

**HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE ST.
LOUIS UNIVERSITY: THE
CELEBRATION OF ITS FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OR GOLDEN
JUBILEE ON JUNE 24, 1879**

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Historical sketch of the St. Louis University: the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary or golden jubilee on June 24, 1879 by Walter H. Hill

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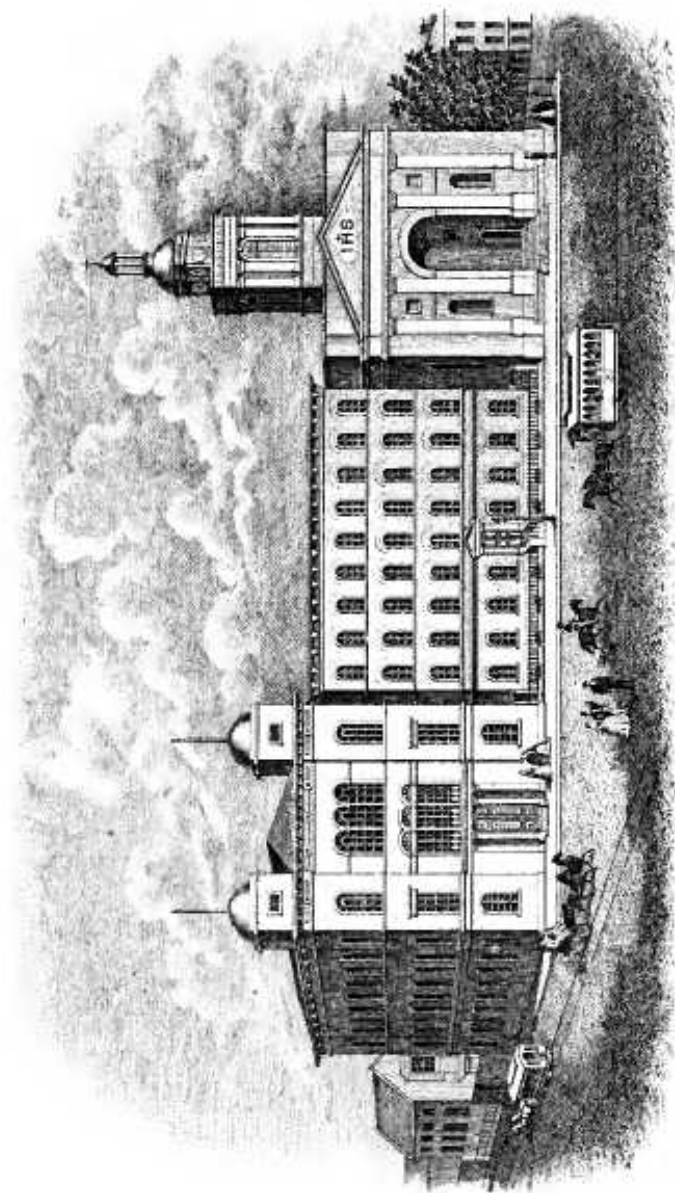
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WALTER H. HILL

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ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF THE
ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY;

THE CELEBRATION OF ITS
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OR
GOLDEN JUBILEE,

ON
JUNE 24, 1879.

BY
WALTER H. HILL, S. J.



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1879.

PREFACE.

THE following pages do not give a minute history of the St. Louis University; they contain only an outline of its history. The origin of the Jesuit Society in Missouri is related briefly, in the opening chapters, as being closely connected with this first college established by the society in the Western States. The gradual spread of its missions to the adjacent States and Territories is also noticed, sufficiently in detail to present a general view of the Missouri province, and of its progress during the fifty-six years of its existence.

Merely to recount the events annually taking place in an establishment of the kind, from its beginning, would be to compose a barren and tedious chronicle of facts that are uniformly the same every year in every such institution. The scope of the undertaking was extended, therefore, so as to include some other matters, both of a local and general character, which it was believed would be acceptable to the reader, though they be but remotely cognate to the principal subject of the book. The writer was for many years collecting and noting down, from conversations with the early missionaries a number of particulars connected with

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the beginning and progress of the Church, especially of the Jesuit institutions and missions, in the Western country; and he has aimed herein to give a more permanent shape to some portions of the materials for history thus acquired: "Gather up the fragments, lest they perish," was our Lord's behest. Let this also be the writer's excuse for introducing, here and there, what may seem to have only secondary and distant relationship to his proper subject.

The college began fifty years ago, on its present site, which was in the open prairie, at some distance from the town of St. Louis, as the town was in the year 1829. Such leading facts of its history as could be learned from its somewhat imperfect records are stated ingenuously, and as they actually happened, even when they were not the most favorable; for God has a hand, either directly or permissively, in real facts, but has no share in things falsely affirmed to have happened. The means employed at different periods by the faculties of the university for the advancement of learning, with more or less good fortune, may be suggestive of some useful thought to minds engaged with questions pertaining to the matter and the methods of collegiate education. Though not free, doubtless, from numerous imperfections, yet the work records some things which are, perhaps, sufficiently various and significant in their nature to interest the reader that finds pleasure and subject-matter for reflection in the deeds of good men who have gone before us.

This little history of the St. Louis University is more especially intended, however, as a respectful and affectionate offering to all the present and former students of the institution, and to the mutual friends of the *alma mater* and her cherished alumni.

There is subjoined to this sketch of the university some account of its "golden jubilee" celebration, on June 24, 1879, with its attending events and circumstances; and also of the fiftieth annual commencement, which occurred on the following day, or June 25th.

WALTER H. HILL, S. J.

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY, July 16, 1869.



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