

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.

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### DR. HEWETT'S BIRTHDAY.

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#### 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

bouquet, and said: "Mr. Hewett, please accept these flowers as a birthday present from the children of the primary department." Turning to make a double response, he was a third time interrupted by Mrs. Haynie, of the Normal Department, who, as representative of the faculty, held in her hand an elegant Bagster Bible. Mrs. Haynie's address was a model of delicacy and beauty, and was delivered with such evident feeling as to make it peculiarly impressive.

So successfully had the preparations been kept secret that the president had not the least suspicion of the affair, but was completely surprised. When at last he "got the floor," with voice tremulous with emotion, he thanked the good friends for their thoughtful kindness, on the day upon which he reached the "summit of life." In a short speech, which was full of good advice and good sense, he recalled the fact that just twenty-nine years before, he began his career as a teacher, and since that time, with the exception of a few months, he had been engaged in teaching, the last twenty years having been spent in this institution.

The members of the faculty were all called upon. Prof. Metcalf spoke at some length. Prof. Cook made a very witty little speech. When the president announced that the spelling exercise was over for the morning, the eyes of the students sparkled with delight, and they greeted the announcement with hearty applause.

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#### THE SOCIABLE SQUABBLE.

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The American of average pluck and combativeness has, among his most pleasant memories, the recollection of some parliamentary contest about society or class affairs. Wrightonians and Philadelphians of the spring of 1881, remember with special pleasure the sociable fight of the spring term. The opening of the spring term found both Societies in a healthy condition, with their ranks filled with earnest, plucky and able workers.

As usual, early in the term, arrangements were made for a union sociable. The night appointed was so stormy that few attended. Many now wished to hold the sociable the following (Saturday) evening. The older members objected to adjourning the regular literary exercises, and from this difference started one of the most hotly contested struggles of later years. As stated above, the contest was upon the propriety of adjourning the regular literary exercises for a joint sociable. The first joint meeting called to decide the matter was held March 22. In this meeting the sociable party carried their point, with but little opposition. It was now that the fight began.