First U.P. President . .

VW William C. Councell, Grand Orator

Priest and Mason

We believe that it should interest all Masons in the Philippines to know that the first President of The University of the Philippines, the Reverend Dr. Murray Bartlett, was an active 35° Socitish Rite Mason.

It has often been said that great men leave their marks on their epoch; and their ideas continue to live long after their death. Of such men was the Rev. Dr. Murray Bartlett, organizer and first President of the University of the Philippines—an idea which is as timely now as it was when he first propounded it—a non-sectarian University of the Philippines.

Dr. Bartlett was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, on March 29 1871, the son of Stanley and Lida Caroline (Simpson) Bartlett, He was educated at Harvard and General Theological Seminary, receiving his Bachelor of Arts from Harvard in 1892 and his Master of Arts from Harvard in 1893. He was ordained to the Priesthood in 1896 after gradnating from General Theological Seminary in 1896. Dr. Bartlett was married to Blanchard Howard on April 15, 1903, and one daughter (Blanchard) was born in 1905. After serving as curate at Grace Church New York, 1896-97, and as Rector of St. Paul's Church, Rochester, New York, 1897-1908, Dr. Bartlett came to the Philippines as Dean of the Cathedral of St. Marv and St. John in 1908.

While Dean of the Cathedral, Dr. Bartlett made evident his great gift as an administrator, as a Parish Priest, and later as an educator.

Regarding the wider mission of the Cathedral as a general institution, he took the legal steps necessary to incorporate the Cathedral Chapter (since lapsed) with the comprehensive ideal of maintaining the Cathedral Church for "fostering Missionary enterprise. promoting education, and maintaining works of Christian charity and heneficence : as an instrument for advancement, as far as in us lies, of unity and concord among all Christian people : and, lastly, as a home for the expression of that higher patriotism in which applies the Golden Rule to international relationships while promoting our own national interests,"

In addition to his duties as Dean of the Cathedral, he took forthuightly Sunday evening services at Cavite. Naval Station, was a member and President of the Council of Advice. Examining Chaplain, member of the Board of Governors of St. Luke's Hospital and Baguio School (Brent), incorporator of "The Cathedral Church of St. Mary and St. John" and conducted a weekly lecture at the Training School for Nurses on "Psychology."

On Christian unity, Dean Bartlett had this to say: "Here in Manila we have this beautiful and spacious Cathedral. Why should it not be made possible to give shelter under its rooi Turn to exet page

OCTOBER, 1968

to those who, though not seeing eye to eye with ourselves, are pledged to the constructive presentment of the 'fruth, and, like us, are struggling upward a Divine and not a man-made unity?"

In his Convocation Address on August 2, 1911, Bishop Brent had this to say: "In establishing public schools and providing for higher education, the Philippine Commission is bestowing upon the Filipinos one of the greatest privileges of life. Education of the soul must run parallel with education of the mind. In spite of the great loss to ourselves, we rejoice to contribute to this task Dr. Bartlett who took up his duties as President of the University of the Philippines on June 11, 1911."

Dr. Bartlett was eminently qualified ior the difficult task of laving the foundations of the new institution and of delineating its directions. "Truth." he said in his inaugural address, emphasizing one of the directions he had in mind, "unfettered by racial, political, or sectarian limitations, is to be the guiding spirit of those who study and those who teach." Although he was a Priest of the Episcopal Church, Dr. Bartlett did not in any way administer the University with partiality toward his Church. Neither did he allow it to be swaved in the direction of any other sectarian or Church group. As a matter of fact, in the first official meeting of the Executive Committee under his administration, he had the policy approved that appointments to the faculty, as in the case of admission of students, should not require the passing of a religious test. This policy has remained in the books of the University up to now.

During the half century of existence of the University, there have been sporadic attempts to obscure the secular or non-sectarian character oi the institution. These attempts, referred to in the Paras Committee report as "Overly enthusiastic sectarianism" have led to conflicts and confusion on the campus, hampering the University's work to a certain degree. But the University has withstood these incursions because the foundation which Dr. Bartlett built during his administration are strong and steady.

However, he hustened to clarify one point in this respect: that the University is to have "no official theology and no ecclesiastical affiliation; "it should not lose sight of reverence for the mysteries of life; it may cultivate that essential religion which exalts the things of the human mind and spirit over things physical and which reads back of the material world a purpose and a destiny."

"A University for the Filipinos."

Further in his inaugural address which shows the wisdom of the man, which has been followed, almost to the letter, down to and including the present administration of Dr. Ronulo, one reads:

"There can be no doubt, that the character under which we work demands that we should build here in these beautiful islands a real university, a university that must ever be true to the most universal tests of real culture and real usefulness. We are building not for today or for tomorrow, but for the life of a people living in relation with our people through the long pages of future history."

"In the true university there is an element of eternity, Students Turn to page 22 rome and go and after a brief sojourn, professors bring their tasks to a close, but the University goes on -the same quest, the same purpose, the same work. How shall we characterize this essential spirit that is the secret of the life of the true University?

"In a book just issued, entitled "Universitics of the World," Dr. Charles F. Thwing divided universities into four groups. First, there is the German type, where research and laboratory work are supreme; second, those which seek to cultivate "intellectual strength and power of character" as exemplified by the Scotch and American Universities: third, a group of "great institutions," of which Oxford is a type, where the real purpose is the making of a Gentleman"; fourth, "the Universitics of the New East-India, Japan, China-where efficiency is the ideal training."

"Whatever may be said of the accuracy of this classification, there is something very striking in this description of the University of the "New East". The Philippines are distinctly of the New East, in that, to the rich and varied heritage of an older civilization, new ideals and modern methods are being applied, On all sides, in every branch of human activity; in politics, business, social conditions, as well as in eduration, a readjustment is being clfected. It is the evident desire of the Filipino people that this readjustment should be carried out as rapidly as possible. The University of the Philippines has an important part to play in this great movement of readjustment. It is to furnish capable leaders for the development of the resources of these islands upon modern lines. To put the case con-

cretely, the Philippines need skilled agriculturists to accomplish the tremendous possibilities for wealth and prosperity wrapt up in their fertile soil. These Islands need expert Veterinarians who can make the agriculturists' triumph possible by the successful conquest of animal discases; they need foresters who may husband and harvest an inexhaustible timber supply; they need engineers who shall open up the country by transportation facilities, irrigation projects, harbor works, as well as develop the mineral resources. More than these, there are needed here men skilled in medical science to make safe the public health, experienced educators to fit the youth of the Islands for the battle of life, specialists, indeed, in every branch of human activity to build up a prosperous, homogenous community under social conditions that are founded upon justice and righteousness," "Efficiency", then, may well he our watchword in building up this new University of the East,"

And build up the University he did. He was the founder of the Graduate School of Tropical Medicine and Public Health and the following colleges were organized under his presidency:

College of Medicine College of Fine Arts College of Agriculture (Los Baños) College of Veterinary Science College of Engineering College of Liberal Arts

College of Law

Also, in his inaugural address he used these significant words, and remember, he was a Priest of the Espiscopal Church:

¹True, the State University can have no official theology and no ecclesiastical afiliation. But it may Turn to next page have a spirit of reverence for the mysteries of life; it may cultivate that essential religion that exalts the things of the human mind and spirit over things physical and which reads back of the material world a purpose and a destiny."

This then should be our watchword in developing the University of the Filipino – efficiency founded upon scholarship and inspired by character."

"It is my conviction that if we have before us this ideal, our university will measure up to world standards, thereby carrying out the manifest provision of our Charter. but it must never be forgotten that this is and shall always be a University of the Philippines. It has been truly said that there can be no greatness without nationality. The world centers of knowledge are essentially national. With students from all parts of the world, Berlin is essentially German and Oxford essentially English. This University should not be a reproduction of the American university. If it is to blossom into real fruit, it must grow in Philippine soil, it must not be transplanted from foreign shores. It can serve the world best by serving the Filipino,

This was the vision of Murray Bantlett – and through the years and for over half a century, the University of the Philippines has remained the bulwark of higher education in the Philippines. This could not have been possible were it not for the wisdom, foresight and vision of men like Dr. Bartlett down to the present President, Dr. Romulo, who have guided its destiny.

Dr. Bartlett's dream has come true. Today, the University of the Phillippines has become one of the great universities of the world. He closed his inaugural address with these words:

"It may be that I have been called here simply to dream a dream; that it may be left for others to make the dream a reality. Should that be my lot, I shall be content, so long as my vision is clear and just, my purpose brave and true."

Dr. Bartlett resigned from the presidency of U.P. in 1915, turning it over to a Filipino, Dr. Ignacio Villamor, which was part of Dr. Bartlett's plan for the university – "A University by and for the Filipino."

After he left the University, he worked with the oversest YMCA in Europe with Bishop Brent and when World War I broke out he served in the Army Chaplainty Corps, 1917-1919. He was wounded in the Marne Ainse offensive and was awarded the D.S.C. (U.S.), Croix de Guerre, and Chevalier Legion of Honor (France); he obtained the rank of Lt. Colonel.

In 1919 he was elected President of Hohart and William Smith College, an Episopal College in Geneva, New York. He was President of this fine institution of learning until his retirement in 1936. Δ

Who is the "Forgotten Man"? He is the honest clizen, ready to earn his living by productive work. But we pass him by because he is independent, selfsupporting and asks no favors. If it is desired to bring about social improvement let us relieve the "Forgotten Man" of some of his burdens. He is weighed down with the cost of schemes for making everyhody happy: with the cost of all ublic beneficence; with the support of all the jackers with the losse of all economic quackery; with the cost of all the jooks. Let us turn our attention to him, and society will greatly gain by it.

-Kleinknccht Encyclopedia.