McMILLAN HALL.

Notable among the events of the University year was the laying of the corner-stone of McMullan Hall, the University’s first dormitory for women, on October 20, 1906. A large company of graduates and friends of the University assembled for the occasion. Prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. McKittrick, Chancellor Chaplin made brief remarks, and Mr. W. K. Bixby gave the principal address. After the stone had been duly laid, a reception was given by the Alumnae Association in the British Pavilion, in honor of an event so significant in the history of the higher education of women in the West. Mr. Bixby’s address was as follows:

“The name to be borne by the structure of which we lay the corner-stone today means so much to me, so many memories cluster about it, so much of the inspiration of my life is associated with it, that I may be pardoned if the personal note dominates in what I have to say.

“This building is designed to crown with completion a plan left unfinished by the death of William McMillan. The immediate donor is here, carrying on with cheerful devotion and simple modesty the work of helpfulness which she has set her-
self to do. The burdens she has lightened, the sorrows she has assuaged, the joys she has brought to joyless hearths, the lives she has broadened and the ambitions she has made possible of realization—these things may be known some day when she can no longer prohibit it. This hall is erected by her in behalf of one whose memory is to her the dearest of all earthly possessions, and to the fulfillment of whose purposes her own life is consecrated.

"William McMillan was an unusual man. He was a devoted husband and father, and the most loyal of friends. He was known in the business world as a man of large affairs, possessed of great ability, sterling integrity and dominating force of character. His name rarely appeared in the public prints, and never with his consent. Forceful and gifted with marvelous foresight in business, he was in private modest and retiring, with a peculiar horror of anything which seemed like heralding his own good deeds. It was a cause of regret to him that it was not possible to withhold from public knowledge his generous gift to Mary Institute, and many were the devices to which he resorted to hide, even from those nearest to him, his many deeds of charity. How great was the number of these, and how well planned, will never be known. They are engraven deep upon the hearts and held sacred in the memories of those whom he befriended. The large fortune which Mr. McMillan acquired he did not especially value for himself. He loved work for its own sake. He liked to deal with great enterprises, and his ability to handle them grew with their magnitude. But wealth came to him as an incident. His greatest pleasure came from doing for others, and, although he helped wherever help was needed, yet the cause of the higher education of women seemed especially to appeal to him. The reason assigned by him to me for making no charitable bequests in his will was that it was his intention to devote most of his time for several years to come to careful, systematic investigation of the ways in which he could do the most permanent good, especially along educational lines; and only his death prevented him from carrying out his plans. He was early to foresee the significance for women of the changing social and economic conditions of our
age, and was eager to assist in opening for them the door to their newer and broader life. Masterful as he was among men, there was much that was beautifully feminine in his nature. Early in his career, and as he was able, he contributed to the education of women. His benevolences of this character multiplied with his means. He gave largely, quietly, and where possible, secretly, to institutions for the education and advancement of women. He himself defrayed the cost of the academic and collegiate schooling of young women in growing numbers as the years went on and his wealth increased. They are to be counted by scores. Some of them he had never seen. He followed their training with solicitude, aided them with helpful counsel, and watched their subsequent careers with pride. Among the greatest pleasures of his later years was the realization that by his assistance horizons had been enlarged and intellects enriched, and a way to independence opened. Beginning thus, it was inevitable that Mr. McMillan's work in this direction should grow. He wanted to do something for the community in which his active life had been spent, and to which he owed so much. His gift to Mary Institute followed. And now Mrs. McMillan extends that work, and the two plans comprehend the whole field of scholastic instruction, beginning with the child and ending with the well-rounded, mentally disciplined woman.

Here, then, is the plant. Here are gathered the materials for the working out of these lofty purposes. It is a memorable day for the University. It is a memorable day for the community. It is no time to discuss co-education. What may be the precise method employed in working to the sought-for end is of minor import. All over the land woman has come into her own. As she has seized her opportunity, so will she use it, and fashion to her own best needs the methods to be employed. She has come into the economic and intellectual activities of the world by a pathway which she herself has aided in building. In the long run she will for herself very largely compel the methods which shall be employed for the equipment of her younger sisters for the world's struggle, and there the matter may confidently be allowed to rest. Mistakes there have been
and will be, but the path ever tends toward the goal. We hear much of a lack in young women of the tender bloom of femininity which charmed us in their mothers years ago. We stand convicted of the seeming decay of chivalric delicacy in men. These things may or may not be altogether true, but, if true, they are of the day and hour. They are a malodor blown hither by the breeze, and which the breeze will waft away. But this we know—the atmosphere of business life is clearer, purer, and its manners better, for woman's participation in it, and the home certainly becomes no less dear when the wife is the clear-headed and valued counselor, or the sister a helpful comrade. We should protest against the flippancy which would assail this as a materialistic age. Every age has been and will be materialistic in so far as it must supply material needs, but this age is fully as much spiritual as material. Look about you! There is not a building in this majestic group whose name is not associated with the name of some man supposedly given up to material things. As never before in the world's history, wealth realizes its responsibility and looks upon itself as a stewardship, to be administered for the building up of the race. In this realization lies something of the hope and promise of a happier and better future, and toward that future we may look in buoyant assurance that from this high plane humanity will never withdraw."

The new McMillan dormitory will probably be completed in time for occupancy at the beginning of the next college year. It contains rooms for about one hundred and ten students, besides dining rooms, reception rooms, and a gymnasium. The gymnasium will be used by all the woman students of the Department of Arts and Sciences, and the dining room will be open to students who live in the city and wish to lunch there. Temporary, some of the rooms will be occupied by certain of the married professors. The University will not furnish the new dormitory, but leave each occupant of a room to furnish it for herself.

The cost will be approximately $300,000, all of which is given by Mrs. William McMillan. The style of the architecture of the building is the same as that of the other buildings of the
University,—a form of Tudor-Gothic, and the materials will be the same as formerly used. The body of the walls is of rough Missouri granite with cut trimmings of Bedford stone. The building is thoroughly fire-proof. In the main, it will be two stories high, but there will be a small number of rooms on the third floor.