

could best describe the new chapel. Charles J. Donahoe won it and he wrote in part: "I think no department so striking to the eye as the new chapel which occupies the fourth floor of the new addition. The chapel is the heart of the College and in it are concentrated all the requisites of an ideal chapel." During the fall and winter of 1893 and 1894, the members of the faculty of St. Ambrose went throughout the diocese soliciting funds for the new wing and taking the opportunity to advertise the diocesan College to the various parishes.

The year 1895 also marked the coming of the patronal statue. It was placed in front of Ambrose Hall, the position where it stands today. The September 7th *Iowa Catholic Messenger* notes that "the beautiful lifelike statue of St. Ambrose, attired in the robes of a bishop, which Father Hayes of Imogene, Iowa, donated to St. Ambrose College, has arrived from Europe, and will soon be in position on the College campus. It is a masterpiece of art." On October 5th, the same periodical tells us that "the statue . . . is now in place on the College grounds. It rests on a neat cut stone pedestal, the generous gift of Reverend James Davis." The statue has withstood the test of time much better than most of the College physical assets. There is one hand missing - this since 1936 - and there are two stories, the truth and the official version, about how this came to be. There was a long Easter vacation that year, but the student members of the chorus returned early to sing at the consecration of Father William Adrian, a St. Ambrose faculty member, as bishop of Nashville. There were no hours for the returning choristers and no supervision. Returning from partying one night, one of them said, "I have to say goodnight to St. Ambrose." Whereupon, he climbed up the statue, shook its hand and the hand came off. The student, paralyzed with fear, swore his comrades to perpetual secrecy. Thus, the real events. Officially, it goes this way. There had been a spring storm that night, with a high wind that had blown down many branches of the oaks. That much is true. Monsignor Martin Cone, the president, while walking the next morning, noted the fallen branches, the broken hand on the statue and remembered the high wind. "A freak of nature" was his verdict. In recent years, the students have taken to painting the statue green on St. Patrick's Day. This is done furtively, in the middle of the night on the 16th of March. Whether this represents the students' desire to transform the patron into St.



The patronal statue of St. Ambrose, placed in front of Ambrose Hall, 1895. It has withstood the test of time, though with one hand missing since 1936.