



THE BISON 1931

The Long Walk

And who of us have never trod
The Long Walk down to Main,
And lingered on its beaten path
In sunshine and in rain?

When winter lay upon the hill,
And cheerless was the day,
When weird and chilly blew the wind
As we went down the way:

When spring the leafing trees did bud,
When blossoms first broke through
On bush and bough and tulip beds
That they might live anew:

When autumn brought her tinted leaves
To strew the rugged walk,
While some did loiter there to amuse,
And some to quietly talk?

And who of us have ever thought
The Long Walked played a part—
And knew one-half possessed a laugh,
The other a broken heart?

—EDNA BURKE.

Historical Sketch of Howard University

IN the face of discouraging pessimism of his friends, it is a tribute to the memory and unceasing efforts of General Oliver Otis Howard, distinguished military leader of the Civil War and philanthropist, that in 1867 he should be instrumental in founding a university which on March 2, 1931, celebrated its sixty-fourth anniversary. This university, unique in its purpose and relation to the Federal Government, has through this long space of years sent forth more than 8,094 graduates to every State in the Union, as well as to other countries of the world.

The University, whose purpose is primarily to train leaders of the Negro race in the various arts and professions, was conceived in a prayer meeting for mission in the First Congregational Church of Washington, D. C., on Monday, November 20, 1866.

It was the proposal of Dr. D. B. Nichols that the institution should be named for the "American philanthropist, the commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, the true friend of the downtrodden and oppressed of every color and nation of the earth, General Oliver Otis Howard."

The first years of the existence of Howard University were years of excitement and untold disappointment. It appeared that the great project of Negro education would fail. But the marvelous faith of its supporters and the unceasing labors of its friends helped the University to remain intact and enter upon a period of steady, although slow, growth.

The University opened in a rented frame building with four students on May 1, 1867. The finances which sustained the work of this decade, begun on that date, were received purely by accident. But by 1873 the Trustees received aid from the Freedmen's Bureau, which, with the help of that money gained from the sale of much of the original land, cleared the University of debt and started an endowment fund. But the panic of 1873 materially influenced Howard University and necessitated the reduction of salaries and the closing of several of the University departments. However, in 1877 the University recovered, and began the period of expansion that in 1931 is culminating in a constructive program of vast proportions.

The first president to inaugurate the period of development and expansion was Dr. W. Patton, whose reorganization of the University was continued by his successor, President J. E. Rankin. With the administration of President Thirkield, who succeeded Dr. John Gordon upon his resignation, pursued a policy of material expansion. His policy was further continued by

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Dr. Stephen M. Newman and Dr. J. Stanley Durkee, who were elected to the presidency in turn. It was during the administration of the latter, 1918-1926, that the collegiate and professional divisions of the University were reorganized with advanced standards, the secondary schools of the University were eliminated entirely, and a new dining hall and gymnasium-armory-stadium erected.

On June 30, 1926, Dr. Mordecai Wyatt Johnson was elected to the presidency of the University. Since the beginning of his administration the Medical School Building has been completed and a Medical School Endowment Fund has materialized. Other physical features of the University have been added: Three women's dormitories are now under construction; plans for a chemistry building have been completed, and appropriations have been authorized towards the construction of other plants as well as the grading and beautification of the campus.

Dr. Johnson has not limited himself to the improvement of the physical plant, but has been engaged in a survey of the internal organization of the University, enlargement of its faculties, and further standardization of the educational resources.

The School of Law has been reorganized and established on a full-time day school basis, the conditions acceptable to the American Association of Law Schools, thus giving Howard University the only first-class law school for Negroes in the United States.

The College of Dentistry has been organized and transformed from a three-year school with a low entrance requirement and operating under a vice-dean to a four-year school based upon two years of college work as entrance requirement and with an enlarged faculty that brings it to a state of efficiency which fully meets the requirements of the State of New York, the most exacting State in the Union in regard to its dental requirements.

The faculties of the under-graduate divisions have been practically doubled, thus relieving a terrible strain upon the professors and making possible more effective relationship between faculty members and students.

During the administration the Congress of the United States passed a measure authorizing annual appropriations to the University. Previously the Federal appropriation was generally held up on a technicality.

The present support of the University is supplied by appropriations from the Federal Government, student fees, income from endowment and philanthropic contributions. In the fifth year of his administration Dr. Johnson secured \$1,760,000 from the Federal Government and more than \$2,000,000 from private philanthropy.

Numbered among recent gifts are \$250,000 from the General Education Board toward a half-million-dollar Medical Endowment, a like amount being contributed by alumni and friends of the University; \$130,000 from the Gen-

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eral Education Board for the equipment of the new Medical Building; \$200,000 from the Hubert estate for the development of the University program of Medical Education; \$20,000 from Mr. Julius Rosenwald for research in Zoology.

The courses of study are divided into several departments: College of Liberal Arts, College of Education, College of Applied Science, School of Music, School of Medicine, including Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Colleges, School of Religion and School of Law. Each college is classified as an "A" college in its respective group.

The College of Liberal Arts offers curricula leading to degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Commerce and Finance. The College of Education offers degrees of Bachelor of Arts, and Bachelor of Science in Education. The College of Applied Science offers degrees in art, architecture, civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, and home economics. The School of Music offers degrees of Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music in Harmony. The School of Religion offers Bachelor of Divinity and Bachelor of Theology degrees. The School of Law offers the degree of Bachelor of Laws. The Medical School offers the degree of Doctor of Medicine; the Dental School, Doctor of Dental Surgery; the Pharmaceutical School, Pharmaceutical Chemist and Bachelor of Pharmacy. In the Graduate School the Master of Arts and Master of Science degrees are offered.

As to extra-curricula activities, the University maintains several literary organizations and debating clubs for students. There are a number of societies for encouragement of dramatic classics, music, history, education, religion, foreign languages, chemistry, and finance and commerce. The Student Council is the controlling body of all student activities.

The following fraternities have chapters at Howard University. For college men: Alpha Phi Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, Kappa Alpha Psi and Phi Beta Sigma. For college women, the following sororities: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta and Zeta Phi Beta.

During the sixty-four years of existence Howard University has steadily grown, and has rendered increasing service to its constituency and society in general. The quality of its instruction and character of training have led to full recognition of its educational work by leading educational authorities. This recognition is due in part to the vision of the founders and in part to the excellent leadership that has been maintained throughout its existence. It has fulfilled the wish of its founders, and under the guidance of the present administration it bodes well to reach greater and untold heights.