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bear in the affairs of the school. But the Alumni Association, as a body, entertains and wishes to foster the liveliest interest in the welfare of the Institute. It may contribute to this result if those who are upon the high road to membership in this organization can become acquainted with its history and doings.

After various informal consultations upon the subject, a circular was sent out in October, 1874, by a committee of the class of '73, of which Mr. W. A. Kimball was chairman, with the object of obtaining an expression of opinion upon the feasibility of forming an association of the alumni. As a result of this a meeting was called on Jan. 29, 1875, at which twenty-seven of the alumni, then numbering eighty in all, were present. At this and a meeting held on March 17, the organization was completed and a constitution adopted. Prof. R. H. Richards was elected president, and Prof. Charles R. Cross secretary. The official organization consists further of a vice-president and an executive committee, including the incumbents of the three offices already named, and two other alumni. None but graduates of the school are entitled to membership, although others are welcomed at the social meetings.

It is thus largely to the efforts of the class of '73 that the establishment of the association was due; but those who were connected with the first development of the plan recognize warmly the active cooperation and encouragement given by Prof. Runkle, then president of the Institute. Without the aid of the interest which he manifested, it is doubtful whether the scheme would have been carried to success at that time.

The original aim of the association seems clearly to have been to promote the interest of alumni in each other and the Institute; and in the latter connection to take all proper steps to keep itself informed as to what would promote the welfare of the school, aiding, as far as it might have power, towards that end. This feeling is not less strong now than at that time; and it is safe to predict that with the increasing experience of its members, the association will occupy an important position in relation to the government of the institution.

The first official publication of the association was a pamphlet of thirty-five pages, printed in 1876, and containing a brief biography of the members up to that date. Since that time a list of members with addresses and occupations has been issued yearly; that of 1881 showing a list of two hundred and fifty members, which will be increased by last year's class to two hundred and seventy-eight.

Two meetings are held each year. Of these, the first is the annual meeting, and occurs regularly on the third Thursday in January. At this a business meeting is held, followed by a dinner. The second is a social reception given to the graduating class. This is the outcome of a generally expressed feeling that some opportunity should be afforded those men about to leave the school to meet, in an informal, social way, the members of the Faculty and of the Corporation. The first reception, given in May, 1878, upon the responsibility of the executive committee, was so successful that the plan has been since formally adopted by the association, and is carried out each year.

Of the other active steps taken I need refer only to the appointment of a "Committee on the School," which reports annually or biennially upon the condition of the Institute, and to the recent action in the establishment of a permanent fund for the benefit of the association.

A circular letter sent by an interested member of the Executive Committee in November, 1879, elicited so many replies favorable to the project that resolutions were offered and adopted at the annual meeting of the following year concerning this alumni fund. By these resolutions the members were invited to subscribe, payments to be made annually for five years. The fund thus gradually formed was to be placed with three trustees, and no portion of the principal to be expended except by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a meeting. The sums thus pledged amounted at the time to $1,000,