

WORKING THE ROADS.

In the spring of 1877, about twenty-five of the boys were notified by the local authorities to work the usual two days on the roads. A meeting of the students interested in the matter was held in Dr. Sewall's room, and the subject was thoroughly discussed. It was decided that they should turn out in a body, each one taking three others to work on his time, thus putting in the required two days in half a day. A committee of five, consisting of Messrs. Gillan, Berkstresser, Faulkner, Boyer, and Bainum, was appointed to make necessary arrangements for the particulars of the plan. The committee drew up a code of regulations which all agreed to observe, to the effect that:

1. All were to come to school at the usual time the next morning, and remain until after devotional exercises and spelling, and when the classes passed out, file down stairs, form in line in front of the building, and march to the scene of the day's labor.

2. White shirts, collars, coats, and jewelry of any kind, were strictly forbidden to be worn.

3. As far as practicable, pantaloons must be worn inside of boots.

4. Each should be provided with whatever implement for digging he might be able to improvise.

The next morning a unique and motley crowd assembled, bearing a great variety of implements, from a grubbing hoe to a garden rake and a fire shovel. Edward Faulkner was chosen captain, and the company, consisting of eighty members, was divided into squads of eight, each commanded by a sub-boss. Forming in line, they marched to the place designated by the roadmaster, just south of the iron bridge over Sugar Creek, on Main street. After working (?) about an hour, three of the "busy B's," Berkstresser, Bainum, and Burger, were sent to Bloomington to get a supply of liquid consolation, as the day was warm and the "work" thirst-provoking. Owing to the fact that the committee required so much time to "sample" the different varieties, it was near noon when they returned in company with a drayman and a barrel of cider. Sitting in the shade of the maples by the road side, the crowd by this time augmented to one hundred, or more, soon emptied the barrel. The remainder of the programme consisted in building a memorial mound of earth some six or eight feet high, in the middle of the road, making speeches, listening to vocal music by a colored man, who, passing by, was captured and urged to sing, although he protested that he had not time to wait, and the final homeward march. A large stone was selected from the creek near the Chicago and Alton railroad, and taken through the streets of Normal to the

front of the city council's office, where it was planted by the sidewalk with appropriate ceremonies. In dedicating the stone as a memorial to the city council, Hoffman, Gillan, and Stephenson, were called on for speeches, and each one of the audience contributed a fitting sentiment as he put in his spadeful or hoeful of earth.

Two days later was commencement. By preconcerted arrangement, at the close of the exercises, the boys repaired to the west steps of the building, where, in a neat and appropriate speech, Mr. Edward Faulkner, in behalf of those who had worked on the road, presented the roadmaster with a hat, as a token of good feeling and respect, he having acted in the matter only in obedience to the legal direction of the city council, but having treated the boys in a most gentlemanly and generous manner.

DR. HEWETT'S BIRTHDAY.

A THREE-FOLD SURPRISE.

[From the Bloomington Pantagraph, November 2, 1878.]

Yesterday was President Hewett's birthday, the horologe of time having struck for him the half century. During the opening exercises, the members of the model department quietly gathered near the doors of the assembly room. The usual spelling exercise was begun, but after the president had pronounced three or four words, Silas Y. Gillan, of the senior class, arose and interrupted the exercise, saying: "I would like to put in a parenthesis right here in this exercise. For years and years this performance has been going on in just the same way; you have been drilling and drilling upon spelling, and yet, even here in McLean County, there are persons who cannot spell—a fact which conclusively proves the whole business of spelling to be a failure. [Applause.] Variety is the spice of life, and this morning we propose to have a little variety. Let it be recorded in the annals of the University, or at least become a part of the traditional history thereof, that on one morning, November 1, 1878, *the spelling exercise was omitted.*" Here the speaker drew from his desk an elegant gold-headed cane, and, continuing in a neat little speech, which was decidedly unique, abounding in humor and good feeling, presented the cane to Dr. Hewett, in behalf of the students of the school. It bore the inscription: "Pres. E. C. Hewett, LL. D. From the students of the I. S. N. U., Nov. 1, 1878."

Immediately on the first interruption, the doors on both sides were thrown open, and the pupils from the model school filed in. No sooner had the president begun to speak in response to Mr. Gillan, than little Jessie Davis came forward, carrying a beautiful