

440. Murray M. Morrison teaches at Adeline.  
 441. George W. Reeder teaches at Mt. Pulaski.  
 442. Milton R. Regan teaches at Auburn, Illinois.  
 443. Edwin E. Rosenberry teaches at Franklin Grove, Illinois.  
 444. Charles N. Smith is studying medicine in Danville.  
 445. William J. Smith teaches at Oak Hill.  
 446. Evens W. Thomas teaches in the Normal Department of the University of Colorado, at Boulder.  
 447. Franklin L. Williams teaches in Loda, Illinois.

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 PHILADELPHIAN SOCIETY.
 

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The State Normal University was opened October 5, 1857, in Major Block, in Bloomington, with an attendance of nineteen, of whom six were males. Four days after the opening of the school, October 9, 1857, the male students (by this time their number had increased), "desirous," as the preamble to their constitution reads, "of forming a society for the purpose of extending their social relations, and for the elevation of their moral character and intellectual attainments," called a meeting in a small room on the second floor of the building. The room was lighted by one miserable old tallow candle, and, as Mr. Gastman says, "Harvey J. Dutton had a fearful time in trying to induce the old thing to burn." C. D. Irons, of Peoria, was chairman, and H. J. Dutton, of Metamora, secretary *pro tem*. After a lengthy discussion of the object of the meeting, Mr. Pope and Mr. Harper were appointed a committee to draft a constitution, which was presented and accepted on the following evening, fixing the name of the society as the "Normal Debating Society." The following names were immediately affixed to the instrument:

Henry H. Pope, Taylorville, Christian County; E. D. Harris, Monmouth, Warren County; J. G. Howell, Duncanton, White County; John Hull, Salem, Marion County; C. D. Irons, Peoria, Peoria County; J. L. Spaulding, Metamora, Woodford County; H. J. Dutton, Metamora, Woodford County; Peter Harper, Peoria, Peoria County; Edwin Philbrook, Vandalia, Fayette County; E. A. Gastman, Hudson, McLean County; B. F. Rawolt, Canton, Fulton County; Silas Hayes, Bloomington, McLean County; L. L. Lightner, Thebes, Alexander County; J. D. Kirkpatrick, Princeton, Bureau County.

The meeting then elected C. D. Irons, president, J. L. Spaulding, vice-president, H. J. Dutton, secretary, and John Hull, treasurer, and selected their first question for debate, which was as follows: "Is a lawyer justified in defending a bad cause?" supported

by Messrs. Hull, Howell, Harper, Philbrook, and Kirkpatrick, on the affirmative, and by Messrs. Pope, Dutton, Hayes, Spaulding, and Webber, on the negative.

The peculiar and interesting parts of the first constitution read as follows:

Preamble.. Whereas, we, the undersigned students of the Normal University, of the State of Illinois, desirous of forming a society for the purpose of extending our social relations, and for the elevation of our moral character and intellectual attainments, pledge ourselves to be governed by the following constitution and by-laws:

ARTICLE I. This Society shall be known as the Normal Debating Society.

ARTICLE II. The officers of this Society shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, librarian, critic, marshal, editress, and chorister.

ARTICLE III. The exercises of this Society shall consist of debates, etc.

ARTICLE XII. It shall be the duty of each member to attend all the regular meetings of the Society, and to perform such other duties as the Society may impose upon them.

ARTICLE XIII. Four regular meetings shall constitute a term.

ARTICLE XX. Should any member move the dissolution of this Society, he shall thereupon be expelled.

The name of the Society, especially after the ladies were admitted, was not perfectly satisfactory, and October 15, 1858, notice was given by Mr. Hull that two weeks from that time a proposition would be made to change the name. Accordingly, October 29, it was moved that Article I be so amended as to read: "This Society shall be known by the name of 'Social Friends.'" This change did not seem to meet the wants of the members, and it was tabled for one week, when it was taken from the table, voted on, and lost. At last, Miss Jennie G. Michie, now Mrs. Dr. Fox, of Lyons, Cook County, Illinois, proposed the name "Philadelphian," as expressing the idea that we are a band of brothers. This was finally adopted, after much discussion and filibustering.

The first few meetings are interesting, on account of the variety of exercises they present in contrast with our present meetings. The exercises consisted, as per Article I of the constitution, of debates, etc., and if the minutes are correct, the "etc." part of the programme must have been irregular business. The entire literary part of the programme, in those days, consisted of debates, and if one did not occupy the whole evening, the members often proposed another, and went to work on it, making it sometimes the best debate of the evening. (The roll was often called, and members were expected to respond by speaking on the subject. What a sensation that would produce if practiced now!)

Attendance on all regular meetings, and performance of duty, were compulsory then, and the Societies were always called to order on time, probably because of the fine attached to tardiness. At that time members of the Society acted as critics, which custom prevailed up to about 1865, when gradually the professors came to fill that position, and now a student as critic is seldom seen. It was formerly the custom to have special critics for papers and debates. At first

the critic was one of the officers, chosen at the regular election. It was also customary, the evening of the installation of officers, for the out-going presidents to appoint one or two persons (usually ladies, for at that time the presidents were always gentlemen, no lady being bold enough to aspire to the presidency) to conduct the president elect to the chair. At that time members were not afraid to do work, as is manifested by the fact that the same persons were on debate every evening for nearly a whole term. According to the constitution, the Society held its first meetings Wednesday evenings, but the first amendment to the constitution changed that to Friday evenings. This continued to be the time until after the formation of the Wroughtonian Society, and after the bitter feeling that existed between the two Societies had subsided enough to permit them to act together, when the Philadelphians would meet Friday night, and the Wroughtonians Saturday night, and *vice versa* the next week. After many changes in the time of meeting, the present plan was finally adopted. ✓

The manner of conducting their exercises appear to us as rather peculiar. In those exciting times the Society was of the first importance; marks and graduation were secondary affairs. There were fewer members and as much work to be done as now, and each one had to do his part toward pushing forward the Society.

The solid debates, in which the members engaged with a great deal of zest, were lightened here and there by a humorous one, in which the professors were not loath to engage. This dignified subject was once discussed:

(*Resolved*, That we most horribly protest against, vigorously condemn, obstreperously denounce, and aguishly shudder at the influence of such historical literature as,—

“Jack and Gill went up the hill  
To get a pail of water.  
Jack fell down and cracked his crown,  
And Gill came tumbling after.”

Supported on the affirmative by Professors Hewett and Sewall, and on the negative by Professors Stetson and Edwards.

And again, “*Resolved*, That the poem commencing, ‘High Diddle Diddle, the Cat and the Fiddle,’ etc., is utterly unworthy of belief,” supported by gentlemen Sewall and Baldwin, and denied by gentlemen Hewett and Wright. The question was decided by a committee appointed by the chair to examine a copper tossed by the president. The committee consisted of gentlemen Hull, Liversay, and Gilwie.

Again, “Ought men to shave?”

The following preamble and resolution was presented by Mr. Hewett, in a joint meeting, March 1, 1862; and received with much applause:

“WHEREAS, We are credibly informed that the president of the

Wrightonian Society has this day become the possessor of a fine horse and buggy; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That we are jointly and severally tickled."

During the war, and the exciting times before and after it, questions of more than usual interest were discussed with more than the usual earnestness. Questions such as,

*Resolved*, That it is just and expedient at the present time for congress to declare the liberation of the slaves of those in rebellion against the government." September 28, 1861.

*Resolved*, That the slaves emancipated by the United States government should be colonized on this continent." May, 1862.

*Resolved*, That the appointment of General Halleck in place of Fremont was unjust and impolitic."

"Is it expedient to colonize the freedmen?"

*Resolved*, That the States in rebellion should be reduced to the condition of Territories."

("Resolved, That Jeff. Davis should be hung." December 2, 1865.

"Has a State a right to secede?"

*Resolved*, That congress should declare the slaves free."

*Resolved*, That Lincoln's proclamation is unjust and impolitic."

( Gradually, other exercises found their way into the Society. First, declamations, then orations, and when the ladies were full-fledged members they started a paper, called ("The Literary Paper," which consisted of several departments,—under as many editresses,—as the ("political," the "social," and the "religious departments,") which continued to exist for some time.

Our "Ladies' Garland" was first known as "The Student's Manual," and was entirely in the hands of the gentlemen. In February, 1858, the name became just "The Garland," yet in the hands of the gentlemen, but in August of the same year it came into the hands of the ladies, and has since been known as "The Ladies' Garland."

( Debates, considered the object of the Society at first, gradually lost ground, except during the war, until now our exercises consist of "etc.," and debates, in the face of the old constitution. The gradual growth of the present class of exercises is plainly seen in the minutes of the meetings, where the whole programme is usually recorded. ( Shakspearian readings were practiced considerably, which lightened the exercises very much. These the teachers conducted as they do now: The professors frequently lectured before the Societies. Often their lectures have been published at the expense of the Society, and copies distributed among the members. The usual lecturers were Professors Stetson, Sewall, and Cook, and Doctors Hewett and Edwards. ( During the war, tableaux illustrating scenes from military life were given.

( During the early days of the Society, only Normal students were admitted, but on April 29, 1862, the Societies agreed to draw the

students of the model school, who were of the age required for admission, into the Normal, but they could not hold office, nor vote, and were not subject to tax. Later, they were admitted on the same terms as the Normal students. At this time they were among the most active members of the Society. There were frequently contests between the two departments, and very exciting ones, too, for, on the whole, the Normal students did not win much glory. Although ladies were not admitted at first, despite the opposition of a few, led by Mr. Harper, on (October 16, 1858, it was moved and carried to invite the professors and ladies to attend and take part in the exercises, and soon afterward the constitution was so changed as to admit them. The opposition were not conquered, however, and January 20, 1860, Mr. Harper, as Mr. Philbrook says, "a persistent Englishman, and a bachelor," introduced a motion excluding ladies from the Society, giving as the principal objections, that their presence would embarrass the beginners and leave all the talking to a favored few, and that many young men would attend the exercises simply to accompany the ladies, and disturb rather than assist the meeting. The motion, however, failed, and no more was heard of the opposition. The ladies quietly grew into power and began to hold office. As officers, they crept gradually up from chorister and editress to the position of secretary, which office was first filled by Miss Scott, in December, 1861 ( and to the position of president, in the winter term of 1870, which office was filled by Miss Alice Emmons, who had a hard fight for the position, having been defeated the term before. The election of a lady caused dissatisfaction, and a committee was appointed to test the election, and it was finally declared illegal. R. A. Edwards was chosen to fill the vacancy.

The following is a list of the presidents, and the order in which they served, from the organization up to the winter term of 1882:

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|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. C. D. Irons,      | 49. C. W. Hodgin,        |
| 2. Edwin Philbrook,  | 50. J. R. Edwards,       |
| 3. Peter Harper,     | 51. L. A. Chase,         |
| 4. Henry H. Pope,    | 52. Joseph Carter,       |
| 5. E. A. Gastman,    | 53. William M. Bane,     |
| 6. John Hull,        | 54. William Edwards,     |
| 7. J. G. Howell,     | 55. B. W. Baker,         |
| 8. E. D. Harris,     | 56. A. C. Cotton,        |
| 9. L. H. Hite,       | 57. Alice Emmons,        |
| 10. J. F. Ridlon,    | 58. Alice Emmons,        |
| 11. J. M. Burch,     | 59. James H. Hovey,      |
| 12. M. R. Kell,      | 60. William C. Griffith, |
| 13. T. F. Willis,    | 61. George Blount,       |
| 14. E. A. Gastman,   | 62. Lottie C. Blake,     |
| 15. Edwin Philbrook, | 63. Frank Richey,        |
| 16. J. G. Howell,    | 64. N. B. Reed,          |

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|----------------------|------------------------|
| 17. J. Little,       | 65. Louise Ray,        |
| 18. Mr. Waite,       | 66. J. D. Templeton,   |
| 19. John Hull,       | 67. I. E. Brown,       |
| 20. M. I. Morgan,    | 68. F. B. Tait,        |
| 21. J. G. Howell,    | 69. J. N. Wilkinson,   |
| 22. E. A. Gastnan,   | 70. S. L. Spear,       |
| 23. T. F. Willis,    | 71. Ella Morgan,       |
| 24. Edwin Philbrook, | 72. Elma J. Webster,   |
| 25. E. F. Bacon,     | 73. Lewis Bryan,       |
| 26. J. Little,       | 74. C. O. Drayton,     |
| 27. M. I. Morgan,    | 75. Mary A. Anderson,  |
| 28. Ira Moore,       | 76. D. C. Tyler,       |
| 29. Ira Moore,       | 77. Charles McMurry,   |
| 30. Mr. Waite,       | 78. W. C. Glidden,     |
| 31. J. Little,       | 79. Miss F. Preston,   |
| 32. M. I. Morgan,    | 80. Miss A. Stahl,     |
| 33. Mr. Waite,       | 81. H. E. Powers,      |
| 34. I. D. Scholes,   | 82. Jessie Dexter,     |
| 35. John F. Gawdy,   | 83. G. A. Burgess,     |
| 36. J. H. Thompson,  | 84. C. E. Webster,     |
| 37. C. F. Childs,    | 85. W. C. Ramsey,      |
| 38. C. F. Childs,    | 86. John Humphrey,     |
| 39. D. Fulwider,     | 87. Jesse F. Hannah,   |
| 40. C. H. Crandall,  | 88. W. H. Chamberlain, |
| 41. W. L. Pillsbury, | 89. Austin C. Rishel,  |
| 42. Mr. Robinson,    | 90. Frank Tyrrell,     |
| 43. H. C. Karr,      | 91. E. W. Thomas,      |
| 44. Joseph Hunter,   | 92. May Parsons,       |
| 45. E. C. Hewett,    | 93. L. Messick,        |
| 46. A. T. Ewing,     | 94. M. R. Regan,       |
| 47. F. J. Seybold,   | 95. F. L. Williams,    |
| 48. W. L. Pillsbury, | 96. J. L. Hall.        |

Of the faculty not before mentioned, Miss Flora Pennell was secretary in the spring of 1870, and vice-president in the winter of 1872; Mr. De Garmo was chorister in 1871; Mr. Hewett was treasurer in the summer of 1863; Miss Bandusia Wakefield was secretary during the winter of 1865.

(The constitution has suffered many changes. During its history, there have been seventy changes or amendments, three of which have been complete revisions. The first change was proposed the same evening the constitution was adopted.)

Members were formerly elected to the Society on their application. The first account of any "drawing" is recorded as happening during the winter term of 1859, when a committee was appointed to see to it. Even then they had to pass through the form of an election before becoming full members. This was abolished by a change in the con-

stitution soon afterwards. Thus far no mention has been made of the organization of the Wrightonian Society.

On the evening of February 26th, 1858, during the presidency of E. A. Gastman, after a very exciting debate, and during a very stormy time among the members, which prolonged the exercises very much, as there was a rule which made it the duty of the president to fine any member who left the room without permission of the presiding officer, (C. D. Irons, H. J. Dutton, and J. L. Spaulding requested permission to leave the room. As the session was nearly over, Mr. Gastman asked the gentlemen to remain until the adjournment. This request was answered by their promptly leaving the hall, and the president ordered a fine of twenty-five cents to be entered against each of the refractory gentleman. This action was the beginning of a trouble that led to the founding of the Wrightonian Society.) The next step is best shown by the minutes of the meeting which are as follows :

BLOOMINGTON, February 27, 1858, 3:30 p. m.

Special meeting; roll called; society resolved itself into a committee of the whole; Mr. Gastman was chosen chairman of the meeting, Hite acting as secretary. Gentlemen Irons, Dutton and Spaulding appealed to the house from the decision of the chair, in the case of the fine imposed upon them. After considerable wrangling, the question, "Will the Society sustain the president?" was put, and decided in the affirmative. Motion was made by Mr. Pope to expunge the fine from the records. Carried. On motion, the society adjourned. March 5th, the resignations of the gentlemen were handed in and acted upon. Spaulding's and Dutton's were accepted, but on motion of John Hull, C. D. Irons was expelled from the Society. On March 6th, however, Iron's resignation was accepted, and on March 7th, their request for an honorable discharge was granted.

At the beginning of the spring term, in 1858, an unusually large class entered the University. Among them were J. H. Burnham, P. R. Walker, Aaron Gove and H. B. Norton. "We noticed," says Mr. Gastman, "that these men came into our Society, but manifested no desire to join. In a short time it was whispered around that Dutton and Irons were going in with these men to form a new society. It was also hinted that this new society would receive the aid and sympathy of Simeon Wright, then an honored and respected member of the Board of Education. It seems quite ludicrous to me now, when I remember the tremendous excitement this announcement produced among us. The leaders of the opposition were quiet workers, and it was sometime before their real plans were disclosed. When it was generally known that a new society was formed, and recognized by the president of the University, we were somewhat disgusted with the uncertainty of human affairs. As I remember it, the new society came into existence with the name of 'Wrightonian,' and it was always understood that it was conferred on account of the gratitude that the



Mary Baker Eddy





members felt toward 'Uncle Sim' for his kindness at a time when they needed all the help they could get." (We thus see that the real founders of the Wrightonian Society were our first president, vice-president and secretary.)

Perhaps it is worth while to repeat an old joke that gave some of us considerable satisfaction at the time. Between Ira Moore and the members of the new Society, there was considerable gall and wormwood. They did not like him, and certainly no love was lost. Neither party took pains to hide the feelings that raged within. When the rooms were fitted up in the University, some of the boys were puzzling their brains over the motto on the door of the Wrightonian Society—*sapere aude* (dare to be wise). The discussion attracted quite a number, and just then it happened that Prof. Moore passed along, and some one called on him to translate the motto. Without a moment's hesitation he said, "Sap heads and adders," and passed on. For quite a time it was altogether sufficient to set a Wrightonian raving to ask about the meaning of the motto on the door.

The first meeting recorded as being held at Normal was that on September 22, 1860, and was in one of the lower rooms. (The first meeting held in the Philadelphian Hall was on October 20, 1860. January 5, 1861, arrangements were begun for dedicating the hall, which were carried out July 2, 1861) The minutes of the meeting are as follows:

PHILADELPHIAN HALL, Friday Evening, July 2, 1861.

The Society assembled for the purpose of dedicating this hall. The Wrightonian Society attended in a body, and many other visitors were present, including members of the State Board of Education, filling the hall to its utmost capacity. The following programme was successfully carried out, viz.:

1. Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Ames, of Bloomington.
2. Music—"Washington's Birthday."
3. Dedication address by B. F. Taylor, of Chicago. Subject, "Going Away from Home."
4. Dedication Ode, written by Miss Sprague. (Tune, America.)

Come, brothers, sisters, sing;  
 Let all our voices ring  
 In concord sweet.  
 To dedicate this room,  
 Our Philadelphian home,  
 We hither gladly come  
 With joyful feet.

To progress, social joy,  
 And truth without alloy,  
 This hall we give.  
 The pleasures tasted here,  
 With friends to us so dear,  
 Shall yield us mem'ries dear  
 While each shall live.

Before we close our song  
 We'll greet the coming throng  
 Who hither move.  
 As time new years shall tell,  
 Oh! may the members swell,  
 Our name still proving well,  
 "Fraternal Love."

## RECESS.

5. The unfortunate quarrel among Uncle Sam's girls: Prudence (away down east), Miss Sprague; Ruth (middle States), Miss Dunlap; Carolina (the sunny south), Miss Stevenson; Katrina (prairie land), Miss Puffer.

6. Music—"The Crystal Spring."

7. Oration—"Our Society," by John Little.

8. Music—"Over the Mountain Wave."

## DISMISSION.

E. F. BACON, Secretary.

M. I. MORGAN, President.

The manner of gaining our room is worthy of mention. When this building was ready for occupancy, there was some dispute in regard to the choice of halls. (So one day the boys lifted Prof. Moore to their shoulders, and let him through the transom of the south hall, which he preëmpted in the name of the Philadelphian Society)

On the eleventh of May, 1867, the Societies received their charters from the Legislature, of which they were justly very proud. Mr. Gastman says: "We felt that we were somebody; we could sue and be sued. We put on a good many airs in consequence of it, and attempted to intimidate the faculty when they threatened to close up the halls if the Societies did not keep better order.

For a number of years but little improvement was made on the halls. They were warmed by the pipes which are still here, but for years have not been used. The pipes had a habit of beginning suddenly, and without warning, a most disagreeable popping and cracking, more or less, throughout their entire length. This often occurred when some flowery orator was in the midst of his most effective burst of eloquence. There was no help for it. Business had to be suspended until the pipes stopped their noise, which they usually did in a short time, and about as suddenly as they began. An improvement was made in the pipes, which thenceforth prevented this noise, and soon afterward stoves were brought in. For two or three years the halls, were not carpeted. Our first carpet was a red-and-white Brussels, selected and purchased with the greatest secrecy. It was presented to the Society by Professors Hewett, Moore, and Hovey, and a few others of the Society, and cost about two hundred and fifty dollars. It was desired to have it laid without the Wrightonians knowing anything about it until the following Saturday night, when we expected to dazzle their eyes with a beautiful new carpet, in striking contrast to their own

bare floor. But we missed it. It was deemed that the only time to get the carpet into the hall unobserved was during devotional exercises. As the boys were taking it in at one of the windows, they were discovered by a tardy Wrightonian, and by Saturday evening the Wrightonians had a carpet laid ready for use. That red-and-white Brussels was sold when the old one sold this year was purchased.

(The platform was formerly at the opposite end of the hall. The one now used by the critic was placed upon another, about two and one-half feet wider. On the upper and smaller one the president was perched, and the person addressing the Society stood on the narrow projection of the lower one, if he did not step off, which a high-flown orator would sometimes do, just as the eagle was soaring to its highest altitude. When the platform was first changed to its present position, the lower part extended entirely across the room, and the upper part not so far. The piano stood on the lower part, and made it necessary for the musicians to ascend two steps, and descend one, to get to the instrument. It was soon changed to its present form, thereby conforming to the plan of the Wrightonians, who had taken the start of us in at least one improvement. When the change in the platform was made, it became necessary to ornament the windows behind the president's chair. The expense of fixing it as it now is, was nearly one hundred dollars in those times of high prices. The walls have been twice frescoed, once in 1868, during the winter term, at a cost not less than one hundred two dollars, but how much more is a mystery. When the hall was frescoed the second time, is not definitely known. The first frescoing was badly damaged by the leaking of the roof, and by a careless carpenter, who pushed his foot through the ceiling.

(Our rooms were first lighted by tallow candles, then by wall lamps, and lastly by chandeliers, two sets of which have been used.) In the early days, the Normal University boasted of but one piano, the little, old one now used in the primary room. This the societies used alternately, carrying it up and back again each Saturday evening. The societies not having any instruments, oftentimes regaled themselves with comb music and the like.) (At last a bold strike was made, and in 1864 a new and expensive piano was purchased, and dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. On November 4, of the same year, the Wrightonians, hearing of our intention and being determined to keep even with us and have a piano of some sort, bought a second-hand one, which soon wore out, compelling the purchase of a new one.) The music in the early days consisted most commonly of hymns, and to aid in the singing, hymn books were furnished the members. The chorister, or his assistant, usually led in this exercise, which quite often was somewhat of the character of congregational singing in churches,—either too fast or too slow, too high or too low, and always full of discords.)

(Many of our pictures were donated to us, but the larger number were purchased and hung between the years 1868 and 1873. Previous to 1867, the chairs used were carried up from the recitation rooms, not then being fastened together as now. When we had an influx of visitors, the president would ask some of the gentlemen to step down stairs and bring up some more chairs. They were not always promptly returned, and President Edwards often became quite indignant in consequence. (In 1866 a union festival was held, at which all kinds of gambling known to the moral and religious world were resorted to, such as grab-bags, ring-cakes, fish-ponds, etc., as well as many other perfectly legitimate means, for the purpose of raising money. By this festival three hundred and ten dollars was cleared, and arm chairs were purchased February 23, 1867, at a cost of five hundred dollars. After furnishing and beautifying the rooms, a re-dedication took place. This was during the administration of Loring A. Chase.)

Janitor's fees for the care of the hall have varied largely. About fifteen years ago the members took turns in caring for the hall, free of charge. The work has several times been let for eighteen cents per week; once for seventeen and three-fourth cents; then for twenty cents, thirty cents, and sixty cents. We pay now seventy-five cents. For a long time previous to the removal of the stove, one dollar and a quarter was paid.

It was formerly the custom to leave all wrappings in the dressing rooms, when coming up to the Society, as we now do when up coming to school. Society meetings were more like sociables.

(Our library started with a few pamphlets belonging to members; or donated by them. Shortly after the organization of the Wrightonian Society, the Societies received from the Board of Education the books belonging to the district school libraries, Nos. 1 and 2. No. 1, consisting of sixty-three volumes, fell to the Philadelphian Society.) Only a few of the sixty-three volumes are valuable. Among them were Macaulay's History of England, four volumes; Irving's Works, four volumes; Bayard Taylor's Travels, and Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. In every possible way the members sought donations. Members pledged themselves to give books. Committees were appointed to solicit books, and in May, 1863, an exhibition was given in Phoenix Hall, Bloomington, for the purpose of raising funds to purchase books. Among the many donors is the name of Senator Trumbull. A catalogue of books was printed, in connection with the Wrightonians, at a cost of \$34. The catalogues were disposed of at the rate of twenty-five cents each, and as none are left to tell the story, they must have been in demand. The number of books reported in the library at that time was eight hundred and fifty-six. We now have about three hundred

*Now step down a. d. after W. A. Miller*

less than that number. Formerly the office of librarian was important, for he received a salary.

In the early times it was customary to elect honorary members. Every one who took an active interest in the University received an honorary membership, and for the honor conferred it was expected that in times of great need, from one dollar to ten dollars would be forthcoming. When necessary, taxes were imposed on the members, from five cents to a dollar. Sometimes only the gentlemen were taxed. The strength of the Societies has alternated. There was formerly great strife between them. The members of one Society were not found in the halls of the other for months at a time.

At the contest, in 1868, the Wrightonians had a very strong quartette of male voices. We called them 'the four pirates.' The question of the hour was, What can we do to beat them? We finally hit upon the plan of choosing two young, sweet-looking girls to sing against them. The plan worked successfully, as the judges, in those days, were men. They could not decide against the girls, and we swept the board. The folks on the other side always claimed that we bought the judges."

(The Societies used regularly to have a union exhibition at the end of the winter term, and a union lecture at the end of the spring term. They had a picnic each spring in the grove between here and the standpipe.) (They had an annual custom in connection with the school as a whole, of serenading the teachers.) They would hire the Bloomington band at a large expense, and follow it around to each teacher's house. One summer, as usual, the faculty were requested to retire from the assembly-room, so that arrangements might be made for the serenade. The usual motion was carried, and the serenade committee appointed, when some one moved an amendment to the motion, supporting it by a vigorous speech. Times were hard; it would cost forty dollars to hire the band to come out, and it was a tiresome tramp to follow it all over town in the night. They could effect a great saving by hiring a big wagon and taking the faculty to the band's headquarters, where they could be serenaded at one-third the expense. He (supposed to be Joseph Carter) was followed by two or three vigorous speakers, cocked and primed for the occasion, and through their efforts the amendment prevailed. The committee on arrangements failed to do their duty, consequently the faculty received no serenade.

Without relating any more stories concerning the school at large, let us return to the subject of our sketch. In 1871 the Philadelphian Society stood on a good financial basis. Harmony prevailed among its members, and the barriers and obstructions that impeded its progress were rapidly disappearing. At this time we had cash on hand to the amount of \$50.97, and a prospect for a large increase. Times were good, and everybody seemed willing to contribute freely toward any enterprise with a noble purpose. Dues were raised from fifty

cents to one dollar per term, and tickets sold like government bonds at a premium. By 1872 we had an abundance of wealth, and were enabled to purchase new curtains and a beautiful carpet. With these new additions our hall began to assume the appearance of a royal manse, and we were very anxious to make it a model of perfection and beauty; but after due consideration, we banished our extravagant notions and applied ourselves to business. During the year we handled no momentous questions, but we introduced a great many novelties. Burlesques, exciting tragedies, comic lectures, beautiful tableaux, etc., were the great attractions. Strangers read our programmes with protruding eyes and gaping mouths, and when the time came we usually "took them in" for a dime.

In 1874 we experienced considerable difficulty in the management of uninterested parties, who were at times inclined to interrupt our exercises by loud talking and ill-mannered actions. The propriety of adopting a ticket system, which would exclude disorderly persons, was discussed with much earnestness. It was proposed to issue as many tickets as there were seats in the hall, and to give them only to respectable people. This measure failed after a stubborn fight, but it was the means of securing our present ticket system (adopted in 1877).

Soon after settling the ticket question, we became involved in a spelling war, for which we made ample preparation. We had great faith in our ability to conquer words and in consequence of this we were war-like, and ready at any moment to meet an enemy. The anticipation of a battle and the glory that was to follow, fevered us with excitement, and when the mania had a firm hold, we received word from our neighbors, who by the way were affected likewise, that they could cure our disease on the homeopathic principle. The result was a contest. We met at the appointed place in due time, and tested our knowledge of words. Fortunately for us, we gained a victory which secured for us an elegant picture and a good deal of confidence.

Having conquered the "Wrights," we pursued the even tenor of our way for a while, unmolested by outside factions. But this calm, if such it may be called, was of short duration. Many of our most active and energetic members belonged to the famous "Liberal Club," and they succeeded admirably in giving prominence to their thoughts. They exercised a powerful influence, and to a certain degree they controlled our finance and made our laws. When it was time to nominate a candidate for the presidency in the spring of 1875, they had a man selected who was well qualified to fill the office. He was not a liberal in his views, but owing to the friendly relationship that existed between him and different members of the club, he consented to be their candidate. An exciting campaign followed, and party feeling ran high. Not unfrequently did the conciliatory members of the faculty recommend measures of peace, but all in vain. Both parties were persistent, and a compromise was as unfavorable as a treaty. Finally, after a long

and careful canvass the votes were cast, and the decision announced. According to the official report, the liberals had a majority. The Christians, however, were dissatisfied with the result, and called for an investigation. The examining board failed to discover discrepancies of a serious nature, but so much dissatisfaction prevailed that it was deemed best to hold a new election. The second election again proved successful for the liberals. Their candidate received a handsome majority, but, unfortunately, he resigned just after his inauguration. The history of the "Liberal Club" receives more attention in our "chapter on reminiscences."

After the "Liberal Club excitement" had cooled down, the Society concluded that the hall was in a condition for repairs. It was never fully determined whether this was due to the faction battle or not; nevertheless, the hall was thoroughly repaired. The walls and ceiling were artistically frescoed in oil, and the wood work received a fresh coat of paint. (The expense incurred was not less than \$215, but what was that to a band of loyal "Phils," who had the confidence of the public. Our entertainments were giving universal satisfaction, and the payment of so small a debt was simply a question of time, not of resource.

In the fall of 1879, we purchased a new piano, costing \$250 and the old one. One year from the above date the Society made an investment in furniture. We purchased three costly chairs for the convenience of the president, secretary, and critic. Our hall, at present, is equal in splendor to any of its kind in the State. The new carpet of 1881, costing over \$300, the richly dyed curtains swinging from the arch, the beautiful scenes of life portrayed by master hands, and the costly chandeliers, cast in a model of rare design, command the admiration of our friends and the respect of our rivals.

Before closing this brief and imperfect history, let us notice an amendment to the constitution which has worked with good results. Until 1881, it was the duty of the president to arrange and publish a programme for each regular meeting. This necessitated much time and labor. It over-burdened the ambitious student who worked for "marks" and "society fame," consequently a change was necessary in order to secure good talent for the chair. It was our object to make the office one of honor. With this intention, we appointed a committee of three to revise the constitution. After long deliberation, they proposed the establishment of an executive board (consisting of the vice-president, acting as chairman, and two directors) whose duty it was to solicit exercises for the meetings, and to report to the president of the Society the exercises for each meeting previous to the Wednesday evening preceding said meeting. According to this amendment, we gained our object. Everybody seemed pleased with the change, so we incorporated the amendment as a part



of our constitution. At each regular election now we have several aspiring candidates for the office who (according to their campaign speeches) are willing to perform the *duties* of the office to the best of their ability.

This history must now end, incomplete as its records are. We have done our best to gather the facts of interest. We have searched the archives, and sought for treasures in the secret vaults, sometimes with success, sometimes with failure. The records, though imperfectly kept, have aided us in our work, and old students have generously responded to our call. In many instances, however, we have been disappointed. Those who could have given us valuable information have failed to do so, but we have no word of fault. We are content. Old Philadelphia will live and hold her sovereign sway. The historians of to-day have not done her justice, but we trust that future men, with ampler means, will pay her a more deserving tribute. With bright hopes for the future, and kind wishes for her friends, we say adieu.

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#### WRIGHTONIAN SOCIETY.

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The following address was delivered in the Wrightonian Hall, December 18, 1880. Through the courtesy of J. H. Burnham it is inserted here: It was my fortune to be one of the pioneers of the Normal, and you know pioneers are a privileged class. Hence, while you allow me the pleasure of telling stories, please have the kindness to remember that in matter and manner the Normal pioneers are not to be criticised by the strict rules of modern scholarship. The Normal institution entered upon its career in October, 1857, at Major's Hall, in the city of Bloomington. Some time in the course of the first few months, the students in attendance organized a literary society, the lineal ancestor of the present Philadelphian Society. During the winter, this Society grew and prospered, being, perhaps, all that the size of the Normal would at first justify, the number of pupils amounting, perhaps, to seventy-five or eighty at the end of the first winter term. I entered the Normal at the beginning of its first spring term, April, 1858, in company with about forty students, who were organized into classes "D" and "E."

At the close of school, on the second day of the term, the members of the entering classes were invited to one of the class rooms, where they were told that the time had come to organize a new literary society. The principal speakers were old students, who were, or had been, members of the existing Society. There were only four or five of them, and as the entering students were, as yet, strangers to each other and to the subject, the arguments used were