

Religious Bulletin
November 13, 1930.

A Tradition Magnificently Broken.

A tradition of eighty-eight years was broken yesterday when Edward Nash Hurley announced the gift of two hundred thousand dollars to Notre Dame for the construction of a Commerce Building for the University. It is eighty-eight years this month since Father Sorin set foot on the shores of St. Mary's lake to undertake, in what was practically wilderness, the establishment of a university dedicated to the Mother of God. And this is the first time since that foundation that any one has given the University a building.

That the purpose of the donor corresponds perfectly with the aims of Catholic education is patent from the letter of donation which says: "I hope that young men from this school will blaze the trail of modern and equitable business methods, just as our forefathers blazed the trail for civilization and commercial progress by their exchange of goods for furs." There is a distinct need for the Catholic College of Commerce. Shady practices in business and broken contracts are so common nowadays, when "business honor" is popularly supposed to be an adequate substitute for God and the Seventh Commandment, that unless there is strong fortress of truth and honesty to which fair-minded men may gather, there is danger of universal corruption.

Mr. Hurley's magnificent gift is the practical demonstration of his approval of the work of the College of Commerce here, a work which he has followed closely for the last twelve years. His interest in Notre Dame and in Catholic education led him, in 1918, to take time out to deliver the Commencement address at the University; and the sacrifice that meant may be gauged from the fact that, in those days of little sleep and no other rest, he was preparing, as Chairman of the Shipping Board, for the launching of one hundred new ships -- a feat which was accomplished on the Fourth of July that year.

On the occasion of that visit Mr. Hurley accepted the honorary deanship of the College of Commerce, and from that day on he took an active interest in shaping the courses and directing the aims of the work here. His assistance and that of his associates in the advisory board of the College of Commerce account in great measure for the excellent reputation enjoyed by this department of the University.

Perhaps it is not known to the present generation of Commerce students that Notre Dame was the first university in the country to offer a four-year program in Foreign Commerce. This program which was shaped after consultation with officials of W. R. Grace and Co., the National City Bank, and other pioneers in our foreign trade and banking, was first offered in September, 1917. Three students were enrolled. The first graduates, three of the, received their degrees in 1920, having transferred from domestic to foreign commerce. Some thirty students receive such degrees annually now.

Past generations of students prayed for the event that Mr. Hurley's gift has accomplished; the present generation of students has a duty to thank God for its accomplishment and to pay a proper tribute to the donor. It is suggested that this act of thanksgiving and appreciation take the form of a Novena for two intentions: thanksgiving to God for this new mark of favor, and petition for the welfare of Mr. Hurley. The Novena should be made to the Sacred Heart, since the College of Commerce is dedicated to the Sacred Heart. On the nine days, beginning tomorrow, you should offer Holy Communion and recite the Litany of the Sacred Heart every day. The rest of the University is invited to join with the Commerce students in this act.

PRAYERS: A sister of Fr. Connerton died Tuesday. Louis L. Orgera underwent an operation for appendicitis Tuesday evening. A student urges a continuance of prayers for a girl friend who was injured, perhaps fatally, in an auto accident.