They were working a lunar and could not agree in the result. When the fray was at its hottest, Master Flock explained: 'Gentlemen, neither of you is far calculating parallax, has taken the shadow of the old man's beard as he sat on the edge of the disc making his toilet and using the Atlantic for a mirror.'"

In the meantime the new church building was progressing rapidly, despite numerous delays. During June the brick work of the towers was completed.

May 22nd was the 25th anniversary of the advent of the Benedictines in St. Cloud, Minnesota, but the celebration of the event was postponed to some more favorable time, chiefly because the church was not finished.

The closing exercises on June 22nd were witnessed by a remarkably large gathering of clergymen, both Benedictines and secular. The chief feature was a debate of the question, "Can the United States be properly called a Catholic country?" A reporter of the exercises to the *Pioneer Press* observes: "This was

one of St. John's best commencements; not because of tinsel brilliancy—of that there was none—but because of solid work well done and plainly evidenced. The number of graduates was large and they well deserved the distinctions received. All the speeches were original—written by the pupils—and though none were of the brilliant style of eloquence, all were far above the medium—replete with solid thought, conveyed in clear, forcible language.”

The annual catalogue states that the classical course was extended to six years, instead of five; the first class in philosophy was detached from the ecclesiastical course and added to the classical course.

In the ecclesiastical course there were 25 students, of these seven were ordained in course of the year. All the other departments had an attendance of 133, (total 158). The degree of Bachelor of Philosophy was conferred this year for the first time; there were six candidates; the degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred on two graduates and that of Master of Accounts on 25. Two gold medals were awarded: one, for excellence in Christian Doctrine, the gift of Bishop Rupert Seidenbusch, the other for general proficiency, the gift of Reverend C.V. Gamache. These prizes were taken by George Doerenkaemper and Henry Flock.

1881-1882

When the doors were thrown open for admission of the silver jubilee class in September, only 60 students reported and work was promptly begun. On the staff of professors were Father Ulric Northman, the Vice-President; Father Norbert Hofbauer, Peter Engel, Francis Mershman, Anthony Kapser, Simplicius Wimmer, Vincent Schiffrer, Othmar Erren, Xavier White, John Katzner and the clerics Fraters Alfred Mayer, Jerome Heider, Thomas Borgerding, Conrad Glatzmaier, Urban Fisher, Placidus Wingerter, Wolfgang Steinkogler, Alexius Hoffmann, Chrysostom Schreiner, Lawrence Steinkogler, James Capellen and Timothy Vaeth.

On the second day of the school year, September 9, the Reverend Director of the Sodality, Father Francis Mershman, celebrated a Requiem for the repose of the soul of Reverend J. Breunig, '79 who died of consumption at Sheboygan, Wisconsin, on September 1.

Less than two weeks after the opening of the school year, 85 students were enrolled and fears for an unsuccessful year were quickly dispelled. Father Leo Winter organized a singing society. "The boys take to it like kittens to milk," says the *St. Cloud Daily Times* correspondent. Unfortunately, Father Leo was shortly after assigned to parish work and interest in the glee club flagged.

The new church was slowly approaching completion; early in October work was begun on the steeples and the roof was covered with tin. Since the middle of July two of the basement chapels were in use, but owing to the distance of the chapels from the college building then in use, the students continued attending the frame chapel.

A class in practical shorthand reporting was organized by Frater Urban Fisher, who himself was an expert reporter, and the first impulse was given to the introduction of phonography into the commercial class. Also a class in practical astronomy was formed, despite the lack of appropriate instruments. Nor was the campus desolate; there is record of a game of baseball between the classics and the theologians which "went hard against the classic," score 9-0. Here is the comment of a reporter: "*Otium cum dignitate* is the time to which the theologians play baseball, but 9-0 is that to which the poor classics 'hold it down.' And worse than all, the theologians took the new ball. Classics, you are good players in some barn yard with a yarn ball." Early in the winter a movement in favor of military drill was inaugurated. A company of about 40 was formed and under command of Captain Joseph Langan began operations. They did not succeed in securing arms and uniforms and in consequence the company was disbanded in the winter.

An epidemic of small pox prevailed in the neighborhood [Melrose, St. Martin and Spring Hill] during the winter. Sorrow and death reigned under many a roof. The priests in the stricken places made heroic efforts to bar the progress of the disease and the State Board of Health recognized their efforts. Only one priest fell a victim to the duties of his calling, Father Meinrad Leuthard, OSB, pastor at Melrose. He contracted the disease while attending to a member of his congregation and died November 28, 1881 [buried in Melrose]. He had been a student and professor at St. John's and was universally esteemed for his great piety and seriousness. In the midst of this visitation, the college remained unscathed. Dr. Hewit, secretary of the State Board of Health, made an examination of a great number of institutions including St. John's, in November. He found no trace of the disease here and complimented the students upon their fine condition, "The only disease the doctor found," says a report to the *Northwestern Chronicle*, "was consumption of edibles which prevails to such an extent as to keep the cook and kitchen force working like hatters. The doctor left a certificate with the abbot to the effect that he found no disease in the house." Fifteen years later the situation was more serious.

Skating was exceptionally fine this winter: several hundred acres of skating rink is a privilege not accorded to the students of every year and so the best was made of the present opportunity. Those who would not trust themselves to the smooth surface and shining steel, remained on solid earth and kicked football, then a very simple game. There was no association, no gridiron, no rooting. When winter set in, it was customary to take up a collection for a football. Sides were chosen for every game; one man was placed to watch the "barrier" or goal, while the rest strove to kick the ball through the goal of the opposing side. Victory came to the best kickers and runners.

After the Christmas holidays, a number of new students were registered. Room was growing scarce, and furniture running short, the carpenters were ordered to make new desks for the study halls and classrooms. "During Holy Week the chapel was full at every service. Few of the pupils being absent on vacation it was made a point to carry out the ceremonies of the season strictly in compliance with the rubrics." Easter was the end of the second term for quarterly bulletins for some time.

"To thank Almighty God for his merciful preservation from contagion during the late epidemic, a solemn High Mass was celebrated on Saturday, April 22 in the monastery church. Every member of the house felt himself obliged to this grateful act for while all around, and even near by, many were stricken with the plague, houses were quarantined and much suffering and inconvenience followed, not a single case of sickness appeared among the two hundred inmates of St. John's. So marked a protection could not fail to make a strong and lasting impression."

Once in a long while a news correspondent would chronicle the vagaries of the weather, which then as now fascinated and eluded a large school of prophets. Says one: "Just so, but who'd have thought of it? On the 21st of May 1882 snow and hail! Cattle are under the sheds, birds sit on the leeward branches to avoid being blown away." In general the summer was pleasant, as is shown by the numerous visitors who came to spend an afternoon fishing at the college lake."

The commencement services [held in the sanctuary of the new church which was still bare of furniture] were held June 27, 1882; besides the usual formal salutatory and valedictory addresses and music there were two orations by graduates, an impromptu address by Colonel S. J. Ahern of St. Paul and an address to the graduates by Honorable H. C. Waite. The latter was a very elaborate discourse worked out in scholarly style and fraught with many practical counsels, deductions from the experiences of a long and worthy life. Taking leave of his audience he said: "Forward, never backward; no delay stations on the road: no side issues to swerve you from the one sole purpose you have in view. Onward and ever onward until the goal is reached. Such is the course of the truly successful man. In so going you may not always win the applause of your contemporaries, but the final judgment will be in your favor. In this brave task you have set before you of living and being, you have already acquired many accomplishments. Still the

greater task is before you. I would suggest no discouragements; these will come soon enough. I prefer to address myself to the splendor of your opportunities. For myself I can say, I do love to live and enter into the constitution of the world's progress. I rejoice in such occasions as these where young men emerge from the requirements of school discipline and take upon themselves the manly duties of independent living. Let your attendance here never bring reproach upon the institution when in afterlife you have become merged in industrial or professional pursuits. Look back to her as a foster mother and extend to her that consideration she has so bountifully extended to you. Protect the reputation of the institution you have assisted in making and when you go hence go forth bravely, boldly and wisely to your life tasks. As students, I bid you good afternoon, but as young men just leaving school and entering upon the active duties of life, I say, good morning."

According to the catalogue the number of professors was 22 and the total student attendance 159—22 being seminarians and 137 students in all the other courses. The degree of Bachelor of Philosophy was conferred on two candidates, that of Master of Accounts on 35, and three gold medals were awarded.

On July 25, 1882, nine graduates of the seminary were raised to the holy priesthood by Bishop Seidenbusch in the basement chapel of the new church. "This was the largest number of priests ever ordained at one time in Minnesota and it brings the number of priests ordained from this house up to 98; of this number 41 belong to the Benedictine Order, the remaining 57 are seculars, who in 12 different dioceses are laboring in the vineyard of the Lord with credit to themselves and to their Alma Mater." The nine newly ordained were Reverends Martin Schmitt, Alfred Mayer, Conrad Glatzmaier, Urban Fischer, all Benedictines, and Reverends George Gaskell, Christopher Murphy, Gregory Goebel, Patrick Boland and Nicholas Schmitz, secular clergymen. In the afternoon of the same day, about 4 o'clock, a severe storm passed over the house, causing great fear and excitement. Everything movable was carried before the wind. A part of the tin roofing of the church was carried off and the rain that came with the storm poured through the ceiling and somewhat damaged the plastering. [The damage was concealed by the decorations of 1889.]

1882-1883

"Lonesome vacation days are gone and now again sleeping echoes waken in glad response to the merry shouts of joyous innocence, again the hum of busy workers drawing lore from leaves that speak...A ramble through the campus shows many old and many new faces, but many old ones, too, are missing. But whence these new ones? Here are Minnesota's representatives in miniature and members from Dakota side by side with those who represent Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa. Standing Rock and Fargo, Moorhead and Duluth, with many intervening posts, send in representatives from the North. Then from the South come Iowa City, Madison, St. Paul, the Mill city (Minneapolis) with the long name, St. Cloud and Stearns generally. Various as are the places, desire to be learned, useful men." Thus the local reporter sketches the opening days of the fall term. Events ran along "so quietly that one would not find out, without trying, that an army of students is posted in the establishment. The fact is, business is being pushed on so lively that no one has time to be noisy or mischievous."

October 24th was the day appointed for the consecration of the new church. A great number of clergy and other friends, of the institution had assembled to witness the ceremonies, which began at 7 a.m. Bishop Seidenbusch was the principal officiating prelate; he consecrated the church and the high altar and celebrated pontifical High Mass. The two side altars were consecrated at the same time by the late Abbot Boniface Wimmer and Abbot Innocent Wolf. [Abbot Innocent Wolf, while still Prior Innocent Wolf at St. Vincent Abbey was one (and the only) choice of the Fathers who took part in the election of Abbot Alexius Edelbrock. Prior Innocent of St. Vincent and Prior Alexius of St. John's were the only two person voted for on June 2, 1875. Abbot Wimmer would not give "his prior" to St. John's.] A discourse was delivered in English by Rt. Rev. John Ireland, then coadjutor to the bishop of St. Paul, and one in German by Rev. Dr.

Otto Zardetti. On the same occasion the silver jubilee of the arrival of the first Benedictines in Minnesota was celebrated and the first Alumni Association organized of which more extensive mention shall be made in another chapter.

Towards the end of November, 25 were in the commercial class. During the month the college band played at the St. Mary's church fair in St. Cloud and executed a small musical program at the college on St. Cecilia's day.

On December 16, 1882, before sunrise, the saw and grist mills on the Watab were burnt to the ground together with a considerable quantity of grain and timber. Since that time no effort has been made to rebuild the mills, but the dam remains and the boisterous waters rush down the rocks as they did a quarter of a century ago.

Among the visitors at St. John's in the fall was the late Rev. Dr. Joseph Joerger [of Jefferson, Wisconsin. He was a good friend of Abbot Alexius.] whose notes of travel over the *nom de plume* of *Socius Fidelis* were in their day read with great avidity. In his recollections of St. John's he writes: "*Si monumentum requiris, circumspice!* (If you seek for a monument look about you) is said of the builder of St. Paul's in London. This monastery and church also are such a *monumentum aere perennius*. A part of the buildings is occupied by St. John's College, of which the Rt. Rev. Abbot is the President, assisted by Father Ulric Northman as vice-gerent and a staff of twenty professors. I shall never forget the genial hospitality of Fathers Othmar Erren, Xavier White and John Katzner. I will make no special mention of Father Ulric, for my love for him is as powerful as his size, *sex cubitorum et palmae.*"

Of the buildings occupied by the community in the farm up to 1867, only a two story loghouse was left on the spot; this structure was wiped out by fire on January 18, 1883.

On the feast of St. Scholastica, Father Placidus Wingerter who had been one of the disciplinarians for two years past, celebrated his first holy mass in the new church. It was the first event of this kind in the new church. At a later hour in the day the students met in one of the classrooms, where they delivered congratulatory addresses to the new priest and offered him a valuable present.

Since February of this year the institution bears the legal style and title of "St. John's University." A bill for an act amendatory of the original charter was submitted to the state legislature by Senator H.C. Waite, passed by both houses and approved by the governor on February 17th. The document may be found in the Special Laws of Minnesota, chapter 85, p.223 and reads:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. That the act entitled an act to incorporate the St. John's Seminary, approved March 6th, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven (1857), as well as the several acts amendatory thereof, and the title to the original act of incorporation, be and the same are hereby amended as follows:

That wherever the word "seminary" occurs in either thereof, the same be stricken out and the word "university" be substituted in lieu thereof.

Section 2. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act be and the same are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

On March 9th, Father Peter Engel was appointed Prefect of Studies, which office he held until June

1895.

June 26 was Commencement Day. A number of friends of the institution, especially Alumni who had come to hold their first annual meeting, witness the exercises, which were not of an elaborate character.

From the catalogue we learn that the baccalaureate in philosophy was conferred four graduates, and the degree of Master of Accounts on 17. Five gold and one silver medal were awarded. 163 students were enrolled: 16 seminarians and 147 in all other departments.

During the summer excavations were made for the foundation of the new college buildings—one, 160x60, was to be an extension of the main building, another 110x60 was to be attached to the church; both to run parallel and to be joined at their western extremity by a wing 100x50. [It was a great undertaking, just after the church was finished.] The cornerstone, a huge boulder, was placed in position on August 22nd, 1883.

1883-1884

Class work was resumed September 5th, and the attendance was flattering. Few events worthy of notice outside of the everyday occurrences are at the disposal of the chronicler. A visitor in January 1884 reports: "A stately structure presenting 370 feet front and a church that rivals the largest and most beautiful in the state, compose the present University buildings. But even this structure, large as it is, does not furnish the needed room, hence the foundations are laid and already raised one story high for other buildings whose entire length is 300 feet and width 60 feet. Since 1870, when the first annual catalogue was issued, 1113 names are on the roll and this is for but one half of the years of the institution. The 'annual' of this year will contain about 200 names. Of the entire number since 1870 there have been 103 ordained to the priesthood and 237 have received diplomas and degrees in the arts and sciences."

Early in 1884 a figure familiar to the students of several years disappeared—that of the "old general." His name was Koronikolski. His conversation showed that he had enjoyed an excellent classical education. According to his own story he had been an officer in the army in Poland, had taken part in some insurrection and been compelled to flee. For many years he lived a solitary life in the woods beyond the Watab, was extremely poor and at the time of his death occupied a small room in the frame building, where one of the Brothers waited upon him.

When the Easter class bulletins were issued, it was stated that the attendance exceeded that of any previous year. In the papers appeared a list of all those who had merited an average note of 75% in all their classes.

The scholastic year closed on June 25. At 7 a.m. the faculty, students and invited guests assembled in the Exhibition Hall and after an opening selection by the band, the Vice President read the final bulletins. Hon. J.W. Arctander, District Attorney of the twelfth judicial district of Minnesota delivered the address to the graduates. He began by relating the story of Aladdin's lamp. "The old rusty copper lamp," said he, "according to my interpretation is knowledge. A person seeking knowledge meets with difficulties, as Aladdin did when sent for the lamp. The boy rubs against the lamp, that was his will power. This produced talent that conquered all other forces. Aladdin was sent to bring an old rusty copper lamp. To him it was a lamp and nothing more; he did not appreciate its worth. So too with a boy in search of knowledge. To him many branches of learning appear to be taught but to tease or plague; but this is a mistaken view, for every branch taught is a step forward, yes, every problem that you solve, every old classical author you lay aside, you pass another milestone, that you pass brings you nearer and nearer to your destination." His ringing eloquence brought out round after round of applause. This was not the only occasion on which Mr.

Arctander addressed the students; his services at the institution as a lecturer will be duly recorded in the course of these annals.

The staff of professors according to the catalogue consisted of 23 members, the total enrollment of students was 203; 23 seminarians and 180 students in the other departments. The degree of Bachelor of Philosophy was conferred on two graduates, that of Master of Arts on 23. Five medals of gold and one of silver were awarded.

1884-1885

The frequency with which applications were made for the admission of very young students and the advisability of separating them as much as possible from older students both in classrooms and during recreation induced the authorities to establish a special Minim Department. It was organized and directed by Father Chrysostom Schreiner and proved to be a very useful and timely institution [although it did not last long].

Only 93 students reported for the resumption of classes. Towards the end of October a number of photographs were taken of the students and faculty to be sent to the World's Cotton and Industrial exposition at New Orleans. In the middle of November the institution was honored with a visit by Senator McKenzie of Bismarck, North Dakota. The college band tendered him a serenade.

A contemporary report mentions religious devotions which tradition has hallowed namely the novena [This novena was abandoned here before 1875.] before the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the forty hours devotion. The influence of religion as an educational factor cannot be underestimated; nothing is more necessary or more valuable, particularly to youths, whose souls are so susceptible, so easily led and impressed, so easily decieved by false principles and deceitful ambitions. But for the purifying and elevating influences of religion and its practices many a young man would have cast his earlier convictions overboard and drifted out into the darkness of indifference. This is why religious practices have always been given much prominence at St. John's.

When Abbot Alexius Edelbrock returned from the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore in December, the members of the Fourth Latin class publicly presented a program consisting of Latin dialogues and selections from classical authors, before the faculty and students of the classical course.

In the first days of 1885 the Industrial School for Chippewa Indian boys was organized in the stone house; 50 pupils formed the first class in charge of by Father Chrysostom Schreiner, assisted by Frater Meinrad Rettenmaier and Brother Philip Kilian. Part of the quarters occupied by the students was turned over to the Industrial School; still no crowding ensued and there was consolation in the prospect that the new buildings could soon be occupied.

Music was, according to an extant report, diligently cultivated, "four professors give instruction in music, and five pianos, two organs, flutes, violins, guitars and citherns are in service."

Shortly after the organization of the Industrial School, Father Aloysius Hermanutz, the missionary in charge at White Earth, came to see the institution. On the Sunday following his arrival he preached a sermon in the Chippewa tongue in which he had acquired considerable fluency in the six years of his sojourn on the Reservation. In the afternoon a delegation of students called upon him and invited him to deliver a lecture on the Indian Mission at White Earth. Although he was fatigued by his long journey, he granted their request and for nearly an hour dwelt upon the scenes of mission life, spicing his remarks with anecdotes and vivid descriptions.

Crimes and misdemeanors were hitherto such unmeaning terms in Collegeville that when one day in the last week of January it was reported that burglars had entered the laundry at night, and had maliciously and stealthily appropriated on clock, three colored handkerchiefs and then shirts, all students stood aghast. A reward of \$25 was offered for the detection of the thief. One gentleman with a Sherlock Holmes eye took note that the footprints were made by a No. 9 boot, and that a dog accompanied the individual. The guilty party was discovered some time after and together with his family sought a home in some other clime.

On the evening of March 19, the members of the Fourth Latin class again invited faculty and students to witness a "Ludus theatralis," a Latin drama entitled "St. Stanislaus Kostka." Thirteen pupils were engaged in the play and Father John Katzner wrote the incidental music. Classroom number two was the hall employed for the occasion.

Father Urban about this time was busy arranging a mineralogical collection of several hundred specimens. Father Martin Schmitt, then pastor of Mandan, Dakota, presented a large number of beautiful petrifications from the Band Lands to the cabinet.

At the approach of the Easter holidays, the press correspondent wrote: "Students at the University say 'thrice a year comes judgement day.' The second of these awe-inspiring occasions has just passed and now each traveler up the mount of science knows just how he stands in the eyes of alma mater and with the faculty. To obtain in all classes an average note of 75% out of a possible 100 requires diligent application and no small amount of intellectual ability."

Father Chrysostom Schreiner, who had, since his entrance into the Benedictine order, served at St. John's in the capacity of a professor, prefect of the seminary and for some time as director of the Industrial School, was appointed successor to Father Ulric in the vice presidency of the University on April 16, 1885. Father Chrysostom was well acquainted with the ground he was to tread and set to work energetically. Father Ulric continued to teach music and never, to the day of his death five years later, lost the esteem of a wide circle of friends.

After the ice had disappeared from the lake on April 21, provisions were made for enjoying the summer. Three new boats were launched; the largest of the group called the *British Isles* was turned into a miniature park and a small pavilion set in its midst. It was a favorite resort for several years and an ideal spot to while away a free afternoon over a book. During the month the Band gave several gondola and lawn concerts after supper.

One evening in that month of June, says a diary, a cyclone [tornado] formed in the heavens to the east. All watched it with some consternation, but the threatening peril was broken up by the wind. Coming events cast their shadows before them.

At the annual commencement on June 25th, Hon. H.C. Waite read an original poem. The degree of Ph. B. was conferred on five graduates, that of Master of Accounts on 17 and the honorary degree of LL. D. on Hon. H.C. Waite, J.W. Arctander and E. H. Morse. Twelve medals were awarded. Enrollment: 18 seminarians, 161 students in all other departments, total 179. At the end of the catalogue was a card of thanks for donations to the museum; the donors were Bishop Seidenbusch, Rev. Martin Schmitt, Rev. Aloysius Hermanutz and Rev. Pancratius Maehren, Rev. F.X. Schulac, S.J., Mrs. Gannon of Bismarck, D.T. and Mr. F.J. Rothpletz, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota.

In the early days of vacation the institution was honored with visits by the late bishops F.X. Krautbauer of Green Bay and J.B. Brondel of Helena, Montana. The former had come upon invitation of Bishop Seidenbusch, who was abroad for his health, to hold the annual ordination services at St. John's.

Father Chrysostom Schreiner, with assistance of a few boys who remained at the college during vacation, renovated the Stella Maris Chapel and replaced the old spire which was falling to pieces, with a new one.

1885-1886

The fall term, which opened on September 3, found 80 names on the rolls. Room was growing scarce and all were anxiously looking for the completion of the new buildings. One of the pleasing occurrences of the first month was a visit from Bishop Rupert Seidenbusch, who had just returned from the east after a serious and protracted illness.

On October 15, Mr. J.W. Arctander opened the lecture course by a lecture on "Sketches of Everyday Life in Imperial Rome" for the special benefit of the classical students. In the commercial class a series of lectures was also arranged; they were delivered during the winter months, being inaugurated by Judge L.W. Collins of St. Cloud, on November 4th. He delivered four lectures and was followed in January by Judge D.B. Searle, who delivered an equal number. Both these gentlemen, who enjoy a distinguished reputation in legal circles, have many claims upon the gratitude of the faculty and students, not only of 1886 but of many following years.

The last celebration of a public nature held in the old buildings was that of the tenth anniversary of Abbot Alexius' installment into office. The exercises, which consisted of music, songs and speeches by several of the professors, were conducted in the senior study hall.

On All Souls' Day the students walked in procession to the cemetery as they had been wont to do in years past. Never has this venerable tradition been lost sight of. Several days later the news arrived of the death of Joseph Weisser, of St. Cloud, a brother of Father Otto Weisser. The former had pursued the classical course of study with a view of entering the Benedictine Order. Towards the end of his course he was compelled to discontinue; unmistakable signs of consumption showed themselves and he was soon at death's door. Nevertheless he desired to become a member of the Order and his prayer for admission was granted. He was invested with the habit on August 13, was given the religious name of Frater Athanasius and made the vows of the Order; on November 5th he passed to a better life. He was buried in the abbey cemetery and many of his former classmates attended the funeral ceremonies.

An elaborate series of entertainments was given on Thanksgiving Day under the auspices of the Alexian Dramatic and Philharmonic Associations, both of which had just come into existence and were displaying astounding vitality. On the evening of November 25, the eve of Thanksgiving, a German farce, "Doctor Wunderlich," set the audience in good humor for the efforts of the next day. On the 26th there was a second entertainment, the principal feature of which was a dramatic performance, "The Elder Brother." The orchestra made its first appearance on this occasion; among its members was Mr. Max Dick, whose solos were much admired and who has since charmed many audiences from the eastern to the western coast. The exercises were held in the first floor of the north wing, now the Commercial Hall.

On January 6th, 175 students were reported in attendance. For a moment the authorities were perplexed, but the question was solved by establishing a temporary study hall on the third floor of the monastery building (on the third floor of the building next to the church and facing east). Only the most sedate gentlemen from the senior hall were transferred to these new quarters, which by their envious fellows were contemptuously denominated the "Dudes' Department."

At the opening of the second session, in February 1886, the Commercial Department was transferred to the third floor of the new extension of the main building. It was a proud hall 90-ft. long and 25-ft. wide, on the south side of the corridor, and in later years was cut up into a number of small

apartments for the seminarians. At the same time a hall of almost equal size on the second floor of the extension was fitted up as a dormitory for the smaller students.

Another entertainment was offered on Washington's Birthday [Washington's Birthday was not solemnly observed here before 1886. On February 22, 1886, the students called upon Abbot Alexius and asked for a 'free day.' He said he would grant it if they would be willing to give up celebrating St. Patrick's and St. Boniface day as they had been doing. Of course, they promised, but the Irish and Germans kept on asking on March 17 and June 5 to the end of the century.] in presence of many friends of the institution. At 2 p.m. "The Elder Brother" passed over the boards a second time, and it was followed by a German sketch "Aus Haendel's Jugend." The several acts were interspersed with number by the band and orchestra, instrumental solos on the violin, cithern and flute, and vocal selections. Hon. H.C. Waite and Hon J.L. Wilson, of St. Cloud, delivered brief addresses at the conclusion of the exercises.

A few days later, March 5, there was an eclipse of the sun; the people of Minnesota had been told all about it in advance by one Severinus J. Corrigan, of Washington, D.C. Who is Corrigan? Years ago, as early as 1868 he was a student at St. John's; next he betook himself to the study of law, then turned to the physical sciences, which he studied for six years, became assistant in the office of the American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac, Bureau of Navigation, U.S. Navy Department; made special studies in electrical science and wrote several monographs and a number of professional papers of original research in astronomy and physics. For the last two decades Mr. Corrigan has lost few opportunities to enlighten his fellow citizens on extraordinary celestial phenomena through the daily press of St. Paul, where he made his permanent residence about 1884. His reports could not only claim scientific accuracy but were written in a very popular, attractive style. Speaking, for instance, of the eclipse of March 5th, he says: "At the time of greatest obscuration the sun will be nearly in the horizon and sunset will intervene before the end of the eclipse, which will therefore not be visible at St. Paul but only father to the west. Now although nature, deeming probably that St. Paul has had a surfeit of spectacular entertainment of late, will thus bring down the curtain before the end of the performance, the following diagram will furnish a view of the phenomenon from beginning to end; and in the event of cloudy skies, which are very likely to interfere, these diagrams may have to take the place of the actual spectacle."

April 14th will for generations be a memorable day for Stearns County, for on that day a cyclone [tornado] dealt desolation and death to St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids. It was a dark day at St. John's and a heavy rain poured down after the storm had passed by. Two days later services were held for the victims of the disaster among whom was Mr. Juenemann, Father of Frater Demetrius.

On April 23 the venerable Father Clement Staub, who had acquired a widespread reputation as a physician, died at St. Joseph, Minnesota and was buried among his brethren at the monastery.

On June 20th, Father Stephen Koefler, O.S.B., who had been ordained on the 14th of the same month, celebrated his first Mass in the college chapel. The following day, June 21, was devoted to the commencement exercises, which consisted simply of the distribution of premiums. On June 22nd, the second general meeting of the Alumni was held and the boys of 1886 had an opportunity to meet representative students of former school years. After the banquet, which was held in the present Exhibition Hall, the degrees and prizes were awarded to the outgoing class. The degree of Ph.B. was conferred on five graduates; that of Master of Accounts on 30; that of Ph.D. on Rev. Chrysostom Schreiner and that of Doctor of Philology on Rev. Urban Fischer. The honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred on Judge L.W. Collins and Hon. D.B. Searle, of St. Cloud. Gold and silver medals to the number of 12 were awarded in various classes. On the roll of students were 215 names—22 seminarians and 193 in all other departments. All signs for a bright future were favorable. During vacation the north and west wings of the new addition were prepared for occupancy.

1886-1887

Luckily for the chronicler, there is extant in the catalogue of 1886-87 a condensed history of that school year. It covers only two pages in print but omits nothing that is worthy of mention. Being the first production of its kind, it shall be here reprinted in its entirety:

September 7: Students are arriving with every train and there will be life in the camp from date.

September 8: The school term began this morning. The Rev. Vice President celebrated solemn High Mass before class hours. In the basement of the north wing a spacious play hall, 60x80, has been arranged and furnished with a first class bowling alley running the full length of the hall. Turning poles, vaulting-bars and other gymnastical apparatus will follow. Beside the usual quarterly bulletins, monthly conduct bulletins will be published and read.

October 24: Father Cyril Zupan, O.S.B., one of the professors and Mr. John Sroka were ordained priests at St. Cloud by Rt. Rev. Bishop Rupert Seidenbusch.

November 13: Forty Hours Devotion commenced today and closed on the 15th.

November 23: The new university buildings were solemnly dedicated by the Rt. Rev. President Abbot Alexius Edelbrock. About 35 priests were present at the solemnity. The blessing took place after Pontifical High Mass sung by the Rt. Rev. Abbot. In the afternoon an entertainment was given by the drama and musical associations. "The Runaways" and the "Victim of Friendship" were the two dramatic pieces produced. On invitation the pupils of the Industrial School contributed materially to the entertainment.

November 25: Thanksgiving Day was observed by a High Mass at 7 o'clock. In the afternoon a concert was given by the drama and musical associations.

December: Owing to the extraordinary amount of snow there is, very, little skating this winter.

December 18: The Rt. Rev. Bishop Martin Marty, O.S.B., D.D., of the Vicariate Apostolic of Dakota, is the guest of the university today. At the students' Mass this morning he conferred Minor Orders on Messieurs James A. Durward and Charles F. Robinson.

December 19: Rt. Rev. Bishop Marty preached a very eloquent sermon in the students' chapel, and departed from the university in the afternoon.

December 22: First reading of quarterly class bulletins.

December 25: The students who spent the Christmas holidays at the university were not forgotten. A stately Christmas tree in the Commercial Hall had gifts for every one of them.

1887-January 5: Classes were resumed.

January 18: A solemn Requiem for the late James McMaster, editor of the *New York Freeman's Journal* and the most distinguished Catholic American journalist, who died December 28, 1886, was celebrated in the students' chapel.

January 26: The Rev. Vice President's names day. The students read appropriate addresses and the University Band furnished choice musical numbers.

February 17: Hon. D.B. Searle, LL.D., delivered his first lecture on contracts before the Commercial Class.

February 22: Washington's Birthday, the great national holiday and college free day was enthusiastically celebrated. In the afternoon the Alexian Dramatic and Musical Associations gave an entertainment, complimentary to the Rt. Rev. President, who returned from the East on the day previous. The two short comedies, "Master Goat" and "Der gescheidte Damian" caused great merriment and a never-ending applause was accorded the Juvenile Orchestra of 14 pieces, which furnished some very enjoyable music. Four brilliant, red light tableaux, representing leading events of Washington's career, terminated the concert.

March 12: Two pool tables were put up in the play hall for the use of students during recreation hours.

March 21: Feast of St. Benedict. A Solemn Pontifical High Mass, the Rt. Rev. Abbot officiating, appropriately celebrated this day, being the greatest feast of the Benedictine Order.

April 5: Beginning of the Easter holidays. Quite a number of students will spend the latter part of Holy Week at their homes. The reading of the quarterly class bulletins took place.

April 10: Easter Day. At Solemn Pontifical High Mass celebrated by the Rt. Rev. President. The following made solemn vows for the Benedictine Order: Oswald Baran, Prefect of the Junior Department. Meinrad Rettenmaier, Superintendent of the Industrial School, Henry Borgerding, Prefect of the Commercial Department and Ambrose Rank.

April 11: Revs. Oswald, Meinrad, Henry, Ambrose and Messieurs Dan Lynch and Patrick Cary were ordained subdeacons by Rt. Rev. Bishop Seidenbusch, at St. Cloud, and B. Sproll received minor orders.

April 12: Revs. Meinrad, Ambrose, Henry, Patrick Cary and Dan Lynch were ordained deacons and Mr. B. Sproll sub-deacon.

Father Benedict Haindl, O.S.B., a member of St. John's Abbey and the first who received the habit of the Benedictine Order in the United States, died yesterday morning at St. Benedict's Priory, St. Paul, Minnesota. He was born August 10, 1815, was ordained a priest on April 20, 1849, and entered upon missionary labors in Minnesota April 11, 1857. He had consequently worked 38 years in his holy and noble calling. The corpse was brought to the monastery for internment. All the students attended the funeral services.

April 17: Revs. Isidore Siegler and Henry Borgerding, O.S.B., both prefects in the University, were ordained priests today.

April 19: In testimony of the great honor conferred on their superiors, the students presented the newly ordained priests with valuable homiletic works.

April 24: Father Isidore Siegler celebrated his first Mass at the University Church, at which all the students assisted. Father Henry Borgerding celebrated his first Mass at Freeport, Minnesota.

April 25: Judge L.W. Collins, LL.D., delivered his last lecture on Commercial Paper.

May 1: This was a free day for the students and it is superfluous to add that they enjoyed it.

May 2: The boats, having been painted and repaired, were launched. Fishing is the most popular sport this season.

May 22: Rt. Rev. Bishop Seidenbusch administered the sacrament of confirmation here today.

May 25: The juniors had a May party on Doctor's Island.

May 26: The boys enjoyed the first swim of the season. In the evening the University Band, assisted by the Vocal Music Class gave an open-air concert.

There is little to add. Early in June a set of stage sceneries and a drop curtain painted in Chicago, arrived and was mounted for the approaching closing exercises on June 22nd. For once the play was again resorted to as the most attractive feature of the exercises. Cardinal Wiseman's "The Hidden Gem," a favorite on Catholic stages, was excellently played.

Eleven medals were awarded, and the degree of Master of Accounts conferred on 16 graduates of the commercial course. 179 students were enrolled—of these 27 were seminarians and 152 in all other departments. No doubt, the number was disappointing, in view of the fact that powerful efforts had been made to fit up accommodations for a class nearly twice as large. In the basement of the north wing which adjoins the church at the rear, was the play hall; on the second, the senior hall, above this the Exhibition Hall. The wing running north and south contained a dining room and lavatories, classrooms, music rooms and a dormitory, while the extension of the main building contained rooms for the faculty and guests. All the rooms were bright and airy and a vast improvement upon the earlier quarters.

1887-1888

More than one hundred students were registered during the first week after the opening of school in September. For Thanksgiving Day a musical and dramatical entertainment was prepared. It was held at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and was witnessed by a number of people from St. Cloud. The plays produced were "The Photograph," a bit of humor, and the three act drama "The Proscribed Heir." As usual, the Band and Orchestra supplied fine music, overtures, operatic selections, marches etc.; the former organization had, at the time 20 members, and the latter 17.

Early in December two Remington typewriting machines were installed for the benefit of commercial students and thus the foundation was laid for cultivating a branch of study much in demand. At first the instruments were not much patronized, but with the growing popularity of phonography the number of applicants for instruction on the typewriter also grew.

On December 8 the sad news of the death of the venerable Archabbot Boniface Wimmer of St. Vincent's abbey arrived. But few there were who remembered how thirty years earlier he had visited this region to observe the growth of the shoot he had planted in the shade of the western forests. He had labored long and patiently, combated difficulties to which many another person would have succumbed and laid his weary head to rest confident that his fourscore years had been well spent.

In the middle of December circulars were sent to alumni and friends of the institution, apprising them of the contemplated establishment of a college journal to be known as "The St. John's University Record." It was to serve as a medium of communication between the institution and former students, and a publication in which the students might make their maiden attempts at journalism. The Alexian Literary Association, under direction of Father Chrysostom Schreiner, undertook to launch the enterprise. A sufficiently large subscription list was guaranteed in a short time and towards the end of January 1888 the first number of *The Record* appeared.

It was a 12-page quarto, running three columns to the page, was printed on slightly tinted paper and a credit to its printers, the *St. Cloud Daily Times*, who printed all the monthly issues of *The Record*. The publication contained, after a prefatory observation, essays on "Economy" biographical sketch of Pope Leo XIII. an obituary of the late Archabbot Boniface Wimmer, an historical essay on Leif Ericsson and an article on "The Country of the Midnight Sun." In the editorial columns a tribute is paid to the memory of Archabbot Wimmer, and nearly a column is devoted to a review of a book "How to Improve Memory." Incidentally the editor apologizes for the absence of poetry from the issue and holds himself excused on the plea that he has "not yet engaged a poet to do the rhymes for *The Record*, and the depressed condition of the mercury during the last four weeks has probably dampened the rising, ready rhymes of the traditional spring poet." Next followed a page of local items—the field from which the historian must chiefly garner his information for the next two decades. A page was given to former students; this was followed by book reviews; a list of Honorable Mention—which from that time made its appearance regularly every month. Page ten was taken up by a batch of scientific notes, and a Sioux legend; pages 11 and 12 by anecdotes and advertisements. Among the first advertisers were H.C. Metzler, the jeweler, Dr. C.C. Rosenkranz, the dentist, Fandel & Nugent, of the Empire Store and Joseph Edelbrock of St. Cloud; D. O'Halloran, book dealer and Stierle's Pharmacy, St. Paul; Brown & Haywood of Minneapolis, B. Herder of St. Louis, Mrs. F. Bernick and St. Benedict's Academy, of St. Joseph.

The Record came to stay and both contributors and subscribers made its stay possible. Like many other journals, it gradually discovered that quarto was not a convenient size; accordingly it was reduced to octavo in 1891, and in that size has come down to this day. The subscription price of \$1.00 placed it within easy reach of every graduate. Frank Schaller, '68, be it said to his credit, was the first subscriber.

That January was a cold, cold month; the mercury slipped down to -38° on the 15th, there was such a heavy snowfall that no trains passed Collegeville from the 11th to the 14th and the boys had not enjoyed one day of skating since the beginning of winter. Indoors, the Ajax athletic club was cultivating the art of boxing and other gymnastic exercises. This club which had for its motto "No mouthing: all training," was organized under the presidency of P.F. McDonough, but did not live long enough to secure recognition in the annual catalogue.

A pleasant event was the celebration of the Rev. Vice President's names day on January 27th, the feast of St. Chrysostom. *The Record* describes it as follows: "In the afternoon preceding the feast the several Departments presented their congratulations. The University Band, in the meantime rendered some of its best numbers. The Juniors substantiated their felicitations by a splendid pair of slippers and an autograph album in which each of them had inscribed some appropriate good wish. The Senior and Commercial departments had combined to donate something worthwhile, but their plans were waylaid by the deceitful freight car, which failed to bring the present until the next day. The surprise was then rushed upon the Rev. Vice President. In an appropriate address the spokesman, Master F. Bernick, presented, in the name of all the student's, a valuable secretary. On the morning of the 27th a Solemn High Mass was sung by Rev. Father Chrysostom, after which the joys of the freeday were indulged in."

Then followed the semi-annual examinations, which were conducted by several boards of examiners who visited the various classes. 200 students were in attendance on February 1.

Washington's Birthday was celebrated by an entertainment given by the Alexian Dramatic Association. A one-act drama, "King Alfred" was presented. Among the musical selections were the "American Overture," "Recollections of the War" and "Flowers of St. Petersburg Waltzes."

On March 7, the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron of Christian schools, was celebrated for the first time by a literary and musical entertainment. "The sacred drama 'Joseph in Egypt,' was rendered with such excellence and feeling that it drew tears from many of the audience." All the critics ventured to say in print,

was that the costumes "bad not quite as much of the ancient 'cut, fold and lay,' as they might have had. "Mr. Joseph Langen, of the Seminary, delivered an essay on "St. Thomas, the Theologian;" Mr. Ambrose McNulty, of the Seminary, discoursed upon "St. Thomas, the Philosopher" and Master George Babner described "St. Thomas at School."

Judges Collins and Searle again favored the Commercial class with a series of lectures during the spring.

Spring was late in arriving, the snow was loath to go, the ice did not disappear before April 25th and the baseball teams were growing restive. May found all reconciled to the climate, so much so that a local poet, who wrote anonymously, indulged in such strains as the following:

Come let us away while the weather is gay,
And our boat is again on the shore,
We'll row o'er the lake some pleasure to take,
And think of the days of yore—
Those days when as boys our hearts full of joys,
Our lines in the water we pass,
And rowed right along to the tune of light song
As we hauled in the pickerel and bass.

A local reporter notes several improvements, such as the renovation of the cupola on the main buildings and the conversion of Boniface Place into a park.

During the first week in June the Ancient Order of Hibernians were holding their State convention at St. Cloud. Pursuant to an invitation from the Rev. Vice President, the delegates visited the institution in a body on June 6th. They were entertained at luncheon in the University dining room, where a number of speeches were delivered by the visitors and several members of the faculty.

On commencement day, June 21, Rev. Gerard Spielmann, O.S.B., celebrated his first Holy Mass in the college chapel. At 8 o'clock the distribution of premiums took place. No program of exercises had been issued. There were very few visitors present and hence the celebration was a very quiet one.

Eleven gold medals and one silver medal were awarded. 22 graduates received the title of Master of Accounts and one that of Bachelor of Philosophy. The total enrollment for the year was 224 (28 seminarians and 196 in all other departments). A zinc-etching, reproduced from a photograph of the buildings adorned the catalogue.

1888-1889

During vacation a force of steam-fitters began work at installing the heating plant in the buildings. A power house 50x50 was built some 400 feet west of the buildings: in it were placed five large boilers and a pump. A supply main ran from the boiler house to the main buildings and connected with an enormous

network of pipes which were to carry the steam to every part of the buildings. Three months were consumed in the work, and on October 17th the efficiency of the plant was tested. The day of the stove was over and the horrors of winter lost their edge. In his glee *The Record* poet burst forth into these strains:

Let old Boreas come forth from his cave in the North,
 And rage in his terrible wrath,
 Over hill and o'er dale till the forest doth wail,
 At the blight he leaves in his path.
 We heed not his blast howe'er angry 'tis cast,
 It brings us not suffering or sorrow
 Ten fires glow red and steam's at full head,
 From these our comfort we borrow.

On Thanksgiving Day the Rev. Vice-president celebrated a solemn High Mass, and delivered a short exhortation. In the afternoon the literary societies gave a short entertainment, to the success of which the musicians contributed in no small measure. Mr. A.L. McNulty was the orator of the day. His address was followed by a comical sketch "Wanted: a Confidential Clerk." The entertainment was largely enjoyed by all, "even by Jonathan Dobbs," says *The Record*, "who sees in it a vindication of the old proverb: "All work and no play makes John a dull boy."

A dreary winter followed: the spirit of sport could not be roused. "What's the matter with football?" queried the local reporter. "The meager remnants of what once was an enthusiastic crowd are a sad spectacle on the campus. What a lonesome life must be that of a football—no one to love him, no one even to kick him!" It is unnecessary to state that the Juniors found ample resources for fun in their toboggan slides.

On January 22 a printing outfit, consisting of three presses, a complete set of book and job type, paper-knife and other requisites of a printery, once owned by the defunct *St. Cloud Tribune* was purchased and set up in the first floor of the southeast wing. From this office *The Record* was issued since February 1889, although it cost many a patient struggle, such as only an amateur printer can realize, before satisfactory work could be turned out. Owing to the lack of a sufficient quantity of book type, the February issue was printed almost entirely in bourgeois, and poorly at that, for the ink refused to flow. Several fonts of long-primer came in time for the March number. Among the notable contributions to *The Record* was a series of articles on "The First Beginnings of St. John's Abbey" from the pen of Father Bruno Riss, O.S.B., one of the three pioneer Benedictines of Minnesota.

The St. Boniface Literary Association took in hand the celebration of Washington's birthday and presented the German comedy "Trau, Schau, Wem," in five acts.

As early as March 28th every sign of ice had disappeared from the lake, and shortly the boating clubs fell to organizing. Some improvements had been made in the environs of the campus: there was, for instance, the rustic bridge over the narrow entrance to Caesar's Bay, which tempted a poetaster into writing a parody on Longfellow's well known poem.

April 28 witnessed a baseball game on the college diamond between the University and the St. Cloud team: "The students lost the game: score, 7-15. The reporter thinks the wind was too high and the umpire's dicta arbitrary. Nevertheless he could not forbear counseling the home team to do a little more practicing and a little less talking, probably, if they wished to invert that score."

On April 30 the institution celebrated the centennial of President Washington's first inauguration. Many visitors from St. Cloud came to witness the exercises. The dramatic society presented the play "Under a Cloud" an agreeable feature of the program was a vocal solo by Mr. George M. Schutz who has since scored many artistic triumphs between Minnesota and the Pacific coast.

May Day was almost disfigured by an attempt at a snowstorm in the forenoon, but the clouds passed away and mild sunshine caressed the tiny buds on trees and shrub. At noon arrived His Grace Archbishop John Ireland, of St. Paul, accompanied by his secretary, Rev. John Shanley, '69. Upon invitation, Archbishop Ireland addressed the students on the importance of study as a preparation for life. It ought not only be the student's aspiration to become a learned man but also a good man. He encouraged them in eloquent and earnest words to come to the front and to be ready as Catholics to stand in the first ranks in every movement for the good of society and religion. Father Shanley fell into a reminiscent mood and charmed his audience by his humorous and graphic pictures of the past at St. John's.

During the summer the lake flotilla was increased by the addition of the sailboat "A.O. Gilman," which was capable of carrying from 15-20 persons. It had been the property of the late Dr. Gilman of St. Cloud and did service on the college lake for several years. It was a favorite excursion boat.

On June 2nd the fourteenth anniversary of the election of Abbot Alexius Edelbrock was celebrated. The main feature was an entertainment in the evening by the St. Boniface Literary Association supported by the band. A two act comedy: "Three Thousand Marks" was thoroughly enjoyed and Mr. A.L. McNulty delivered an address of congratulation to which the Rt. Rev. President responded. It was his last address to the students of St. John's.

On June 13th the Rt. Rev. Abbot, accompanied by the Rev. Vice President, Father Chrysostom, left St. John's for Europe. Father Alexius Hoffmann was appointed to fill the office of vice president temporarily. The remaining days of the school year were very unpleasant. Two of the students who were recovering from an attack of the measles suffered a relapse: early in the morning of June 14 one of them, George L. Hutchins, of Kingston, Minnesota died, and at 8 o'clock in the evening of June 15th Leo Ditter, of P.O. Minnesota passed away [He was buried here]. Closing day was almost a week distant but upon the advice of physicians and in view of the fact that there were no other cases of sickness in the college at the time, it was decided to close on the 17th. Accordingly the medals and premiums were distributed on the morning of that day and the students were dismissed in the afternoon.

The twenty-second annual catalogue was printed by *The Record* press and cannot be said to represent first class workmanship. On the list of professors were 20 names, besides 3 lecturers on Commercial Law. The roll of students contained 24 names of seminarians, and 185 in all other departments—total 209. Eleven gold medals and one silver medal were awarded. 20 graduates received the degree of Master of Accounts.

CHAPTER IV

The Administration of Abbot Bernard Locnikar, 1890-1894

1889-1890

During the vacation months the few students whose privilege it was to remain at the institution were not

allowed to indulge in the unprofitable amusement of doing nothing. But were set to work a few hours every day improving the "park" as the peninsula known as Boniface Point came to be called. The heavy undergrowth and shrubbery was cut out, roads made the bridge repaired and the old band-pavilion that stood in the rear of the Exhibition Hall removed to a prominent place at the Point. In this way the playgrounds were extended and a pleasant resort created for those who relished a walk in the shade of the summer foliage.

Students of the 1880's will remember how they were not only roused from their slumbers by the brazen sound of a large hand-bell, but how that instrument was also employed to announce study time and give the signal for the opening of classes and other exercises. The electric age had dawned and to keep abreast of the times a set of electric call-bells were installed, which connected the Prefect's desk with every part of the vast buildings.

History moved on smoothly and quietly; classes were organized, the literary societies went to work unusually early, several games of baseball were played, the strumming of a banjo and a mandolin were added to the varieties of music already at hand, and the chemistry class was so enthusiastic at its experiments that on one occasion "the entire building from turret to foundation stone was filled with the consequences."

Upon the erection of the diocese of St. Cloud and after the resignation of the late Bishop Rupert Seidenbusch, who had presided over Northern Minnesota in the capacity of a Vicar Apostolic, Dr. Otto Zardetti was appointed as the first incumbent of the new see. He received the episcopal consecration at the venerable Benedictine monastery of Einsiedeln, in Switzerland, on October 20, 1889. Towards the end of November he arrived in St. Cloud and was the guest of St. John's on Thanksgiving Day, the 28th of that month. For this purpose the interior of the buildings had been profusely decorated and no pains had been spared to offer the new prelate a reception worthy of his dignity. At the ecclesiastical functions on Thanksgiving Day he occupied the throne in the sanctuary and at the conclusion of the services he delivered a brief but eloquent address. He also assisted at the musical and theatrical performances that had been prepared to grace the occasion. The members of the St. Boniface Literary Association presented a five-act drama, entitled "Kronen und Palmen." Bishop Zardetti never lost an opportunity during the four years of his administration of the see of St. Cloud to visit St. John's on festival occasions and his eloquent addresses, which revealed a rare degree of scholarship, never failed to impress the student body.

Shortly before Thanksgiving Day, Father Chrysostom Schreiner had returned from a European trip and resumed the duties of the office of vice-president. In December came the news of the resignation of Abbot Alexius Edelbrock, who had administered a burdensome and responsible office fourteen years. About a month later, death removed from the scene one of the most familiar faces at the institution— Father Ulric Northman, the former vice-president, who, departed this life after a brief illness on Jan. 21, 1890. His demise was deeply regretted by a wide circle of friends, and many expressions of sympathy were received at the institution. For a little more than two decades he had without interruption been connected with the college as a teacher of music and other branches and for ten years had been vice-president.

An attractive feature of the winter evenings was a series of lectures on Rome, Egypt and the Holy Land, illustrated by stereopticon views. A fine lantern was purchased and Father Chrysostom, who had just returned from a visit to these countries, spoke interestingly of those historic places.

Early in April, Father Bernard Locnikar, then pastor of the church of the Assumption in St., Paul, was elected vicar of the monastic chapter; on May 7 following he was, elected abbot, in which capacity he was also to be president of the University. In the evening of the day of his election, the students prepared an enthusiastic reception for him and greeted him with speeches and music. The new abbot had been vice-president of the college during the school year of 1873, after his ordination to the priesthood had been

promoted to several monastic offices, including that of prior, but, owing to feeble health, had begged to be relieved and assigned work in the mission. Since 1879 he had been stationed in St. Paul, first as an assistant and since 1888 as pastor. The approval of his election was received from Rome on August 2nd and on the 27th of the same month he was solemnly installed as the third abbot of St. John's Abbey. Abbot Bernard was a holy priest and a scholarly gentleman, whose erudition won him the respect and admiration of the clergy in the Northwest. In the administration of his new duties his connection with student affairs was necessarily very slight; still the gentleness, of his character and his deep piety could not fail to impress more profoundly than eloquent words.

In the course of the summer a number of improvements were made: new bathrooms were fitted up, extensive and substantial stabling built. During summer vacation the water tower, which contains a steel tank with a capacity of about 2800 bbls., was built and the steeple of Stella Maris chapel repaired. While a force were busily at work making the island "a thing of beauty and an abode of delight" a very sad accident happened. On the 3rd of July, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, Frater Anselm Bartholmy, one of the prefects of the Junior department lost his life while carrying sod in a boat to the island. Owing either to the weight of the sod or to some unforeseen leak in the boat, it sank and Frater Anselm was drowned. The body was recovered the next day.

The closing exercises of the scholastic year were of the simplest character and consisted merely of the award of class honors and a brief address to the outgoing class. Twelve medals were awarded and the degree of Master of Accounts conferred on 24 graduates. The total enrollment of students was 172 (19 being seminarians, and 153 in all other departments).

1890-1891

The change of administration of the abbey caused practically no changes in the faculty of the University, except the reappointment of Father Norbert Hofbauer as principal of the Commercial Department. Father Jerome Heider, the late principal, was assigned missionary work.

For several years the lack of appropriate astronomical instruments had been severely felt. The faculty realized that now the time had come to provide the class with a suitable observatory and outfit. In the fall a small observatory was constructed on the top of the water tower and in February 1891, a telescope was installed. It was an equatorial, having a four-inch achromatic object glass of rare excellence. The mounting, made by Fauth & Co., Washington, D.C., was provided with right ascension and declination circles graduated into degrees and minutes, with verniers, with clamps and tangent screws for slow motion. A driving-clock was connected with the polar axis, by means of which any celestial object could be kept in the field of view for hours without any attention on the part of the observer. Four eyepieces of different magnifying powers completed the outfit. Time proved that the location was unsuitable for such a delicate instrument; but for four years this lofty perch remained the conning tower of the local astronomers [until through the efforts of the present abbot, Peter Engel, then professor of astronomy, the present commodious quarters were secured].

On Thanksgiving Day Bishop Zardetti honored the institution with his presence at the entertainment which was prepared by the dramatic and musical associations. The play performed was "The Proscribed Heir"; the music was unusually good and Mr. J.C. McCourt's singing was highly appreciated. We may mention in passing, that Mr. McCourt subsequently entered the holy priesthood and went to his eternal reward in August, 1905. In the evening Bishop Zardetti delivered a scholarly and eloquent address on "The Tokens of Providential Agency in the History of the United States."

That was a comparatively snowless winter, for we read that on the 18th of January a game of baseball was played here between the Silver Crescents and the Black Diamonds, the score of which after eight innings

stood even.

A few days later Father Chrysostom Schreiner, who had been vice president of the University since spring 1885, having recently resigned the office, left for the East to assume charge of the Bahama mission, which had been entrusted to the Fathers of St. John's by the late Archbishop Corrigan of New York. With all his wonted energy Father Chrysostom took this difficult task in hand and despite countless discouragements bore the labors and hardships of this distant and humble mission with great patience. He was succeeded in the vice-presidency at St. John's by Father Alexius Hoffmann. Father Chrysostom's departure from the institution elicited many expressions of regret from his many friends. He did not forget them, however, but gave an interesting account of himself and of the conditions prevailing in his new field of labor through the columns of *The Record*.

On February 20, ruthless death took away in the flower of his youth Frater Felix Wolke, prefect of the Junior Department. He had been waging a hopeless battle against consumption for two months and expected to find some relief in a change of scene. He had been permitted to visit his parent at Pierz, and there it was the final summons came.

Washington's Birthday came and went; the celebration was not as brilliant as in former years. St. Patrick's Day witnessed the time-honored parade around the "beat." On April 19, the cream of the home talent gave a musicale, the program of which displayed a charming variety of selections, including a sextet for citherns and violins. Among the visitors on this occasion was the Reverend Alexander Christie, since 1899 archbishop of Oregon City, who addressed the students on the importance of a thorough Christian elementary education.

Shortly before the close of the school term Mr. F.E. Searle lectured to the commercial class on free coinage, treating his subject without reference to political views and offering throughout an impartial statement or facts and figures to show the disadvantages of free coinage of silver.

On commencement day, June 24, twelve medals were awarded, and the degree of Master of Accounts was conferred on 38 graduates. The total enrollment was 198 (18 in the seminary and 180 in all other departments).

1891-1892

Among the improvements made for the new school year was a renovation of the play hall in the basement. A new bowling alley was fitted up, also a pool table, horizontal bar, chest weights, striking bag, Indian clubs and dumb bells were provided. The quarters were close and gloomy, and oil lamps lit up the place in the evening. Still it was a step towards a gymnasium, an ideal that was realized ten years later.

Much regret and surprise was caused by the resignation of Father Xavier White from the staff during vacation. He had been a professor of the higher English and mathematical classes since 1876, but was now beginning to feel the advance of old age and the pressure of infirmities as the result of years of missionary labor both before he became a member of the Benedictine Order and since that time. In course of the summer he went East with the intention of giving such aid as he could in the establishment of a parish in New York City. "His spirits kept up for a very short time," says *The Record* (IV, 215) "when illness compelled him to resort to St. Francis Hospital, New York. Here the physicians pronounced his ailment cancer of the stomach." Feeling that he was doomed he resolved to hasten back to Minnesota, in order that he might die in the midst of his brethren at the monastery. It was while at Tonawanda, New York, where he paid a short visit to his sister, that death overtook him on September 26. He was interred by the Benedictine Fathers of St. Mary's Abbey at Newark, New Jersey.

On November 1, the death of Father Meinrad Rettenmaier occurred at Duluth. He was connected with the University, as a professor for a short time in 1883 and 1884, and for several years was superintendent of the Industrial School, which was established at St. John's for Chippewa Indian boys in 1885.

An eclipse of the moon in November attracted the attention of the class in astronomy. A meager report of the phenomenon strayed into the columns of *The Record* and since it is the first report of its kind, we reprint it in its entirety: "The conditions for observing the lunar eclipse of November 15 were very unfavorable. A heavy snowstorm prevailed during the whole day, to the great dismay of our local astronomers. During supper, however, the sky became clear, and for nearly an hour Luna showed her darkened countenance to the anxious observers, until it was again veiled by accumulating clouds. Some interesting observations were made, which are, however, not of sufficient importance to the general reader to warrant their publication in these columns." (IV. 238)

The most notable event of the winter was the installment of a large pipe organ in the abbey church. The instrument was built by W. Schuelke, of Milwaukee, and cost about \$3000. Its outer case is made of polished oak with handsome panels and carving. The key action desk is located at some distance from the organ, allowing the organ to face the altar. It has two manuals of 58 keys each, and a pedal of 27 keys. The motive power of the bellows is furnished by a Tuerk water motor that may be regulated by a spindle operated at the key desk. The dedicatory services were held on December 15 and were attended by the Bishop of St. Cloud and a number of clergymen and prominent organists.

On January 12, 1892, the students arranged a reception for the Most Rev. William H. Gross, archbishop of Oregon City, who visited the institution accompanied by his brother, the late Rev. Mark Gross, and Rev. Edward J. O'Dea, the bishop of Nesqually, Washington. A few pleasant hours were spent in listening to choice music and the charming, genial eloquence of the archbishop.

In the way of entertainments the year was a busy one. Aside from the reception already mentioned, the newly organized Thespian Club produced "The Wags of Windsor" on December 22, 1891, "Falsely Accused" on Washington's Birthday and March 8: "Waiting for the Train" on Decoration Day, and "The Dutch Recruit" on commencement day. The St. Boniface Literary Association performed "The Strike" on May 9 and "Der dicke Bildschnitzer" on June 6.

This commencement was called the 25th annual commencement, as it was customary to count from the establishment of the college on its present site in 1867. Hence the catalogue of that year was made especially attractive; it was printed on superior paper and embellished with several half-tone engravings. In addition to the usual information, there was a brief sketch of the history of the institution since 1867, together with a list of all the graduates and professors during those twenty-five years. The whole number of professors was 106; the degree of D.D. had been conferred on three candidates, that of Ph.D. on two, that of A.M. on four, that of Ph.B. on 24, that on A.B. on 24, and that of M.A. on 366. For the year 1892 the total enrollment was 251 (33 seminarians and 218 in all other departments). Eleven medals were awarded; the degree of Ph.B. was conferred on five, that of A.B. on three and that of M.A. on 32 graduates.

1892-1893

The vacation crew took up the work of beautifying the surroundings. A canal was dug between Boniface Bay and Caesar's Lake, the road around the "beat" was extended southward to the lakeshore and then around the lake to the chapel island. Two rustic bridges were built over the swamps on the other side and made the chapel accessible afoot.

The attendance during the first month was 150, a very encouraging figure for the Columbian year, and by all accounts it was a live attendance at both work and play.

In *The Record* (V, 191) we read: "Through the efforts of our professor of physics, Father Peter Engel, a Voluntary Meteorological Station in connection with the U.S. Signal Service will be located here. Most of the necessary instruments, such as the barometer, anemometer with electrical recording attachment, exposure, maximum and minimum thermometer, hygrometer, rain gauge etc., have already arrived and will be placed in the cupola of the main building where daily observations will be recorded and forwarded to the Weather Bureau at Minneapolis. Arrangements will be completed in the early part of October." Just four hundred years after the discovery of America, on October 12, 1892, the Station was opened and has kept a faithful record of the weather ever since.

Both of the Columbian days, the 12th and the 21st were appropriately observed. Bishop Zardetti had directed that the religious services on the 21st "consist of High Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of the Holy Trinity, with the Te Deum and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament." Accordingly the Right Rev. Abbot officiated at pontifical High Mass in the forenoon, while the afternoon was devoted to an entertainment at which the members of the St. Boniface Literary Association presented a historical drama in five acts, entitled "Columbus."

Among the visitors in November was Bishop McGolrick of Duluth, who was accorded a unique reception. An amateur campaign marching club, which had played a noisy but unimportant part in the presidential campaign just closed, rallied some 80 strong and held a torchlight procession in honor of the distinguished guest. After the parade the Bishop addressed the student in the Exhibition Hall.

Stray notes from the local reporter's scrapbook are to the effect that in course of the scholastic year five new Remington typewriting machines were purchased to meet the increasing popularity of that branch of study; also that a class in civics was organized and that the museum was slowly but surely growing.

On March 28, Abbot Bernard Locnikar departed for Rome to attend the laying of the cornerstone for the new Benedictine college of San Anselmo. In view of the fact that he would have an audience with the Holy Father, the students prepared an album containing congratulatory addresses in nine languages (Latin, Italian, French, English, German, Polish, Bohemian, Slovenian and Chippewa). Attached were the signatures of all the students and of the faculty. A modest reception was arranged for the Right Rev. Abbot on the eve of his departure when the album was handed to him. He did not return until the latter part of July.

Needless to say the literary and dramatic societies contributed their share toward keeping up the spirits throughout the year. The Thespians presented programs on October 12th, Thanksgiving Day, and Washington's birthday, while the St. Boniface Literary Association held the boards on October 21 in the play already mentioned, and on March 7 produced that grand and impressive drama, "Sir Thomas More," echoes of which have come down to our day. An unusual degree of interest was displayed in music, both vocal and instrumental. Besides the orchestra of 18 pieces there was a brass band of 24 pieces and a new orchestra club under the leadership of John Rodenkirchen, who has for several years past been prominent in musical circles in our State. There was also a vocal club called the "Liederkranz."

On commencement day eleven medals were awarded; the degree of Ph.B. was conferred on one graduate and that of M.A. on 24. The total enrollment this year was 272 (34 seminarians and 238 in all other departments).

1893-1894

During the months of July and August a force of painters were engaged to paint and grain the wood work in the college buildings, and to decorate the Exhibition Hall. At the same time the old Stone House, which was the only building that constituted St. John's College in 1867, was torn down, owing to the defective condition of its walls. It was never replaced by any other structure, but a large flowerbed marks its site at

the south end of the present house. "In a few years," says *The Record* at this time, "the pioneer student who recollects the day when the brass band played 'Home, Sweet Home' on the cupola of the edifice, will return to find not the slightest trace of St. John's as it then was, save the majestic forest, the silvery lake whose gentle waves lap the sandy shores, and, above all, the cordial welcome and hospitality it ever extends, which forms the ground work of an edifice against which the tooth of time is powerless."

In compliance with the wish of Pope Leo XIII, that the new college of San Anselmo be a central university for the entire Benedictine Order and that its students should be recruited from all the Benedictine monasteries, Frater Michael Ott was selected to represent St. John's. He left for Rome in the fall and entered upon an advanced course in philosophy, from which he graduated two years later. About the same time, Frater Otto Weisser was sent to Ratisbon for a higher course in music.

After presiding over the diocese of St. Cloud for four and one-half years, Bishop Zardetti was created Archbishop of Bucharest in Romania. He paid his farewell visit to St. John's on April 24, 1894; on which occasion a reception was tendered him. Although he expressed the fervent hope that he might find an opportunity to revisit the West within no very distant period of time, it was not to be. He resigned the see of Bucharest about three years later and retired to Rome, where he died May 10, 1902.

Among the improvements of this year may be mentioned the installment of a private telephone line in the buildings, and of a telegraph office, concerning which *The Record* says: "The line runs from the University to Collegeville, thence along the railroad track and on the telegraph company's poles to the St. Joseph depot. A set of new instruments has been installed in an office on the first floor of the University. Father Agatho Gehret is in charge of the office. The first message was sent over the new line on June 6." This line did service for many years, but at present is almost entirely superseded by the long-distance telephone.

Commencement day, June 21st, was made memorable by the presence of the Governor of the State, the Hon. Knute Nelson, now U.S. Senator. It was the first time the institution was able to chronicle such an event, and neither faculty nor students spared any efforts to make his stay as pleasant as possible. At the closing exercises he conferred the medals and diplomas and delivered a brief and forcible address.

On the rolls were the names of 234 students (37 seminarians and 197 in all other departments). Nine medals were awarded, the degree of Ph.B. was conferred on 5 and that of M. A. on 35 graduates.

Scarcely had the echoes of the school year died away when the institution was visited by a catastrophe, the traces of which will remain visible for a number of years.

"The heat had been oppressive for several days. A storm was expected on the evening of the 26th of June, but it did not come. On the 27th the barometer stood at an unusually low point. Towards evening heavy clouds drew up and at 7:30 a strong rainstorm came on. It lasted for about 15 minutes and was followed by hail, though only for a minute. Then came a sullen calm for a few minutes, the current of air from the northwest met that from the southeast at some point south from here, and a funnel shaped cloud was observed moving toward us. Suddenly at 8:30 it grew dark, the winds began to howl and the fatal whirlwind was upon us. A few seconds sufficed to create a desolation this community never saw on its grounds. The air was filled with flying timbers, furniture, limbs of trees and everything the wind could pick up; windows crashed, doors closed violently or were pressed open, and through the flashes of lightning could be seen the wreck outside." The track of the cyclone [tornado], lay over the lake; it first unroofed the laundry and wrecked the adjoining engine room and smokestack. The main buildings were attacked on the southeast end, which was occupied by the Industrial School. The pupils were on the point of retiring for the night, when the cyclone [tornado] set in. They were hurried out of their dormitory and not a second too soon, for just as the last pupil stepped into the middle building, the upper floors of the building, which they had left, were carried away. The roof of the main building was slightly damaged, all the chimneys blown

down, the weather station was wrecked and the turret-cap moved out of position. The engine-house which contains the heating plant was also wrecked, but fortunately the boilers did not sustain any serious damage; the roofs were blown from all the out-buildings, of which, there were about ten. The new brick barn, one of the largest and finest in the State, was a total wreck, with exception of the stone stabling in the lower floor.

However serious the disaster appeared to be, it was a source of great satisfaction that not a single human life had been lost.

Soon masons and carpenters were at work repairing the damage and before vacation was past, the authorities were able to announce that schoolwork would be resumed in September. Few scars of the cyclone [tornado] are visible on the buildings, but many and many a year will pass before the forest trees that were blown down that evening and left the surrounding country a bleak desert, can be replaced. God spare us from another such a visitation.

CHAPTER V

The Administration of Abbot Peter Engel from 1894 to the present time

1894-1895

Of those who were at St. John's during the cyclone, no one seems to have been so deeply affected by the disaster as Abbot Bernard Locnikar. He had for years been in delicate health and the shock of the disaster evidently hastened the ravages of disease. After the new school year was well under way, he set out upon a journey of visitation to the various missions in charge of Fathers of the Abbey. Towards the end of October he broke down completely and on advice of his physician retired to Stillwater, where he received kind care and attention in the rectory of St. Mary's church, of which Rev. Alphonse Kuisle, O.S.B. was then pastor. He never recovered from his ailment, which proved to be Bright's Disease, and on November 7th the wire carried the sad intelligence to the abbey that he was dead. The funeral services and interment took place at the abbey on November 14th, Abbot Alexius Edelbrock, his predecessor, officiating as celebrant. The bishops of Jamestown (Shanley), Sioux Falls (Martin Marty) and Winona (Joseph Cotter), the administrator of the vacant see of St. Cloud (Msgr. Bauer) and four abbots assisted at the services. Bishop Shanley of Jamestown delivered the sermon, in the course of which he paid eloquent tributes to the memory of the deceased as a priest, monk and superior.

Abbot Bernard Locnikar was born in the province of Krain, southern Austria, in the village of Bitnje, of poor parents September 29, 1848. His widowed mother lacked the means to give him even an elementary education, but a priest of his acquaintance furnished him an opportunity to study at the gymnasium of Krainburg and at the Aloysianum of Laibach. While reading of the labors of his illustrious countrymen, the late Bishop Baraga of Sault St. Marie, and Rev. Francis Pierz, among the Indians of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, he became inflamed with a desire of going there and spending his life and energies in the mission among the Indians. With this purpose in view he left his native soil in 1868 with his mother and brother and came to the United States. The terminus of their journey was Stearns County in Minnesota. Here, while his mother and brother settled on a small farm near Albany, he made the acquaintance of the Benedictine Fathers at St. Louis Abbey and concluded to remain with them, hoping that in course of time he might be able to carry out his original resolve. As he had already completed an excellent classical course, he was at once sent into the novitiate of the Order and spent the following three years in theological studies. On December 22, 1872 he was ordained a priest; he had been appointed vice-president of the college in November and retained this office to the end of the school year. During the next seven years he attended small missions in the neighborhood of the abbey, was also subprior of the monastery from 1875-1877, and prior from 1877-1879. Then, as has already been stated, he became assistant and subsequently

rector of the church of the Assumption in St. Paul, where he remained up to the time of his election to the abbatial chair. His death was deeply regretted and lamented not only by his brethren but by a wide circle of friends among the clergy and laity.

Two weeks later, on November 28, the Fathers of the abbey met in Chapter to elect a successor to the late Abbot. The choice fell upon the subprior and Director of Studies, Very Rev. Peter Engel. Father Peter, by which name he is known to a large number of alumni, was born near Port Washington, Wisconsin, February 3, 1856, a few months before the first colony of Benedictines entered Minnesota. In his early boyhood his parents removed to Minnesota and settled at St. Michael's in Wright County, and the future abbot was sent to school to St. John's College in 1869. While pursuing the course of studies, he felt attracted to the monastic life and determined to become a Benedictine. He was admitted to the novitiate in 1874, made simple profession July 19, 1875 and was ordained a priest December 15, 1878. On August 15th of the following year he was appointed subprior of the abbey and occupied that position to the time of his election as Abbot. Ever since 1875 he had been one of busiest professors at St. John's, his specialties being philosophy and the natural sciences. In addition he performed the duties of a Director of Studies since 1882 and of a Master of Novices since 1887. No one was better acquainted with the state of affairs and the needs of such a vast institution than Abbot Peter, for he had spent two consecutive decades on the spot and had been intimately in touch with the work of both the monastery and college. The election was ratified by Rome and the documents arrived at the abbey towards the end of January 1895. His solemn benediction and installation was postponed to the summer months, but he entered at once upon the discharge of his duties.

The completion of the new observatory during the summer had been prevented by the unfortunate cyclone. In fall, however, work was resumed and within a month after the election of Abbot Peter, to whose efforts the building of the observatory was due, the instruments were installed. The observatory "crowns the hill which is about 200 yards east of the University and south of the road leading to Collegeville. The top of the revolving dome is 32 feet from the ground. The entrance faces south and leads to the computation room; its dimensions are 10x13 ½ feet. Adjoining it is the transit instrument and the chronograph; this part is 9 ½x12 ½ feet. From here we enter the round tower, which has a diameter of 16 feet. In the center rises a pier of masonry to the height of 19 feet. Altogether independent it pierces the second floor and wears a cap of Kasota stone 8 inches thick, to which the telescope is bolted." (*The Record*, January 1895, p.2) The structure is built of red brick and the revolving dome is of tin. Immediately upon its completion it was equipped with appropriate instruments from the factory of G. N. Saegmueller & Co., Washington, D.C.

In February 1895 the new bishop of St. Cloud, Martin Marty, O.S.B. was installed in office, and on March 21, the feast of St. Benedict, he was the guest of the abbey, where he officiated at pontifical High Mass in accordance with the tradition established by Bishop Zardetti. Bishop Marty's administration covered less than two years and yet within that time he favored the institution with many visits.

On May 25, 1895 Father Paul Rettenmaier O.S.B., professor of philosophy and other branches from 1872-77, died at Arlington, Minnesota, where he was temporarily stationed as rector. He was born in Wuerttemberg in 1853, made vows as a Benedictine 1871 and was ordained a priest December 25, 1875. With exception of the five years mentioned above, he was engaged in pastoral work in Minnesota and North Dakota. He was a man of keen mind, bright intelligence and very enthusiastic in every work he took in hand. His principal regret was that ill-health defeated all his best intentions, especially during the latter part of his life. His younger brother, Father Meinrad Rettenmaier, died four years before.

Nine days later, June 3, the venerable Bishop Rupert Seidenbusch, who had presided over St. John's as its first abbot from 1867-1875, breathed his last in Richmond, Virginia, while on his way to Minnesota from Savannah, Georgia, where he had spent the preceding winter. His remains were brought to St. John's and interred in the abbey cemetery on June 11th. Bishop Rupert Seidenbusch was born in Munich, the capital of

Bavaria, October 13, 1830, studied in the schools of his native country until 1850 when he came to the United States and entered the Benedictine Order at St. Vincent's Abbey. He was ordained a priest June 22, 1853, served several years in the mission in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and was prior of St. Vincent's from 1862-1867, which position he held when he was chosen first abbot of St. Louis on the Lake. After governing the abbey eight years he was appointed Vicar Apostolic of Northern Minnesota. For thirteen years he continued to administer this difficult office, when increasing infirmities compelled him to resign in November 1888. He spent the remainder of his life in retirement from active duties and usually sought relief during the winter months in Los Angeles or Savannah. Few tributes to his memory were as striking as that in the *Ave Maria* (Notre Dame, Indiana): "The late Bishop Seidenbusch, O.S.B. was another of those silent workers whose selfless lives have helped to up build the church in America. Twenty years ago he was called from the quiet Benedictine abbey to organize a new vicariate in Northern Minnesota over which he presided with singular success until the erection of the see of St. Cloud. The pioneer work had then been done, but Bishop Seidenbusch was broken in health and he willingly laid down the episcopal burden to labor not less devotedly in a humbler capacity. His life was as edifying as it was full of great deeds for the Church and he was especially devout to the Blessed Virgin."

Apart from the inauguration of the observatory no prominent event in the development of the college is to be chronicled for this year. Abbot Peter continued to act as Director of Studies even after his election and to the end of the school year. Father Oswald Baran had been appointed Principal of the Commercial Department in the fall of 1894. The dramatic societies exhibited very few plays, the principal of which was "Garcia Morenos Tod" which was played by members of the St. Boniface Literary Association to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation. The total number of students enrolled was only 223 (36 seminarians and 187 in all other departments). On commencement day, June 20th, the degree of B.A. was conferred on 2 candidates, that of Ph.B. on 5 and that of M.A. on 25. Nine gold medals were awarded.

On July 10th a great meeting of the Alumni was held. On the 11th, Abbot Peter Engel was solemnly installed in office by the ordinary of the diocese, Bishop Marty, in the presence of the Archbishop of St. Paul, Most Rev. John Ireland, Bishops McGolrick of Duluth, Shanley of Jamestown, Fink of Kansas City, Kansas and Haid, Vicar Apostolic of North Carolina, four abbots and a great number of secular and regular clergymen.

1895-1896

In the second year of his administration, Abbot Bernard had resolved to extend the activity of the Benedictine Order to the pacific coast in response to an invitation from the late Bishop Junger of Nesqually, Washington. Property was purchased in Thurston County, Washington, about four miles east of Olympia and 29 miles from Tacoma for the purpose of founding a monastery and college. Here an elegant frame structure 100 feet long and 60 feet wide, four stories high, was built and ready for occupancy late in the summer of 1895. Fathers William Eversmann and Wolfgang Steinkogler were the pioneers in this western mission; they were joined in the spring of 1895 by Father Demetrius Juenemann, and when, in August of the same year, Abbot Peter paid his first official visit to the young foundation, he took with him Father Oswald Baran, whom he appointed Director of St. Martin's College (as the new institution was named). In September followed Frater Benedict Schmit and three lay brothers, among whom was Brother William Baldus who for a quarter of a century had presided over the kitchen at St. John's. The College was opened in September to a small class which, however, has been constantly growing until now it has crept far above the hundred mark. At later periods Fathers Matthew Britt, Justin Welz, Adolph Dingmann, Mark Wiechmann and Ulric Scheffold joined the faculty. Even the venerable pioneer of St. John's, Father Cornelius Wittmann, in 1896 volunteered to go West, and devote the rest of his life to another pioneer task. Nine years later, however, having almost completely lost his eyesight, he returned to St. John's, where if heaven grant him respite he will be able to greet the alumni of 1857 at the jubilee celebration. St. Martin's developed so rapidly that in the winter of 1903 arrangements were made to organize the community as an independent

priory. On March 9, 1904, Father Demetrius Juenemann was elected the first canonical prior of St. Martin's and duly confirmed by the Holy See.

At St. John's Father Oswald was replaced as Principal of the Commercial Department by Father Norbert Hofbauer. Having completed an advanced course in philosophy in Rome and graduated with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Father Michael Ott returned from Rome in September and was appointed Prefect of Studies, which position he still occupies. In October of the same year Frater Bruno Doerfler was sent to Rome to pursue advanced courses at the college of San Anselmo.

Work during the second term was seriously hampered by a siege of diphtheria, which began in March and lasted to the end of April. None of the cases, which exceeded fourscore in number (including the pupils of the Industrial School), proved fatal. Classes were not, however, interrupted, even for a single day and those who were not afflicted, adapted themselves to the situation stoically while the quarantine lasted. For the closing event, a play was again resorted to; the dramatic societies selected the Shakespearean comedy "The Merchant of Venice," in an adapted form, and played it fairly well on the eve of commencement day. The closing exercises were held on June 24th, the Bishop of St. Cloud presided for the last time (he died September 19th, 1896). Nine gold medals were awarded; the degree of A.M. was conferred on two candidates; that of Ph.B. on five; that of B.A. on three and that of M.A. on 33. The total enrollment was 227 (of which number 45 were seminarians and 182 in all other departments).

1896-1897

The Industrial School for Indian boys established in January 1885 was discontinued in June 1896 and the building occupied by the pupils became available for other purposes. The first floor of the building, the southern wing, which was damaged by the cyclone, was converted into shops and store rooms; the second floor was the temporary quarters of the abbey library; while the third floor was devoted to the museum and physical cabinet. Numerous generous donors had for years past presented curious and valuable specimens of every description, which for lack of proper space could not be displayed to advantage.

Among other improvements may be noted the organization of a reading room in connection with the students library, in its present quarters. The circulating library which at that time contained about 2,000 bound volumes, among them many valuable reference works, was henceforth daily at the disposal of those students who were ambitious to avail themselves of every opportunity to supplement their course of study by judicious reading. Shortly, magazines and newspapers were added to the equipment. (The first abbey library was on the second floor of the wing adjoining the south tower of the church, in a large room—since divided—facing east. The library had about 4000 volumes in 1880.)

Pleasant occasions for the students of 1897 were the visit of Bishop Shanley on September 29th and of Archbishop Gross on Thanksgiving Day. In the lecture course the most notable numbers were the lectures by Judge L.W. Collins and Mr. J.D. Sullivan, then county attorney of Stearns County.

Hitherto the twin church towers had harbored but one bell; in the spring of 1897 a chime of five bells was cast by Gardiner Campbell & Sons, Milwaukee, under supervision of Prof. John Singenberger. (Despite all the admiration our people had for Prof. Singenberger, they could never get him to come here in all the course of his long career in Milwaukee). They range in weight from 6150 to 1900 lbs. and are tuned to A, B, D, E, and F-sharp respectively. On May 12 Abbot Peter consecrated the chime; three days later its harmonious tongues pealed forth upon the evening air a song as full and sweet as these solitudes had never heard before.

One of first offices of the chime was to lament the death of one of the ancient figures in the history

of St. John's. On May 19 Brother Thaddeus Hoermann—Brother 'Taddy' he was familiarly called—closed his eyes in death after a life of almost fifty years spent in religion as a humble lay brother. For nearly thirty years his slow, lumbering conveyance had carried many a student or visitor from and to the railroad station, even before there was a railroad station at St. Cloud; nor did rain or shine either alter his schedule or the evenness of his temper. When advancing years incapacitated him for the service, he was sent to the monastery farm at West Union. The last days of his long life were spent at the Abbey. May his memory never perish.

A month after the installation of the bells, the great clock was put in position in the south tower of the church. Its mechanism operates the hands on the eight large dials (four in each tower) and connects with the chimes that strikes the quarters and full hours by day and night seasons. One of the last academic events was the oratorical contest on June 13th for a medal to be awarded in elocution. Only the board of judges, members of the faculty selected for the occasion, witnessed the struggle which lasted two hours and for which there were eight entries.

Commencement day was celebrated very quietly: no elaborate program had been prepared. On June 24th the usual award of prizes took place and before that day's sun had set, the class had scattered in all directions. On the list of the faculty were the names of 32 professors, besides three lecturers: the total enrollment of students was 227 (of which 39 were seminarians and 188 students of all other departments). The degree of Ph.B., was conferred on one candidate, that of M.A. on 34 graduates of the commercial course. Eleven medals were awarded.

1897-1898

These annals now have arrived within a decade of the present time. The closer the chronicler approaches the present, the more embarrassed is he in his choice of material from the numerous sources at his disposal. Hence he will confine himself to the principal events, leaving to some future historian the task of narrating the story of this decade in greater detail.

Frater Alcuin Deutsch was sent to the college of San Anselmo in Rome to pursue a higher course in Philosophy and kindred branches; and Father Anselm Ortmann attended special courses at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. Father Ulric Scheffold was appointed Principal of the Commercial Department as successor to Father Norbert Hofbauer, who now permanently retired from this department with which he had been connected, with exception of a few years, since its establishment in 1878.

Repeatedly dissatisfaction was expressed with the system according to which sports were conducted: here and there a voice timidly queried, "Why not start something like an Athletic Association?" The question was finally taken up and an organization by that name was called into being during the second term.

On October 16th Bishop James Trobec, the successor of the late Bishop Marty in the see of St. Cloud, paid his first visit as a bishop to St. John's and was accorded a reception. The students and members of the community formed a procession that escorted his carriage from the observatory to the abbey church where he was received according to the ceremonial. On the following day, which was the anniversary of the consecration of the church, he officiated at solemn pontifical High Mass and on the next day, the 18th, for the first time held ordinations here.

The best stage production of the year was Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," which was played on Washington's Birthday under the direction of Mr. Lawrence J. Vaughan, whose acquaintance with the stage eminently qualified him to produce something worthy of notice. Mr. Vaughan himself played the role of Mark Antony. We may observe in passing that since his ordination, Mr. Vaughan has gained the reputation of being a scholarly and convincing orator and lecturer in various parts of this country and Canada.

During the summer work was begun at decorating the church: the work was designed and executed by Mr. George F. Satory of Winona, Minnesota.

On three evenings in June, the University Band gave open-air concerts on the lawn before the main building. During the same month Mr. John P. Winter, 1895, a graduate of the commercial course and just on the threshold of his career as an attorney at law, delivered several interesting lectures on topics on Commercial Law.

A hot week of examinations followed—heat, such as no class of students ever experienced here. All kinds of cooling devices were used in vain and it was a great relief that commencement was set for the 22nd. On that day Bishop Trobec celebrated Holy Mass for the students and administered the sacrament of Confirmation to a class of 33. At 9 o'clock a.m. the school year was formally closed with the distribution of prizes and award of degrees. The diploma of M.A. was conferred on 42 graduates of the commercial course and 8 gold medals were awarded. The total enrollment for the year was 259 (of which number 43 were seminarians and 216 in all other departments).

1898-1899

The Seminary, which had hitherto been under the immediate supervision of a Prefect now received a Rector, the first to hold the office being Father Athanasius Meyer. Then as now, the members of the two classes in philosophy as well as the students of theology were called seminarians.

Little by little the electrical era began to manifest its presence: there were electric bells, electric clocks, the telegraph, the telephone, even some demonstrations with wireless telegraphy and X-rays had been made, but the most substantial accomplishment was the introduction of electric light. Owing to the isolated location of the institution, it was necessary to build a powerhouse for the dynamos and engine, and to "wire" the vast buildings, not forgetting even the laundry, observatory and stables. Work was begun during the summer and on October 10th the service was tested. The study halls were now brilliantly lit up by dazzling clusters of lamps. In the church the old Bailey reflectors with their oil-lamps made way for scores of incandescent bulbs arranged artistically about the capitals of pillars and along the walls of the sanctuary and shedding a light that lent new charms to the soft colors and gleams of gold in the decorations.

On September 24th occurred the death of Father Anthony Capser, who is known to the students of several classes as a professor and disciplinarian. He was 57 years of age and had served many years in the mission in Pennsylvania and the Western States.

On January 19th, 1899, the students attended services for the repose of the soul of Rev. E.J. Lawler, 1884, who died January 17th. He was pastor of Hinckley when that town was wiped out by flames in 1894 and many lives were lost. On that occasion he did heroic service, but his health suffered such a shock in consequence that he never fully recovered. At the time of his death he was chaplain of St. Mary's Hospital, Duluth.

By far the best dramatic production of the year was that entitled "Fidelis von Sigmaringen" by the members of the St. Boniface Literary Association during an entertainment complimentary to Bishop Trobec on March 21st.

In the lecture course appeared Judges Searle and Collins, and Mr. P.J. Winter, whose services merit the thanks of many classes that had the pleasure to listen to gentlemen of such distinction and ability.

On May 4th the seminarians in a body repaired to St. Cloud to assist at the obsequies of their late fellow-

student, Mr. Matthias Meyer, whose life had been cut short by consumption when he was about to enter upon the course of theological studies. He was a brother of Father Athanasius Meyer, the Rev. Rector of the Seminary.

The school year terminated on June 23rd when the class honors were awarded. Bishop Trobec and Rev. Dr. Heffron, Rector of St. Paul Seminary, himself an old student of 1879, addressed the outgoing class. The degree of Ph.B. was conferred on two candidates, that of A.M. on one, and that of M.A. on 30. Eight medals were awarded. The total enrollment was 237 (of which number 47 were seminarians and 190 students in all other departments).

During vacation Father Placidus Wingerter went to Rome to be a professor at the Greek College of San Atanasio, and Father Bruno Doerfler, who returned from the Eternal City was appointed Director of the University to succeed Father Alexius Hoffmann.

1899-1900

From the catalogue of 1899 it appears that the old designation of classes by numerals (such as First Class, Second Class, etc.) was no longer acceptable. The preparatory course was now to be styled the elementary course, with three years assigned for its work. The classical course was made to comprise seven years: the academic department comprised the third, second and first academic classes, the collegiate department comprised the classes of humanities, poetry, rhetoric and philosophy. For the ecclesiastical course four years were assigned (one year of philosophy, in addition to that in the classical course, and three of theology and allied studies).

If the scientific course was up to this time treated as a "useful complement of a liberal education," it was owing to the limited facilities for offering the student a comprehensive course. The time had arrived when it became advisable to establish a separate course for sciences. The faculty offered courses in general physics, applied electricity, mechanics, astronomy, zoology and botany.

In the Seminary, Father Bernard Kevenhoerster succeeded Father Athanasius Meyer as Rector; he has filled the office since that time to the present day. Father Athanasius was appointed to the responsible position of a master of novices in which capacity, in addition to numerous professorial duties, he is still active (He remained novice master to the end of his life in 1931).

During the vacation preceding the school year, the plastered ceilings in several of the class rooms were replaced by ceilings of pressed steel, and the rickety wooden staircase leading to the north side entrance made way for an elegant iron structure.

On Thanksgiving Day the several musical organizations presented a very interesting program, in which the vocal numbers were especially highly appreciated. On December 20, on the eve of the beginning of the Christmas holidays, the Alexian Literary Association presented the drama "William Tell," an adaptation of Schiller's famous drama.

Again relentless death knocked at the college gate, this time summoning in the prime of his life Father Lambert Thelen. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, August 25, 1874, and made his entire course at St. John's, became a member of the Benedictine Order in 1895 and was ordained a priest March 22, 1899. As early as May 1898, his health gave way and he was compelled to retire from active work. In July 1899 he was sent to Colorado to find relief in the air of the mountain region. All efforts were of no avail; he died at Pueblo, Colorado, March 8, 1900, and his remains were brought to St. John's for burial.

During the ensuing summer strenuous efforts were made to beautify the landscape with trees. The cyclone

(tornado) had swept away many acres of woodland and the bitter blasts of winter had full sway. Several brave attempts had already been made at building up a new forest, notably on the peninsula opposite the laundry, called "Adrianople," and in the tract between Caesar's bay and Boniface bay. The good work was continued north of the buildings, along the lakeshore and wherever, as a writer for *The Record* puts it, there was place to dig a hole. Although neither the present, nor even the next generation will see St. John's surrounded by such a forest as it had twenty years ago, the local arboriculturists have perpetuated their memories in a delightful way.

A prominent feature of the year was the revival of sports and the organization of the St. John's Athletic Association on a grander scale than ever. Under the auspices of the association, baseball and football teams were trained, games scheduled and sporting goods furnished. The fates and fortunes of the association will be narrated in a later chapter.

Closing exercises were held June 22. The degree of Ph.B. was conferred on two candidates; that of M.A. on 41. On the rolls were the names of 226 students (37 seminarians and 189 in all other departments). Eight medals were awarded. The catalogue was larger than that of any preceding year and was adorned with twelve half-tone engravings. A change was introduced in the naming of the classes of the classical course: they were now called, beginning with the lowest, the first, second, and third academic, and the freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior class. In the schedule for the scientific course, the first two years are identical with the first and second academic, the following five are independent. The class of 1900 signalized itself by adopting college colors (blue and cardinal) and a college yell. July 18th and 19th witnessed an enthusiastic assembly of the alumni, at which the various branches were well represented.

1900-1901

During vacation the Rt. Rev. President, Peter Engel, departed for Europe and after visiting the principal cities and Benedictine monasteries of the continent, attended the consecration of the church of San Anselmo, connected with the Benedictine university of the same name, in Rome, on November 11. He returned to St. John's December 16th.

The first class of the twentieth century sat down to its tasks promptly, resolved to set a pace for the following ninety-nine classes of the new age. A biological laboratory was fitted up in the first floor and classes in botany and zoology were organized.

On October 5 the students met in the Assembly Hall to celebrate the namesday of their Rev. Director, Father Bruno Doerfler. Music and addresses filled out a pleasant hour, and Father Bruno was made the recipient of several useful presents as souvenirs of the occasion. This may be a slight incident to commemorate; yet the event stands to the credit of the class of 1901, as demonstrating their respect for their superior.

As a pleasant close of the century, the Alexian Literary Association presented the stirring drama "Pizarro" on December 20th. So well was the play received, that the members accepted an invitation of Mr. Davidson, manager of the St. Cloud Opera House, to perform it in that city on January 16th following. The press notices were exceedingly complimentary.

An event, the first of its kind at the institution and one which turned out to be a veritable ovation, was the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the priesthood of Father Francis Mershman, the senior professor at the institution, on January 9, 1901. On January 1st Father Francis had celebrated the anniversary at Luxemburg, Stearns County, where he had offered the Holy Sacrifice for the first time twenty-five years before. The seminarians at St. John's felt that they could not permit the occasion to pass without a demonstration, for Father Francis had been a teacher in the seminary ever since 1876. On the evening of

the 9th, an entertainment was given by the seminarians assisted by the musical organizations of the college. Bishop Trobec and a number of the secular and regular clergy of the diocese and from neighboring states were present. Addresses were made in German, English and Latin, and a valuable keepsake was presented to the Rev. Jubilarian. Father Francis' name occurs in the list of the faculty as a professor since 1869. The snows of age are upon him now, but his cheerful disposition carries him triumphantly through the wear and strain of an educator's life.

Washington's birthday saw the debut of the newly organized St. John's University Dramatic Association in that fascinating comedy, "The Old Captain's Idea, or the Living Statue."

Early in the year the public was informed that the faculty contemplated building a gymnasium and a library in the near future, and before many moons elapsed, the first important steps had been taken to realize the idea. Mr. C.R. Aldrich, the Minneapolis architect, was entrusted with the task of drawing plans for both buildings. Work at excavation for the library building was begun April 12th and within a month the foundation walls were completed. The masons at once were set to work on the foundation for the gymnasium, which stands a very short distance to the northwest of the buildings, while the library is located off the southwest corner of the middle building. The contract for erection of the library was let to Mr. J. Heimann of St. Cloud for \$13,100. By the end of the school year both buildings were steadily progressing.

On June 20th, commencement exercises were held. Eight medals were awarded: the degree of B.A. was conferred on four graduates in the classical course and that of M.A. on 41 graduates of the commercial course. The total number of students enrolled was 243 (39 seminarians and 204 other students). "With the martial sounds of a drum and a fife" the outgoing class marched to the railway station with waving banners and streamers in college colors. The coaches placed at the disposal of the students, and even the locomotive, were decorated with the colors and so the first class of the twentieth century rushed out gleefully, hopefully into the broad field of action.

Four weeks later, July 17th, Father Norbert Hofbauer, whose name is familiar to many classes of students, closed his eyes in death. He had come to St. John's as a slip of a boy in 1867; he had no wealth beyond a few musical instruments and exceptionally brilliant talents, not only for music, but for almost every other subject. In 1873 he entered the Order, in 1877 he was ordained a priest: from 1877-1879 he was sub-prior and from 1879-1889 prior in the monastery. He organized the commercial college in 1877 and was its principal for many years. In the 1880's he organized the orchestra and was its director to within a short time before his death. A very brief illness preceded his death, which by reason of its comparative suddenness, came as a powerful shock to his many pupils and friends.

1901-1902

In consequence of the removal of the Collegeville station building by the Great Northern Railway Company, the authorities of the institution were compelled to erect near the station some kind of shelter for students and visitors to St. John's. A spacious two-story frame building was erected to accommodate the station agent, Mr. A.J. Kugler and his family, as well as the post office and express and ticket office.

Hitherto the duties of a chaplain had been divided between the Director of the College and the Director of the Sodality; it was now deemed expedient that the work be confided to one person and Father Bernard Kevenhorster, who had been appointed Director of the Sodality, became the first official Chaplain of the students, and holds the position at the present time.

Failing health induced Father John Katzner, the director of the musical department, to retire from active college work and take medical treatment. He has not regained his original health and vigor, nor taken up

college work since that time, but devotes himself to pomology and tree-culture, in both of which lines he has been very successful. His apple orchard and tree plantation are sights worth seeing. Some of the results of his experience have been communicated to horticultural journals. He is at present one of the vice-presidents of the Minnesota Horticulture Society. His successor in the direction of the musical department was Father Edmund Basel.

Father Ulric Scheffold, for four years Principal of the Commercial Department, resigned that position to go to Washington and help at building up St. Martin's College. He left St. John's just before the opening of the school term, and at once entered upon his duties in the west. At present he presides over a pastoral charge in Seattle, Washington. At St. John's, he was succeeded in the position of principal by Father Kilian Heid.

The Record in October 1901 chronicles the fact that Mr. Rupp was erecting a general store within a stone's throw from the cemetery. Since Mr. Broker's discontinuance of the store at Collegeville years ago, there had been no store in the vicinity.

When the rugged season set in, the new gymnasium, although not finished in the interior, was opened for use. "The new gymnasium," says *The Record* in November 1901 "presents a castle-like appearance of great symmetry and beauty." It is constructed of the best quality of Menominee pressed brick upon a massive granite foundation. The extreme length and breadth of the building are 120 and 93 feet respectively. The total height from the ground to the top of the 16-ft. flagstaff is 67-ft. The main building (63 x 114-ft.) is divided into two large halls. The one to the south is 30-ft wide, 60-ft. long and 22-ft. high; it will serve as a gymnasium and recreation room for the smaller boys. The larger hall is 60 x 80-ft. on the ground and 22-ft. high, with an elevated track running around the entire hall at an elevation of 9-ft. The room will be used by the larger students and will afford ample space for gymnastics and athletics. Being entirely free from pillars and other obstructions, it is an ideal place for handball, basketball, indoor baseball, tennis and other games, the running track serving admirably as a grand stand to accommodate the spectators. The two large halls of the main building are separated by a solid brick wall, so constructed that, in case the number of students will greatly increase, it can be removed without impairing the strength of the building in the least, thus providing an immense track-hall 60 x 110-ft. and 22-ft. from floor to ceiling. Nearest the main entrance, is the office of the physical director, whilst to the left a winding stairway ascends to the upper floor, in the circular tower. On the south side of the main passage are the bath and toilet-rooms. A large basement 20 x 90-ft. in dimensions, under the front portion of the building, will accommodate two bowling alleys. The second floor of the front contains a billiard room, 18 x 25-ft. in dimensions, from which access is gained to the running track in the main hall. The entire building is heated from the central steam plant and lighted by electricity. Next in order was the appropriate equipment of the gymnasium and the installation of a physical trainer.

On the evening of St. Cecilia's and of Thanksgiving Day the faculty and students were regaled by musical treats.

During the Christmas holidays the abbey library, the museum, musical department and photograph gallery were moved from their old-quarters to the new library building.

The latter is a three-story, fireproof structure, 52 x 88-ft. On the ground floor is the abbey library, which now contains about 21,000 volumes; on the second floor is the museum with office and storeroom. On the third floor are the photograph gallery and twelve music rooms, each furnished with either a piano or an organ. The space vacated in the college by the removal of the music rooms to the new building was utilized for classrooms.

Again the work of the classroom was crippled by the prevalence of sickness, so that not even a celebration of Washington's birthday could be held. The buildings were under quarantine for a short time, and no case

proved fatal.

In spring the outfit for the gymnasium arrived and the resources for exercise and amusement increased by the construction of a brick handball alley at the northern extremity of the campus, near the tennis court.

Father Bruno Doerfler found time amid his varied duties to promote fish-culture. It was through his efforts the institution obtained exclusive fishery rights in St. John's Lake, and in course of the summer, the State Fish Commission placed a considerable number of walleyed pike in the lake. At the same time a trout pond was constructed near the Watab for raising that excellent variety of fish. The work has grown considerably in dimensions and is now in charge of Father Bruno's brother, Father Hilary Doerfler.

At the commencement exercises June 20th the degree of B.A. was conferred on two candidates and that of M.A. on 40 graduates. Seven medals were awarded. The total enrollment for the year was 331, being the largest number hitherto enrolled. Of these, 46 were seminarians and 285 in all other courses. The great leap in numbers is partly due to the establishment of a winter school in 1901. This department was instituted for the benefit of young men whose circumstances did not permit them to attend school, except during the winter months. By way of an inducement, the terms were fixed for such students at \$90.00 to cover tuition and board from November 4th to March 25th.

1902-1903

After three years of meritorious work Father Bruno Doerfler laid down the burdens of his office and became librarian of the abbey. He subsequently became instrumental in organizing the German Catholic colony in the valley of the Saskatchewan, Canada; in 1905 left St. John's to assume editorial charge of the "St. Peters Bote," the organ of the colony, and since 1906 has been canonical prior of St. Peter's Monastery, Muenster, Saskatchewan. His successor in the office of director was Father Leonard Kapsner, who for two years previous had been treasurer of the university, and disciplinarian.

During vacation a campus had been graded for the juniors north of the buildings, thus making it possible to separate the older from the younger students more effectual during recreation time. Part of the third floor of the college buildings was converted into laboratories and lecture rooms for the departments of physics and chemistry, and the room formerly used as a chemical laboratory was turned over to the class in mechanical drawing.

On October 4th occurred the death of Father Melchior Bahner. Born in St. Cloud, Minnesota, December 9, 1870, he entered St. John's in 1883, made vows as a Benedictine on August 30, 1890, and was ordained April 25, 1894. Upon the advice of his physician, he went to the Bahama Islands in 1892 and after his ordination, assisted in the mission at Nassau. Early in the present year he felt that his earthly course was run and begged to return to Minnesota. He did not resume active work but continued steadily declining in health, until death released him from his sufferings at the age of not quite thirty-two years.

For Thanksgiving Day the St. John's University Dramatic Association prepared a catching German comedy "Rinaldo Rinaldini," and at the uuletide entertainment they performed "Major Andre," a tragedy. On February 1st and on Washington's birthday the musical organizations appeared in concerts.

After gracing the landscape for thirty long years, the romantic little chapel on the island fell a prey to flames on April 17, 1903. It had been built by students and clerics in 1872 and was much admired by all who saw its red walls and white spire gleam though its rich setting of forest.

It was a great year for athletics; the pages of *The Record* fairly bristle with glowing reports of victories along every line of effort. One event was well calculated to stir up a more general interest in physical

development, a feature in education that is too generally disregarded. It was the Field Day held May 27th, the first event of its kind in our history. On the program were a 50-yard dash, 100-yard dash, running broad jump, shot put, discus throwing, half-mile relay race, not to forget the sack-race.

On Commencement day, June 19th, the degree of Bachelor of Science was conferred on one candidate and the degree of M.A. on 27 graduates of the Commercial course. The usual exercises were diversified by an address by Mr. William Markoe, 1869, a zealous worker in the interests of the International Truth Society. Seven medals were awarded. During the year 337 students were enrolled (39 seminarians and 298 in all other departments).

1903-04

The staff of professors was increased by the return of Father Alcuin Deutsch from Rome, where he had spent six years in study at San Anselmo, graduating with the title of Doctor of Philosophy this year. He was at once appointed professor of philosophy and is active in that capacity to this day.

Although the Gymnasium and outfit were at hand for some time, physical training had not been organized on a systematic basis. In fall of this year (1903) a special instructor in this line of work was secured in Mr. Peter Boquel, of South Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. As a first venture he was engaged to teach from October 1 to April 1, covering the period when outdoor exercises are at a minimum and when the continual indoor life is most apt to tell upon the physical health of the student. The trainer, besides conducting the regular culture classes, voluntarily acted as coach for the athletic teams.

During October Mr. J.W. Arctander spent several days at the institution and created two pleasant evenings for the students by illustrated lectures on Alaska, its history, resources, attractions and future. His glowing accounts were a revelation to those who imagined that the North was synonymous with ice and death.

The annual retreat in the seminary was conducted by Rev. H.J. Untraut, of the diocese of La Crosse from February 23 to 26.

During the year the several organizations found time to prepare programs for the chief festival occasions. On Thanksgiving Day an entertainment was given by the musical organizations, the only specialty introduced being an exhibition of Indian club swinging. On December 15th, the 25th anniversary of the Rt. Rev. Abbot's ordination, an entertainment complimentary to him was given at which the St. John's University Dramatic Association performed "Maurice, the Woodcutter." On December 22 there was a concert, with gymnastical and *legerdemain* performances by Mr. A. Moosbrugger, of St. Cloud. On March 4, the Dramatic Association presented "Handy Andy," on the 17th a small program was executed. The last entertainment was on Memorial Day. On the latter also the Field Day exercises were held.

Although sickness was less prevalent than in proceeding years, two cases proved fatal. The first was the case of Joseph Hall, of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, who died November 20, 1903 after a brief and apparently not very serious illness; the second was Frank Fuessy, of Royalton, Minnesota, who succumbed to a severe siege of pneumonia on February 12, 1904. In both instances the remains were shipped to their homes for interment. Three priests of the Order and former professors closed their earthly career during this school year. Father Timothy Vaeth, born, in Baltimore, Maryland July 14, 1854, professed as a Benedictine in 1882, ordained July 26, 1885, and pastor successively at Luxemburg, St. Joseph, Duluth, New Munich and East Minneapolis, where he was stationed since 1894, died November 4, 1903. He was followed on March 11, 1904 by Father Pancratius Maehren, born in Conzen, near Cologne, Germany, May 24, 1846, professed 1871, ordained September 21, 1874. He was the first professor of natural sciences at St. John's and later labored in pastoral charges at Minneapolis, Meire Grove, Richmond, Pierz, Freeport and Farming. From September 1893 to April 1895 he was prior at the abbey. He died at Farming, his last station. On May 20,

1904 followed Father Joseph Vill, born January 8, 1835 in Germany, professed 1862, ordained February 2, 1867. He labored as missionary in many of the missions of Stearns County and towards the end of his life lived in retirement as chaplain at several charitable institutions.

The continual difficulty of procuring suitable male hands to conduct the kitchen led to the introduction of a number of Sisters of the Presentation from France in May 1904. A separate residence was built for them west of the library building.

On June 5th the members of the Alexian Literary Association held a public debate on the subject: Resolved that the adjudication of disputes between employers and employees should be made part of the administration of justice.

A distinguishing feature of the commencement exercises on June 23, was an address by the Rev. L.J. Vaughan, of Altoona, Wisconsin. On this occasion seven medals were awarded; the degree of Master of Arts was conferred on one candidate; that of Ph.B. on one; that of A.B. on two; that of B.S. on three; and that of M.A. on 21. Diplomas in shorthand and typewriting were conferred on three graduates. On the rolls appear the names of 310 students (32 seminarians and 278 in all other departments).

On June 29, after the class of 1904 had adjourned, the public celebration of the silver jubilee of the Rt. Rev. Abbot's ordination was celebrated; at the same time a great meeting of the alumni was held.

1904-1905

After an absence of five years in Rome, where he had filled responsible positions in the Greek College, Father Placidus Wingerter returned to St. John's and resumed his labors as professor of sacred scripture and languages. During his sojourn abroad he secured many valuable books for the faculty's library.

Father Hugo Tell, who received a pastoral appointment, was succeeded as treasurer of the college by Father Richard Simmer. For the gymnasium the services of Mr. A. Moosbrugger of St. Cloud, were secured for this year.

No changes of importance had been made in the curriculum of studies, but special efforts had been made to render the scientific course more efficient and attractive.

Pleasant and memorable days of the year were November 6th, the Rev. Director's namesday; Thanksgiving Day, on which "The Proscribed Heir" was produced; Yuletide entertainment, at which the German comical play "Der gescheiteste Schwabenstreich" proved the irresistible attraction; Washington's birthday; March 7th, when the play "Falsely Accused" was performed; the concert on April 4th; and finally that on June 13 in honor of the newly ordained disciplinarians, Fathers Pius Mainz and Paul Neussendorfer.

The annual retreat in the seminary was conducted from February 27 to March 3 by Father William O.S.B. of St. Cloud.

On October 27th, 1904, Father Alphonse Kuisle died at the abbey. Born in the diocese of Augsburg, Bavaria, October 15, 1839, professed as a Benedictine 1869, ordained December 22, 1872, he was pastor at St. Cloud, Richmond, Minneapolis, Stillwater and of Collegeville congregation (since 1895). Since 1899 he had also been sub-prior of the abbey. On February 27, 1905 Father Theodore Kevenhoerster died at Nassau, Bahama Islands. He was a brother of Father Bernard, rector of the seminary, and born in Alten-Essen, Prussia, April 8, 1877. He made profession as a Benedictine August 28, 1897 and was ordained June 15, 1902. Since 1897 he was a professor and disciplinarian in the commercial department. A few months after his ordination his health failed; upon the advice of physicians he repaired to Colorado, but returned to

Minnesota in the summer of 1903. In October of that year he left for the Bahamas, never more to return alive. He spent the rest of his days in missionary work at Nassau and the news of his death caused deep regret. His remains were escorted to St. John's by his brother, Father Bernard, and interred on March 7th.

On March 28 and April 5 Mr. Joseph B. Himsl, 1888 graduate, county attorney of Stearns County, lectured before the Commercial class on commercial papers and contracts. This was the second instance of a former alumnus ascending the lecture platform here.

Commencement day exercises were held June 21. The degree of A M. was conferred on one graduate (the late Rev. Nicholas Niedere of Hastings); that of Ph.B. on two; that of A.B. on one; that of M.A. on 20, and shorthand certificates on one. Seven medals were awarded. The entire number of students enrolled was 306 (34 seminarians and 272 in all other departments).

During vacation the Rev. Director, Father Leonard Kapsner, in consideration of the unsatisfactory state of his health, requested his superiors to relieve him from duty in the position he had held for three years. He continued in active service as a professor during part of the next school year, but in fall 1906 went to the Pacific slope to assist at St. Martin's College. He was succeeded as Director at St. John's by Father Albert Erkens, the present incumbent.

Father Albert is a native of Minnesota, being born in Jordan October 2, 1874. He pursued his course of classical studies at Teutopolis, Illinois, entered the Benedictine Order at St. John's in 1896 and was ordained June 11, 1901. He has been active as a professor since 1896 and brought the shorthand and typewriting sections into prominence and efficiency.

On August 5th, Father Simplicius Wimmer died at the abbey after a long illness. He was born in Bavaria, December 10, 1844, professed 1869, ordained September 29, 1872. He was one of the founders of the St. Boniface Literary Association. During his long career he attended many of the missions in the vicinity, for a number of years was professor of moral theology in the seminary, and for a short time was stationed in New York City.

1905-1906

During vacation one half of the basement in the north wing was fitted up as a bathroom with ten shower baths housed in marble stalls. This improvement together with the new lavatories, which are in every way abreast of the times, contributes to the sanitation of the buildings.

In September Father Bede Mayenberger was sent to Rome for a course of higher studies at San Anselmo. He is the fourth representative of St. John's at that institution.

For this school year Mr. Harry A. Comeau, of New London, Connecticut was secured as instructor in physical culture. He was well qualified for his line of work, having served his apprenticeship under skilled masters in the east. To the usual exercises he added, for such students as chose to avail themselves of the opportunity, lessons in fencing, boxing, wrestling, and athletics. He also had a set of physical examination instruments installed to examine and record the physical progress of his pupils.

Besides the usual monthly notes in department and application, monthly examinations and class notes were introduced. These notes were handed to the Rev. Director who supplied copies of them to parents or guardians, desirous of being informed of the pupil's progress. It is a timely provision and makes for thoroughness, at the same time offering a good opportunity for cooperation between the faculty and parents.

In the evening of September 21st, General C.C. Andrews, of St. Paul, Chief Fire Warden of the State of Minnesota and a vigorous champion of the cause of forestry, delivered an illustrated lecture on American and foreign forests and forestry, and made an earnest plea for the preservation of what is still left of woods.

On October 14 a reception was held for the Rt. Rev. Albert Pascal, vicar apostolic of Saskatchewan, who paid his first visit to the abbey, accompanied by the prior of St. Peter's, Canada, Rt. Rev. Alfred, O.S.B. Speeches and music filled the evening; the good bishop spoke very entertainingly of conditions in the north and of his labors in the Arctic Circle.

Four months later another prelate was accorded an enthusiastic reception. Bishop Augustine Schinner of the newly erected diocese of Superior was introduced by Bishop Trobec, of St. Cloud. In the forenoon of February 16th an entertainment was improvised for the distinguished visitor, at which he addressed the students in a vigorous and timely speech.

Fathers Alcuin Deutsch and Anselm Ortmann supplied the lecture course; the former delivered several illustrated lectures on Italy, the latter on astronomy. For these lectures an improved instrument, the reflectoscope, was purchased. It may be used for the purpose of projecting lantern slides in the ordinary way, but is especially valuable for reflecting colored prints and opaque objects.

In the life of the student, joys and sorrows alternate as well as they do in the rest of the world. The saddest feature of this year was the death of Eugene Whalen on January 18, 1906, after a short illness of tubercular meningitis. His sorrowing parents were present at his bedside when he surrendered his soul into the hands of his Creator.

The musical department suffered a loss (we hope, only temporarily) by the departure of Father Edmund Basel from Asheville, North Carolina early in March. He was afflicted with some throat trouble, found little or no relief in special treatment, and was advised to seek a milder climate. Last summer he left Asheville for Nassau, Bahama Islands, where he is at present.

The annual retreat for the seminarians was conducted from March 28 to 31 by the Rt. Rev. Abbot.

The first all-around Athletic Meet and Gymnastic Entertainment, the first of its kind given here, was held in the gymnasium in the afternoon of November 16, 1905. All the participants were junior students. A similar event, in which all the advanced classes took part, formed part of the delights of Thanksgiving Day. The literary and musical societies entertained on Thanksgiving, by performing "The Malediction," a drama in 3 acts; on December 21, there was a concert at which Professor Magnus G. Schutz, 1885 who had just left the far West to make his abode in the East, volunteered to sing some of his beat songs; on Washington's birthday the farce "Freedom of the Press" was presented; on March 7, the members of the Seminary gave a polyglot and musical entertainment; speeches and declamations were delivered in nine languages, six of which are taught at the institution; on St. Boniface Day, June 5, the dramatic section of the St. Boniface Literary Association presented "Oblivio."

On May 17, the venerable Father Cornelius Wittmann celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination. Although his sight was impaired, he officiated at the solemn High Mass, at which Bishop Trobec, of St. Cloud, delivered an elaborate discourse on the labors of the Benedictines in Minnesota and of the share Father Cornelius had in the work. In the evening the dramatic association presented the historical drama "Alexander III."

Much interest centered in the exercises of Field Day, May 30. It was an ideal day in every respect and many friends of outdoor sport from neighboring places had come to witness, the events. The exercises were

conducted on the college campus. 12 medals, gifts of alumni and friends of the institution, were awarded the winners in the several contests.

Commencement exercises were held on June 21. An address to the graduates was delivered by Mr. William F. Markoe, 1870, on "The Absolute Necessity of Christian Education for the Preservation of the Nation," a discourse as striking and convincing as it was interesting. Eight medals were awarded. The degree of A.B. was conferred on two candidates; that of M.A. on 30 and Amanuensis Certificates in Shorthand on three. Total enrollment: 314 (of which number 36 were seminarians and 278 in all other departments).

1906-1907

At last the jubilee year has dawned: the fiftieth school year opened and as these lines go to print is still in progress. By way of preparation for a new era, new floors were laid thorough out the greater part of the college buildings: the dining room received a ceiling of pressed steel and new electroliers.

Father Kilian Heid assumed direction of the orchestra, and Father Isidor Siegler took charge of the violin class, in view of the fact that Father Edmund Basel was still abroad under medical treatment.

An important change was made in the commercial course. It was observed that students considered themselves fully equipped for commercial life when they had learned a system of bookkeeping. They had gone forth but soon discovered that they lacked essentials and that without an ordinary fundamental education, the knowledge of bookkeeping was a pure delusion and a snare. Hence the course was divided into two grades, the first of which, as the catalogue reads, "comprises those studies that compose the foundation for a profitable pursuit of the technical subjects." For advancement to the second grade a written examination is required. This may oblige the student to remain longer at school than under the older system, but it ensures a better start and gives less occasion for dissatisfaction and regret.

On October 23, Mr. Warren Upham, secretary of the Minnesota State Historical Society, delivered a scholarly lecture on "The First White Men in Minnesota."

According to custom the Reverend Director's names day, November 15, was celebrated as a holiday. In the evening an entertainment was furnished by the college organizations. A magnificent leather armchair was presented the Reverend Director as a remembrance of that pleasant occasion.

A few days later Father Richard Simmer, chief disciplinarian of the junior hall and treasurer of the institution, left for a milder climate upon advice of physicians. He spent a part of the winter in Alabama, but intends to return before the end of the present term. The duties of treasurer were assumed by Father Pius Meinz.

Besides the lecture already mentioned there were three series during the winter: five by Father Alexius Hoffmann on North America, South America and the Insular Dependencies of the United States: two by Father Anselm Ortman on Glacial Lake Agassiz, and two by Father Bernard Kevenhoerster on Yellowstone Park. Most of the slides used for illustrating these lecturers were made by the home photographic artist, Father Fridolin Tembreull.

For Thanksgiving Day "The Merchant of Venice," adapted, was prepared, and rendered with exceptional success. It was followed up at the yuletide entertainment by a performance of "The Last of the Narragansetts."

During the Christmas holidays, the students whose circumstances did not permit them to enjoy the sweets

of vacation under their paternal roof-tree improvised an entertainment under the auspices of the "Hard Luck Club."

This year, too, the angel of death claimed a victim. Leo J. Heck left college in good health to spend the Christmas holidays at his home in St. Paul. Towards the end of the holidays he was prostrated with typhoid fever and died January 20. His classmates conveyed their condolence to his bereaved parents in the shape of a beautiful floral tribute and a handsomely executed set of resolutions.

Father John Katzner celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination on February 5, and although "there was none of the glamour and external signs of joy which usually surround such an occasion," he received numerous felicitations from those of his friends who had known him in the days of his energetic activity as a professor of music.

An unusually severe winter with much snow defeated all efforts at outdoor sport beyond a stroll for a whiff of fresh air; still indoor amusements and exercises were the order of the day without intermission. A specimen of the work accomplished in the gymnasium was given on the evening of February 12 at a gymnastic entertainment in the Assembly Hall. The program was executed by the body of student instructors under direction of Mr. H.A. Comeau.

On the evening of Washington's birthday an English sketch "The Hypochondriac" and a German farce "Der Dumme August" furnished an hour of pleasure. As at all functions of this kind, the orchestra filled the intervals with the best music at its disposal. On St. Benedict's day the dramatic association presented Bulwer-Lytton's "Cardinal Richelieu," a drama in five acts.

The annalist has thus reached the present. Three months of the school year remain, but it will scarcely be difficult to forecast their history. The attendance during the year was 303 (32 seminarians and 271 in all other departments). Minnesota furnishes the bulk of students (219); next follows Wisconsin with 26; North Dakota, 21; Iowa, 14; South Dakota, 10; New York, Montana and Canada, each 3; Michigan, Illinois, Louisiana and the Bahama Islands, each, 1. Although the total enrollment falls slightly short of last year, the average attendance has probably the best of any year.

CHAPTER VI

College Organizations

1894-1895

This sketch would be incomplete without some mention of the various organizations which, if not part of the educational curriculum, have in no small measure contributed to elevate the student body by cherishing the love of religion, by extending the knowledge obtained in the classroom, by physical exercises calculated to preserve that vigor of body which is so important during the years of study. Many a student fondly remembers the hours devoted to this kind of work and will no doubt be proud to learn that most of the organizations have continued to live and flourish down to the present hour. Many an organization sprouted up and lived for a short spell, it filled the need of the hour and, passed away when its task was done or taken over by a kindred society. Membership on these organizations has always been voluntary; at the head of each is a chief officer appointed by the President of the institution, and each is governed by a code of laws formed by the organizations themselves.

I. RELIGIOUS

1. *The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, the oldest organization of a religious character in the college,

was organized on the feast of St. Aloysius, June 21, 1870. "For some time past," writes a correspondent of *Der Wanderer* of that month "a number of students have been in the habit of meeting in the chapel during recreation time to recite the rosary. Finally, they took steps to found a society: Father Alexius Edelbrock was elected director and Father Simplicius Wimmer prefect. It was resolved to petition for aggregation to the principal Sodality which has its seat in Rome, where it was organized in 1563. The General of the Society of Jesus is empowered to aggregate other societies. Father Alexius sent a petition to Rev. P. Tschieder, S. J., of St. Louis, Missouri, through whose kind offices the necessary papers were secured from Rome. On the foundation day all the members (at present 23) received the Sacraments, and during Mass which was said for them by the Rev. Director of the Sodality, they pronounced the formula of consecration by which they devoted themselves in a special manner to the service of Our Lady."

The following were the original officers: Director, Father Alexius Edelbrock; prefect, Joseph Leuthard; secretary, Nicholas Steil; censors, John Schulte and J. Eha. Father Alexius filled the office of director till 1877; his successors were Father Mershman, 1877-83; Father Alfred Mayer, 1883-1887; Father Alexius Hoffmann, 1887-1890; Father Francis Mershman, 1890-1895; Father Michael Ott, 1895-1901. The present director is Father Bernard Kevenhoerster, since 1901.

Every day the members perform some devotional service in common. Originally it was customary to recite the Rosary publicly on Sundays: later the recitation of the Little Office of the Immaculate Conception on Saturdays was introduced, and this practice continues to the present time. The six Aloysian Sundays are observed by the majority of the members every year. Both the living and the dead share in the spiritual benefits of the Sodality. Every day prayers are said for them in the college chapel and, in case the Director is informed of the death of a member, a Requiem is sung for the repose of his soul.

As a successful means of fostering piety and of preserving young students from the pernicious influence of bad literature the Sodality organized a circulating library of several hundred volumes, books by reliable Catholic authors. In consideration of a moderate annual fee to cover necessary expenses and add to the stock of books on hand, members were permitted to use the library. Subsequently it was merged with the libraries of the two literary society (St. Boniface and St. Thomas) to form what is now the Students' Library. At present it contains about 2700 volumes which are accessible in the students reading room.

A handsomely engraved certificate, issued on the day of admission to the Sodality, reminds the members of the devout promise they made at college. Each member also receives a blue silk badge which is worn at all public functions of the Sodality.

2. Second in order of time is the *St. Benedict's Altar Boys Association*, which, as its name indicates, has for its worthy object the efficient training of boys to serve with propriety in the sanctuary. In the small chapel which was frequented by the students before 1882 there was no room for magnificent ritual. In 1882, Frater Chrysostom Schreiner, then official master of ceremonies of the abbey, organized the above named association with a membership of 24; the first student officials being Joseph Wolf, assistant and Fred. W. Faber, secretary. Fr. Chrysostom's successor in office were Fraters Meinrad Rettenmaier, Gerard Spielman, Corbinian Hermanutz, Demetrius Juenemann, Anselm Bartholmy, Gabriel Roerig, Fidelis Lucking and Matthew Britt. The latter, who presided from 1896-1900, had the society duly affiliated to the *St. John Berchmans Sanctuary Society* in January 1897, and the local organization exists by that name to this day. Frater Matthew also wrote, for the benefit of the boys in his charge, "A Ceremonial for Altar Boys" printed by *The Record* in 1899, which has since gained popularity and has appeared in a second edition. His successors in office were Frater Magnus Hermanutz, Father Alcuin Deutsch, Father Paul Neussendorfer. The present director is Frater Hildebrand Eickhoff. The society has a small library of works referring to liturgical matters.

3. A local center of the League of the Sacred Heart, Apostleship of Prayer, was organized in October 1896,

and duly affiliated. It began with a very encouraging membership and has always been generously patronized. The direction is retained by the Rt. Rev. President; the secretaries in immediate charge of the work of the League since its inception having been Father Alexius Hoffmann; Father Bruno Doerfler and, since 1902, Father Bernard Kevenhoerster.

II. LITERARY

1. The *Grace Literary Association* was organized in the year 1869 by the senior students for the purpose of acquiring mastery of the English language, especially in oratory and debate. It took its name in honor of the late Bishop Thomas L. Grace of St. Paul, one of the patrons of the institution. Among its charter members and chief promoters were Messieurs Joseph B. Cotter and J. McGlone.

In 1875 the name was changed for that of the *St. Thomas Literary Association*; under this name it continued to exist till 1883, then slumbered for two years, was revived in 1885 and quietly passed out of existence in 1887, leaving the field to the Alexian Literary Association (see below). Its presidents from the beginning were J. B. Cotter, M. T. Ryan, J. W. Nealis, Father Francis Mershman, 1871-78, Father Edward Ginther, Father Alfred Mayer and Father Chrysostom Schreiner. The members supported a library which was merged with that of the Sodality in 1883.

2. The *St. Boniface Literary Association* was organized January 13, 1870 by the German students for the cultivation of the German, language and literature. Its motto, *Virtuti et Musis*, was adopted upon the motion of Frater Bernard Locnikar, one of the first and most active members. The first officers were: president, Frater Boniface Moll; vice president, Frater Simplicius Wimmer; secretary, Bernard Buenkers; censors (critics), Frater Bernard Locnikar and Joseph Leuthard. The original membership was 21. At the time of its organization the society adopted a constitution which was changed in 1892. In March 1870 a library of choice German books was opened, and continued to be operated by the society until 1883 when it was united with the Sodality library. From 1870-1878 the members issued a manuscript monthly which bore the title of "Monatschrift des St. Bonifacius Literar Vereins." The publication appeared every month during the scholastic year and always contained excellent articles. As only one copy was issued and passed from hand to hand, it suffered slightly. The file is carefully preserved in the abbey library as one the monuments of earnest endeavor in the first quarter of the history of the institution. On March 7, 1895 the society celebrated the silver jubilee of its foundation. It has had the following presidents: Frater Boniface Moll, Father Bernard Locnikar, Father Augustine Brockmeier, Father Simplicius Wimmer, Father Ludger Ehrens, Father Chrysostom Schreiner, Father Stephen Koefler, Father Gerard Spielmann, Father Placidus Wingerter, Father Anselm Ortmann, Father Athanasius Meyer, and Father Alcuin Deutsch.

3. The *St. Aloysius Literary Society* (I was one of the charter members of the Society, of which Father Edward Ginther was moderator. We also published a few monthly periodicals. They are all lost.) was organized in 1877 by the students of the junior hall for practice in declamation and debate. Like many other youthful beings it wilted and died after one brief year of life.

4. The *Alexian Association* named in honor of the Rt. Rev. President of the institution, was organized by the professor of rhetoric, Father Xavier White in 1879, for the special benefit of the students attending the advance English classes. Apart from several minor differences, this society covered the same ground as the St. Thomas Literary Association and the membership of both societies was practically the same. It flourished to the end of 1885 with its Rev. founder, Father Xavier, as its president. After two years of inactivity it was resuscitated as the *Alexian Literary Association*, and to its mast was pinned the venerable motto of the defunct St. Thomas Literary Association "*Nunquam retrorsum.*," Father Chrysostom Schreiner was its president till 1891, his successors were Father Alexius Hoffmann, Father Charles Cannon, Father Michael Ott, and Father Bernard Kevenhoerster.

In 1888 the publication of the *St. John's University Record* was begun under the auspices of its members. The association also had a dramatic section since 1886.

5. The *Conference of St. Francis* was organized in 1879 among the seminarians; its members assembled weekly to discuss subjects pertaining to philosophy, ecclesiastical history, dogmatic and moral theology, and liturgy. Its president was the professor of theology, Father Francis Mershman. No mention is made of the Conference in catalogues after 1879.

6. Another literary society, that styled itself the *Philopolemic*, was organized in the seminary in 1888, but did not succeed in striking roots deep enough to secure permanence. In 1894 the *Concordia* association came into existence in the seminary, its general features being the same as those of the earlier organization. The members published a monthly which was multiplied by hectograph process. No mention is made of the *Concordia* in the catalogue of 1897 nor thereafter.

7. The *Thespian Club* was organized November 1891 and lived about five years. It was replaced in 1901 by *St. John's University Dramatic Association*.

8. Two reading circles (the *St. Charles*, probably named for Father Charles Cannon, and the *Irving*) flourished for some time during the final years of last century.

9. The newest arrival in the literary field is the *St. Thomas Aquinas Literary Association* organized in the Seminary in 1904 by Father Bernard Kevenhoerster, who has been its president since that time. In the same year the *St Johns Seminary Reading Circle* was formed.

10. In fall 1906 the *Commercial Reading Club* was organized; it supports a reading room with about 40 papers and magazines and meets regularly for debates. Its moderator is Father Kilian Heid.

III. MUSICAL

To what extent music was taught at old St. John's is rather difficult to determine at present: at all events a piano was purchased in 1862 and Father Wolfgang Northman, a skilful musician, gave music lessons. The only musical organization which can be traced down to 1868 is the brass band, or more properly the German Silver Band, as the instruments were made of that metal. Under the direction of Father Wolfgang Northman the band, small as it was, enjoyed much popularity. He was succeeded by his brother, the late Father Ulric Northman, who was also an accomplished musician and directed the band until 1888, when Father John Katzner became leader. In 1877 its membership was 14. In 1882 a complete set of new brass instruments was purchased, gradually reed instruments were introduced. The largest membership late in the last century was 28. With the growth of the orchestra, the band by degrees was moved to second place and since 1900 has ceased to exist as a permanent organization.

The forerunners of the Orchestra were the Haydn String Quartet in 1877 and a quintet in 1885. Under the leadership of the late Father Norbert Hofbauer an orchestra of twelve pieces was organized for the alumni reunion held in June 1886 and this organization survives to the present day, with a slight interruption in 1894. When Father Edmund Basel succeeded Father Norbert as director in 1900, the membership was 20, a number which it still maintains. It has a fairly large repertory, as it is called upon to assist at almost all public entertainments throughout the scholastic year.

From time to time other small instrumental organizations were formed which, however, lived too short a time to merit a detailed account.

No mention of singing societies is made in the catalogues before 1892, when a *Liederkrantz* existed.

Previous to that no fixed organization existed for secular music. Glee clubs and quartets were repeatedly formed, but none lived very long. Whenever songs were required for public occasions, the church choirs took the matter in hand. Since 1900 there have been several successful quartets both in the collegiate and seminary departments under direction of Father Louis Traufler and Richard Simmer.

In the early days church music was much of the same character as was found in the churches of the country and the compositions of Lambilotte, Schmidt and Werner were in much demand. When the Cecilian reform reached the West in the early 1870's it secured some patrons at St. John's. The choir composed of clerics and seminarians sang Cecilian music exclusively. Still the student choir adhered to the old school and it was only in the 1890s that both Cecilian music and Gregorian chant were adopted as the correct forms of ecclesiastical chant, chiefly through the efforts of Father Stanislaus Preiser and the late Father Norbert Hofbaner. Since 1890 the students' choir has been directed successively by Father Stanislaus, Father Edmund Basel, Father Louis Traufler and Father Richard Simmer. The members are instructed in modern and choral notation and have, besides, two rehearsals every week. The organists are Father Innocent Gertken and Frater Norbert Gertken.

IV. ATHLETIC

One of the earliest forms of sport indulged in here was boating and fishing. Very naturally, for the country round was covered with forests or stumps and in default, of a campus the lake was resorted to. It would be a mistake to suppose that the alumni of that day yearned for anything more; national games were scarcely known. Boat clubs were formed by the students; they purchased a serviceable rowboat and kept it in repair from year to year until it fell to pieces. In the catalogues may be found the names of many of the old boats, the Germania, Little Fraud, Gem, Argo, Hiawatha, etc. In 1886 the institution began to build the boats and nominal clubs were formed. After 1895 the clubs, too, disappeared and to this day no organization exists, a trifling fee being required of students who wish to use the boats on recreation days.

There is evidence that baseball was played as early as 1868. Mention of a ball team is made for the first time in the catalogue of 1874; Father Leo Winter was its president.

These clubs were reorganized every year and generally took a new name such as Invincibles, Athletics, Crusaders, Manhattans. Later on the inappropriateness of many of these names apparently struck the teams and they contented themselves with the technical designation of "nines."

Football was played after a free-for-all fashion, and generally on the ice, since the early 1870's, and only since the beginning of the present century have the approved forms been cultivated by the Athletic Association. Lawn tennis and handball also have been in vogue since 1890. Bowling, too, has been a favorite sport. At present there is a double alley in the basement of the gymnasium, and a handball alley and tennis court near the campus.

Sports for the last seven years have been carried on under the auspices of the Athletic Association, which was founded 1900.

V. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

When the silver jubilee of the establishment of St. John's was celebrated in connection with the consecration the new church on October 24, 1882, the alumni present met on the day following the solemnities to organize an association for the perpetuation "of the bond of friendship formed in college days, to advance the welfare, spiritual and temporal, of its members and to further the interests of Alma Mater."

At the organizing meeting, the late Father Xavier White in the chair, the following officers were elected:

Honorary President: Rt. Rev. Alexius Edelbrock, O.S.B.

President: Rev. Joseph B. Cotter

Spiritual Director: Rev. Xavier White, O.S.B.

Recording Secretary: Joseph M. Langan

Corresponding Secretary: Rev. E.J. Lawler

Treasurer: Alphonse DeMeules

A committee was appointed to frame a constitution and by-laws, with instructions to report at the first regular meeting, June 26, 1883. The constitution and by-laws were adopted and ordered printed.

The second regular meeting was held June 22, 1886 in the present assembly hall, then still unfinished. The most delightful features of the gathering were the banquet and speeches.

The third meeting was held August 28, 1890 on the day following the installation of the late Abbot Bernard Locnikar. On this occasion Mr. M. Nugent, 1881, was elected President.

Close upon the heels of this meeting followed the fourth, on July 21 and 22, 1891. To ensure a better attendance, local branches of the association had been organized during spring at St. Cloud, St. Paul and Minneapolis. Each branch sent a strong delegation. At the meeting Mr. L.J. Demeules, 1870, was elected President, and Rev. A. Christie, Spiritual Director. Scarcely less enthusiastic was the gathering held July 12 and 13, 1892, at which also a new local branch, that of Duluth-West Superior was represented. Mr. L.J. DeMeules was re-elected President of the Association.

On July 10, 1895, the day previous to the installation of Abbot Peter Engel, the sixth reunion was held, at which Mr. G. Mitsch, Jr. of St. Paul was chosen President.

Five years elapsed before another meeting was held. The seventh reunion took place July 18 and 19, 1900, and in numbers outstripped any of the previous gatherings.

The eighth reunion took place on June 29, 1904; it coincided with the silver jubilee of Rt. Rev. Abbot Peter Engel's ordination. Again a new branch, that of Western Stearns County, was represented for the first time. On this occasion most of the exercises were conducted in the new gymnasium and the alumni had an opportunity to mark the progress of the institution since the primitive days and conditions of 1867. The officers elected in 1904 and holding office at the present time are:

President: Charles F. Ladner, St. Cloud

Vice Presidents (and Presidents of the respective local branches): William Hoy, Minneapolis; John Heider, Duluth; Rev. Leo Winter, Western Stearns County; John Venne, St. Paul; John A. Ahmann, St. Cloud

Recording Secretary: F.A. Gross, Minneapolis

Treasurer: William Bohmer, Melrose

Spiritual Director: Rev. George Arctander

It is expected that a large number of alumni will participate in the jubilee exercises toward the end of June of the present year, 1907, to mark the passing of the fiftieth milestone.

CHAPTER VII

Conclusion

After fifty years of patient work and struggle, the institution looks complacently over the work accomplished and hopefully into the future. The rewards of toil are visible on every hand. From a tiny frame building on the banks of the Mississippi it has grown into a vast edifice second to few, if any, in the State of Minnesota. However, it is not this material growth that must be considered a gauge of the success of the institution. For fifty years it has endeavored to meet the wants of the youth of this new region by affording them an opportunity of acquiring an education for secular pursuits as well as for the ministry. True to the intentions of its founders and the character of the men in whose hands its destinies rested, it has aimed to be a Catholic school in spirit and deed.

Today the work presided over by the faculty is very extensive and 34 professors and disciplinarians devote themselves to the task. A preparatory course fits students for the classical and commercial course. A classical course of six years comprising the study of Religion, Latin, Greek, English, German, History, Geography both physical and political, Mathematics, and elective branches such as Physiology, Chemistry, Geology, Astronomy, Botany, Zoology and French, prepares the student for any of the learned professions. The scientific course with the facilities for the study of Physics, Electricity, Biology and Astronomy, Drawing and kindred branches bears witness to the fact that an effort is made to furnish advantageous opportunities for keeping in touch with the progress of the world in scientific matters. For almost thirty years a commercial course has been connected with the college. Not least in importance is the Theological Seminary which, if small in numbers, is efficient in work and has given the sacred ministry many members. The total attendance in all the courses in 1907, as has been stated above, was slightly in excess of 300. It is not expected that this figure will grow notably in the near future owing to the increasing number of educational institutions rising on all sides, still it is an encouraging number under the circumstances.

Our alumni? For a half-century from year to year, some alumni went forth to take up arms in the wider field of action; what has become of them? The snows and infirmities of advancing years are upon some of them now, and many of them have laid down the arms of toil and rest in memory only. It will be impossible in the space of a few pages to recall all those of whose career the institution has had occasion to take notice; hence this sketch will confine itself to a limited range. To begin with the seminary. From 1867 to 1896 the institution prepared for the sacred ministry 204 candidates, 82 of these being Benedictines and 122 members of the secular clergy (*American Ecclesiastical Review*, XVII., p.289.). At present the whole number is 335 of whom 132 are Benedictines and 203 secular clergymen or members of other religious orders. This number may appear small for fifty years, but St. John's has been only a private seminary. Of its graduates, only one has been decorated with Episcopal honors, the Right Rev. Joseph B. Cotter, of Winona, Minnesota. The priests who have gone forth from the seminary chiefly labor in the West, in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North and South Dakota and Nebraska. One, Rt. Rev. Edward Nagl, vicar general of the diocese of St. Cloud, was created a domestic prelate with the title and insignia of a monsignor by Pope Leo XIII in 1901, and Very Rev. Martin Noesen, 1896, is the present vicar general of the diocese of Lead, South Dakota. Rev. F. X. Stemper, former vicar general of the apostolic vicariate of Northern Minnesota, was also a graduate of the seminary.

The graduates in the other courses may be found in almost any of the numerous walks of life (some of them practice law, others medicine; some are prosperous businessmen, others pursue humbler but equally

useful avocations). Some have entered other schools and graduated in higher courses. Thus three members of the hierarchy of the United States, the Most Rev. Alexander Christie, Archbishop of Oregon City, Rt. Rev. John Shanley, Bishop of Fargo and Rt. Rev. James J. Keane, Bishop of Cheyenne, studied their classics at St. John's and received their theological education elsewhere. In the Minnesota State legislature of 1907 were three alumni of St. John's (Senators J.C. Hardy, J.E.C. Robinson and J.J. Ahmann).

Under God, the success of this work was undoubtedly due in great part to the well directed effort of the faculty, and it is with pride we recall the memory of those kind and earnest professors who have ceased from toil and gone to their reward. Nor must the patrons and benefactors of the institution be forgotten. First of all, in order of time, were the first two bishops of St. Paul, Rt. Revs. Joseph Cretin and Thomas Grace, and subsequently the bishops of St. Cloud, Otto Zardetti, Martin Marty, O.S.B. and James Trobec, each of whom gave the institution substantial proof of his interest. Moreover, a great debt of gratitude is due to the clergy of this and neighboring states and to the generous donors of medals since 1880. Among these donors have been Bishops Seidenbusch, Zardetti, Marty, Trobec and Shanley, Mgrs. J. Bauer and E. Nagl, St. Cloud, Revs. C.V. Gamache, E. J. Lawlor, F. Goebel, P. Cary, M. Noesen, G. Gaskell, F.X. Stemper, D. Lynch; Messrs. L.W. Collins, D.B. Searle, H.C. Waite, J.W. Arctander, J.J. Hill, Thomas Bruenner, F.E. Searle, J. Caulfield, S. Wimmer (Sebastian Wimmer, nephew of Archabot Boniface, who lived at St. Mary's, Pennsylvania, but the last year of his life lived near Albany, Minnesota. He left us about 1000 volumes of his private library), M. Maurin, J. Hoeschen and the Alumni Association.

The Golden Jubilee will gather to the bosom of Alma Mater representatives of every school year, from every part of the Union and the event will be one memorable forever in the annals of the institution. Then memory will carry them back to the scenes and places hallowed by the light of youth, they will tell of the little trials and struggles encountered in their college days and go forth strengthened anew to take upon themselves the responsibilities of life and fulfill the purpose for which they were fitted by their education. God speed their efforts and perpetuate their success!

SUPPLEMENT, 1906-1921

Abbot Peter Engel, Second Period: 1906 to 1921

THE COLLEGE, 1905 - 1920

Father Albert Erkens, the son of Fred Erkens of the class of 1888, was born at Jordan, MN October 2, 1874. He intended to become a member of the Franciscan Order and for that purpose studied at Quincy and Teutopolis, Illinois. Eventually, however, he decided to be Benedictine and applied for admission to St. John's Abbey in 1895. He made profession August 15, 1893 and was ordained June 11, 1901.

Under his service as rector, there is a detailed specification, for the first time, of what the institution had to offer in the line of Physical Culture and Athletics. The Annual for 1905 - 06 says: "All the students in the Theological, Commercial and Junior Halls, as also all the students up to the Third Academic in the Senior Hall, unless excused by physical disability, are required to attend the gymnasium classes, each student exercising twice weekly." (p. 51) Mr. Harry A. Comeau, of New London, Connecticut, was placed at the head of the department of Physical Culture and Athletics. Intramural games were favored in preference to contests with outside teams. Details of events will be found in the pages of the St. John's Record.

In 1907 the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment and organization of St. John's College was due. It was marked by a large gathering of former students on June 26th, representing almost every school year since the birth of the institution. A few weeks earlier the faculty of the College of Science, Literature and Arts of the University of Minnesota passed a resolution admitting the graduates of St. John's to the University without examination until further notice. This was regarded as a valuable recognition of the scholastic

status of the school. (Record, 1907, p. 362.)

Few improvements were as enthusiastically hailed as the preparation of a new campus, for the time-honored playground at the front door of the institution, in use for forty years, had proved to be too small for the various new recreational activities of the student body. It was decided by the faculty to provide a new, better and larger field for sports, for which purpose the cranberry swamp north of the older campus was drained. The new campus (athletic field) was 800 feet long and 240 wide. Work began in May 1908 by a large crew directed by contractor Thomas Barrett of St. Cloud.

In the fourth year of his administration, Father Albert's health was so poor that he was obliged to withdraw from work. Feeling that the constant strain imposed upon him by the varied duties of his position, was breaking him down, he asked to be relieved in June 1909.

With the spring of 1909 a new era in the church life of the College was inaugurated by the introduction of the chant enjoined by Pope Pius X. Preparations had to some extent been made the year before. Rev. Gregory Huegle, OSB of Conception Abbey had delivered several lectures on the Vatican choral. Now the necessary books had been procured and a choir had been trained. "The Vatican choral (Plain Chant) is now a reality at St. John's", says the Record of March 1909, (p. 151). "The college choir made the first attempt at it on the first Friday of the month. We hardly think (says the fastidious reporter) the angels were attracted unless it was by the good will shown in conformity with the Pope's wishes. However, the choir has made considerable progress since and renders the Ordinary of the Mass edifyingly. A "Schola" selected from among the seminarians has already gained our hearts for the Sunday "Propers" which they sing at the students' Mass. To the monastic choir thus far belongs the palm for excellent rendition; to listen to it, conveys some idea of the possibilities in art and devotion contained in the Vatican choral."

After the fifty-second commencement, June 17, 1909, Father Albert left for the West, where he subsequently became a member of St. Martin's Abbey, at Lacey, Washington. His physicians advised him to relinquish school work; accordingly he received pastoral charges in different parts of Seattle.

Father Bernard Kevenhoerster was succeeded in the office of Rector of the theological seminary in the fall of 1907 by Father Alcuin Deutsch. The ecclesiastical course, strictly so called, at one time covered five years: two of Philosophy, with Church History, Patrology, Hebrew, Introduction to Holy Scripture, and three of Theology with Church History, Scripture, Canon Law, Sacred Liturgy and Chant.

Statistics for 1906 - 09: Total enrollment 1906: 314; 1907: 304; 1908: 282, and 1909, 328. During 1909 there were 38 students in the Seminary, of whom one half were Benedictines, the others were candidates for the diocesan clergy of various dioceses.

Father Alcuin, (the future fifth Abbot of St. John's Abbey) was made Rector of the University on August 11, 1909 and retained direction of the Seminary, which was under the direct charge of Father Severin Gertken with the title of Prefect. The new head of the school was aware of the needs of the institution, as he had not only been a student there himself six years, but had for several years been in touch with the administration both as a professor and a disciplinarian. At this time the ecclesiastical course was extended to six years: two of Philosophy and four of Theology.

During the first year of his incumbency in the office of Rector, Father Alcuin planned the erection of a separate building for the laboratories and classes in physical sciences, the realization of a wish of Abbot Peter Engel, his superior. "The building," says the St. John's Record will be fire-proof and up-to-date construction. Its dimensions are 60 by 100 feet, and it will be three stories high, besides the basement. In the basement spacious rooms are assigned to mechanical and electrical engineering. Besides, it contains a workshop and a lathe room, storage battery and store rooms. On the first floor the physical and biological

departments will be located, the space being divided into several laboratories, library and professors' rooms. The second floor is given over to chemistry, where laboratories for general and special work will be provided. Two spacious lecture rooms are likewise located on this floor, and a room for geological purposes. The third floor contains a large lecture room and quarters for the drafting department." In the main, this plan was carried out and the arrangement continues to the present day, except that the large lecture room on the third floor has been converted into a museum. In the turret a meteorological station was set up and a radio outfit found room on the first floor. The cost of the building was about \$40,000. (This science building was called Engel Hall until the new science center was built. The building is now called Simons Hall and houses the Social and Political Sciences.)

The annals of the school record the fact that on May 25, 1911, two students arrived from Manila, Philippine Islands, to familiarize themselves with the use of the English language. There were both Benedictines from the ancient Spanish monastery of Montserrat in Catalonia, and were members of the staff of the College of St. Bede in the city of Manila. At intervals, since that time, a few other Benedictines connected with the same school, came to St. John's for the same purpose. Incidentally, their presence stimulated a momentary enthusiasm for the study of the Spanish language here and several members of the faculty took a lively interest in the study.

Hardly was the Science Hall finished, when a 1914 extension of 110 feet by 60 feet was added to the western extremity of the main building to house the kitchen and study halls. It is built of brick throughout, and is in every way a modern edifice. (This building is known as St. Luke Hall.)

Few features in the immediate area are as much admired as the Lourdes grotto and the unique park which forms its setting. Work had been begun on it in 1910, but it was not completed till the summer of 1912. The statue of the Blessed Virgin is placed in a niche built of rubble stone, and faces the lake. A small fountain graces the lawn below the statue. A row of lawn tiers rises gradually from the lake shore to the level of the old campus, and an oval-shaped walk of cement encircles the shrine.

"First Things" are always matters of interest in any community. The year 1912 will be remembered for several things. In the fall of that year came the first automobile, as has already been mentioned; it was for private use only. And in December Mr. Davidson of St. Cloud entertained the students and faculty with the first moving picture, which consisted of scenes from the life of the Savior. Since that time the "movie" has been a familiar form of instruction and entertainment.

Father Michael Ott, who had been Director of Studies for all departments since 1895, received a successor in office August 29, 1913 in the person of Father Benedict Schmitt. In October of the same year Father Alcuin withdrew from the vice-presidency and rector-ship after four years of strenuous efforts to develop the institution in every direction. The immediate reason of his retirement was poor health. For the next three years he was engaged in parochial work; we shall see how he was recalled after the decease of Father Francis Mershman to take the chair of Moral Theology. "In his four years of office," says the Record, Fr. Alcuin had endeared himself to the students. His kindness towards all and the tact he displayed in handling the many cases submitted to his judgment, merit for him much honor and gratitude. He was ever a kind disciplinarian, not exacting too much, but firm in his demands; a kind and willing adviser, ever ready with a helping hand for all that consulted him." (St. John's Record, 1913, p.41)

Official announcement of the appointment of Father Kilian Heid to succeed Father Alcuin as vice-president and director was made October 26, 1913, and he entered upon office at once, resolved to give the school a business-like administration, for he had been principal and teacher in the Commercial Department for many years. A native of Stearns County, he was born within 20 miles of the institution and had been raised and educated within the borders of that county. Like his predecessor in office he had always moved in an academic atmosphere and was no stranger to the questions agitating student circles and not unfamiliar with

the manifold problems confronting the manager of a large boarding school in the twentieth century. It was his task to direct in large measure the destinies of the school during the World War which, although the din of arms resounded in another land, stirred souls whenever human hearts were beating either in sympathy with or in hostility to one or the other of the conflicting nations.

For some years there had been discussion regarding affiliation of the College with the University of Minnesota. In spring 1915 two representatives of the latter personally acquainted themselves with the working of the school. From the summer of 1915 dates the entrance of the institution into the field of wireless telegraphy, since known as radio. Aerials were erected under the supervision of Father Hilary Doerfler north of the Science Hall and the necessary apparatus was installed in that building.

On Good Friday 1917 Congress declared that a state of war existed between the United States and Germany. Two days later it was reported that six students had voluntarily enlisted in the army; seven weeks later the Record (p. 417) states that "thirty seven students responded to President Wilson's proclamation and offered their services to our country by registering in the local precinct. Former students take up war activities and are scattered over the Continent: A. Krampff, '16, is sent to Honolulu preparatory to going over to France with an aviation corps; Dr. Phillip Stangle, '02, joins the Medical Reserve Corps at Fort Riley, and Roman Schaefer, '16, enlisted in the Navy, while a good number apply for entry into the Officers' Reserve Corps."

Occasionally the students were called upon to contribute to the War Fund for one or the other purpose. Thus the fall 1917 they collected \$75 as a contribution towards a Literary Fund for the boys in the Army, and on the fourth anniversary of the Rev. Rector's installation they presented him with a Liberty Bond and a bust of Abraham Lincoln. From this time forward, the St. John's University Record contains many interesting items concerning the War; also lists of former students in the service of the country during the great struggle.

One of the bright features of the winter of 1917 - 1918 was the launching of a University extension course with lectures by three of the most prominent professors, delivered in the St. Cloud Institute by request of Bishop Joseph F. Busch. Universal interest was, however, centered on the various phases of the War and in consequence the enterprise never attained to full bloom.

The sixty-first annual commencement was exceedingly simple. On June 7th 1918 there was a little music, and then the Rev. Rector, who never wearied his audiences by lengthy oratory, before dismissing the students, reminded them of the new responsibilities laid upon them at this time. "He concluded by stating that in accordance with the wishes of the Government and of the donors of gold medals, the money customarily expended for prizes would this year be donated to War charities. The announcement was greeted with universal applause." (Record 1919, p. 410) Accordingly the names of the students entitled to medals were read and published, but no medal were actually conferred.

Fall of 1918 will be remembered for the influenza epidemic that wrought havoc even worse than war in this country as well as in other parts of the world. While the Angel of Death was scourging the lands in which peace still reigned, the last scenes in the World War were being enacted. Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, was enthusiastically and thankfully greeted and celebrated, as well as Thanksgiving Day.

School closed on June 18, 1919; a week later a large number of former Alumni gathered for a joyful reunion after so many gloomy days. A special feature of the event was the dedication of a memorial tablet in bronze placed in the Memorial Garden on the hill near the reservoir. "Reclining on the left slope of the hill that forms the background of the garden lies a huge granite boulder, on which is imbedded a large bronze tablet containing the roster of 486 Alumni of St. John's who had served in the late war. The dedication of this monument was the great event of this day's program. A large United States flag covered

the boulder. When the crowd had spread itself out in front of the garden and on the opposite embankment, Mr. Frank Gross, 1889, president of the Alumni Association delivered an address" (Record 1919, p. 355), after which Carl Ladner, 1911, who had served in the army in France, unveiled the tablet, on which a star marks those who died in service.

The dedication of this memorial was the last event in Father Kilian's career as Rector; he was succeeded at the opening of the new school year by Father Charles Cannon, a native of Wisconsin, who was ordained in 1896, since which time he had served both in the College and in parishes in this State and in Washington. He was stationed at Detroit Lakes, Minn. When he was summoned to the rector-ship of the College, a position for which his character and scholarly attainments eminently qualified him, he had in a short time, by his kindness and the sincere interest he evinced in the welfare of the student body, won a place in the heart of every student in the College. (Record, Oct. 1919)

But in the spring of 1920 came another spell of influenza, so violent that it carried off six of the students within three weeks. Nevertheless routine was not seriously interfered with; class work and amusements went on as ever. All the world was suffering a similar or worse affliction and gloomy faces would not, after all, have caused a change for the better.

One of the new rector's ambitions (Father Charles Cannon) was to change in 1915 the curriculum of the preparatory course, which, while at an earlier day it had been a real accommodation to students in northern Minnesota, was now considered a drawback and no longer in keeping with the character of an institution such as St. John's aimed to be. The faculty met to discuss the situation and decided to discontinue the preparatory courses in order to gain accommodations for more High School and College students. Accordingly, only such applicants who had finished the Eighth Grade would be admitted, "This changed was rendered necessary by the increased registration in the high school and college departments and the growing demand for specialized and advanced courses." At the same time it was announced that a limited number of private rooms would be at the disposal of college students.

St. John's was and still is a boarding school with very few day scholars. Provision of suitable accommodations to meet the need and demands of a new generation of students was connected with considerable expense; for this reason, too, it was expedient to eliminate courses which young men might pursue at less cost in schools nearer their homes.

For the accommodation of College students desiring to have private rooms, the Rev. Rector had planned an extension to the wing in which the old study halls were located. This matter was engrossing the attention of the faculty when Father Charles Cannon asked to be relieved from duty as Rector as the strain was too heavy for his delicate constitution. His successor was Father Alphonse Sausen, who presided from 1920 – 1924, when he was sent to Oklahoma as administrator of Sacred Heart Abbey.

Statistics for 1910 – 1920: total enrollment in 1910: 359; in 1911: 391; in 1912: 435; in 1913: 415; in 1914: 431; in 1915: 380; in 1916: 421; in 1917: 442; in 1918: 439; in 1919: 398, and in 1920: 486.

The catalogue for 1920 is more explicit than its predecessors in outlining the courses offered in the several departments.

I. The School of Theology had courses in Dogmatic Theology covering four years; Moral Theology also four years; Sacred Scripture (Introduction and Exegesis), church History, Patrology, Canon Law, two years; Sacred Liturgy, Homiletics, Pastoral Theology, Sacred Art and Archaeology; Pedagogy, Hebrew and Modern Languages, Bookkeeping, Gregorian Chant. The student attended on an average 22 lectures a week.

II. The College. In addition to the regular College course a two year pre-law and a two year pre-

medical course were designed for students preparing for law or medicine and were so arranged as to meet the entrance requirements of the State University of Minnesota. A successful completion of this course would enable students to begin the study of law or medicine in any of the recognized schools which exact two years of college work (p 35).

Courses: Evidences of Religion; 2 years; Philosophy, 10 courses, Pedagogy, 2 courses; ethics, 2 courses; Latin, 4 years; English, 14 courses; Greek, 4 courses; History, 2 courses; Mathematics, 7 courses; Elocution; Biology, 2 courses; Chemistry, 4 courses; Physics, 3 courses; Psychology, 1 course; Astronomy, 1 course; Geology, 2 courses; Public Speaking; Manual Training Shop Work, 3 courses. Modern languages: German, 8 courses; French, 3 courses; Spanish, 2 courses; Italian, 3 courses; Scientific German, 2 courses.

III. High School, or Academic Department. The following courses were offered:

Christian Doctrine, 4 courses; Latin 4; English 4; History 3, Mathematics 5, Elocution 3, Biology 2, Physics 1, Chemistry 1, Physiography 1, Shorthand and Typewriting, Civics, Public Speaking, Political Economy, Business Law and Arithmetic, Commercial Geography, Bookkeeping, History of Commerce.

IV. Commercial Department: Courses in Christian Doctrine, English, Arithmetic, Bookkeeping, Correspondence, Commercial Geography, Commercial Law, Civil Government, Political Economy, Parliamentary Law, Public Speaking and Penmanship.

V. Special Departments: 1) Shorthand, Typewriting and Office Training, 2) Music: Piano, Violin, Voice Culture, Harmony, Counterpoint and History of Music, 3) Drawing: Mechanical, Technical and Engineering Drawing, Architectural Sketching and Drafting, Descriptive Geometry, Elementary Machine Drawing and Design, Kinematics, Surveying, Topographical Drawing, Elements of Architecture, Perspective, Shades and Shadows, Graphic Statistics, Stereotomy, Freehand Drawing, Decorative Design, Show Card Writing, Specifications and Working Drawings. 4) Department of Physical Culture and Athletics.

At the time of Father Charles Cannon's withdrawal from the rector-ship he was supported in the administration of the school by Father Benedict Schmitt as Prefect of Studies, while Father Alcuin Deutsch was chaplain and spiritual director. A committee consisting of the Very Rev. Prior Alcuin Deutsch and Fathers Kilian Heid, Severin Gertken and Virgil Michel was in charge of the Branches of Study and Father Daniel Bangart and Father David Yuenger constituted a committee on Lectures and Entertainments. The institution of these committees were a new feature in the management of the College, the matters handled by them having hitherto been under the control of the Director or Vice-President.

Professors and Assistants: The number of professors in the Seminary and College was 20; in the High School and Preparatory Departments, 40; in the Commercial Department, 16; in that of Music, 10. Many of the instructors worked in two or even more departments.

At the annual Commencement June 17, 1920, the following degrees were conferred: Masters of Arts (M.A.) 8; Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) 6; Certificate for two years college work 11; Certificate of Graduation from High School 22; Certificate of Graduation in Commercial Department 15; Certificate in Shorthand and Typewriting 23.

Four medals were awarded to prize winners in contests, 8 for class honors and 5 for excellence in athletics.

In order to increase the proficiency of the staff of instructors, many of the younger members of the community have for the last forty years have been sent to other places for higher studies. A beginning was made in 1893 when the international Benedictine University known as the Anselmianum or College of St.

Anselm in Rome, was re-opened on the Aventine Hill in that city.

Father Michael Ott, a cleric in minor orders, was sent out in 1893 and returned two years later with the degree of Doctor in Philosophy, to which he did honor by teaching Philosophy in St. John's for twenty-four years up to the time when he was made abbot of St. Peter's in Saskatchewan in 1919. Next, Father Bruno Doerfler was sent over to take an advanced course in Theology and Canon Law; he returned four years later, in 1899. Father Alcuin Deutsch entered the College of St. Anselm in 1897, studied Theology and Philosophy and returned with the degree of Doctor in Sacred Theology in 1903; Father Bede Mayenberger was sent to Rome in 1905, but unfortunately his constitution was not equal to the demands made upon it and he returned two years later. In 1909 Father Alphonse Sausen and in 1910 Father Ulric Beste were sent to Rome: the former returned in 1912, the later in 1915 with the degree of Doctor in Canon Law. Father Otto Weisser studied organ and ecclesiastical music at Regensburg and at Metten in Bavaria from 1895 – 1897. Father Anselm Ortmann took special scientific courses at John Hopkins University in Baltimore. Father Polycarp Hansen studied higher mathematics at Columbia College in New York 1910-11; Father Virgil Michel was sent to the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. in 1918 and took the degree of Ph.D. in 1918; six years later he heard lectures in Scholastic Philosophy in Rome and at Louvain in Belgium. During the period of the World War no students were sent abroad. With the return of peace, Father Basil Stegmann in 1918 entered on a course of studies in Sacred Scripture, graduating in 1921 and supplementing his work with special courses in Rome. Father Cuthbert Goeb attended lectures in History at the Catholic University at Washington, D.C. 1921-1922. In addition, a number of professors frequented the University of Minnesota and other universities in this country for special courses. Father Celestine Kapsner attended Catholic University of America 1925-26 with an M.A. in theology.

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