THE FIRST YEAR AT STANFORD: SKETCHES OF PIONEER DAYS AT LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY. [1905]

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY

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Trieste





he First Year at Stanford

Sketches of Pioneer Days at Leland Stanford Junior "University



Stanford University, California Published by the English Club I 9 0 5

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FOREWORD

HERE was need that these articles should be written and collected into a volume. College generations pass but too quickly, and the rare flavor of those days of Stanford's earliest life can too easily be lost—not, perhaps, to those who shared the experiences, but to the sons and daughters of Stanford's later adoption. And the spirit in which these days were lived may have a wider public interest, some day, when the history of Western university life is searched in quest of its final significance.

Yet the papers we have collected are, from a larger viewpoint, limited in scope and unambitious in treatment; they will in no sense compete with the serious history of Stanford's beginnings that are still to be written. But, perhaps, for this very reason they may fulfil their own purpose the better. And so, with grateful appreciation for the help we have received from many quarters, and especially to those who have contributed the articles themselves, we send out our little volume, dedicated to Stanford men and women who share the spirit of those pioneer days as a common heritage,-as well those of the generations to come, as those whose part in them was immediate and personal.





EARLY DAYS OF STANFORD.

DAVID STARR JORDAN.

F I live to be an old man, I may some day write the true story of the opening years of Stanford University, in the fashion in which Darwin wrote the story of his life for his children,—as though I were an inhabitant of another sphere looking down on the affairs of this planet.

But I cannot do this now.* The days of struggle are too near, the long joint effort of the founder, the trustees, and the teachers to save the noble endowment for its noble purpose, the days of alternate hope and despair, the days of the sacrifice of cherished ideals on the one hand for the sake of saving still higher ones on the other. All that is still too close to me, and the men and women who took part in it are still too near and too dear; their work is not yet completed, and the story may not be written. And yet it is a most romantic story,---the bravest and most inspiring in the history of education, and it has in it one clear, dominant note, one motif, the loyalty of a woman to the memory of her husband and her son, her devotion to the lofty ideals

• November, 1904.