



"Every year on Class Day, I, the Woodward Bell, announce to the world that another group of Woodward Students is going out to face, to battle, and to conquer the problems which it will meet in its contacts with the world. At this time I call out joyously, filled to the bursting point with pride. And why shouldn't I be proud? Look at the memories I have. One hundred and seventeen years of wonderful memories.

"My memories of Woodward begin in 1831 when I was placed above the first school building and given the privilege of calling Cincinnati's young men in to knowledge. For each of my pleasant years since that time I have silently thanked the man who made such a life possible for me. The man who entrusted to me this honorable responsibility was William Woodward, the founder of Woodward High School. It was William Woodward who liberated the youth of Cincinnati from the bonds of ignorance and opened to them the doors to learning and culture. He showed his great foresight in providing, for the youth he loved, not merely a place of sports and pleasure, but an institution which would serve as a hothouse in which the youth could mature, develop, and prepare for the responsibilities of life and citizenship — a school.

"The first Woodward school was a plain two-story brick building, much like an ordinary house, but having a small belfry in which I was encased. For ten years I remained in this position; then, in 1841, I was lifted from the roof temporarily while a third floor was added. With this new structural addition there also came the addition of girls to the student body. Knowing how happy the extension of education to young ladies through his school would have made William Woodward, I welcomed the girl students gladly and thought that now Woodward and I had progressed as far as possible. I remember how surprised I was when I was again removed from my station in 1855. This time I saw Woodward completely torn down and replaced by a stately four-story Gothic structure. The designers had made no provision for me on the exterior of the new building, so I was placed inside, nearer to the youth of whom I had become so fond. The last great change came in 1910 when a modern five-story Woodward — the Woodward of today — was constructed.

"Yes, the Woodward building has been ever-changing, but the Woodward ideals and standards have remained unchanged. The Woodward spirit still prevails, that spirit of study and work, of service and song, of unselfishness and sacrifice, of devotion and duty, of appreciation and gratitude, of sympathy and kindheartedness, of acquaintance and friendship, of brotherly love and equality among men, of high ideals and lofty ambitions, of loyalty to home and to nation, of ultimate faith and calm repose. That is why I can be so confident in announcing the entrance of more Woodward graduates into the world. I know that the fame and accomplishments of this year's graduates will return to live on with me in Woodward's sacred halls along with the fame and accomplishments of all former Woodward graduates."