

SCIENCE

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SOME FACTORS IN THE INSTITUTE'S
SUCCESS¹

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It is fifty years to-day since Governor Andrew signed the charter of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. There are many in the community who have watched the growth of this institute ever since. The dean of those who have been intimately associated with its government is Mr. William Endicott—a tireless worker in its interest. He writes to express regret that he can not be with us to-day, on account of a recent family bereavement, and adds: "It has been one of the greatest pleasures of my life to watch the Tech's triumphant progress from small beginnings to its present assured position as one of the leading scientific institutions of the world." In spite of (perhaps, because of), its youth, and in spite of (if not because of) its earlier struggles and difficulties, it is now absolutely in the front rank—a recognized leader in its chosen field, held in respect and honor everywhere. Why this conspicuous success? It is a question that has often been discussed in the reports of commissioners and other distinguished visitors from abroad, and in the councils of educators at home. Many are the explanations offered—the earnestness and devotion of the faculty, the spirit and energy of the students, the loyalty and organization of the alumni, the completeness of its equipment, the number and distinction of its instructors, the variety of its courses, the thoroughness with which the students'

¹ Address by the president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at opening of the Congress of Technology, April 10.