

Denison's Diamond Anniversary

DENISON is looking back with all the complacency of fine achievement upon seventy-five years of history, and even the stress of circumstance which accompanied certain periods of the history serve but to bring out the high lights of her present prosperity. The editors of the ADYTUM have asked for a sketch of the college which shall serve to correlate the year 1906 with the year 1831 and the years between.

To begin with, seventy-five years is a goodly longevity for any college in the West. Of the thirty-three colleges and universities listed in the latest report of the United States Commissioner of Education as belonging in Ohio, only four are older than Denison, *viz.*: Ohio at Athens, Miami, Kenyon and Western Reserve. Ohio State, Oberlin, Wooster, Ohio Wesleyan, Marietta, Wittenberg and all of the other Ohio colleges are Denison's younger sisters, as are Michigan and all the other western State universities. The story of the founding of the college is one of intense interest, and the lines of fate which led to its location in Granville intersect in a singular way in the year 1831, for at almost no other date would the choice have fallen upon Granville, fortunate as the decision proved. It was one of the older towns of the State, having been settled in 1805, so that the celebration of the centennial of the village has just preceded this anniversary of the college. Granville had always borne the characteristic culture and piety brought from its namesake town in Massachusetts when the original colony came with their traveling church and incipient town government; but in 1831, owing to a variety of causes, Granville was at its flood-tide of prosperity and promise. The important canal-route from Cleveland had come to a temporary standstill at Newark, while what was known as the "Deep Cut" was being constructed, and for a considerable period the route of travel and transportation from the East and North to Cincinnati passed through Granville. The enterprising citizens of the village obtained also several lucrative contracts for the construction of portions of the canal, and thus added to the prosperity which important manufacturing enterprises afforded the town. Attention had been drawn to Granville also as the place of origination of the earliest temperance society in the West, and great religious revivals, especially those under the leadership of pastor Jacob Little, of the Congregational church, had heightened the already enviable moral tone of the community. But within five years thereafter a severe epidemic of fever swept the community, a financial panic and the death of its wealthiest and most enterprising citizens had demoralized the community economically, and both the National Road and the railway from Zanesville to Columbus had gone through several miles to the south of Granville, leaving it like a fossil on an abandoned shore line. In addition to these conditions the manual labor idea which had led to the establish-